

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 20th March 2026 | Issue 23

Dear Families,

We began the week reflecting on the Gospel story of the healing of the blind man. In our assemblies, we explored what it means not just to see with our eyes, but to see clearly with understanding, compassion and truth. The story reminds us that sometimes we can look but not really notice, and that growth comes when we are open to learning, to challenge, and to seeing the world, and each other, more deeply. During Lent, this message feels particularly important: a time to reflect, to grow, and to become more aware of who we are and how we live.

It has been another incredibly full and joyful week at Greyfriars.

Last week, I was delighted to accompany our students, with Ms Moss, to the Mock Trial competition for an early Saturday start. Due to refurbishment works, this year it took place in the Crown Court, a wonderful setting for such an important experience. Our students represented the school exceptionally well, speaking with confidence, care and clarity. They engaged thoughtfully with the legal process and demonstrated a real understanding of how the justice system works. I was immensely proud of them all, and a special congratulations goes to our *Best Defendant*, a fantastic achievement and pictured here with the impressive trophy.



Back in school, learning and enrichment have continued at pace. Our Year 10 students visited the Careers Fair at the Kassam Conference Centre, exploring future pathways and opportunities. It was a valuable experience as they begin to think more deeply about their futures and the many possibilities ahead.

We have also seen our Year 10 Art students completing their mock examinations this week. The work produced has been truly exceptional, creative, thoughtful and highly skilled. I am so grateful to Mrs Byrne for the care, expertise and dedication she brings to developing our young artists (and, I must say, the introduction of art aprons has been a stroke of genius!).



One of the highlights of the week has been our **annual Science Fair**. It was a brilliant event, showcasing the curiosity, creativity and intellectual confidence of our students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form - enzymes to popcorn. It was wonderful to see students speaking so articulately and passionately about their projects and investigations, a real celebration of knowledge in action. Here are two late-but-blooming-scientists: myself and Ms Reddy watching one of the experiments with every safety precaution.

Our Lenten reconciliation services have also continued this week, providing students with the opportunity to pause, reflect and renew. These moments of stillness and reflection are such an important part of our shared journey through Lent. They have been powerful reminders of our spiritual journey and a reminder to not be spiritually blind, to open our eyes to what is important.

Our Catholic Life Ambassadors have had an extraordinary week. They represented the school on an international stage (almost!) working collaboratively with St Hilda's, Oakwood School (Hollywood) and SOLA on discussions around education and human rights (see Mr Greer's entry below). This is exactly what we hope for our students: that they develop the confidence to engage in meaningful dialogue and to understand their role in the wider world.

Also understanding their role in the wider world, we were all also delighted to welcome Nancy from the Nasio Trust, who joined us to watch our students present their experiences from the recent Kenya trip. To see our students speak with such confidence, insight and compassion to an audience of over 300 people was truly inspiring. They articulated not only what they had done, but what they had learned about service, community and global responsibility. Nancy was astonished by the way they represent the school – she said, their *'commitment, compassion and willingness to serve through their volunteering with Nasio truly reflected the values embedded across the school community'*. We see this in school every day.

Finally, it was wonderful to welcome so many Year 9 families into school as they begin to consider their GCSE options. These are important decisions, and it was powerful to see students and families engaging so thoughtfully with their next steps, looking ahead with ambition and hope.

There is so much to celebrate this week: a school alive with learning, reflection, opportunity and growth. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Of course, Eid Mubarak to our Muslim brothers and sisters too.

As we approach the Easter break, we are reminded that this is a season of hope, renewal and new life. After a busy and fruitful term, I hope this time offers all of our families the opportunity to rest, to spend time together, and to find moments of peace. Easter reminds us that even after the most challenging times, there is always the promise of new beginnings. We look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Have a wonderful Easter break.
Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel - John 9 : 1 - 41 (Shorter version)

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." ²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" ³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." ³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

Reflection

John 9:1-41 narrates Jesus healing a man born blind, using the miracle to reveal Himself as the "Light of the World". It shifts focus from blaming sin for suffering to showcasing God's power. The story contrasts the blind man's growing faith and spiritual sight with the Pharisees' growing spiritual blindness and unbelief.

Pope Francis's Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and
courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



To view the St Edmund and St Frideswide (Greyfriars) parish website please click on the following link:

<https://www.greyfriarsoxford.uk/>

GENERAL NOTICES

Catholic Life | Mr Greer

This week, students represented our school at the Consortium for Human Rights at Oxford University. Alongside Oakwood School from Hollywood, California, and another school from Afghanistan (which we cannot name for security reasons), we spent three days listening to academics, guest speakers, and one another as we tried to imagine a future that includes education as a human right for all. This was especially prescient for our students as the girls from Afghanistan are currently attending school in Rwanda, having fled the country from the Taliban that has made education for girls illegal.



We discussed solidarity at numerous occasions over the conference, which is one of our Catholic Social Teachings. We lived this out while presenting our stories (each student stood and shared why they were there--a brave act!), while debating other schools, and even while mingling and learning about other cultures during meal times. All of the students were deeply impacted by the stories they heard from one another, and they are looking ahead at how to champion human rights in their own careers and lives.



In the meantime, they're now begging me to take them on a school trip to California or Rwanda!

GENERAL NOTICES

Year 7 and 8 Girls' Rugby Team | Miss Kenneford

Our Year 7 and 8 girls' rugby team have had an incredibly exciting and successful week, representing the school at two competitive tournaments.

