



RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



What an amazing first term Year 9 students have had, with a particularly busy lead up towards a well-deserved Christmas break. Year 9 were always inevitably predicted to be a 'step-up' from Years 7 and 8, particularly as our students have embarked on studying two of their GCSE optional pathway subjects. GCSE subjects will provide more detail and complexity, and require even more determination, than they have faced in previous years. I couldn't be more proud of the way in which Year 9 students have risen to this challenge with resilience and perseverance – values that we always

strive for at Greenshaw and we wish for the students to embody. Their response has been outstanding, with the year group demonstrating these values in an array of situations.

This term I have asked Year 9 students 'to make a difference to their success'. We have talked frequently in assemblies about how each student is responsible for their own individual success by applying themselves, showing consistent effort and not giving up when the work is difficult in their lessons. In turn, by making small developments themselves and showing a positive attitude to learning, they are also helping others around them to learn by setting an example of what we would expect students to demonstrate at school. This also helps their tutor group to perform well in the league table, a fun rewards programme that we hold every week which highlights students in their collective efforts and commitment to excellence.

I have been fortunate to visit many of the lessons taking place and have seen excellent attitudes being demonstrated in the classroom. The eagerness to learn is evident in every class, with students pushing themselves, getting things wrong in the process and learning from their mistakes. I never cease to be impressed by the quality and standard of work that is produced by our students.

The year group will undertake 'summative assessments' at the start of January 2024, when we return to school for the spring term. These will include multiple choice questions, as well as written responses. The assessment scores will be available to parents and carers in the new year when the assessments have been reviewed. Parents and carers will shortly be able to access a report summarising the autumn term. These reports will be published and made available imminently and include information about your child's attitude to learning in addition to attendance and behaviour data, and I very much look forward to hearing the positive responses from parents when these are received.

Students of the term

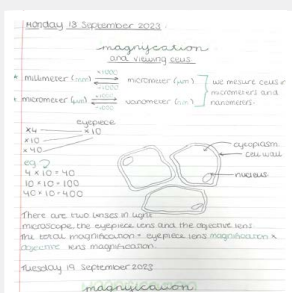
I am very proud to present a student each week with the Head of Year award for 'Student of the Week' and delighted to announce that the Head of Year nominations for the 'Student of the Term' are as follows:

- Autumn term 1 (September to October) – Princess (9PAG)
- Autumn term 2 (November to December) – James (9TNV)

Congratulations to these students for their consistent effort in school and for maintaining the highest of standards and for their commitment to excellence.

Outstanding standard of work in Year 9

Here are some examples of the impressive work that has been produced in a variety of lessons and subjects. These are just a few of the many which we have been privileged to show in assemblies as 'shout outs' each week.



Rachel (9TF)
– science work about magnification.



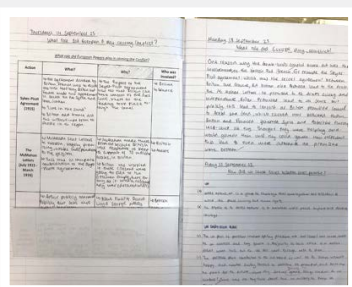
Zavian (9DBL) – art work about Henri Matisse.

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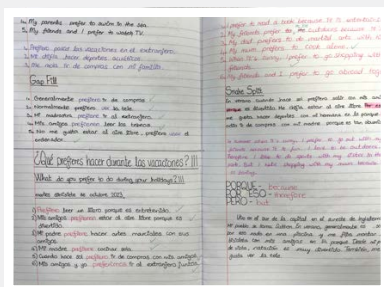




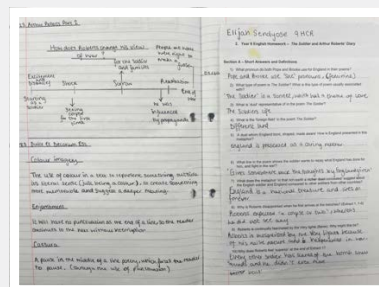
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Jiya (9PAG) – detailed work in history about the causes of WW1.



