Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News
Friday 17th July 2026

Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

A note from the Principal…

I wanted to start my end of year message with saying how proud I am to be Principal of such a truly wonderful school. It is such a joy to work in partnership with such a fantastic committed community who wants the very best for their children. We have had another wonderful year with so many enrichment opportunities taking place that go beyond our curriculum. Our pupils recently took part in our very first World Environment Day! It was a fantastic day of learning, with students exploring a range of global biomes and examining the impact humans have on our planet. They also looked closely at sustainability, discovering how we can preserve the Earth for future generations through steps like using renewable energy. This fantastic work has led to us achieving our Eco Award! It has also driven the transformation of our pond area, the launch of our recycling initiatives, and the development of the Dashwood Eco Code (which you can see on the next page) . This award would not have been achieved if it wasn't for Mrs Beaumont-Allen and our dedicated team of Eco - Warriors- it really has taken off this year!

A further enhancement to our curriculum was our R.E day where a number of religious leaders from our local community came to talk to our children about their religion and the similarities and difference we have between us. As always, your children shone, asking inquisitive questions and, as always, listening intently to our visitors showing respect kindness. Mrs Dawson organised a fantastic learning experience and I would like to thank her for making all of these important connections in our school community and beyond.

I could write for hours about everything that has happened this year! Most importantly, we have worked together to continue building our school community. Welcoming more families from all over the world is truly enriching our wonderfully diverse community. You, our families, are so important to us and we are looking forward to starting a new year with lots of exciting events and opportunities. We want to keep our standard events in the school calendar but are always looking for ways to make things different and memorable for the pupils and yourselves- watch this space for some new events next year.

We would like to say a huge well done and goodbye to our year 6 pupils who have worked really hard this year; we wish you the very best of luck in your transition to secondary school. You have all been stars and we wish you well.

Now it leaves me to say have a wonderful summer break; be safe and look after each other.

Thank you for all of your support and we will see you all in September.

Mrs Gordon-Weeks

Look who came today…





We wanted to treat our pupils and staff after a great year!

Dashwood Vision

As a Dashwood Community, it was decided that the Dashwood Vision would benefit from an update to reflect our current community and the work that we do together to provide the best possible outcomes for each and every child. We consulted parents, staff and our pupils to gather everyone's voice and ideas to craft our new vision. We are pleased to share with you the vision that was voted for by you our parents, pupils and staff:

Together, we create a safe, inclusive, and inspiring community where every child feels valued, every voice is heard. Empowered through strong connections pupils achieve their full potential. Through respect, compassion, and high expectations, we enable all learners to belong, succeed, and thrive.

Uniform: preparing for September 2026

In preparation for returning to school in September, please ensure that you take time to read our Uniform Policy and Uniform Letter giving full details of our Dashwood Uniform.

Uniform Letter to Parents: https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Uniform-letter-full-2026.pdf

Uniform Policy:

https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Dashwood-Uniform-Policy-2026.2027.pdf

At Dashwood Banbury Academy, we are proud of our smart uniform as it supports our pupils' sense of belonging. We are so pleased that you choose to send your child to Dashwood and when you made this choice, you agreed to follow our Dashwood Uniform Policy. We understand that it can be frustrating when children mislay uniform, ties get lost, or shoes break but these do need replacing promptly. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you need support with any uniform. We do have a 'new to you' second-hand uniform stock - please see the office for more information.

