



ST GABRIEL'S

NEWBURY

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES





CONTENTS

Learning Beyond the Classroom	2
The Co-Curricular Programme	4
Cognitive Activities	5
Creative & Hobby Activities	9
Performing Arts Activities	11
Sporting Activities	14
Outdoor & Community Activities	16
How to Sign Up	18



Learning **Beyond** The Classroom

At St Gabriel's, education extends far beyond the classroom. Alongside a rich academic curriculum, our vibrant co-curricular programme inspires **curiosity**, builds **resilience**, and develops the **confidence** pupils need to thrive in life. From Junior School through to Sixth Form, pupils have access to a wealth of opportunities to explore interests, discover new talents, and nurture their **passions**.

Relationships lie at the heart of St Gabriel's. In every classroom and club, pupils encounter a culture of dialogue, encouragement, and collaboration. They learn to think critically and independently, persevere through challenges, work effectively as a team, and appreciate different perspectives. Balance is central to our ethos: we want children to enjoy their educational journey, try new experiences, and flourish both personally and academically.



A World of Opportunities

The breadth of our co-curricular offering is second to none. Whether it's science or sport, textiles or technology, Greenpower or gardening, flying club or performing arts, there is something to inspire every child.

Opportunities run throughout the school day and as part of our wraparound care, allowing pupils to immerse themselves in music, drama, creative pursuits, community service, and a wide variety of sports.

At St Gabriel's, we know that happy, balanced children flourish. By giving every pupil the chance to explore, create, and challenge themselves, we ensure they leave as confident, well-rounded young adults — ready for whatever comes next.



Happy, balanced children flourish — exploring, creating, and challenging themselves.



The Co-Curricular Programme

Pupils can choose from over 75 clubs and activities each year. Activities take place both during the school day and as part of our extensive wraparound care, giving families flexibility and pupils the chance to make the most of their time at school.

The co-curricular programme is dynamic — new clubs are regularly introduced in response to pupil interests, while others may change seasonally.

Some clubs are free, while others may incur a charge to cover specialist tuition from external providers (marked with * throughout the booklet). Most clubs run termly, with pupils signing up at the start of each term. A few, particularly those linked to performances or competitions, may require annual commitment.

Activities are grouped into six broad categories:

COGNITIVE

Academic clinics & enrichment opportunities

CREATIVE & HOBBIES

From arts & crafts to technology & textiles

COMMUNITY

Volunteering & service-based activities

PERFORMING ARTS

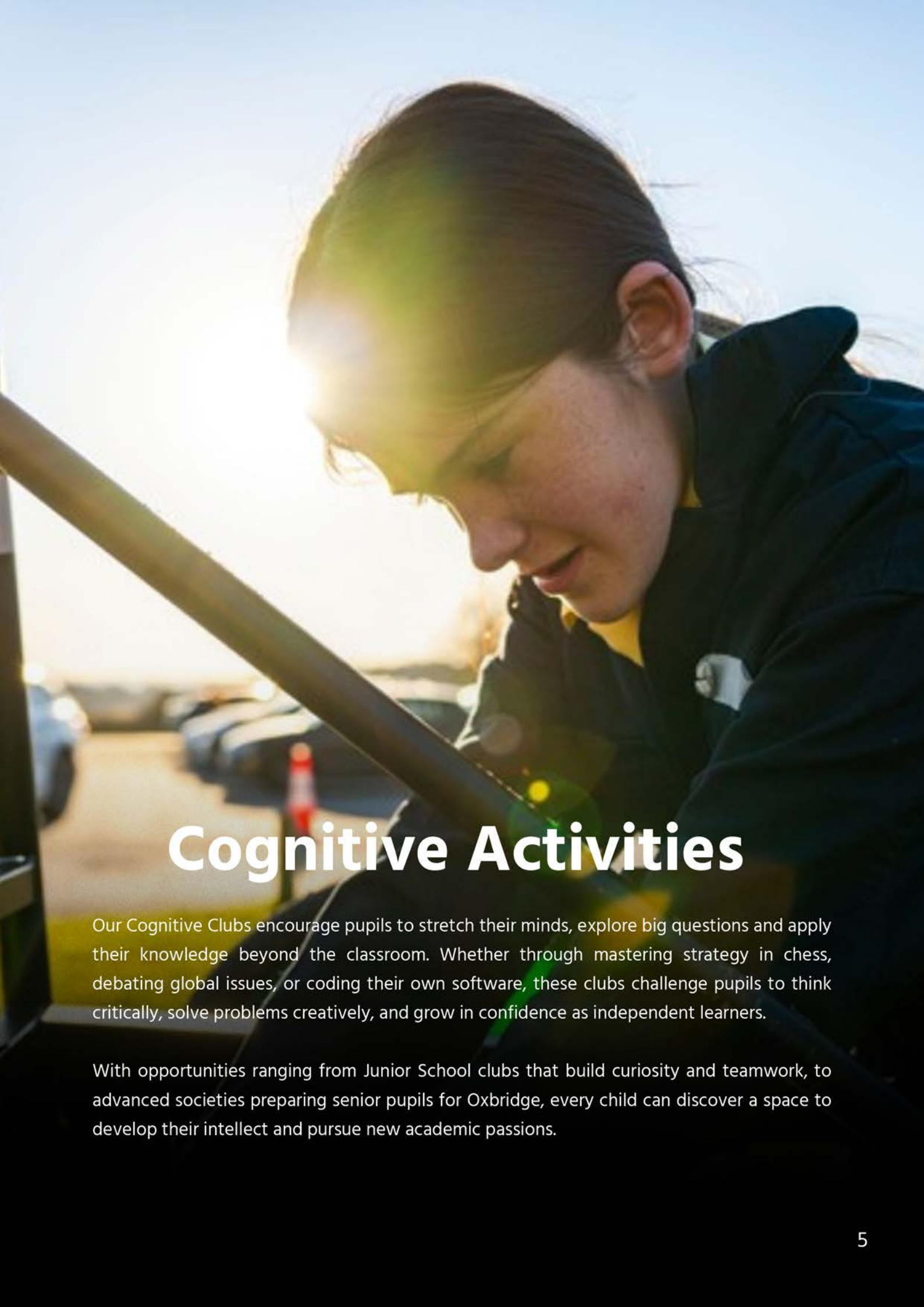
Music, drama and performance opportunities

