



# GREENSHAW NEWS

April 2011

## The Cohen Project sets the bar high

*On Thursday 17th March, Greenshaw hosted a stunning evening of drama, poetry, music, photography and dance, celebrating the work of the Canadian singer-songwriter Leonard Cohen, which has set the standard for our performances higher than ever.*

Talented students from Year 8 upwards, along with several teachers, gave wonderful dance, drama and musical performances throughout the evening. The show also included an exhibition of exceptional art photography by Year 10 students and a selection of thought-provoking poetry written by our Year 10 Gifted and Talented English students, which were all inspired by Cohen lyrics.

Interval refreshments were provided and served by the school's Tanzania Team of students to raise funds for their World Expedition project to Tanzania, East Africa, in 2012.

The event was a sell-out and has been widely acclaimed by visitors. One parent commented: "It was inspiring to see teachers and students working hard together to produce such a project – witty, thoughtful and emotional – with some great performances from the musicians and singers. The news of today is often full of negative comments about teenagers and their lifestyles, I can only say they should look at what happened last night as proof that they work very hard."

He added: "It is positive to see the diversity of learning and skills at Greenshaw that includes music, dance and photography along with the more accepted curriculum of schools and this can only take it forward as a school of choice."

Another parent observed: "It was a fantastic show which I really enjoyed. All of the performances were excellent. The whole evening, from our welcome on arrival by pupils, to the staging and interval food and drinks, was great. It was very professionally put together and was both moving and exhilarating. There were talented performances from pupils and staff alike. Thank you very much, and well done to everyone!"



# In brief

## ■ E.F.I. success in ICT

Year 9 and 10 students were awarded with certificates for their Effort, Focus and Improvement in ICT last half term. Each received a firm handshake and congratulations from Mrs Wallace or Mr Dawkins and Mr Dunham. These hard working students also received cinema vouchers for being the best in their class.



## ■ Year 7 Achievement Lunch

Mr Smith congratulated forty Year 7 students for their performance in all subjects this year at the recent achievement lunch. Students from all four Houses were invited following the excellent effort grades awarded in their recent school reports. Many of the House and leadership teams were present to add their congratulations. This achievement represents a great start to their school life.

## ■ Celebrate Tamil New Year

Sutton for Peace and Justice, with Child Aid Lanka and members of the local Tamil community, will be celebrating Tamil New Year at a cultural evening at Greenshaw on Friday 15th April from 6.30 to 9.00pm. Sutton Tamil School will be giving performances of traditional music and dance. There will also be a light buffet of typical food. The event will raise funds for flood relief in Sri Lanka. Donations to Child Aid Lanka can be made at [www.childaidlanka.org.uk](http://www.childaidlanka.org.uk). For more details, please contact [sutton4peace@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sutton4peace@yahoo.co.uk).

## ■ World Maths champions

Students from Years 7 and 8 took part in World Maths Day last month. Our winners were Sam (7RP), Ellie (7YF), Freya (7YD), Joe (8BP), Sebastian (8GM), and Daniel (8RH). Congratulations and well done.

## ■ Stock Market Challenge

Several Sutton schools took part in the Stock Market Challenge at Greenshaw in February. The activity was a competitive, team-based game designed to develop knowledge and understanding in Maths, Business Studies and Economics, as well as improving students' team work, financial capability and communication skills. Competition was fierce, with Stanley Park taking first place.

# Bringing Science to life



*National Science and Engineering Week, from 11th to 20th March, saw a series of inspiring scientific demonstrations and hands-on activities in school for students in Years 7 to 11, taking Science out of the classroom and bringing it to life...*

A team from the Science Museum Outreach Programme visited Greenshaw on 17th March.

During the morning, thirty Year 10 and 11 students were posed a science and engineering problem – they had to transport water across a six foot gap without carrying it. The students rose admirably to the challenge and had great fun in the process!



Year 7 and 8 witnessed the first of two interactive science presentations – the Supercool Show. Concepts about temperature and heat were demonstrated and students were shown what happened to the properties of different materials when they were immersed in liquid nitrogen and boiling water. Year 9 experienced the Material World Show, which demonstrated what the world around them was made of. Both presentations were very professionally staged and entertained the students whilst exploring scientific theories.

