



GREENSHAW NEWS

December 2010

Christmas magic

Greenshaw's main school hall rocked on Wednesday 8th December when students, parents and staff enjoyed the Greenshaw Christmas Variety Show.

The evening was an eclectic mix of dance and musical acts by both students and members of staff, with plenty of Christmas cheer thrown in for good measure. All year groups and Houses were represented in the evening's line up, which showcased extra-curricular groups such as the dance clubs, steel pan club and choir. Some of the work had originated in GCSE music lessons with talented soloists taking the opportunity to develop their performance experience.

Each cameo was strung seamlessly together by the excellent presenters, Heather and Charlotte, from Year 8, who kept the audience amused

with a generous peppering of Christmas themed jokes.

Not to be completely outshone by the phenomenal talent of Greenshaw students, some staff also stepped into the spotlight. Mr Brown and Mr Payne performed a duet and Head teacher, Mr Smith, recounted a dramatic Greek myth. The PE department dusted off their dancing shoes to close the show to a round of energetic applause.

"The staff and students must have worked so hard and it really paid off. We were smiling all the way home in the cold," commented one parent via email.



Refreshments were served by the Sixth Form to raise funds for The Children's Trust, Tadworth and Oxfam.

With difficult conditions in the lead up to the show, such as the school closure due to snow, the students did a tremendous job of polishing their acts for an extremely enjoyable evening of entertainment.



An eventful and exciting year..

What a year! At the end of my first year as Headteacher I reflect on some exciting changes and importantly the remarkable support we have received from our parents throughout the year.

You have helped us develop our new logo and vision for the school which have set us on a course that will benefit all students, both present and future, for many, many years to come. One outcome of this process has been the development of the new school uniform, which will be available in the new year.

As you know, we are also approaching a consultation on the prospect of Academy Status. With this come opportunities to further strengthen our collaborative work with all secondary schools in Sutton and beyond.

Key to all aspects of our work is the continuation and development of communication with all of our stakeholders, but especially our parents. As I have said before, I very much value your views and comments. I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and hope that you all have a restful and peaceful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Mr Smith, Headteacher

Global entrepreneurs

Many of our students participated in the demanding tasks set during Global Enterprise Week (15th to 21st November).



Above: Our Sixth Formers presented at six of the borough's primary schools.

Below: Year 10 London Borough of Sutton Enterprise Challenge 'Liquids Mean Life'.

Covent Garden Primary School Enterprise Challenge

Nearly thirty Year 12 students were involved in the Covent Garden Inter Primary School Enterprise Challenge. Our students went into thirteen classes, at six different Sutton primary schools, to deliver a lesson based on an Enterprise Challenge. The Year 5 pupils from each primary school competed in teams to develop, market and cost the best product to be sold on a stall at Covent Garden.



The winning teams from All Saints Benhilton, Manor Park, Camden Juniors, Westbourne, Robin Hood Juniors and Tweedale schools attended the Sutton final at Greenshaw. Competition was fierce, with teams offering both innovative and marketable ideas. A judging panel from Greenshaw chose the Westbourne team as the Sutton finalists for the second year running. The Westbourne pupils, accompanied by their sixth form mentor and Ms Mountford, braved the snow to travel to Covent Garden for the inter-borough final (*above right*). Although they did not win at this stage, all of the pupils involved had a good time and enjoyed meeting the market traders.

The feedback from the primary school staff on our Sixth Form students was very complimentary: "Your students were superb this morning and rose to the challenge of presenting and pitching extremely well."

Year 10 students rise to business challenge

On Wednesday 17th November, six of our Year 10 students competed against other Sutton secondary schools in the 'Liquids Mean Life' Enterprise Challenge. They learnt about how and why businesses operate and engaged with ideas, challenges and applications from the business world.

During this challenge students were able to take on a variety of roles that exist within the industry including acting as suppliers of the raw materials, buyers, technologists, production staff and sales and marketing executives in order to create their own soft drink.

The Greenshaw team pitched their product to a panel. Mrs Sone, who accompanied the group, said that although we were not the overall winners, our team was "fantastic and especially showed a high level of team work, creativity and communication skills, presenting their product in a very professional way."



Students in master class face Dragon's Den

Our Year 10 Gifted and Talented students attended an entrepreneurial master class at the Merton Generator Business Centre. These students were chosen as they have shown a particular aptitude for enterprise.

The students were able to meet and work with entrepreneurs from the local area, creating and exploring ideas of their own, taking risks and budgeting.

