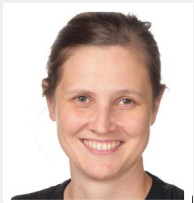




PREPARING FOR TRANSITION



Ms R Blackham
Head of Year 8



Mr J Kennedy
Deputy Head of
Year 8

As we now move into the last term of Year 8, it feels appropriate to look back on the journey of this middle term for our students. The focus has largely been on preparing for the start of the GCSE curriculum in Year 9, and all students have now selected their preferences for the transition phase of their GCSE course. Over the coming weeks, these selections will be finalised and shared with students and families. We have been impressed by the thought and consideration that students have taken in making these choices, and hope this will be reflected in them enjoying the breadth that the curriculum has to offer them.

This term's newsletter highlights some of the fantastic work that Year 8 students have completed in class, as well as their efforts outside of the classroom. Students have worked hard and this can be seen in the quality of the work that they have produced. A key feature of this year group is their enthusiasm and team spirit and we have enjoyed the inter-tutor competitions and film night arranged by the student council this term. Along with this, there has also been a focus on our community as we have visited care homes and collected Easter eggs for charities and children's wards in local hospitals.

As many of you may be aware, I have recently returned from maternity leave and enjoyed the opportunity to share a part of their journey with Year 8 students. Due to the needs of my young family, I will be leaving Year 8 in the capable hands of Mr Kennedy as the new Head of Year 8. I look forward to watching from the sidelines as Year 8 prove themselves to be a mature and determined year group.

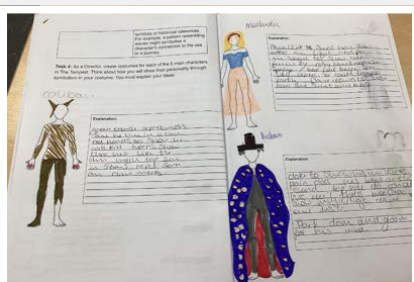
Lastly, we would like to wish all families a restful and peaceful holiday and look forward to enjoying the summer term of Year 8 together.

Mrs Blackham, Head of Year 8 and Mr Kennedy, Deputy Head of Year 8

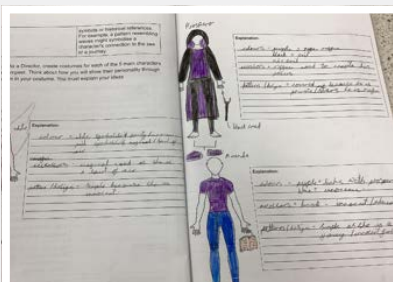
Persevere with learning

We continue to be impressed by the high quality of work produced in class by our Year 8 students. Below are just a few examples and we would encourage families to ask their children to share some of their own personal highlights with them.

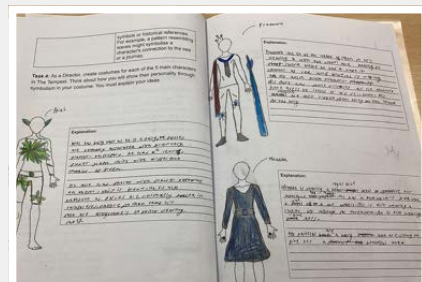
In drama, students have been creating costume designs for *The Tempest*:



Florence, 8GSN.



Mia, 8GSN.

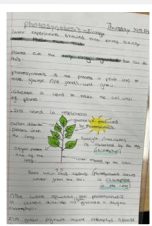


Zoe, 8GSN.

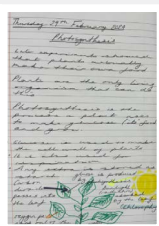
Students have been looking at photosynthesis among other topics in science this term:



La'shae, 8DRD.



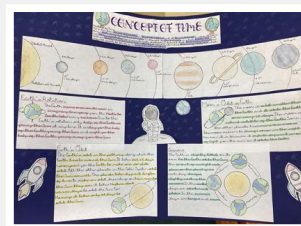
Litany, 8DRD.