Uniform

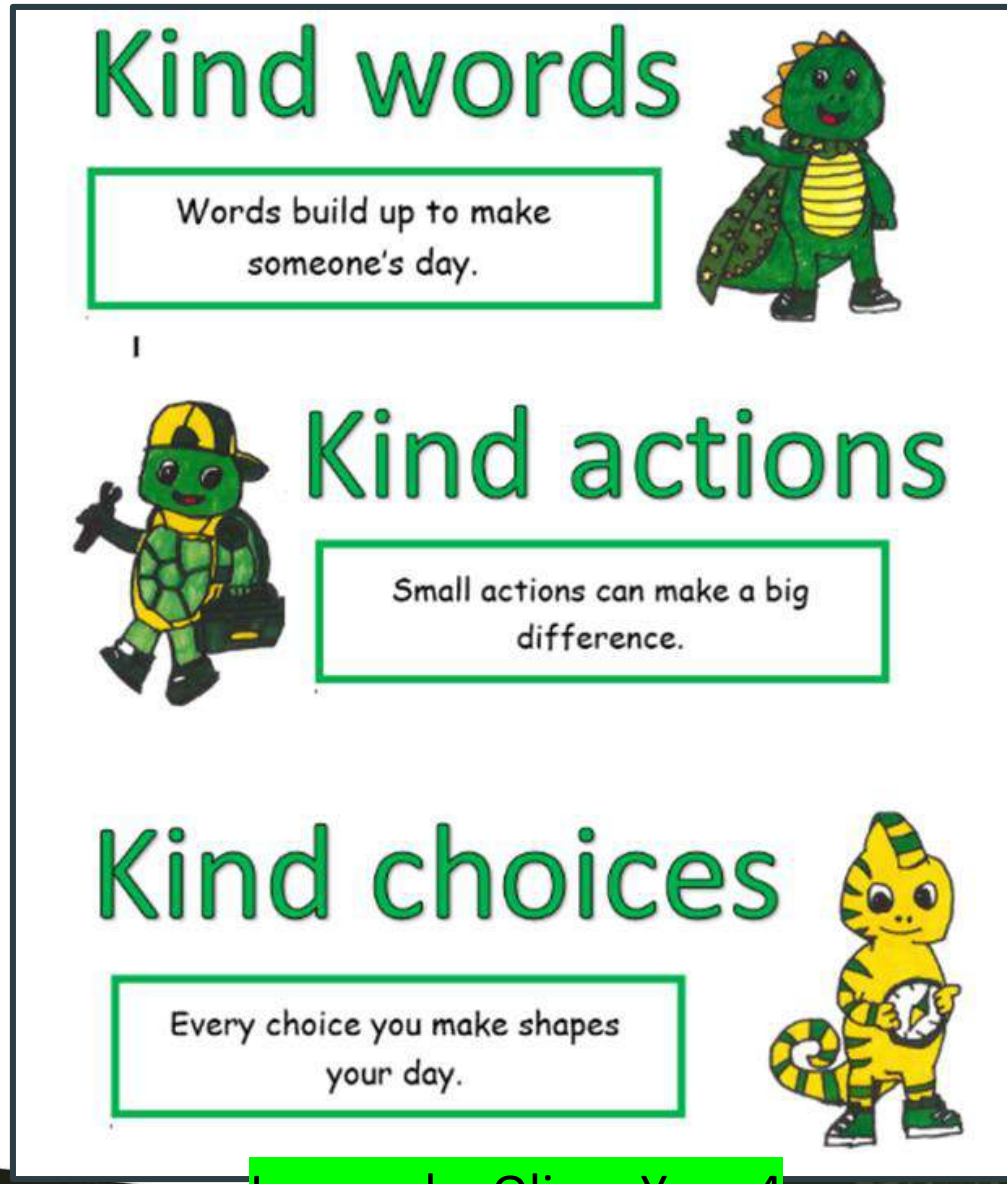
Acceptable shoes within our policy:



Please note: Laced trainers are **not** part of our Dashwood Uniform, they need to be actual school shoes. Trainers can only be worn for PE.

Dashwood Pupils' Kindness Code of Conduct

From the results of our Pupil Voice Survey 2026, pupils felt that we could all work to improve our empathy and kindness towards others. In response to this, our amazing Aspiration Councillors have designed the wording for our 'Kindness Poster' - a reminder to us all why kindness really does go a long way and makes such a difference to you own, and someone else's day! We are going to create some huge signs to go on our playground to remind our children about kind choices when out at break and lunch.



Images by Oliver Year 4

Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

PTFA Reflections - Another Fabulous Year!

It's started with a group of amazing volunteers who welcomed new families to reception with a thoughtful welcome pack to help them on their first day,

We then had a treat sale of popcorn, doughnuts and some sweet treats, this generated a massive buzz of excitement!

Let's not forget our Autumn school disco in which children from reception - year 6 had opportunity to show their moves and let their hair down!

Moving into the new year we had a spring disco which was a great success full of amazing dance moves and music!

We had an afterschool sale of bookmarks that were generously gifted to us, they were hand crafted and beautifully made and well received.

We then held a special lady in your life market and a special man in your life market. The children were able to choose a special item for their loved ones! They put so much thought into their choices and I'm sure you loved receiving them!

Finally we had a PTFA non-uniform day and the kids got to show off their individuality and style.