*Above and left: getting hands-on in the Science presentations. Below: students get to grips with a tricky problem.*



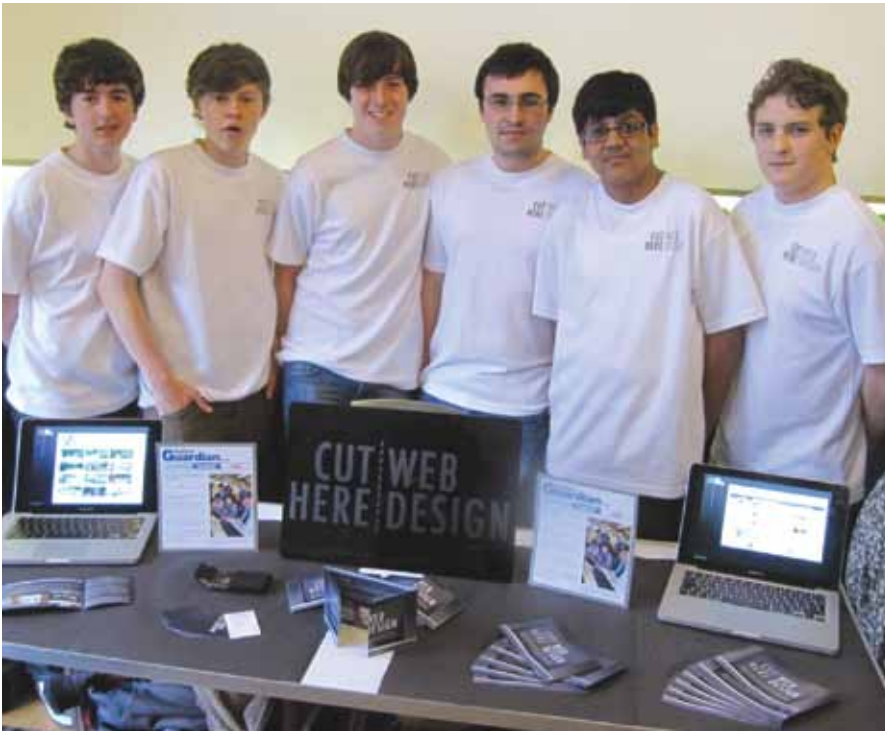
# Star spotting in the planetarium

During National Science and Engineering Week, our Year 7s had a wonderful opportunity to experience a travelling planetarium. The giant inflatable dome was home to a fantastic show of constellations and space travel to other planets.

As the lights went down, they saw common constellations such as The Plough and Orion (*pictured*), as well as others that cannot normally be seen due to light pollution or clouds.

At the end of the constellation show the students were able to experience space travel to another planet where they were given facts about its composition, gravity and mass.





## Poetry Live!

Normally home to *We Will Rock You*, the Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road, rocked to the sound of six major poets, including Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy, on Friday 18th February.

The London venue of *Poetry Live!* was host to a thousand young people, including 64 Year 11 Greenshaw students. They enjoyed a full day listening to poets recite poems and answer questions on them, enthusiastically joining in with John Agard's performance poetry. Simon Armitage's humorous observations on teenage life and crises held the audience entranced.

Newcomer, Daljit Nagra, who entertained in an astonishing range of accents, promises to be a highlight for coming years as the old anthology is replaced with a new one that includes an even wider range of poetry. Reluctantly, at 3pm, the party had to face the 'dull South Circular Roar' of London's traffic once again.



## Budding entrepreneurs

*On Thursday 31st March at the Hub in Morden, Fred, Rosewan, Jason, James, Rajiv and Luke (Year 13) fought off tough competition to become the winners of the Sutton and Merton Company of the Year 2011 on the Young Enterprise Programme.*

Their company, called Cut Here, designs web sites and has produced work for a number of professional local businesses. Initially there were twenty seven other companies in the competition, with nine finalists selected on the basis of their company reports. On Thursday, finalists had to organise a trade stand and complete a verbal presentation in front of the judges and a live audience. Other schools competing in the final included Wallington High School for Girls, Wimbledon High School, South Thames College, Nonsuch High School for Girls, Cheam High School and Sutton High School.

