



GREENSHAW NEWS

December 2011

It's Christmas!

A truly diverse array of talents and attributes were on full display at the 2011 Christmas Variety Show. Despite the cold weather outside, inside the hall was on fire!

The expressive arts department put together items from various disciplines including music, drama and dance.

The show kicked off with an enchanting version of *Florence and the Machine*, interpreted by a talented group of GCSE students. Highlights from the dance department included a cheerleading group, a gifted and talented ensemble and a street dance. The PE staff dancing to Shakin' Stevens' *Merry Christmas Everyone* aroused cheers from the audience.

In keeping with the festive theme, the Greenshaw choir delivered the sentiment captured in Wham's *Last Christmas*. A few musical soloists shone brightly in the evening's proceedings, with a delightful *Prelude* performed by Julian, a charming flute solo by Shiva and a captivating guitar piece by Adana.

After a brief refreshment break of mince pies and mulled wine organised by the Tanzania Team, Greenshaw's Year 10 thespians performed some expressive and explosive duologues.

The final icing on the Christmas cake was the staff performance of *Do they Know it's Christmas Time?* The talented sixth form session band joined our very own *Staff Aid* to show how it's done. With captivating contributions from many staff, including Mr Smith and Mrs Wallace, the variety show finished off with a Christmas cracker!

Music Teacher, Mr Doherty, did a fantastic job organising the show in the absence of Miss Laurent, our Head of Music, who is currently on maternity leave. He congratulated everyone on the success of the evening: "I would sincerely like to thank and congratulate staff, site staff and students for their immeasurable contributions. To all the pupils and teachers who performed – you never fail to inspire us."



A word from the Head



As I approach the end of the second year of my headship, I feel privileged to have had contact with so many supportive parents and carers. I am grateful for your support at the many events we have. This includes, most recently, the Christmas Concert where so many of the talents we have at Greenshaw were on show. This perhaps does not include my singing, but certainly all of our students who never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm and commitment. I think my ears are still ringing from the cries of support at the swimming gala where the triumphant Yellow House celebrated victory – your support as parents and carers is so important to the students and staff.

This newsletter is, once again, packed full of the excitement and success that is our daily life. With some new opportunities on the horizon, including the implementation of our new Managed Learning Environment, it promises to be an exciting start to 2012. On behalf of the staff at Greenshaw, I wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Mr Smith, Headteacher



Chemistry competition

Four of our Year 10 chemists entered the Royal Society of Chemistry competition on Thursday 17th November. This preliminary stage of the competition involved four rounds of questioning, of varying degrees of difficulty, and required chemistry knowledge both within and outside the curriculum.

The students worked brilliantly as a team and were a pleasure to watch. If they are successful in this round of the competition, they will be offered a place in the South East Regional Chemistry Challenge Final to be held at a London University in Spring 2012.



City sights

Our Year 12 photographers visited central London last week to experience the city as a starting point for their AS photography coursework.

Students explored sights at London Bridge, Brick Lane, Bank, Covent Garden and St Paul's Cathedral, where they took photos of the protesters.

Although it was a long day, they captured some amazing moments across London and also grasped the opportunity to chat to Boris Johnson outside City Hall!

Photography teacher, Mr Harrison, said: "Well done to all our students for their hard work and effort on the day and a big thank you to all the staff that supported them."

Remembrance...

Beth, in Year 9, reports on the recent history trip to the battlefields in northern France on Armistice Day.

First stop, Vimy Ridge. We made our way through the puzzle of preserved trenches (right) and faced an eerie looking forest. You could almost imagine shells and bullets flying and fires blazing. The rainy fog looked almost like ghosts wandering in and out of the trees.

As we walked through a German graveyard, a sea of crosses stretched to the horizon and the occasional round headstone marked the graves of German Jews. Newfoundland, where hundreds of men were massacred on the very land we were standing on, was so moving.