This year we funded the annual pantomime for years 1-6 and early year gifts. PTFA finished the year by purchasing our leavers t-shirts for the year 6's!

Previous purchases have been whole school ice lollies for their festival and funded some plants and greenery for the school garden. We also purchased tents and camping equipment to be used by year 4's on their annual camp night and a class set of glockenspiels so all children can benefit over the coming years.

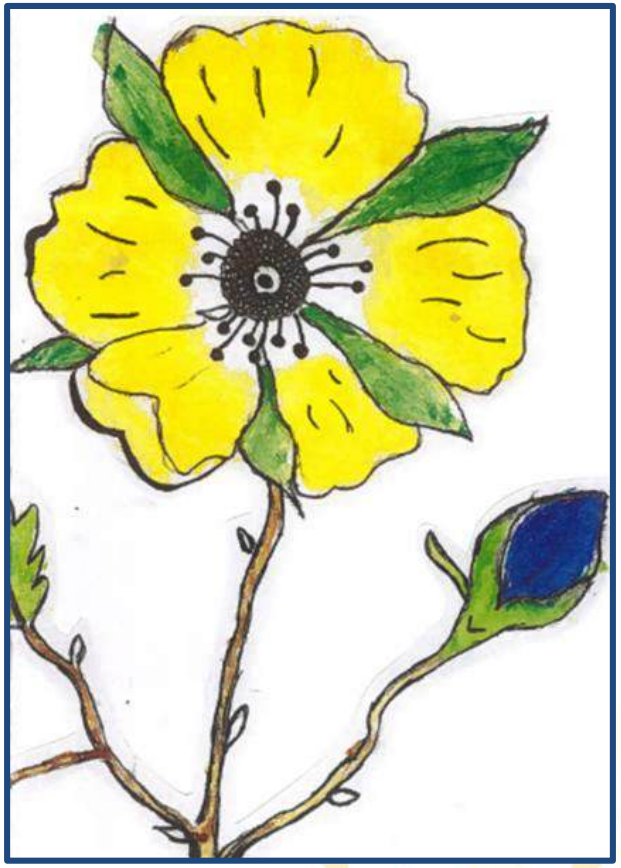
If you have any ideas that you feel PTFA can support please speak to the senior team or PTFA at one of our meetings! Our first meeting will be Friday 11th September at 9am.

We welcome new support to any meetings /events , please come along if you think you may want to support an event. The events cannot happen without support.

PTFA team you all have been amazing this year (and always) you have helped put a smile on many children's faces this year and your time has helped support future causes within Dashwood! A finial thank you to the staff at Dashwood you have supported and facilitated these events helping them run so smoothly. Enjoy a great summer and we hope to see many of you at our meetings in September and future events!

From your PTFA

Thank you to our wonderful PTFA members for all of your commitment and hard work! The events that you run so successfully provide our Dashwood pupils with enriching opportunities and experiences that will last a lifetime!





What have our pupils been learning this term?

Cherry Nursery

Cherry Class has been making the most of the summer weather with plenty of outdoor fun during the cooler parts of the day. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting creative by building their own obstacle courses using the soft play equipment, as well as playing classic games of hide-and-seek. Of course, no sunny day would be complete without the children's favourite toy… the bubble machine to add some extra magic to their playtime!





Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Plum Nursery

There was great excitement in Plum Class towards the end of the term as the children released their butterflies into the nursery garden. Since then, they have been eagerly looking to see if any have returned for a flying visit, while also searching for other minibeasts around the outdoor area. The children have been recording their discoveries by writing checklists of the creatures they find and comparing the features of different minibeasts. This has encouraged them to use a wide range of descriptive vocabulary to talk about their observations.

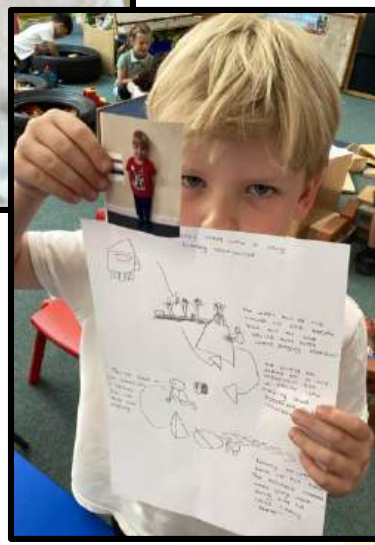




Reception

This term, Reception pupils have been getting creative by designing nature-inspired masks and bracelets using colours and patterns. They have also been using the rich vocabulary and storytelling skills they have developed throughout the year to invent their own imaginative stories, pretending they have been shrunk down to the size of a minibeast and recording their ideas by drawing detailed story maps. The Football World Cup-themed mark making area has also been a huge hit, inspiring writing and sparking lots of conversation and friendly rivalry.



