

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 8th May 2026 | Issue 27

Dear Families

We began the week reflecting on Jesus' words: *'I am the way, the truth and the life.'* In our assemblies, we considered what it means to follow the right path, to seek truth with honesty and courage, and to think carefully about the voices we allow to guide us. The Gospel reminds us that truth is not simply about facts, but about how we live and we must do this in 'truth'; sometimes, this can be hard to acknowledge or hear...

A Tuesday start to the week was certainly appreciated, but despite the shorter week, it has been absolutely full of joy. One of the highlights for me has been the wonderful basketball workshops led by our basketball coach (and cover supervisor) Mr Roman. Mr Roman is a brilliant coach and a true basketball enthusiast, and over two days we welcomed Year 5 and Year 6 girls from local primary schools to train with an England basketball player and our very own basketball legend, Gabriel Inyang. We also had Year 7 girls supporting and coaching the younger students, which was fantastic to see. It was such a powerful example of sport bringing people together across our city, younger and older students learning together, building confidence and encouraging one another. I was incredibly proud of everyone involved.

This week has also marked the true beginning of exam season, and I have been filled with pride at the way our students have approached it. In particular, our Year 11 Art students have completed their practical examination: two long and intense days of sustained creativity and focus. The work they produced was simply magnificent: paintings, collages and mixed-media pieces of real beauty and sophistication.

What makes this especially impressive is the depth of knowledge behind the work. These students have studied artists, techniques and styles in enormous detail and have expressed their understanding with such creativity and individuality. I cannot wait to see their work displayed across the school. It is a reminder of the extraordinary human capacity to create beautiful things.

I was also especially proud to see many of those same students, after two demanding days in the art exam, walking calmly into the hall for our first GCSE written paper: Sociology. That resilience, commitment and determination says so much about them.

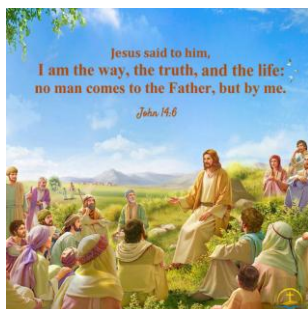
We are now fully geared up for the launch of GCSEs and A Levels next week. There is a real sense of focus and purpose in school and, I must admit, I love this time of year. There is something deeply hopeful about seeing young people step up, challenge themselves and begin to realise just how much they are capable of. Well done to them!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Lyndsey Caldwell
Headteacher

WHAT IS GOD'S MESSAGE FOR ME THIS WEEK?

Gospel | John 14:1-12



¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the

Father except through me. ⁷ If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” ⁸ Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹ Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

Reflection

In John 14:1–12, Jesus comforts his disciples as he prepares for his suffering and death, encouraging them to trust in God and in him. When Philip asks to see the Father, Jesus explains that whoever has seen him has seen the Father. This reveals the heart of Christian faith: God is made visible in Jesus Christ. Unlike earlier figures such as Moses, who acted as mediators, Jesus is the true and eternal mediator between God and humanity, fully revealing God’s presence and love.

*Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
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

Our Year 7 Catholic Life Ambassadors have been busy preparing activities for the Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi. In our Enrichment, we went out to our Prayer Garden, spent time with God,



reflecting on His creation through St. Francis's Canticle of Creatures. We want to give our school a similar period of stillness, so that they might grow to be better stewards of God's creation, and so we are planning a prayer service based on the 7 days of creation. Ambassadors will lead students through interactive prayers around the



school in a few weeks, where they will reflect on what they're called to care for in this world. It's exciting to see our Year 7s leading others!

We also began our Rosary Services in the Chapel this week. May is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and so we give every student the opportunity to learn the rosary and ask for Mary's intercessions. Please pray for these services and the impact they'll make on students.

Congratulations!

To Isaac, who was honoured with the prestigious Kevin Durham Memorial Trophy at Friday's Oxford United Academy end of season awards. This award is presented to the most promising Oxfordshire player at Under-15 level and is named in memory of Kevin Durham, a former striker who sadly passed away in 1991 shortly after helping Barnet gain promotion to the Football League.

Isaac's award reflects his outstanding development, commitment, and potential—marking him as a player to watch for the future.

In further positive news, Javari has this week been offered a two-year contract with the Fleetwood Town International Football Academy, highlighting his continued progress and exciting pathway in the game.

Well done!