The day culminated in a *Dragon's Den* style activity, where students were able to put forward business ideas. The day really helped them develop the enterprise skills and the *can do* attitude that they would need to be successful in the business world.



Students debate tuition fees

A number of our students are concerned about the proposed rise in tuition fees. Many of them are hoping to go to university and fear that the changes in legislation will lead to an increase in student debt.

Some of our Year 11 students felt so strongly about the issue that they asked the school to arrange meetings with the borough MPs. Unfortunately the meeting with Paul Burstow MP was hit by the 'snow days', but they were able to meet Tom Brake MP.

Mr Brake generously gave up an hour of his time to discuss their anxieties and explain what the coalition government was doing to ensure that the planned changes would not prevent those from less affluent backgrounds going to university. Though the students were not wholly convinced by his arguments, they appreciated the fact that he had taken time to talk to them and that he had addressed them as mature, intelligent young people, anxious to participate in an active democracy. The meeting was filmed by the BBC and formed part of a news item shown on *BBC London*.

Mr Gardner, who arranged the meeting, said: "I was hugely impressed by the way in which the students prepared themselves for the meeting and conducted themselves during it. Their political commitment and courteous manner did them great credit."

In a separate meeting, a Year 9 student also met with Mr Brake and presented him with a petition, signed by many of our pupils, opposing the rise in tuition fees.



Deep in the Welsh wilderness

On our five-day Year 12 Geography field trip we experienced many different aspects of South Wales, from the River Grywne Fawr to underground caves and the stunning scenery which

could be seen from our bedroom windows. Travelling from Monmouth to Abergavenny, we really enjoyed experiencing the local culture and beautiful scenery.

We also had the opportunity to visit dramatic waterfalls such as Clyn Gwyn and had the chance to walk under the waterfall itself, which was a once in a lifetime experience.

Hilston Park was our base for the duration of our stay, where the staff were very welcoming. The data we collected about the river was hard work, but gave us good results and it will really help us with our future exams.

We would like to thank Mr Stone and the other staff for a wonderful visit that we found very useful in support of our geography studies.

Report by Alex and Rosie, Year 12.



All change

Following the school uniform consultation earlier this year, the school will shortly be moving over to new V-neck sweatshirts and black polo shirts, both with the new school logo. These will be available for purchase from 24th January 2011. There will be a 10% reduction on the price of the new polo shirts and sweatshirts from 24th January to 22nd April 2011.

The new uniform will be phased in during the spring term. It is expected that all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be wearing the new uniform from the beginning of the summer term. Year 11 students are not expected to buy the new uniform and a limited stock of the old uniform will still be available if required.

If an old-style sweatshirt was purchased on or after the 7th June 2010, the school will replace it free of charge on return of the old sweatshirt with the receipt on the inset day, Monday 24th January.

From 24th January, the new uniform can be ordered in the usual way via the school website or by placing an order in an envelope with the correct money. Please note that we no longer accept cheques. Uniform order forms are available for download from the school website.

Headteacher, Mr Smith, thanked everyone who took part in the consultation. He added, "Thank you for the many messages of support throughout the year. The new uniform is the next step on our exciting journey as a school."

If you have any queries regarding the new uniform, please check the website or contact Mrs Cain, in the school office, at jcain@suttonmail.com.



In brief

■ Discounted memberships

Greenshaw has finalised an official partnership with local tennis and fitness provider Sutton Tennis Academy in Rose Hill Park. As part of the agreement, the club is offering all Greenshaw staff and families huge discounts on memberships. A proportion of membership fees for every Greenshaw member will also go directly back to the school.

This new partnership with Sutton Tennis Academy will be of great benefit to students and the school. For example, it has agreed to fund and sponsor the school's football kits for the next five years and it is helping Community Sports Leaders to obtain their awards.

More information can be found on the school website under 'Extra Curricular Activities' or contact a membership adviser at Sutton Tennis Academy on 020 8641 6611 or info@zonehealthandfitness.co.uk.

■ Updated contact details

It is important that the school maintains up-to-date contact information for use in an emergency or to send correspondence by post. If you change your address, home telephone number, mobile telephone number or email address, please inform the school office immediately.

■ Reporting absence

On each day of your child's absence, please call the main school number and leave their details on the absence line. This should then be followed up with a letter to the tutor on their return to school. If you receive a text or email, please reply and your child's record will be updated automatically. If none of these steps have been followed you will receive a letter with a reply slip which must be completed and returned to your child's tutor. We appreciate your support.

