



MARCH - APRIL 2026

GSAT Newsletter



Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham

Strive, Learn, Grow
in our Community



2025
WINNER



Message from our teacher



Dear Parents and Students and Guardians,

As we welcome the months of March and April, I would like to share a brief reflection on the many meaningful activities and experiences that have taken place in our Greek school community.

This has been a particularly rich period for our students. We began by honouring the memory of national heroes Grigoris Afxentiou and Evagoras Pallikaridis through a respectful memorial, followed by educational visits to Westminster Abbey and the Space Centre, offering valuable learning beyond the classroom. We also celebrated Mother's Day within our school community, giving students the opportunity to express their appreciation for their families. A highlight of the month was our 25th of March celebrations—a double celebration of Greek Independence Day and the Annunciation (Evangelismos) of the Theotokos. We are especially proud that part of our school represented us in Cardiff, taking part in the parade and annual celebrations.

As we approach Easter, our students have been engaged in a variety of Easter activities, helping to bring traditions to life and strengthen their connection to our heritage.

All these moments and more are included in this month's newsletter. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

As we approach the Easter holidays, we warmly thank all parents and students for your ongoing support and commitment. We wish you a restful and joyful break and look forward to continuing our journey together as we move into the final months of the academic year.

Warm regards,
Kleio Theodosiou



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A MONTH FULL OF ACTIVITIES

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WHAT'S ON



ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΗΝΑ

ΑΝΟΙΞΗ

Φούντωσε η Άνοιξη και δω σε
κάθε δέντρου κλώνο.

Τα πάρκα λουλουδίσανε και κείνα
Μα δε μου λέει η χειροτερή χαρά
τους, παρά μόνο
πως λείπω μακριά 'πο βέν' Αθήνα.

Έρχεται ακάλεστη, βουβή, μεθ'
στου ηλίου το θάμπος
βροχούλα που κανείς δεν
υποπτεύτη

και νοιώθω, η νοσταλγία σου
καθώς μ' ανάφτει, σάμπως
ζεχωριστά για μένανε να πέφτη.
Παρίσι.

Άνοιξη 1927

ΜΑΡΙΑ ΠΟΥΛΥΔΟΥΡΗ (1902-1930)
Ποιητική Συλλογή "Οι τρείλλιες που
εβήνουν" (1928)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- GREEK ORTHODOX EASTER: 29-03-26 to 13-04-26
- GCSE SPEAKING EXAM 21-04-26
- School Camp RETHYMNO CRETE- 27-4-26 to 4-5-26
- MAY DAY FESTIVAL: 4/5
- EUROPE DAY LONDON EUROPE HOUSE 5-5-26

EXAM DATES

ELLINOMATHEIA EXAMS LEVELS A1-G2:

- 19/5, 20/05, 21/5 A1/A2/B1/B2/Γ1/Γ2

A LEVEL

- PAPER 1: 18/5
- PAPER 2: 02/6
- PAPER 3: 12/6

GCSE

- SPEAKING: 21/04
- READING & LISTENING: 10/05
- WRITING: 17/6

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

WELL DONE

NURS. & REC.

Eftichia K.
Kyriaki M.
Michaela J.
Nefeli S. D.
Olympia T.

YEAR 1

Kyriakos.G
Georgia.A

YEAR 1 ADV. & 2

Ioannis Tzimas
Kyriakos Paphitis
Aggelos
Evangelos M.

LEVEL 1 ADV

Angelina Batham
Elaina Nicola
Efthymia Georgio

YEAR 3

Alexandra L.
Sebastian D

YEAR 4

Evdokia Antoniou
Thea Georgiou
Anastasia Soultana
Joseph Small

YEAR 5

Esther Theodorou
Yiannis Kantidakis

YEAR 6 & GCSE

Jason Zampas
Fotios Matopoulos
Daniil Tsoutsas
Elina Kalispera
Lydia Georgiou
Haris A.
Sofia B.

A LEVELS & ELLINOMATHEIA

Georgios N
Anna G.

