

Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

God of wonder, we thank You for the opportunities You gave us for wisdom, growth and joy in 2025. We pray that, by carrying the light of Christ into the new year, we help others share in those opportunities and, through our lives, make every day of 2026 an example of Your love active in the world.



Key Stage 5 Bulletin: 18th December 2025

News and Reminders

As we approach the Christmas break, I wanted to take a moment to congratulate each of our sixth form students on their hard work and dedication throughout the term. It's been a challenging few months, with UCAS applications and a flurry of university offers and interviews for our Year 13s, and Year 12 now well into their sixth form journey. We have introduced some adjustments within the study centre that has seen all students step up and improve their time management and focus during independent study lessons which will bring well-earned benefits and outcomes in the near future.

Years 12 and 13, you've earned this well-deserved break!

However, as you take some time to relax and recharge, remember that balance is key. Use this opportunity to unplug, decompress and enjoy quality time with your family and loved ones—those moments of connection are invaluable. At the same time, consider using some of the break to prepare for the term ahead. The mock exams are just around the corner for Year 13, and the depth of your subjects, across both year groups will only continue to grow. Trust me, a little consolidation and revision now will help reduce the pressure throughout the term ahead.



The recent exam mindset workshop was described by you as “interesting, interactive and fun” and you said you found a number of the topics useful such as the memorisation technique and how to plan the night before an exam. It was good to see so many of you mentioning the Priority Quadrant and being able to see how relevant and useful it can be for you. This is a resource regularly recommended to the 6th Form, paper copies of it have been available on the stationery shelf in the Study Centre since the beginning of the year and we have attached it and a couple of other resources to help you plan your time so you can effectively achieve and enjoy all you need and want to do.

So, rest up, enjoy the festive season, and when you return, you'll be ready to tackle the challenges of the new year with confidence.

Wishing you all a wonderful, restful, and joyful Christmas!

Mr Thornton and all of the BGN Sixth Form team.



Dates for your Diary



Tuesday 6th January – Return to School – Week B
Thursday 8th January – Year 13 Art/Photography Mock
Monday 12th January – Year 13 Mocks begin

Please see letter sent separately for details of study leave arrangements.

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

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

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

Contour MedPrep and the CDI are holding a free, in-person workshop on **15th February from 10:00 - 13:00** at Imperial College London for **Year 11 and 12** students on who are interested in studying medicine. It will equip them with the

specific preparation strategies and techniques used by successful medical school applicants.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

Work experience week

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



UNIQ 2026 – Oxford University

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

Applications open: 15 December 2025

Applications close: 13 January 2026

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

Find out more about UNIQ here:

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



University of Sheffield

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

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

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



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

Choose from 15 different careers:

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



What is a Summer Experience Programme?

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

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



OXFORD ACS SHADOWING DAY

Oxford ACS Year 12 Shadowing Day

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

Venue: Trinity & Brasenose College, University of Oxford.

Join the Oxford ACS for a Shadowing Day in

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

University of Oxford Access Day for Young Women in YR12 with Bangladeshi and Pakistani heritage.

Date: 12 February 2026 **Time:** 09:30-16:00

Venue: Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies and the afternoon at Trinity College, University of Oxford.



TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

If you are interested in attending this event, please email Mrs Russell or Mrs Soiza to book a place.

Access Ashurst



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

SUBJECT TASTER DAYS & UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS



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

YEAR 12 STUDY DAYS

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

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

SCAN HERE



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

FREE

For Year 12 Students from Non-Selective State Schools!

SUPER CURRICULAR



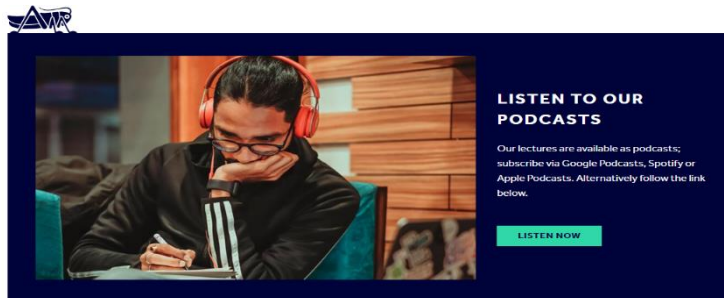
Super-Curriculars and Resources
from St Anne's College



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



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



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WHAT ECONOMISTS REALLY DO

[What Economists Really Do](#)

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



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

WORK EXPERIENCE

[NHS OUH Work Experience](#)

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

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

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

YEAR 12 - YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR WORK EXPERIENCE FROM 24TH FEBRUARY FOR YOUR JUNE WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK.



Interested in STEM?

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

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

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



[Virtual Work Experience with Springpod](#)

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



[Future Careers Experience](#)

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

MEDICAL VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITES

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



AFTER SIXTH FORM

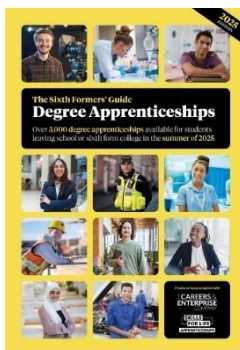


[University league tables](#)

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

OPEN DAY CALENDAR

[Search the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days](#)



The Degree Apprenticeship Guide

New 2026 Edition

The essential guide to degree apprenticeships

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



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



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



Thinking of doing a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship

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

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

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

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



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

Find out more information [here](#)

aat Accountants for the real world

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

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

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



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



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

Does your uni course choice shape your future career?

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

CHARITY & CATHOLIC LIFE

Thank you for all you have done to support the various charities we have highlighted during 2025. Whether through donating money, items or time or by increasing the prayers, kindness and hope in the world – you have made a difference!



[Our work](#)

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Online

Performance &

dance

Talks & debates

Tours & activities

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YOU NEED ME

To ACCESS the school site

To MOVE around the school site

To do your bit for SAFEGUARDING