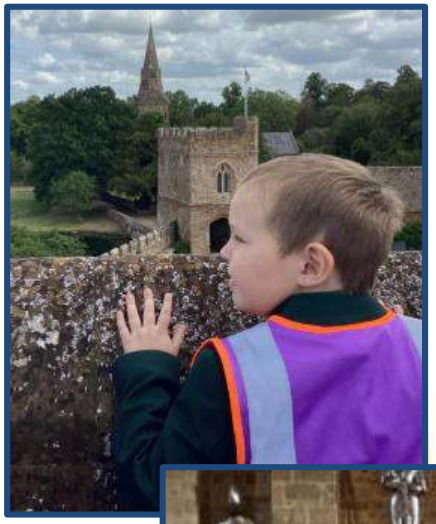




Year 1



Year 1 have had an exciting final term. We have explored castles learning about their features and understanding their importance during History. We even got chance to visit a local castle and found out loads about it's history. Year 1 then had the opportunity to apply their knowledge of castles to build their own using junk modelling.



We have also had visits from the local police to understand their role in our local community as well as sport's days and a play!



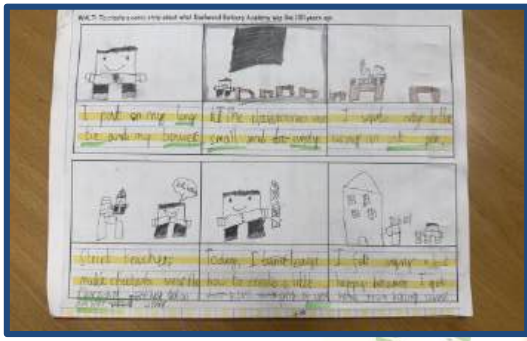
Wow! What an incredible way to finish the year!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a brilliant final term. We have learnt about victorian schools including lessons, punishments and classrooms. Year 2 made some lovely comic strips with all of their knowledge about victorian schools.



We finished our term making delicious, healthy fruit kebabs. Pupils took care with cutting and preparing the fruit.



We wish Year 2 all of the best for year 3, we know they will continue to make us proud!

Year 3

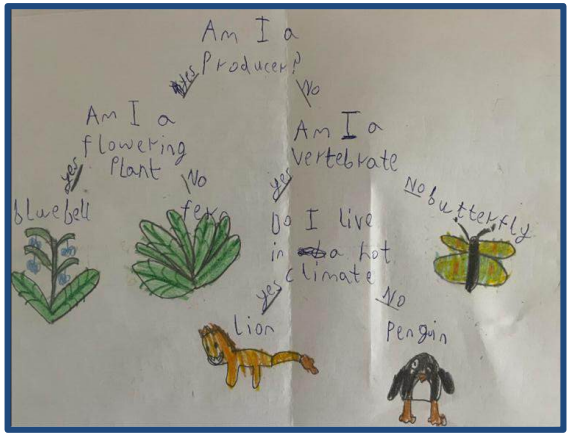
Year 3 have had a wonderful final term. In maths we have learnt lots of new skills including how to tell the time and using statistics. In creative curriculum, we have been researching how to make a well-balanced meal and used this as an opportunity to write our own healthy recipes in literacy. We are all a little sad to say goodbye to Year 3, but very excited for Year 4!