SPECIAL MENTION:

for their participation and performance
in the Celebrations in Cardiff

1. Iakovos Anastasakis
2. Vangelis Anastasakis
3. Anastasia Soultana Archonti
4. Anton Marko
5. Adrian Kurdali
6. Alex Stamatakis
7. Stefanos Psychogios
8. Thea Georgiou
9. Lydia Georgiou
10. Elina Kalispera
11. Vasilis Soultanas Archonti





A month full
of
activities...

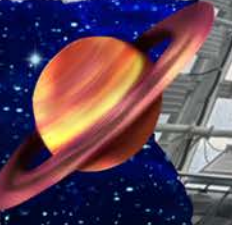
7
MARCH

VISITING THE NATIONAL SPACE CENTRE IN LEICESTER

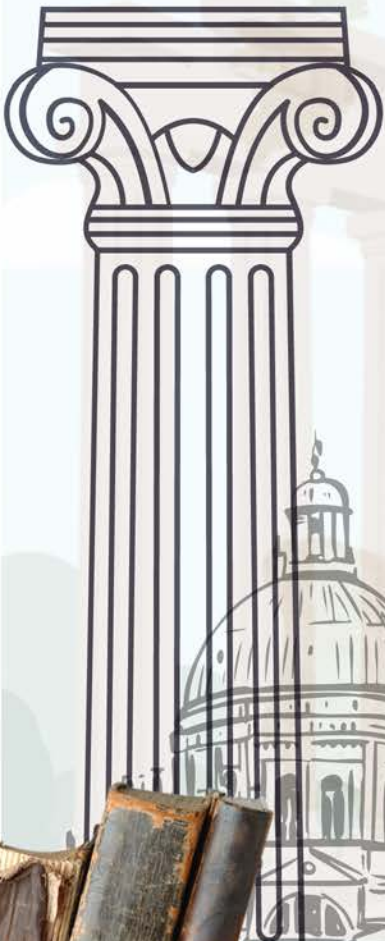
This month, some of our younger students, from Nursery to Year 4, had the exciting opportunity to visit the National Space Centre in Leicester. It was a truly engaging and memorable experience, where the children explored the wonders of space through interactive exhibits, inspiring displays, and hands-on activities. They learned about planets, astronauts, rockets, and the mysteries of the universe in a fun and accessible way, deepening their understanding of science beyond the classroom.

The highlight of the visit for many was the immersive planetarium show, which brought space to life and captured the children's imagination. Throughout the day, students showed great curiosity, asked thoughtful questions, and participated enthusiastically in all activities. The visit not only enriched their knowledge but also inspired a sense of wonder and excitement about the world around them.

Overall, it was an incredibly valuable and enjoyable experience that will stay with the students for a long time.



HISTORY & CULTURE



ANNUAL MEMORIAL

GRIGORIS AFXENTIOU & EVAGORAS PALLIKARIDES



Evagora Pallikaridi

Θα πάρω μίαν ανηφοριά,
θα πάρω μονοπάτια,
να βρω τα σκαλοπάτια
που πάν' στη λευτεριά.

Θ' αφήσω αδέρφια, συγγενείς,
τη μάνα, τον πατέρα,
μες στα λαγκάδια πέρα
και στις βουνοπλαγιές.

Ψάχνοντας χια την λευτεριά
θα 'χω παρέα μόνη
κατάλευκο το χιόνι,
βουνά και ρεματιές.

Τώρα κι αν είναι χειμωνιά,
θα 'ρθει το καλοκαίρι,
τη λευτεριά να φέρει
σε πόλεις και χωριά.

Θα πάρω μίαν ανηφοριά,
θα πάρω μονοπάτια,
να βρω τα σκαλοπάτια
που πάν' στη λευτεριά.

Τα σκαλοπάτια θ' ανεβώ,
θα μπω σ' ένα παλάτι,
το ξέρω, θα 'ν' απάτη,
δεν θα 'ν' αληθινό.