Sahana (9LOR) – excellent Spanish work.



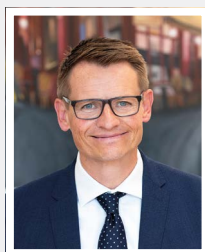
Elijah (9HCR) – English about Arthur Roberts (WW1 writing).

As the term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students' remarkable tutors who provide a supportive and consistent foundation for the children to flourish each day. Secondly, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their unrelenting support of their youngsters in ensuring that they come to school equipped, in smart uniform and being 'ready to learn' each school day. The students have worked hard this term and deserve a well earned rest and hopefully they will be prepared and ready for the spring term.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year.

Mr Clarke (Head of Year 9) and Mrs Elcome (Deputy Head of Year 9)

A VERY SUCCESSFUL TERM



We have had so much going on over the last four months since we returned at the start of September. We have celebrated: the fact that our GCSE results put the progress of our students in the top 10% in the country; that Ofsted came and spoke really well of our school; and that the preparations for the building work (if not quite the works themselves at this stage...) continue to progress.

But the things that make me most proud of this term are the students. I am delighted that our Sixth Form is so popular, with more students staying on and more students joining us from Year 11 in a range of other schools. I am delighted that our Year 7 students have joined seamlessly from their primary schools, bringing positivity and a brilliant attitude to learning.

I am most proud of the work our students have undertaken in delivering assemblies. Whether talking about black icons as part of our Black History Month, celebrating Diwali, or most recently carefully and intelligently talking about gendered violence the quantity of student presentation in assemblies has been the highest for many years.

So all will be tired at the end of a long term, but tiredness is a sign of hard work – as well as the need for a proper rest. I hope the news over the following pages, from your child's year group and the whole school, gives you a clear sense of what we have been up to since the end of summer.

Mr N House, Headteacher





POSITIVE OFSTED NEWS

Following Ofsted's inspection of Greenshaw High School in October, the report has now been published. The school was graded 'good' at the last visit in 2017, so this was an ungraded inspection and did not change the overall school grading. However, the report shows the Ofsted team found many excellent things happening at Greenshaw, and have recommended a reinspection next year. The report states that: 'the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might be outstanding if a graded inspection were carried out now.'

We are really proud that the inspectors' report uses words like 'happy and safe' to describe the children at Greenshaw High School, alongside phrases like 'relationships between staff and pupils are kind and respectful'. The inspectors also noted 'high expectations for all' and that 'behaviour is excellent', along with comments such as '... pupils with SEND receive strong guidance to make sure that they learn successfully'.

This reflects work over several years focusing on curriculum content and sequencing, as well as weekly staff development sessions (known as Professional Growth) focusing on the closest elements of teaching and learning.

Our Headteacher, Mr House, said: "I am proud of the excellent achievement of all of our students, regardless of their starting point. I am also delighted that the Ofsted team recognised the personal virtues of our young people, which is something that we seek to develop every day."

The full report is available on our website [here](#).



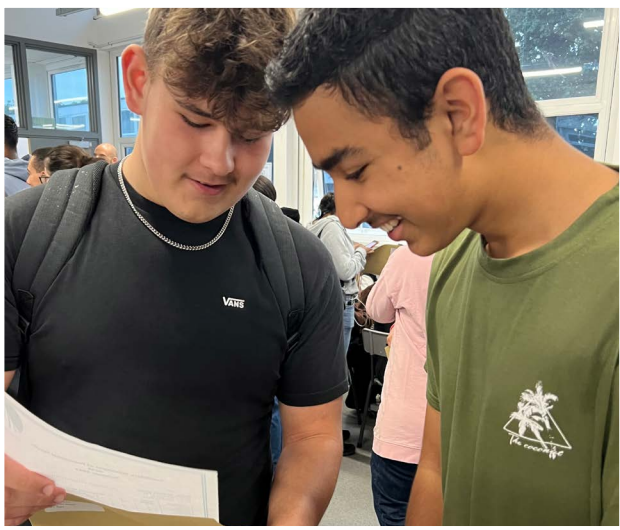
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

We would like to thank everyone who came to the Christmas concert. There was an amazing turnout of family and friends and the students and staff really appreciated the support.