Alana, 8DRD.



Oliver, 8DRD.



Krishna, 8LAN.

Continued on next page ►





► Continued from previous page



In food technology, students have been making turkey burgers (*pictured top far left*). In art, Year 8 students have been working on poly-block printing based on Frank Auerbach's work (*pictured above centre and right*).

Homework

Critical to cementing success is forming good habits and completing homework independently. We know that homework completed on time and to a high standard is a key feature of our successful students and something we include in the weekly league table awards.

Homework not only consolidates and extends understanding, but it also helps students develop independent study skills that will benefit them throughout their education and beyond. The homework is a combination of online applications (platform learning) and written work in the Big Ideas. We believe that homework is an important part of consolidating learning and developing good habits and routines to review work and build on what is learnt in the classroom. Now is the time to solidify this in preparation for the step up to Year 9.

Below are some suggestions for how you can support your child with their homework:

- Have a quiet area at a table where your child can sit and complete their work free from distractions such as mobile phones and television.
- Set a regular time for your child to complete their homework.
- Ensure that your child has all the resources they need to complete the homework successfully.

If you are supporting your child with their homework, encourage autonomy and independence. You could ask your child:

- "What do you think is the best way to solve this problem?"
- "Which task do you want to do next?"
- "How can I help you?" (after they have asked for help)
- You can support your child's competence by giving feedback suggesting strategies such as:

Asking them to think about what they could do next to solve the problem

- Asking what they need to get started on a problem
- Acknowledging hard work and success

We would recommend that you spread your homework across the week like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Year 7 & 8 55 mins/day	Sparx (20 mins) KayScience (15 mins) Languagenut (20 mins)	Sparx (20 mins) KayScience (15 mins) Languagenut (20 mins)	Big Ideas That Shape Our World (55 mins)	Sparx (20 mins) KayScience (15 mins) Languagenut (20 mins)

Please remember that you can use the Cool Zone before and after school to complete your homework, using the school's chromebooks.

Summative assessments

Next term, Year 8 students will have two sets of summative assessments scheduled. Information on these are detailed below.

GL standardised assessments

Year 8 students will complete a standardised test in English, maths and science beginning on 1st May 2024, which will take place in the sports hall. The English test will assess English skills and reading comprehension. The maths tests will assess mental maths and applying and understanding maths. The science test will assess knowledge and understanding, application and working scientifically.

Continued on next page ►





➤ Continued from previous page

These tests will provide us with data that allows students to be identified who may need additional support, allows us to identify patterns of performance and allows for a comparison of students against a national data set.

After these tests, we will share on FROG an individualised report for your child which will also include strategies to help support their progress.

End of year summative assessments

Your child will sit assessments in each of their subjects during June. The purpose of these is to assess their learning over the course of the year and will allow us to see progress against our end of year expectations. These papers will consist of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions. These papers will be taken during normal timetabled lessons in that week. Test scores will be shared with you as part of the end of year reports. Information on these assessments will be shared with the students on their Assessment Page on FROG.

Nursing home visit

On Friday 26th February, six of our Year 8 students visited the Jesmund Nursing home which looks after members of the community diagnosed with Alzheimers or dementia. Students spent the afternoon playing bingo with the residents and enjoying their company. Thank you to Alana (8DRD), Ava (8DRD), Betsy (8AJT), Freya (8AGY), Ruby (8AVR) and Tommy (8AFS).

Student Council update



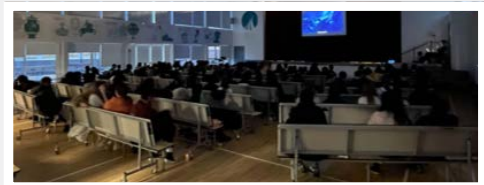
Inter-tutor benchball and dodgeball

This year, we ran it as an inter-tutor group competition and included sports such as benchball and dodgeball. All the students competed well and showed an excellent attitude, effort and teamwork. Some great performances from all the students. Well done to everyone involved

Film night

The Year 8 student council have been hard at work to plan a film evening in the school main hall for students with zero ROCs and 96+ attendance. The film evening was held on Wednesday 7th February and was a huge success.

