

OLSPCK E-BULLETIN

APRIL 2026



eBulletin of Our Lady and St. Patrick's College, Knock, April 2026

OLSPCK CROWNED



ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS 2026

Our Lady and St. Patrick's College, Knock made history by winning the All-Ireland Senior Post-Primary Schools title with an impressive 4-11 to 2-7 victory over St. Joseph's, Spanish Point.

The team delivered a standout performance at Dr Cullen Park in Carlow, becoming the 13th different winner of the competition in a row. A crucial period in the game saw OLSPCK score four goals within 20 minutes, which ultimately secured their win. Grace Guest scored twice, while player of the match Evie McHugh and Holly Donnelly also found the back of the net.

St. Joseph's fought back early in the second half, scoring two of the first three points. Despite this, OLSPCK responded brilliantly. Holly Donnelly added another goal after a pass from Rose Horisk, followed by four consecutive points. Grace Guest then scored her second goal of the match, extending the lead to 14 points.

Although St. Joseph's managed a late goal, it proved to be only a consolation. OLSPCK remained in control and deservedly lifted the title after a confident and determined team performance.

This victory is a proud and memorable achievement for the school, highlighting the talent, teamwork, and dedication of all involved.

Here are links to photographs capturing this memorable occasion:

<https://www.sportsfile.com/more-images/112603156>

<https://niallboylephotography.pixieset.com/olspckphotos/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Easter Holidays

Thursday 2nd April- Friday 10th April
(Inclusive)

May Holidays

Monday 4th May 2026
Monday 25th May 2026

End of Term

Year 11 Thursday 25th June 2026 at 3.34 pm
Years 8 - 10 Friday 26th June 2026 at 12 noon

Junior Summer Exams 2026

Wednesday 20th May to Wednesday 27th May inclusive

SUMMER 2026 EXAM RESULTS

Results can be collected from the College between 8.30am and 10.00am.

AS/A2 Results Thursday 13th August

GCSE Results Thursday 20th August

Any results not collected will be posted home.

Unfortunately, we cannot give results out via telephone or email.

All dates and instructions are subject to change. Please check the College website and CCEA/AQA/OCR/WJEC for the most up to date information.



We're really excited to launch the official Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock (OLSPCK) Instagram and Facebook pages! As a school, we are officially transitioning our social media presence away from X/Twitter and moving towards a whole-school Instagram and Facebook platform. Our aim is to maximise coverage of life at Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock and create a space where we can celebrate the success, achievements and experiences of our students with a wider community.

Over the years, our OLSPCK X/Twitter pages have presented thousands of posts filled with incredible moments, achievements and memories that we are extremely proud of.

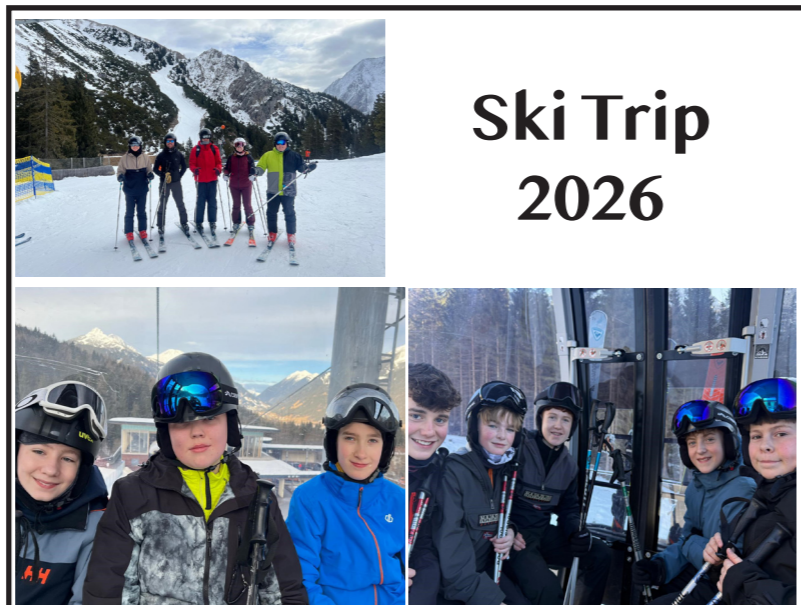
These pages will remain on X/Twitter as a record of the fantastic content already shared. However, all new updates and posts will now be shared exclusively on our Instagram and Facebook pages.

