

# Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

As the Jubilee Year of Hope concluded we celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. We pray that, like the Magi, we allow Christ to be the focus of our journey remembering to carry hope with us as our gift.



We make this prayer through our Lord.

## Key Stage 5 Bulletin: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### News and Reminders

Here's hoping you all had a restful but productive Christmas break leaving you feeling rejuvenated and ready to go as we have certainly hit the ground running this year with Year 12 and Year 13 students sitting exams this week and Year 13 mocks next week.

## Happy 2026!

Now that we're done with our Spotify Wrapped for another year we start to look forward. Below are a couple of slides from this week's Sixth Form assembly that can motivate us all.



### When is a 12 a 12 and a 13 a 13?

- Year 12: You have 12 school weeks until your mock exams (wb 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026)
- Year 13: You have 13 school weeks until your farewell mass and study leave for SUMMER exams begins (7/8<sup>th</sup> May 2026)



Let's all start as we mean to go on with positive purpose, and don't forget there is support for you if you need it.

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13 Mocks begin  
Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January - Yr 13 PE Mock Oral  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Yr 13 PE Oral  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February - Last Day of Term  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Half Term  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Return to school (Week B)  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February - Ceilidh Dance 7:30pm

Any past students interested in raising awareness of careers, pathways and the motivation of our current cohort should contact Mrs Rebecca Russell on [RRussell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:RRussell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk) or telephone BGN reception on 01295 264 216.

As always, please check your school email address regularly. A lot of important and useful information is sent out to you this way.

## Youth Ambassadors Programme – Children’s Commissioner for England - DEADLINE SUNDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

The Children’s Commissioner is recruiting a new cohort of Youth Ambassadors, who will work alongside her in her final year in role and play a critical part in ensuring children and young people’s voices are heard by decision-makers and politicians.

The opportunity is open to young people who:

- Will be aged 16–17 in April 2026
- Are interested in speaking up on issues that affect children and young people
- Want to help influence national conversations and hold decision-makers to account
- Are keen to represent the views and experiences of their peers

Youth Ambassadors support the Commissioner by sharing lived experiences, contributing to policy discussions, and helping improve outcomes for children and young people across England. It’s a brilliant opportunity for young people who are curious, passionate, and want to make a difference.

More information, including details on the role and how to apply, can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/news-and-blogs/childrens-commissioner-launches-recruitment-for-youth-ambassadors/>

## BMW GROUP APPRENTICESHIPS



BMW Group are hosting an Information Session via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 11th February at 17:00 - 18:00. This session will include information on the apprenticeships available and how to apply. If you wish to apply during this session, please have digital copies available of your CV, cover letter and predicted grades/GCSE certificates.

To access this session please follow the link:

[Microsoft Teams Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 328 640 979 227 82

Passcode: Wg7g4iR7



Why wait three years for a graduate job? **BNP Paribas**, Europe’s leading bank, offers ambitious Year 12/13 students a fast-track into **Global Investment Banking** - straight after school.

**What’s in it for you:**

- **Zero debt:** Earn £27,000+ from day one - **the typical graduate salary!**
- **3-year head start:** Paid experience and professional qualifications while others are at uni
- **Clear path to success:** Learn exactly how to secure your offer

Start your high-impact career years earlier. [Join the webinar](#) to explore available roles and how to stand out in your application. **and how you can stand out in your application!**



Dive into Cyber & Cryptography Careers  
at Lloyds Banking Group

**Event Details:**

**Date:** Tuesday, 13th January

**Time:** 5pm – 6pm

**For:** Year 11, 12 and Year 13

**Location:** (Zoom link provided upon registration)

[Register now to secure your place!](#)



### [Sutton Trust Summer Schools - Applications opening soon](#)

Applications will open on Monday 12 January 2026 for the Sutton Trust Summer Schools. Run in partnership with thirteen universities across the country, these free programmes are a great opportunity

### **Year 12 Engineering Study Day at Oxford University**

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/oxford/engineering-study-day-oxford-university>

The University of Oxford's Department of Engineering Science is running an Engineering Study Day for **Year 12 students** who are studying Mathematics and Physics at A Level (or equivalent) on **17th March** with an overnight stay and breakfast at St Hilda's College on **16th March** included free of charge. Deadline to apply: **17:00 on 16th January**.