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

Sixth Form News | Ms McCabe

There has been such a purposeful and productive atmosphere in Sixth Form over the last couple of weeks! My message to students is always about developing independence in their learning and taking responsibility for their progress. It has been wonderful to see this being 'lived' in Sixth Form, with students working silently and with real focus throughout our Sixth Form Centre and around school. We are very proud of them!

Real Estate Work Experience

Three Greyfriars Y12 students travelled to Botley on Thursday to take part in a work experience day run by CBRE, the global real estate and investment company. Sixth Formers from around the city took part in the event which included creating a presentation project around a famous brand. Students had to make decisions about the organisation's headquarters and working environment that were sustainable and practical for the employees. They also heard from CBRE staff about their career journeys and gained an insight into different routes into the company from apprenticeships to degrees. The students said it was a great day and they came away inspired by the world of real estate. Well done to Seeya, Kaya and Mohib.

Vocation Week

This week students have been learning about vocation and purpose in assembly. For Y12, this also marks the start of their UCAS or Apprenticeship journey and making plans for their post-18 destination. UCAS has officially opened their 2027 entry and students are able to search for courses through the [UCAS website](https://www.ucas.com). Similarly, students can start to familiarise themselves with the [gov.uk apprenticeship site](https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeship) to see what kind of apprenticeships are available. Over the next 2 weeks, students will use form time to research courses and apprenticeships under the guidance of their form tutors.

Soft Landing | Mrs Swanton

At the end of last week, our soft landing students made some beautiful masks – we are very proud of the work they are doing – keep it up!



In order of appearance, Mario's, Ludozio's, Tommy's and Lexi's masks – well done!

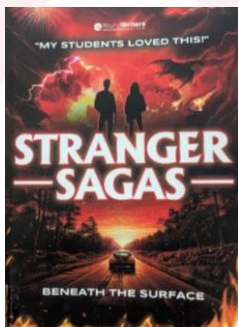
GENERAL NOTICES

Library News | Mrs Brett

Hello Savvy Story Seekers! Another fantastic week of reading came and went and we have some very exciting news to share! We are going to have another visit from the amazing Paterson Joseph! He will be talking to our Y7s and Y8s about his new book "10 Children Who Changed the World". If you want to check out the book before the visit, come up to the library!



It's now time to hear from our Lego King, it's been a while, after all 😊. This is what Sahas can do with random pieces and no instructions! Mind blowing, isn't it? Naturally, this was built for May the 4th celebrations, alongside our drawing competition, but (as you can see) we have been having some fun with it. Can you spot the alien, I wonder...? Speaking of the competition, come up to the library and draw your best NEW character to join the Star Wars universe for some fun prizes!

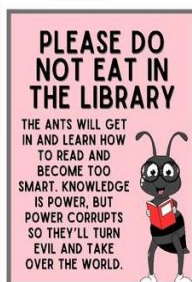


Another fun drawing competition, organised by Young Writers, is to design a bookmark on the theme of READING or WRITING!

Don't forget our writing competitions. If you need an incentive, come up to the library and look through the Stranger Sagas – Beneath the Surface short story collection, where 20 of them were written by the braver ones of our very talented students! You all have it in you, I know it – so put that pen to paper and become published authors too 😊. I am also going to display our doodle pictures, so you can come and vote for your favourite one.

Finally, who is up for more reading for pleasure? It's very important for all aspects of you as a person. It improves your vocabulary, comprehension, exam results – but more importantly – it supports your wellbeing, reduces stress, opens minds, and builds empathy. Additionally, if you borrow, read, and return a book- be sure to come and tell me all about it, so I can award MANY ACHIEVEMENT POINTS! Fear not if you don't know what to get, we have plenty to choose from and my librarians and I are always happy to recommend a new read to you 😊. We have also just had a deliver – Manga and Carnegies nominated books!

I will leave you with a quote that a Y8 student brought to me and asked if I could put it on the library entrance. It makes me chuckle every morning.



Happy reading, everyone!

Now for the update!

TERM 5 WEEK 4				
	Reading Champ		Tutor Group Champs	
1	Sahas	23	8BMO	71.4%
2	Roisin	22	8RM	70.8%
3	Ludozio, Ayesha J.	8	8LSC	53.33%
4	Daniel, Martyna, Esther O.	5	7GKE	48.4%
5	Erin, Elena, Gaudencio	4	7ALW	30%

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for Year 8 and Year 9 | Mrs Reddy

Thank you to all Year 8 parents and carers who attended this week's Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to see so many positive and meaningful conversations taking place about students' progress, achievements, and next steps. The partnership between home and school is essential in supporting every child's success, and we sincerely appreciate your time, engagement, and continued support.