We would also like to sincerely thank the tireless efforts of our staff who have contributed to our social media platforms over the years, particularly on X/Twitter. Through their commitment to celebrating school life, countless students have been recognised for their talents, achievements and successes across many areas of the College.

We are incredibly grateful for the support, engagement and encouragement from our school community so far and we hope you will continue to follow and support us as we begin a new social media era for our College.

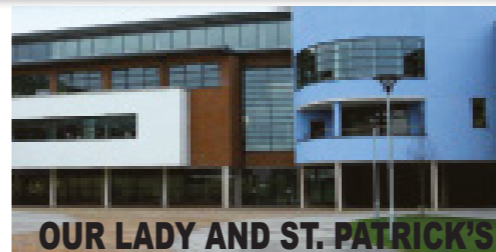
Our goal is to create one unified platform that highlights the amazing things our students are doing across all areas of school life.

Follow along and celebrate the journey with us!



Ski Trip 2026

Seventy OLSPCK Year 9 and 10 Seventy OLSPCK Year 9 and 10 students travelled to Biberwier / Erwhald, Austria to enjoy six full days of skiing. The students enjoyed four hours of lessons daily and even the most inexperienced skiers finished the week with a spectacular ski down a 6 km run with style and competence.



OUR LADY AND ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK
120 GILNAHIRK ROAD BT5 7DL

Telephone: 028 90401184
www.knock.co.uk
@OLSPCK

Gardening Club is back!

When? Wednesday
Where? S10
What time? 3.34pm



OLSPCK BRICK CLUB
Please consider donating any old or unwanted Lego®.
Thank you Ms McGlone
All Lego® should be left at Reception or 3Hi2

Biology Revision ... sorted!

Check out the Biology revision material available for your year group during the Easter break.

Revision Team Codes

2025-26

Course	Teams Code
Year 11 DA	lfxilmd
Year 11 Bio	ubr9p5
Year 12 DA	sfnnhhi
Year 12 Bio	94xd8ec
Year 13	bwshz27
Year 14	u1pf1tv

Trócaire



Message of the Holy Father Leo XIV for Lent 2026

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us

POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026

In preparation for Lent 2026, the Vatican has released Pope Leo's message, which is titled "Listening and fasting: Lent as a time of conversion."

The message, which was released on 13th February, invites us to use this time of Lent to listen, to fast and to walk together in community.

Listening

"The willingness to listen is the first way we demonstrate our desire to enter into relationship with someone," the Holy Father writes.

In reading Scripture and allowing God to teach us how to listen as he does, we can learn "to recognise and respond to the cry of those who are anguished and suffering."

Fasting

Turning to the subject of fasting, the pope writes that this traditional practice directs our desire to God and to doing good. Helping to free us from complacency, fasting keeps "our hunger and thirst for justice alive."

Pope Leo stresses that fasting must be lived "in faith and humility" and particularly proposes "a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbour."

"Let us begin by disarming our language" the Holy Father writes, urging us to "strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian



Pope Leo's Lent 2026 message takes as its theme: 'Listening and fasting: Lent as a time of conversion'

communities."

A shared journey

Finally, the Pontiff focuses on the communal aspect of Lent, pointing out that the Bible often presents fasting and listening to the word of God as shared acts of repentance and renewal.

"Our parishes, families, ecclesial groups, and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent," Pope Leo encourages "in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance."

The Holy Father concludes with an exhortation to make our communities "places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilisation of love."

Read the full text of the Pope's Lent's message. <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/02/13/260213d.html>

The Culture Club welcomes all Junior students with an interest in exploring global cultures, languages, and traditions. Each week, we dive into quizzes, games, music, food, festival celebrations and more, creating a warm, relaxed, and joyful space to discover new places and communities. Both students and staff have enthusiastically contributed by presenting on their own cultures or countries of interest.

This year, our journey has taken us through Brazil, Australia, India, Italy, Armenia, Belgium, Greece, California and beyond.