Students worked hard to learn their songs and did a wonderful job performing. Thank you also to all the staff who supported the concert. We look forward to our next concert in summer!

Mr Prezioso, Head of Music





GREENSHAW RESULTS IN TOP 10%

We were delighted with our summer 2023 GCSE results, but comparing the progress our students made, with that made by other students across the country, can only be done when all the results are gathered by the Department for Education, and we were very proud of what the data confirmed.

For example:

- In English, students in our school made over two thirds of a grade more progress than all students nationally;
- In Maths, one in two of our students achieved a grade 7, 8 or 9 (equivalent to A or A*); and
- Overall, our progress is likely to put us in the top 10% of schools nationally.

Although this year's group of GCSE students did not benefit from the significantly reduced grade boundaries of last summer, they did exceptionally well. The proportion of students achieving grades at 9-7 (equivalent to A* or A) and 9-4 grades (the old A*-C scores) were the highest in the history of the school, other than in the pandemic years. The attitude of Year 11 students of summer 2023 was superb – their commitment to high quality revision and attending additional study sessions, alongside first rate teaching, bought home a brilliant set of results.

Our Year 13 students also sat their first set of public exams this summer, having had their GCSE examinations cancelled due to the Covid pandemic. They rose to the challenge of the last two years, with a fantastic approach to their A Level courses. We could not be prouder of their efforts and were thrilled that those efforts paid dividends. There were some fantastic results, with one in three of all grades being an A* or A. As an indication, the overall attainment is significantly above our 2019 results (the last year of 'normal exams'), which in themselves were really pleasing.

Importantly, we were delighted to see that the vast majority of our students were able to take up their first choice university place, and we wish them the best of luck with their chosen course. We were particularly thrilled for Ananya who has taken up her place at the University of Oxford to study classics, Emen who was accepted to study medicine at Queen Mary's, and to Konrad who is studying architecture at the University of Bath.

There are many other achievements that are worthy of mention. Jakub achieved an impressive 4A*s at A Level, as well as an A* in his Extended Project Qualification and is studying physics at Imperial. Other students who achieved straight A/A* grades are Alhassan, Alice, Alope, Aleksandar, Anas, Anna, Emen, Hadi, Joseph, Jose-Gonçalo, Konrad, Mackenzie, Maddison, Muhamed, Olly and Rhiannon.





SPANISH STUDENTS VISIT GREENSHAW

A group of 21 students and two staff from a school in Galicia, in the northwest of Spain, spent two weeks in our school in October as part of an integration programme. They were paired with our Spanish GCSE students and accompanied them to all their lessons for the whole fortnight.

Both our students and the visitors had an unforgettable experience. It was great to see how our visitors engaged with learning in our classes. The buddies got on so well and had plenty of opportunities to teach each other Spanish and English. It was so inspiring to see them talking and socialising during breaks and lunch times, getting to know each other's lifestyles, interests and culture. It was a really enriching and extremely popular event that we will happily run again to provide our students with opportunities to develop not only their social and language skills, but also their personalities and outlook.

Both groups of students embodied a spirit of welcome and friendship which was a real bonus at the start of the school year.

Mrs Sayarh, Head of MFL

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Some of our Sixth Form students, from Year 12 and Year 13 presented Black Icons assembly in October, as part of our Black History Month celebrations. Each student talked about their black icons, figures of inspiration who act as role models for them individually. When students lead an assembly it creates a special sense in the hall – the students listening are focused even more intently. We would like to thank those students who spoke, acting as leaders of our community to our younger students.