We hope you found the discussions informative and helpful. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child's teachers directly via email to arrange feedback or discuss any questions you may have.

A special thank you goes to Senhalia, Sienna, Nifemi, David, and David E (6th Form) for assisting with refreshments throughout the evening, , Alicia, Juliette, and Amiyah for warmly welcoming and guiding families during the event.

Year 8	Year 9
Sky	Kevin
Emily R	Delight
Gabriela	Ayesha
Rachael	Emmannual P
Karina	Luciano
Dylan	Mazvita
Niall	Ivonja
Kristian	Tatiana
Crystal	Jameilah
Sampson	Lexi

**Students
leading the
way**



Sparx Maths **WEEK 26**

Total hours spent on
Sparx this year
9,636hrs

Number of questions
answered correctly
727,558

XP Champions THIS YEAR | 08/05/26

Name	Year	Total XP
Miu Miu M	8	52,451
Seerat S	7	49,640
Sampson O	8	44,570
Nita C	11	38,953
Hajera S	12	38,654
Samayrah K	10	35,512
Russell R	11	35,329
Rayan P	7	34,800
Aseda K	7	34,329
Gauendicio F	9	33,303

XP Champions for LAST WEEK

Name	Year	XP POINTS
Hajera S	12	1,581
Kanchan L	12	1,181
Saidal S	11	1,675
Warner P	11	1,045
Diogo L	10	1,540
Lara S	10	1,009
Tulisha F	9	2,171
Aman A	9	1,588
Georgette M	8	2,388
Miu Miu M	8	2,257
Ana G S	7	2,175
Rayan P	7	1,545

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

Message for Year 7 | Mr Cunningham

We hope that all students and families enjoyed the long weekend and have returned refreshed for the weeks ahead. It has been a fantastic start back at school, and we are especially proud to celebrate the students who have had their work published this week. This is a wonderful achievement and a reflection of the creativity, effort, and dedication that so many students continue to show in their learning.

As we move further into the term, we would also like to remind families of the importance of strong attendance. Attendance above 95% plays a vital role in ensuring students make consistent progress, build confidence in their learning, and fully benefit from all opportunities available in school. Every lesson matters, and we greatly appreciate the continued support from families in helping students attend regularly and punctually.

Karthik	32	Congratulations to 7GKE for topping the achievement point table this week, and well done to those students leading the way in their forms!	
Mario	24	7GKE	318
Faaris	21	7ALW	204
Esther	21	7BN	160
Oreoluwa	20	7KR	140
Ludozio	20		
Tommy	20		
Charlie	18		
Amelia-Grace	17		

Have a great weekend!



Year 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.

Interested Year 9 students who have chosen History should speak to Miss Nash.

GENERAL NOTICES

Message for KS4 | Mr Weedon

Year 10 continue to work hard across all subjects and are showing great commitment to their studies.

This week, students attended an assembly focused on careers and next steps, helping them to begin thinking about future pathways and opportunities.

Please ensure that your child has secured a work placement for Work Experience Week. If you require any support with this process, please contact the school.

Form	Achievement Points
10SA	284
10CT	171
10MJ	170
10JOD	142

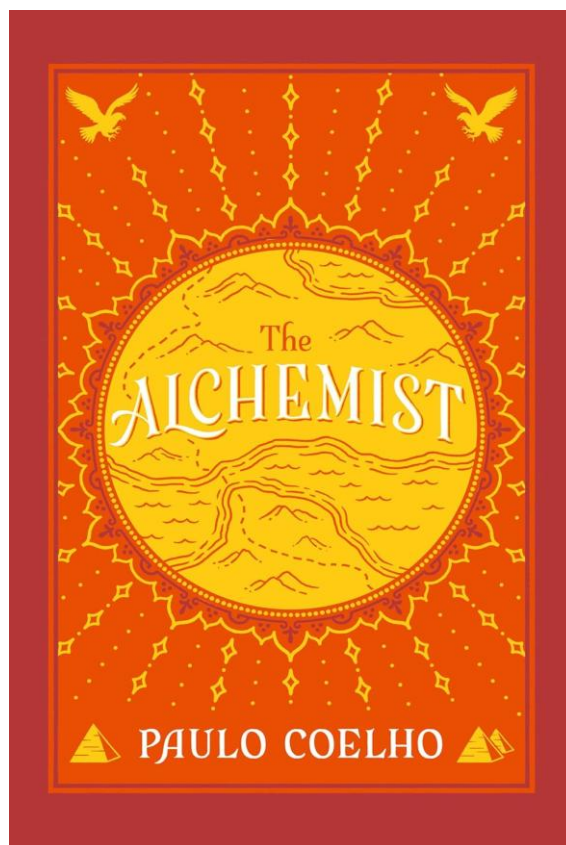
Year 11

We would like to wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck as we begin the exam season. Your hard work and dedication have been commendable, and we are confident that your efforts will pay off. Stay focused, believe in yourselves, and do your best.

