

# Blessed George Napier Catholic School and Sixth Form

God, I find myself too restless to focus, it can feel like my attention is being pulled in too many directions. Please empower me to be still and know that You are with me. I give You all the activities in my busy schedule and trust You to help me with each one.



## Key Stage 5 Bulletin: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### News and Reminders

It may have been a short half term, but it has been a very busy one and half term is certainly a welcome break! We now have just under 100 days left until the first A level exams so year 13 are on the final countdown. Hopefully, the feedback from their mocks and the targets they have been set in their reports (available on the VLE) will enable them to focus on their studies and to make maximum use of the opportunity half term gives to revise and improve any coursework they may have. Year 12 are now over halfway through the A Level course and will be switching to year 13 work soon, so it is essential that they use half term to consolidate the work from September as well as doing their homework of course. Please see the note below and attachments from Mr Thornton with guidance and support for managing your time over half term.

We are conscious that A levels are very demanding, possibly the most demanding examinations students will ever do, and whilst they do require a lot of independent work (for Y13 we would recommend at least 20 hours a week and for Y12 around 10 to 15); it is also important that students also make time to relax and focus on their wellbeing. Being in the right frame of mind for hard work can be difficult so in our PSHE programme we do spend time focusing on our wellbeing and how we can feel positive about work and exams. These images have hyperlinks to resources which are available to young adults to help them to cope with anxiety, stress and be in the right frame of mind for schoolwork.



#### [A-level revision tips for top grades – with less stress](#)

The more stressed you are, the more 'in your head' you are going to get.  
The Guardian

With the half term rapidly approaching I thought it was a perfect time to remind you of the benefits of spending some time getting really clear on what you need to work on, and allocating specific times that you will follow through with you tasks. As such, please find attached the resources you have seen before (but potentially seldom used) that will truly make a difference.

Year 13, you have been informed that those of you that underperformed in your recent mocks will need to spend a substantial amount of your half term revising and preparing to resit your mocks to demonstrate your knowledge, skills, understanding AND ABILITY within your subjects.

We are excited to be opening our Leavers' Hoodie shop to customers .

Hoodies can be purchased via: <https://www.schoolleaverscompany.co.uk/shop>.

You will need to use the **Username: 3594** and **Password: hPSrsKCm**.

You then choose your own colour/colour combination and can customise your hoodie too, although this is at an additional cost. You then pay online, and the hoodies will be delivered to school in early April.

## Dates for your Diary

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Yr13 Reports available on the VLE.  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February – School Closed for Half Term  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Leavers' Hoodie Shop Closes  
Yr12 Mock week will be Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Leavers' Mass 6pm  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – Yr13 Study Leave Begins  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Yr13 Prom

## Useful Links

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

To view and order your **Full School Group photograph** at **Blessed George Napier**

[CLICK HERE](#)

Alternatively visit [www.schoolphotographs.co.uk](http://www.schoolphotographs.co.uk) Click on 'Order Photos' and enter these details: Photo ID: KU2CFAPY Photo Key: DRDKPJME

YR13 Mrs Ellul's answers to a couple of your UCAS FAQs

- You can change your choices as long as you don't have an offer from a particular university.
- Student Finance calculator is available for 2024-2025. Applications open mid-March.
- Read university websites for scholarships and bursaries.
- Wait until all your offers come in - The reply deadline is 6<sup>th</sup> June.
- Check out the cost of accommodation in each area.

### **How much student loan will you get?**

The Government have updated the student loan calculator for 2024 entry, so you can estimate the amount of student loan you'll be eligible for if you're starting university in the autumn. Don't forget, you'll need to get your application in during the Student Finance England application window (usually March to May) to ensure you have your loan before your course starts.

- [Try the student loan calculator](#)
- [Student finance guide and 2024-25 figures](#)

**STUDENT FINANCE GUIDE**



## **Year 12 Taster Morning (24<sup>th</sup> February, deadline 5pm 16<sup>th</sup> February)**

**When:** Sat 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024, 10am–12:45pm (registration open now, closes 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024)

**Where:** Online event (Saturday morning)

**Who:** Curious year 12 students

**What:** If you are in year 12 (or equivalent) and you are considering studying physics at Oxford, but you're not quite sure about either physics or Oxford, then this event is for you!

We're going to be showcasing some of our favourite bits of the subject through interactive workshops, and talking about what it's like to study here. There'll be a chance to put all your questions to a panel of current undergraduates too. Come and join us! This event was also held on November 2023 and some of the content of this event will be the same as the Y12 Materials and Physics Day. We recommend that you do not attend this event if you attended either of these previous events.