We also hosted an Afro-Caribbean Heritage evening, where students from a range of year groups shared different world foods, wore national dress and took part in a quiz run by Miss Moran. We hope the messages we have given during October clearly show what we stand for as a community, not just in this single month but across the whole year.





SUPPORTING WHITE RIBBON DAY



We have been selling and wearing white ribbons at Greenshaw to promote White Ribbon Day (which was on

Saturday 25th November) and to demonstrate our commitment to #ChangeTheStory for women and girls. White Ribbon UK is a charitable organisation whose mission is to prevent male violence against women and girls by addressing its root causes. The root causes are long-established attitudes, behaviours and systems around masculinity that reinforce gender inequality. To reduce violence against women and girls, a change of culture is required – this cannot happen overnight, but it starts with challenging seemingly 'harmless' attitudes and behaviours that can contribute to a culture where such views are normalised which can then lead to more extreme behaviours.

Males are also victims of violent crime, but the majority of violent crimes are committed by males –approximately 80% of violent crime and a bigger proportion of sex offences. Women are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse and a recent Femicide Census found that over the past ten years a woman was killed by a man every three days, and a woman is killed by a former or current partner every four days in the UK.

At Greenshaw, we have already taken action over the last couple of years. For example, through our training of staff and through PSHE lessons for students. The PSHE Social Action group, led by Miss Webb (Assistant Headteacher), have recently delivered some student-led assemblies to promote the idea that we can all contribute to change by just committing to taking one small action. If you would like to find out more, White Ribbon has some great resources that you might want to have a look at White Ribbon Day 2023. In addition, we have a domestic abuse ambassador (Mrs Ashworth) and a sexual misconduct lead (Ms Radwan) as part of our safeguarding team, who can offer support and guidance.

You can find out more about White Ribbon Day at <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/>

Lynda Wallace, Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Headteacher



CHRISTMAS FAIR – THE ECO WAY!



The eco council recently identified that we produce a lot of unnecessary waste during December, from gift wrapping to designed-for landfill gifts that we don't really want. They responded by organising an 'almost zero waste' winter fair at school on 15th December.

The event featured engaging games, prizes, and eco-friendly items for purchase, highlighting their commitment to reducing waste during the festive season. The innovative approach and hard work have made us incredibly proud. Well done to the Eco council for their outstanding effort in reducing waste during one of our most wasteful times of the year.

We raised over £220, which was amazing. Mr Jones (Maths Teacher) won the art easel for the best time in the 'beat the lights' game.

Mrs Carran and Mr O'Rourke





DANCING WITH THE STARS



Dance Planet, a dance showcase, took place on 7th December. Students from Years 7 to 13 performed to a supportive audience of family, friends, staff and past dance students. GCSE Dance students shared performances in a contemporary style from their class work in preparation for practical assessments. The audience were also treated to slick extra-curricular performances from The Company (Greenshaw's dance troupe – pictured) and Year 7 and 8 dance club. This year, students were invited to share their own choreographies where the passion for dance shone through – they shared contemporary, ballet, commercial and street solos, duets and trios. It was a very successful evening of great performances from all students demonstrating dedication, commitment and love for dance and the performing arts. Congratulations to everyone involved.

Miss Izzard, Head of Dance

AN UPDATE ON THE BUILDING PROJECT

Greenshaw High School has been fortunate to receive direct funding from the Department for Education for a rebuild of a large part of its site. This was based on a conditions survey several years ago that assessed the fabric of its buildings and the energy efficiency, amongst other factors.

They also took into consideration the difficulties in our large number of students moving around a site that was designed for so many fewer students sixty years ago.

