



# Newsletter

Summer 2023

## A word from the Headteacher

We are rapidly approaching the end of another busy year at BGN and I would like to say thank you so much to all our parents for your support this year. It continues to be a joy to be Headteacher of BGN School and to care for so many lovely students.



You will see from the Newsletter that our staff have worked tirelessly to offer the students so many different extra-curricular opportunities and I am very grateful to each and every one of them for giving up their time so that our students can have such a rich and varied experience.

Some of you have asked about our building project and I am glad to say that our new contractors recently came on site and we are hoping that they will be able to make great strides, in terms of moving the project forward, over the summer holiday and into the next academic year.

We say a fond farewell to the staff who are leaving us this academic year. They are: Tim Allen, Liza Campbell, Charlotte Garner, Alyson Goodey, Shaun Humphries, Tory Hurrell, Peter Jones, Holly Krober, Trish Lunel, Gill Peeling and Elliott Powell. We wish them well for the future.

Finally, I would just like to wish all our families a peaceful and restful summer holiday.

Niamh Dolan  
Headteacher

### NOTICE

Please ensure your contact details are up-to-date so that you don't miss out on important communications, or should we need to contact you in an emergency.

To help us with the lunch queues, please ensure your child's lunch account remains in credit.

Don't forget to label all uniform and PE kit so that lost property can be returned to your child.

Please remember not to drive down Addison Road when dropping off, or picking up, your child from school.

## Important diary dates

**Thursday 20 July**  
School closes at 12.30 pm for the summer break

**Thursday 17 August**  
A Level results day

**Thursday 24 August**  
GCSE results day

**Tuesday 5 September**  
School opens at 8.40 am to Years 7 and 12 ONLY [Week A]

**Wednesday 6 September**  
School opens at 8.40 am to ALL students [Week A]

**Thursday 14 September**  
Year 7 and Year 11 photographs

**Thursday 19 October**  
Year 7 Parents' Evening

**Thursday 21 September**  
Year 7 Welcome Mass

**Wednesday 27 October**  
Open Evening

**Friday 20 October**  
School closes at 3.20 pm for the half-term break

**Monday 30 October**  
School opens at 8.40 am [Week B]

# Cracking the code at Bletchley Park

On a cold, but thankfully not rainy, Wednesday in April, 48 Year 9s and 5 staff members got on the bus to visit Bletchley Park. We had a wonderful day with an interesting and informative tour where we learnt all about the history of Bletchley Park, and what life was like during the war.

The students were particularly concerned about the prospect of being forced to eat bread and dripping for dinner! We spent time wandering around the grounds, imagining what it would have been like working there.



We were able to explore the interactive exhibits where we could test our skills at managing the base, which had about 8,000 people working in it at the time, listening to bits of the history and seeing for ourselves how the technology worked and how it was used to break the German messages during the war.

Part of the day also comprised a workshop where we were able to see and have a go at using a real enigma machine before trying our hand at decoding a message in morse code and turning our hand at lots of different ciphers to discover a hidden message.

All in all, it was a lovely day full of puzzles and exploring – we are looking forward to going again and exploring new bits of the site.

[Miss Hurrell—Maths Department]



### How to read teleprinter code

Row 1  
Row 2  
Sprocket Holes  
Row 3  
Row 4  
Row 5

L O R E N Z C I P H E R

Make sure you're looking at the tape the right way up. The strip above the line of 'sprocket holes' should be narrower than the strip below it.

Each "column" (one has been highlighted for you) represents a letter, with either a hole (marked with a •) or a blank space in rows 1 to 5.

Use the key below to work out which letter each column represents. The **highlighted column** represents the letter "P", for example.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
2	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
3	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
5	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

## 'Young Photographer' competition

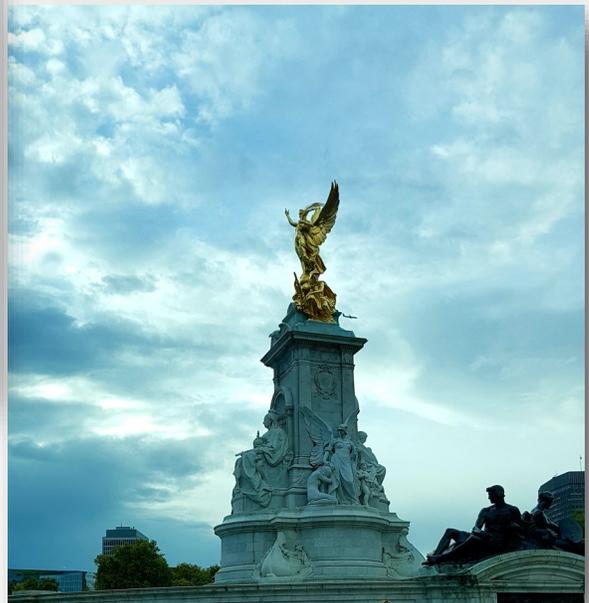
The Rotary Club of Banbury recently held their annual 'Young Photographer' competition.

The competition asked local students to capture *'the Beauty of Architecture'*. Hundreds of submissions were made from students all over the local area. The Art Department is overjoyed to announce that Eleanor Hermon in Year 9 was the intermediate and overall competition winner. The judges were also pleased to Highly Commend Camilla Nosal, also a Year 9 student, for her overall commitment and excellent work.

We are so pleased to see the talents of these creative young photographers honoured. Directly below is Camilla's work and the bottom picture is Eleanor's submission.



[Mrs Castle—Art Department]



## Oxford Sparks Art competition success

I am extremely proud to announce that Oxford University's Oxford Sparks Art competition has awarded Milena Oleksy 'runner-up' for this year's contest, which sees entries from all over the County.

Millie explored the research of Zhiyao Luo, a scientist investigating Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare. He said of his work: *"my job is to identify the problem, talk to AI in its own language [ie coding] and then make AI a better doctor in silicon. With technological advances, I believe AI can one day help to save patients and relieve doctors from overloaded and repeated clinical work."*

Millie wanted to explore the idea that AI can help humanity to turn the current negative conversation about AI around. She wanted to show that we can exist together with AI in a framework that is both co-operative and beneficial. Her entry: 'Co-existence' is a visualisation of the idea that we can form a positive bond with robotics and AI that will not only save lives, but help our healthcare community that is so badly overstretched.

Millie's artwork was honoured at a reception at Oxford University on 30 June 2023.

