

Sixth Form Newsletter

	Term 1 / Term 2	
--	-----------------	--

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been a hugely exciting first term for both Year 12 and Year 13.

Year 12 have thrived in their new role as Sixth Formers, showing great enthusiasm signing up for student leadership roles and external opportunities. Congratulations to our new School Council members and House Captains who went through a competitive application and interview process and will take on whole-school leadership roles.

Year 13 have been incredibly impressive in their hard work and preparation for their first mock exams. Year 13 also excelled in running the A-Level subject fair for our Year 11s. It was testament to this year group's characteristic energy, initiative and commitment to the school community!

Please see below for some other highlights from Term 1 as well as key dates and exciting opportunities to be looking ahead to in Term 2.

Georgia Mason
Head of Sixth Form

Term 1 highlights

A Level Students at an Oxford University Maths Lecture

Twenty-two A Level Mathematics students attended a lecture at the Oxford Mathematics Institute titled "Going for Gold: The Mathematics of Sporting Glory," where they explored how mathematical modelling applies to elite sports performance. Their enthusiastic participation demonstrated impressive curiosity and pride in representing the school as passionate learners beyond the classroom.

Philosophy and Ethics conference

Y12 Philosophy and Ethics students joined Sixth Formers from around Oxford at a conference titled 'Faith, Science and Reason' at Magdalen College School. We had the privilege of listening to Professor Alister McGrath on the rationality of faith, Dr Stephen Law on science and religion and Dr Emily Qureshi-Hurst exploring good and bad arguments for atheism. Listening to these lectures and the subsequent Q&A provided a great taste of University style teaching!

Successful early UCAS applications!

Over 20 applications have been submitted to UCAS and students already have offers from prestigious universities. Congratulations to all students who have already completed their applications!



Looking ahead for Term 2:

Year 13 mock examination results

Students will receive these in a mock results assembly 8.30am on Friday 28th November. There will be opportunities for parent meetings with the Sixth Form team where there are any results of concern.

UCAS applications

The school has set an internal deadline of 1st December for all remaining UCAS applications to be submitted. Students have been allocated a date to meet with a member of the Sixth Form team to finalise and submit their application. It is essential students complete all information, including their personal statement, and submit to centre by their review date.

Non-UCAS applications

To ensure students applying for opportunities such as apprenticeships and overseas universities are fully supported, we are running a 4 week tutor time intervention 8.30-9 Monday-Thursday aimed at these students. Students and parents have already been notified but if you would like your child to be added to this intervention please do contact me. Attendance is compulsory. This is a great opportunity to work closely with the Sixth Form team and Ms O'Connell our lead for alternative routes.

Year 12 Parents Evening

Bookings are now open for this on Thursday 13th November.

The Elephant Group

The Elephant Group will be visiting at the start of Term 2 to support all Year 13 students with the final stages of UCAS applications. The new Year 12 group will launch on 24th November with a trip to the Senate House in London.

Turing Trips to China and Vietnam

Please see more information on the next page!

Reminder - attendance

- Attendance is closely linked to academic attainment in Sixth Form.
- Good time-keeping skills are an essential habit for students to develop ahead of university and employment.
- All students should maintain an average attendance of +95%.
- Year 12 need to arrive before 8.30 and Year 13 need to arrive by 8.50 (unless they are in a tutor time intervention when it is 8.30 arrival).
- If your child is unable to attend school due to illness please ensure this is reported through My Child at School or directly to zspittle@oxfordspires.anthemtrust.uk



Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to share details of two exciting international enrichment trips for our Year 12 students in 2026, made possible through the **Turing Scheme**. These trips offer a unique opportunity for students to immerse themselves in new cultures, visit local schools, explore tourist attractions, and engage in meaningful cultural experiences that will enrich their personal development and global awareness.

Trip Details

•**Thailand:** Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February 2026 (February Half Term)

•**Vietnam:** March 2026 (Final dates to be confirmed)

Each trip includes **14 fully funded places**, covering all major costs. These places will be allocated via a **lottery system** to ensure fairness and inclusivity.

Lottery Allocation System

To support equity and reward commitment, students may receive **extra tickets** in the lottery based on the following criteria:

Key Indicators:

- Young Carers
- Students with Special Educational Needs
- Students receiving Free School Meals

Positive Engagement:

- 0% unauthorised absences: **1 extra ticket per week**
- Teacher referral: **4 extra tickets**
- 100% completion of independent study: **10 extra tickets**

All students wishing to apply for a **funded or self-funded place** must complete the **Microsoft Form** by **Friday 7th November 2025**. The lottery draw for funded places will take place on **Monday 10th November 2025**.

Self-Funded Places

We are also offering **self-funded places** for both trips. The approximate cost is **£1700**, and there is **no limit** to the number of self-funded participants. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in a life-changing experience, regardless of lottery outcome.

Please note: self-funded students must also complete the Microsoft Form to register their interest.

Why Join?

These trips are designed as **enrichment opportunities** that support our commitment to personal development. Students will:

- Gain insight into different cultures and global perspectives
- Build confidence and independence
- Visit local schools and engage with international peers
- Explore historical and cultural landmarks
- Create lasting memories and friendships

We strongly encourage all interested students to apply and take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

Warm regards,

Nicola Har

Lead Practitioner of Personal Development
Oxford Spires Academy

