

# Weekly Newsletter

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026 | Issue 28

Dear Families

This week, in our Gospel reflections, we considered Jesus' commandment to his disciples: *'Love one another as I have loved you.'* In our assemblies, we reflected on the important truth that love is not simply something we feel, it is something we *do*. Love is shown through action: through kindness, patience, generosity, forgiveness and the way we treat one another each day. Ideas on how students can be involved have been given in student led House assemblies too.

This message felt especially alive in our school community this week. We were privileged to celebrate our Feast of the Ascension Mass, led by the Jesuits. It was a powerful and prayerful moment for the whole school. Students participated with such reverence and respect, and I was deeply proud of the way they conducted themselves throughout. The atmosphere reflected exactly what we hope Greyfriars will always be: a community rooted in faith, dignity and care for one another. And, of course, no feast day would be complete without some cake!

Meanwhile, exam season is now fully underway for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, and they too have been impeccable. Across the school there has been a real sense of focus, resilience and determination. I have been especially struck by the quiet perseverance of students managing long and demanding days, including one student today completing *three exams* and working right through until nearly 5pm. Their commitment has been extraordinary, and we are immensely proud of them.

This week we were also delighted to launch our reward to students in Years 8, 9 and 10; they have a potential 100% attendance trip to Thorpe Park. It is a wonderful opportunity to recognise the commitment of students and is a real incentive to power through. (Obviously, we have appropriate caveats.) Experiences like this matter because they celebrate not just academic achievement, but the habits, resilience and commitment that underpin success. (Please note, Y7 have an alternative – update will come shortly.)



Alongside this, I continue to be reminded what a special place Greyfriars is simply by walking through the building, particularly when showing visitors around. The number of 'good mornings', 'how are yous', smiles and small acts of kindness is genuinely striking. These things matter. They create the culture of the school and shape the experience people have when they enter our community. We always speak about the *Greyfriars Way*, and this week I have seen it lived out so beautifully: in prayer, in hard work, in celebration, and in the simple daily choices to treat one another with care and dignity.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Lyndsey Caldwell  
Headteacher

## WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

### Gospel | John 14:15-21



Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him."

#### Reflection

The Lord Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you for ever." Here the praying heart of Jesus is revealed to us. This prayer reaches its apex and its fulfilment on the Cross, where Christ's invocation is one with the total gift that he makes of himself, and thus his prayer becomes the very seal of his self-gift out of love of the Father and humanity. In reality, Jesus' prayers that of the Last Supper and that on the Cross form a single prayer that continues even in heaven, where Christ sits at the right hand of the Father. Jesus, in fact, always lives his intercessional priesthood on behalf of the people of God and humanity and so prays for all of us, asking the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, on the Solemnity of Pentecost, 23 May 2010)

#### Prayer for the Feast of the Ascension

*Lord Jesus, you became man and came to live among us.*

*For love of us, you suffered and died for us.*

*Because you are God, you conquered death and rose on the third day. Today you return to your Father and our Father, but you promised to remain with us until the end of time, and to send us the Holy Spirit.*

*We rejoice and thank you, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit, purify and transform us, kindle within us the fire of your love. 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, we celebrated a school mass for the Feast of the Ascension. Students were able to learn about the Ascension from our visiting priests from Campion Hall, and engaged so thoughtfully and reverently throughout the service. I

I am particularly thankful for the students who step up every time to help make Mass run well for all of us. As readers, altar servers, and ushers, they live out the Ascension message of showing Christ's love through our actions. A job well done and a happy Ascension to all



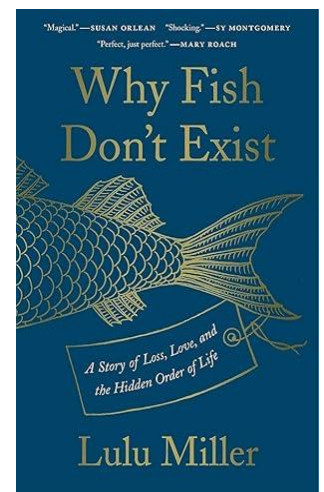
### Year 7 Girls Shine at Cricket Festival | Miss Kenneford

On Thursday 14th May, our Year 7 girls travelled to Cherwell School to take part in an exciting Cricket Festival. The team played three matches throughout the day, achieving an impressive two wins out of three. What stood out most was the girls' determination and willingness to learn, with their performances improving in every game they played. They showed fantastic resilience, teamwork, and a real desire to develop their skills on the field.