Thiepval was the biggest and most amazing monument. We laid a wreath and marked our respect with two minutes' silence. We searched the giant stone blocks for names of family members and read the messages left by other people paying their respects. At the end of the day we were exhausted, but we will never forget what a privilege it was to visit such a historic place on such a historic day.



Students explore the trenches (above) and the impressive monument at Vimy Ridge (main picture).

Winter art competition

The Art Department has received some superb entries for the Winter Art and Photography Competition this year. The lack of snow so far this year has not discouraged students and staff from painting, drawing, sculpting and taking photos with a winter theme. Excellent entries this year include a large painting on canvas by Lucas, Year 10, (below) and a fantastic clay sculpture by Sabrina, Year 8.



Olympic fever hits Greenshaw

The Greenshaw sixth form was delighted to welcome Bill Morris, Director of Culture, Ceremonies, Education and Live Sites, together with his colleague Mia Allen, into school on Monday 5th December.

Bill, in charge of planning the London 2012 cultural and education programme, came in to talk to our business studies and physical education A level students about the 2012 Olympics. They discussed how the Olympic dream had developed into reality over the past five years and how London would benefit in the future from the Olympic legacy.

Bill fielded a series of questions from the students: about transport, organisation and how we can all get involved in London 2012. Of particular interest was what form the opening and closing ceremonies would take - to which his reply was suitably ambiguous!

The visit left the students with a greater understanding of the organisation behind the scenes and a sense of excitement looking forward to next year's big event.



Bill (centre) with three of our sixth form ambassadors and Head of Sixth Form, Miss Buchanan.

In brief



Children in Need

Over £1,000 was raised in a mufti day that coincided with the *BBC Children in Need* appeal. Students each paid £1 to wear mufti and sixth form students followed their own particular dress code of pyjamas. A particularly striking image from the day was assistant headteacher Mr Jemson's nightdress! Jack, chair of the school council, said: "It was a brilliant day and we raised a lot of money that went to a good cause. It was great to see the teachers joining in."

Culture cultures

Year 12 French and German AS students visited the British Film Institute attending sessions exploring the history and culture behind French and German film. The days proved challenging and enjoyable as students heard seminars and participated in discussions on key French and German films.

Let's get cooking!

Eight students from Years 7 to 9 have been attending a cooking club after school with Mrs Ashworth. They have cooked Chinese vegetable stir-fry, sweet and sour chicken, honey glazed sausages and potato wedge cup cakes, to name just a few. The highlight of the afternoon has been when they sit down and share their meal, which gives students a chance to discuss how their week has gone. On 5th December the students invited their parents and carers to join them, which everyone really enjoyed.

Winter Wonderland

Thanks to everyone who supported Winter Wonderland – our sixth formers raised over £200 for the South Carshalton Day Centre for the elderly. The fabulous hamper was won by Imaan in Year 10.

Top of the bench

Four chemistry students from Years 9, 10 and 11 attended a Salter's 'Top of the Bench' chemistry competition aimed at KS4 students in November at Whitgift School. It was designed to encourage and reward high achievement and was an opportunity to showcase Greenshaw talent. The competition involved a practical task and a table quiz demanding the team's problem solving skills and their ability to think about information outside the curriculum.

Biology students love lichen!

Our Year 13 biology students visited Juniper Hall, a residential field centre near Dorking, in November. They spent three days honing their field work skills (*below*) and completing A level course work. The pupils now have a new found love for lichen!



Catwalk queens (and kings)

On Thursday 1 December, Greenshaw launched its first ever major fashion event, showcasing students' creations and designs from local fashion outlets.

The show displayed a rich range of creative work from all year groups. These included *Zoolander*, where Year 8 students adorned hats based on an animal theme and *African Roots* – Year 10 dresses inspired by the colours and textiles of Africa; our talented Year 12 fashion students offered *Pomo*, an inspired twist on the little black dress, and *Buttons and Bobbins* was showcased, a young enterprise company, specialising in a collection of customised retro chic.