On Tuesday 17th March, the team travelled to Horspath to take part in a touch rugby tournament. This event was made even more special as the girls proudly debuted their brand new rugby tops, generously sponsored by Oxford Harlequins and Bucks Girls Rugby Charity. The team competed exceptionally well throughout the day, demonstrating a clear improvement in both their skills and overall gameplay. Their hard work and determination did not go unnoticed, with coaches from Oxford Harlequins offering very positive feedback on their performance. Most importantly, the girls had a fantastic time and represented the school with great enthusiasm.

The action continued on Thursday 19th March, when the team travelled to Sibford School to compete in a T1 rugby tournament. Once again, the girls showed excellent teamwork and a strong willingness to learn, taking on feedback and applying it effectively during matches. Their growing confidence and understanding of the game were evident, and they were widely complimented on both their skill level and their eagerness to play.

Horspath



Sibford School



It has been a brilliant week for our Year 7 and 8 girls' rugby team, and we are incredibly proud of their progress, teamwork, and positive attitude throughout both tournaments.

GENERAL NOTICES

Kenya Presentation | Mr McCutcheon

On Wednesday, our Year 10 students who took part in the Kenya trip delivered an inspiring presentation to our KS3 students, sharing highlights and reflections from their experience. Julie, Faith A, and Lara spoke with confidence and clarity, representing the group exceptionally well.

We were also delighted to welcome Nasio CEO Nancy, alongside Anne, who both joined us on the trip (pictured). Nancy spoke to Years 7, 8, and 9 about the origins of the charity and the impactful work it continues to carry out in Kenya.



It was a truly engaging and meaningful session—and we look forward to returning in the future!

Following are a few of the students' reflections on their trip of a lifetime!



Kaden: Firstly came to school at 11:30 and said the last goodbyes to the family. At first I was nervous but then I was excited to get to Kenya, travelled on the coach for about 30-40 minutes and then finally got to Heathrow airport. We were delayed again and then it got cancelled for the night. We were placed in a Hilton hotel which was amazing (food, place, rooms). Then the next day we were scheduled the 5:25 flight. Finally we went to the airport the next day, and took off at 8:30 pm. With a 10 hr plane journey . Landed in Nairobi airport at 10:30 UK time [7:30 Kenyan time]. Went to another hotel for a couple hours to have some rest before catching the internal flight to Kisumu. Arrived in Kisumu at 8pm and got a Nasio coach to the complex took around 1hr30 mins-2hrs. Arrived at the Nasio complex and it was 10pm and everyone was so tired and we wanted to go to bed so all the boys went to the room and went to bed at 10:30 to 11:30

GENERAL NOTICES

Kenya Student Reflections Continued...

Nicky: We played several card games such as whist which we bonded over in our free time or when we had black outs when it rained as it rained regularly. When it rained we usually sat in the sofa room or the dining room where we played games such as uno, 21/blackjack and poker. With our breakfasts there was a huge variety of food such as pancakes, eggs and toast while for lunches we had tomato soups, pumpkin soups and other nutritious meals. For dinner we had large meals such as meatballs, mince meat and most of these dishes had rice included. We had several chefs, however the main chef was chef Evans who was a lively spirit who enjoyed playing games with us including football.



Aryan, Sisto and Jesimiel: When we went to the Muslim school I thought that it would be similar to the Bookers private school, that was very quiet and calm, however the contrast was insane, as soon as we stepped in we were surrounded by everyone in the school, primary school kids grabbed onto us, people shouted at us. We were completely overwhelmed by the sheer amount of students, about 1400 students in that school. While we were there they crowded us and they also were too excited to see us. Compared to our school there were so many more students, however we accomplished going into the classes that were fun, seeing the difference in class structure was amazing, the students were learning in such loud conditions and accomplishing so much was amazing.

Diogo: The activities were very fun and different. Everyday we were met with amazing staff like Eunice, Alfie, Dr Godfrey and everyone else. On the first day of visiting Kenya we went around the compound seeing all the main parts of our trip (St Irene's nursery, spirulina farm, hospital etc.) on the second day we did the jiggers campaign along with the smearing on the walls then in the afternoon we had students from a local school come to the compound where we learnt to cook traditional Kenyan food (ugali, pumpkin leaves, chapati, porridge) it was nice to see the difference in school lives and routines from our lives to the other schools lives. The culture there was very different and everyone was super nice especially the strangers and all the people in the schools. Everyone welcomed us amazingly and was very kind and listened to us and wanted to know everything about our lives in the UK compared to their lives in Kenya.