The Cut Here Web Design Company will now compete at the London regional finals. Director of KSS, Mr Gardner, congratulated the team on their success, saying: "This is a fantastic achievement. The students have worked tremendously hard, have put together a very professional package. They thoroughly deserve their success. Well done and we wish them luck in the regional finals."

## Into the future with Modern Languages

A group of Year 11 students who have been working at an exceptionally high standard in French, German or Spanish (*pictured right*), were invited to attend a booster day at Roehampton University on 11th March. The inspirational setting for the event was beautiful – the Adam Room in Grove House, an eighteenth century English Heritage listed building.

The day offered them an opportunity to practise the level of language that would earn them an A or A\* grade at GCSE. In the afternoon, the students experienced some A Level work. Mrs Fice, Ms Hockey and Ms Thompsett, from Greenshaw's Modern Languages Department, worked hard to prepare the activities and the programme was fully appreciated. The support and teaching by the school's two postgraduate education students added to the success of the day.

Central to the event was the partnership of Roehampton University. Lecturers Cliff Ford and Peter Saunders arranged for rooms, facilities and refreshments to be provided. They also linked Greenshaw staff with three Languages Ambassadors – final year undergraduates Rebecca, Jessica and Christina, who worked with the groups and urged the students to be courageous in their approach to speaking languages.



# CAREER ACADEMY

## Regional Conference

Year 13 Career Academy Students recently attended an interesting Regional Conference at Dragon Hall, Holborn.

We were set various business tasks throughout the morning, linked with the forthcoming Olympics 2012. Teams of students each created a pitch and had to argue their case to achieve the highest investment. The managing director of each team made their presentations and then each team looked at how their business would run over the course of the year, the risks that would be taken and profit forecasts.

The remainder of the day was filled with informative and motivational speeches given by staff from the Greater London Authority.

*By Salmaan, Year 13.*



## Year 12 Careers Day

The Careers Day focused on interview techniques and CV-writing skills – both of which are vital for those looking to go into jobs over the summer or after Sixth Form. There were many experienced business people on hand to give their advice as to exactly what employers want.

Although many of us already had basic CVs, the day enabled us to vastly improve upon them. The range of activities also helped us to find new ways to enhance our future job applications, which will hopefully prove useful later in our careers.

*By Fred, Year 12.*



# New York, New York

*Drama students hit Broadway during half term for the trip of a lifetime. Drew, in Year 13, gives his account of their fantastic trip...*

From the moment we set foot onto American soil at JFK Airport, we were compelled to explore and be entertained by everything that awaited us in Manhattan. The hotel that we stayed at was fabulous: 25 stories high, exactly like a big city apartment. We were in New York City for six days and planned to make the most of it!

Over the course of the trip, we took in many of the city sights. These attractions included: The Empire State Building, The Rockefeller Centre, Times Square, The Statue of Liberty, Central Park, Brooklyn Bridge, Ground Zero, Grand Central Station and more.

All students and teachers participated in two drama workshops. The first was Stage Combat – a thrill ride of excitement; we learnt how to punch safely, strangle, drag, pull hair, put together fight sequences, act angry and act hurt. Everyone took the instructions on board and ended up producing professional examples of captivating, lively and humorous fights. The second was Musical Theatre (pictured below). Again, a fun two hours of dramatised introductions, dialect practising, singing lessons and dance routines. The more enthusiastic and involved the group became, the more we laughed and generally had a superb time.

The highlight of the week was the Broadway production of *Billy Elliott*. It was a spectacle of professional acting, bright flashing lights, singing, eccentric dancing and an engaging stage atmosphere – all of which we had learned, heard and practised ourselves in the workshops. It was the perfect end to a perfect week.



## Executive Producer coaches students

Greenshaw hosted a flying visit from Joe Smith, Executive Producer of Old Vic Productions, who came in to give advice and tips to students performing in the forthcoming production of *Billy Elliot* in July. He also kindly offered to return at a later date to offer further support.

Tickets for what promises to be Greenshaw's most professional production ever will soon be available.



The spring term has proved to be an eventful and successful one for Blue House.



Year 7BHa and 7Hi have shown increasing maturity since starting at Greenshaw and have gained confidence from the relationships that they have built with other students and teachers, which is very encouraging.

Year 9 students have completed their options – choosing their preferred choices for GCSE subjects in Year 10 and 11 which they are looking forward to starting in May. Good luck to them.