SPORTING

Individual & team-based sports across all abilities

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

From adventurous pursuits to exploring our grounds



Cognitive Activities

Our Cognitive Clubs encourage pupils to stretch their minds, explore big questions and apply their knowledge beyond the classroom. Whether through mastering strategy in chess, debating global issues, or coding their own software, these clubs challenge pupils to think critically, solve problems creatively, and grow in confidence as independent learners.

With opportunities ranging from Junior School clubs that build curiosity and teamwork, to advanced societies preparing senior pupils for Oxbridge, every child can discover a space to develop their intellect and pursue new academic passions.

Examples of Cognitive Clubs

Book Club	Share a love of reading and enjoy discussions about stories old and new
Chess	Learn strategy, logic and focus through friendly matches and competitions
Coding	Develop practical coding skills across different platforms and challenges
Codebreaking	Crack codes and learn the art of cryptography
Computing	Explore programming, gaming and digital creativity
Current Affairs	Develop awareness of the world through guided discussions and activities
Debating Society	Build confidence in public speaking while tackling topical issues
Digital Leaders	Lead on technology, supporting peers and promoting safe, confident use





Flying*	Take to the skies with professional training from British Young Pilots' qualified instructors. Gain hands-on experience in flight simulators, explore the science of aerodynamics, and log real flying hours.
Greek	Explore the language, literature and culture of Ancient Greece
Greenpower Challenge	Work as a team to design, build and race an electric car in this national engineering competition, developing skills in science, technology and teamwork along the way
Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)	Develop research, presentation, and independent study skills
Independent Writing	A creative space for budding authors to develop their own stories.
Languages	Experience new languages and cultures beyond the curriculum
Maths	Take on puzzles, problem-solving challenges and competitions
Mindfulness	Relax, refocus, and build calm through simple breathing and mindfulness activities.

Philosophy	Debate life's biggest questions in a collaborative, open-minded environment
Psychology	Discover how the mind works, through experiments, case studies and discussions
Robotics	Design, build and program robots - combining creativity with technology
Science	Hands-on experiments and discovery beyond the classroom
Touch-typing	Learn essential keyboard skills through fun activities and games.
Vet & Meds	Explore the fascinating worlds of veterinary science and medicine

*An additional charge applies

'Being in Flying Club makes me feel like I'm already training to be a pilot. It's amazing to learn real skills that most people my age never get to try.'

Current Year 8 pupil





Creative & Hobby Activities

At St Gabriel's, creativity flourishes in many forms. Whether pupils are sketching, cooking, designing, or problem-solving, these activities provide the space to explore individual passions, develop practical skills, and discover new talents. From hands-on crafts to games that sharpen strategy and imagination, every pupil can find something that inspires them.

Examples of Creative & Hobby Clubs

Art*	Experiment with different techniques and mediums while building artistic confidence
Jewellery*	Design and create unique pieces, learning practical skills in a fun, creative environment
Cookery	Gain confidence in the kitchen through hands-on sessions exploring recipes and essential skills
Pottery	Get creative with clay while exploring form, texture and design
Photography	Learn to capture the world through the lens, from composing to editing
Textiles	Experiment with fabric, design and sewing to bring imaginative ideas to life
Board & Card Games	Develop strategy, teamwork and logic while enjoying classic and modern games
TTRPG (Tabletop Role-Playing Games)	Step into another world, collaborate with peers, and build creativity through storytelling and strategy

*An additional charge applies





Performing Arts Activities

Pupils can immerse themselves in a rich variety of performing arts opportunities, developing confidence, creativity, and teamwork. From music and singing to drama and performance, our clubs cater to every level and interest, giving pupils the chance to perform, compose, and collaborate in a supportive environment.