GENERAL NOTICES

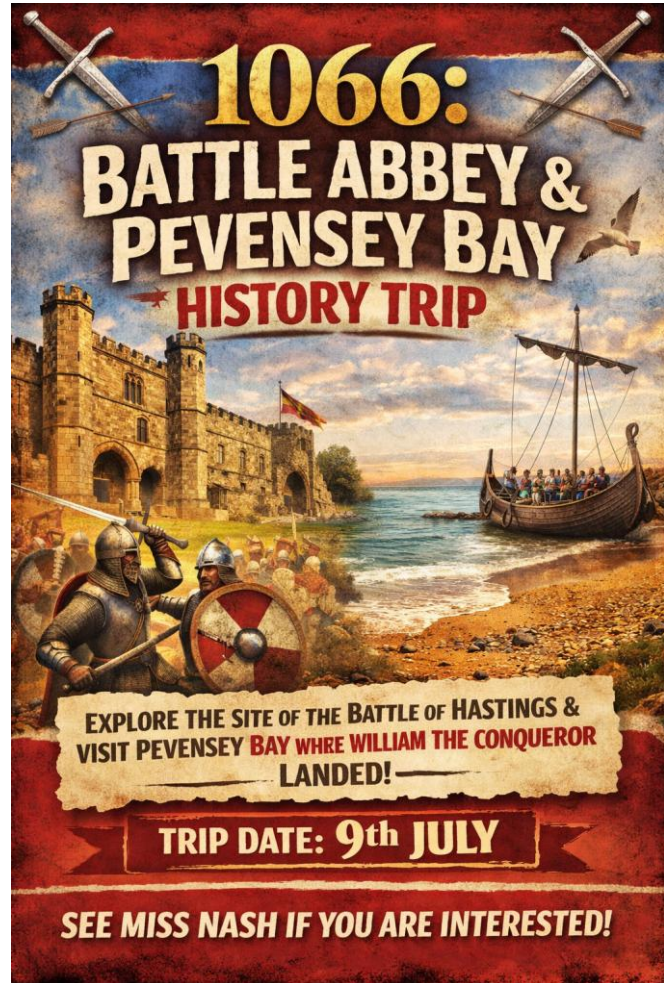
Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

It has been a truly successful and rewarding Easter term, and it has been a pleasure to see so many students engaging so positively with all aspects of school life. Over the past few weeks, we have taken time in assembly to reflect on the importance of using our time and energy wisely. The idea of frugality has encouraged students to think carefully about how they make the most of the opportunities available to them, whether in their learning, their friendships, or their wider contributions to the school community.

We have also enjoyed some fantastic events recently, particularly the literary festival and the Curiosity Cube, both of which have sparked enthusiasm, creativity, and a real love of learning among our students. It has been wonderful to see so many students getting involved, asking thoughtful questions, and embracing new ideas with confidence.

Congratulations to the following students for receiving over 200 achievement points this term.

Aseda	297
Mia	263
Shashwat	231
Rugeisa	228
Robert	225
Jude	218
Revita	216
Innocent	212
Sadew	211
Bella	209
Kairo	209
Abi	207



7BN	4,484
7GKE	3,891
7KR	3,746
7ALW	3,082

GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Miss Brett

Hello, happy readers!

And just like that, we're back to sunny weather (let's hope for a long time – as we all need a nice, big dose of that vitamin D 😊).

WELCOME
to
THE
LIBRARY

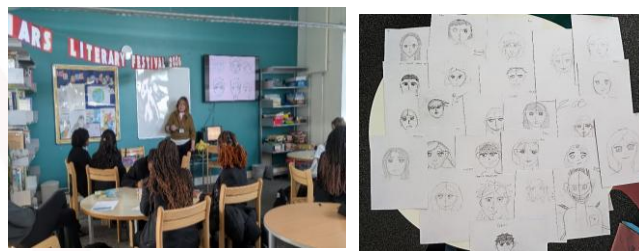
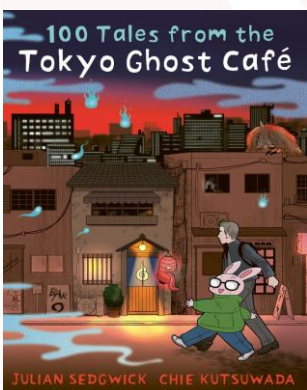


Here are a few more updates from our Literary Festival – we finished with a bang! Or rather, a DRAW and a WRITE.

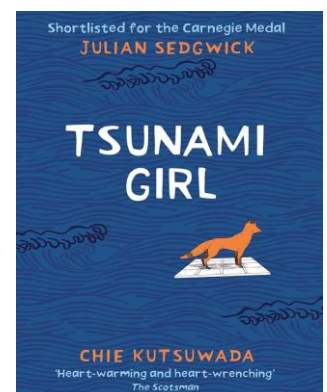
Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada, the fantastic writer and illustrator of *Tsunami Girl* - a wonderful story shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal – came to talk to us about both their books, life, loss, and survival. Not only did they inspire us with a great talk and workshops, but they also helped us choose workshop winners from every group and signed the book copies that were then awarded to the lucky (hard-working!) students.



It was truly amazing to see how, at first reluctant, students engaged fully and got the most of the visit. Great writers and Manga illustrators walk among us! 😊



Quite a few students have already borrowed one of the books from the library, but we do have more copies, so come along and borrow yours – it's a great read for the Easter break 😊.



GENERAL NOTICES

Library News Continued...

And now the moment you've all been waiting for... And the winners are... Actually, no – this will be a surprise to be revealed at the Awards Assembly.

TERM 4 WEEK 4				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading Championship	
1	?	74	?	90.9%
2	?	49	?	89.3%
3	?	33	?	82.1%
4	?	17	?	75%
5	?	14	?	73.3%

Finally, pop up to the library to immerse yourself in some Easter crafts! Perhaps, you could colour a bookmark, or design an Easter card and give it to a family member or friend.

As we turn the page into the Easter break, it's been a joy to see so many students booked into great reads! Don't forget to check out a good book for the holidays—there's no better way to relax.