Year 11 are currently preparing intensely for their forthcoming exams which occur in May and June. To support this, they will start a revision programme which will start in May. The very best of luck to them, also.

The following girls in 9BI: Emily, Molly, Megan, Georgia, Georgia and Amy have shown excellent commitment to dance club and exhibited superb performances at the dance evening on 30th March.



*Mr Clarke*  
Head of Blue House

The spring term has whizzed by in Green House, with many great achievements from the students.



Our Year 7s have begun to be more confident, with some attending regular meetings with peer mentors and gaining merits and commendations in many subjects, including Harry (7GT) with over thirty to his name.

Year 9 have completed their options interviews and have made important decisions in consultation with their families about their GCSEs.

The two Year 11 tutor groups in Green House (11GE and 11GF) have achieved great focus on their studies, completing coursework and beginning to revise. We are looking forward to celebrating some great results in August and wish them good luck in their forthcoming examinations.

The KS4 awards have taken place in the last week of term, recognising all the students who have achieved in a subject area over the past year. The Green House award went to Sagana (11GE) for the effort and hard work she has put into school life since she came to Greenshaw.

Finally, congratulations to all those students who have been selected throughout the year to attend an achievement lunch, which also recognises their efforts in lessons.

*Mrs Hurley*  
Head of Green House

This term has been busy and eventful in Red House and Ms Bhatia, Mrs Ashworth and I continue to be proud of all that Red House students have achieved, both in and out of school.



It is the last newsletter that I write before the exams commence, so I must start by congratulating Year 11 for all of their hard work so far. We all wish them the very best of luck with their GCSEs.

We hope to welcome many of them back to join the Sixth Form. There are also some GCSE exams for year 10 (in June) so we wish them all the very best too. It looks as if the Easter holidays will be a hardworking one for many of our remarkable students.

Red House students have also represented the school at football, netball, basketball, rounders, rugby, dance, drama, musical performances and poetry recitals.

They have raised money through a variety of ways including cake sales; one Year 7 student recently raised £200 for the British Heart foundation. We are really proud of all the hard work that Red House students have put into their studies this year. You are great learners too.

Goodbye and good luck to our industrious, intelligent and inspirational Year 11 cohort and on behalf of Miss Bhatia and Mrs Ashworth. I wish you all a very happy Easter.

*Mrs Plummer*  
Head of Red House

School life has continued at a brisk pace this term, with many events both in and outside school in which Yellow House students have participated.



We have celebrated the efforts of students in Years 7, 10 and 11 at our achievement lunches, with Mr Smith congratulating the students in person.

Yellow House students have involved themselves in all sorts of extra-curricular activities – Benedict, Ndaba, James, Gary and Chris (Year 11) were all in the finale band in the very successful showing of *The Cohen Project* recently. Richard, Fred and Sophia (Year 10) were also involved in the drama presentation. Hayley, Leila, Michela, Kalum, Amy, Hannah and Rebecca have been dedicated to rehearsing and performing with the school choir this year, performing at a Day Centre just before Christmas. Congratulations to all of them for their hard work.

*Billy Elliot* is the latest school production to be performed at the end of the school year – Fred, Georgia C and Georgia B form part of the cast from Yellow House. Also, the very recent dance show had some Yellow House participants – Salma, Charlotte and Umeira deserve a particular mention.

The Year 11s celebrated fantastic mock results this January. Mrs Tenner and I wish them luck in their forthcoming examinations.

*Ms King*  
Head of Yellow House

## FROM CHALLENGE 2 SUCCESS



### Expert baby care

Our Challenge to Success (C2S) students have been very busy this term.

The Year 10s are currently undertaking a six week Childcare taster session at South Thames College, Merton Campus as part of their ASDAN CoPE Award. In this session, the students gave their 'babies' expert care.



### Helping senior citizens

Elderly residents from Destin Court sheltered housing in Sutton and our Year 11 C2S students took part in a regenerative project which focused on breaking down the negative perceptions of the elderly and young people that are frequently portrayed by the media.

A group of senior citizens visited Greenshaw to talk to the students about their school days and then sleeves were rolled up as two mixed groups had a bake off! Over four weeks, the students visited the residents and provided entertainment through quizzes, games and even ballroom dancing. The residents and the care home manager commented on the excellent manners and maturity of our students.

