



God our Father,
There are many difficulties and challenges in life,
and we see or experience more of them each day we live.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may have courage and determination,
and may live in such a way that we encourage one another.
Enable us to transform whatever is negative,
and remain positive in attitude throughout our lives.
Lighten our darkness and keep us safe.
Amen.

Key Stage 5 Weekly Bulletin: Week beginning: Monday 18th January 2021

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

- **Sixth Form Canteen:** The Sixth Form Canteen is OPEN for business! Please don't forget that every Tuesday and Thursday between 12-1pm you can drop in to the Sixth Form drop in room on MLTV to catch up with us and each other over a bite to eat. You can chat, type, listen or book a slot to perform. Nothing formal, just a space to hang out and break down the barriers of lock down. Looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.
- **Tutor time:** starting on Monday, tutor times will be live on the MLTV once a week at 9am as usual. Tutors will be in touch via the MLTV to let you know when your tutor time is. Assemblies will be recorded and sent out once a week on the message function of the VLE and Miss Smith will send out a prayer by e mail each morning. We will also be in regular touch by e mail as usual.

WEEKLY WELLNESS TIPS AND IDEAS

This week I'm following on from my email and link to the "where to find Joy" presentation which a competition. The competition is one that you all can do, you simply just have to look around. Times are tough, and sometimes is easier for us all to look for, and see (positive reinforcement here), the negative things about our situations. We then use these to quantify that we are correct and indeed life sucks", I was right. BUT, we can also choose to change our focus onto the positive and seek to identify and see those aspects also.

Now, the challenge. **Where is YOUR joy in lockdown 2?** I would like you to snap a photo of something that you see, do, come across whatever, that make you feel good, feel the joy that is still part of our everyday lives. This isn't about the perfect photography, but about seeing the beauty that surrounds us all. Once you have your happy snap, please email it to me with a brief caption giving it some context. Where was it, or why did you take this particular picture.

Send all "happy snaps" to wtho0370@bgn.oxon.sch.uk by **Friday 22nd January 2021** and we will unveil the winner the following week.

Happy Snapping!

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

YOUR MONEY MATTERS: This week we are looking at **Budgeting**, attached as a pdf for easy reference.

- How to use it: The highlight is on page 50, where you can create your own budget to take control of your money.
- Leading up to this you can read about:
 1. Influences on spending p.35

2.Digital marketing for different age brackets p.36-37

3.Value for money p.45

4.Best deal activity p.47

YEAR 12

- **FutureLearn (MOOCs)** - One of the joys of being a FutureLearner is that you can access education from the best universities in the UK (and the world) online, on demand. From an **Introduction to Business Management** to the **History of Royal Fashion**, explore more below and enrol now. This will become very useful when you show engagement with your interests in your personal statement in the Autumn. Click on this link to see courses available - [Browse courses](#)
- **Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021:** Bookings are now open for the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences. This year, we are asking students to book themselves on to the conference. Please click on this link for further information.
<https://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/events/student-conferences>
- **UniTaster On Demand:** This has many subject specific taster recorded webinars that will help you decide on a career path after you finish you're a levels. The range of taster subjects includes Midwifery, Psychology and Games, Animation & VFX. Please register on:
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/ut-tuesdays.aspx>
- **Medicine in Action:** This returns with a special half-day online programme for aspiring medics on January 26th. From brain surgery to life in A&E and more, uncover the science and technology driving medicine, discuss the societal implications and find out what life is really like as a medic at Medicine in Action. As usual, there will be plenty of opportunities to interact, with questions, polls, quizzes and more - join us in 2021! It costs £8 and you can book on:
https://thetrainingpartnership.org.uk/book/?study_day_id=8655
- **Oxbridge virtual conferences:** BOOK NOW to secure a place. Bookings for the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences 2021 will be different to previous years. This year, we are asking students to book themselves on to the conference. Teachers will still need to book themselves on in order to access our teacher content, but we hope that this new system will make your lives easier during a busy time. Bookings will **open in January 2021** and can be made via our **website**.

YEAR 13

- **Original UCAS Deadline is over - WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? (New deadline is 6pm on Fri 29th Jan)**
 - At the moment, prepare for any interviews that you may be offered - interviews are not always updated on the school's UCAS portal, so please ask if you need guidance.
 - Otherwise, please wait until all your 5 replies come back from the universities. You can then choose just 2 final places - a Firm and an Insurance choice **by 5th May - absolutely no rush** so you can find out more about the unis, cost of accommodation, the campus or city they are in, transport and so on. Go back to Unifrog as it has tons of information. Your Firm choice is usually more aspirational, but make sure you have done virtual tours so you are happy to go to either your Firm or Insurance choice in the Autumn.
 - Student Finance opens in late February, and then you apply for the Tuitions loan and Maintenance loan, based on family income.
 - Accommodation - you apply for accommodation for your Firm and Insurance choices only - and in some cases *only for the Firm choice* - it varies from one uni to another. Make sure that you can cover the cost of accommodation plus living costs from your maintenance loan - look at the budgeting update in the bulletin and plan out an idea of how much money you will you need - so be careful on the choice of accommodation as costs vary a lot.
 - Of course, working consistently on your A levels and EP is key so that you are academically ready for your next step.
- **IMPORTANT UPDATE:** Following UK COVID restriction announcements, the deadline for undergraduate applications is now 6pm on 29 January 2021. This gives students time to prepare their application if they have made up their mind more recently to apply to university. Please pay UCAS for your application before this date as it may take some time for checking by Mrs Ellul before she formally sent it off to UCAS.