It is essential that students are present in school throughout this month, as revision sessions will be taking place daily to support preparation for the exams.

Weekly Book Review by Lian

A rather inspirational fairy tale-like book that follows a dreamer of a shepherd and uses small quaint adventures to help readers actually see the bigger picture. It's rather pleasant for those who are feeling a little spacey or lost considering it's nearing the end of the academic year! Reading it allows a better grasp on what you wish for as a person or student. Whether that be from your own whims or dreams, it'll vary from person to person for sure but I do believe it's worth giving this book a shot.



Overall, it's simply something nice and guiding to enjoy while sitting down and pondering over all sorts of interests.

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.



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

GENERAL NOTICES

Dates for your Diary

- 11 May | External Exams Begin
- 13 May | Elevate Programme
- 13 May | Feast of the Ascension Mass (KS3)
- 13 – 15 May | Year 9 Careers in Focus Workshops / Trip
- 14 May | Year 9 Immunisations
- 18 May | University Church Bach Concert
- 19 May | Year 9 Human Library Careers Event
- 20 May | Elevate Programme
- 25 – 29 May Half Term

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

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
or call at 01865 815137 to reserve a space



www.ibnsinamindcrafters.org
 ibnsina Mindcrafters CIC is a registered non-profit organisation
 (11522726) operating in England and Wales.



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
 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
FREE Getting a Good Nights Sleep	28 May 7-8pm

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

Online Courses for Parents page
info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk



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

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/>

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

GAMES, ACTIVITIES, MUSIC, FOOD

YEAR 7 TO 11

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

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

DONNINGTON DOORSTEP

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

INFO@DONNINGTON-DOORSTEP.ORG.UK

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 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.

AGN

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.sofea.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



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF
CLINICAL NEUROSCIENCES
Medical Research Division



THE PODIUM INSTITUTE
FOR SPORTS MEDICINE & TECHNOLOGY

FMRIB-WIN
University of Oxford,
John Radcliffe Hospital
Oxford, OX3 9DU

Primary researcher:
Izabelle Lovgren (DPhil Student)
izabelle.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/SC/0155



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 FMRIB 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
Izabelle.Lovgren@ndcn.ox.ac.uk / 01865 610 471

Healthy Control Poster
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: 336967
REC Reference number: 24/SC/0155

WELCOME TO 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!

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

*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 Come join us on 20th of April at 8 pm! RSVP: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/6jMhPHALRE>

ROYAL AIR FORCE
AIR CADETS
the next generation

For more information about joining the Air Cadets call:

0345 600 6601

or go to

www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets

Make new friends Have fun Earn BTECs

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

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, 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 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

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


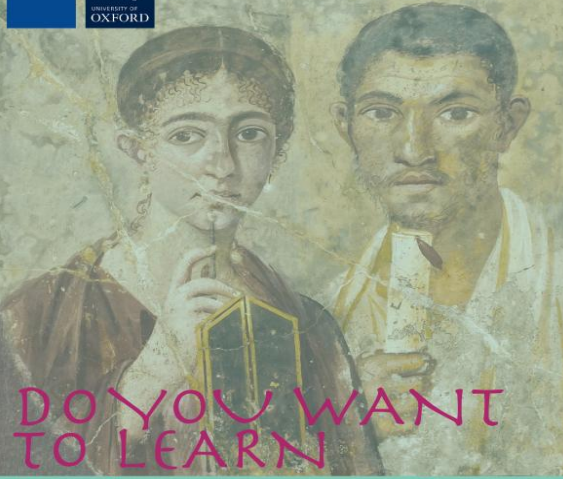
enquiries@connectionsupport.org.uk
01865 711267
connectionsupport.org.uk

Drop-in details:

Visit our website to download the referral form

Connection Support

LOCAL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

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

FREE PRE-LOVED SCHOOL UNIFORM POP-UP SHOP

OXFORD HUB

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

Open every Monday from 12th 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:




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

YOU MOVE