[Mrs Castle—Art Department]

Exhibition  
Friday 30 June  
to  
Monday 3 July

At the  
Oxford  
University  
Museum of  
Natural  
History

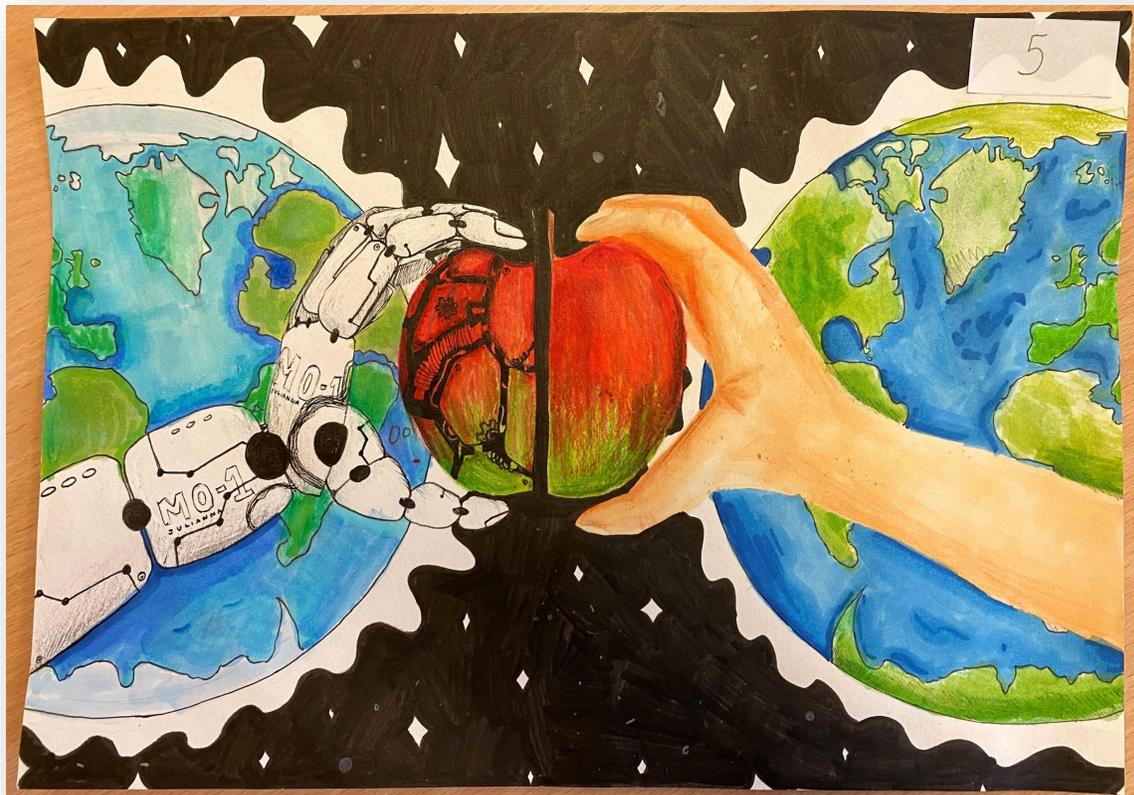
**BEYOND BOUNDARIES**  
BREAKING DOWN BOUNDARIES  
BETWEEN ART, SCIENCE AND PEOPLE

Come and see some of the amazing artwork produced by Oxfordshire state school students in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 inspired by research from six Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic scientists.

For more details please visit:  
[www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries](http://www.oxfordsparks.ox.ac.uk/beyond-boundaries)

Online gallery  
If you are unable to attend in-person, the full gallery will be available to view online.

MATHEMATICAL, PHYSICAL AND LIFE SCIENCES DIVISION  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



## Lenten promise

During the season of Lent two of our Year 7s, Owen Wagstaff and Oliver Taylor, decided to give up their time to raise money for a very good cause, namely *'Father Hudson's Care'*.



The boys set out by asking for donations of Easter Eggs from the BGN community, which would later be raffled off. Donations of all size Easter Eggs came in from far and wide, which the students showcased on the stage every break and lunchtime, whilst they sold raffle tickets to staff and students.

The day arrived for the raffle draw, and what a spectacle it was. Mrs Wagstaff was on the microphone, whilst students enthusiastically waved their tickets around in anticipation for their number to be called. With students from Years 7 to 11 involved, as well as staff from across the school, it was quite the event.

The raffle raised £167.95 in total, which was subsequently donated to this very worthwhile cause.

The two students want to personally thank everyone who donated, bought tickets and supported their cause. They are looking forward to doing it all over again next year.



## Sixth Form students visit the Natural History Museum

09:45-10:00	Arrival and registration
10:00-10:15	Live polling
10:15-10:40	The technologies, successes and challenges of the gene therapy revolution Simon Waddington, <i>University College London</i>
10:40-11:05	CRISPR and genome editing explained Annie Etuk, <i>UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health</i>
11:05-11:20	15 minute break
11:20-11:45	Opportunities and Challenges for Cell & Gene Therapies: An Industry Perspective Takis Athanasopoulos, <i>GSK</i>
11:45-12:10	Risks and rewards to patients considering or undergoing gene and cell therapies Adam Jones, <i>The University of Sunderland</i>
12:10-13:40	Lunchbreak Exhibitors, hands-on activities, careers advice, meet the scientists
13:40-14:05	Stem cells and regenerative medicine: hope not hype Jo Mountford, <i>Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service</i>
14:05-14:30	TBC Helen O'Neill, <i>University College London</i>
14:30-14:45	15 minute break
14:45-15:15	Live polling and panel discussion
15:15-16:00	Exhibitors, hands-on activities, careers advice, meet the scientists

On 16 March all students who study A Level Biology visited the Natural History Museum in Oxford. They heard engaging talks linked to their learning, and beyond. The British Society for Gene & Cell Therapy hosted scientists and experts in their field to present recent findings and talk about their work. The students were given the opportunity to talk to lecturers, took part in live polling, sorted careers advice or work experience, and explored the museum and the hands-on activities offered. Throughout the day there was a competition running and we were proud to report that BGN's Eimear Moss won! Here is the schedule, photos and some reflections from our students.

"I really enjoyed the talk given by Adam Jones as he spoke in a way which was very engaging and was able to make the audience laugh, but equally raised important topics. I learned a lot about the risks and rewards of gene therapy and learned more about haemophilia as this is the condition he is suffering with."

[Patrycja Lepieszka—Form 13 Bakhita]



"I found this Biology trip gave me a true insight into the world of gene therapy; throughout the day we had the opportunity to listen to an array of different lectures which were very interesting and also got to interact with the speakers. For me, I found the lecture by Adam Jones on 'risks and awards to patients considering or undergoing gene and cell therapies' very powerful as Adam spoke about his family's experiences of having an inherited illness and the decision which they have to face whether to undergo cell therapy despite the risks. Overall, the day was very beneficial for me as a Biology student, and I would definitely recommend going if you receive the opportunity in the future."