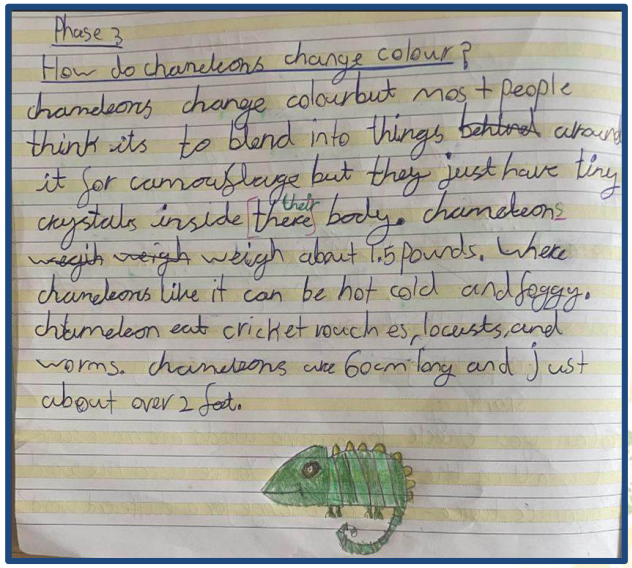




Year 4

What an incredible end to Year 4 we have had! In literacy, we have been looking at explaining how an animal does a task or why an animal has a certain feature. We used our note taking and researching skills to find the answer to some of these questions including: How do chameleons change colour? Why are flamingoes pink? Using this research we created an explanation paragraph to answer these questions and added illustrations. In science, we continued to look at plants and animals. We used our knowledge of classifying to create a classification key which incorporated scientific vocabulary such as: producer, consumer, vertebrate and invertebrate. Following this, we began to investigate the human impact we are having on the environment and ways to prevent it. We then created informative and persuasive videos focused on environmental issues including coral bleaching, plastic pollution and deforestation.




Phase 3

How do chameleons change colour?

chameleons change colour but most people think its to blend into things behind around it for camouflage but they just have tiny crystals inside their body. chameleons weigh about 1.5 pounds. Where chameleons like it can be hot cold and foggy. chameleon eat cricket roaches, locusts, and worms. chameleons are 60cm long and just about over 2 feet.

Aspen Ukuleles

Aspen Class showcased their talents in a performance to their parents and carers, which included a range of songs from Hound Dog by Elvis to Just the Way You Are by Bruno Mars. The children were confident in performing in front of an audience and have progressed significantly in three terms! Mrs O'Neill was very proud of Aspen Class!



Year 5

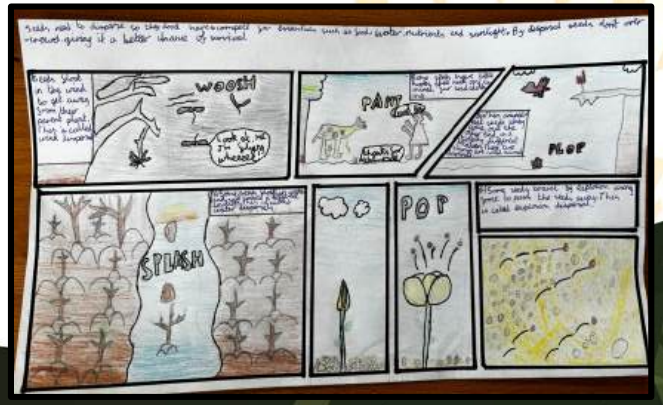
Year 5 have amazed us with their final science units on animal classification and plant life cycles. Acting as defense lawyers, the children wrote detailed reports arguing why their chosen animal had been misclassified, using excellent scientific vocabulary. They also demonstrated their knowledge of seed dispersal methods—and why dispersal is vital for survival—by creating brilliant graphic novel pages.

In Guided Reading, we explored 'Match-Ready', a text focusing on their upcoming transition to Year 6. Reflecting on the importance of being ready for the exciting challenges ahead, the children extracted key themes around resilience, determination, and taking learning opportunities seriously to design their own transition posters.

Well done, Year 5. What a positive way to round off the school year!







Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

Year 6

Year 6 have had an amazing final term and have been enjoying all of the events that go along with the final few weeks of primary school. They had a great time at Year 6 Fest, loving the bowling, pizza party, scavenger hunt and free time on the field. Everyone worked extremely hard to put on their play performance of 'Treachery at Traitors' Quay' and they put on several fantastic showings for parents, siblings and younger year groups. On top of this they still found time to have a forest school day, make their own bread, say goodbye to their mentees, attend the DGT final, complete some maths challenges and have a wonderful celebration at graduation assembly.

Well done to everyone on an incredible year! We wish you the best of luck at your new schools. You will all be greatly missed!