Alongside the cricket, there were some brilliant conversations around sportsmanship, self-reflection, and how to respond positively to challenges—valuable lessons that are just as important as the results themselves. I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, maturity, and positive attitude shown by all the girls. They represented the school brilliantly and should be very proud of their achievements.

### Weekly Book Review by Lian

This novel is a little different to what I'd normally read but I believe it was entirely worth it. It's a form of memoir with an almost tender sort of outlook. Funnily enough it feels like reading a journey or misty memory through a fishbowl filter as your eyes catch glimpses of particularly meaningful lines like scales. I thought the book was rather profound and introspective. Definitely an insightful perspective but also still connective to average or ordinary life. It helps put things in perspective when a person might be just the tiniest bit deep into nihilism. I thought there were hints of the concept of string theory scattered inside mostly to do with the thematic elements of finding the value in small things (essentially everything) but that's just a straying interpretation! This book is a genuinely interesting piece to read!



## GENERAL NOTICES

# TOUCH OF MADNESS 24 HOUR FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

**OXFORD  
HARLEQUINS**



**GREYFRIARS  
CATHOLIC  
SCHOOL**



## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?



## 24 HOURS. PUSHING LIMITS. ENDLESS TRIES. ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

SAVE THE DATE: 26TH/27TH JUNE 2026 6PM TO 6PM

**LOCATION: HORSPTH SPORTS GROUND, OX4 2RR**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION!



## Fundraising Event | Miss Kenneford

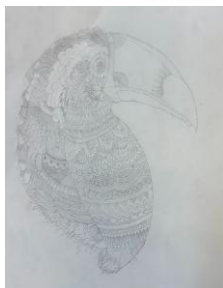
Over the past year, Oxford Harlequins RFC has teamed up with Greyfriars Catholic School to create something really special for its students. Through this partnership, young people have enjoyed fun, high-energy, top-quality coaching sessions completely free of charge—helping them build skills, confidence, and a real love for the game. The girls' teams have proudly worn their own sponsored kit, while students across the school have benefited from free equipment and funded memberships at the club, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise have been out of reach.

This is why our 24-hour touch rugby match is such an important cause. Taking place in an area facing significant deprivation, the event is all about breaking down barriers to participation and making sport accessible for everyone. We want to ensure that cost, access, or opportunity never stand in the way of a young person getting involved. By supporting this challenge, you're helping us continue this incredible work—bringing more fun, opportunity, and community spirit to the next generation.

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Year 9 Art | Mrs Byrne

Year 9 pupils created imaginative zentangle-inspired graphic designs influenced by the detailed illustrative style of Iain MacArthur. Combining animals, birds, and intricate repeating patterns, pupils experimented with line, pattern, and composition to produce visually striking outcomes. The pupils are now going to develop the work into monoprints.



## GENERAL NOTICES

### Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

#### House assemblies

Our wonderful Sixth Form students have been running assemblies for the whole school this week. As usual, groups of students planned, rehearsed and delivered presentations to their Houses on the theme of Stewardship. However, this was the first time Y12 took the reins completely without the help of Y13. In the assemblies, students shared actions we can take to protect our school environment as well as how we can look after others and ourselves, linking their message to Mental Health Awareness Week. I could not be more proud of them! I know some of these students really pushed themselves to do something that they would never normally volunteer for. But, building confidence in public speaking and dealing with nerves are genuine life skills. Well done to Safa, Earl, Bailie, Nifemi, Precious, Justin, Erin, Jemimah, Jamarley, Goodness, David, Zaara, Iman, Stuthi, Lexi and Kaydi for all of their work on this.

#### Staying Exam Fit!

Elsewhere, students in Y12 and Y13 have been sitting exams this week as the exam season gets properly underway. We know that this can be a worrying time for students. It is important to do all of the things that everyone advises: eat well, drink lots of water, keep up some physical exercise, and don't forget to sleep! All of these simple actions will make your revision more productive and effective. They will also make you just feel better. Talking to people and sharing how you feel really matters as well. If any student or parent is concerned about exams and revision, please speak to one of the Sixth Form Team, your tutor or any trusted adult.

### Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

Form	Achievement Points
10SA	330
10JOD	229
10CT	210
10MJ	180

Year 10 PE's 12-minute Cooper Run lesson was outstanding. Students worked extremely hard throughout, and it was great to have the opportunity to watch the lesson alongside Miss Kenneford. Year 10 lessons have been excellent this week, with students showing great effort, focus, and positive engagement in every session. I also visited English lessons yesterday, where students were working extremely hard and remained highly focused throughout the lesson.

Year 11 students have shown outstanding attendance during their exams. It is extremely important that students continue to attend all lessons and come to school every day to ensure they receive the key learning and support from their subject teachers in preparation for their exams. I am very proud of their attitude during the exams they are taking, which is really showing how amazing they are as a year group.

**A reminder that payments for the Year 11 Celebration Evening can still be made online via ParentPay**

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Library News | Mrs Brett

Hello Terrific Tome Tacklers! Oh, what a temperamental week we've had! Sun, wind, rain, hail, more sun... don't you just love it? The weather is so adventurous. Be like the weather, come and grab a new adventure from the library today.



Dear Professor Gemmill,

Your kindness has helped place new stories, ideas, and opportunities into the hands of our pupils, inspiring curiosity and a lifelong love of reading.

Every book added to our shelves opens a door for a child, and this thoughtful donation will be enjoyed by many students for years to come. We are truly grateful for your support.

*Thank You!*

This week's update will be quite concise on the account of the fantastically wonderful book donations we have had, because we want to get them processed and ready for all to enjoy. COME AND ENJOY THEM. Today, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Professor Elizabeth Gemmill for her wonderful contribution to our school library.



Finally, somebody please challenge Sahas! He is already our Lego King, and if nobody comes up against him – the Art Genius title will belong to him as well 😊.

There's still time to draw your way into the Star Wars universe in our library, I will be accepting entries until half-term. In the meantime, just look what I mean. It's a masterpiece!



Our writing competitions are currently undersubscribed! Remember, there are many participation achievement points in it for you, plus prizes for the winners. Speaking of... We have another group of students who will be published in the second Stranger Sagas book! Well done, everybody. Permission letters will be coming to you shortly.

Now, time to praise our readers! We have a steady increase again, congratulations! Doing great, but we can still do better! 😊

TERM 5   WEEK 5				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Reading	
1	Roisin	36	8BMO	76.2%
2	Sahas	35	8RM	73.9%
3	Ayesha J.	21	8LSC	66.7%
4	Ludozio, Phoebe L., Karthik	8	7ALW	63.6%
5	Martyna	6	7GKE	48.4%

Let me leave you with these wise words – a philosophy that I live by – expressed more beautifully than I could ever do myself.

***Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift. [Kate DiCamillo]***

Happy reading, everyone!

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Stars Pathway Weekly Highlights | Mr Jubin

What a wonderfully busy and exciting term it has been in Stars Pathway! In English, students have been diving into Shakespeare's famous *Sonnet 130*, where the Bard proves that romance in the 1600s was apparently less about compliments and more about brutal honesty! The class were both shocked and amused by how blunt Shakespeare was about his mistress, which naturally led to *many* interesting questions and debates. Alongside this, pupils explored literary techniques including similes, metaphors, enjambment, and caesura — though some are still convinced Shakespeare simply forgot where to put his punctuation!

Science lessons have been equally fascinating. Pupils have been learning about pregnancy, the different trimesters, and the incredible beauty of birth. Meanwhile, with Dr Rogers, they became mini scientists by investigating heart rates, calculating their own pulse using different techniques and devices, and discovering that some hearts beat significantly faster whenever tests are mentioned.

In Geography, students travelled (figuratively!) to the vibrant country of Brazil, arguably the crown jewel of South America. Lessons explored its rich culture, vast wilderness, and the mighty Amazon rainforest, sparking intriguing questions about life in the remote north-western regions. Some pupils are now fully convinced they could survive in the rainforest with nothing but a water bottle and "good vibes".

History transported us back to one of England's most dramatic turning points: the Battle of Stamford Bridge and the Norman Invasion. While pupils greatly admire the beauty of the French language today, they were fascinated to discover that the English in 1066 were perhaps not quite as enthusiastic about French arrivals. The class thoroughly enjoyed exploring the tension, rivalry, and chaos of the time — proving once again that history is essentially centuries-old drama with swords.