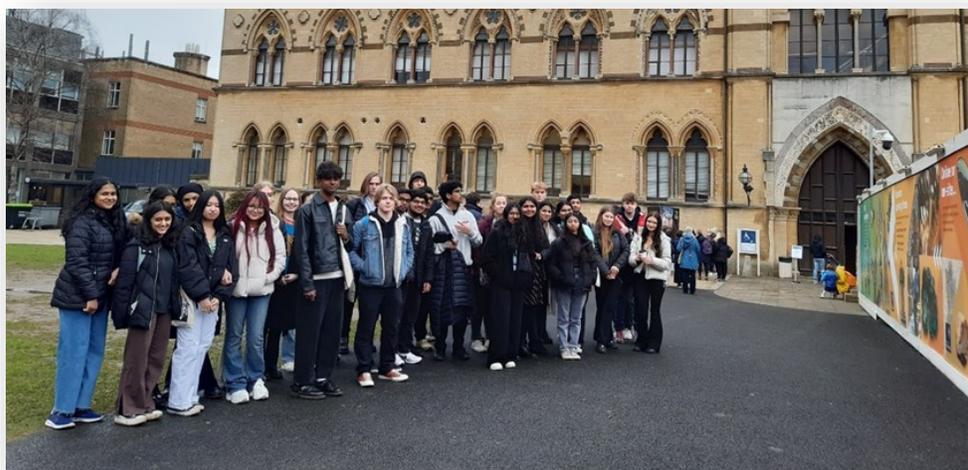
[Joseph Nugent—Form 13 Bakhita]



"Firstly, before the lectures had even started, we were captivated by the architecture of the Oxford University Museum of History which was full of prehistoric dinosaurs and artifacts. This meant our breaks in between lectures were well spent exploring. Secondly, the lectures were quick and snappy, with lots of important detail which kept me interested. In addition, the lecturers were full of life and enthusiasm, mixing their own personal experiences with their knowledge of gene therapy. Lastly, receiving free food is also a massive bonus and I really recommend going in the future."

[Will Mander—Form 13 Bakhita]

[Mrs Tucker—Science Department]



## Year 12 Biologists scout the Surrey Hills...

On Friday 12 May, 22 Year 12 A Level Biology students, Mr Proudfoot and myself headed off for a three-day field trip to Juniper Hall: a Field Studies Council (FSC) Centre at Box Hill in the beautiful Surrey Hills. During the three days our students had a packed programme of both class and field work, centred around Populations and Ecosystems, one of their core A Level topics.

We enjoyed fair weather for the most part, though most of us were



wrapped up in waterproofs and wellies on the first day of field work. Mr Proudfoot proved to the rest of us that being from the north of England he only required shorts!

Students learned key sampling techniques including using belt transects, quadrats and capture-mark-release. The work particularly focussed on looking into the effect of trampling on population sizes of various plant species, counting these in relationship to the availability of light, depth of soil and both air and soil temperature.



Back in the classroom, pupils were taught about key statistical tests to assess whether their findings were significant or not. It is so much more beneficial to see the statistics being used directly with their own field work findings. Having studied the theory and mastered a lot of techniques on day one, the pupils worked in groups to plan and undertake one of their core practicals centred around this topic. This had us out in the sunshine on Box Hill, enjoying the stunning views. With the field work completed, we walked to the National Trust Café and picnicked outside, many enjoying an ice cream in the sun. After an enjoyable hike back to the centre, students wrote up their analysis, conclusion and evaluation of their findings.

The days were long with students working until 8 pm on both full days at the field centre. They were a wonderful credit to the school, working hard right up to our departure on Sunday afternoon. It was great to give them the opportunity to study in a practical way on a residential trip. It was also wonderful to get them outside enjoying the ecology they were studying, especially after their preceding 2-weeks of mock exams. The staff and facilities at the FSC centre in Box Hill is perfectly set-up for this.



[Mrs Dixon—Science Department]

## BGN hit it 'out the park' at the North Oxfordshire Rounders Tournaments



Year 7 Team

the girls were undefeated against seven other schools and came home as the Year 9 rounders champions. A great start to what was to come.

The following week saw the Year 10s put up a fight against some very strong schools in the district and, despite being in first place up until their last match, they were unfortunately beaten in the last game, but still achieved second place in a strong field.

It has been a great start to the rounders season in PE, with Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 girls representing BGN at the North Oxfordshire Rounders Tournaments. Students have dedicated their time on Thursday evenings to attend rounders practice with Miss O'Neill, which has seen 60+ students, of all ages, coming together to enjoy the sun and have some fun after school.

The commitment to practice has definitely paid off. The season kicked off with the Year 9 tournament, where



Year 8 Team

With a podium streak under our belt, the Year 8s had a lot to live up to, but the girls worked hard, played well as a team, and as a result BGN were once again crowned champions.

The last tournament involved the Year 7s travelling to Bicester to play five other schools from the district. They started off with a draw but, once warmed up, beat every team they played, finishing in first place. Miss O'Neill said: "I'm so proud of all the students who took part in these tournaments. The way they conducted themselves, worked together, and the respect shown was a true reflection of the brilliant students we have at BGN."

[Miss O'Neill—PE Department]



Year 9 Team



Year 10 Team

## BGN give it everything in the hope of athletics achievements



Athletics season started with a bang as the Yr10 and Yr11 combined team stormed to victory, becoming District Champions yet again. With the competition tougher than any other year, and schools achieving better and better results, our boys and girls gave an outstanding amount of effort and performance, which our school community can be proud of. Everyone involved worked incredibly hard and supported each other, with the result being extremely close and every point made a difference to achieve overall victory.

Yr9 followed and put in another very strong performance. Practice during and after school paid off with a strong start to events, but it was clear that other schools were closing in. BGN students gave it their all and were able to achieve third position [Bronze] overall and continued to add valuable points to the every growing tally.



Yr8 were up next and put on a sterling display with the students bringing home second position [Silver] overall. Yet again, every student competed to a high level and can be very proud of their achievements and contribution to the overall team's success. Gold had eluded us by only a small margin, and we marched on to the final week with a top three finish still in our sight.

Last, but certainly not least, were our Yr7s who competed in their first ever Secondary District Competition. With most students training hard across the entire athletics season and getting increasingly better results, it was great to see the year group come together for one more push for a top three overall finish. The boys worked hard in a tough cohort from other schools and can be proud of a fourth place finish. However, it was the girls this time around who finished in second place for Yr7.



These results meant that BGN achieved a second [Silver] across all year groups and, although it was a shame to not retain Gold for another year, all students involved dedicated themselves across the season and certainly make the PE Department and our school very proud of them.

## BGN student impresses at theme park

Alfie Kelly in Form 9E recently completed the skills practise section of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award at Thorpe Park Resort—the first person to do so.

The Mechanical Engineering team were impressed with his maturity and drive to learn, causing the Head Engineer to remark how impressed he was with Alfie and all his hard work: *“Alfie, you have a great future ahead of you and you should be very proud of how you are doing”*.

BGN is certainly proud of Alfie achieving this milestone.

[Mrs Castle—Form Tutor for 9 Edith Stein]



## Time to bid a fond farewell to our Year 11s



Our current Year 11s have had a brilliant year, showing resilience and maturity throughout. They had two rounds of mocks to prepare them for their GCSE exams, when it was evident they had studied hard and prepared the best they could. Tuesday and Thursday nights saw many students attending extra revision sessions, to receive additional help from their dedicated teachers, to put them in good stead for what was to come.