## Out in the field

*The annual Isle of Wight field trip was an excellent opportunity for Year 10 GCSE Geography students to put the techniques they had been learning in class into practice in the field.*

As soon as students arrived in the town of Ryde on Thursday, they were met with their first challenge – completing a survey of the town, exploring how tourism had affected the area.

The evening was spent in the classroom writing up their results and settling into their accommodation. On Friday, the group completed questionnaires and interviews to enable them to examine further the impact of tourism. The afternoon was spent at The Needles, a series of beautiful coastal features at Alum Bay, where they could see for themselves the real impact of the ocean on the massive coastal erosion.

One student commented: "My favourite part of the trip was the informative tour of Alum Bay and The Needles. It made me realise the effects of physical geography."



## Photographers explore Painshill Park

A small group of our Year 13 Photography students explored the theme of Exploration and Discovery during a visit to Painshill Park in February.

They explored the beautiful park and discovered 18th Century Follies, including a crystal grotto, gothic tower and Turkish tent. The picturesque surroundings provided an excellent source for students' photographs in perfect weather conditions.

Miss Vilday, Head of Art and Photography, said: "Well done to the students – they



took some stunning photographs – and thank you to Miss Norgate and Miss Lee for their support."

## Award in Digital Applications

Year 10 students recently received their AIDA GCSE results. All of the current Year 10 students undertook the AIDA GCSE ICT course in Year 9 and over 66% achieved a GCSE grade C equivalent or above. Mr Smith, Mrs Wallace and Mr Dunham presided over a special AIDA awards ceremony in the main hall, where the excited Year 10 cohort were presented with their well deserved awards certificates. Well done.



## Speak up for Science Challenge



Sutton Education Business Partnership recently hosted the *Speak Up for Science and Engineering Challenge* at The Phoenix Centre in Wallington. Six of our Year 10 students were involved in a series of

activities throughout the day that aimed to develop their knowledge of science, engineering and design and technology.

The challenging activities included using and developing a greater understanding of switching and sequencing in order to program a model vehicle; an engineering structural challenge and an architectural design task.

Students were assessed on their communication, team work, scientific understanding and practical skills. The team worked very successfully together and rose admirably to the challenges that were set before them. Well done.



### Year 8 Speed careers

Last week saw Greenshaw's first ever Speed Careers event.

It was loosely based on the concept of 'speed dating', with small groups of Year 8 students taking a few minutes to ask visitors questions about their careers before moving on to the next person. It was a very successful morning that introduced students to a wide range of different career pathways. Initial feedback suggests that both students and visitors immensely enjoyed the morning.

If you would like to get involved in our next speed careers event, please contact Ms Mountford, Director of Enterprise, at [dmountford@suttonlea.org](mailto:dmountford@suttonlea.org).

## Join in all of the fun of the fair

Planning is well under way for the Greenshaw Summer Fete on Saturday July 16th. The students have now voted for the charities that they would like to support and chose to send the majority of proceeds to St Raphael's Hospice. Barnardo's and Oxfam will also benefit.

Many stalls and activities run by staff and students have been organised, but we would like to have even more on the day. If you are a parent and would be prepared to run a stall, or contribute in some other way, please contact Mr Kidd. There are any number of potential stalls that could be run with an enthusiastic adult in charge.

We are also requesting donations of potential prizes for some of the stalls. If you have a family member, friend or business connection that could offer a new football, a bouquet of flowers, a meal at a local restaurant or any other prize, it would all be greatly appreciated. Finally, if you have any quality bric-a-brac that is not needed at home, please can you contribute it to the fete by sending it into the school office via your son/daughter.

**If you can help, or just want to find out more, please feel free to contact Mr Kidd by email at [tkidd@suttonlea.org](mailto:tkidd@suttonlea.org) or by telephone on 0208 715 1001.**

## Adventures in the snow

A large group of Greenshaw students enjoyed an adventurous week skiing in Austria during half term. From Year 8 upwards, they stayed in a ski retreat near frozen Lake Zeller, in a small town in the heart of the mountains of the Salzburg province. It was a magical setting with direct access to the mountains and the nearby glacier of the Kitzsteinhorn.