When we returned to school in September, there were significant signs of preparations made for the 'big building work over the summer break'. The unhelpful brick circles across the centre of the playground had been removed (that often led to trips to the First Aid room), as had the site manager's bungalow. However, over the months since there has been little physical change to the outside spaces and students could be forgiven for wondering what is actually going on.

There has been a lot of work between the school and the contractors. This work, along with negotiations with UK Power Network and London Borough of Sutton regarding the installation of a new substation to power the new buildings, have taken a lot of the focus for school and DfE staff.

Works are planned to begin on site at the start of February 2024. The temporary buildings order has been placed, so that these can begin to be made off site whilst the contractual works are ongoing and protect the project timeline.

Demolition works should then begin during the autumn term, with students planned to be using the larger of the two new blocks by June 2026. So, although there has been little construction work over the last three months there has definitely been a lot of progress and we look forward to the next steps in the new year.





YEAR 13 STUDENTS EXPLORE THE SOUTH DOWNS

34 of our Year 13 students successfully undertook their Silver Award assessed expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh over the weekend of 13th to 15th October.

Their weekend comprised of walking 30 miles across Banstead Downs and the North Downs. Students carried all their kit, spent two nights camping and were responsible for cooking their meals.

Within their teams, the students used their compasses and map reading skills and set off on their pre-planned routes. At the campsite, all students excelled in their camp craft including cooking skills, maintaining a camp fire and tidy surroundings.

Miss Fingleton, Duke of Edinburgh Manager at Greenshaw High School and internal Duke of Edinburgh Assessor, assessed the students individually, specifically looking at teamwork, navigation and camp crafting skills. All students passed with flying colours.

Well done to everybody and a big thank you to all the staff that gave up their free time to support the students both at the campsite and at the checkpoints along the route. It is very much appreciated. The students will work on completing the other sections of the award and I look forward to presenting them with their Duke of Edinburgh certificate and Silver Award badge in the near future.

Mr J Kennedy, Duke of Edinburgh Lead for the Silver Award and Deputy Head of Year 8

HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Our safeguarding section on the school website has a great deal of useful information to support our young people and their families. All safeguarding notices and letters are also added to this section of the website. Click [here](#) to see the latest safeguarding updates that have been shared with parents.

You can also download our *Help for the Holidays* booklet from the website [here](#), for all sorts of useful advice and support for the Christmas break.





ASSEMBLIES AT GREENSHAW

At Greenshaw, we use our assemblies for a wide range of purposes, including celebrating students' achievements in and out of school. This term, Mr House has spoken in assembly about why we focus on the reading programme in tutor time. Following that, in October, a group of students talked about Black History Month, identifying their black icons and speaking of their role models. We also celebrated the festival of Diwali in assemblies and explained its significance.

In November, we addressed recent events in the Middle East, explaining to students about why conflict has happened across time (led by Miss Duce, Head of History). We also explained how, even in the most awful situations, there can be actions that we can take in our social groups, and

the wider community, that can bring hope and offer a way forwards. This was illustrated by Miss Mbema (Head of Religious Studies), who talked about individuals that have sought to bring peace to conflict.

Most recently, the school's PSHE Social Action group, led by Miss Webb (Assistant Headteacher), delivered some student-led assemblies to support White Ribbon Day (see page 5) to promote the idea that we can all contribute to change by just committing to taking one small action.

The assembly calendar is by design organic, allowing us to respond to issues and ideas as they arise, but the draft schedule for next term includes Holocaust Memorial Day, the history of LGBTQ+ rights and the concept of responsibility.

