



— The Cooper School —

Parent Bulletin

No 17 - Friday 23rd January 2026

Key Dates and Upcoming Events

Monday 26 th January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yr 8 & 10 Assessments• HPV Vaccinations (Year 8)
Wednesday 28 th January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intermediate Maths Challenge - Years 9 - 11
Thursday 29 th January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yr 9/ 10 Careers Fair P Hall 12-5pm
Friday 30 th January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non Uniform Day - Great Mental Health Day

Next w/c Monday 26th January 2026 -Week A

We would like to share a huge well done to our Year 11 students for their exemplary conduct during this morning's 2-hour and 15-minute exam. Despite the length of the session and the short notice, the cohort was truly 'exam ready.'

They entered the hall with purpose, remained focused and silent throughout, and exited with the professionalism we expect from our senior students. Not a single student required a reminder of the regulations. We are incredibly proud of how they are handling the pressure of this pivotal year—well done, Year 11!

To support the students as they continue their preparations, we have attached the [Year 11 Revision Guide](#) to this newsletter. We encourage all students and parents to review this together to build on today's success.

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Cross Country Success!

The PE Department would like to share some incredible news: a huge congratulations to Leo B. (Year 10)! Leo recently competed in the Cross Country trials and successfully qualified to represent Oxfordshire at the National stage of the competition. This is a massive achievement, and we are all incredibly proud of his hard work and dedication. Well done, Leo! 🌟

A Quick Kit Reminder

To help our PE lessons run smoothly, please remember to email Reception in the morning if your child does not have their correct PE kit. Providing a quick heads-up helps the PE department support your child and ensures they avoid any kit-related sanctions.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Non-School Uniform Day on Friday 30th January 2026, will be in support of Great Mental Health Day. This day aims to encourage open conversations about mental health, highlight available support, and reduce the stigma around asking for help. The Student Council has kindly requested that students wear an item of green clothing or accessory on this day to symbolise support, while keeping comfort and relaxation in mind.

Donations can be made through ParentPay.



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WE ARE WITH YOU is open to Parents and Carers of young People aged 5 – 25 years across Oxfordshire, you do not need an open referral or have ever been open to CAMHS to access the offer.

We have Parents webinars on:

- Thursday 26th February - Sleep & Mental Health. 5pm – 6pm, Online.
- Friday 13th March 2026 – Unmet Needs or Emotional Avoidance? Understanding the Difference in School Non-Attendance. 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Online.

Date to follow for Supporting Children with limited food intake and sensory sensitivities

Family wellbeing walks (during the Easter Holidays at both Blenheim Palace and Harcourt Arboretum.

Date to follow for Parents only wellbeing walk at Harcourt Arboretum.

Online, drop-in coffee mornings, 2 Thursdays per month, dates can be accessed via the booking link.

Dates to follow for in-person coffee events.



The poster is for the 'OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM'. It features the NHS Oxford Health and CAMHS logos at the top. The title 'OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM' is in large, bold, blue letters. Below the title, it says 'JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!' and describes the forum as a warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges. It lists activities: Connect, Share, and Learn, and mentions sessions led by Parent Peer Support Workers, Social Prescribers, and CAMHS Mental Health Professionals. It also mentions exploring topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space. A star icon indicates 'Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.' At the bottom, there is a line drawing of a cup of coffee with a heart-shaped steam, and a QR code for registration. The registration link is provided as www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involve/oxon/wmy/.

NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Service

OXFORDSHIRE WE ARE WITH YOU FORUM

JOIN OUR SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

We Walking with You on your Parent/Carer journey
A warm, parent-led group for anyone caring for a child or young adult (up to age 25) facing mental health challenges.

Connect • Share • Learn Join us online or in person for relaxed, insightful sessions led by:

- Parent Peer Support Workers
- Social Prescribers
- CAMHS Mental Health Professionals

Explore topics around mental health and neurodiversity in a safe, welcoming space.

★ Plus: Special Guest Events Hear from professionals and services across the field! and getting out in nature.

**TO REGISTER FOLLOW
THE LINK OR QR :**



www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/involve/oxon/wmy/

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🐝 Huge News: Help the Eco-Bees Secure £1,500! 🐝

We are thrilled to announce that the TCS Eco-Bees have secured a spot in the Tesco "Stronger Starts" blue coin scheme! From now until the end of March, the Eco-Bees will be featured in ALL Bicester Tesco stores (both the large Superstore and all local Express branches).

🌱 The Goal

This is an amazing opportunity to support biodiversity and environmental improvements at The Cooper School. While we have already secured a minimum of £500, we are aiming for the top prize! If we have the most blue coins by the end of March, we will receive £1,500 toward our green projects, including:

- New planters and vibrant plants to brighten our campus.
- Bird houses and bug hotels to support local wildlife.
- Sustainability projects led by our dedicated students.

📍 Where You Can Vote

Every time you shop, please collect your blue tokens and drop them in the Eco-Bees box at the exit of:

- Tesco Superstore (Lakeview Drive)
- Tesco Express: Langford Village (Nightingale Place)
- Tesco Express: Southwold (Holm Square)
- Tesco Express: Bicester Hart Place (Glory Farm)
- Tesco Express: Bowmont Square (Shakespeare Drive)

💡 How You Can Help

1. Don't forget to ask: If you use the self-checkout and don't see tokens, please ask a member of staff—they are usually happy to help!
2. Spread the word: Tell friends, family, and neighbors to choose the Eco-Bees box when they do their weekly shop.

Thank you all massively for your support.



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Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Careers Fair on Thursday 29 January 2026.

During the school day, the event will be attended by Year 9 and Year 10 students as part of their careers education programme. A wide range of organisations from different sectors will be present, offering valuable insight into career pathways, further education, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities.

The Careers Fair will remain open until 5:00pm, allowing students in Years 9 to 13, as well as parents and carers, the opportunity to attend after school. This will provide families with the chance to speak directly with representatives, ask questions, and gather further information about future options.

Here are just a few attendees joining us

Ace Training, Redbull, The Engineering Trust, Army Careers Center, British Gas, Fire and Rescue Service, Royal Air Force, Abingdon and Whitney College, Buckingham University.

We are delighted to welcome a diverse range of organisations, with more attendees to be confirmed shortly.

We strongly encourage students and parents to attend and take advantage of this valuable opportunity to explore future career pathways.

**Kind regards,
The Careers Team**



ORA SINGERS
Young Composers

Are you interested in composing?

APPLY FOR THE 2026 YOUNG COMPOSERS' PROGRAMME
to get FREE mentoring in composition with the award-winning ORA Singers!

YOUNG COMPOSERS	APPRENTICES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive 10 hours of one-to-one mentoring with professional composers• Write a new piece for ORA Singers• Attend a workshop with ORA Singers who sing through your sketches and give tailored feedback• Have your new piece performed and recorded in concert by ORA Singers in front of industry professionals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receive first-class mentoring through a course of online Composition Workshops• Fast-track composition skills with coaching on techniques and regular feedback• Meet with industry professionals & undergraduates and gain an insight into the professional world of composition• Write a new short choral piece

FIND OUT MORE AND APPLY NOW AT
www.orasingers.com/young-composers
Applications close Thursday 12th February 2026



Term 3: Secondary **School Health Nursing** **Newsletter January 2026**



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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