Students also enjoy wider opportunities, including participation in a Virtual Speaking Festival celebrating languages. Every February, our Festival of Language allows students to showcase their linguistic talents, with many sharing their skills on the OLSPCK Modern Language Twitter Account #CelebrateSpeaking.

In addition, pupils are preparing entries for the University of Oxford's Translation Competition. With so many languages spoken

within our school community, we are proud to celebrate the rich diversity that strengthens and inspires us all. #EDI #CelebrateDiversity

Our students say it best:

- "We are a kind community."
- "It widens my knowledge of cultures and makes me able to understand different people's backgrounds."
- "It keeps me coming back every week."
- "It intrigues me because I feel like I'm travelling the world."
- "I love trying the food of the culture of the week."
- "I love having opportunities to present cultures that interest me."
- "I look forward to it every week."



These student voices capture exactly what Culture Club aims to be: a place of joy, curiosity and belonging for everyone.

OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK

Welcome to Junior Book Club!

Junior Book Club meets once a week in the Junior Library. Students meet up to read, chat, create book journals and review their books! We interviewed a few of our Year 8 students about their experience and to find out what they're reading. They share what it's like, along with some of their book recommendations below.

If you'd like to join, drop by the Jr Library on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Spaces limited.



1) Tell me about book club. What would you tell someone who was interested in joining?

"It's fun, a break from school work & relaxing."
"It's great for the quiet and when you need to relax."



2) What do you like best about Book Club?

"I get to chill, talk about books and scrapbook. Also, the fairy stickers."
"The quiet and books."

3) What have you read recently? Have you reviewed it in your Book Journal? If so, describe your review and rating below.

"Percy Jackson (3rd one, Titan's Curse). Yes, I'd give it 4/5 stars. My favourite character is Percy because he is fun and outgoing."
"I have been reading Demon Slayer, Jujutsu Kaisen, and Twilight. I'm still reading those series."

4) Where is your favourite place to read? When do you read the most?

"English class with Miss O'Connor. In school, perfect environment to read."
"The chairs and beanbags."

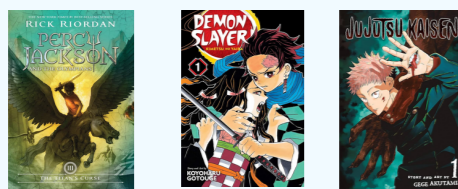
5) What book would you recommend to a friend?

"Percy Jackson, The Lightning Thief (1st One)"
"Jujutsu Kaisen"



More about books...

Books We Love:



Book Review Journals made by our students:



Need some inspiration to find your next book? Check out the link below:
<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/book-recommendations/booklists/great-books-guide-2025-26-for-11/>