Well done to the students invited to the event and a huge thank you to our Year 8 council for their support and planning for the film evening.



On your marks, get set... bake!

The much anticipated inter-tutor bake off began on Friday 2nd February and, judging by the high standard of entries to this term's competition, it seems like the students have been using every opportunity to practice and perfect their baking skills.

The challenge for our students was to follow a recipe to bake a classic Victoria sponge cake filled with buttercream and strawberry jam. Sounds easy? Well, not when you add the element of a ticking clock and watchful eyes from the year team, senior leadership team, judges and rival students.

The prize for the winners was gaining a bumper amount of points for their tutor group, as well as being crowned the inter-tutor bake off winner.

All of the students who represented their tutor group did an amazing job under the intense conditions. Congratulations to the following students and everyone who took part: First place – 8JAN, joint second place – 8LAN and 8AFS, third place – 8UUM.

Thank you to our judging panel of Mr Stock, Miss Cefai and Miss Goodwin, who took their responsibilities very seriously and followed the strict judging criteria. To be fair, it was not difficult to find a group of judges willing to taste eleven cakes. Congratulations to all the students for representing their tutor group.

Ms Blackham (Head of Year 8) and Mr Kennedy (Deputy Head of Year 8)





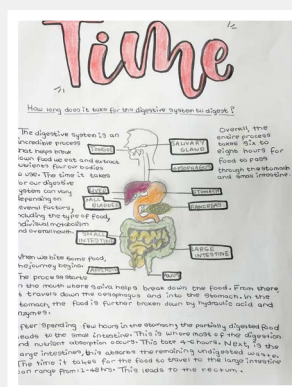
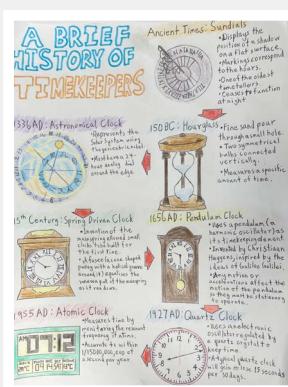
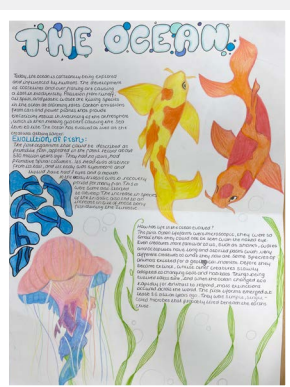
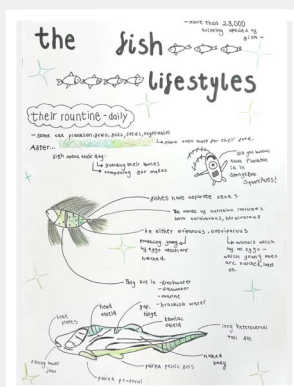
A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER



This term has been one to be proud of. There is so much more than we can fit in these pages, but to have had our Year 10 students out on work experience, celebrated our differences through a wide range of assembly topics, and seen our students represent one another on our rebranded school councils (as well as the wider Sutton Student Council) are just a few highlights to select from the term.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting for your particular year group, and also the wider achievements of the whole school. Congratulations to our superb students and staff on a great term's efforts.

Mr House, Headteacher

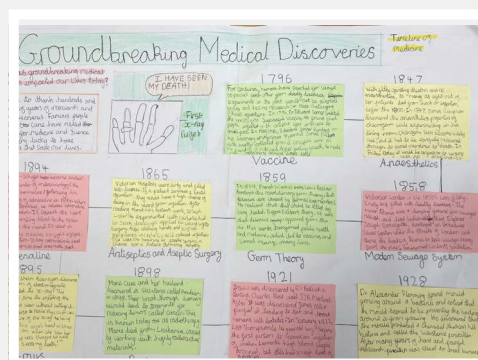


POSTERS ENTERED IN NATIONAL BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK COMPETITION

British Science Week, organised by the British Science Association (BSA), is a ten-day extravaganza dedicated to the celebration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It offers many entertaining and interactive events and activities throughout the UK, appealing to individuals of all ages. This year, our school embarked on a journey of experimental learning centred around the captivating theme of 'Time'. Witnessing the enthusiasm and creativity of our Year 7 to 9 students was inspiring, as they showcased their talent through a many excellent entries in the poster competition.