**More information and booking:** [Click here for more information and to register for this event](#) (booking is open and will close at 5pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

## **Year 12 Online Masterclasses (dates in March and June)**

**When:** Sat 16<sup>th</sup> March or 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 10am - 3:30pm (registration open, closes 5pm 8<sup>th</sup> March and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024)

**Where:** Online events (Saturday morning)

**Who:** Curious year 12 students

**What:** Considering applying to Oxford to study Physics? Join us for a day of finding out more - about Oxford, about Physics, and about what you can do to take your studies to the next level. As well as including our Physics Access Officer's guide to Oxford admissions, this day of online workshops and lectures will also feature a lecture on cutting edge physics research and interactive problem-solving workshops, plus a chance for you to put your questions to our panel of current Oxford Physics students. Come and join us! These events are identical and students **should not register to attend both**.

**More information and booking:**

[Click here for more information and to register for the March event.](#)

[Click here for more information and to register for the June event.](#)

## **Adult Supporter Session (6<sup>th</sup> March, deadline 5pm 4<sup>th</sup> March)**

**When:** Wed 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7pm (registration open, closes 5pm 4<sup>th</sup> March)

**Where:** Online event (Wednesday evening)

**Who:** The adult supporters of prospective applicants

**\*\*\*Please note: this event is not for students, it is for the adult supports of prospective physics undergraduates. Share this with your supporters, whoever they are and get them come along!\*\*\***

**What:** This session is our first event developed just for the adult supporters of our prospective applicants. It aims to provide information about the application process for physics and the physics course and department, as well as more general information about university applications, admissions and life. Please visit the event page to find out more and to register to attend. There will be a substantial question and answer session as well as a chance to hear from some of our current undergraduate students about their experiences as applicants and now as students.

**More information and booking:** [Click here for more information and to register for this event](#) (booking is open and will close at 5pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024)

## COMPETITIONS

### What lights up your love of Physics? From curiosity to cosmos

**When:** Teachers must submit their students videos by 23.59 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Who:** The competition is open to year 12 students from state schools/colleges in England

**What:** Inspire your students to explore the fascinating world of physics by encouraging them to enter our exciting physics competition. Teams of up to three create a captivating video that showcases what fuels their fascination with physics. Videos should be around 3 minutes long and will be judged on content, creativity and clarity. From robots that navigate our daily lives to the renewable energy solutions shaping our future, physics is the force behind it all. The top ten teams will join us for an overnight event at Merton College where they will present their video to the judging panel and other finalists. The teams will receive:

- £400 in Amazon vouchers (for single entrants) or £600 in Amazon vouchers for teams of two or three (to be split equally among team members)
- £1000 for physics equipment awarded to the school/college of all finalist teams

The overall winning team will be announced at the Merton event and will be given the opportunity to go on the ultimate physics field trip, a visit to CERN (accompanied by a teacher from the school).

**More information:** Visit the [Physics Partners website](#). Please read the [terms and conditions](#) before entering.

### The British Physics Olympiad – March competitions

The British physics Olympiad offers a series of competition papers that stretch and challenge physics students (14-18 years). In March we run the [Intermediate Physics Challenge](#) (Year 11) and [Senior Physics Challenge](#) (Year 12). These papers are both one-hour long and free. Visit the [BPhO website to register](#).

## Medicine and Dentistry Conference 2024

Find out everything you could need to know about applying to Medicine and Dentistry in our FREE conference.

**Date and Time: Sunday 25th February 2024, 10am - 5pm GMT.**

**Who Should Attend:**

This webinar is ideal for students applying to Medicine or Dentistry for 2025 entry, as well as parents, guardians, teachers and support staff helping students with applications. It will also be useful for students considering these subjects for 2026 entry, who want to get ahead

**Speakers:**

Our panel of speakers includes Medic Mind student medics and dentists, graduates, admissions experts and academic staff.

**Get More Support:**

Join our 2025 application support groups on WhatsApp to get extra tips, exclusive early booking and discounts.

[Register for the Conference here!](#)

## MEDICAL VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITES

All Allied Healthcare university courses mandate work experience in a caring or service role within health or related fields, including direct observation of healthcare. Acquiring such work experience can be challenging, and there are areas that students may be interested in but cannot explore. That's why our LIVE Virtual Work Experience presents an incredible opportunity for students. Find out more here: <https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

This programme is suitable for students who are interested in the following careers:

- Nursing- Midwifery- Paramedicine- Physiotherapy- Occupational Therapy- Dietetics
- Radiography- Prosthetics and Orthotics- Speech and Language Therapy- Pharmacy

Students can register individually at any time throughout the programme using the link below. We recommend booking early to gain as much out of this programme as possible. Places are £10 a session to cover administrative and technological costs.