■ Volunteers needed

Home-Start Sutton is currently seeking volunteers to help provide emotional and practical support to families in the London Borough of Sutton with children under 5 years of age. Volunteers visit families for a couple of hours each week in their homes. All volunteers are given training, which starts on January 18th 2011. For more information, please contact Gayle Read or Judith Armstrong on 020 8647 6501. An enhanced CRB check is also required for all volunteers.

Career Academy set to expand into media

The Greenshaw Career Academy is launching a second academy in Creative and Media in September 2011. The programme will be aimed at students taking AS level in Media Studies, together with creative subjects such as Graphic Design and Photography.

The Career Academy programme aims to bridge the gap between education and business through *guru* lectures, work place visits, a personal business mentor and the 'jewel in the crown' – an internship placement in the summer.

Our Business Academy is currently enjoying its third year with the programme and this term the students experienced life in one of London's top law firms, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, and life in publishing at Reed Business Information.

Students have enjoyed interesting and informative *guru* lectures from Ralph Braithwaite of Third Phase Media, Fazel Nejabat, a student currently studying Law at Oxford University, Kathryn Hull and Emma Cooke from Xchanging and Graphic Designer Nathanael Gillett.

Support from local businesses such as Reed Business Information, HML Andertons, Penta Consulting and the London Borough of Sutton, as well as international companies such as Citi Bank, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and Lloyds Bank have ensured the ongoing success of our business programme.

The success of the programme depends on the vital support we get from both organisations and individuals. If you, or someone you know, can help by giving a *guru* lecture, becoming a business mentor or being involved in our internship scheme, please contact Greenshaw's Career Academy Co-ordinator, Mrs Sone, at psone@suttonmail.org. More information can be found on the school website.



Introduction to financial law at top law firm

'Magic circle' law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer gave our Career Academy students an inspiring introduction to financial law at the end of October.

The students enjoyed talks from Julian Wood, Director of Profile Financial Training plc and Simon Hall, Finance Partner at Freshfields. They also met with trainees, paralegals and junior lawyers, taking part in a fascinating workshop about the 'anatomy of a leveraged acquisition'. In addition, students toured the impressive Fleet Street offices.

Sixth former, Daniel, making his presentation.



The autumn term has been jam-packed with action and achievements in Blue House.



Mr Barnes has made a remarkable start in his role as Deputy Head of House and has been a great support to the Blue House team and its students.

Blue House representatives were privileged to attend the Headteacher's achievement lunch recently which was a celebration of consistently outstanding effort by a number of Year 8 students. Well done to those students!

Our Year 11s have returned from a very successful two week period of work experience in October at a variety of different businesses and organisations around the local area and London. They have also just taken a series of mock examinations.

The swimming gala was a huge success for all of our students with Blue House coming a valiant third. Many thanks go to the Year 7 and 8 students who participated in the gala and made themselves, and Blue House, proud.

A special mention to our two Year 7 tutors groups – 7BHa and 7BHi who have been awarded with in excess of 150 commendations this term for their hard work and extremely positive start to their life at secondary school. 9BI have also consistently achieved remarkable attendance awards over the course of the term.

Mr Clarke
Head of Blue House

The term has seen some changes in Green House with the welcome of Mr McInerney as Deputy Head of House.



The term has been packed with many exciting opportunities for students in Green House.

The swimming gala was a success, with our Year 7 and 8 students coming second and winning the Year 7s boys' competition. Mr Smith is pictured presenting Jack with the Year 7 boys' cup.



The Rambert Dance Company also had many participants from Green House including Emily (10GH), Shannon (10GH), Jordan (9GF), Leanne (9GF), Sarah (8GS) and Catherine (8GS).

The school production of 'Billy Elliot' which will be shown later in the school year has been cast and rehearsals are starting with Jamie in 8GM playing the lead role.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Miss Hurley
Head of Green House

What a remarkable start to a new term for so many Red House students, both in and out of school.



Red House repeated last year's triumphs by again winning the School's Athletic Championships in the summer and students followed this up with an amazing performance in the pool at the annual swimming gala – Red House won the overall trophy by a clear margin.

In the games morning, our Year 8 team came first and Year 7 a close second. Red House students have also represented the school at football.

As well as sporting achievements, we have a group of budding performers. *Greenshaw's Got Talent*, The Dance Display and Charles Cryer Theatre would not be the same without the talents of many of the House team. The recipients of the Jack Petchey Award were Jack and Amy who were commended for their efforts in the community.

Finally we are really proud of all the hard work that Red House pupils have put into their studies this year. Red House students are great learners too.

On behalf of the Red House team, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

Mrs Plummer
Head of Red House

The autumn term has whizzed past in a flurry of snow and thrilling events, ensuring that my first term as Head of Yellow House has been awash with excitement.