After careful consideration, we are thrilled to announce that the following five exceptional posters have been chosen to represent our school and will be forwarded to the BSA, reflecting the ingenuity and dedication of our budding scientists. Congratulations to Prithika (7RKH), Matthew (8JAN), Amy (9TF), Zoe (8GSN) and Umme (9TF).

Ms Haq, Director of Science

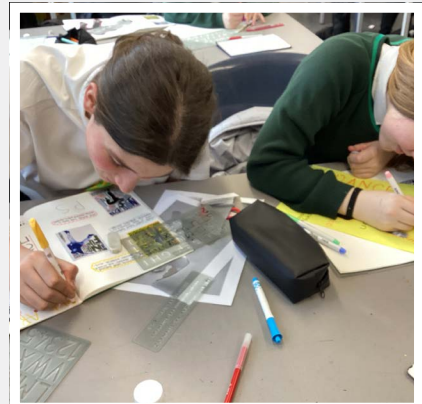
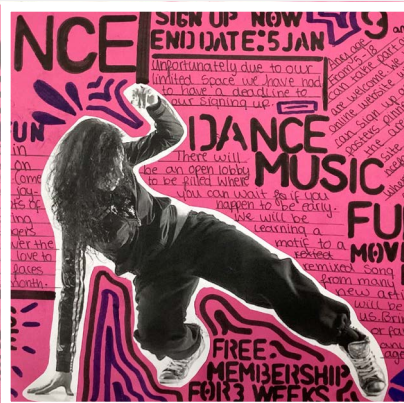
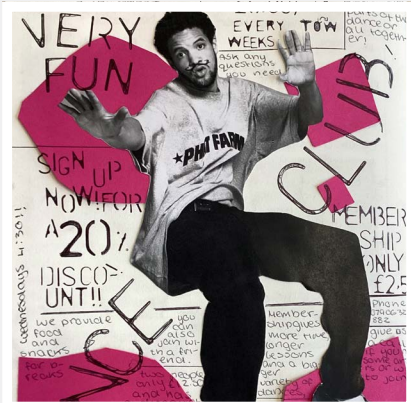


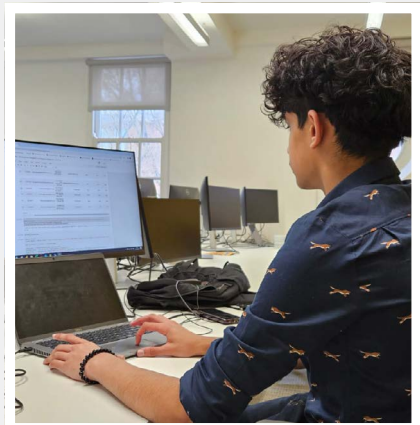
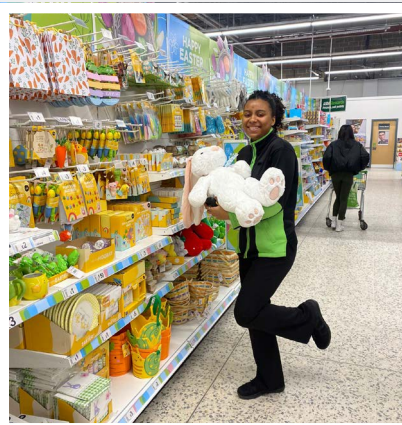
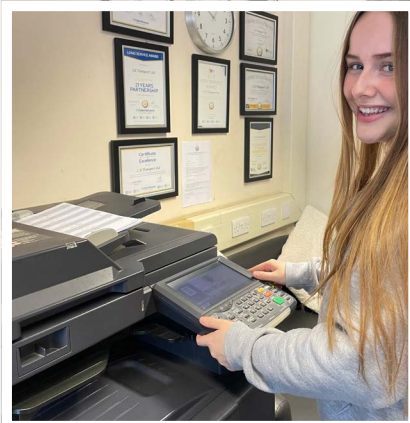