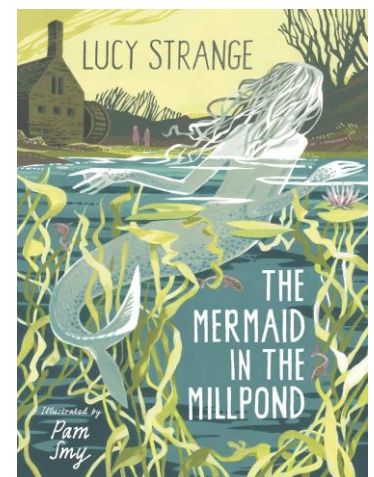
Wishing everyone a happy and well-read Easter!



Weekly Book review by Lian

An incredibly engaging read especially when you're interested in mythology and all those sorts of tales - which I absolutely adore! Also pretty great when you're interested in history as the detailing and story allow those insights to shine through with realism of the era. The world building is particularly wonderful because you simply feel the curiosity radiating off of your skin with your heart perhaps rabbiting as you continue to dive in for more. While reading, it seems like you yourself are in pursuit of the freedom that is so desperately craved throughout this story. You may find yourself pulled in all sorts of directions as you feel through all of Bess' emotions along with the dismal situations she's pushed into. You may be feeling the hope of a fresh start and perhaps a new life until it's a rude awakening from that reverie and despair starts to mount onto you when things get worse for Bess.

Reading this wouldn't be any time wasted but rather the opposite in my opinion!



GENERAL NOTICES

Year 10 Art | Mrs Byrne



Year 10 have been busy creating fantastic ceramic pots as part of their GCSE coursework. Their work draws inspiration from artists and cultures explored during a visit to the Ashmolean Gallery as well as the texture, colour, shape and form. I'm looking forward to sharing the rest of their pieces once the class has completed their work.



Congratulations!

Well done to Gaudencio who received a certificate for being top of the class for Flash Academy.

Keep up the good work!



In The Beacon this week, Ali sculpted his own interpretation of a torso – brilliant work!



Great Work | Mrs Swanton

There has been some fantastic work done in Soft Landing this week.



Lexi



Ludozio



Mario

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

Options Evening was a fantastic success, with an excellent turnout and many Year 9 students eager to take the next step in their journey. It was great to see happy, engaged parents having insightful conversations with staff, while the room buzzed with excitement and curiosity. Students showed real enthusiasm as they explored subject choices and future pathways.

For those unable to attend, whether due to Eid or other commitments, there is no need to worry. Your child will take part in taster sessions on Wednesday next week, providing valuable insight into subjects before making their final decisions.

A massive thank you to our current KS4 students who helped guide our Y9s during the evening. Special thanks to Anne-Marie, Gabriella, Grant, Sahas, Kevin and Yulanda for being part of the safeguarding panel, your contributions were invaluable. Well done!

The atmosphere at the Science Fair was equally electric, with our budding scientists in Y8 and Y9 showcasing their work, from DNA investigations to natural cosmetics and many more. Keep up the good work!

Happy Eid to all our families and students celebrating.

Have a safe and restful Easter and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Sparx Maths **WEEK 23**

Total hours spent on Sparx this year

8,176hrs

Number of questions answered correctly

608,558

XP Champions THIS YEAR | 20/03/26

Name	Year	Total XP
Miu Miu M	8	43,451
Nita C	11	33,953
Seerat S	7	33,640
Sampson O	8	31,540
Aseda K	7	30,329
Samayrah K	10	29,812
Rayan P	7	29,400
Nora C	11	29,256
Aman A	9	28,244
Aminata J	9	28,003

XP Champions for LAST WEEK

Name	Year	XP POINTS
Hajera S	12	2,181
Kanchan L	12	1,181
Rebecca A	11	1,675
Nita C	11	2,545
Daniel G	10	2,740
Amiyah H	10	1,009
Aminata J	9	3,071
Mercy Y	9	1,588
Sampson O	8	3,488
Miu Miu M	8	2,557
Marvelous E	7	2,175

Congratulations to all students with 100% attendance.

Thank you to the tutors for their ongoing support.

Keep on striving to be a better version of yourself.

GENERAL NOTICES

Restaurant Menu Spring / Summer

STREATERIES Spring/Summer 2026

MAINS

- THAI STEAK CHICKEN LETTUCE ROLL FREE
- COCONUT RICE
- HALAL CHICKEN CHICKEN CARABANNA STYLE LAGANJE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC PASTICCIA
- SMOKY FRANKFURTER KLASCH CHICKEN
- HERBY CRISP CHICKEN NEW POTATOES
- CHICKEN MANDALAY WITH HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE
- BATTERED FISH PIZZA SLICE
- CHIPS, GRavy or BISH CURRY SAUCE

VEGETARIAN

- SMOOTH SPINACH VEGETABLE STEW FREE
- COCONUT RICE
- SUMMER VEGETABLE & BOWL LAGANJE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC PASTICCIA
- CHEED BUTTERNUT PASTY POTATO RICE
- HERBY CRISP CHICKEN NEW POTATOES
- BATTER CHICKEN CURRY WITH HONEY MUSTARD SAUCE
- YELLOW RICE
- PIZZA SLICE
- CHIPS, GRavy or BISH CURRY SAUCE

VEGETABLES/SALAD

LET YOUR TASTE BUDS DO THE *travelling!*

CONNECT *Relating you between breakfast and your lunchtime destination*

HOT RIGHT NOW! TASTE THE NEXT TREND ON YOUR COUNTER NOW!

