



Newsletter

Summer 2021

A word from the Principal

As I am sure you will see from the Newsletter, it has been another very busy term here at BGN. A key theme has been the delivery of a recovery curriculum. Teachers have worked in Department teams to ensure that appropriate adjustments have been made to get all students back on track, following periods of remote education. We recognise that recovery is about far more than just academic progress and it has been wonderful to see our students enjoying extra-curricular activities once again.



In June, we celebrated the Feast of St Peter and St Paul together, and we are all looking forward to our end of year Mass on Tuesday 20 July. A real highlight of this term has been the Health and Wellbeing day. Our staff and students didn't allow a little rain to dampen their enthusiasm and, as always, sports day was very competitive. Our dance challenge 'Jerusalem' also proved a great hit and was an excellent chance for laughter and letting off steam—definitely important for the recovery of both staff and students post-Covid.

At the end of this academic year, we say goodbye to Prim Herridge, Ann Ebsworth, Mark Crawford and Anita Mutton who are all retiring. We also say goodbye to Suzanne Asbridge, Dawid Michno, Bec Peel, Isobelle Brooks and Alexander Beaumont-Dark who are moving on to new positions. We wish them all the very best for their futures.

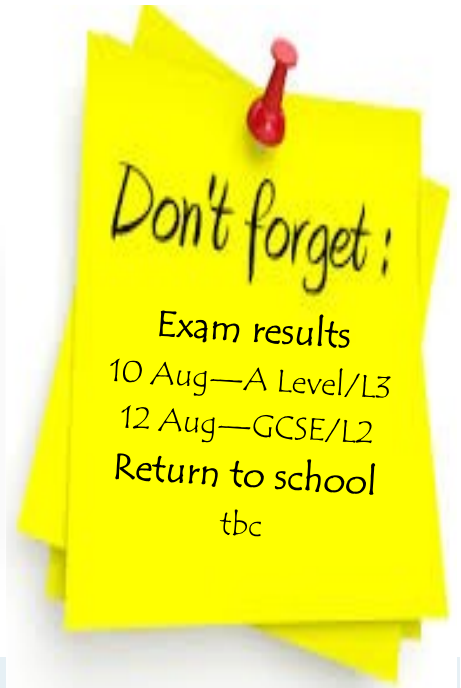
Once again, I would like to thank all our staff and students for their incredible resilience and hard work throughout the year.

We send our best wishes to all staff, students, families and friends as we embark on our summer break. We hope that it will be an opportunity for rest and relaxation as we spend time with our loved ones.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming back our pupils and parents, including our new intake, in September.

Kind regards

Niamh Dolan
Principal



Important diary dates

Tuesday 20 July

School closes at 12.30 pm for the summer break

Friday 3 September

School opens for ?????

Monday 6 September

School open to all pupils

Thursday 16 September

Year 7 and Year 11 photographs

Tuesday 21 September

Year 10 Expectations Launch

Wednesday 22 September

Open Evening

Thursday 21 October

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Somewhere in the midst of lockdown...

Somewhere in the midst of lockdown, I decided to turn the webcam that I was sick of looking at everyday, into a force for good...



What started off as a brilliant idea from the Pupil Leadership Team [PLT] very quickly turned into a weekly jaunt into baking

and cooking all kinds of tasty treats.

The BGN *Bake-Off* was born!

Each week, students were asked to conjure up a creation from their kitchens, based around the prompt or theme they were presented with.

From white chocolate to Baby Yoda, the themes were broad and strange! And the



submissions from students, which came in every week, were even more wonderful to behold. Student creativity was breath taking.

However, perhaps less wonderful, were the videoed descents into madness that I made each week and *voluntarily* circulated to the whole school. The videos were originally only meant to showcase the exciting entries students had submitted and uploaded each week, but they soon metamorphosed into the mini-project I would look forward to making each week.

I can now say I am far more adept at editing and compressing mp3s, mp4s and everything else involved in video creation. Just don't expect to see me on YouTube anytime soon!



Thank you to everyone who participated in the BGN *Bake-Off*, both students and parents alike. It truly kept the sense of

school community alive, even though we were separated by circumstance.

I am incredibly proud of the beautiful array of baked goodies and sweets our students created, all in service of their respective Houses.

A '*Hollywood Handshake*' to you all.

[Miss Smith —House Co-ordinator]



Making a difference...



Did you know...

- ...Unprotected exposure to the sun can lead to burns, premature ageing of the skin and other complications
- ...You can get sun burn even on a cloudy day
- ...On average, children get 3 times more sun exposure than adults
- ...37 people are diagnosed with melanoma each day in the UK
- ...About 86% of melanomas can be attributed to exposure to ultraviolet radiation from the sun
- ...Avoiding sun burn when young can reduce the chances of developing melanoma by as much as 78%

North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership continues to campaign for Sun Awareness, following our previous support of the Melanoma Fund campaign we are pleased to be Sun Protection Accredited for 2021.