A variety of staff and sixth form students also strutted their stuff on the catwalk, modelling designs from local fashion boutiques such as House of Fraser, Blue Inc, Kaos and Bricks and Mortar. Our Let's Get Cooking team produced some wonderful refreshments, such as gingerbread lollies and colourful, non-alcoholic fruit cocktails.



Career Academy students get Capital Experience

Our Year 12 Career Academy students headed to London on 29th November to get a taste of life at Freshminds, one of Britain's most influential organisations, to boost their networking and employability skills.

The eye-opening visit was part of a day-long event, 'A Capital Experience', organised by aspiration-raising business-education charity, Career Academies UK. The day involved around 1300 students from across the UK, as well as over 100 leading London-based employers such as Astra Zeneca, BT Wholesale, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, City of London Corporation, Marks and Spencer and Santander.

During the morning, Freshminds provided the students with a behind the scenes look at how the organisation works and

in the CV workshop, the students all improved their CVs. After the visit, the students made their way to the Royal Festival Hall, where they networked with other young people from across the UK taking part in the programme and participating in business-related activities, boosting employability skills.

During the afternoon, the students received valuable advice from speakers including Channel 4s *Fairy Jobmother*, Hayley Taylor, Paul Wilson, Senior Advisor at Bain and Company and speaker and author, Lee Jackson. The afternoon was led by motivational speaker, David McQueen. The experience inspired and motivated our students and helped them to see what they can achieve if they set their minds to it.

Below: Career Academy students with David McQueen and Hayley Taylor.





Blue House continues to show ambition and aspiration, with students progressing on to successful careers or college/sixth form placements after the summer holidays. Achievements and successes have been many and are an inspiration for our students.

Our three Year 7 Blue House tutor groups have settled into life at Greenshaw, making a smooth transition from their primary schools.

This year's house swimming gala was an enjoyable evening. Blue House achieved a proud third place – the students that represented us were a credit to themselves, their families and the school through the effort and commitment that they displayed.

Recently, we celebrated the success of Year 8 students, where the most consistent students in terms of achievement and effort were invited to Mr Smith's achievement lunch. The prospect of the gourmet banquet was greeted with much excitement and glee.

Our Year 11 cohort have recently returned from a successful two-week period of work experience at a variety of different businesses and organisations. They will also be sitting their mock GCSE examinations in December. The very best of luck to them.

The house team continues to reward effort and endeavour, as well as the highest weekly attendance, in assembly. This, amongst other factors including punctuality and commendations, acquires points for the inter-house competition, which was celebrated this week.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the governors, the senior leadership team and all of the Blue House team for their support with our students. It is through their hard work, care and commitment that Blue House students, throughout the school, feel supported in both their welfare and academic studies.

Mr Clarke, Head of Blue House



The autumn term has gone past in a blur in Green House, with Christmas almost upon us. It seems like only yesterday that we said goodbye to the class of 2011 and welcomed our two new Year 7 tutor groups.

This term has been packed with many exciting opportunities for students in Green House. There are many achievements to recognise and unfortunately there is not enough space to list them all, but they were recognised during the achievement assembly at the end of term.

One of the main highlights was the house swimming gala. Our swimmers, from Year 7 and 8, put in great effort to try to claim the cup. Green House came second, with the Year 8 boys winning their year group competition. Well done to all who participated.



At the beginning of October, I was privileged to watch the fantastic sporting skills of Year 7s and 8s during the games morning. This was a great success and the Year 7 football, Year 7 dance and Year 8 rugby teams all won their events for Green House.

This year, 7GG have organised charity events for the Royal Marsden Children's Unit. So far, they have raised £30.30 from a cake sale held in November. They will continue to hold charity events to help raise money throughout the rest of the school year.

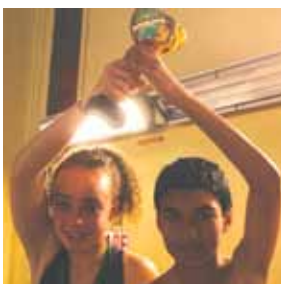
Have a great holiday and see you in 2011.