Speaking of drama, Drama lessons themselves have been in full swing! Pupils have enthusiastically taken on the roles of Harry Potter, Hermione, and Voldemort in energetic performances filled with spell-casting, dramatic entrances, and the occasional suspiciously overenthusiastic death scene.

In RE, students have been reflecting on the Eucharistic Prayer — the very heart of the Mass and one of the Church's greatest mysteries. What a blessing it has been for them not only to learn about the Mass in theory, but also to attend Holy Mass in school and experience it in practice. As May is Mary's month, pupils' devotion to Our Lady has flourished beautifully. During each RE lesson, they pray a decade of the Rosary together, seeking the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother with reverence, faith, and growing confidence.

Stars Pathway continues to be filled with curiosity, laughter, thoughtful discussion, and memorable learning moments every single day. We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and cannot wait to see what adventures next term brings!

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

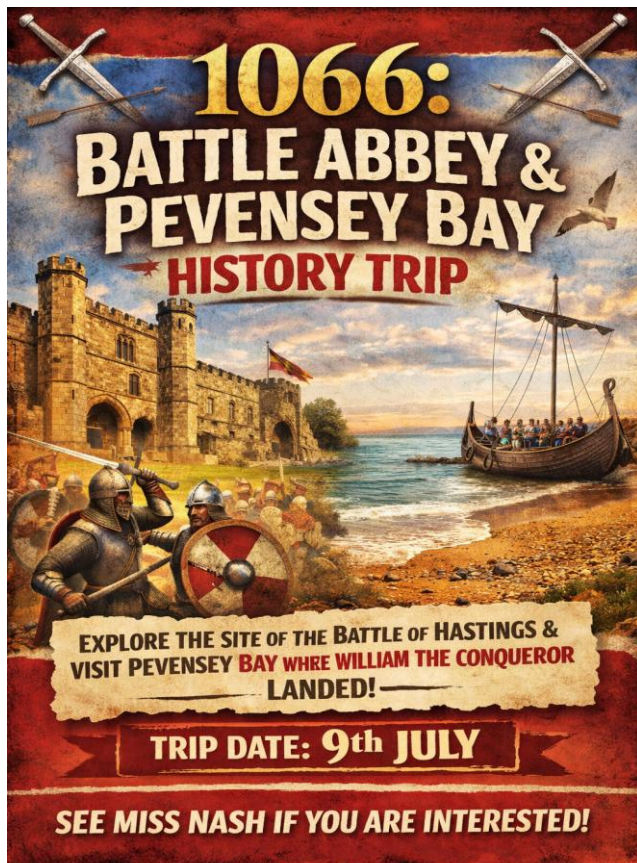
We would like to congratulate Year 7 on the significant improvement in attendance over recent weeks. Students have shown a real commitment to being in school, on time, and ready to learn, and the effort being made across the year group has been excellent. High attendance remains incredibly important, as students with attendance above 95% are far more likely to make strong academic progress, build positive routines, and fully benefit from all opportunities available in school.

We are also beginning preparations for our transition days with next year's Year 6 students, and we will soon be looking for student volunteers to help support and welcome our new intake. This is a fantastic opportunity to represent the school and help younger students feel part of the Greyfriars community. To be eligible, students will need to maintain attendance of 95% or above and receive 0 behaviour points between now and the transition days.

Well done to 7GKE who have retained their lead in the achievement point table, and well done to our top achievement point scorers of the week!

7GKE	428
7KR	365
7ALW	207
7BN	178

Kairo	33
Esther	30
Iliam	30
Dylan	28
Mariama	26
Sahar	26
Esme	26
Victory	25
Elena	25



Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 students are invited to take part in a trip to the site of the Battle of Hastings, where they will explore the battlefield and develop their understanding of how and why the battle was fought in 1066.

Students will also study the religious and cultural significance of Battle Abbey, built to commemorate the victory of William the Conqueror.

The trip concludes with a visit to Pevensey Bay, the landing site of the Norman invasion, bringing the events of 1066 to life. This forms part of the examined historical environment study.

## 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](http://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](mailto:s.upellini@gfcs.uk)

### 5 Ways to Well-being

Click on the logo to find out more.