Throughout the exam season, students conducted themselves brilliantly and it was clear they had high aspirations for themselves. Their last day at BGN was a great afternoon of celebrations. Miss O'Neill produced a wonderful photo slideshow, showing students' pictures when they started their BGN journey in Year 7 all the way through to Year 11. Alongside these, there were many memories of schools trips, Christmas dinners and sporting events. There was lots of laughter, reminiscing, and joy in the room that day. Students left school with a smile on their face, leaving messages of goodwill on each others shirts.

The final leaving Mass was a lovely end to their time at school. Father Ryan held a thought-provoking sermon which was followed by drinks and nibbles. It was a great opportunity for teachers, students and family members to reflect on the last five years at BGN. It has been a rollercoaster of a ride throughout their time with us at BGN, but the Year 11s have stayed committed to their studies and their faith throughout.



They will be sadly missed by us all, and everyone at BGN wishes them all the very best for their future exams, studies, careers and life beyond BGN except of course those we are welcoming back to our Sixth Form.

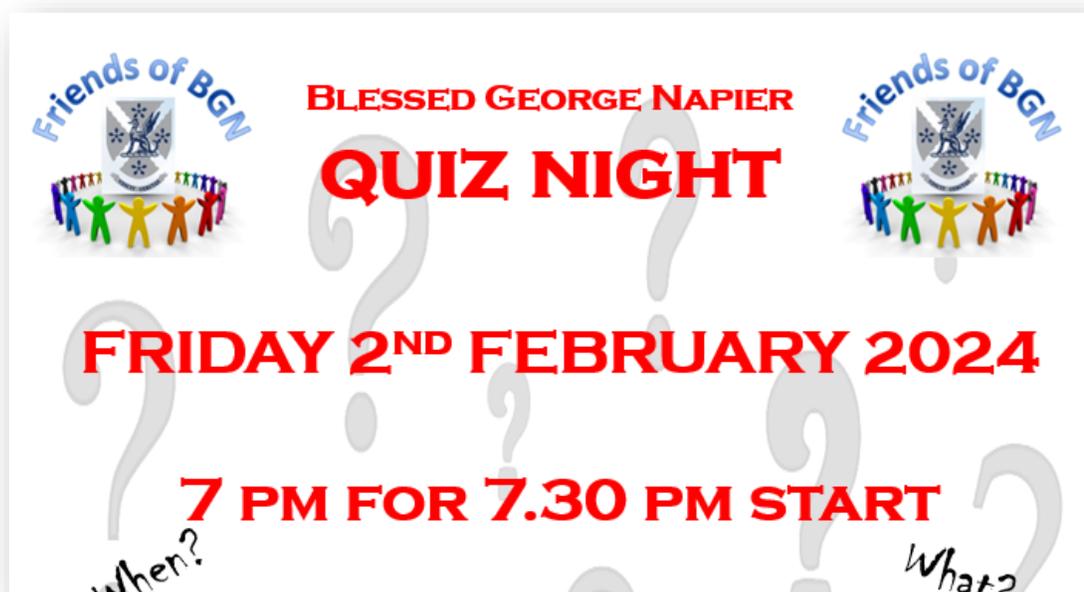
*[Miss O'Neill—Head of Year 11]*



## Friends of BGN

The Friends of BGN welcome new members, as we are a small team. Our next planning meeting is on Thursday 28 September 2023, held in the school, at a time to be confirmed.

Please see below future dates of fundraising events for your diary.



## BGN students visit Normandy from 26-29 June 2023



We had the opportunity to go to Normandy in France this year. The highlights of the trip were Mont Saint Michel and the beaches. The memories that we shared together were remarkable; having fun with my friends and watching the sunset. I've learnt so much during my stay in Normandy.

Merci to Mme Savin, Miss Smith, Mr Kenny and Mr Pike for giving us the opportunity to go to Normandy, France and for teaching me how to play cards and understand the French history and culture. I am grateful for this opportunity.

[Cassie Boateng—Form 10 Calcutta]

All of us were given the opportunity to go to Normandy. It was brilliant. The highlight of the trip was Mont Saint Michel. The scenery was beautiful. I have never seen anything like it. Walking up and down the mount felt like it was straight out of one of the videogames I've played where I travelled places virtually. Thank you to the staff for supervising us and looking after all of us during the trip.

[Ethan De Luna—Form 10 Devereux]

Every night we would go to the beach, which was a few minutes away on foot. We experienced Le Mont Saint Michel, Musée de Débarquement and Bayeux Cathedral. My highlight was definitely the chocolate factory/museum where we learnt the back story of chocolate and even got to taste some! It was delicious! Our accommodation was lovely, the rooms were comfy and there were lots of activities to do like volleyball or table football, and the food was quite good.

Thank you BGN staff for keeping everyone in order and arranging the trip. It was one of the best.

[Aedan Steele-Fleming—Form 10 Calcutta]

Our trip to Normandy opened my eyes to how vast and wonderful our

world is. The highlights of our trip were the spectacular destinations: Mont Saint Michel, the Bayeux Cathedral and even a chocolate factory, but these places would be nothing without the friends I could experience them with. Memories of playing volleyball together and messing around on the beach will stay with me for years to come.

Thank you to Mme Savin, Miss Smith, Mr Kenny and Mr Pike for transferring a great trip into a wonderful trip and for looking out for us!

[Josemari Delos Santos—Form 10 Devereux]



## My Duke of Edinburgh experience—Bronze assessed expedition 23-24 June



### Day one

On 23 June the Bronze DofE expedition, which consisted of small groups of Year 9 and Year 10 students, set off from BGN heading towards Horley Scout Camp. My group walked south towards Bodicote Reservoir where we met with our instructor Maya for the first check point of the day. After having filled up all our water bottles, we continued down a long public footpath to Bloxham. We passed through Bloxham

and went down to Broughton past the castle, where we stopped for lunch, past North Newington to Drayton and through Wroxton. After some challenging navigation and great team spirit, we made it to Horley scout camp.

### Camp

Being first to Horley was a large reward that fuelled us to set-up camp nice and early. With the weight off our shoulders and tents flying up, the other groups descended upon the campsite. As a nice surprise and cool group bonding experience, each group received a guard of honour from water guns. After all the teams arrived, we set-up our Trangias (stoves) and cooked in our teams. Our group had bacon and pasta. Although it wasn't the best food we'd ever tasted, we were glad to be eating a hearty meal. After some socialising, everyone settled down for a good night's sleep ready to pack up and walk home.

Upon an early rising, more bacon was cooked for bacon butties. Besides the sleepy eyes, spirits were high and bellies full, ready for day two.

### Day two

After my group loaded up, we made our way out of camp, singing motivational songs for all to hear. From camp we made our way through Drayton, North Newington and Broughton. With desire in our hearts and breakfast keeping us going, we continued our march back to school. After the enduring slog to get back, we realised we had mucked up our timings, arriving back two hours early. To our annoyance we were sent back out into the wilderness known as Banbury, where we walked and waited until we were allowed to finish. Tired and exhausted, but with team spirit still roaring, we completed our debriefing and waited to be collected by our parents. With much relief, we all made it home and had a long night's sleep in our own beds.