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.

We gave our two new Year 7 forms (7RB and 7RP) a warm welcome. It is also a source of real pride to see so many Red House students returning to the sixth form, where they continue to study hard and be successful.



Red House repeated last year's swimming gala triumphs by again winning the Year 8 girls' and overall Year 8 trophies. Year 7 competed hard too and came away with medals, but sadly no trophy. Out of school, two students competed and came second in national karate competitions. We are proud of

the sporting commitment shown by Red House students across all years and I look forward to reporting many other successes.

As well as sporting achievements, we have a group of budding performers. As I write, rehearsals for the Variety Show and Greenshaw's Got Talent are echoing through the school. In addition, a number of Red House students are also performing in professional local pantomimes.

We are really proud of all the hard work that Red House students have put into their studies this year. You are focused and working hard – clearly you are great learners too. On behalf of Miss Bhatia and Mr Parker, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Mrs Plummer, Head of Red House



Christmas is upon us already and yet no time at all seems to have passed since we welcomed the new Year 7s in September.

As usual, the autumn term has been packed with activities, not least the swimming gala, which Yellow House won with a fantastic showing from the Year 7s. Particular mentions must go to Alex, Luis, Liberty, Helin, Harry, Ryan, Charlotte and Harry who won their individual races. It was a superb performance and I am very confident in retaining the title next year.

There was also the Year 8 achievement lunch to which students received an invitation, dependent on the effort they had put into their studies. Congratulations to Janie, Umeira, Sumin, Aysha, Ellie, Alice, Abiman, Aaron, Abdul, Jiano, Varushaen.

Yellow House was triumphant in the Greenshaw bake-off, when Jake won with his delicious version of the Eton mess cupcakes.

The Year 7s and 8s represented Yellow House with great pride at the games morning and we won several events – the table tennis and handball teams left all other houses in their wake and I congratulate all students for their excellent participation.



Finally, it is with regret that we say goodbye to Ms Elstub who is the tutor of 8YE. We wish her well in her chosen career progression as a singer/songwriter and hope to hear her songs sung by the rich and famous soon!

Mrs King, Head of Yellow House

FROM CHALLENGE 2 SUCCESS



Building skills

Year 11 *From Challenge to Success (C2S)* students are undertaking a 12 week course at Skills Integrated Learning Centre (SILC) in Mitcham, focusing on developing skills associated with the building and construction industry (above).

Cope awards

Congratulations to Courtney and Ellie who achieved a Level 2 in their ASDAN CoPE Award and Glen, Connor and Jake who gained a Level 1.



Creative catering

Year 10 *From Challenge to Success* and *Achievements for Learning (A4L)* students are working towards an NVQ Level 1 Award in catering at South Thames College, Merton Campus. The students are enjoying the opportunity and challenges of working in an industrial kitchen as creative chefs and have already mastered many culinary basics such as stir fries, curries, soups and stews.

Prince's Trust

We are pleased to announce that Greenshaw is now registered with the Prince's Trust, a national youth charity, to deliver their XL programme working towards an award or certificate in personal development and teamwork. Our current Year 10 A4L and Year 11 C2S cohort are the first to undertake this exciting new opportunity.

Tales of the river bank

Monmouth is one of the most scenic parts of Wales – a perfect location for the Year 12 geography field trip on Friday 14th October.

On arrival in Monmouth, the first task for the students was to sketch the town from a local viewpoint. Later that evening was check-in time at the residential centre – a 200 year old mansion house in the middle of the countryside. Students were prepared for their task on the next day and spent the night telling each other ghost stories.

On the second day, the groups were based at Grywne Fawr River, where they carried out a river study (below). Students undertook investigations at a series of points along the river, getting to grips with their equipment and gathering data. Geography teacher, Miss Beaton, said: "One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to a series of waterfalls in the Brecon Beacons. This was a jaw-dropping sight and we were able to stand behind the main fall."

Their final day was spent in Cardiff, examining different land use within the city and visiting the Big Pitt, a redundant mine which has been transformed into an entertaining museum.