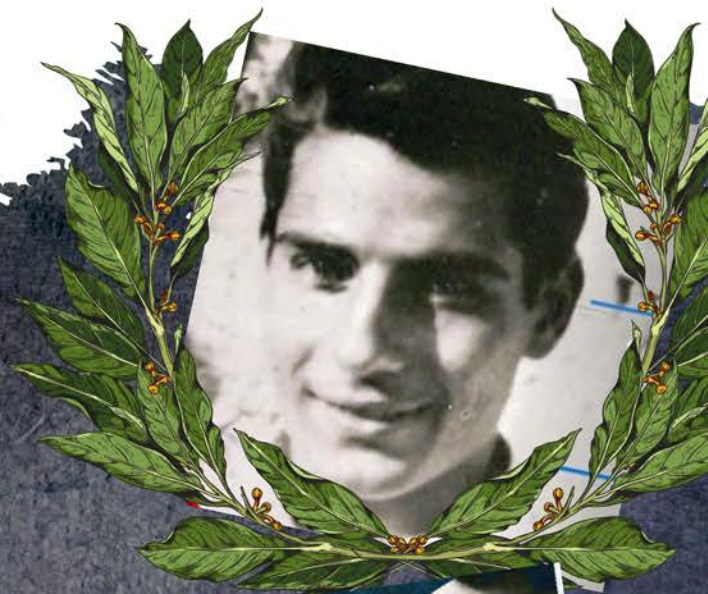
Grigoris Afxentiou and Evagoras Pallikarides were both Greek-Cypriot revolutionaries involved in the 1955-1959 campaign against British rule in Cyprus, with Afxentiou being a leader in the EOKA organization and Pallikarides a poet and member of EOKA who was executed for firearms possession.

Born on February 26, 1938 in the village of Tsada in the Paphos District, Evagoras Pallikaridis was the last and the youngest hero of the National Organisation of Cypriot Fighters (EOKA) to be hanged by the English colonists.

At his trial on February 25th of the same year, Evagoras did not allow his lawyers to defend him and admitted his guilt, saying, "I know you will hang me. Whatever I did, I did it as Greek Cypriot who seeks his freedom. Nothing else".

Grigoris Afxentiou is a national hero in Cyprus, as he was one of the most prominent fighters in the 1955-1959 EOKA struggle to liberate the island from British colonial rule and unite Cyprus with Greece.

Afxentiou was one of the leaders of the revolutionary group, and his death served as a reminder of Cyprus's painful struggle for freedom. It was March 3, 1957 when the iconic Cypriot hero was burned alive by British troops during the four-year war for the liberation of Cyprus from British rule. His death, after holding out against surrounding British soldiers for 10 hours all by himself, in the Battle of Machairas, has become an illustrious and tragic page in Cypriot history.



With deep respect and heartfelt emotion, the annual memorial service honoring the heroes of Cyprus, Evagoras Pallikarides and Grigoris Afxentiu, was held today at the Holy Trinity School in Birmingham.

The ceremony was coordinated by the school's educator, Mrs. Natali Tsikouri, whose inspiring and moving speech highlighted the sacrifice, courage, and unwavering spirit of these two national heroes. Through her words, their legacy and ideals were brought vividly to life, ensuring that their memory continues to inspire younger generations.


Warm congratulations are due to the students of the school, who participated with outstanding poetry recitations, demonstrating both sensitivity and pride. Special recognition is also extended to the educators, Mrs. Maria Georgiou and Mrs. Natali Tsikouri, who honored the memory of the heroes with great care and respect. Their efforts filled everyone present with pride and deep emotion.

The event concluded with the laying of flowers and wreaths by students and members of the community, a simple yet profoundly moving tribute of remembrance and honor.

May their memory be eternal.

Ευαγόρας Παλληκαρίδης





Θ' ακολουθήσω με θάρρος τη μοίρα μου. Ίσως αυτό να ναι το τελευταίο μου γράμμα. Μα πάλι δεν πειράζει. Δεν λυπάμαι για τίποτα. Ας χάσω το κάθε τι. Μια φορά κανείς πεθαίνει. Θα βαδίσω χαρούμενος στην τελευταία μου κατοικία. Τι σήμερα τι αύριο; Όλοι πεθαίνουν μια μέρα. Είναι καλό πράγμα να πεθαίνει κανείς για την Ελλάδα. Ώρα 7:30. Η πιο όμορφη μέρα της ζωής μου. Η πιο όμορφη ώρα. Μη ρωτάτε γιατί.

Ευαγόρας Παλληκαρίδης



Westminster Abbey Annual Commonwealth Service

9
MARCH

On 9th March, our Greek School had the privilege of attending the Annual Commonwealth Day Service at Westminster Abbey, a truly special and memorable occasion. This prestigious event brought together representatives and communities from across the Commonwealth, celebrating unity, diversity, and shared values.