Contour MedPrep and the CDI are holding a free, in-person workshop on **15th February from 10:00 - 13:00** at Imperial College London for **Year 11 and 12** students on who are interested in studying medicine. It will equip them with the specific preparation strategies and techniques used by successful medical school applicants. [SIGN UP HERE](#)

**Free In-Person 3-Hour  
UCAT & UK Medical Entry  
Workshop**

### **Work experience week**

**Diamond Light Source's annual work experience week will take place on-site from Monday 29th June - Friday 3rd July 2026.**



Applications for the 2026 work experience week are now **OPEN!**

Diamond's work experience week gives students in years 10-13 the chance to come and work at one of the UK's leading science facilities.

Please find a full list of this year's projects and information on how to apply [HERE](#).



**STEM Learning's research placements** are engaging, real-life workplace experiences. They take place during the summer holidays after Year 12 and consist of one to three weeks on placement, along with pre-and-post activities including

independent study. Placements take place in a variety of locations including offices, museums, research centres, laboratories or fieldwork settings. Students can take part in a placement at no cost.

Read the [guide for student applicants](#) here.

**STEM Learning's free national online mentoring scheme, in partnership with The Brightside Trust, is designed to help 13-19-year-olds explore their future career options. By chatting with trained and experienced STEM professionals, young people can:**

- ask for careers advice
- learn more about potential careers
- consider life after school, including education at university, apprenticeships, or preparing for employment

The programme is fully funded so **participation is free** for UK students.

[Sign ups for the next cycle close on the 4th of February 2026 at 4pm.](#)



### UNIQ 2026 – Oxford University

UNIQ is a completely free programme for UK state-school students with high academic potential in Year 12 (England & Wales), Year 13 (Northern Ireland), or S5 (Scotland).

**Applications open:** 15 December 2025

**Applications close:** 13 January 2026

(Late submissions cannot be accepted due to the large volume of applicants.)

**Find out more about UNIQ here:**

<https://www.uniq.ox.ac.uk/what-is-uniq>



InvestIN’s Summer Experience Programmes, delivered in London across July and August, aim to bridge the gap between school and the professional world, offering hands-on industry experience and exposure to top professionals.

Choose from 15 different careers:

- Art & Design
- Architecture
- Computer Science
- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Entrepreneurship
- TV & Filmmaking
- Forensic Science
- International Politics
- Investment Banking
- Law
- Media
- Medicine
- Psychology
- Veterinary Science



What is a Summer Experience Programme?

- A one or two-week introduction to an in-demand industry with up to 65 hours of hands-on experience
- Led by industry professionals with site visits and immersive career simulations
- Opportunity to meet like-minded students aged 15-18 while exploring your future career

Learn more about InvestIN’s career programmes [here](#).



### OXFORD ACS SHADOWING DAY

#### Oxford ACS Year 12 Shadowing Day

**Date:** Thursday 19 February 2026 **Time:** 9:30am – 4:30pm

**Venue:** Trinity & Brasenose College, University of Oxford.

Join the Oxford ACS for a Shadowing Day in

collaboration with Trinity and Brasenose Colleges, University of Oxford. This day is aimed at Year 12 students from African and Caribbean backgrounds interested in applying to Oxford for undergraduate study. **Students should complete [Application Form](#) to request a place on this day by 5pm on the 13th of January 2026**

# Ashurst

## Access Ashurst

Our Access Ashurst Programme has been designed to increase access to law for young people experiencing disadvantage. The programme provides you with the opportunity to take part in two weeks of paid work experience and skills workshops in the summer following your penultimate year of secondary school/college, while receiving mentor support throughout your final year of study.



## University of Sheffield

University of Sheffield are hosting an online session called '**What is Access+**' on Sheffield Live aimed at teachers, students and parents & carers. Access+ offers opportunities and activities to support students from different backgrounds and circumstances who may face

additional barriers and challenges on their journey to access studying at Sheffield.

Click [HERE](#) for more information about Access+ and who is eligible.



## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

The University of Leeds is currently accepting applications for **Leeds Futures 2026** – a free outreach programme designed to support **Year**

**12 students** who are interested in studying **arts & humanities subjects at university**.

**Leeds Futures includes three subject strands:**

**Music, Creative Arts & English / History.**

Across all strands, students will:

- Explore subject-specific university courses
- Experience student life at the University of Leeds
- Meet current undergraduate students
- Take part in a mix of **online sessions and on-campus days**

**Applications for 2026 are now open. Deadline:** 23:59, Sunday 1 February 2026

Find out more:

[Leeds Futures – Music](#)

[Leeds Futures – Creative Arts](#)

[Leeds Futures – English/History](#)

## SUBJECT TASTER DAYS & UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS



**St John's inspire programme**

Inspire Study Days are immersive, subject-specific events that take place at St John's College that enable you to experience what it's like to study your chosen subject at university. You will have a mixture of lectures and workshops and meet current Oxford students and tutors!