CCEA GCE Exam Timetable 2026

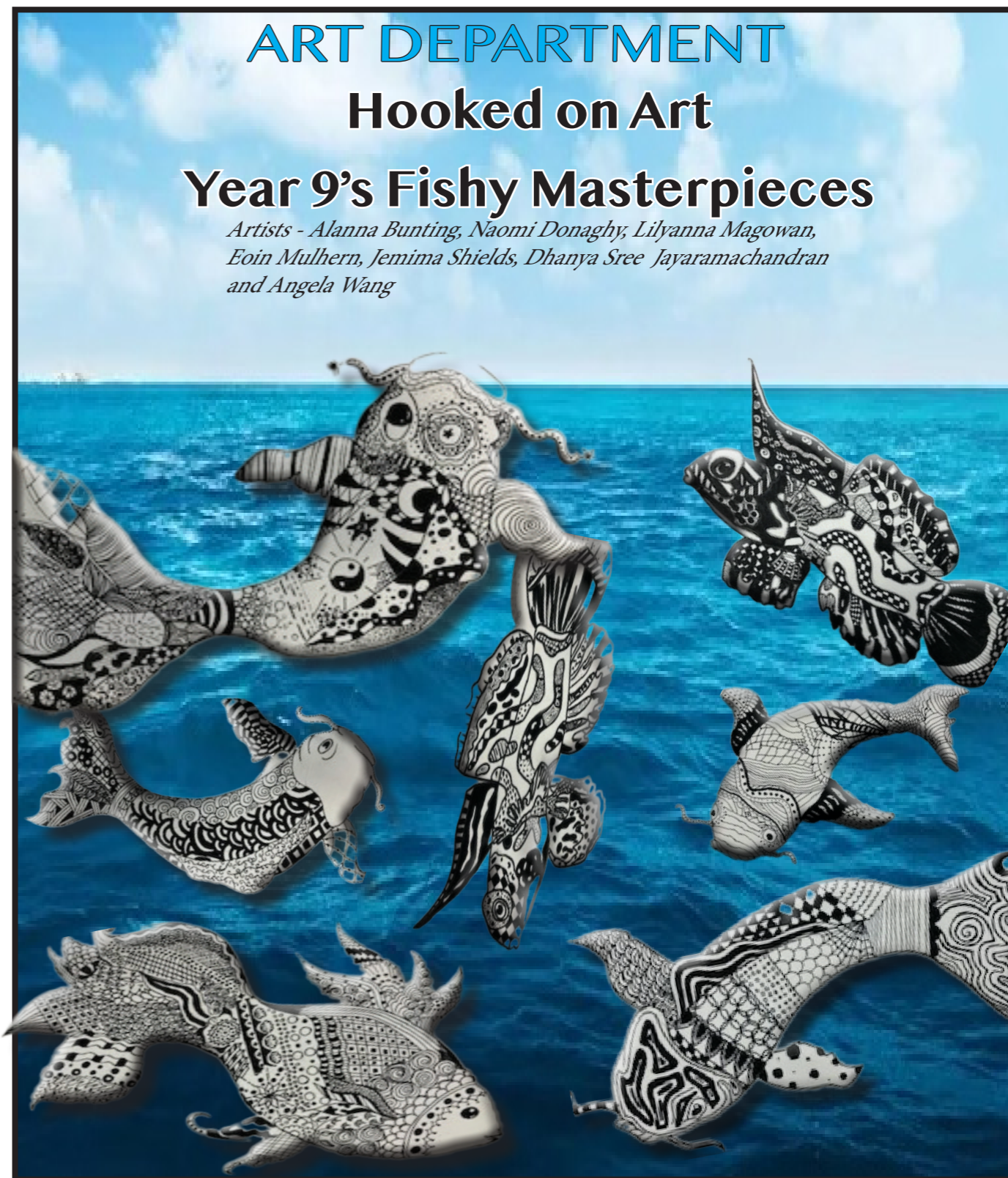
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ceea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ceea-asset/Examinations/Final%20GCE%20Timetable%2C%20Summer%202026_1.pdf

CCEA GCSE Exam Timetable 2026

<https://ceea.org.uk/downloads/docs/ceea-asset/Examinations/Final%20GCSE%20Timetable%2C%20Summer%202026.pdf>

Deadlines for Art and Design exam classes

GCSE = Friday 17th April
AS = Friday 1st May
A2 = Friday 1st May



ART DEPARTMENT

Hooked on Art

Year 9's Fishy Masterpieces

Artists - Alanna Bunting, Naomi Donaghy, Lilyanna Magowan, Eoin Mulhern, Jemima Shields, Dhanya Sree Jayaramachandran and Angela Wang

OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK

Careers Information for Parents and Students

OLSPCK eBulletin

Careers

April 2026



Parents and Students

A range of careers information is available to all students on the NI Careers Service Website. www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers
Updated information on the NI Skills Barometer can also be found at: <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/skills-barometer-2023-2033>

Information for Year 14

As all students applied before January 14th, all university decisions will be made by 13th May. Students who do not receive any offers can apply to additional courses through UCAS Extra which is available until 1st July. Any students, who wish to know more about this, speak to your Careers teacher.

2026 entry cycle

Last decision by:

31st March 2026

13th May 2026

Your reply deadline is:

6th May 2026

3rd June 2026

Make decisions wisely. Choose your Conditional/Firm offer from the course you would most prefer to study, providing you can achieve the entry requirements. Your Conditional Insurance offer should be used as a 'back up' if you achieve lower grades than you expect but make sure it is still a course or university where you want to study.

It is not advisable to be holding two offers with the same entry requirements. If you have received an unconditional offer, think carefully before accepting it.