**CONNECT** TALK & LISTEN, BE THERE, FEEL CONNECTED  
**BE ACTIVE** DO WHAT YOU CAN, ENJOY WHAT YOU DO, MOVE YOUR HOOD  
**TAKE NOTICE** REMEMBER THE SIMPLE THINGS THAT GIVE YOU JOY  
**KEEP LEARNING** EMBRACE NEW EXPERIENCES, SEE OPPORTUNITIES, SURPRISE YOURSELF  
**Give** Your time, your words, your presence

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](mailto:f.easton@gfcs.uk)

## GENERAL NOTICES

### Dates for your Diary

- 18 May | University Church Bach Concert
- 19 May | Year 8 Human Library Careers Event
- 20 May | Elevate Programme
- 20 May | RC Vision Event
- 22 May | Gaelic Football Tournament
- 25 – 29 May Half Term
- 05 June | Year 11 Shirt Signing
- 10 June | Year 10 / 12 PPEs Begin
- 17 – 19 June | Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

### 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](mailto: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

# STEVENSONS Summer Shopping

Your uniform is supplied through our  
*Oxford Branch*

**Address:**

245 Banbury Road,  
Oxford,  
OX2 7HN

**Contact:**

[oxfordbranch@stevensons.co.uk](mailto:oxfordbranch@stevensons.co.uk)

Please note we are a cashless branch.

**Opening Hours:**

Monday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Tuesday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: Closed  
Friday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Saturday: 9:30am - 5pm  
Sunday: Closed

### Online

Shopping online at [www.stevensons.co.uk](http://www.stevensons.co.uk) is easy!

You can select home delivery or opt for convenient Click & Collect from your local store.

Our in-stock items are typically dispatched within 48 hours.  
Plus, with our 365-day return policy, you can shop with confidence knowing that returns are hassle-free.

### In Store Opening Hours

Will be open for pre-booked fitting appointments from Monday 13th July- Friday 21st August.  
We recommend booking a fitting appointment so we can offer you dedicated one-to-one service during the summer period.  
Walk in customers are welcome, Saturdays are a great option for visiting without an appointment, and our team will assist you as soon as they are available.

Please visit our website to check extended opening hours over the summer.



## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

# THE ROBOTS ARE COMING



Sign up in the library today!

Introduction to Coding for Robots

- Do you want to know how robots work?
- Would you like to learn coding for robots?
- Free one hour sessions for ages 8 to 10y & 10 to 14 y

**Sat 23 May, 13:00 to 14:00 [8- 10 years]**  
**Sat 23 May, 14:30 to 15:30 [10-14years]**  
 &  
**Sat 30 May, 13:00 to 14:00 [8- 10 years]**  
**Sat 30 May, 14:30 to 15:30 [10-14years]**

Please note that, parents must stay on site for duration of session

**Places are limited**  
 please email [cowley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:cowley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
 or call at 01865 815137 to reserve a space

**IBNSINA MINDCRAFTERS**  
[www.ibnsinamindcrafters.org](http://www.ibnsinamindcrafters.org)  
 ibnsina Mindcrafters CIC is a registered non-profit organisation (11522726) operating in England and Wales.

supported by   
[www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk)

 **FACE** **May 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](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)  
 Recordings available for 48 hours

School Anxiety	4 May 10am
Understanding Anger	4 May 7pm
Facing Defiance	5 May 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	5 May 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	11 May 10am
Anxiety Explained	11 May 7pm
Introduction to OCD	12 May 10am
What is ACT?	12 May 7pm
Decreasing Depression	18 May 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	18 May 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	19 May 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	19 May 7pm
Autism: Improving Communication	25 May 10am
Improving Family Communication	25 May 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	26 May 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	26 May 7pm
<b>FREE Getting a Good Nights Sleep</b>	<b>28 May 7-8pm</b>



# AVALON



THE MAKERS OF TASKMASTER ARE CASTING NOW FOR A NEW CHANNEL 4 SHOW!

Does your household enjoy watching Taskmaster and would you love the chance to try the tasks?

What if you could compete together against other households from the comfort of your own home AND be in with a chance of winning a cash prize?

Avalon Television is looking for fun and quick-thinking families/housemates/couples to tackle a host of creative and head-scratching tasks set by Alex Horne of Taskmaster fame.