The campaign was designed to tackle melanoma, one of the UK's most common cancers in young people, by helping to develop and support sun protection practices for all those who work outdoors with children.

Just a few serious sunburns can increase everyone's risk of melanoma by 80%. With 86% of melanomas attributed to excessive sun exposure, and levels of melanoma rising in the UK, sun protection habits need to change.

To encourage this change, North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership has a [Sun Protection Policy](#), which is promoted and endorsed by our team at all our outdoor events, as well as through our direct support of PE and Sport in Schools.

You can help too!

Not only students at your school, but children and young people in your family and within your local community.

- ...encourage young people to wear appropriate sunscreen (SPF30+), clothing, hats and sunglasses when taking part in any outdoor activities—even on cloudy days!
- ...promote the importance of hydration, encourage young people to carry water with them (and drink it!), particularly on warm/hot days.
- ...encourage young people to seek shade whenever possible when they are taking part in outdoor activities.
- ...lead by example, make the above actions part of your everyday routine, and help to spread the word on the importance of sun protection.

By raising awareness of the risks of prolonged sun exposure and educating young people on the importance of sun safety, we aim to further promote lifelong participation in health promoting activity.

Please help us to prevent over exposure to the harmful rays of the Sun's light and heat related illness, and reduce the risk of someone you know developing melanoma.

#StaySunSafe #SunSorted21 #OKSSC21

www.melanoma-fund.co.uk

BGN pupils get creative... and reflective!

Pupils from BGN have been busy this half term, taking part in both Diocesan and school projects. At the start of the year, pupils from Years 7-10 were set the challenge of creating a project, either with an Epiphany or Pilgrimage theme. We had some terrific entries and the following pupils are to be congratulated on their success:-

Year 7

1. Leika Scigulinska
2. Matilda Johnson
3. Adrian Zygmuncik



Year 8

1. Caius Moggridge
2. Aimee Fallaize
3. Iannah Sacaria

Year 9

1. Martyna Kasprzyk
2. Megan Debus
3. Tise Ayodeji

Year 10

1. George Melbourne
2. Maya Masciuk
3. Elle Estrada
4. Cortney Green



Pupils received prizes made and hand painted by the people of El Salvador. These varied from Triptych Cribs to Holy Family Plaques and Doves of Peace. Thank you to everyone who entered and well done to our winners.

Pupils from BGN also took part in the Diocesan Art Competition, launched just before Easter. All schools were allowed a maximum of three entries and the pupils' artwork depicted was selected to go forward to the competition, along with the wonderful icon painted by Megan Veres for her Extended Project Qualification. The theme of the competition was *'Patris Corde'*, meaning *'With a Father's Heart'*, in honour of this being the *Year of St Joseph*. We are still eagerly awaiting the results!



[Miss Smith—RE Department]



[Fiona Panko — Form 7 Bakhita]



[Josemari Delos Santos—Form 8 Devereux]

BGN pupils get creative... and reflective! [continued...]

In response to the global pandemic and the national lockdown, the Diocese of Birmingham commissioned a project for the young people in our schools called Quo Vadis, meaning “Where are you Going?” The Kenelm Youth Trust consequently put together a Mental Health and Wellbeing programme for use with pupils of all ages.

At BGN, pupils in Year 11 are the first to be part of their pro-



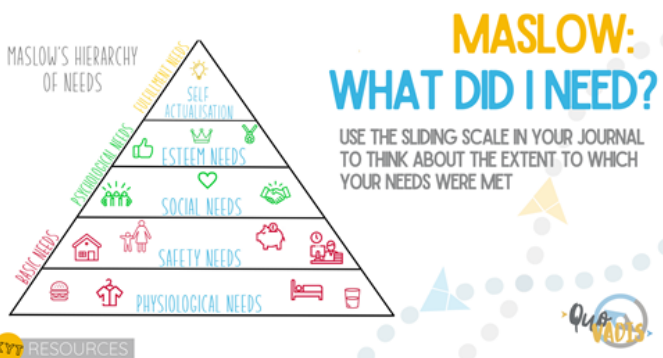
gramme as they move from finishing exams and start thinking about their next steps. We also hope to offer the programme to Year 9 at the end of the year, and further year groups next academic year.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs Anita Mutton, Mrs Helen Furniss, Mrs Lizzie Harris and Mrs Tara Mawn for delivering the programme to our Year 11s over two days before the half-term holiday.



Mosaic of Earth

[Miss Smith — RE Department]



Life after the pandemic

Our Archbishop, Bernard Longley has written a letter to all Catholic schools in our archdiocese about our experiences of lockdown and what life might look like when the restrictions ease. We shared this letter with our pupils and discussed some of the things he said. He particularly focused on what all of us could do to live out our faith in school, and in the world.