VIRTUAL TASTER DAYS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- **University of Bristol:** Our summer schools are free experiences which offer places across different subject streams, designed to provide an insight into undergraduate courses at the University. Participants will be eligible for a guaranteed contextual offer (up to 2 grades below the typical offer) or interview should they then apply to University of Bristol. Applications are open now and close 2nd March
Sutton Trust Summer School
2 - 6 August 2021. Sutton Trust Summer School offers students the opportunity to experience student life in one of the UK's most exciting cities.
[For further information follow this link.](#) [To apply follow this link.](#)
Insight into Bristol
26 - 30 July 2021. Insight into Bristol summer school is aimed at Black and Asian students who are from widening participation backgrounds and who have the academic ability to study at the University of Bristol.
Click here to download the Insight into Bristol [poster](#) or [brochure](#). [Visit our website to apply.](#)
- **Meet the Russell Group Virtual Event - Wednesday 10 February:** Our joint event with the Russell Group Universities will also be returning on the 10th February from 12 to 7pm. This spring's event will see all 24 universities once again, as well as a new line-up of webinars and virtual tours from each university. You can find out more and [sign up here](#), and please see the email below for the warm-up webinars which will accompany the event on Weds 3rd February and Mon 8th February
- **Summer Schools : Discover Bath** Summer School programme (available in 21 different subject areas) which may be suitable for some of your Year 12 learners. Discover Bath is a summer programme taking place over 4 days in August 2021. The focus is on a 4-day summer school, where students will work on university level work and will have some work to do before and afterwards to make the most of the experience.
- **Yr12 Online Summer schools:**
These Summer Schools are run in partnership with the Sutton Trust. Every year, UCL runs a number of Summer Schools for Year 12 state school students. The Summer Schools offer a taste of studying a degree programme and of university life.
Students can register their interest [now](#) on our website or visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/widening-participation/learners/year-12-and-13/year-12-summer-school-online>
Full applications open on Monday, 11 January and close on Tuesday, 2 March 2021.
- **Virtual tours to UK universities are available at the press of a button:**
<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/open-days-and-events/virtual-tours>
- **Birmingham University:** Birmingham University have announced extra flexibility for 2021 admissions - Given Covid-disruption, they are reducing entry requirements across their programmes by at least one grade on the typical offer. This is in addition to pre-existing reductions, such as those related to the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) (where students get have their offer reduced by one grade with an A in their EPQ), the 'Pathways to Birmingham' programmes, and contextual offers. Visit Virtual Open days at Birmingham University on <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/how-to-apply/index.aspx>
- **UniTasterDays:** There are lots of events listed in many different subject areas. Please visit this link <https://www.unitasterdays.com/Search.aspx?MILES=99999&PC=OX169HY>

UCAS AND FINANCE INFORMATION

- **Student finance calculator:** The calculator will tell you the maximum amount you can get for a maintenance loan. Find out more on: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **Undergraduate Webinar:** Student Finance Information and Advice University of Roehampton Tuesday 26th January 2021 Online, 4.15pm BST 16:15 – 17
<https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/63345/undergraduate-webinar-student-finance-information-and-advice>
- **UCAS applications:** Keep working on your UCAS applications - please ensure you check your subject exam boards on your application.

- **Finance** -Information on eligibility and Loan payments/repayments can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance>
- **Examples of personal statements**: These may be a great inspiration, but please be aware to remain original as plagiarism will be picked up: <https://universitycompare.com/personal-statement-examples/>
- **Portfolio for interview**: Get advice and information about putting together a portfolio ready for interview visit <https://www.unitasterdays.com/events/event/62341/portfolio-advice>

APPRENTICESHIPS

- **Norbar Torque Tools Ltd**
National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will take place from 8-14 February and this year and they are going to run three virtual apprentice evenings. Please see the attached poster containing further details. If you have any questions, please contact recruit@norbar.com
- **UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair - Wednesday 27 January** : The first of these events will be the UK University & Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair which will take place between 12 and 6pm on the 27th January. This free virtual event for students in years 11, 12 and 13, will feature a diverse range of exhibitors and vital webinars. Students, teachers and parents can find out more and [sign up here](#).
- **Year 13**: Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are offered by many universities in a number of areas. They have individual closing dates and some of these are very soon. Please have a look if you want to follow this career path. Please see the attached document for further details.
- **Amazing Apprenticeships**: We've created an [Activity Pack](#), full of fun and engaging activities for students. This year the pack is an interactive word doc. so that it can be completed digitally or printed off. A separate answer booklet for teachers is also available, so you've got everything you need to get your students engaged about apprenticeships!
- **The Engineering Trust**: have a fantastic opportunity in Woodford Halse for an Engineering Apprenticeship. 3PA Limited is an established machinery company selling equipment into mostly the plastic processing industry and are starting to manufacture some of their own products. They are looking to recruit an apprentice who can graduate into a fully trained service engineer. To apply: <https://www.theengineeringtrust.org/apprenticeships/current-vacancies/>

Contact details

If you have any questions relating to anything Sixth Form, please contact:

Mrs O'Donnell – SODonnell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mr Thornton – wtho0370@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Ellul – mell8376@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

Mrs Peel – bpee4080@bgn.oxon.sch.uk

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