They spent their first day on the slopes at Schuttdorf, where they established groups and learnt basic techniques. It was exhausting, particularly for the beginners, but they were very enthusiastic. Most of the week was then spent practising skills and enjoying the thrilling ski experience.

Evening entertainment included a beautiful horse and carriage ride around the lake, a spectacular ice hockey match, a

competitive quiz and a fondue, where they tried many local delicacies. After dinner on their final night, each skier was presented with a certificate and medal, with special prizes for the most improved student in each category. Mr Stone was also presented with his own special award for being such a fabulous organiser!



### Strengthening families

Our new Family Support Officer, Mrs Ashworth, has recently taken up her post at Greenshaw and will be working within school full time. She will be running two programmes in the summer term: *Strengthening Families* and *Bridging the Gap*.

The *Strengthening Families* Programme is for young people aged between 10 to 14 years and their parents/carers. It will try to help students with issues such as how to resist peer pressure, how to deal with stress and emotions and generally keep out of trouble. It aims to help students and their parents/carers to understand each other better.

*Bridging the Gap* is for parents only, with young people aged from 10 to 17 years. The topics covered include the pressures young people and parents face, parenting styles, teenage development, conflict resolution and listening skills. Sessions will run from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday evenings.

Both courses start in May. Please contact Mrs Ashworth if you are interested, or email her [aashworth@suttonlea.org](mailto:aashworth@suttonlea.org).

Mrs Asworth is also running a drop in session on Mondays for students in the Connexions room from 3pm.

## Sports shorts



### U15 girls' cricket

The Greenshaw U15 girls' cricket team have progressed to the regional cricket finals after qualifying in the Surrey Schools section. The team have already won the Sutton and North Surrey sections. They continue to perform to a very high standard. Congratulations to the team and good luck in the tournament.



### Mini Olympics

Greenshaw Community Sports Leaders organised and ran a Mini Olympics style festival for local primary schools at Greenshaw. It was a successful event, the sun shone and many parents came to offer their support. Well done to our next generation of Sports Leaders on their achievement.



### Sutton Cup finals

On Thursday 24th March, both our Year 7 and Year 8 teams narrowly lost out in the Sutton Cup finals to very strong teams fielded by Overton Grange. The PE Department would like to thank all parents and staff for their huge support for the Greenshaw football teams this season.

# Dancing the night away

*It has been an action-packed term for the Dance Department, with preparation for final exams and many exciting events and performances taking place...*

## Annual dance evening

On Wednesday 30th March, Greenshaw hosted its annual dance extravaganza. It was a highly entertaining evening that included examination performance work, students' own choreography, lower school class work and extra curricular dances. All students worked extremely hard in choreographing and completing their dance performances, which were very well received by the appreciative audience.



## The Cohen Project

Selected gifted and talented Dance students recently participated in the extremely successful Cohen Project. The dancers produced two visually stunning dances and rehearsed until they were perfect. They learnt professional repertoire, created motifs and developed their own movement material. The group improved

their knowledge in both choreography and expressive skills. In addition, the Dance Department has been impressed with how the students have worked with others, improving communication, team work and time management skills.

## Visit to Royal Opera House

A small group of students attended the grand Royal Opera House in March to view the GCSE Dance set work alongside two other ballets. It was a spectacular evening, enabling the students to experience a classical ballet in the formal and extravagant setting of the Royal Opera House.



# Dates for your diary

A complete list of school events can be found on the school website at [www.greenshaw.co.uk](http://www.greenshaw.co.uk).

<b>Spring Term ends (3pm)</b>	<b>8th April</b>	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze trip	13th May
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>25th April</b>	<b>Half Term</b>	<b>30th May to 3rd June</b>
<b>Summer Term starts</b>	<b>26th April</b>	Borough Sports Day	14th June
9 Achievement Lunch	27th April	Y6 Interviews	20th, 21st, 27th, 28th June
Y8 Subject Meeting	28th April	Fashion Show	30th June
<b>Royal Wedding</b>	<b>29th April</b>	Y11 Prom	1st July
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>2nd May</b>	Billy Elliot	5th, 6th, 7th, 8th July
KS5 Awards Evening	5th May	School Sports Day	12th July
Y11 Study Day	6th May	Grand Summer Fete	16th July
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Trip	6th May	<b>Summer Term ends (12.30pm)</b>	<b>22nd July</b>



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