Early on in the year, Mr Stone took some students to a fishing competition in Ockley where Alfie in Year 8 won his category.

The Year 8 achievement lunch took place in November and rewarded students from each house who have displayed commitment to their school work. Well done to those students.

November saw the annual swimming gala and there was an excellent turnout of over 30 Yellow House students. Unfortunately, we were not successful on the night, but the atmosphere and team spirit more than made up for it. A special mention should go to Mason in Year 8 for his fortitude and willingness to swim in any race!

Spencer in Year 10 represented the school in the Springboard's local Future Chef Competition and was highly commended by the judges.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we bid farewell to Miss Baines, Deputy Head of House. She is leaving us to travel and we wish her good luck. She has been a huge asset to the Yellow House team and she will be missed.

Mrs King
Head of Yellow House

Greenshaw's got talent!

This year's *Greenshaw's Got Talent*, run by 12H, attracted many groups to audition from comedy sketches and singers to violin players and gym and dance displays. The acts were whittled down to 13 performances after some tough deliberations.

The event drew an enormous crowd of family and friends and the judges Miss Hodge, Mr House and Miss Laurent, had some interesting feedback for each performance.

Third place was Max, Year 7, who played a resounding piano piece; second place was Rose, Year 8, for her stunning rendition of *Memory* and Jesse, in Year 9, was the winner with her incredible dance routine that brought the house down.

The evening was a huge success and raised £460 for the National Autistic Society, with a percentage of proceeds also donated to Oxfam and The Children's Trust, Tadworth.

Greenshaw launches Grand Summer Fete

While the country freezes in sub zero temperatures, Greenshaw is looking forward to a fantastic new event to be held next summer.

On Saturday 16th July, the school will be holding a Grand Summer Fete. There will be many exciting and interesting stalls that we would like students, parents and members of the local community to enjoy.

Students and staff will be running stalls, but there are also opportunities for parents to be involved. We would very much welcome any suggestions and offers of support to help to make this event a huge success.

We are also keen to ask a VIP to open the fete, so if any parent has a famous contact that might be a suitable candidate, or you would like to get involved or contribute in any other way, please contact Mr Kidd, at tkidd@suttonlea.org.



A poignant reminder...

On 12th November, thirty-seven Year 9 students set off to see the battlefields and trenches of the Great War in France. The trip was made more poignant as it was Remembrance Day just the day before.



After an early start and a long coach and ferry journey, the group arrived at Vimy Ridge, in freezing cold temperatures. Head of History, Miss Weatherhead, explained to the students how millions of soldiers died on the land they were standing on. They all explored the maze of trenches, and whilst walking through the tunnels, the children tried to imagine what the atmosphere would have been like. It helped them to understand the tragedy of the war. They then made a brief visit to the Vimy Monument.

Their next stop was the Newfoundland Caribou: Memorial to the Missing. After investigating, the team strode through the mud to the Y Ravine Cemetery where they read the gravestones of the extremely young soldiers. Seeing the rows upon rows of white stones was very poignant and thought-provoking.

At Thiepval, the group helped one student search the huge wall of photographs for the picture of his great, great, grandfather. He was very amazed, and proud, to see his grandad's photo up on the wall. They felt great sadness as they looked around the monument that had thousands of names carved on to its walls: soldiers who were all killed in the Great War.

The students, and staff had an absorbing visit, where they learnt many new and interesting facts about the First World War.

Report by Amy, Year 9.



It all adds up in Maths challenge

A team of six Year 8 students represented Greenshaw in the Sutton Secondary Mathematics Challenge 2010 in November. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate how maths is used in the workplace.

charged for insurance against being abducted by aliens.

The team gave an excellent performance and enjoyed the experience.

Fourteen schools from across the borough participated and each team carried out real-life challenges which require mathematical skills and logical thinking. The challenges included drawing up plans to revamp Wallington town centre, the most cost effective way of manufacturing a new headache tablet and even how much people should be



Students meet Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg

Year 8 students were delighted to meet Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, when he officially opened the Sutton Life Centre on Wednesday 27th October.

As part of Mr Clegg's visit, he sat in on a short lesson given to a small group of our Year 8 pupils by Greenshaw Headteacher, Mr Smith, about strategies for the resolution of bullying. All our Year 8 students enjoyed a visit to the Life Centre during October and they discussed what they had learned from the meeting with Mr Clegg.

Mr Clegg said that he was struck by what one of the students said about the centre: "He said 'it makes you feel confident about life,' which is exactly right. It will give optimism and confidence to young people."