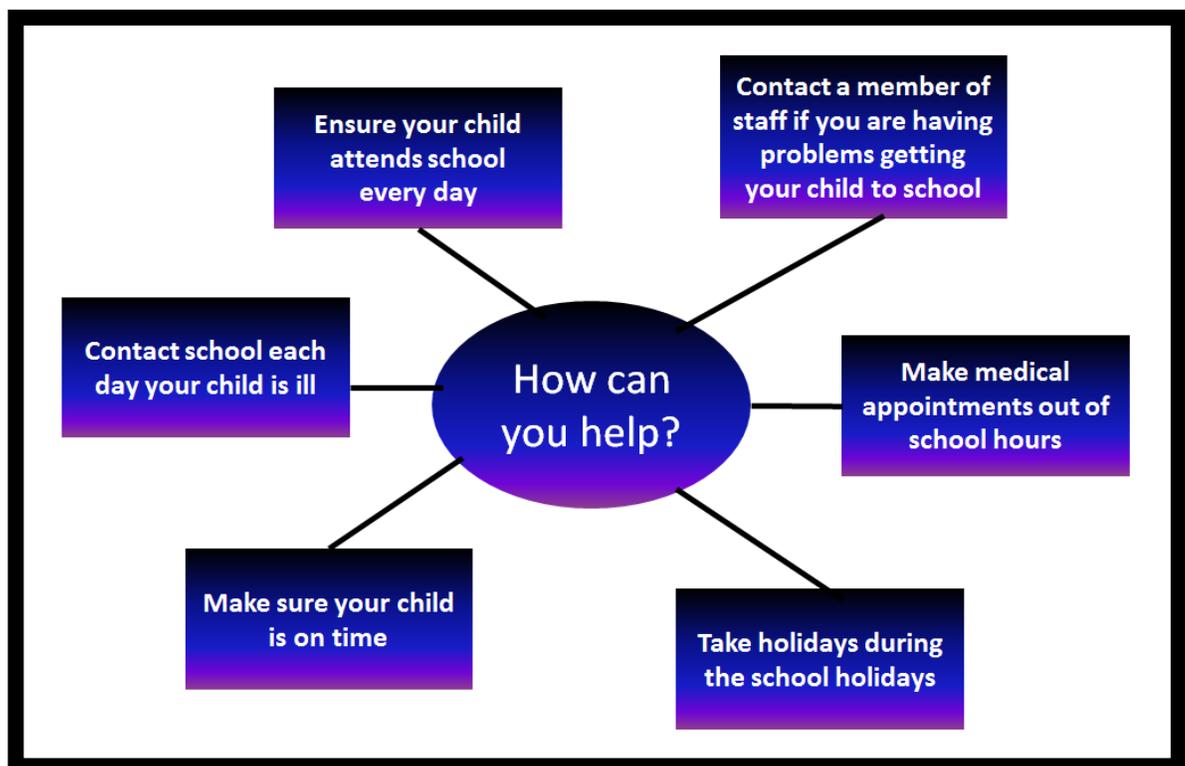
[Ruben Buckner-Rowley—Form 10 Assisi]

## Attendance DOES matter

0 days off school in a year 0 lessons missed	100%	Perfect attendance
2 days off school in a year 10 lessons missed	99%	Excellent attendance
5 days off school in a year 25 lessons missed	97%	Good attendance
10 days off school in a year 50 lessons missed	95%	Slightly below average attendance
14 days off school in a year 70 lessons missed	93%	Poor attendance
20 days off school in a year 100 lessons missed	90%	Very poor attendance

At BGN we encourage all students to arrive at school on time. If students do arrive late to school, or need to leave school early, they **MUST sign in/out** with the Attendance Officer and have a note confirming the reason for arriving late/leaving early.

*Make sure you are on time and in school everyday*



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** every month whilst donating to a very worthy cause – your child's school.

We currently have spare numbers available, so if you are interested or require any more information, please contact our 200 Club Administrator at [finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:finance@bgn.oxon.sch.uk).

*congratulations!*

March's winning number is **2**

April's winning number is **24**

May's winning number is **4**

June's winning number is **2**

## Sports leadership



This term Blessed George Napier hosted two large events for their Cluster of Primary Schools. On Thursday 4 May, 190 children took part in the Year 1 and 2 'All Stars' Cricket Festival. A further 175 children participated in the Year 3/4 and 5/6 Quadkids Athletics Competitions. Eight primary schools were represented, including Bishop Loveday, Cropredy, Hardwick, Longford Park, Orchard Fields, St John's, St Joseph's and St Mary's, Aston-le-Walls.

On Thursday 4 May 27 Year 8 and Year 9 Student Leaders delivered a range of batting, bowling and fielding sessions. These fun and engaging activities are taken from the 'All Stars' Cricket Programme. Our Student Leaders did a fantastic job giving guidance



and encouragement whilst adapting activities for all participants.

In the beautiful sunshine on Monday 15 May primary athletes completed a quadrathlon, competing in four events: the sprint over 50 or 75 metres, the run over 400 or 600 metres, the standing long jump and the vortex howler throw. Thirty-five Year 8 and and Year 9 BGN Student Leaders worked tirelessly to ensure all times and measurements were recorded correctly and athletes had an enjoyable experience.

The feedback we had was as follows:-

*"Leaders were friendly and gave clear instructions."*

*"Leaders were brilliant, adapted for children's needs."*

*"All the Student Leaders were polite and great with our children. They encouraged our SEND children and adapted activities accordingly."*

## Sports leadership *continued*



Blessed George Napier organised a fantastic day at Banbury Cricket Club for their Cluster Year 5/6 Dynamo Cricket Competitions. Eighty-five children and nine teams from three schools including Bishop Loveday, Orchard Fields and St Mary's Aston-le-Walls took part on Thursday 8 June.

Eleven Year 8 and 9 BGN Student Leaders umpired and scored games with competence and confidence. They also provided guidance and encouragement for the players throughout the day. Some of the comments received were: *"The games ran swiftly with ample opportunities to play. Children were given the opportunity to develop throughout"* and *"The umpires were excellent, very clear, consistent and helped out players"*.

On Thursday 22 June in beautiful sunshine, one hundred and twenty-three Year 3 children took part in a Multi-skills Festival.



Five schools were represented including Bishop Loveday, Orchard Fields, St John's, St Mary's Bicester, and St Mary's Aston-le-Walls. Participants got to try a variety of activities including relays, sprints, tennis, tag games, parachute, team-building, howler throw and archery.



Bishop Loveday and St Joseph's Student Leaders, transitioning to BGN in September, and Year 7 BGN Student Leaders were excellent at providing engaging and active activities for all participants. Some of the comments were: *"Good range of activities. Student Leaders were helpful and knowledgeable and "A couple of our Year 6 Leaders lacked confidence. They absolutely shone at this event, so pleased for them"*.