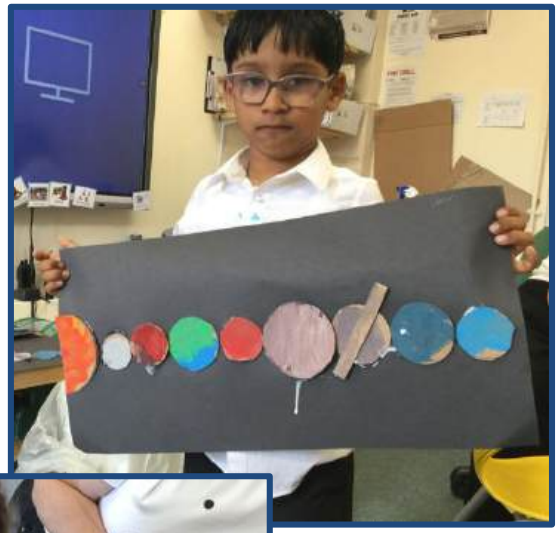
Laurel Class



Laurel Class have been taking it easy during the heatwave. Despite the hot weather, we loved painting our own solar systems, which we will be putting together next week. We have also had a fantastic time playing with water to try and keep cool! Last week was our sports day, and it was an amazing day for everyone. To top off a great year, we also had a wonderful visit from the planetarium.

The Treehouse

This term we have visited the butterfly farm where we watched them feeding on pineapple and saw them land on our friends' heads. We have also travelled to Space with Baby bear in his rocket and visited the moon. We looked at the planets in the solar system and made our own planets and solar system. Some of us can order the planets!







Dashwood's Got Talent

We are bursting with pride after this year's talent contest! Every single performer blew us away with their grit, resilience, and confidence. Huge congratulations to our wonderful winners—your engaging performances were truly unforgettable! Thank you to everyone who took part and cheered our stars on!



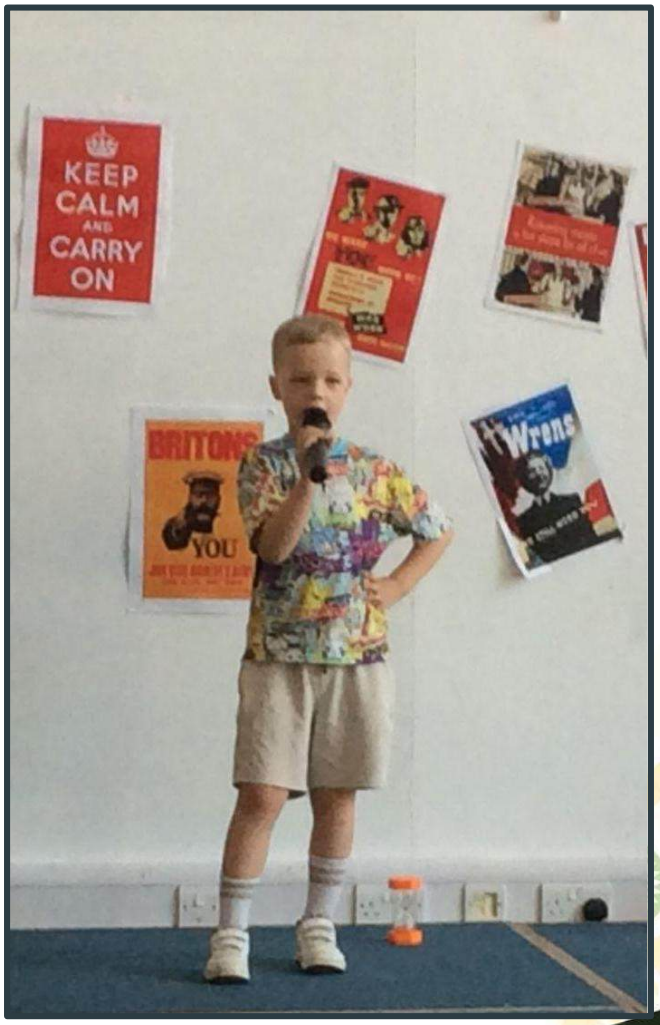




Dashwood Banbury Ac
an Aspirations Academy

Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute









Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

Sports' Day 2026





Well done to all of our pupils for your amazing efforts in our Sports' Days this year - you were all incredible, especially as it has been hot!

Thank you to all of our parents and carers for supporting these events to make it a lovely community atmosphere!

The overall winners of Sports' Day 2026 are **YELLOW** Aspiration Family. Congratulations!

Up and coming events and dates for your diary for the new year

https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Term-1-dates-2026.docx.pdf

Brand NEW Parent Pods

We are excited to introduce our new **Dashwood Parent Pods**, which will be replacing the Dashwood Action Committee!