FEED YOUR FAMILY FOR £5

FEEDING BACK We want to hear from you! **DAILY!**

MEAL DEALS Look out for our feedback cards at the till points.

STREATERIES Spring/Summer 2026

MAINS

- CHICKEN CHICKEN LOADED BAKE CHICKEN
- SMOKY FRANKFURTER KLASCH CHICKEN
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VEGETARIAN

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- SUMMER VEGETABLE & BOWL LAGANJE
- HOMEMADE GARLIC PASTICCIA
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MAINS

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Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

Easter Revision in and out of school

For exam groups, the Easter break is a time to go over large amounts of content and consolidate learning. At this time of year, it is less of a holiday and more of a study opportunity! The hours that you give to their revision really do matter. I want Y13 to remind themselves what they are working hard for, to be positive and be productive. Remember: hard work always wins and that long summer break is just around the corner. Y13 students should also take advantage of the Easter revision sessions on offer. This will be a good opportunity for students to go through specific techniques for exam papers and get key advice from teachers. If you choose to revise independently, make sure you are using effective revision techniques. This means activities like testing your memory, retrieving information or completing past papers in timed conditions. You should do anything that makes you think hard about the content by applying it to exam style questions.

Achievements

Well done to Toby, Amit, Aly, Faizan and Kristine for getting the highest number of Achievement Points this week! Y13 leading the way.

Buddy Readers & Jacari

We have more spaces for Buddy Readers and Jacari Readers. These two initiatives, led by Sixth Form students, are absolutely wonderful examples of students flourishing because they are helping others flourish too! If any more Sixth Formers want to be part of these schemes and develop their own skills in the process, please let Ms McCabe or Mr Shaw know.

GENERAL NOTICES



Greyfriars Catholic School
Invites you to a

FREE BREAKFAST!

Get an energy boost before
class with a **FREE** breakfast -
don't miss out!

When: Every week day
Where: School Restaurant
Time: 8:00am-8:30am

 family
action

National School Breakfast Programme is delivered by Family Action.
Find out more at family-action.org.uk/NSBP.

Family Action. Registered as a Charity in England & Wales no. 264713.
Registered as a Charity in the Isle of Man no. 1206. Registered Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 01068186.

School Lunch Accounts

Please remember to regularly check your child has enough funds in their ParentPay lunch accounts and if this is running low please top up. Students will be unable to purchase food in the restaurant if they do not have enough funds in their account.

Please note that we are a cashless school and cannot accept cash for lunch payments.



If you are having trouble accessing your ParentPay account, please contact the school.

Astroturf

Please remember that your child needs Astroturf trainers or turf football boots – see the picture adjacent for examples of the shoes that are permitted.

Students wearing the incorrect footwear will not be permitted on the Astroturf.

Football boots can be bought for as little as £4.99 via Sports Direct (Sondico ones).

We will hold some spare boots to lend to students if necessary, however, these are to be returned at the end of the lesson. This way we can ensure we always have a supply of boots for those students who forget theirs or are in the process of buying their own.

If anyone has spare Astro shoes that they would like to donate to the school, this would be much appreciated. These would be used or students to borrow as explained above.



GENERAL NOTICES

Friends of Greyfriars (PTA)

Friends of Greyfriars is an open and important community of parent volunteers working alongside the school and teachers to benefit the school. It is like a PTA. It is a group that aims to ensure the best educational and enrichment experience for all its students. Friends of Greyfriars is a reflection of the school in the wider community.

By joining the Friends of Greyfriars you can help the school to build a far more effective and up-to-date teaching and learning environment, for the benefit of all its students. Everyone is welcome, parents, carers, staff, governors, past students, past parents, anyone and everyone who cares about the school. Please join us and be a Friend.

If you are interested, please contact Sophie Upellini via: s.upellini@gfcs.uk

5 Ways to Well-being

Click on the logo to find out more.



Building small actions into your daily life can make you feel good, and feeling good is an important part of being healthy. There are 5 ways to wellbeing that are proven to make a real difference to you.

free period products



In partnership with hey girls...

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)

- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household earnings must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

If you would like to apply, please contact Fiona Easton for an application form via: f.easton@gfcs.uk

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

- 23 March | Y12 UCAS Trip to ExCel, London
- 25 March | Year 9 Options Taster Day
- 26 March | Made in Oxford Final
- 26 March | Big Lent Walk
- 26 March | Oxford Young Sports Leaders Programme – Final Session
- 27 March | Last Day of Term – early finish
- 30 March – 10 April | Easter Holiday
- 13 April | First Day of Term 4
- 14 April | Year 11 / Year 13 Group Photographs

Donations

If you wish to make a donation to the school please click on the link.

DONATE

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open

Mon – Fri 8.00am - 8.30am in our restaurant.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us for breakfast club.
Breakfast is free. Start your day with friends and food!



Greyfriars Vacancies

If you are interested in joining the team at Greyfriars Catholic School, please email our School Business Manager, Sophie Upellini via: s.upellini@gfcs.uk
<https://www.greyfriarsoxford.org.uk/join-us/vacancies> or visit: to view all our current vacancies.