## Sports leadership *continued*

### Girls Coach Academy

Six Year 9 students have been attending The Oxfordshire Coach Academy, led by Inline Skater and Olympian, Jenna Downing. This programme is designed to work with young people to develop their confidence and leadership skills. Our Year 9 Student Leaders used their training to provide a girls' active club for Year 7 students during tutor time. Activities included benchball, dodgeball and dance. Fifteen Year 7 girls regularly attended these sessions where they had lots of fun being active and fully engaged. The aim now is for the Year 7 students to have the motivation to continue to be active outside PE lessons by attending extra-curricular clubs at school, or being active outside school.



Well done to all involved, particularly our Year 9 Student Leaders who have been outstanding role models and an inspiration to their peers to be active. Thank you also to Miss Hurrell and Miss Krober for facilitating this programme.

### Year 9 Student Leaders

Taqwa Saber, Grace Moses, Sophie Cummings, Atena Sowinska, Ceyanna Golland and Alice Tustian

### Form Time Club

As Year 9s, we know how sleepy and sluggish it can be on a school morning. When asked to create a club, we decided to run it bright and early in form time, with hopes to improve the girls' participating moods for the day, when the club began. We started off with dodgeball, where the girls became familiar with each other and began to work together. With the weather improving, we took the club outside for a week to practice on ball skills and hand to eye co-ordination. It was simple yet effective as when we continued ball games like benchball and dodgeball, their passing skills had really improved.

For the last few weeks, we just did every one's favourite—Just Dance! Just Dance was great because everyone participated and woke up in the mornings, whilst having lots of fun at the same time, even making some of the teachers in their morning meetings jealous!

It is safe to say our Form Time Club was a success, encouraging people to exercise in an enjoyable way whilst making new friends and being a positive way to start the school day.

[Taqwa Saber – Form 9 Assisi]

## Sports leadership *continued*

### Leadership Training Day

On Wednesday 7 June, we went to Radley College to receive more leadership training as part of The Oxfordshire Girls Coach Academy.

We left school at around 9 am and arrived at Radley College at 10 am. We then went to the sports hall and spent two hours learning first aid, some of which involved CPR, how to treat certain injuries, how to check if someone was alive and Dr ABC.

At the end of this we all received certificates and then everyone headed outside to have lunch. We had a 30-minute lunch and then headed back inside where we met Jenna Downing in person, for the first time. After a quick introduction, each group set about planning a 2–3 minute presentation which we presented to the other young girls in the room.

A little while later, we were split up and led other people in an activity, which we had planned beforehand. We chose to do *'chicken in the hen house'* which was really fun. All the activities were great, and we really enjoyed ourselves. In addition, we received a leadership t-shirt.



*[Sophie Cummings - Form 9 Calcutta]*

*[Mr Mawn—School Sports Co-ordinator]*

## Catholic life

Our Catholic life continues to flourish at BGN and we are so impressed by the response our students and staff make to Catholic Social Teaching. Below is a short account of all the things which have been taking place since we returned to school after the Easter break.

### **Year 10 Soli House trip 19 April**

A valuable opportunity for our Year 10 students to engage with their faith in a fresh way.

### **Year 13 Leavers' Mass 11 May**

Our Year 13 students put a great deal of effort into the preparation of this Mass; writing their own bidding prayers and using some of the Youth Choir to perform. Awards on the evening were as follows:-

- Shining light: Sam Danquah
- Wonderful friend: Joe Nugent
- Always smiling, always positive: Sam Wyeth
- Damascus award: Malakai Corbett
- Pride of Sixth Form: Molly Green

### **Catholic life staff meeting Monday 15 May**

Staff spent time looking at how Catholic Social Teaching is delivered in different curriculum areas.

### **Year 11 Leavers' Mass 25 May**

A wonderful celebration for the year group for five years in school. The Sean Concanon Cup was awarded to William Tomlin.

### **Lourdes Pilgrimage 27 May**

See additional article.

### **Ascension Mass celebrated at lunchtime in the Chapel due to external exams in the Sports Hall 18 May**

Led by 7 Edith. We hosted visitors from across The Pope Francis Catholic MAC too, who had been in BGN for a meeting that day.

### **Kenelm Youth Trust visit 14 June – speaking to our Faith in Action Group about the Synod called by Pope Francis**

See additional article.

### **Saint Peter and Saint Paul whole School Mass with Governor visit 29 June**

The Governors spent time looking at the Catholic Life of the school. They spoke to students and members of staff to find out how they can engage with the Catholic life of the school.

Year 10 students were able to go to a vigil Mass on the above date at St Mary's Chapel, Lulworth [in the grounds of Lulworth Castle] during their Geography trip.

### **Year 6 Experience Mass 6 July**

Celebrated by Father John Peyton and Canon John Batthula; a truly vibrant and uplifting celebration of the Year 6 Three Day Experience.

### **Student survey ongoing on Catholic life**

Students across the school are being asked to complete a short survey to comment on what they enjoy about the Catholic life of the school and anything they feel would further improve it.

## Catholic life *continued*

### **Choir trip to Belgium where the choir will be performing in The Cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula, Brussels**

Friday 14 July: concert – performance of 'Before the Angels' CD The Cathedral of St Michael and St Gudula, Brussels.

### **Whole School Mass – last day of term**

#### **Farewell Fathers**

Father John and Father Ryan will be leaving us over the Summer holidays and we wish them well as they continue to live out their vocations in their new parishes. We are so grateful for everything they have done for us during their all too short time in Banbury: Father John leading a different tutor group in the rosary every Tuesday morning was hugely appreciated. We have benefitted from their thoughts in their sermons and in their support to the school as a whole. May God grant them every blessing in the future.

#### **Lourdes**

My time in Lourdes was something I hope I will never forget. Being from a Catholic family it was a place I had heard a lot about from older relatives who had already been. So being able to go for myself was amazing; a chance that I am truly thankful for.

Being a Catholic myself, obviously the spiritual side of the pilgrimage was huge for me. Whether it was services of reconciliation, youth mass in the underground basilica, or even taking time to pray and reflect on my own, there was an immense reverence in the domain. One that has only strengthened my own faith and has done so for countless people before me.

But beyond the religious aspect of the trip, the volunteering is the other huge part. When working in the hospital in Lourdes you get to work with and meet some of the most amazing and kind people ever. Whether it be a nurse or a pilgrim, they are thankful for your help, regardless of your religion. It is rewarding to help people as other humans, where nothing matters other than everyone wanting the best for one another.



And finally, the trip is great fun! There is plenty of time carved out for sightseeing and shopping in the town of Lourdes, and so too for day trips and activities throughout the week. You become better friends with people you are already close with and make friends with people you would have perhaps never spoken to.

With all the above and more, I can only whole-heartedly recommend going to Lourdes. It is an experience that will teach you more than you know and stay with you for the rest of your life.

[Darragh Conway—Form 12 Calcutta]

## Catholic life *continued*

### Synod feedback from the Kenelm Youth Trust

In 2022 Pope Francis called a church-wide Synod, where **ALL** members of the Church had the opportunity to have their voices heard about their concerns and hopes for the future of the Church. Last year the Kenelm Youth Trust came into school to ask the views of some of our students and their questions and ideas were taken to Pope Francis in Rome by our Archbishop, Bernard Longley!