We will be hosting informal, drop-in sessions twice a term, each focusing on a different helpful topic. There is no pressure to stay for the whole session—please feel free to just pop in and pick up our information packs.

As always, every session is a space for you to raise any questions, ideas, or feedback. We want to work closely with you to help our school and wider community continue to grow!

Please see next side for the overview of Parent Pods and their focus. If you would like a hard copy, please ask the office.

More information about the Dashwood Parent Pod. We look forward to welcoming you to the sessions.

See the full flyer at: https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/about-us/dashwood-action-committee/

Dashwood Banbury Acad
an Aspirations Academy



Cherwell Languages for French Clubs with La Jolie Ronde

See the full flyer at: https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/French-Newsletter-2026.pdf

Dashwood Banbury Ac
an Aspirations Academy

CHERWELL LANGUAGES
Fun French Clubs with La Jolie Ronde

e: cherwell.languages@gmail.com
w: https://www.facebook.com/cherwell.languages/
t: 07963 086582

La Jolie Ronde
Happy Language Learning

Dear Parents,

Our first year of Dashwood French clubs has been... magnifique!

Through fun activities, games and songs the children have made **terrific progress** in their French language skills. You may have seen three of our learners appearing in the **Dashwood's Got Talent** shows this week, confidently performing **"J'aime les chats"** (a song about animals) to pupils, teachers and parents alike…



French clubs will return in September!
WEDNESDAYS, 3.15-.45pm (Years 1-3); 4.00-4.30pm (Years 4-6)



New, high-quality
La Jolie Ronde programmes

Costs only £8 per class

We're now taking bookings for continuing and new pupils… so don't delay!

- New pupils – to enquire and enrol, please contact me (contact details at the top of this letter)
- Continuing pupils – you will be automatically enrolled, details to follow

Parent and Carer Support Section

Summer Savings for Families!

The government is cutting VAT from 20% to 5% on family days out — from cinema and theatre tickets to attractions, and children's meals out. Less to pay, more summer to enjoy.

25 June – 1 September 2026, right across the UK

For more information, follow this link:

https://summersavings.gov.uk/?es_c=5ED323028D7ABD06027648F559A4499B&es_cl=9FE4E763127A5675F607CFD253C0900E&es_id=ph7%c2%a322

NSPCC - Speak Out. Stay Safe. Activities for home

This is great resource for parents to do activities with their children at home with lots of advice and support:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/safety/activities-safety-kids/?utm_old=SOSSactivities

Community Music Opportunities for those who play an instrument.



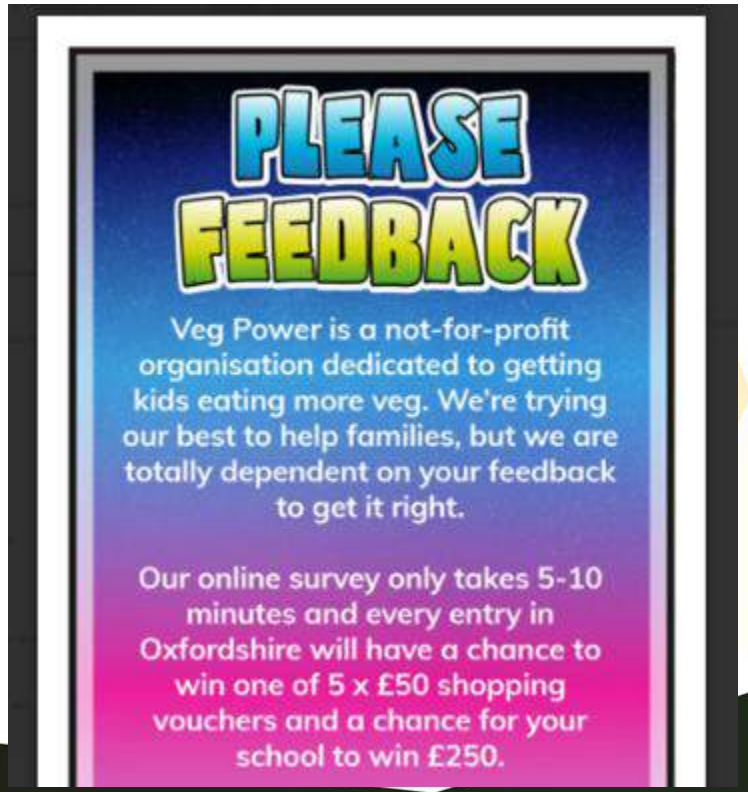
Dashwood Banbury Acad
an Aspirations Academy

Support videos from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service.