## YEAR 12 STUDY DAYS

Free for YR 12 students from non-selective state schools.  
 \* Classics and English Subject Exploration Days are open to YR 12 students at any school.  
 \*\*Medicine & Biomedical Science is a virtual study day.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP**  
 Applications will close 7 weeks before each Study Day.

**SCAN HERE**



23 FEB	CHEMISTRY
02 MAR	HISTORY & HISTORY OF ART
20 MAR	GEOGRAPHY
28 MAR	MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**
22 APR	CLASSICS* EXPLORATION DAY
29 APR	MATHS & COMPUTER SCIENCE
08 MAY	PSYCHOLOGY
15 MAY	ENGLISH* EXPLORATION DAY
05 JUN	PPE

**FREE**  
 For Year 12 Students from Non-Selective State Schools!

## UNIVERSITY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### SPRING TERM SUBJECT TASTER DAYS

The following events take place on our campuses. Available for group and individual bookings. Suitable for Years 12-13 (or equivalent). Travel funding may be available.

- 13 February: Illustration Studio Day
- 13, 20, 25 February: Sport Taster Days
- 27 February: Law Taster Day (NEW)
- 4 March: Education Taster Day
- 4 March: Health Taster Day
- 9 March: Cyber and Computing Day
- 11 March: Sport Taster Day
- 17 March: Architecture Taster Day
- 20 March: Media and Comms Taster Day
- 25 March: Business Project Event
- 15 April: Geography GIS Workshop Day
- 22 April: Criminology and Sociology Taster Day
- 23 April: Art and Design Taster Day
- 24 April: Psychology Taster Day
- 28 April: Humanities Taster Day

These events are open for individual and group booking. Book now or visit our website to view more details about each taster day.



### Online Subject Taster Days

Upcoming sessions include:

- 19 January: **Chemistry - Using spectroscopy to detect food fraud**
- 21 January: **English Literature - Dystopia**
- 22 January: **Global Development - Human rights and the refugee**
- 28 January: **Engineering - Latest developments in nuclear energy**
- 29 January: **Sport - Sports psychology**
- 02 February: **Economics - Globalisation and development economics**
- 03 February: **Critical thinking skills workshop**
- 03 February: **Psychology: Studying psychology at university**
- 04 February: **French politics: Macron and beyond**

- 09 February: **Maths: The mathematics of cryptography**
- 10 February: **Politics - Tour of political thinkers and their relevance today**
- 11 February: **Languages: Importance of languages in careers**
- 12 February: **Journalism: The journalist's toolkit**
- 25 February: **Economics: Thinking like a statistician**



### Subject Taster Days at Keble College

<https://www.keble.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduates/outreach/>

The University of Oxford's Keble College subject taster days include academic sessions related to studying the subject at a top university, the opportunity to meet current students and subject-specific guidance on the admissions process. They provide hot lunches and reimburse travel expenses for attendees.

- **Thursday 12th February** - Physics (applicants must be studying A Level Physics and Maths, or equivalent)
- **Tuesday 17th February** - English (applicants must be studying A Level English Literature or Literature/Language, or equivalent)
- **Wednesday 18th February** - Law (no required A Level subjects)
- **Thursday 19th February** - Chemistry (applicants must be studying A Level Chemistry and Maths, or equivalent)

Deadline to apply: **12:00 on 27th January.**

## SUPER CURRICULAR



Super-Curriculars and Resources  
from St Anne's College



Mansfield  
College  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Recordings of past Mansfield Public Talks can be found on Mansfield's YouTube channel, [here](#)

### [Mourning, memory, and politics: Memorialisation of the Holocaust in Britain from the 1940s to the present day](#)

**Professor David Feldman**

Wednesday 28 January, 5pm. Holocaust Memorial Day Lecture

Professor Feldman, Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the History of Antisemitism, explores how public memory of the Holocaust has changed over time, why it has done so, and the role of Holocaust memorialisation today.