Our students experienced the unique atmosphere of this historic setting, gaining a deeper appreciation of the importance of community, respect, and global connection. It was an inspiring opportunity for them to witness such a significant national event and to feel part of a wider international community.

We are very proud of our students for representing our school with such respect and enthusiasm on this remarkable day.



MOTHER'S DAY AFTERNOON TEA



This month, our school celebrated Mother's Day, honouring all the incredible mothers in our community. We hosted a special afternoon tea at the Greek School and Community Centre, where families came together to enjoy a warm and joyful gathering. The children also created their own handmade crafts and gifts, showing their love, appreciation, and gratitude with care and thoughtfulness.

Mother's Day is an important opportunity to recognise the hard work, dedication, and support of all mothers, who play such a vital role in the lives of their children and our school community. It was a joyous and memorable afternoon, filled with love, laughter, and appreciation, reminding us all of the importance of family and gratitude.



25TH MARCH 1821

On Saturday, March 21st, our school proudly celebrated Greek Independence Day, honouring the heroes of 1821 and the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Evangelismos). This day marks the beginning of Greece's struggle for independence from Ottoman rule, a fight defined by courage, sacrifice, and the hope for freedom. Our students participated enthusiastically, taking part in a parade and special activities that highlighted this pivotal moment in Greek history.

Through songs, poems, and historical narrations, they brought the story of 1821 to life, dressed in traditional costumes and connecting us to our rich heritage. In addition, we also commemorated April 1st, remembering the heroes of EOKA and the brave Cypriot fighters who fought for freedom from British rule (1955-1959). This day reminded us of their courage and sacrifice, inspiring our students to carry these values forward.




Ζήτω οι ήρωες
του '21!




Greek Independence Day


25th March



The Greek Revolution of 1821 was a big moment in Greek history when the Greek people fought to break free from the rule of the Ottoman Empire, which had controlled them for centuries. This wasn't just about fighting - it was also about Greeks coming together to reclaim their language, culture, and identity. It showed that when people unite for a common cause, they can overcome even the toughest challenges.




The Filiki Eteria, also known as the Society of Friends, was a secret organization founded in 1814 with the aim of liberating Greece from Ottoman rule. It played a significant role in laying the groundwork for the Greek Revolution of 1821. The Filiki Eteria was founded by three Greek merchants: Nikolaos Skoufas, Emmanuel Xanthos, and Athanasios Tsakalof.



The heroes and heroines of the Greek War of Independence are immortalized not only for their valour on the battlefield but also for their unwavering commitment to the ideals of freedom and justice.

Among them stand iconic figures such as Alexandros Ypsilantis, Andreas Miaoulis, Manto Mavroyenous and Theodoros Kolokotronis, whose strategic brilliance and fearless leadership inspired countless others to join the fight for independence. Laskarina Bou Boulina, a legendary naval commander, symbolizes the indomitable spirit of the Greek people, leading her fleet against the Ottoman forces with unmatched courage and determination. Athanasios Diakos, revered as a martyr of the revolution, embodies the selflessness and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives in the pursuit of liberty.



ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΙΣ ΤΗΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ

Ὁ μέγας Στρατηγός, τῶν ἀύλων ταγματῶν, εἰς πόλιν Ναζαρέτ, ἐπιστὰς Βασιλέα, μνηύει σοι Ἄκραντε, τῶν αἰώνων καὶ Κύριον· Χαῖρε, λέγων σοι, Εὐλογημένη Μαρία, ἀκατάληπτον, καὶ ἀνερμήνευτον θαῦμα, βροτῶν ἢ ἀνάκλησις.

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τά
νικητήρια, ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν
δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, ἀναγράψω
σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς
ἔχουσα τό κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον,
ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων
ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι·
Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

«Χαίρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ
κύριος μετά σου».
«Μη φοβοῦ Μαριάμ, εὖρες
χαρ χάριν παρά τῷ Θεῷ.
Καὶ ἰδοὺ συλλήψῃ ἐν χαστρὶ
καὶ τέξῃ υἱόν καὶ καλέσεις
τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν».

