



AN UPDATE ON YEAR 13

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It has been a busy term for our Year 13 students. Following their autumn mock exams at the beginning of this term, students have been completing their UCAS applications and meeting with Mrs Sone, our Head of Careers to make plans for their next steps for after their time with us at Greenshaw. Well done to everyone who was selected for an interview at Oxbridge – this is a massive achievement. We have also had requests for interviews and portfolio submission requests for a range of subjects including medicine, computer science and architecture. We wish each one of them the best of

luck in all their applications and forthcoming interviews and look forward to hearing about their offers.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships tend to be advertised in the next few months, so for students interested in these opportunities it is important that they are regularly checking the relevant careers and apprenticeship websites so that they do not miss application deadlines. If your child needs further support with interviews, then please encourage them to contact Mrs Sone, Head of Careers, who can look to offer them some support and guidance.

Mock exams

With less than two full terms now remaining, our focus now moves towards preparing students for their time after Greenshaw and the final set of mock exams in February before their summer exams. Departments will be looking to finish all course content over this next term and so it is more important than ever that your child continues to attend all their timetabled lessons to ensure that they are not missing content that will be examined in the summer exams. As a Sixth Form team, we are keen to support them over the coming months as I appreciate this can be an anxious time, but this should ideally start with the student making sure they get some rest over the holidays, but do not get into negative sleep patterns or gaming or internet habits which may make it difficult to make a strong start when they return to school in January.

Registration

Year 13 registration will continue on a Tuesday to Thursday next half term. The focus will be on independent study and current affairs whilst mentor sessions will be delivered on Holocaust Memorial and in preparation for students' final set of mock exams which begin straight after February half term – the dates for this are 19th February to 1st March inclusive and a timetable will be available for students on Frog nearer the time. In addition, mentor sessions will also focus on a range of topics including managing money, democracy and voting rights and responsibilities and healthy relationships. Tutors remain the first point of call for any pastoral, academic and welfare concerns, so please do continue to contact them.

Thank you

Thank you to the many students who supported our Year 11 open evening event. We had such positive feedback from parents about your children's role in supporting conversations in departments and the wider Sixth Form, and are very grateful for their help. Thank you also to those involved in decorating the Sixth Form, acting as subject representatives, our Sixth Form stars of the week this term, and for contributions to our charity sales and annual Christmas jumper day for charity.

Year 13 prom

Finally, a reminder that the Year 13 prom, which promises to be a fabulous evening of celebration, will be held on Thursday, 4th July at Kingswood Golf Club. For students who are yet to purchase their tickets, this can be done via the MCAS system.

I wish you a healthy and happy holiday period and new year. Thank you for your continued support.

Miss S Larkin, Head of Sixth Form, and Miss D Ayres, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

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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](#).





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, Aloke, Aleksandar, Anas, Anna, Emen, Hadi, Joseph, Jose-Gonçalo, Konrad, Mackenzie, Maddison, Muhamed, Olly and Rhiannon.





GEOGRAPHERS HEAD TO WALES

During October half-term 23 of our Year 13 geography students attended a five-day fieldwork experience course run by the Field Studies Council to collect data for their geography NEA that counts towards 20% of their overall A Level grade.

The trip started with students meeting us at 7.00am in the Greenshaw car park, understandably a bit bleary-eyed, but full of excitement for what was many students' first experience of a school residential trip. Accompanying the students on the 200-mile journey was Ms Maxwell (Head of Geography), Mr Barnes, Mr Booth, and Miss Frewin.

Crossing over the Prince of Wales bridge signified our arrival into Wales, and students quickly awoke from their slumber to take photos of the picturesque scenery provided by the estuary of the River Severn and the Welsh Valleys.

On arrival at Margam Discovery Centre (FSC), students were given time to acclimatise to their new surroundings and then were straight into their first workshop on how to conduct carbon and water cycle studies in varying types of woodland. After a roast dinner, students were then ushered into their evening classroom session that allowed them to explore the theory behind how to conduct fieldwork.

Day 2 started with an 8.00am breakfast, and students making their own packed lunch in the refectory. This was then followed by a classroom session on how to conduct fieldwork in coastal environments and urban areas. We then travelled to the nearby coastal town of Porthcawl where students practiced using a range of fieldwork equipment to see which techniques they may want to use in their own investigation.

Day 3 involved students having to focus on what particular aspect of geography they wanted their independent piece of research to be centred around. With provisional fieldwork titles approved by their geography teachers, students headed to their chosen location and worked either solo or together to gather data needed to address their research question(s).

Day 4 was dedicated to them continuing to collect their respective data in locations around Porthcawl. We were consistently impressed with the ingenuity being shown by students and the teamwork that all groups demonstrated. Some students conducting soil analysis worked late into the night in the FSC laboratories to analyse their samples.

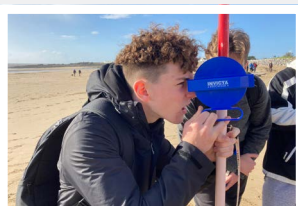
Day 5 started with a statistical workshop, where students ran calculations to determine the validity and reliability of their data. Then students said goodbye to Margam Discovery Centre, and we departed for the return trip back to Greenshaw.

The geography department would like to extend its thanks to all the staff who gave up their time for the trip, and especially to Miss Frewin from the science department, who provided her invaluable knowledge of the living world to assist students wishing to conduct biodiversity and species richness studies.

We would like to thank our students for representing both the geography department and Greenshaw High School in the most positive way, by demonstrating their commitment to excellence.

Further information about future fieldwork opportunities for current Year 12 students will be made available in due course.

Mr Barnes, Geography Teacher





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.



SIXTH FORM FESTIVE CHEER

Greenshaw Sixth Form has been a hub of festive cheer in the last couple of weeks of term.

On Wednesday 6th December, a group of Year 12 and 13 students offered their Wednesday afternoon to get into festive spirit and create Christmas decorations for the Sixth Form area. Wonderful reindeers in various sizes now adorn the SRC, as well as stars, snowflakes and Danish hearts.

On Thursday 7th December, Greenshaw Sixth Form (*pictured*) together with the rest of the school, participated in the National Christmas Jumper Day, with all proceeds going to Save The Children.

As we went to press, rehearsals for the Greenshaw Talent Show on Tuesday 19th December were well under way. After initial auditions, the judges had the gruelling task to decide on the top talent between the dancers, singers and unusual instrumental talent players – (Afghan national guitar was amongst the instruments). The afternoon revealed that Greenshaw truly has talent beyond their academic achievements!





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.





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





KEY DATES – YEAR 13

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 13 CONTACT LIST

Sixth Form Team

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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?**

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



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

**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**