More information and application form link below  
[www.avalontvcasting.com](http://www.avalontvcasting.com)

Terms and conditions apply.  
 We only accept applications from a household member aged 18+  
 Closing date 23:59 on Sunday 7 June 2026.  
 Any information you provide as part of your application will be processed in line with our privacy policy: <https://avalonuk.com/privacy-policy-cast-crew-and-talent/>

### Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by FACE, separate from the school membership.  
 Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month  
 Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



#### Building Emotional Resilience

Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



#### Facing Defiance

A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



#### You & Your Teen

A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

[www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

Online Courses for Parents page  
[info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Hi there!

Welcome to **Parent Pathways** – your guide to supporting your child’s journey to university (years 10-13).

Choosing a university can feel overwhelming, for parents as much as students. With so many courses, deadlines, and decisions, it’s hard to know:

- where to start
- what really matters
- how best to support your child

That’s exactly why we created **Parent Pathways**.

Produced by the teams behind **Whatuni** and **The Complete University Guide**, this free termly newsletter gives you **clear, trusted guidance** at every stage, from early research through to results day.

**Win travel + accommodation for a university open day!!**

We know visiting universities can be expensive, but it can be one of the most important parts of making the right choice.

**Sign up to Parent Pathways and be entered into a draw to win travel and accommodation costs for you and your child to attend an open day.**

[Competition Terms and Conditions](#)

#### Key dates and deadlines

**Replying to offers:** There are three key dates for replying to university offers:

- **31 March** – All university decisions received → reply by 6 May.
- **13 May** – All offers received → reply by 3 June.
- **15 July** – All offers received → reply by 22 July (*Excludes UCAS Extra applicants*).

**Other key dates and deadlines**

- **30 June** – Deadline for applications to be sent to universities (6pm)
- **2nd July** - **Clearing** opens

👉 Learn more about [how to reply to offers](#).

👉 [See UCAS key dates and deadlines](#)

💡 Add these to a shared family calendar to avoid last-minute stress.

#### Help your child choose with confidence

Parents play a crucial role in helping students think beyond just grades or rankings. Here are the tools thousands of families use:

- **Real student reviews** – explore honest feedback with Whatuni Student Choice Awards (WUSCAs).

👉 [Read reviews now](#)

- **Trusted League Tables** - compare universities across 74 subject areas, student satisfaction, graduate outcomes and more by using trusted, independent data.

👉 [Check out our league tables](#)

- **Cost of Living Calculator** – Understand what student life really costs in different cities.

👉 [Try our budgeting tool now](#)

💡 Many families use our cost of living calculator together to compare options and avoid unwanted surprises later on.

- **Virtual open day tours** - can't visit in person? Explore from home.

👉 [Start a virtual tour now](#)

#### Enjoyed this issue?

**Stay informed (and don't miss future opportunities)**

**Subscribe here:** [Sign up to Parent Pathways](#) (You'll also be entered into the open day prize draw)

**Help another parent:** If you found this helpful, forward it to another parent and help us build a community supporting students together. Many families are navigating this for the first time.

**Keep your child in the know** encourage your child to register on the links below to receive helpful newsletters with student-focused guidance:

- [Register on the Complete University Guide](#)
- [Register on Whatuni](#)

With best wishes,

Corinna and the team at **Parent Pathways**

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>

**DONNINGTON DOORSTEP**  
**NEW SOCIAL HUB**  
**@ DOORSTEP**

**YEAR 7 TO 11**

**TUES 5.15PM - 7.30PM**  
**WED 3.30PM - 7.30PM**

**GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD**

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST TO RECEIVE INFORMATION FOR WHEN WE RE-OPEN END OF MARCH 2026

**DONNINGTON DOORSTEP**

**INFO@DONNINGTON-DOORSTEP.ORG.UK**

DONNINGTON DOORSTEP, TOWNSEND SQUARE, OX4 4BB  
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1144821

# 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](http://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](mailto: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 Ffolliott 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.

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

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 lender 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 Diced 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.sofea.uk.com](http://www.sofea.uk.com)

Registered Charity Number 1051962

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](mailto:donna@oxfordhub.org)

**Oxford Hub**

[oxfordhub.org/parent-power](http://oxfordhub.org/parent-power)

## LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



**FMRI-BWIN**  
University of Oxford,  
John Radcliffe Hospital  
Oxford, OX3 9DU

**Primary researcher:**  
Isabelle Lövgren (DPhil Student)  
isabelle.lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

**Principal Investigator:**  
Mr Tim Lawrence  
Tim.Lawrence@ndcn.ox.ac.uk

**Imaging Study of 11 to 18 Year olds with Head Injuries**  
Ethics Approval Reference: 24/SC0155

**11-18 Year Olds needed!**  
We are looking for healthy volunteers to take part in our study!

**What is the purpose of the study?**  
Head injuries are common in young people. While most recover well afterwards, some feel worse than expected. Currently, we don't know why this happens. This study could help us predict how well someone will recover after a head injury.