As I was going to St Ives...

The first residential art trip to Cornwall took place over half term for Greenshaw's GCSE art and photography students.

Heavy rain didn't dampen spirits – the students worked extremely hard producing high quality drawings and photography for their coursework. They visited the famous Eden Project (below) and The Lost Gardens of Heligan, as well as taking the opportunity to spend time

in the delightful town of St Ives. Students also toured the Tate Gallery in St Ives and The Barbara Hepworth Museum, where they had the opportunity to explore and draw the famous gardens, full of her hidden sculptures.

Miss Paisley, Head of Art, congratulated all of the students on their hard work and thanked the staff who accompanied them on the trip.



The first ever Great Greenshaw Bake-Off

This week the food technology department hosted the inaugural Great Greenshaw Bake Off to celebrate National Baking Week.

At the end of October, 35 students from Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 took part in a morning full of baking, icing and decorating. Several staff members, including Mr Smith, volunteered for the tough job of being guest judges. We were all thoroughly impressed with the quality of the students' work and their baking ability. The cakes varied in design from lemon sorbet and red velvet to teddy bear picnic cup cakes. Congratulations go to Abigail (KS3) and Jake (KS4) for their winning creations.

Students were not the only ones baking this week. Staff also put on their aprons to raise £139 for *BBC Food – Get Baking for Children in Need*. The competition was fierce, with Ms Laurent taking first place for her beautiful sunflower design. A special mention must also go to Ms Reeves, Ms Miller and Mr Dowie for their excellent baking skills and creative flair.

Miss Allen, Head of Food Technology, congratulated the winners and said: "Well done to all the students and staff who supported or took part in *The Great Greenshaw Bake Off*. The quality of the entries was exceptional."



Cornish adventure

During October half term, 70 intrepid Year 7 and 8 students travelled to Bude in Cornwall for an action-packed week of adventure.

They enjoyed a huge range of thrilling activities such as surfing, canoeing, climbing, caving, mountain-boarding and abseiling. Their busy days were followed by evening entertainments such as fancy dress, football, films and a massive end-of-week party. Several members of staff accompanied the students and a great time was had by all.



Swimming champions

Our annual swimming gala was, once again, a hotly fought competition with many students from Years 7 and 8 representing their house teams.

The Year 7 boys' and girls' competitions were dominated by Yellow House, who won both. Green House took the winning cup for Year 8 boys and the Year 8 girls' competition was won by Red House.

The overall Year 7 winners were Yellow House, whilst Red House took the Year 8 crown. Head of PE, Mr Devenney, said: "Our congratulations go to each and every student who took part. Thanks also to the many parents, friends and families who enthusiastically cheered the swimmers on."

Discounted membership

Greenshaw has an official partnership with local tennis and fitness provider Sutton Tennis Academy in Rosehill. As part of the agreement, the club is offering staff and families discounts on memberships. Adult (staff and parents) gym membership costs £32.50 per month, or £37.50 per month including tennis. An annual adult tennis membership costs £150 for unlimited use of outdoor courts and discounts on indoor courts.

The Greenshaw student gym membership is £19.50 and for annual tennis it is £90. Joint and family memberships are also available. A proportion of every Greenshaw membership goes back to the school. More information can be found on the school website under 'Extra Curricular Activities' or from Sutton Tennis Academy on 0208 641 6611 or at info@zonehealthfitness.co.uk.

Sports shorts



U13 girls' tournament

The Greenshaw U13 girls' football team competed in the AFC Wimbledon N Power tournament against a wide variety of schools from south west London. The girls avoided defeat in all of their group games, but unfortunately did not progress to the semi finals due to an inferior goal difference. CJ was voted player of the group by the AFC Wimbledon referee; a fantastic achievement.

Climbing festival

Greenshaw recently hosted its first primary school climbing festival, providing 20 lucky children from All Saints' and Westbourne with the opportunity to use our climbing wall. They all had a fantastic time, learning new skills and overcoming their fear of heights.

