



Oxford Schools Chaplaincy
Newsletter: Moving upwards and onwards

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1: 9

For all our young people setting out on the next stage of life . . .

We are sure that we all remember that feeling of stepping into the exam hall, with its rows of desks and the clock ticking at the front of the room, feeling that our hopes and dreams all depend on what we do in the next couple of hours. What a joy for OSC staff and volunteers to be able to be in schools and college this term, giving out 'Exam and Revision Survival Kits'. Big thanks to fellow Christian charity Festive for letting us borrow and adapt their idea and their generous provision of excellent inserts - a prayer card and leaflet on Matt 11:28-30. As well as enjoying the treats, please pray the written content will remind students that their hopes and dreams can be placed in the hands of the God who loves them so much that He died for them, and that their worth does not depend upon those result envelopes in August but on the one who made them, loves them and is willing to give them what they most need, forgiveness and life to the full now and into eternity.



Thanks to MChe Lee on Unsplash, for the chilling photo!



**This little bunch of goodies is from
They know how full-on exam season can be, so they're sending you...**

Skittles
an emergency
stash for an
energy boost!

Post-it Tabs
to help you
keep on track

Highlighter
for when you're
in-the-zone...

Tea Bags
for that
well-earned
brew

Kit-Kat
for when it's
time to take a
break

Popcorn
to enjoy in
some
down-time over
a film

and some bits and bobs that'll point you to the God who loves you and cares for you

Shout out to Festive (www.festive.org.uk) for letting us borrow and adapt their great resource - and to Hemara, for spending hours in the office, filling gift boxes (below)!



In a survey of 16/17 year olds, in the Oxford College, nearly 50% of the students we met asked us for prayer, for their forthcoming exams. It was such a privilege to be able to assure them that the OSC team already is praying for them, and will continue to do so. Prayer is at the heart of all that we do, and at our prayer meeting each week, we bring all of our city's students, their teachers and all those who work in schools before the Lord, praying that those who know and love him will know His presence close in the midst of their busy week, and that those who don't will have a chance to meet him, through an outreach event, through the quiet witness of one of their classmates or teachers, through a leaflet or book shared, or through an

invitation to church from a friend or a stranger. Will you commit to pray for 30 minutes a week for your local school, its staff, its children and parents? If you would like to receive our weekly prayer points, please do email us on info@oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org and if you would like to join us on a Thursday morning at St Andrew's or at an existing evening prayer group - or start a prayer group with friends or neighbours, to meet termly to pray for your local school - please do be in touch.

It's been a busy month of May! In addition to all the usual activities we've had

- 6 special outreach events
- in 4 schools
- to over 200 students

We also squeezed in some special VE Day Events!

..thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 15v57

WHO REALLY WINS?



**LIFE
VS
DEATH**



**THURSDAY 8TH MAY LUNCHTIME IN F07
TALK & SNACKS
EVERYONE WELCOME
THE CHENEY CHRISTIAN UNION**

Some of the questions students asked:

Is there actually a winner in war?

Why does God let war happen in the first place?

As Christians should we be involved in war - if so why or why not?

What is the relevance of 'old victories'?

How does a war 80 years ago apply to us?

How does Jesus death that happened 2000 years ago apply to us today?

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to help the students to grapple with some tough questions and think about what the Bible has to say.

Special appeal

The Exam Survival kits we have given out this year to students cost £1.25 per kit. The booklets we offer to primary school students, with quizzes, advice and Bible verses to help them on their journey to secondary school, cost £1.50 each. Could you help us with this work?

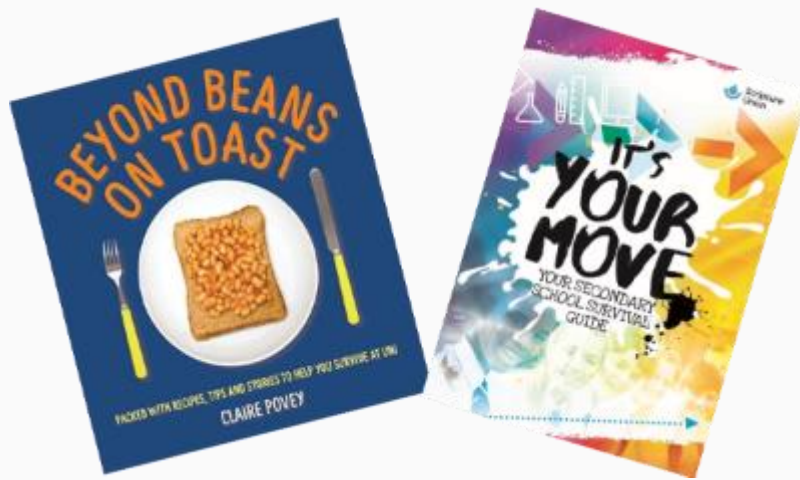
We are delighted this year to have doubled the number of year 6 students we are visiting, from nearly 200 students to just under 400 students, to share the story of Daniel, to talk to students about their hopes and fears for the future, and to introduce them to the hope we

have in Jesus, and to the Christian Unions they will find waiting for them in secondary school. But unlike our Christmas and Easter lessons, these lessons carry the extra cost of these lovely booklets.

£15 would buy 10 year 6 books for us to give away - or 12 Exam relief packs for older students

£45 buys a class set of books - or 36 exam packs.

Could you help us with a one off donation to continue to expand this new work, and so to reach even more students, in your local school? As ever, our bank details are at the end of this letter, or there is a link via our website to ways to "Support us".



Giving to OSC

As you know, the work of OSC is completely reliant on financial donations from individuals and churches. If you already support our work, thank you! And if you have recently increased your gift to us, thank you so much too. If not, we would be so grateful if you would prayerfully consider a gift to allow our work to continue and grow. The need is now becoming urgent. Could you consider a fundraising activity? A sponsored bake or cycle ride? Making a donation to OSC as part of your will? Holding a coffee morning now for friends and neighbours? We would be very happy to come along and meet your neighbours and share what is happening in the local schools, to see if they would like to partner with us, or to meet with you if you have ideas to raise the profile of this important work.

As ever, donations can be made by bank transfer, to CAF Bank Ltd, Sort Code: 40-52-40 Account No: 00021506 , or follow the link to our website for details of other ways to give at www.oxfordschoolschaplaincy.org/support

This work cannot happen without you. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Prayer points

Please do join us in giving thanks for:

- the many students who have heard the good news of Jesus through outreach events and lessons throughout the last school year
- the teachers who support our children in their schooling, and particularly at exam time, as the students prepare to move onwards and upwards
- the Christian Unions in schools across the city which are continuing to grow and thrive
- all the donors and volunteers who support OSC and make this work possible

Please pray for:

- The OSC office as we prepare for Jo to leave us, and advertise for a replacement administrator, that the right person will be out there, to help us to grow the work of OSC
- Upcoming Year 6 Transition to Secondary school lessons in schools across the city
- The OSC 2025 funding challenge - we need to attract new, regular donors who are prepared to commit to support this work, in order to see it continue, and grow into the future. Please pray for fresh contacts for us and new supporters and friends who are willing to partner in this work.
- Stamina, and peace, for our students and teachers, as they complete exams, celebrate the end of year. and in some cases the end of school - and for God's blessing on them as they consider their next steps in life. May this be a time of exciting journeys, fresh discoveries and most of all, of gospel revelation for many.



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***Clearly communicating Christian beliefs, equipping young people
to make informed decisions about faith and lifestyle***

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**If you would like to give financially to the work of OSC, please contact:
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