**What does the study involve?**  
We will ask you to attend 2 visits at the FMRI centre in John Radcliffe Hospital. The visits will take place 6 months apart, and will each last around 2.5 hours. Both visits will involve:

- A magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scan
- Questionnaires
- Short tasks
- Height & weight measurements
- Optional: electroencephalography (EEG) measure

**Who can take part?**  
We are looking for young people who:

- ✓ are 11 to 18 years old
- ✓ are fit and healthy
- ✓ and take part in sports

Unfortunately, you will not be able to take part if any of the following apply:

- Currently recovering from a head injury
- Ever diagnosed with a neurological or psychiatric condition
- Unsafe to be around a strong magnet
- Previous head surgery

If you would like to find out more, please contact  
isabelle.lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk / 01865 610 471

Healthy Control Pater  
Longitudinal MRI Study of 11-18 Year Olds with Traumatic Brain Injury  
CI: Mr Tim Lawrence

Version/Date: v1.1.04 Feb 2025  
IRAS Project number: 326807  
REC Reference number: 24/SC0155

**OBBCA**  
**COME AND TRY CHEERLEADING!**

SIGN UP FOR JUNE CLASSES TO GET  
**YOUR TRAIL FOR FREE!**  
TRIALS - SATURDAY JUNE 27TH 2026  
BROOKES SPORT, CHENEY LANE  
FIND OUR SIGN UP FORM AND CLASSES  
ON THE QR CODE BELOW!

OBBCA  
BROOKES Sport

Supporting your mental health through creativity

scan here to sign up

**Weekly drop-in sessions**  
Wednesdays  
12 -1:30 pm  
term time only

For more info contact:  
hello@ark-t.org or 01865 772095

**MySpace (online)**

MySpace (online) is a weekly creative wellbeing group for 10 to 14 year olds who are struggling with school attendance due to emotional challenges. The sessions run in a drop in / out style supporting individual interests and needs.

Colindale Community Foundation  
Supported by

ARK·T  
Creativity Changes Lives

**JOIN US ...**  
**RAF Air Cadets recruiting now!**

If you love aircraft, action and adventure, then the Air Cadets is for you. The Air Cadets is a UK-wide cadet force sponsored by the Royal Air Force. As a cadet, you'll get the chance to do things that others only dream about such as adventurous training, camps, drill and real flight experience.

So if you're aged 12\* - 17 and you're looking for a challenge call 0345 600 6601 or log on to [www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets)

\*You must be in Year 8 (England & Wales), S2 (Scotland) or Year 9 (Northern Ireland).

2210 (Cowley) Sqn  
Sandy Lane West, OX4 6LD  
[www.aircadets.tv/2210](http://www.aircadets.tv/2210) Come join us on 20th of April at 8 pm! RSVP: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/6jMhPHALRE>



For more information about joining the Air Cadets call:

**0345 600 6601**

or go to  
[www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets)

Make new friends  
**Have fun**  
**Earn BTECs**

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

OXFORD CENTRE FOR MICROBIOME STUDIES

**Microbiome curious?**  
Ask your human microbiome question

Microbiome scientists from the University of Oxford will answer selected questions in short videos for World Microbiome Day 2026.

**What could you ask?**  
Gut bacteria, poo, diet, probiotics, antibiotics, fungi, viruses, the immune system, health, disease, research methods, or anything else about the microbes that live in and on us.

Questions from children are very welcome.

**Submit your question**  
By 30 May

Scan the QR code or use:  
[forms.office.com/e/rKJ57WV9rP](https://forms.office.com/e/rKJ57WV9rP)

Selected answers will be posted for #WorldMicrobiomeDay2026.

Look out for an exciting behind-the-scenes insight into how we study the gut microbiome.