HAVING FUN IN ART AND DESIGN

This term in Year 8 art and design, students have worked on a range of projects including creating posters in graphic design and beautiful shoe bags in fashion. Our students always start with artist/designer research and then create their own designs and outcomes inspired by their research. During this process, students learn how to use different techniques and materials. They have produced some beautiful work, examples of which can be seen below.

Mrs Cvejik-Reeve, Art and Design Teacher





YEAR 10 STUDENTS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF WORK

.....

This week, our Year 10 students experienced the world of work with placements at a huge range of sectors such as engineering, hair and beauty, accountancy and finance, charity, dentistry, gardening, digital marketing and many more.

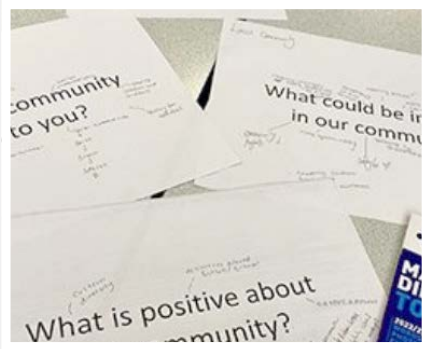
Our students not only experienced a diverse range of careers which will help them in their future decision making, but additionally were able to develop their employability skills, build in confidence and feel more motivated to attain the grades required to secure their post-16 choices.

We were very proud to receive employer feedback praising our students' work ethic from companies such as Elliot Colburn MP, Busy Bees Nursery, Vas Solicitors, Croydon University Hospital, Mace Ltd, The Grange Day Nursery and Kamsons Pharmacy.

Mrs Sone, Head of Careers

.....





SCHOOL COUNCIL RELAUNCHED

This term has been an exciting time for the school councils at Greenshaw. Before Christmas, all year groups elected a new school council and in the following months they have been engaging with the school community.

All year groups have been given their own area on Frog to allow other students to get to know their council members, read minutes from meetings, share suggestions in the ideas box and have a notice board to advertise up and coming events for the year team. Below is a snapshot of what some of our school councils have been engaged with:

- The Year 7 school council were instrumental in launching this years' Christmas and Easter card competitions. They have many more ideas and initiatives that they are looking forward to implementing to help drive positive change, lift aspiration, and to create and reward excellence from students within their year group.
- There are very exciting times ahead in Year 9 – they are working on initiating ideas to help the year group and work together to make a difference in the school and local community.
- Year 10 have been canvassing opinions from their peers to see what their main priorities are for school improvement. Following the result of these, the council has decided to focus on the potential for a culture day, a careers day, and how to increase the number of trips for all students.
- The Sixth Form council has delivered helpful feedback in relation to the recruitment process of applying for Greenshaw Sixth Form. This has included reviewing the open evening and responding to student voice, presentations to Year 11 students about Sixth Form, and student-led subject videos. The Sixth Form council also fed back information relating to personal safety. This led to us inviting the Greenshaw's Police Liaison Officer, Gregg, to come and talk to each tutor group about keeping safe and writing letters to our local MP to promote safety in the local area.

Sutton School Student Council

Sixth Form students Yoomi, Melodee, Jeremiah and Jaedine in Year 12 are representing Greenshaw High School at the Sutton School Student Council meetings. On 1st February, they were part of the council that debated the topic of knife crime with Elliot Colburn, Conservative MP for Carshalton and Wallington. Elliot discussed a variety of ways to reduce and combat knife crime and took many thoughtful questions from Greenshaw students.