Check out the UCAS website for any additional information:

www.ucas.com

Student Finance

A brief Parent Guide regarding Student Finance can be found on the school website. Applications should be completed online at www.studentfinancenico.uk

Applications open from 23rd March and closing date is 30th April, although we recommend that applications should be submitted as soon as possible. Course changes can be made after an application has been submitted, so students do not need to wait for their results or their firm choice before applying. Applications submitted after 30th April will still be accepted but there may be a delay receiving finances. When applying to university in the UK or Ireland, all students are eligible. For more information regarding go to: www.studentfinancenico.uk/student-finance-explained

Information for Year 13

All Year 13 students have attended the Discover UCAS event on 11th March, giving students the opportunity to speak to universities from the UK and Ireland. I would encourage students to attend Open Days of any university of interest. Go to www.opendays.com or any university website to find Open Days across the UK and Ireland.

All students will have the opportunity to attend QUB, Ulster University and St Mary's University Belfast Open Days in September/October 2026. Various information events for both parents and students will become available throughout the year. These can be found on each university website and I would encourage you to attend, if possible. Students should continually check their school email and social media for additional university events.

UCAS 2026-27

In September 2026, the Careers Department will host a UCAS Information Evening to help parents understand the process and help prepare their son/daughter for the year ahead. Preparation for UCAS application 2026-27 will be ongoing in class and can also be done at home. Students should also look at the following website:

www.unifrog.org

<https://www.ucas.com/applying/applying-to-university/writing-your-personal-statement>

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk

www.informedchoices.ac.uk

Work Shadowing

The College has dedicated the last two weeks of the College academic year to Work Shadowing. All documents and guidelines are available on the school website. The Careers Department will assist your request for a suitable placement, but all students are expected to show that they have attempted to obtain their own placement. Work Shadowing can be completed on either of the following dates:

Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June or Monday 15th June to Friday 19th June.

In order to process all Work Shadowing requests, all forms must be completed by Friday 15th May. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If any Work Shadowing is occurring outside these dates, please let us know.

<https://www.knock.co.uk/careers>

Students can still avail of Virtual Work Shadowing. Many students have already completed a range of virtual events and have found them to be very beneficial.

I will continue to email students about virtual and in-person events, so it is essential that they regularly check emails for any future opportunities. If any Work Shadowing is being completed at any stage through the year, please complete all relevant forms available on the College website. You might find, the following websites useful: www.futuresforall.org and www.springpod.com

Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine

Students applying to Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine must be aware that UCAS applications need to be completed in advance of UCAS deadline of October 15th, 2026. There will be a number of meetings for these students to discuss their application. Students should make sure that they are preparing fully for these very competitive courses.

UCAT Key Dates

Registration for UCAT opens on 12th May and closes on the 16th September. Go to www.ucat.ac.uk for the latest information regarding testing dates.

Mock Interviews

Mock interviews for Year 13 students will take place on Tuesday 23rd June from 10am to 3.30pm. We hope all Year 13 students will avail of this opportunity. To ensure the success of this event we will be relying on parent volunteers. More information regarding this event will be sent out to all parents in the coming weeks.

Information for Year 12

Most students have completed their one-to-one interview with the College's DE Careers Advisor and you will have received a message via the Parent App. Student Action Plans can be accessed using their school email account. Year 12 students should also be researching possible career plans.

Post 16 Opportunities:

Information on Apprenticeships and Higher Apprenticeships will continue to be distributed to students via Careers classes and school email. If you are considering a different career pathway after completing your GCSEs be sure to seek advice from your Careers teacher before the end of the year. Applications for SERC and BMET are currently open. Go to the following websites:

www.serc.ac.uk and www.belfastmet.ac.uk

Unifrog

All Students from Year 8-14 will have access to Careers Software called Unifrog. It will provide students with everything they need to confidently explore careers and plan their next steps. It provides parents with the information and tools to support their child's journey. By bringing all guidance resources into one unified platform, it strengthens decision-making, encourages independence, and fosters meaningful conversations at home. Student can access the platform in school or at home, once it has been rolled out to all students. I would encourage parents to explore Unifrog with their child. Go to www.unifrog.org. Please see link to a short video explaining what Unifrog can offer: <https://cdn.unifrog.org/video/45v2970bm9/480.mp4>

J Davey

Head of CEIAG