Archdiocese of Birmingham Vacancies



<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/jobs>



You Tube

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Falcon Boat Club: a community club for all

Discover the joy of rowing on the River Thames in Oxford

LEARN TO ROW IN 2026

Welcoming, fun and supportive for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed - just a willingness to give it a go!

Next course starts
APRIL

Sign up now for a Weekend Taster Session

Discounted course spaces available for those in financial hardship, including those on Universal Credit and low-incomes.

REGISTER NOW



Falcon Boat Club: Learn to Row on your Doorstep
We've just launched registration for our next Learn to Row course, designed specifically to be welcoming, supportive and accessible for beginners. No previous experience or fitness level is needed – just a willingness to give it a go.
Rowing is a brilliant way to build confidence, improve physical and mental wellbeing, and connect with others in a safe and encouraging environment. We know many community groups are looking for inclusive activities where beginners feel comfortable trying something new, and we're committed to making this course as open and supportive as possible.

After the Learn to Row course, many go on to join the Women's or Men's Development Squads, a great supportive and safe environment to continue to learn new skills.

The next course runs primarily at weekends over 5-6 weeks, and starts in April with the option of a taster session before committing to the full course (Running Sat 4th & Sun 5th April and Sat 11th & Sun 12th April) [Register here.](#)

Donnington Doorstep Family Centre has reopened its **free Youth Club** for young people in OX4.

We offer a safe, welcoming space with activities, support, and a free hot meal each session.

Open **Tuesdays & Wednesdays**

Please see our poster for parental permission details.

PARENTS to COMPLETE FORM

[YOUTH CLUB Registration Form – Fill out form](#)

<https://forms.office.com/e/297mk0U3ck>



LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ULTIMATE ACTIVITY CAMPS

GET SET FOR ULTIMATE EASTER & SUMMER HOLIDAY FUN!

Outstanding holiday day camps with over 40 activities every week

For ages 4 to 14

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

At Headington Rye Oxford in Oxford

Ultimate savings when you book early!

ULTIMATE SURVIVAL

GO WILD FOR A WHILE!

Fun and adventurous outdoor summer day camps, fully-immersed in the natural environment

For ages 7 to 14

Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm

EARLY BOOKING OFFER NOW ON!

Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, Farmoor nr Oxford

Ultimate savings when you book early!

OXFORD UNITED IN THE COMMUNITY www.ouitc.org

GIRLS ONLY PREMIER LEAGUE KICKS TUESDAY IN OXFORD YEAR 7 - YEAR 13 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Leys Pools and Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road Oxford OX4 6JL

FUN AND SOCIAL FOOTBALL FREE TO ATTEND.

Contact Us plkicks@oufc.co.uk

Premier League Kicks OXFORD UNITED

Oxford Quins RFC

Rugby Club

GREYFRIARS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Great work so far, everyone, in our Rugby Club. We have been very impressed by your enthusiasm and ability to pick up new skills so quickly – and we're only in week 3!

As a reminder, we have worked on the fundamentals of rugby play:

- Run forwards, pass backwards
- Shoot the ball from the hip like a rocket
- Evasion - Stepping and swerving
- Chicken scratch on touch
- Retreating in defence

We'll continue to build on these skills in the coming weeks.

We plan to enter teams into the England Touch Schools Championship in the Summer Term – so something very exciting to work towards. Take a look at this video for some more details about the Touch game.

If you are interested in doing a bit more rugby, then please consider coming along to Oxford Quins RFC. We train at the Horspath Sports Ground, DX4 28R on a Wednesday evening at 6-7pm or 7-8pm (depending on age group). And we play fixtures on a Sunday. It was a proud week for us at Quins, as Greg Ffolliu was picked for England's Six Nations squad. Look out for him on TV in the coming weeks.

GREG FISILAU
ENGLAND SIX NATIONS CALL-UP

Bring your Boots!
Running on grass is so much easier if you are wearing studs. If you have them, please remember to bring your rugby or football boots along.

AGN

Kenford.
If you don't have any boots but would like some, please speak with Miss Kenford.

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday!
From Laura and the Quins coaching team.

Blackbird Leys COMMUNITY LARDER

Oxford Hub Working together to build a better Oxford

What is a community larder?
A membership programme that provides:

- Access to utility discounts and social tariffs
- Local business discounts
- Little larder club
- Meet new people in a friendly environment

Who can join? Anyone who wants to prevent food waste and save money. It is not means tested.

Where does the food come from? A Didcot based charity, providing surplus food, training and opportunities to young people and organisations.

£10 P/YEAR ANNUAL JOINING FEE + **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP FROM £3.50 A WEEK** = **FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FROM £7 A WEEK**

An individual membership provides up to 10 items of non-perishables (paste, tins etc) per week plus free fruit and vegetables. A family membership is twice as much.

We offer hot drinks in our back room to all members and volunteers, this is from around 12.30.

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits?
Sign up today!
www.fofea.uk.com

COMMUNITY LARDER SOFEA

Parent Power

We support local parents living in the OX4 area

Our team of Parent Advocates (local parents), Donna, Kerrisa and Kylie, can support you with:

- Practical and emotional support
- Connecting with your child's school or local organisations, such as attending parents' evenings with you.
- Connecting you to a network of parents so you can support each other.
- Help and support with form filling

Need help? Want to get involved?