Examples of Performing Arts Clubs

Ballet*	Develop strength, balance, and grace through structured ballet training, building both technical skill and confidence in performance.
Dance	A fun and energetic way of exploring a variety of dance styles, encouraging creativity, coordination, and self-expression.
Drama	Explore acting, stagecraft, and performance skills in a supportive environment
Junior Vocal Groups	Chamber Choir, KS1 Choir, Junior Choir and 'Nothing But Treble': singing opportunities for younger pupils to develop technique and perform in ensembles
Senior Vocal Groups	St Gabriel's Singers and 'Euphonix': Advanced singing ensembles for senior pupils with performance opportunities
Big Band & Jazz Band (Seniors)	Jazz and Swing ensembles for instrumentalists, focusing on ensemble performance and improvisation
Flute Group (Seniors)	Develop flute technique and ensemble skills





LAMDA*	Acting, speech, and communication skills through accredited LAMDA sessions
Music Aural Practice	Improve listening skills, musical awareness and theory knowledge
Music Open Studio	Open practice and creative composition space for musicians
Orchestra (Juniors & Seniors)	Large ensemble for string, wind and brass players to perform a wide repertoire
Recorder Group (Juniors only)	Develop technique and play in ensembles with other music enthusiasts
Rock Groups	Contemporary rock band groups for pupils interested in popular music
Songwriting	Explore composition, lyric writing and creating original music
String Group	Ensemble for all levels

*An additional charge applies

‘Drama has really boosted my confidence — I feel braver speaking in front of people, not just on stage but in class too.’

Current Year 9 pupil



Sporting Activities

Sport plays a central role in life at St Gabriel's, with opportunities for every pupil to get active, develop skills, and enjoy the camaraderie of team and individual pursuits. Our extensive programme ranges from traditional team games such as hockey, netball, rugby, and football to individual sports including fencing, swimming, gymnastics, and equestrian.

Alongside these, pupils can try new challenges such as trampolining, tag rugby, or judo, as well as pursue excellence through specialist pathways like our Sports Scholar Fitness programme. Whether competing at county level or playing for fun, every pupil is encouraged to take part, stay active, and discover the enjoyment that sport brings.



Examples of Sports Clubs



Team Sports	Cricket Football Hockey Netball Rounders Rugby Tag Rugby
Individual Sports	Athletics Badminton Equestrian Fitness Fencing* Golf Gymnastics* Judo* Running Swimming Table Tennis Tennis* Trampolining* Yoga
Specialised Pathways	Sports Fitness (tailored training and mentoring for pupils selected as Sports Scholars)

*An additional charge applies

‘Running Club is the best way to start my day — it makes me feel full of energy!’

Current Year 6 pupil



Outdoor & Community Activities

Sustainability, community and an appreciation of the natural world are woven into school life. From Nursery to Sixth Form, pupils enjoy timetabled Outdoor Education and Sustainability sessions, developing practical skills and environmental awareness. Beyond the classroom, our co-curricular clubs provide even more opportunities to explore, discover and grow.



Examples of Outdoor & Community Activities

Climbing*	Build strength, confidence and agility on our climbing wall under expert guidance
Duke of Edinburgh Award (Bronze, Silver & Gold)*	From Year 9, pupils develop confidence and life skills through volunteering, expeditions and personal challenges
Gardening	Introduces pupils to the basics of planting, growing, and caring for a garden (and chickens!)
Pathfinders (Juniors only)	After-school adventures for Years 3 - 6, from bushcraft to bug hotels, earning badges through creative and outdoor challenges
Junior Duke	A ten-level award, building independence, resilience and life skills through fun, practical tasks
Paddleboarding	Enjoy our school lake in summer, learning balance and water skills with a qualified instructor
School Council	Pupil-led council giving every year group a voice in shaping school life and activities

*An additional charge applies



How to sign up

Details of club openings and enrolment are shared with parents at the start of each new term. Clubs are managed by our staff and, in some cases, by carefully selected external partners.

Parents will receive email communications outlining how to sign up for activities. If you have any questions, your child's class teacher or form tutor will be happy to direct you to the relevant member of staff.

The termly timetable of clubs and practices is available to download on our website via the Enrichment & Co-Curricular pages for both Juniors and Seniors.

Please note that some clubs, particularly those run by external providers, may incur an additional cost. Seasonal activities, such as paddleboarding, are only offered at certain times of year, while some annual commitments (for example, performance groups or competitions) have specific enrolment requirements.

As many clubs are very popular, we encourage early sign-up to avoid disappointment.

ST GABRIEL'S

NEWBURY

Sandleford Priory
Newbury, Berkshire
RG20 9BD

01635 555680
info@stgabriels.co.uk
stgabriels.co.uk