He wrote: “We, at the Archdiocese, have a vision in which we want our young people to play an active part. Our vision is to be a Catholic diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour. This may be through continuing, or doing more of the many charitable activities started during lockdown... I would encourage you to think about the things you care passionately about and would like to see more of in our schools and church communities”.

Life after the pandemic

“I will take a shoot and plant it myself...it will sprout branches and bear fruit”



Some words of encouragement from Pope Francis

“If we act as **one people**, even in the face of other epidemics that threaten us, we can make a real impact.

May we find within us the necessary antibodies of **justice, charity and solidarity**.

We must not be afraid to live the alternative - **the civilization of love**.

In this time of tribulation and mourning, I hope that, where you are, you will be able to experience Jesus, who comes to meet you, greets you and says: **“Rejoice”** (cf. Mt 28:9).

And may this greeting mobilize us to **invoke and amplify** the Good News of the Kingdom of God.”



He then went on to share some ideas of ways young people can contribute to society: “It could be using your skills in IT to teach and support less confident members of the community, perhaps even the parish priest! You may want to think about starting a school or community climate emergency group to promote the ‘Living Simply’ initiative. It might be as simple as inviting friends to join you at Mass on Sunday. Perhaps you would like to start a new parish group or social activity, lead, or support one of the existing parish groups, or offer to read at Mass. The pandemic may have increased your

interest in your faith, made you think differently and you may want to explore how you can deepen your faith. Over the coming weeks, we want to begin a dialogue with you about how we fulfil this vision, and how each one of us can use the talents given to us through baptism to play our part”.

After discussing the letter, we prayed together and pupils were invited to create their own prayer card; you may have received a prayer card from your parish when you heard a similar letter from the Archbishop being read at Mass earlier this month. The words of his prayer give us the reassurance we need as we look forward to the future:

Grant me the Spirit of joy, to lift me,
the Spirit of hope to inspire me,
the Spirit of love to surround me and
the Spirit of truth to enlighten my path

[Miss Smith—RE Department]

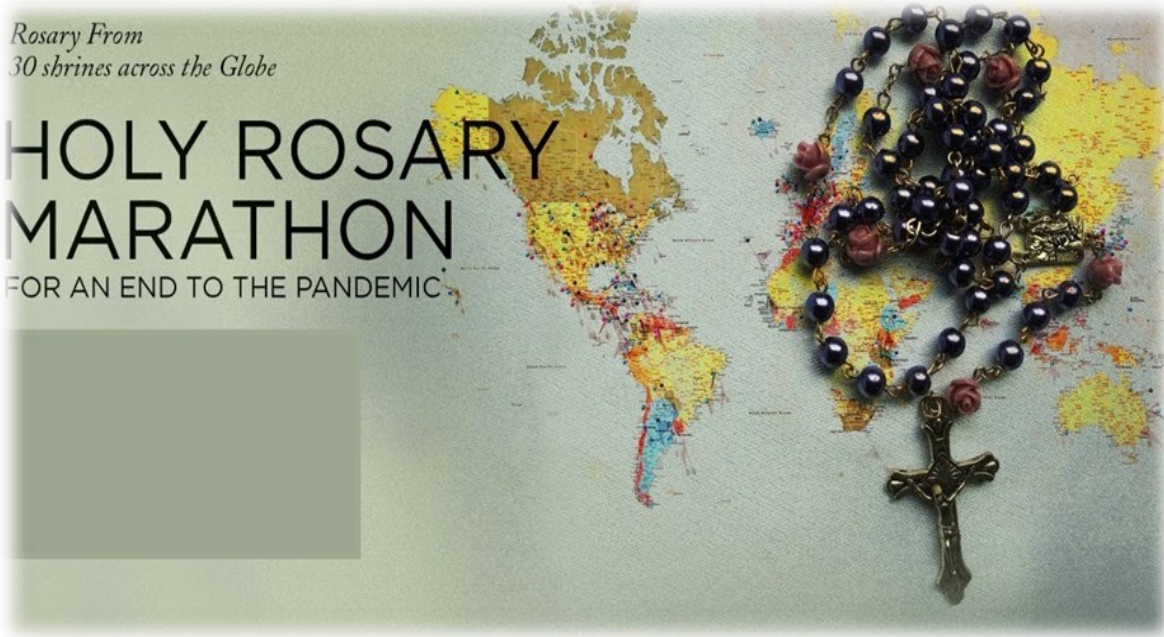
Rosaries for May

As May is the month dedicated to Mary, Year 7 have had a particular focus on Our Lady in their RE lessons. Many classes have been joining in with Pope Francis' 'Rosary Marathon' by starting each lesson with a decade of the rosary for a particular intention relating to the pandemic. Students have been learning about different shrines around the world where the Blessed Virgin Mary has appeared.