Students can register using the link below:

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

Applications for the free National NHS Virtual Work experience programme have now opened for 2023-2024! This programme is brought to you by Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust in collaboration with Medic Mentor, and it is completely free.

Students can apply for a placement, for free at this link:

<https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Registering for these programmes is simple - students just need to complete the free online application form:

<https://airtable.com/appuQX2ouadvjQUSU/shrroljLczgdg9uLw>



Applications to our UK Summer Schools and brand new Access Apprenticeships are now open!



## What are the UK Summer School programmes?

The Sutton Trust Summer School Programme offers school-age students the opportunity to immerse themselves in university life. Students will walk away with the confidence and skills needed to **choose where to apply and what to study, be competitive applicants wherever that is, and find support with a network of like-minded peers.**

Students will apply to one of our 13 top-tier UK university partners where they will take part in:

- **Social activities**
- **Taster academic sessions**
- **Application skills workshops**
- **Alongside the in-person programme, every student will have access to long-term support with university applications via our online portal STO.**

**All costs including travel, accommodation, food and activities are covered by the Trust and our partners which means it is completely free of charge for students to attend.** [More information](#)

## What is the new Access Apprenticeships programme?

Over a year, we will be offering students the opportunity to learn more about one of three different apprenticeship sectors: **Banking and Finance** (London based), **Engineering** (Birmingham based), and **Law** (London based). They will need to live within commutable distance of the programme they are applying for.

At the end of the programme, students will walk away with:

- A **work experience placement** at one of our partner organisation.
- **An in depth understanding of apprenticeships** and whether it could be the right route for them.
- **Networking opportunities** for future career opportunities.
- **Access to our online portal STO** for ongoing application support and career advice.
- **A personal application mentor**, including learning where to find current apprenticeships and understanding different application processes.

**All costs including travel, food and activities are covered by the Trust and our partners which means it is completely free of charge for students to attend.**

[More information](#)

## How can they apply?

To apply for either programme, they should:

Attend, and have always attended, a **state-funded**, non-fee-paying school/college.

Currently be in **Year 12**

We prioritise students based on a range of **social mobility criteria** including eligibility for free school meals, and the context of their school and neighbourhood.

Both programme applications close on **March 7th at midday**. We are unable to accept any late submissions so please do encourage your students to apply soon! [Apply link](#)



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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>



### **Sex and the Internet**

Professor Victoria Baines  
Tue, 13 Feb 2024

[Technology](#) [Communication](#) [Digital](#)



### **Dragons: A History**

Professor Ronald Hutton  
Wed, 14 Feb 2024

[Religion](#) [History](#)



### **Immunotherapy: Cure for Metastatic Cancers?**

Professor James Larkin  
Thu, 15 Feb 2024

[Science](#) [Medicine](#) [Immunology](#)



### **Sustainable Energy in Refugee Camps**

Dr Sarah Rosenberg-Jansen  
Mon, 19 Feb 2024

[Sustainability](#) [Climate change](#) [Politics](#)

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

## **Leonardo's Heart: depictions of the heart in art**

**With Professor Robin Choudhury**

A perfect post-Valentine's Day date – eminent cardiologist Robin Choudhury, who has collected hundreds of artistic images of the heart, asks how and why, through time and across cultures, we see the heart as the site of love, passion and emotion – even as some of its more literal functions have been revealed.



**Fri, 16 Feb, 17:30**

**Mansfield College**

**Free**

PwC are delighted to announce that applications are open for their three-day [Virtual Insight Programme](#) taking place this summer.

Are you interested in accounting, business or technology and want to explore what a career could look like in those industries? PwC's [Virtual Insight Programme](#) will give you the opportunity to learn about the different business areas through interactive sessions. You'll hear from those who joined PwC straight from school or after university, as well as build your employability skills and receive support on how to approach job applications for the future.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

[APPLY.](#)

**The deadline to apply is Friday 8 March.**

PwC are also hosting a Parent and Teacher virtual session, ['Exploring apprenticeships'](#) on 15 February, 5.30-6.30pm, where recruiters and current apprentices will share their stories and be able to answer any questions you have about apprenticeships or degree apprenticeship routes. [Register now.](#)

# **THE INVESTIN CAREER QUIZ**

Do you need help deciding which of our programmes to choose? Try our tailored quiz designed to help you reflect on your future career. Through a series of questions we will assess your skills and interests and recommend which InvestIN programme you are best suited to.