Year 7 B football

Greenshaw hosted Sutton's Year 7 B team tournament at Goals Soccer centre in North Cheam. The event proved popular, with ten teams entering the competition, including two from Greenshaw. Our teams managed to make it through to both semi finals. However, they were beaten by Carshalton Boys.

Borough cross country

Students from all years recently competed in the annual borough cross country championships. All Greenshaw students completed their race with good times. However, a special mention should go to Callum for coming second in his age group.

Year 8 boys' football

Our Year 8 boys' football team got off to a winning start in their pursuit of the Sutton Cup and County Cup. They played Glenthorne in the first round of the County Cup and after a stalemate at half-time, they performed exceptionally well, winning 4-0. Their game in the County Cup against Bishopsford went just as well, with a winning score of 2-1, which secured their place in the next round. Well done, boys.

Hip Hop

Thirty girls from Years 7 to 9 recently visited the Peacock Theatre in London to see Zonation's new dance piece – *Some Like It Hip Hop* – a story of love, mistaken identity and revolution. The tale was told through song and the medium of dance. All students had a great time, particularly enjoying the gymnastic tricks and getting up to dance in the aisles at the end of the show.

Dancing the Nutcracker!

Dance students were given a real treat at the beginning of December, when dancers from New Adventures Company visited Greenshaw to take a series of workshops. The company was in the middle of its nationwide tour of Matthew Bourne's *Nutcracker!*

Our students were very lucky to have two of the principal dancers, Ross Carpenter and Michela Meazza, as their teachers. They were given an insight into the work of Bourne and his choreography and they re-created parts of the dance work. This experience culminated in a trip to Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, to see a live performance of the full dance. It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see the work that they had studied come alive.



Indoor athletics tournament

On 8th November, Greenshaw entered the first round of the indoor athletics tournament. Our Year 7 and 8 teams were up against Sutton Grammar, Glenthorne and Cheam High.

The Year 7s got off to a flying start, with Sam and Nyah collecting second and third places respectively. The performance of the day came from Alhagi, who won the eight lap middle distance race by a convincing margin. A special mention should also go to Yasser for his efforts in the relay. Altogether, a good effort from the boys, finishing a credible third.

The Year 8s retained their title. Reece, Gaddiel and Tom all won their events. Their performance in the relays was also outstanding, with clear victories in all races. They will now go on to represent the borough in the London championships later this year. Well done to all the students who took part.

Dates for your diary in 2012



On Friday 16th December, school will close at approximately 12.30pm. Lessons 1 to 3 will take place as usual. Hot food will be available at break time and sandwiches for those who require a lunch before they leave.

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

Autumn Term ends(12.30pm)	16 December	Year 10 Final Booster Injections	6 March
Spring Term starts	4 January	Drama Production	7-8 March
Year 9 Options Evening	5 January	Science Museum visit	15 March
Year 9-11 MFL Launch Evening	11 January	Netball Trip to Candover Hall	16 March
Results for November Exams	12 January	Dance Evening Performance	21 March
Year 11 Subject Evening	19 January	Year 13 Subject Evening	22 March
Inset Day	27 January	Year 10 AIDA Results Presentation	23 March
Year 12 Subject Fair	2 February	KS5 Awards Evening	29 March
Bags to School Week	6 February	Year 11 Study Day	30 March
Year 10 Subject Evening	9 February	Spring Term ends (3.00pm)	30 March
Ski trip to Zell Am	10 February	Summer Term starts	16 April
Half Term	13-17 February	Year 8 Subject Evening	19 April
KS4 Awards Evening	23 February	Half Term	4-8 June
Year 8 Science Challenge	29 February	Summer Term ends (12.30pm)	20 July
Year 7 Subject Evening	1 March		



GREENSHAW HIGH SCHOOL
Grennell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 3DY

T: 020 8715 1001
F: 020 8641 7335
E: ghsinfo@suttonlea.org
W: www.greenshaw.co.uk



Maths & Computing