Please complete the survey below:
https://eatthemtodefeatthem.com/oxfordshire-survey/



Safeguarding - What to do if you have a concern about a child

If you have a concern about any child over the holidays you can, make a referral as a member of the public. For more information on how to do this follow:

Report child abuse | Oxfordshire County Council

Report abuse to the NSPCC

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.

Locality and Community Service

The LCSS may be able to support if you have any concerns over the summer. They will listen to your concern and direct you to the most appropriate support service in your area.

0345 241 2705 (Main LCSS number) or 0345 241 2703 (North Oxfordshire direct line)

Feeding the family over the holidays

We understand that longer school holidays can be an expensive time. We also recognise that Oxfordshire County council no longer provide supermarket vouchers for free school meal children during the holidays.

Local foodbanks can provide emergency supplied in times of crisis.

https://banbury.foodbank.org.uk/
https://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Services/6706

Surplus food services and apps

Too Good to Go - lets you purchase heavily discounted surplus food from restaurants and supermarkets (Greggs, Costa, Co-op). You reserve a bag on the app and pick up at a designated time.

Olio - connects you with local shops (Sainsbury's, Lidl) and neighbours who give away surplus food for free.





STANDING in the GAP

Supporting children to manage their emotions

www.standinginthegap.uk

Standing in the Gap is an early intervention mental health charity based in Bloxham, Banbury.
We support preschool and primary aged children and families by providing the tools to build emotional wellbeing and good child mental health.

Managing Anger
in 4–11 year olds

**Does your child get really angry, shout and break things?
Do you want to support them but aren't always sure how to?**

Come along and join one of our monthly online **Managing Anger workshops**. We look at:

- Understanding the thoughts and feelings behind the Anger
- Practical interventions to build your own toolkit
- Meet our Elves



Every parent who has attended the workshop would recommend it to another parent:

"This was an informative and easy to follow session with useful tips on helping your child manage their anger. I would highly recommend it."
"Hugely informative, exactly the right pitch and speed, and loads of practical useful stuff as well as background and context."

How to book your place on the workshop

Scan the QR Code or visit:
https://standinginthegap.uk/managing-anger
Book ONE ticket per family group
We will send you a link 48 hours before the workshop

STANDING in the GAP

Supporting children to manage their emotions

www.standinginthegap.uk

Standing in the Gap is an early intervention mental health charity based in Bloxham, Banbury.
We support preschool and primary aged children and families by providing the tools to build emotional wellbeing and good child mental health.

Managing Anxiety
in 4–11 year olds

**Does your child get anxious, worried or wobbled about doing things?
Do you want to support them but aren't always sure how to?**

Come along and join one of our monthly online **Managing Anxiety workshops**. We look at:

- What causes Anxiety and what it feels like
- Practical techniques that can help
- Meet our Elves



Every parent who has attended the workshop felt more confident at managing their child's anxiety:

"It was really informative and reassuring, I feel supported not isolated."
"This was great, not too long and fun for the kids".
" A good overview of causes and feelings and ideas for tools, Sam was brilliant and explained everything".

How to book your place on the workshop

Scan the QR Code or visit:
https://standinginthegap.uk/managing-anxiety-workshop
Book ONE ticket per family group
We will send you a link 48 hours before the workshop

Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

Term dates for 2026-2027

Term 1 2026: Thursday 3rd September - Friday 23rd October
INSET DAYS: Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September - School closed for pupils
INSET DAY: Friday 16th October

Term 2 2026: Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December
INSET DAYS: **Friday 27th and Monday 30th November** - School closed for pupils
Last day - Friday 18th December - school closes at 1.30 pm

Term 3 2027: Tuesday 5th January 2027 - Friday 12th February
INSET DAY: Monday 4th January - School closed for pupils

Term 4 2027: Monday 22nd February - Thursday 25th March

Term 5 2027: Monday 12th April to Thursday 27th May
Bank Holiday: Monday 3rd May - School Closed
INSET DAY: Friday 28th May - school closed for pupils

Term 6 2027: Monday 7th June - Wednesday 21st July
Last day of term - Wednesday 21st July - school closes at 1.30 pm