In June the Kenelm Youth Trust came back to feedback to our students on the progress of the Synod and let them know their voices had been heard.

[Mrs Harris—RE Department]



[Mrs Mawn—Head of Catholic life]

## BGN student raises money for CAFOD

On Sunday 9 July, George Fyfe from Year 12 enthusiastically set out with the challenge of riding 50 miles in aid of CAFOD in the annual Broughton Castle Cycle Sportive, starting and finishing at Broughton Castle. 450 riders took to the start line at different time intervals, and over different distances from the family 5 miles, up to a maximum of 100 miles.

The 50 mile route took in three Counties, from Oxfordshire back through Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, along main roads and country lanes. However, after 22 miles there was the spectre of Warwickshire's answer to the Mont Ventoux in Larkstoke Hill, which has two sections of ramps up to 15% in gradient. Having survived this, it was downhill [almost] all the way to the feed station at Moreton-in-Marsh, at some 32 miles, in order to refill with food, drink and a rather suspicious looking energy tablet, before a nice fast tailwind helped in the run to the final big test of the route, the mile long climb at Wychford Hill at 42 miles into the route.



View from Larkstoke Hill

After this test had been completed there was a long fast route back to the finish at Broughton Castle where a medal and free food was waiting for anyone who could still stand!

George completed the ride in 3 hours and 49 minutes, which was superb for his first attempt. He was almost certainly one of the youngest to complete the course and, at the time of writing, has raised £755 for CAFOD, which is an outstanding achievement.

A rather less enthusiastic Mr Wright also completed his 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the event in exactly 3 hours.

*[George Fyfe—Form 12 Assisi and  
Mr Wright—Year 12 Tutor]*



BGN A level student George was raising money for CAFOD

## Futures Conference and Workshops: Sixth Form careers guidance

Universities, apprenticeships, jobs, gap years, finances, interviews — the all too familiar list every Six Former faces when they move towards adulthood, attempting to decipher which choice will guide them towards success. When the ever-impending future looms too close and exams crawl closer, it may all seem a little impossible to decode this enigma. Enter, the Futures Conference and Workshops!

On 15 June, Year 12 had the pleasure of attending numerous conferences presented by Javier Garcia Sunthorn from Oxford Brookes University, Nina Antell from the University of Northampton, and Hope Nightingale from Aston University, to guide us through personal statements and apprenticeships. Aleena Judi commented that *“all the people who talked to us were really positive and everything they said was really informative”*, which perfectly sums up the majority of everyone’s thoughts after the conferences.

Javier’s talk focused on university, offering an insight into student life. He gave us an in-depth guide to researching universities according to key factors such as entry requirements, course reputation, structure and content, covering all the significant details in helping us choose a university that is ‘just right’. He comforted us with the fact that we will be offered countless academic support, including an academic adviser and student support co-ordinator – what a relief! Javier’s presentation continued to quell our panic of drowning in homework by emphasising all the extracurriculars and study abroad/work placement opportunities universities had to offer. Darragh Conway exclaimed: *“I found it most exciting to be reminded of how much these places have to offer beyond their courses”*. It seems that everyone enjoyed Javier’s presentation with his welcoming charm, Rose Healey commenting that *“it was like receiving advice from a good friend”*.

Continuing after Javier’s entertaining talk, Nina came to discuss student finances. An ‘eye-opening’ presentation about finances might have frightened some of us yet, nevertheless, Nina’s confident demeanour along with her detailed and informative speech *“was extremely helpful and cleared up some questions”* [according to Grace Pearson]. We were given a task to discover the world of budgeting by approximately counting our expenditure, along with our monthly budgets and income. This daunting and seemingly impossible task became doable. Continuing on with apprenticeships with Hope, Nikodem Kosowski said the talk allowed him to *“look at different undergraduate apprenticeship opportunities in much more depth and detail”* which made him feel *“more comfortable”* with the upcoming future.

On 16 June, Jenny Stewart-Cosgrove arrived with a bang, banishing our self-consciousness and developing our confidence. Tom Lifford commented that *“Jenny made him comfortable speaking in front of a crowd and made his words carry more weight and importance”*. She taught us the art of eloquence and speaking with purpose to our interviewers, be it at universities or apprenticeships.

To end our Futures Workshop, we began our UCAS applications with Mrs Ellul which was *“really helpful”* because it put *“our mind at rest about the daunting task”* [Sophie McFarlane]. This, however, would have been impossible without the support of Unifrog, a website that helps young people find and apply for the best opportunities offered by universities and apprenticeships. Arthur Stewart-Tanner said he *“used Unifrog more than ever, it helped him get a grip of expectations and options”*, followed by Thomas Mee who *“prefers’ Unifrog as everything is shown clearly”*.

## Futures Conference and Workshops *continued*

Introducing the parents' subsequent evening talk on 10 July, Mrs O'Donnell took us on a whistle stop tour of the possible destinations after Sixth Form, outlining the steps and preparations for each pathway. Following the highly informative Student Finance talk by Nina Antell from the University of Northampton, her final advice was to contact Student Finance England with any specific questions, as these vary from one household to another. Most other queries could be answered through Unifrog, or by emailing the Sixth Form team.



Keren Loveland from Cameo Recruitment rounded off the careers talks in an assembly, giving handy pointers of what to write in a CV, including transferrable skills that would apply to our future working life.

And with that came the end to our Future Conference and Workshops. Joshua Watts exclaimed it was *“extremely useful, and I recommend continuing them for the following years, so future students could learn as much as I have”*.

*[Aniela Pindel—Form 12 Calcutta]*

## Year 13 Leavers Prom



A fantastic night was had by all at the Year 13 Leavers' Prom.

With stunning outfits, wonderful company and a fabulous atmosphere, the class of 2023 did themselves and BGN proud at The Cromwell Lodge on Thursday 29 June. The evening was a fitting send off into the successful future all our students deserve.

*[Mrs Russell  
Sixth Form Administrator  
And 'Amazing Party Organiser']*

## Primary Team Maths Challenge 2023



Tuesday 11 July saw seven local primary schools bring a team of excited Year 5 children to take part in the Primary Team Maths Challenge. Although we had an unexpected fire drill at the start of the day [which gave the youngsters a chance to see how many students we have at BGN!], we managed four competitive rounds of Maths questions with Hill View, St Thomas More and Queensway awarded certificates and prizes. As a final fun activity, the students made Sierpinski's tetrahedra and fractal posters to take back to their primary schools, to round off a lovely day of Maths.

Many thanks to the splendid Year 9 Maths Leaders who supported the primary children and helped the day run smoothly. The primary school teachers who brought their students formed a team together and were relieved to beat the children!

We have not been able to run the Challenge for the last few years, so it was great fun to start it up again. Special thanks go to Mr Pike and Mr Smith for volunteering to carry on the tradition next year.