*Rosary From
30 shrines across the Globe*

HOLY ROSARY MARATHON

FOR AN END TO THE PANDEMIC



Form 7 Devereux took it a step further creating their own giant rosary. Each bead was designed and decorated by a member of their class and is now proudly on display in the windows of the school's Chapel.



[Mrs Harris—RE Department]



Pope John Paul II Award

On 26 May five exceptional students received the John Paul II award for their contribution to the spiritual life at BGN and within the parish. We were very lucky to have Bishop Kenney in school to present the award, of both a medal and a voucher, to each student. We are so very proud of Jis Maria Titto, Amy Rowe, Aleena Antony, Diya Gigi and Sona Lalu and wish them all the very best of luck in their chosen paths.



[Mrs Furniss—Expressive Arts Department]



Drama Department News

Year 10

Year 10 students have worked hard to create three performances based on the concept of 'Freedom'. The groups explored this idea in relation to types of abuse and guilt. Well done to Aimee Barnes, Brandon Bowden, Aoife Bradley, Lily Butler, Katie Crowther, Daniel Drennan, Colin Hall, Annie Rose Jones, Lewis Manley, Wiktor Ptasinski and Arthur Stewart – Tanner. Year 10 also took part in a workshop led by Cherwell Theatre Company which they thoroughly enjoyed, voting it a fantastic experience.

Year 12

This year in Drama and Theatre Studies, a brave and creative class took



the risk to create a devised performance influenced by technology. With close-up filming, live text and two time periods in which the action takes place, Jessie Dos Santos, Ella Ramaglia, Jessica Tipper and Kayleigh Pearman have looked at the issue of loss and how memories help with grief. The result is a performance that is innovative, thought provoking and interesting from start to finish!



[Mrs Furniss—Expressive Arts Department]

How lucky I am
to have something
that makes saying
goodbye so hard.

Au revoir Year 11

It was a memorable day on Wednesday 26 May as we said our farewells to Year 11. The morning started with their final leaving Mass; a time for celebration and reflection on our students' five years at BGN. The afternoon began with a photo presentation, which had the LRC in hysterics as they reminisced on some of their best memories, from Alton Castle through to whole school Christmas dinners.

The Sean Concanon Cup is awarded each year to someone in this year group who, throughout their time with us, has been a good all-rounder; quietly getting on with things, always cheerful, always polite, loving sport and working hard at his/her studies. The 2021 nominations came flooding in from staff throughout May, and the student who received the highest nominations is presented with this award. This year I am pleased to announce the recipient was **Joe Nugent**. Many congratulations to a very worthy winner!



Miss O'Neill completed the presentation with a poem she had written herself, which highlighted some of the funniest times she had personally shared with the students throughout their time at BGN. A great, thought provoking, light-hearted way, to say her final goodbyes.

The day culminated in a BBQ in the sunshine and photos with friends. The students had an emotional last day which brought tears, smiles and laughter to all involved.

Please find Miss O'Neill's poem below.

I'm not one for speeches, so it's a poem instead,
To reminisce on things, you have done, or said.
Five years since you walked through the BGN gate,
And now you are leaving, for some, a long wait.
For others it has been five years of fun,
Lots of friendships and laughter since it all begun.
The early mornings, the lack of sleep,

The laughs, the knockbacks, that huge homework heap.

But wow is it worth it, as we all sit here,

With shared memories and great friends we hold dear.

But let's stop the soppy and have a think back,

To funnier times, knowledge we did lack.

I remember the days, when you were in Year 7,

Those lessons in Biology, left quite an impression.

Maddie's mind wondered into the abyss,

"Are you pregnant for 18 months if you have twins, Miss?"

Soli House, Glasbury and Christmas dinners,

The fight over who were the sports day winners.

Hiding from teachers and causing me stress,

It was questionable at times, how you did dress.

"Jewellery, tuck your shirt in, hoodies off boys"

Some of you looked at me like it was just white noise.

Kuba and Wojciech, did you ever make the bell?

As you swaggered into school, like it was just a hotel.

Some used windows, to exit the school,

Whilst others caused havoc at lunch, in the hall.

Choir, PE clubs, Mr Orton's funny ways,

Had some of you in 'iso' for 2-3 days.

Spending many a time looking for the skiver,

And obviously being, the best mini-bus driver.

I definitely didn't reverse into the bike shed,

Have part of the window, land on your head.

Shakespeare for school, and singing in Mass,

Some of you just loved to walk out of class.

Ski trips, DofE, the most awful weather,

Uniting as a year group and coming together.

Lockdown for some was a terrible time,

Whilst others laid in bed, way past half nine.

Skipped their lessons, doing no work,

Teachers taught in PJs, now that was a perk.

There's been many an accident, mostly PE,

I think the worst was Fin's dislocated knee.

Paddy jumped up and knocked himself out,

Coffey's broken wrist, how did that come about?