Explore our vast online collection which includes more than 3000 videos, featuring over 1200 speakers dissecting hundreds of topics.  
<https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch-now>



### [Economics and Artificial Intelligence](#)

Professor Daniel Susskind

Tuesday, 13 Jan 2026 - 18:00

[Artificial Intelligence](#) [Technology](#) [Business](#) [Economics](#)



### [Music of Light and Colour](#)

Professor Milton Mermikides

Wednesday, 14 Jan 2026- 18:00

[Music](#) [Art](#) [Science](#)



### [Pictures from Afghanistan: Are we making the same mistakes?](#)

Professor Clive Stafford Smith JD OBE

Thursday, 15 Jan 2026- 18:00

[Law](#) [Asia](#) [World](#) [USA](#) [Conflict](#)

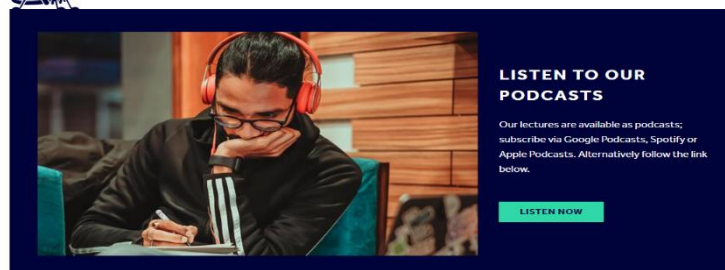


### [An Ocean of Air](#)

Professor Helen Czerski

Thursday, 22 Jan 2026- 18:00

[Environment](#) [Science](#) [Sustainability](#)



# unifrog

The **universal** destinations platform.

#### Webinars:

- Monday 12 Jan 4:30pm - [Part one of a criminal investigation: can you solve the murder?](#)
- Monday 12 Jan 5:30pm - [Computer science taster: how will AI and cyber change future careers?](#)
- Tuesday 13 Jan 4:30pm - [Part two of a criminal investigation: can you justify the punishment?](#)
- Wednesday 14 Jan 4:30pm - [History taster: exploring resistance against the Nazis](#)
- Wednesday 14 Jan 5:30pm - [Linguistics workshop: how to build a language for monsters](#)
- Thursday 15 Jan 4:30pm - [Psychology taster: why do we fall for fake news?](#)
- Thursday 15 Jan 5:30pm - [Geography taster: why do we have funerals for glaciers?](#)
- Monday 19 Jan 4:30pm - [Sports psychology taster: the psychology of performing under pressure](#)
- Tuesday 20 Jan 4:30pm - [Student life at university](#)
- Tuesday 20 Jan 5:30pm - [Choosing between your university offers](#)
- Wednesday 21 Jan 4:30pm - [How much does university really cost?](#)
- Thursday 22 Jan 4:30pm - [Why are we so obsessed with true crime?](#)



### [What Economists Really Do](#)

The University of Oxford Department of Economics' What Economists Really Do series is a free series of talks designed to inspire the study of economics by exploring some of today's most pressing issues.



Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the history of ideas - including topics drawn from philosophy, science, history, religion and culture.

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

### [Specsavers Virtual Work Experience](#)

Launching 13th January 2026

Thinking about a career in healthcare? Step into the world of optometry. Register today for Virtual work experience at Specsavers!

### [NHS OUH Work Experience](#)

Oxford University Hospitals NHS open application windows three times a year. If they receive a large number of applications, they may have to close applications early.

Placements **25 May to 28 August 2026** including **Half Term 25 to 29 May 2026** and Summer holiday **23 July to 28 August 2026**

The [application link](#) will be live 24 February to 5 March 2026

**YEAR 12 - YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR WORK EXPERIENCE FROM 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY FOR YOUR JUNE WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK.**



### **Interested in STEM?**

**EDT delivers a range of programmes and tailored activities for companies supporting young people at every key decision-making point throughout their educational journey.**

Industrial Cadets is a widely recognised, accredited awards scheme providing industry-based experiences on pathways through education to employment.

Together, with our partners we collaborate and unite, inspiring young people to discover the exciting world of STEM, creating a funnel of diverse early talent interested in entering the STEM industries, answering the needs of key growth areas.



### [Virtual Work Experience with Springpod](#)

Get stuck in with immersive and informative virtual work experiences with leading employers such as the NHS, Barclays, and Airbus. These incorporate real workplace activities – from observing a live surgery to designing a lunar landing module – and the chance to speak with, and hear from, industry professionals.

## **MEDICAL VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITES**

Gaining valuable work experience is a must-have for medical and dental applications, luckily, medical and dental schools have accepted Virtual Work Experience as a valuable alternative to in-person shadowing.



