



Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Next Week (B)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 19th May	Year 10 Drama Dress Rehearsals	3:30pm - 5:30pm
Tues 20th May	Year 10 Food Mock Exam (Group 1) Bring a Grown Up! Food Workshop	9:50am - 1:15pm 4:00pm - 5:00pm
Weds 21st May	Year 10 Food Mock Exam (Group 2) Year 12 Drama Dress Rehearsals Creative Arts Trip Information Evening	9:50am - 1:15pm 4:00pm - 6:00pm 5:00pm - 6:00pm
Thurs 22nd May		
Fri 23rd May		

24th May - 1st June	Summer Half Term Break
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Following Week (A)		
Date	Event	Time
Mon 2nd June	Year 10 and 12 DofE Practice Expedition Year 10 Drama Dress Rehearsals	4:00pm - 5:00pm
Tues 3rd June	Year 12 Practical Exam	
Weds 4th June	Year 10 Mock Photography Exam	
Thurs 5th June	Year 10 Mock Art Exam Year 10 Geography Field Trip to Summertown and Cowley	9:00am - 2:00pm
Fri 6th June	Year 10 and 12 Silver DofE Route Planning Day Year 10 Drama Practical Exam	

Safeguarding

ALL

Please remember that if you have a safeguarding concern within school hours, please send a message to the following email address: safeguarding@gosfordhillschool.org

If you have any safeguarding concerns outside of school hours please contact our local MASH Team (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **0345 050 7666**.

Posted by – Mr La Porte

Young Enterprise Notice

Eco-friendly Puzzle (Logic & Leaf)

ALL

Logic & Leaf, a Year 12 Young Enterprise group, has set up a business. This is a high-quality environmentally conscious jigsaw puzzle with a seeded lid for a unique experience where YOU can plant your packaging.

Please [click on this link](#) to see the jigsaw and how to order. They would make great gifts!

Thank you in advance for your support.

Ben R, Jack S, Alfie C, Jacob C, Charlie B & Filip Z.



Posted on behalf of GHS Young Enterprise

Young Carers at Gosford Hill School

ALL

The following slide outlines the role of young carers in our community.

We would like to do more in supporting young carers at Gosford Hill School and, as such, are currently in the process of identifying students who care for others in their household. If you feel that your child is a young carer, please let their tutor know so that appropriate support can be offered.

Posted by – Mr La Porte

Safeguarding is everyone's business	
 Young Carers - Who are they and why do they need support?	 What do young carers do?
A young carer is someone 18 years old or under who helps look after a relative with a disability, illness, mental health condition, or drug or alcohol problem. This could be a parent or a sibling. Some children begin giving care from a very young age, and others become carers overnight.	The responsibility of a young carer is wide and varied. It can include: • Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping. • Physical care, like helping someone out of bed. • Emotional support, including talking to someone who is distressed. • Personal care, such as helping someone dress. • Managing the family budget and collecting prescriptions. • Helping to give medicine. • Helping someone communicate. • Looking after brothers and sisters.
Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying, and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact their experience in education. Over a quarter of young carers aged 11-15 regularly miss school. This can have a lasting effect on their life chances. One in three young carers said that their caring role makes them feel stressed. Research also shows that 23% of young carers in the UK said that their caring role had stopped them making friends. Another problem for young carers is recognising themselves as young carers. It's usually only when they reach secondary school that they realise their home life is different from their friends'.	

May Half Term Holiday Camps with Ignite Sport

ALL

At Ignite Sport we are excited to be running holiday camps this half term from Tuesday 27th to Friday 30th May, 8:45am-3:00pm at Oxford City FC, OX3 0NQ.

Camps include our popular Game Tech Football programme, Spark - a new programme which has a theme each day from nature and science to cooking and sport, Girls Only Football and much more.

For more info, and where to book, please [click here](#).