All of these things make our year group unique,

And for some, the future might seem quite bleak,

But there's nothing but support and laughter right here,

Leave your worries at home, cause there's always love

near.

Your life will go on, new things will begin,

So remember to always do your best from within.

Never give up, it's all worth the fight

But mostly be happy, with who you go to bed as, at night.

[Miss O'Neill—Head of Year 11]

BGN term dates for academic year 2021/2022

Just a reminder that school will be finishing for this academic year on Tuesday 20 July 2021 at 12.30 pm.

The school's term dates for the academic year 2021/2022 are as follows. **However, the return date in September is dependent on Government advice, which we are still awaiting.**

Wednesday 1 September 2021	INSET day – school closed to all pupils
Thursday 2 September 2021	INSET day – school closed to all pupils
Friday 3 September 2021	School open to pupils in Year 7, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 ONLY
Monday 6 September	School open to ALL year groups
Thursday 7 October 2021	INSET day – school closed to all pupils
Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October 2021	October half-term holiday
Monday 8 November 2021	BGN Day – school closes early at 12.30 pm
Friday 17 December 2021	School closes early at 1 pm
Monday 20 December to Friday 31 December 2021	Christmas holidays
Monday 3 January 2022	Bank holiday
Tuesday 4 January 2022	Term begins
Friday 14 January 2022	INSET day – school closed to all pupils
Monday 21 February to Friday 25 February 2022	February half-term
Monday 11 April to Friday 22 April 2022	Easter holidays
Monday 2 May 2022	Bank holiday
Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022	May half-term
Wednesday 20 July 2022	Break up for summer holidays – school finishes at 12.30 pm

BGN welcomes our new pupils starting September 2021

On Thursday 8 July five wonderful Year 7 pupils joined Ms Phillips and Mrs Nutt on Microsoft Teams to give a virtual presentation to the Year 6 children who are joining us in September. Most of the 150 children were able to join us 'live', whether that was from their primary school, or from home because they or their bubble were self-isolating. In addition, a few Year 6 children will watch a recording of the event instead as they were busy doing other fun things on the day.

Our Year 7 pupils gave a presentation about school life, focusing on questions such as:

- What will happen on the first day?
- How will I find my way around?



Later, the Year 6 children were given an opportunity to ask their own questions and our panel of students tried to answer these as fully as possible, addressing issues ranging from: what languages can we study to where can I keep my bicycle during the school day?

Our students presented with confidence and Mrs Nutt and Ms Phillips were very proud of the way they represented BGN to the new joiners and their primary school teachers.

Well done and thank you so much to Tia Barclay, Lily Barnes, Christopher Gaine, Edwin Mathew and Eva Mynes.



[Mrs Nutt—Head of Year 7]

Year 7s help to raise money and awareness for Lepra

We have already had a virtual presentation given to us in school about this charity's work to beat leprosy and on Monday 12 July, as part of a 'Sports and Wellbeing Day', Year 7 pupils enjoyed a mindfulness session, followed by a disco. The aim was to raise awareness for this charity whom we have supported for many years. You can find out more about the work of the charity at www.lepra.org.uk

The pupils were asked to take part in fundraising activities that they could do safely from home such as:-

- Asking family and family friends for an online donation
- Doing jobs around their homes such as car washing, looking after pets, gardening etc
- Doing something sponsored – a technology-free day perhaps!
- Organising an online activity – virtual quiz or virtual concert for example
- Getting active and doing a run/cycle/bounce/skip

Donations were asked for our Just Giving Page at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Lepra-BGN>

We would like to thank our pupils and parents for helping to give a life back to the many children and adults who are desperate for Lepra's help. Last year Lepra changed the lives of more than 260,000 people – supporting this appeal you helped them to reach even more!

[Mrs Nutt—Head of Year 7]



IMPORTANT EXAM INFO

Results will be emailed to students' school email addresses on the following dates and times:

**A Level/Level 3 Qualifications
Tuesday 10 August @ 8.30 am**

**GCSE/Level 2 Qualifications
Thursday 12 August @ 9 am**

For further information on results and the support available following the release of results, please see the school website front page

School information

Your School Nurse

Margaret Batsel

A confidential Service

- ◆ Relationships
- ◆ Health and Wellbeing
- ◆ Healthy Eating
- ◆ Puberty
- ◆ Mental & Emotional Health
- ◆ Drugs, Alcohol & Smoking Cessation

You can make an appointment by Telephone or Text on **07770 846882**

Come and see me in the school nurse's office or fill in an appointment slip on the school nurse's office door

Oxford Health **NHS** OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Expansion to BGN School premises

We are delighted to say that BGN has now received all the approvals necessary for our new expansion building work. This will give us a new teaching block, a new hall and refurbishment work throughout the school. We hope that work will start as soon as possible, and it is scheduled to take one year to complete.