Fun packed week in Bude

During October half term, a party of 92 students from Years 7 and 8, together with some sixth formers and staff, had a fun-packed week at the annual adventure trip to Bude in Cornwall. Despite some interesting weather, everyone had a fantastic time.

The students took part in a huge range of exciting activities, including kayaking, canoeing, abseiling, climbing, high ropes, caving, surfing, body boarding, mountain boarding and biking. The group also enjoyed a variety of evening activities and returned home exhausted, but full of happy memories and stories of their adventures. Once again, Greenshaw narrowly missed out on winning 'super team' in the weekly competition run by the PGL activity centre.



Diploma students expand their horizons

Creative and Media Diploma students are enjoying their exploration of the current exhibitions in and around London. A recent visit to the 198 Gallery in Brixton gave them the opportunity to meet with exhibiting artist Sunara Begum, who took time to talk about the photographs and video installations.

Students have been given an exciting introduction to the leaders of Hustlebucks, the in-house youth design team and fashion label and preliminary discussions have been made for a design collaboration in the new year.

Students also took part in the annual Creative Quarter at the Victoria and Albert Museum, which included presentations from Zip Design and the British Fashion Council.

'Let's Get Cooking' club

Our Food Technology Department has been working towards setting up a 'Let's Get Cooking' club as part of a national network of cookery clubs.

In November, Miss Allen, Miss Parsons and four students attended a start up day at Wandle Valley School, where they worked together as a team to produce fruit smoothies for a market stall and coleslaw and pasta salad for lunch.

The new club will start in 2011, when teachers, students and families will be invited to attend after school cookery sessions and demonstrations.



House teams compete in annual swimming gala

On Tuesday 9th November, the annual Greenshaw Swimming Gala was held at Cheam Leisure Centre. As usual, competition between the houses was extremely fierce and the Year 7 and Year 8 students participated competitively and enthusiastically throughout the event.

There were some very close races with energetic support from the spectators and house teams helping to spur on the competitors. Congratulations go to Red House who were the overall winners on the night.

Many thanks to all the participants and spectators who attended and helped make the night such a great success.



U13 girls' football team are Sutton champions

The U13 girls' football team are the Sutton six-a-side champions after winning the Crystal Palace tournament at Goals Soccer Centre. The team beat Overton Grange in the final in a tense penalty shoot out. They will now go on to represent Sutton in the next round of the tournament. PE Teacher, Miss Povey, said: "The team should be very proud of their achievement!"



Rambert workshop performance

It is very important to the Dance Department that students have as many opportunities to perform to an audience as possible. With this in mind, Greenshaw dance students have had a very busy half term. The Rambert experience was extremely successful. All students studied the work *Hush* choreographed by Christopher Bruce. They thoroughly enjoyed the physically demanding workshop and the trip to the theatre to see the work performed live. The experience culminated in a dance showcase celebration where students shared their work with each other, family and friends.



A level dance students also developed their movement vocabulary and creative exploration through a full day workshop with The Richard Alston Dance Company, which challenged them mentally and technically. The work they created will form the basis for their practical coursework.

Our extra curricular dance clubs have worked very hard creating and practising festive dances for Greenshaw's Variety Show and for a visit to The Eastway Day Centre to entertain the elderly residents.

Badminton results

Greenshaw badminton teams have had some excellent results this term across Years 7 to 11.

The Key Stage 3 teams have enjoyed competitive badminton in both regional schools competitions and at Sutton Grammar School, coming ahead of their arch rivals Carshalton Boys Sports College.

The Key Stage 4 team enjoyed similar success, losing only to Wilsons at the Regional Schools Championships.



Dates for your diary

A complete list of school events can be found on the school website at www.greenshaw.co.uk.

Autumn Term ends	17th December	Y10 Subject Meeting	17th February
Bank Holiday	3rd January	Half Term	21st February
Spring Term starts	5th January	Y7 Achievement Lunch	1st March
Year 9 Options Evening	6th January	Y7 Subject Meeting	10th March
Y11 Mock Results Day	14th January	Y12/13 January Exam Results	10th March
Y10 Booster Injections	14th January	Inset Day	21st March
Y11 Achievement Lunch	18th January	Y13 Subject Meeting	24th March
Y11 Subject Meeting	20th January	Y8 HPV Injections	4th April
Inset Day	24th January	Spring Term ends (3pm)	8th April
Y10 Achievement Lunch	1st February	Bank Holiday	25th April
Y12 Subject Fair	10th February	Summer Terms starts	26th April

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Maths & Computing