Oxford Centre for Microbiome Studies | World Microbiome Day 2026

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**EASTER & SUMMER 2026**

**The WOW Camp**

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

STEM. Creativity. Physical Play  
**All in one camp**

HMRC TAX-FREE CHILD CARE ACCEPTED

[www.nextthing.education](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.scoutadventures.org.uk/events)  
[activeadventures@scoutadventures.org.uk](mailto: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 204101 (England and Wales). Registered address: The Scout Association, 100 West Park, Dorking, Surrey, England GU14 7DF.

## 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](mailto: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**

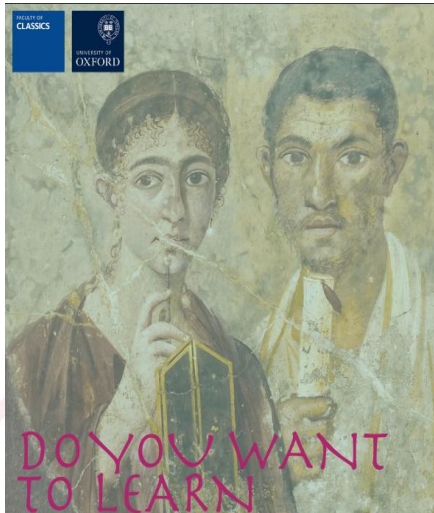
[enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk)  
01865 711267  
[connectionsupport.org.uk](http://connectionsupport.org.uk)

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

**Connection Support**

# LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



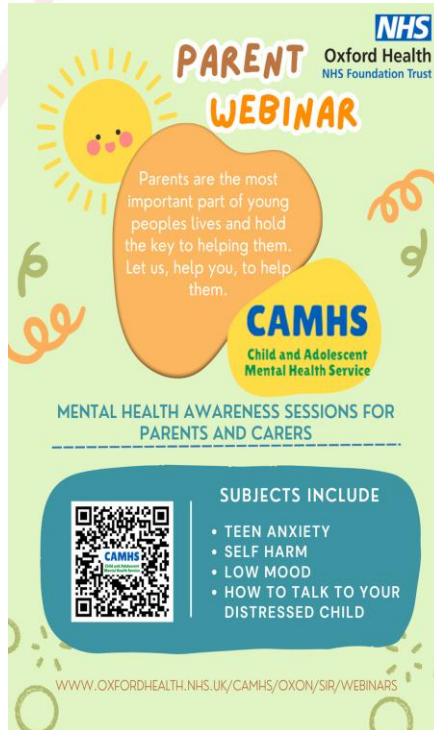
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD CLASSICS

## DO YOU WANT TO LEARN LATIN?

OXFORD LATIN TEACHING SCHEME  
2026—2028

The Faculty Of Classics at the University of Oxford is offering state school pupils FREE Latin teaching to GCSE-level.

If you are interested in learning the language of the Romans, CARPE DIEM! and see overleaf for more details.



**PARENT WEBINAR**

NHS 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

QR CODE

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

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

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



May Half Term

The North Wall Arts Centre

YouthLab  
Ages 12-17

### Playwriting Workshop

26 - 27 May  
1pm - 4pm

Explore writing techniques and exercises to build characters, pacy dialogue and get you started on that all-important idea for the first draft of a play. No experience necessary, everyone has a story to tell!

Tickets £40

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NW Inventors  
Ages 8-11

### Improvisation Workshop

26 - 27 May  
9am - 12pm

Join us for a playful and brave exploration of thinking on our feet, going with the flow and being faced with the unexpected all whilst we learn the golden rules of improvisation and performance. Expect plenty of games, lots of laughs and heaps of fun!

Tickets £40



Full bursaries available  
Email Abie on [waltona@thenorthwall.com](mailto:waltona@thenorthwall.com) to apply  
**Book now: [thenorthwall.com](http://thenorthwall.com)**



## CALLING ALL YEAR 11 - YEAR 13

SOCIAL FOOTBALL DURING YOUR EXAMS!

QR CODE

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

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



Oxford Hub

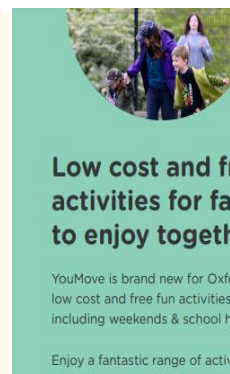
## FREE PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM POP-UP SHOP

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

Open every Monday from  
12<sup>th</sup> January  
12-2PM

Templers Square Shopping Centre

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT KYLIE 07707918532  
KYLIE@OXFORDHUB.ORG



## 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**