In September 2021, we plan to start in earnest to fundraise towards this project in order to ensure that these new facilities are the very best for our students. We will be sending out further information in September to invite you to join in with our fundraising efforts in whatever way you can and would welcome any ideas you may have. To whet your creative appetite, please see an artist's impression of the building below.



Communications from school

Are you receiving regular emails from school? If not, please do ensure that you have given us your correct address.

Likewise, please make sure if your phone or address details alter, that you let the School Office know on office.4600@bgn.oxon.sch.uk in case we need to contact you during the school day.

Please also remember to update the office if your child's health conditions alter.

As per the school policy, pupils should not be using their mobile phones during the school day. If your child rings or messages you in the school day, please direct them to Student Services who will help your child and contact you if necessary.

Thank you

Attendance DOES matter

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR ATTENDANCE FIGURES ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!

Percentages based on 190 academic days

SO WE WANT YOU in school on time, every day, in line with current restrictions, in order to achieve the best grades possible and be the best you can be.

Attendance and punctuality

Punctuality and good attendance are essential if students are to benefit fully from their education. All students are expected to attend for more than 96% of each school year. This is the national expectation for all students, as research shows that anything less than this will mean students miss out on more than 10 days of school in an academic year and will more than likely drop a grade in their achievement each year this happens. If a student's attendance is less than 90%, they will be classed as a 'persistent absentee' by Ofsted and the Department for Education.

Punctuality

At BGN we expect all students to arrive in school on time as lack of punctuality affects learning and behaviour not only of the pupil who is late, but it has an impact on all other learners as the teacher is required to recap on missed lesson content for those who arrive late.



Punctuality is also a key workplace skill which must be learnt at school. Employees who are regularly late to work may lose their job.

Reporting sickness

Please notify the Attendance Office on 01295 264216 extension 518 or email: absence@bgn.oxon.sch.uk by **9.30 am each day** of your child's absence. As duty of care to students is paramount to us, should we not hear from you, we will send a text to remind you to contact the school regarding your child's absence. If we still have not heard from you by 10 am as to why your child is absent, we will telephone you as student welfare is a priority. Any unexplained absences will be marked as unauthorised.

Music information

The summer holidays may be a good time to discuss with your son/daughter whether they would like to learn to play a musical instrument. This may give them the opportunity to develop new skills, discover a new passion, meet friends and enjoy making music together.

Oxfordshire County Music Service offers lessons at BGN during the school day in the following instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet
- Saxophone
- Brass

If your child would like to learn another instrument, you can sign up to join Oxfordshire County Council's waiting list, and they may be able to start lessons, if there is enough interest.

For more information and for prices, please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest.

You may also like to visit the following link, which has a video of the work the Music Service does: <https://twitter.com/OxMusicService/status/1410496895160516616?s=20>

[Mr Hornby—Expressive Arts Department]

MUSIC LESSONS AVAILABLE

DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

LEARN, PLAY AND PERFORM.
SIGN UP TODAY

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

6 REASONS FOR YOUR CHILD TO USE THE OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY MUSIC SERVICE

Bring out the performer in your child! Learning to sing or play an instrument brings proven benefits to pupils academic development, social skills and wellbeing.

#1 INSTRUMENT CHOICE

We teach a wide range of instruments with lessons available during the school day.



#2 LEARN

Learning an instrument with the Oxfordshire County Music Service is a great way to improve academic, social and physical skills and boost self-esteem.



#3 PERFORM

The County Music Service run ensembles, choirs and events all over Oxfordshire. This includes concerts in your child's school and prestigious performances in national venues.



#4 SAFE & SECURE

All of our teachers are fully DBS-checked and undertake regular safeguarding training.



#5 TOP TEACHING

Oxfordshire County Music Service teachers are highly qualified with specialist knowledge about their instruments. They participate in a full programme of continuing professional development training.



#6 HERE TO HELP

Our Area Managers work closely with schools to ensure the best learning experience for your child in their music lessons.



> REGISTER NOW



www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/musicinterest

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

'Sports and Wellbeing' day

It has been said many times that miracles are worked at BGN, and our BGN 'Sports and Wellbeing' day proved no exception.

Sunday 11 July, on the eve of our special day, nerves were high! There was rain in the forecast—how would the day pan out? Miss Gines and I had made our wet weather plans, but who knew how much rain there would be? We arrived in school with our wipers on and bro-lies up. The Browne brothers—Darius and Daniel—arrived and with them came the sun! As Year 9 kicked off the dance proceedings on the playground, Mrs Herridge commented: "It's happening, there's a big ball of sun in the sky".

Before long we were all warmed up on the playground and then the 'Jeruselema' dance routine started. Of course there were a few reluctant to let their enjoyment show, but there was safety in numbers and everyone was able to get involved and have the joy of that song spinning round their heads for the rest of the day. One student commented: "I liked the vibe those two guys who made us dance brought".