Get in touch with the team:
Email: donna@oxfordhub.org

Oxford Hub
oxfordhub.org/parent-power

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE RANDOM UNIVERSE

PROF ANDREW H JAFFE

How do we make sense of an uncertain Universe?

In this lecture, inspired by my book, *The Random Universe*, I will weave science, philosophy, and history, from David Hume's challenge to the probabilistic insights of Thomas Bayes.

I will tell stories such as Arthur Eddington's eclipse expedition that confirmed Einstein's theory of gravity, and explore ideas from thermodynamics and quantum mechanics that place fundamental limits on certainty.

I will also discuss modern debates about the Big Bang and the difficulty of extracting truth from imperfect data. I will reflect on how science builds knowledge—and why that process matters today.

Book signing of *The Random Universe* to follow the lecture

Tuesday 21st April 2026
5pm
Martin Wood Lecture Theatre

For further details, please contact Leanne O'Donnell
leanne.odonnell@physics.ox.ac.uk

HOW TO IMAGE A BLACK HOLE

Prof Heino Falcke
Radboud University Nijmegen

Black holes mark the most exotic objects within the theory of general relativity. Their interior is shielded from observation by an event horizon, a virtual one-way membrane through which matter, light, and information can enter but never leave.

For a long time the immediate surroundings of black holes remained elusive and even their existence was doubted. In 2019, the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) captured the first-ever image of a black hole, observing its dark shadow in the radio galaxy M87. In 2022, the black hole at the center of our Milky Way was imaged.

This confirmed the presence of supermassive black holes at the centers of galaxies and provided strong evidence for the presence of an event horizon. The talk will describe the road towards making these images, the latest results and directions, such as the construction of a new telescope in Africa and space missions.

Thursday 26th March
6 pm
Martin Wood Lecture Theatre
Free admission - All welcome

For more information, please contact Leanne.O'Donnell@physics.ox.ac.uk

Oxford Hub

FREE
PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM
POP-UP SHOP

DROP IN SUPPORT AVAILABLE DURING THIS SESSION WITH
THE PARENT POWER TEAM

Open every Monday from
12th January
12-2PM
Templar Square Shopping Centre



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG



SENse Learning is running six workshops, designed to support parents and carers with practical guidance, up-to-date information, and strategies that can be used at home. The sessions are a great way to learn, build understanding, and gain confidence in supporting your child's development and wellbeing.


Workshop topics include:

- 28th Jan | Parenting styles and attachment [Book here](#)
- 11th Feb | Brain development in children and young people [Book here](#)
- 25th Feb | Self-regulation and sleep [Book Here](#)
- 11th Mar | Online safety [Book here](#)
- 25th Mar | Understanding young people's mental health [Book here](#)

Booking information

All workshops are free to attend and will be delivered online
Tickets can be booked via Eventbrite
Places are limited, so we encourage early booking

Full details of each session, including dates and times, are available on the Eventbrite booking page



Beyond the Classroom

TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Trinity College Beyond the Classroom (BTC) Online Academic Enrichment Programme is starting again on Tuesdays from 10 March at 4:30pm, until 7 July 2026!!

Registrations for 2026 are now OPEN!
Our online after-school academic enrichment programme in 2026 will feature a new series of mini lectures, explore taster sessions, academic skills talks and advice about preparing for university study.


A certificate of participation from Trinity College, Oxford, for those attending 7 or more sessions!

Open to all students in Year 7-12 in a state school.

Register for the programme via this link: [Trinity Beyond the Classroom 2026](#). Or the QR Code below

More details can be found on our website which will be updated as [themes for the programme](#)
Once you have registered, we will contact you 24 hrs prior to the start of each session with the joining details.

BTC Year 12 Trinity College Visit Days
If you are now in Year 12, attend a state school and are seriously considering applying to study one of the [19 courses](#) Trinity College admits for to study at the University of Oxford, when you register for the standard online programme, you can also express an interest in a place on one of our BTCR Trinity College Visit Days (date the)



LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

EASTER & SUMMER 2026

The WOW Camp

SCIENCE, VIRTUAL REALITY, LASER TAG, ANIMAL WORKSHOPS, STREET DANCE, ROBOTS, INFLATABLES

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play
All in one camp

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

www.nextthing.education

SCAN TO BOOK!

EASTER & SUMMER CAMPS

Tech-powered camps, packed with **WOW** experiences!

Example camp activities

Camps run 9 am - 4 pm

ROBOT LAB	LEGO ENGINEERING	ELECTRIC INVENTIONS	3D CREATIONS	ANIMATION
COOL CIRCUITS	CRAZY CODING	MOVIE MAKING	MINECRAFT REDSTONE	VIRTUAL REALITY

NEW FOR EASTER - WOW EXPERIENCES

INFLATABLES	ANIMALS	STREET DANCE	SCIENCE	LASER TAG
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Activities vary by location. Please visit our website to see what's running at your venue.

WHAT TO EXPECT:
At Next Thing Education, our goal is to ignite curiosity, fuel creativity, and empower young minds for the future!
Blending hands-on tech exploration with unforgettable WOW experiences, we inspire children to invent, create, and discover. Led by DBS-checked, friendly and supportive instructors, kids build confidence while diving into exciting activities, challenges, and real skill-building adventures.

LIMITED SPACES - BOOK NOW!