*[Mrs Lunel—Maths Department]*



## Maths Department competitions

### Year 10 MathsFeast

Eight of our finest Year 10 Mathematicians went on the minibus, along with Mr Buzzard and Mr Pike to Myton School at the end of March to compete in the regional MathsFeast. There were some tricky rounds, including a comprehension round looking at the origins of pi, involving areas of shapes inside circles, as well as stiff competition from numerous private schools.

Our two teams were a credit to the school, showing excellent mathematical thinking and resilience. They were placed fifth and twelfth respectively, with six points separating them, which shows how close the event was.

The Mathematicians were: Abhinav Adhikari, Josemari delos Santos, Pietra De Lorenzi Cancelier Magagnin, Ewelina Sroda, Christopher Fayker, George Macleod, Sean Mistula and Leon Sanoj.

Our congratulations go to them and many thanks to Mr Buzzard for accompanying the team and driving the minibus! We look forward to sending teams next year to compete for us!

### Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges

Over the last two terms, roughly 160 of our students have had the opportunity to compete in the Intermediate and Junior Maths Challenges. It was excellent to see the high standard of Mathematics demonstrated by them, so congratulations to all who participated.

Our particular congratulations go to the certificate winners who were as follows:-

#### Intermediate Maths Challenge

##### Silver Certificate

Isabel Conway	Year 11
Niya Nice	Year 11
Josemari Delos Santos	Year 10
Daniel Dziemiach	Year 10
Szymon Sitowski	Year 10

##### Bronze Certificate

Oluwatise Ayodeji	Year 11
Damian Ciesielski	Year 11
Megan Debus	Year 11
Daisy Gower	Year 11
Lily Harper	Year 11
Joseph Johnson	Year 11
Christina Joseph	Year 11
Martyna Kasprzyk	Year 11
Serena McArdle	Year 11

##### Bronze Certificate continued

Jack Murphy	Year 11
Gabriela Plaga	Year 11
Daniel Thornley	Year 11
Abhinav Adhikari	Year 10
James Conlon	Year 10
Tomaso Dariol	Year 10
George Macleod	Year 10
Steffi Reji	Year 10
Iannah Sacaria	Year 10
Leon Sanoj	Year 10
Ewelina Sroda	Year 10

## Maths Department competitions *continued*

### Junior Maths Challenge

#### Gold Certificates

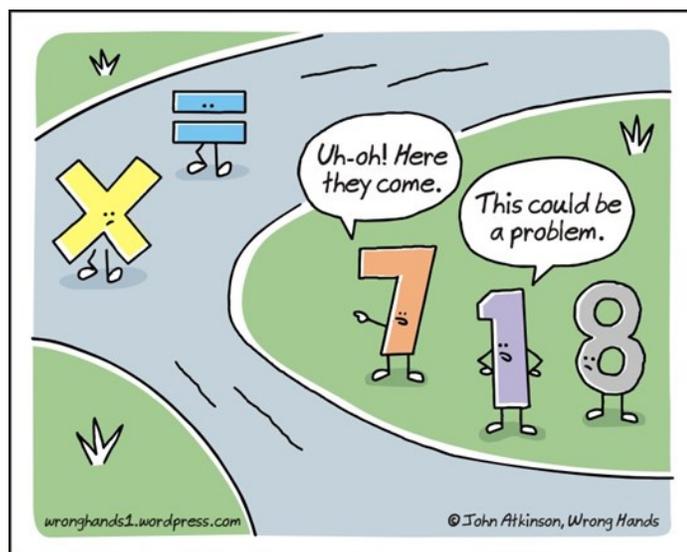
Benedek Varga	Year 8
William Morgan	Year 7

#### Silver Certificates

Serena Beak	Year 8
Jesse Bedford	Year 8
Matteo Bruno	Year 8
Mia Dariol	Year 8
Steven Mgonja	Year 8
Marek Nicholls	Year 8
Milena Oleksy	Year 8
Austin Sanoj	Year 8
Jerrin Xavier	Year 8
Thomas Andrade	Year 7
Jonathan Boateng	Year 7
Harinie Gokulakirishna	Year 7
Lilly McAleer	Year 7
Samrat Uprety	Year 7

#### Bronze Certificates

Oscar Brady	Year 8
Krissa Jestin	Year 8
Chris Joseph	Year 8
Nicholas Maw	Year 8
David Mfum	Year 8
Sophie Mitchell	Year 8
Salome Parkinson	Year 8
Marcello Prosperini Pizzini	Year 8
Toby Smith	Year 8
Iliana Troszczyńska	Year 8
Nicholas Watts	Year 8
Bianka Wisniewska	Year 8
Megan-Josie Amofah	Year 7
Kaia Baldemor	Year 7
Emmanuel Danquah	Year 7
Matthew Hayes	Year 7
Darcy Holden	Year 7
Surina Lehal	Year 7
Daniel Lestak-Maynes	Year 7
Harrison Linthwaite	Year 7
Ava-Grace Marshall	Year 7
Anashe Motsi	Year 7
Georgina Needle	Year 7
Sarah Nosal	Year 7
Zuzanna Soszynska	Year 7
Oliver Stanley	Year 7



[Mr Pike—Maths Department]



**United Kingdom  
Mathematics Trust**

## Exam results day information

Summer results will be available for collection from the LRC on:

**A Level: Thursday 17 August 2023 from 8-11 am**

**GCSE: Thursday 24 August 2023 from 9-12 noon**

If you would like any other person (including family members) to collect your results on your behalf, you must give your written authorisation to school before results day.

Candidates who would like their results posted must leave an A5 stamped addressed envelope with the Examinations Officer before results day.

Results will be emailed to the students' school email address at 8 am on 17 August [GCE], and 11 am on 24 August [GCSE].

**No results will be given out over the telephone.**

North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership works with 57 schools across the area, making a difference to the lives of young people in and through physical education, physical activity and school sport.



## SPRING TERM 2023

### SWIMMING

We've worked with partners to help students swim the mandatory 25 metres they need before starting secondary school.

Students supported: Number able to swim 25 metres:

**92** **44**



### ADDITIONAL SSCO ACTIVITIES

SSCO's offer bespoke school based support within their cluster.

Schools involved: Participants:

**9** **131**



### CPD OPPORTUNITIES

Providing and signposting training opportunities is a cornerstone of our support for schools. We provide a broad range of opportunities for school staff working in all ages and stages of learning.

Training opportunities: Participants:

**4** **75**



### SCHOOL GAMES OPPORTUNITIES

Our extensive and wide-ranging events have a clear intent and purpose, linked to the School Games. They provide opportunities for young people to be physically active and achieve their personal best through competition.

Events delivered: Schools involved: Participants: Secondary young leaders supporting events:

**38** **40** **2,562** **402**



### ACTIVATORS

An extension of our delivery team, they provide a broad range of targeted opportunities to increase activity levels in our schools.

Programmes delivered: Schools involved: Participants:

**25** **19** **5,007**



### OPENING SCHOOL FACILITIES FUND

We have been supporting schools to access this national funding to enable more young people to be physically active outside of the school day.

Schools supported: Funds awarded to schools:

**29** **£205,000**