At the meeting, Sutton Grammar School also presented a 'Safety in Sutton survey' for young people which was uploaded onto our student Frog page. The survey highlighted areas where young people feel safe or less safe. In response to the survey, the student councillors are planning to work with Sutton Council to try to make changes to safety in the borough for young people.

Last week, the Greenshaw students attended the second Student Borough Council meeting, hosted by Glenthorne High School. The session focus was on community and our students were extremely confident in sharing their thoughts and ideas regarding what community means, what is positive about our community, how a sense of community is promoted in schools and what could be improved in our community.

The Trusell Trust presented to the students to highlight the work of local food banks. It was explained that the current need for families is increasing for food banks, and donations from the local community are vital to continue this provision. Students gained an understanding of what happens behind the scenes at a food bank. Sutton Community Works also presented the work they are doing across the borough.

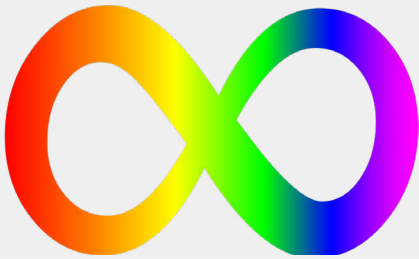
Yoomi, Melodee, Jeremiah and Jaedine are keen to support our local food bank and will be organising a fundraising event or food drive in the summer term. Watch this space!





WORLD AUTISM WEEK

.....



For World Autism Week – from 2nd to 8th April 2024, some of our students have volunteered their time to create some wonderful work about their experiences. Learning through the autistic lens is the most powerful tool of all – it enables us to learn through the lived experience of others.

Neurodiverse students at Greenshaw High School have created some brilliant pieces of work such as poems (one of which is pictured below), posters, presentations and a video, which can be seen on our website [here](#).

We are proud to have a school community that welcomes and celebrates neurodiversity and difference, not just for one week, but for every single day!

CHANGE

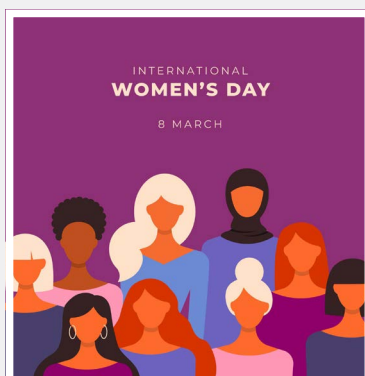
Change
The word translates to stress
It runs marathons and miles along my head
They say breathe in
And breathe out
But the change is in my head like a roundabout
No way to escape
No words of goodbye
It sits and stares
As change floats by
People move on
Calendars flip to the next month
But I sit still
Missing the time when normality was enough
They prepare me for the soon to come
Yet when normality drives by
I'm still not aware
What I was missing all this time
Even for the better
It feels for the worse
Because I don't feel like
I can break down these words
"Things change"
"People move on"
Yet I stay where I am
Normality the only thing that belongs
In my mind
In my soul
I watch as the world around me improves
But I prefer before as a whole
I love to see your smiles
And the way you all care
But I only feel safety
When the dust of something new
Leaves the open empty air

Through an autistic lens – Year 11 student





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2024



Greenshaw High School celebrated International Women's Day on Friday 8th March with a series of assemblies.

For the whole of the week, a stunning voice rang out through the school hall, giving an extraordinary start to the school day. Sathanaa, in Year 12, shared her vocal talent to launch our assemblies for International Women's Day.

We talked to all of our students and staff during the week, celebrating women's identity through the lenses of culture, science, technology and sport, to name just a few areas. We also raised awareness of discrimination, sharing areas of achievement and also ensuring that where things are not as equal as they should be, we are aware of it, and consider what we can be doing to make a difference.

Thank you to Abishaya, Eisha, Jessica, Nana, Sathanaa, Sherin, Tahjae, Tariro and Yashvi in Year

12 for preparing and presenting such a strong assembly.