**[Take the quiz now](#)**

**A date for your diary:** [Careers Fest is back for 2024](#) and will be taking place on 20th March! This is your opportunity to meet over 70 exhibitors offering information, advice and guidance on future pathways and careers from a varied range of sectors. [Find full details.](#)

**oxme.info**

**Calling all local young people!**

[health](#)

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At times we all need a little support. The Oxfordshire Targeted Youth Support Service is here for you. Please visit [oxme.info/tyss](https://oxme.info/tyss)

All young people need to stay in learning until age 18, but if you're out of learning, or at risk of dropping out, there are things you can do. By visiting our [EET Hub](#) you can:

- [Find out what you should do next](#)
- [Explore your options](#)
- [Find local opportunities](#)
- [Request support from the EET Team](#)

Taking care of your mental wellbeing is always important. Especially at this time of year when the nights are long, and there can be pressures around how to spend your time.

Talking to people trust, staying connected with others, and taking 'me time' can all help. You can also visit our [Mental Wellbeing Hub](#) for more information, tips, and links to support.



**WE ARE AMAZING APPRENTICESHIPS**

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](#).

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE BMW GROUP UK APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME ARE NOW OPEN. [CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)**

**ENGINEERING EMPLOYER OPEN EVENINGS**

**BOOK INFO. & MORE [theengineeringtrust.org](http://theengineeringtrust.org)**

Tour these fantastic companies, find out more about the work they do and the **CAREERS & APPRENTICESHIPS** available.



Join our [Subject Taster Days](#) to gain first-hand experience of studying at university level and student life. You will have the opportunity to:

- Take part in lectures and interactive academic sessions.
- Experience practical work and engage in discussion on the topics.
- Discover our facilities and student life during a Campus Tour.
- Hear about the career potential of the courses on offer.

Each Subject Taster Day is free to attend and will give insight into a range of courses within a subject area. You can find a list of which courses are included here: [promotional poster](#) Also on display in the LRC.



TRINITY COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

## **Keble College Subject Taster Days: Engineering, Philosophy and Computer Science**

**What:** Academic tasters in these subjects, meet current students and get advice and guidance related to the application process for these degree courses

**When:** 10:00-15:00 on the following dates - Engineering: 12<sup>th</sup> February; Philosophy and Computer Science: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Who:** Year 12. Priority for non-selective state schools.

**Where:** Keble College

**Links:** [For further information and booking](#)

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on>

[Winter Exhibitions](#) [Literature](#) [Classical music](#) [Gigs](#) [Performance](#) [Families](#)

## Cambridge Announces the ESAT to replace the NSAA and ENGAA

In 2023, it was announced by the University of Cambridge that many of their established admissions tests would stop being run after the 2023 - 2024 admissions cycle. In January 2024, we have now learned what admissions test will be used for courses such as Medicine, Natural Science, Economics and Engineering. Find out more [here](#).

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Course selection is not the only thing to consider when applying to university, make sure you are seeing the whole picture by attending open days. <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/>



[Visit UniTasterDays](#)

Check out The Uni Guide Podcast **for an inside look at the student experience at university. In the latest episode, E26: Careers support before, during and after university Listen to this and all previous episodes [HERE](#).**

**Browse 637 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.

### *Valentine's Day Book Quiz*

St Valentine, eh? So much to answer for. Cards from your mum, roses forced to flower out of season and the impossibility of booking a table in Pizza Express.

Instead, forget all about those great romantic expectations, and throw yourself into the arms of the Faber Members literary quiz, which for February is on love stories in all of their many colours, flavours and eventualities. And no, writes John Grindrod, our quizmaster, there aren't any questions on *Wuthering Heights*, because that's not a love affair, it's a series of red flags . . .

*[Take the Quiz](#)*

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FEB  
15

FEB  
16



THE ARCHDIOCESE *of* BIRMINGHAM

### Dates for your diary: the month ahead

Sat 10 Feb: [Pre-Lent Reflection Day](#)

Sat 10 Feb: [Singing Day at St Chad's Cathedral](#)

Sun 11 Feb: [World Day of the Sick](#)

Sun 11 Feb: [Deadline to apply for 13-18 Worship Course, Warwick](#)

Wed 14 Feb: [Tabor Living Volunteer open event](#)

Thu 15 Feb: [Online: John Henry Newman and the English Sensibility](#)

Sat 17 Feb: [The Trinity Conference 2024](#)

Tue 20 Feb: [Annual Meeting of Ethnic Chaplaincies, Eparchies and Missions](#)

Tue 20 Feb: [Listening to God's Call, online session](#)

Fri 23 Feb: [CAFOD Family Fast Day](#)

Fri 23 Feb: [The Crucifixion, Oxford](#)

Sat 24 Feb: [Annual Intercultural Mass](#)

Wed 28 Feb: [Divine Renovation event: Health or Burnout?](#)

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

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Mr Thornton – [wtho0370@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:wtho0370@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)

Mrs Ellul – [mell8376@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:mell8376@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)

Mrs Russell - [rrussell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:rrussell@bgn.oxon.sch.uk)

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