The biggest shout out of the day has to go to Year 12. It was no exaggeration to say that there looked to be genuine terror on their faces as they made their way across the playground to begin the dance routine, but before long they were clapping and grooving and went on to give the best performance by far of the day. Daniel Browne, an ex-student himself, felt that 'a miracle had been worked there' so well done Year 12 in setting the standard for the rest of the school.

[Mrs Mawn —Assistant Headteacher]



Students from Form 9 Calcutta commented as follows:

I really enjoyed playing bench ball with all of my friends, it was one of the most fun PE sessions I've ever done.

The day was very enjoyable as I was not too tired by the end, as there was a mix of sports and restful activities that didn't over-work your body.

I liked playing bench ball – it was great to have a fun game with your friends and work together in friendly competition.

The sex education class/ time was a very important topic.

I really enjoyed doing the sports events against other forms in our year and I also enjoyed learning the dance in the playground.

I liked the vibe those two guys who made us dance brought. Bench ball was fun. Our team should have got a prize.

We started with the 'Jeruselema' dance and I had quite a lot of fun doing that. I didn't participate in the sports, but I did enjoy running around and cheering my friends on.

'Sports and Wellbeing' day [continued...]

Our students rose to the challenge, as always, and put in brilliant performances from football and bench ball to Sixth Form dodge-ball.

Every footballer wanted to 'Bring it Home' for their House to make up for the night before, and with only Madame Savin calling for penalties the request was swiftly denied! The cheers from the Sports Hall bench ball teams could be heard across the school and when stepping into the Activities Room your life would flash before your eyes at the speed of the Year 12s.

A fantastic day was had by everyone involved with smiling faces all around: perfectly timed to raise spirits and see out the year on a high! With all the scores checked and verified, including goals for and against, I give you the..



Year 7

FOOTBALL	BENCHBALL	OVERALL YEAR GROUP
1 st Devereux	1 st Calcutta	1 st Devereux
2 nd Assisi	2 nd Devereux	2 nd Calcutta
3 rd Calcutta	3 rd Bakhita	3 rd Assisi
4 th Bakhita	4 th Assisi	4 th Bakhita
5 th Edith Stein	5 th Edith Stein	5 th Edith Stein

Year 8

FOOTBALL	BENCHBALL	OVERALL YEAR GROUP
1 st Calcutta	1 st Edith Stein	1 st Edith Stein
2 nd Assisi	2 nd Devereux	2 nd Calcutta
3 rd Edith Stein	Joint 4 th Bakhita and Calcutta	3 rd Assisi
4 th Bakhita		4 th Devereux
5 th Devereux	5 th Assisi	5 th Bakhita

Year 9

FOOTBALL	BENCHBALL	OVERALL YEAR GROUP
1 st Devereux	1 st Calcutta	Joint 1 st Assisi, Calcutta and Devereux
2 nd Bakhita	2 nd Assisi	
3 rd Assisi	3 rd Bakhita	
4 th Calcutta	4 th Devereux	4 th Bakhita
5 th Edith Stein	5 th Edith Stein	5 th Edith Stein

'Sports and Wellbeing' day [continued...]

Year 10

FOOTBALL	BENCHBALL	OVERALL YEAR GROUP
1 st Edith Stein	1 st Assisi	1 st Edith Stein
2 nd Devereux	2 nd Edith Stein	2 nd Devereux
3 rd Bakhita	3 rd Devereux	3 rd Assisi
4 th Calcutta	4 th Calcutta	4 th Bakhita
5 th Assisi	5 th Bakhita	5 th Calcutta

Year 12

DODGEBALL
1 st Bakhita
2 nd Edith Stein
3 rd Calcutta
4 th Devereux
5 th Assisi



When taking all year group results into account this year's winning House of Sports and Wellbeing is:

Calcutta

- 2nd Devereux
- 3rd Assisi
- 4th Bakhita
- 5th Edith Stein



[Miss Gines—Head of PE]

BGN National Three Peaks challenge

The date:	16 August 2021 [<i>hopefully completed 24 hours afterwards!</i>]
The challenge:	Summit the THREE highest peaks in England, Scotland and Wales
The time:	24 hours
The team:	Mr Thornton, Mr Woodham, Ms Gines, Ms Williams, Mr Savania and Mr Cross

Staff at BGN are undertaking the National Three Peaks challenge, with the aim of raising £500 for two extremely well-deserving local charities: Katharine House Hospice and the Brodey Cancer Centre at the Horton Hospital. Over the years, both of these chari-



ties have been an integral support to staff, students and the wider BGN community. These organisations, through their time, help and dedication have given our school community support, and have been there for families in need of the vital care they provide. More information on the two charities can be found on their respective websites.