## CAREERS

### Virtual Events for January and February



- **Wed 21 January, 9:30-10:30am** [Work with People: HR Careers](#) This interactive virtual session introduces students to the world of **Human Resources (HR)** - the team behind recruitment, wellbeing and positive workplace culture.
- **Wed 28 January, 11-12pm** [Creative Crafts: Lifestyle and Fashion](#) Discover how ideas go from concept to creation - to become beautifully crafted items. This virtual careers event introduces the skilled makers behind everyday objects, including a **weaver and designer** working across fashion and interiors, and a **leatherworker specialising in luxury goods and classic car interiors!**
- **Thu 29 January, 11-12pm** [Aviation Careers for Creatives: Design, Art and Communication](#) Hear from **corporate affairs** at a UK airline, **communications at Virgin**, an **aviation photographer** and a **branding expert** from a leading Manchester agency
- **Tue 3 February, 11-12pm** [STEM by the Water: Careers Protecting Our Wetlands](#) Hear from environmental and waterway professionals at the **Canal & River Trust** about protecting and restoring the UK's vital wetlands and waterways.



### [Future Careers Experience](#)



**Future Careers Experience** can be accessed at any time and at your own pace. This program is designed to provide you with an in-depth understanding of different roles and potential career pathways within Amazon whilst also helping you build employability skills. It includes activities related to the various career pathways and CV building.

## AFTER SIXTH FORM



### [Outlook Expeditions](#)

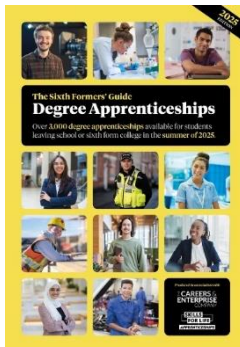
Learning experiences like no other – an all-encompassing preparation course for life.



New for 2026! Our league tables rank UK universities nationally, regionally, and in 74 subject areas.

## OPEN DAY CALENDAR

[Search the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days](https://www.opendays.com)



## The Degree Apprenticeship Guide

**New 2026 Edition**

**The essential guide to degree apprenticeships**

Your free 120-page guide to how degree apprenticeships offer a debt-free alternative to a traditional university degree.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Apprenticeships.co.uk

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Young Professionals connect students with thousands of companies that offer Apprenticeships and Virtual and In-Person Work Experiences through [apprenticeships.co.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.co.uk). Young Professionals also host [industry events](#) in STEM, Law, and Business & Accounting and [digital practice interviews](#).



Check out the [The Sunday Times Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2025 - YouTube](#)



## Thinking of doing a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship

Explore 1,600+ Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies in the October 2025 edition of the Higher and Degree listing. These vacancies are to start in September 2026.

[Higher & Degree Apprenticeships | Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

Discover vacancy details from over 50 employers, including locations, salary information and direct application links.

## Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Programme with a Degree in Primary or Secondary Education



The OTSA Undergraduate Teaching Assistant Programme is a new way to study for a Degree in Education whilst working as a Teaching Assistant (or similar role) in a local primary, secondary or special school.

Find out more information [here](#)

**aat** Accountants  
for the real world

University isn't for everyone; but a career in finance can be.

Accounting apprenticeships with AAT offer school leavers an ideal start to their career. They can work in finance while studying, gaining practical skills and recognised credentials that set the stage for a successful accounting career.

[Get AAT's apprenticeship guide >](#)

**Deloitte.**

[Applications are now open for Deloitte Apprenticeships](#)

A wide range of apprenticeships across the UK for school and college leavers, with opportunities to work on exciting tech projects and make an impact on climate change goals.



Check out The Uni Guide Podcast for an inside look at the student experience at university. In the latest episode,

**Is university for everyone? Access, affordability and opportunities**

Listen to this and all previous episodes [HERE](#).

**Browse exciting events** listed on UniTasterDays for students, with more being added daily. Including open days, subject taster days, information fairs on studying abroad...Your next university adventure awaits! Check them out [HERE](#)

**Explore various university subjects** through the dynamic [webinar platform](#), featuring the UK's first video subject guide. You can browse the videos, search by keyword, or filter by subject.

**The Students' Guide to University** is your all-in-one free brochure for essential university guidance. Packed with insights from university experts across the UK.

[Download it now](#) – no registration required.



A leading organisation in the education sector, founded to tackle misconceptions about apprenticeships and promote the benefits.

Discover resources in the [student zone](#) and the [parent and carer zone](#)

## CHARITY & CATHOLIC LIFE

*Ceilidh Dance*

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 19:30pm – 22:00pm

Licensed Bar. Raffle.

Adults (17+) £10. Young people (7-16) £5

[Click here for tickets](#)

Fundraising for our Lourdes pilgrimage where pupils support the sick, elderly and disabled parishioners from the Birmingham Diocese and for the Friends of BGN

**CAF<sup>+</sup>D** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

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THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

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