Mr House said: "While our role is to develop curriculum knowledge for end of course exams, the concepts of equality and inclusion are central to our values, and we will always take our educational responsibility in the broader sense."

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

In February, to mark Children's Mental Health Week (Monday 5th February to Sunday 11th February), Sutton's Education Wellbeing Service shared some useful information for parents and carers. The information sheet (pictured) can be downloaded [here](#) and emphasises the importance of open conversations about feelings and includes practical tips about what can be helpful and supportive. This resource has been crafted and informed by young people themselves.

Sutton's Information Hub which outlines the various forms of support available in Sutton for emotional wellbeing and mental health, can be accessed through this link: [Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health | Sutton Information Hub](#)



JACK PETCHEY AWARDS – SPRING TERM

Our congratulations go to our Jack Petchey award winners for the spring term. These are just some of the reasons they have received their awards:

Aaryav (7MCW): Aaryav goes above and beyond in every aspect of school life. He has 72 achievement points and zero negative points. I am emailed on a weekly basis with evidence of the work that Aaryav produces outside of lesson time to summarise his learning that week. A recent example I saw was in English, where Aaryav wrote his own poem linked to *The Odyssey* using techniques learnt in previous lessons. He also made posters in Spanish with illustrations next to each piece of key vocabulary to aid his understanding. Aaryav is kind and thoughtful, and is a great friend who looks out for others. (*Miss Wiffill, Head of Year*)

Ella (9EWN): Ella consistently has fantastic levels of effort and engagement in all of her school work. She proves she is a positive role model through her independence of her own learning. Ella studies additional Spanish outside of school, which she excels in as well as showing commitment to her learning. Ella is kind and supportive to all her peers and is never shy to volunteer to help support new members of the form, as well as supporting her friends to speak up about issues and challenges they have been facing. Not only is she a valued member of the netball team, but she is also a dedicated captain who continues to motivate and encourage her team. (*author?*)

Tahjae (12KSC): Tahjae is a very kind and caring individual who is so helpful and thoughtful particularly with his friend Fazeel in biology. He films the practical work and narrates this for Fazeel and also gets his chair set up before lesson and helps with topics he has missed. I have never met someone of his age that is so mindful and considerate. He is also hardworking, always attends biology club and is a lovely addition to A level Biology. Tahjae has also been involved in Air Cadets for a number of years. He tries to talk to a wide range of people and gets involved in school activities like helping with assemblies. He also has an amazing school attendance record. (*author?*)





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 Easter break.

KEY DATES – YEAR 8

Last day of spring term	28th March (1.30pm)	Year 8 summer exams	start 10th June
First day of summer term	15th April	Afro-Caribbean Heritage event	17th June
Culture Day	25th April	Greenshaw Open Evening for Year 6 families	27th June
Year 8 GL standardised assessments (English, Maths and Science)	1st, 2nd and 3rd May	INSET day (school closed to students)	28th June
May half term	27th to 31st May	Last day of summer term	23rd July (12.30pm)

YEAR 8 CONTACT LIST

Head of Year: MsR Blackham – rblackham@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Deputy Head of Year: Mr J Kennedy – jkennedy@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8AFS: Ms A Fish – afish@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8AGY: Dr A Grey-Areben – agreyareben@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8AJT: Ms A Jothirajan – ajothirajan@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8AVR: Ms A Vairavanathan – avairavanathan@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8DRD: Ms D Ridley-Hammond – dridley-hammond@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8GSN: Ms G Saunders – gsaunders@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8JAN: Mr J Aoanan – jaoanan@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8LAN: Ms L Anius – lanius@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8LHL: Ms L Hill – lhill@greenshawhigh.co.uk

8MSY: Ms M Sayarh – msayarh@greenshaw.co.uk

8UUM: Ms U Umeyor – uumeyor@greenshawhigh.co.uk

JOIN US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!



You can find us on Twitter [@greenshawhigh](#)

Or find us on Facebook [@GreenshawHigh](#)