“Evangelismos tis Theotokou”, is a special celebration in the Orthodox Christian tradition. It commemorates the moment when the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary to announce that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus, the Son of God.

This joyful event is celebrated on March 25th each year and serves as a reminder of the importance of faith, obedience, and humility, as demonstrated by the Virgin Mary. Her willingness to accept God's plan with trust and devotion is celebrated as an example for all believers to follow.

25TH MARCH CELEBRATION GSAT CELEBRATION AT CARDIFF CASTLE

On Saturday, 21st March a group of our students and teachers attended a special event in Cardiff, where they joined with the local Greek school to celebrate the 25th of March. The celebration took place at Cardiff Castle, and both children and adults participated in a lively parade, honouring this important day. The students also contributed with poems, dances, and traditional songs, bringing the history and spirit of Greek Independence Day to life. It was a wonderful and unique experience, highlighting the joy of coming together as a school community to celebrate and preserve our heritage.



We would like to thank the organisers and the Greek School of Cardiff for their warm hospitality and for making this celebration such a memorable experience for our students.



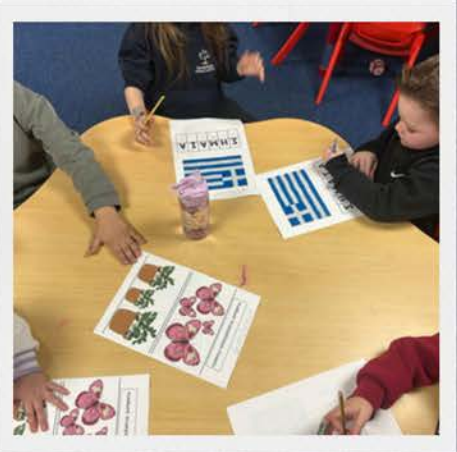


OUR SCHOOL LIFE





Nursery / Reception





Year 1



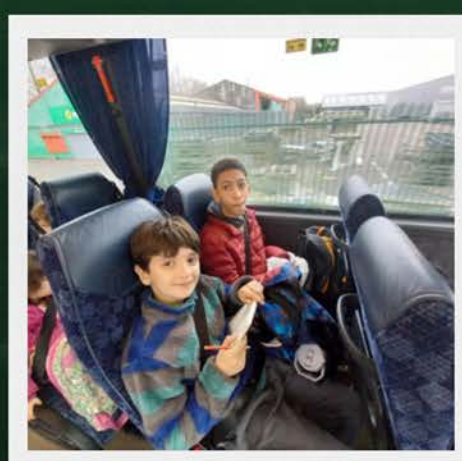
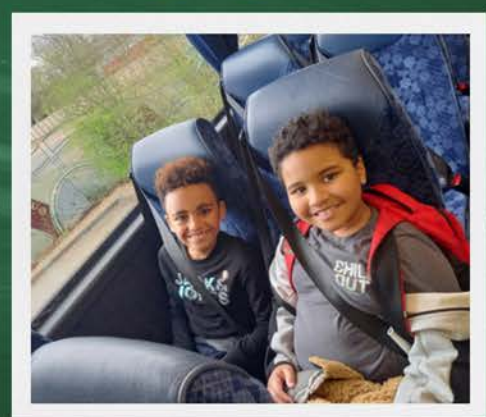


Year 1 +





Year 2





Year 3, 4 & 5





Harborne



Easter traditions of Greece & Cyprus



Easter in Greece and Cyprus is a unique and meaningful celebration that brings together religion, culture, and family traditions. It is not only a religious event, but also a time when communities come together and share special moments.

During Holy Week, churches are filled with people holding candles and listening to beautiful hymns. The atmosphere is calm and emotional, especially on Good Friday, when the Epitaphios procession takes place. Streets are filled with flowers, and people follow quietly, showing respect.

One of the most special moments is on Holy Saturday at midnight. Everyone gathers outside the church with candles. When the priest announces "Christ is Risen," the light spreads from person to person, creating a magical and peaceful moment.

After the church service, families return home to eat traditional food and break the red eggs, a symbol of new life. The next day, Easter Sunday, is full of joy and celebration. Families and friends gather, roast lamb, listen to music, and enjoy being together.