KEY DATES – YEAR 9

Last day of autumn term	21st December (12.30pm)	First day of summer term	15th April
INSET day (school closed to students)	8th January	May half term	27th to 31st May
First day of spring term for students	9th January	INSET day (school closed to students)	28th June
February half term	12th to Friday 16th February	Last day of summer term	23rd July (12.30pm)
Last day of spring term	28th March		

YEAR 9 CONTACT LIST

Head of Year: Mr M Clarke – mclarke@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Deputy Head of Year: Ms C Elcome – celcome@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9BWL: Miss B Walker – bwalker@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9DBL: Mr D Bell – dbell@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9DM: Ms D Mountford – dmountford@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9DRL: Mr D Rollins – drollins@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9ERD: Ms E Rider – erider@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9EWN: Ms E Weisbrod-Nathanial – eweisbrod-nathanial@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9HCR: Ms H Corea – hcorea@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9LOR: Mr L O'Rourke – lorourke@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9PAG: Ms P Agyemang – pagyemang@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9TF: Ms T Forno – tforno@greenshawhigh.co.uk

9TNV: Ms T Navaratnam – tnavaratnam@greenshawhigh.co.uk





SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

WINTER!

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 21 DECEMBER
TO FRIDAY 5 JANUARY

FREE
FOR
5-16
YEAR OLDS

Book your child's place today!
Enjoy a winter filled with exciting activities,
engaging workshops, trips and more.
Nutritious food included.

Let's 'HAF' FUN this Winter!

*Eligible children entitled to benefits-related free school meals can book a free place with their unique vouchers. Limited free places are available for children outside this cohort.

SUTTON HAF
HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES
& FOOD PROGRAMME

Inclusive activities:

- > Arts & craft
- > Sports
- > Performing arts
- > Tailored workshops for 13+ year olds
- > New experiences
- > Day trips

Plus much more!







SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES



South West London and
St George's Mental Health
NHS Trust

EDUCATION WELLBEING SERVICE

**ARE YOU 11 - 18
YEARS OLD AND
ATTEND SCHOOL?**

DO YOU OFTEN FEEL PANICKED?

**ARE YOU LESS
INTERESTED IN
ACTIVITIES YOU
USED TO ENJOY?**

**DO YOU STRUGGLE
TO GET UP IN THE
MORNINGS OR TO
FALL ASLEEP AT
NIGHT?**



**DO YOU OFTEN
OVERTHINK?**



**DO YOU FEEL
ANXIOUS IN
SOCIAL
SITUATIONS?**

**ARE WORRIES BEGINNING TO
IMPACT YOUR DAILY LIFE?**

**HAS YOUR
MOTIVATION TO
ENGAGE WITH
SCHOOL WORK
DROPPED?**

**AN NHS WELLBEING PRACTITIONER
BASED AT YOUR SCHOOL
MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU!**



VISIT OUR YOUTUBE
CHANNEL **CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE'S
WELLBEING SERVICE**
FOR WELLBEING VIDEOS

**KYLA & LEVINE ARE BASED AT
GREENSHAW ON WEDNESDAYS,
THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS.
DO COME AND SAY HELLO &
ASK ABOUT THE SUPPORT WE
PROVIDE!**

WE OFFER:
**1:1 GUIDED SELF HELP
SUPPORT FOR
ANXIETY OR LOW MOOD.**

**6-8 WEEKLY SESSIONS TO HELP
YOU TO BETTER UNDERSTAND
YOUR DIFFICULTIES AND YOUR
OWN MENTAL WELLBEING.**

**OR ASK
MRS MILES
FOR OUR APPLICATION
FORM**







SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES

Education Wellbeing Service Webinar

Parent/Carer Webinar: Understanding and Supporting Teen Sleep

There can be many challenges with teen sleep.

This webinar will look at some of the research and science around sleep hygiene, teenage sleep and thinking together about the challenges with some options for supporting from the perspective of parents or carers.

DATE / TIME

Monday 4th December 7-8 pm

Thursday 7th December 1-2 pm

LOCATION

Online - Hosted on Teams

Sign up to this event for free on Eventbrite (and check out our others!) by scanning the QR Code or following the link below:

[CLICK HERE](#) to book

wellbeinginschoolsevents@swlstg.nhs.uk



South West London and
St George's Mental Health
NHS Trust

Education
Wellbeing
Service