WWW.NEXTTHING.EDUCATION T: 01442 873150

TRY LOVE RUGBY

WANT TO PLAY RUGBY? TRY OUR FREE FOUR-WEEK INTRO TO RUGBY FOR GIRLS & YOUNG WOMEN

CONTACT GIRLSRUGBY@OXFORDHARLEQUINS.ORG

Give your child an unforgettable school holiday filled with fresh air, freedom and adventure!

Set within 42 acres of stunning woodland in rural Oxfordshire at Youlbury Boars Hill, children aged 8-16 will take part in a daily programme of non-stop outdoor action. With expert instructors leading the way, creating a safe and supportive environment where children run, climb, explore, and build confidence while unplugging from screens and having a blast with friends in the great outdoors!

What's on offer:

- High-energy adventures such as archery, ziplining, and climbing.
- Fun team building games and problem-solving challenges.
- Survival skills such as shelter building, backwoods cooking and fire lighting.
- Connect with the natural world with mindful activities, outdoors arts and crafts, wildlife spotting, and nature walks.

When is it:

- Running throughout school holidays - February, Easter, May, Summer and October (see website for dates).
- 9am-5pm daily.
- Early drop off (from 8am) and late pick-up (until 6pm) available.
- Participants can attend individual days, or the entire week.

Pricing:
£35 per day, per child. Save 10% on a 5-day block and each additional child.

Book now and join the adventure!

www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events
activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk
Scout Adventures Youlbury, Boars Hill, Oxford OX1 5HD

Scout Adventures is owned and operated by The Scout Association. Reg Charity Number 204610 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 21 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7DN

LEYS YOUTH HUB

LOCATION: LEYS POOL AND LEISURE CENTRE, PEGASUS ROAD

FREE ACTIVITIES FOR 11 - 18

MONDAYS 3.30 PM - 5.30PM:
CREATIVE SESSION
BAKING, ART, MUSIC

TUESDAYS 4PM - 6PM:
GIRLS GROUP
NAILS & BEAUTY, GAMES, MOVIE NIGHTS

TUESDAYS 6.35PM - 8PM:
OPEN ACCESS
GAMES, COOKING, CHILL OUT

THURSDAYS 3.30 PM - 5PM:
CREATIVE SESSION
COOKING, BAKING, ART, MUSIC

PLUS ROCK CLIMBING (PREBOOK ONLY)

MONDAY 5.30PM - 6.30PM
THURSDAY 5PM - 6PM & 6PM - 7PM

CALL LYDIA ON 07483007103
OR JEN ON 07483010739

FOR ROCK CLIMBING BOOKINGS EMAIL: LEYSYOUTHUB@OXFORD.GOV.UK

Are you at risk of losing your home?

We can help you to avoid eviction

Our Housing Support Service Team can help keep a roof over your head by providing you with the tools to manage your money, navigate benefits, be independent, and avoid homelessness. Our team will help you gain control of your situation by working alongside you, to fully understand the challenges you are facing, so we can tailor our support. This free service is for individuals and families over the age of 16, who are residents in Oxfordshire.

Get in touch

enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk
01865 711267
connectionsupport.org.uk

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



FREE online talk by

Jane Keyworth

FACE family Advice Lead Facilitator

Decreasing Depression

23rd April 7-8pm



Book online

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Parents - Live Talks page

FACE April 2026 Timetable
All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	27 April 10am
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	28 April 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 7pm

PARENT WEBINAR Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Parents are the most important part of young peoples lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us, help you, to help them.

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

QR CODE:

WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS

CALLING ALL YEAR 11 - YEAR 13

SOCIAL FOOTBALL DURING YOUR EXAMS!

EVERY MONDAY
8:30PM TO 10:00PM
BICESTER

EVERY TUESDAY
6:30PM - 8:00PM
OXFORD

QR CODE:

Abingdon & Witney College | Oxfordshire Adult Learning

Free Workshops for Parents at Oxford Hub

Oxford Hub

Oxford Hub at Windale School
Windale Ave, Oxford OX4 6JD

Date and Time	Suitable for	Workshop
Wednesday 25/2/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Emotional Regulation Understand what is meant by emotional regulation and introduce Zones of Regulation as a tool to support your child.
Wednesday 4/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Developing Resilience Understand what resilience is and what factors influence a child's ability to be resilient and develop tools to support your child to develop resilience.
Wednesday 11/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of primary school age children	Managing Meltdowns Effectively Find out about the connection between the senses and meltdowns and developing strategies to support your child with meltdowns.
Wednesday 18/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Developing Communication With Your Child Understanding benchmarks and strategies to support the development of Speech, Language and Communication at home.
Wednesday 25/3/26 13:00 - 14:30	Parents/Carers of nursery age children	Early Maths for Parents Gain understanding of the areas of maths that are taught in Reception and learn strategies and activities to support your child's enjoyment and learning of maths.

To enroll, contact Penelope Lea (Family Learning Tutor)
penelope.lea@abingdon-witney.ac.uk
These sessions are fully funded so are free to families living in Oxfordshire (Ts and Cs apply).

Low cost and free activities for families to enjoy together!

YouMove is brand new for Oxfordshire, providing low cost and free fun activities for families including weekends & school holidays.

Enjoy a fantastic range of activities including swimming, badminton, activity packs, children's holiday activities & so much more!

Find out more here:

QR CODE:

YouMove is here to offer free and low cost activities for children on benefit related free school meals and their families.

YOU MOVE