We have chosen this challenge as it ties in the group's love of the outdoors with the fact that the challenge takes place across England, Scotland and Wales. The National Three Peaks challenge itself requires the group to climb the three highest mountains within each representative country, within 24 hours. The three mountains in question are Ben Nevis in Scotland, Scafell Pike in England, and Snowdon in Wales. The total walking distance is 37 km (some 23 miles) and the total ascent is 3,064 metres (10,052 ft), with a total driving distance of 462 miles. The staff taking part have all been involved with the Duke of Edinburgh Award at BGN for the past eight years and thought it was about time they showed our pupils how it is done!



National Three Peaks Challenge

We would like to raise money for these charities so they can continue with their amazing work supporting other families in and around the Banbury area. We hope to do this with your help, so if you are able, please donate whatever you can via the website address:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bgn-3-peaks-challenge>

Thank you in advance for your support. We look forward to providing you with updates and photos throughout the challenge.

good luck

[Mr Thornton—The Three Peaks Challenge Team]

Sports information

It has been fantastic to see so many students returning to sport after school. We have been enjoying rounders and football, as well as the athletic quad kids and pentathlon virtual competitions. Well done to everyone who has been coming along, it has been great to have you back.

We have also been hearing about everyone heading back to clubs in the evenings and weekends, outside of school. Keep it up! We want you all to be active, healthy and happy. The following students have been going above and beyond in their sports and deserve a special mention.



Sonia Chiorean in Year 7— Sonia is already the U11 Oxford Tennis Champion and was accepted to compete at Tennis Europe in Edinburgh and Halton. This is an international tennis competition, a phenomenal achievement! Sonia is definitely one to watch out for in the future!

Emily Hayward in Year 9—a dedicated triathlete who had put in endless hours training for the Tenby Triathlon which, unfortunately, was cancelled due to Covid. However, Emily still travelled to Tenby and completed the event herself: a 2km open water swim, 42 mile bike ride, and a 10km run! Well done Emily.



Chris Charles in Year 12— recently competed in the Oxfordshire School Decathlon. He achieved 'personal bests' in 7 of the 10 events all highlighted in bold below. His performance was of such a high standard he has qualified for the National Finals at Bedford International Stadium in September. We wish Chris all the best; we know you will smash it!

Day 1—100m, **Long Jump**, **Shot Put**, High Jump, 400m

Day 2—**110m Hurdles**, **Discus**, **Pole Vault**, **Javelin**, **1500m**

We are really proud of them all and wish them every success in their future endeavours.

[Miss Gines—PE Department]

Girls' football activators

Year 9 girls have been trained as 'Football Activators' on the 'Game of Our Own' leadership programme. The programme is part of the Football Association's vision, in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust, and supported by Barclays to give every girl equal access to football in school by 2024.

During the summer term our Football Activators attended a mix of virtual events and workshops to inspire other girls at Blessed George Napier. They came together to organise a football taster session for Year 7 girls on Wednesday 23 June during National School Sports Week. As part of the planning process, the Year 9 Football Activators produced a video promoting their event to Year 7 tutor groups. The event proved a big success with 15 Year 7 girls taking part. Music was played throughout the hour session; participants took part in a carousel of activities working on passing, dribbling, shooting, communication, creating space and small sided games in a fun and relaxing environment. Mrs Wagstaff was also on hand to offer support and guidance to both Year 9 Football Activators and Year 7 students.

To conclude the programme the Year 9 Football Activators took part in a live workshop with Jenna Downing, inline skater and Youth



Sport Trust Athlete Mentor. The girls reflected on what they had learnt from the programme, evaluated their event, and their plans to promote more girls' football at BGN in September and beyond.

As recognition and commitment to the programme our Football Activators will receive a Youth Sport Trust Award. It is also hoped that they will continue to inspire and motivate more girls to take part in football.

Our Year 9 Football Activators were: Lucia Matthews, Ruby Deighton, Charlotte Gore, Lucy Mitchell, Grace Mander, Isabel Conway, Lily Harper, Ellie Rogers, Olivia Ginns, Paige Darling, Jennifer Spencer and Emmanuella Agyiwaa.

"The girls football club was really fun, and we played lots of games that eased us into football at a steady pace. The Year 9 students were supportive and made sure everyone was involved. Thank you."

[Daisy Sullivan—Form 7 Devereux]

"From this experience, I have improved my communication and leadership skills. I have also increased my understanding on why girls should be given the opportunity to play football in and out of school."

[Grace Mander—Form 9 Assisi]

If you are interested in learning more, please visit: [girlsfootballinschools.org](https://www.girlsfootballinschools.org).

[Mr Mawn—School Sport Co-ordinator]

Be in it, to win it!



BGN 200 Club



Why not join our 200 Club? For just **£5** a month you have the opportunity of winning **£100** whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or want any more information, please contact Mrs Donna Ayers, our 200 Club Administrator at donnaayers@bgn.oxon.sch.uk.

congratulations!

March's winning number is **138**

April's winning number is **17**

May's winning number is **84**