Posted on behalf of Ignite Sport

Sixth Form Notices

Supporting your child's UCAS application for courses starting in 2026 (29 May 2025)

Sixth Form

A free online session, hosted by the University of Bath, for parents and guardians of children applying to university courses starting from 2026. Date: Friday 29th May 2025. Time: 7:00pm.

This session will provide an overview of the university application process for parents of students looking to apply for 2026 entry. It will provide advice on how to support your child throughout their application and guidance on applying for competitive courses.

For more information or to register, [please click here](#).

Posted by – Miss Brimble



Oxfordshire Mind Summer Short Course Program in Your local Area

Please contact the information service to find out how to get booked on or visit our website.

Call: 01865 247788

Email: info@oxfordshiremind.org.uk

Text: 07451 277973



Banbury and Witney Short Course Program

Banbury

Exploring Self Esteem May 20th – July 8th - Tu 2-4pm.

Assertiveness and Communication 21st May- Wed 10-4pm.

Online

Managing Stress July 2nd and July 9th Wed 6-8.30pm.

Witney

SEND Support for Parents and Carers - June 11th - July 2nd Wed 10.00-1.00.

Managing Strong Emotions - June 9th - July 28th Mon 14.00-16.00.

May Half Term





YouthLab
Ages 12-17

Devising Theatre Masterclass

27 - 28 May
1pm - 4pm

Learn the building blocks and techniques used when devising theatre and creating a play without a playwright! This is a collaborative process, and participants can expect to develop their improvisation, storytelling and physical theatre skills. Prepare to have fun!

Tickets £40

NW Inventors
Ages 8-11

Physical Theatre

27 - 28 May
9am - 12pm

Join us for a playful and electrifying exploration of physical theatre, movement and devising ensemble choreography. Expect plenty of games, sweat, silliness and to push the boundaries of how we tell stories.

Tickets £40



Full bursaries available
 Email Laura on howellsgreenl@thenorthwall.com to apply
Book now: thenorthwall.com






THE OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE SINGING SCHOOL

The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School is for boys and girls aged 7 - 13 who love to sing. Established in 2013 to provide children and young adults with the opportunity to sing great classical music with world class coaches in a relaxed and fun environment, the OCSS aims to develop their confidence and ability in singing and performing.

"How lucky are these young singers. They are brilliantly taught and have a lot of fun, and you will be amazed at what they achieve in just a few days - and all in the most beautiful surroundings." - Bob Chilcott

Pupils will learn some beautiful seasonal music and at the same time gain a background in vocal technique, music theory, music appreciation and history. Singing lessons with a specialist vocal coach are also provided in small groups.

To join our mailing list and for more information on our courses, please see www.oxbridgesingingschool.com or email samantha@oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk

23 - 25th July 2025
St Barnabas Church, Jericho
Oxford

www.oxbridgesingingschool.co.uk



Oxford Biomedical Research Centre



Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre

HEALTH RESEARCH SHOWCASE

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE

Thursday 29 May, 10am to 3.30pm
 Leiden Square, Westgate Centre, Oxford OX1 1TR



Visit our interactive stands to find out about the latest in healthcare research.

For more information, visit oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk and oxfordhealthbrc.nihr.ac.uk

Spring/Summer 2025

NEW!

Parent Support Groups

Join us this term for our new round of parent support groups! Current and new parents all welcome!

Peer support groups for parents of adults or teenagers who have additional needs and/or mental health concerns.

These are parent-focused groups, facilitated by a professionally accredited therapist (UKCP/MBACP), providing a safe and supportive space to share and talk through the challenges you may be facing with your adult child or teenager.





When? **Mondays** 6.30 - 8pm
Parents of adult children

Tuesdays 6.30 - 8pm
Parents of secondary school aged children

Where? St Mary's Church Hall
Church Street
Kidlington OX5 2AZ

Cost? Free!

Empowering parents through shared experience and professional support
 If this sounds like the group for you, please get in touch with Rachel on 07514007374
 Alternatively email rachelreahub@gmail.com and leave your name and number for a call back



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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