Easter is a celebration of hope, love, and new beginnings. It is a time when traditions are kept alive and passed on to younger generations, keeping the culture of Greece and Cyprus strong.

After Easter Sunday, the celebrations continue with fun and traditional games on Monday and Tuesday. Children and families take part in activities such as egg-and-spoon races, sack races, and other team games. These playful traditions bring laughter and excitement, helping everyone enjoy the festive spirit and spend joyful time together.

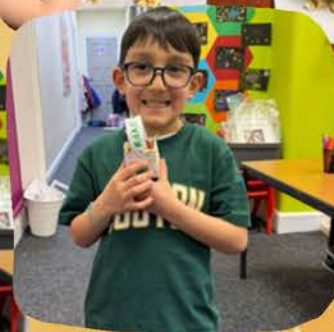


Easter Activities

Nursery
Reception



Year 1



Year 2

Year 3 & 4

Years 5+



Dance Groups

This year our school has been running dance classes led by our Dance Teachers Mrs Sotiria Karafillides and Mr Dimitris Themistokleous.

Dance classes are on Monday 19:30-20:30 for our students, Tuesdays from 18:30-19:00 for the children and then 19:00-20:00 for adults, and on Saturday we also run two groups: one for the school children from 14:00-15:00 (which is for two different age groups) and then from 15:00-16:00 for adults dance group.

It's amazing to see that this year our dance classes are flourishing and both children and adults are enjoying them.

Anyone interested in dance classes can contact our school directly or the class teachers. We are always happy to welcome new students





The Rights of the Child

ARTICLES OF MARCH APRIL 2026



World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23 April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading.

In countries around the world it is celebrated on the anniversary of that date, but in the UK it is generally marked on the first Thursday of March. Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories can make a crucial difference to your future success and is fun for all involved.

That's why World Book Day continues to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure through its work with authors, illustrators, publishers, bookshops and libraries.

Article 17: Article 17 (access to information from the media) - Every child has the right to reliable information from a variety of sources, and governments should encourage the media to provide information that children can understand. Governments must help protect children from materials that could harm them

Article 29: 29 (goals of education) - Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.

Article 31: (leisure, play and culture) - Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



Greek School of Ayia Triada Birmingham is proudly the first ever supplementary school to have been accredited SILVER AWARD and it is a SILVER Rights Respecting School currently working towards GOLD



Earth Day takes place every year on April 22 to show support for the protection of the environment and our planet.

Since 1970, Earth Day has brought together people, governments and companies from around the world, supporting them to do something positive for the environment.

It promotes the fact that 'change starts with action' and we can all take action and encourage others to take action that positively impacts on the world around us.

Article 17: (life survival and development) Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to ensure that children survive and develop to their full potential.

Article 29: (Health and Health Services) - Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.



APRIL



CYPRUS



Did you know?

Cyprus has been a member of the European Union since 2004, playing an important role as a bridge between Europe and the Middle East. Its strategic location makes it significant for trade, diplomacy, and regional cooperation.. As part of the EU, Cyprus uses the euro as its currency and participates in key European policies on economy, security, and the environment. The country benefits from EU funding, which supports development, infrastructure, and education. Cyprus also contributes to the EU's cultural diversity, with its rich history, traditions, and three UNESCO World Heritage sites. As a member state, it takes part in decision-making and helps shape the future of Europe, including holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU when its turn comes.

CYPRUS: It is home to some of the most important UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and this year it holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months.

CYPRUS has also the only divided Capital City in Europe since Nicosia was taken by the Turks in the war of 1974

CYPRUS EU PRESIDENCY

In 2026, Cyprus takes on an important role as it holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months. This rotating presidency gives Cyprus the opportunity to help guide the European Union's agenda, lead discussions between member states, and promote cooperation on key issues affecting Europe today. For Cyprus, this is not only a political responsibility but also a moment of pride. The island, known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and significant UNESCO World Heritage sites, will be at the centre of European decision-making. It is a chance to showcase its values, strengthen its voice within the EU, and highlight issues important to the region. As members of the community of Ayia Triada in Birmingham, we share in this special moment, celebrating Cyprus' contribution to Europe and looking forward to a successful presidency.

