



AN UPDATE ON YEAR 12



As I write this, I have been reflecting on this last term and the privilege it is to have become the new Head of Year for this year group. The time has flown by with it now suddenly being the end of the academic year, and students are off-site attending work shadowing placements in a range of fields including engineering, medicine, banking, law, marketing and the creative industries. One positive outcome from the pandemic means that there are now a number of virtual placements available to all students opening up opportunities across a range of sectors which otherwise may not have been easily accessible. If your child would like to apply for a virtual placement in addition over the summer, then they should apply through

Springpod, which can be found on the Careers page on Frog. I hope that this final week proves to be an enjoyable and productive week, and supports students in making informed decisions about their options after Year 13. We really enjoyed seeing students in their placements. You can see more details and photos on the next page.

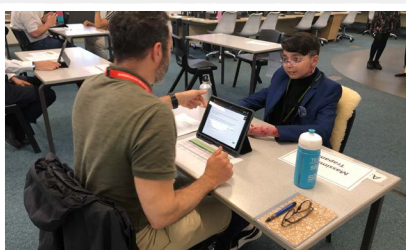
End of year exams

The recent end of Year 12 mock exams highlighted some outstanding achievements for many students, demonstrating a huge amount of hard work, commitment and dedication throughout the school year. Congratulations to them all. Where students are less happy with their exam scores, they should be encouraged to contact me or Mrs Reid (Study Skills Manager) directly to put together a plan for closing any gaps in knowledge and developing good learning habits, including exam technique, for the start of Year 13. Our Head of Careers, Mrs Sone, is also on hand to support with career planning and looking at options for students who have not yet made a decision about their likely path after Year 13. When they return to Year 13 in September, students will sit their autumn mock exam series. This is scheduled for week commencing 14th October and it is really important that students study hard towards these, using the summer to consolidate their Year 12 content. Please speak to your child about this and encourage them to maintain a healthy study/rest routine throughout the summer break.

University applications

You will be aware that your child has begun the UCAS process this past half term. Even where students are unsure of whether or not they want to apply to university, we encourage all students to complete a personal statement which could also be used for applying to apprenticeships, internships, degree apprenticeships and university. Students will be supported by a highly experienced A Level teacher who has experience in supporting students through the UCAS application process and how to overcome the challenges involved in successfully completing A Levels. I recommend that you speak to your child over the summer to encourage them to make a plan of action for the first half-term, both in order to send off UCAS applications (the school's official deadline is Friday 29th November) and to make a pro-active start to their studies in Year 13. This is particularly the case where students are applying to medicine, veterinary science, dentistry or Oxbridge, since the national deadline for submission is Tuesday, 15th October.

Extra-curricular activities



Year 12 students have also been taking advantage of a number of extra-curricular and off-site opportunities available to them. There are too many to mention, especially in any detail, and I am well aware that I may have missed some out, but to recognise a few includes the Year 12 recruitment day programme (pictured above), supported and attended by a significant number of external employers such as JP Morgan, SES Water, Fidelity to name a few. Through the programme, all Year 12 students have participated in an assessment centre demonstrating group working skills, an elevator pitch, oracy workshops delivered by Talk the Talk and an individual interview with one of the external recruiters attending on the day.

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In addition, there has been the staff versus Sixth Form football match, a karaoke event, culture evening (see page 3), continuation of work towards the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), summer schools, the Duke of Edinburgh Silver trip (see page 5), fundraising events for Zambia, M&G workshops (*pictured above*), Wednesday afternoon talks delivered in school by industry professionals and volunteering to support the school's annual athletics championship. A big thank you to all those students who have contributed positively to the wider school community, and well done to those who are making a pro-active attempt to gain the information needed to make informed decisions about courses and vacancies once they leave Greenshaw Sixth Form next summer.

We are also fortunate to now have access to My Super Curricular - an online platform we have subscribed to which offers students a wealth of super curriculums such as MOOCs, articles, podcasts and books to name a few. Super curriculums are sought after by universities and employers as they demonstrate a genuine interest and keenness a student has for a subject or topic. Please encourage your child to engage in a couple of these over the summer break as this can be used to support their personal statement. They should also update their Reference Record on Frog so that this can be used to support their reference for any application.

Student leadership

Finally, I am delighted to announce our newly appointed head students, Shayanth and Nana and Deputy Head Students, Lilly and Danyal. They will be working closely with a host of representatives for different causes across the year group such as charity and communities representative, academic and subject reps and student mentors to help foster an ethos of personal connection, wellbeing and support amongst the current and new sixth form cohort.

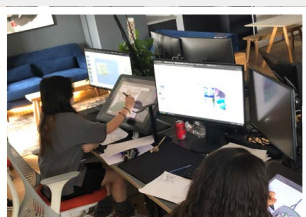
I wish you and your child a peaceful and happy summer, and look forward to them coming back in Year 13 after a rest with a renewed sense of determination and commitment to achieve highly in their A Levels.

Mrs D Ayres, Head of Year 12

YEAR 12 EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF WORK

Our Year 12 students are attending some amazing work experience placements this week at a variety of locations across the country. From observing neurosurgeons in theatre to getting involved at veterinary surgeries, on farms, in primary and secondary schools and at investment banks, Year 12 students are gaining an insight into the world of employment.

This will provide them with the opportunity to discover what career path they would like to follow after their studies, whilst developing many very valuable transferable skills.





GREENSHAW CULTURE EVENING

Greenshaw High School opened its main hall to celebrate the Sixth Form Culture Evening back at the beginning of the summer term.

A team of Greenshaw Sixth Form students came together to create an evening where their culture, traditions and heritage could be proudly shown off and appreciated by the rest of their peers.

The night entailed fashion shows, dance and music performances and food from around the world. What really came through was that clothes, food, music and dance are universal ways to bring communities together – it is a way to express love, joy and passion within cultures around the world. One could argue that a school is an ecosystem, and an ecosystem depends on diversity to survive and thrive. Culture Evening is one of the many opportunities Greenshaw High School has to offer to celebrate and create spaces for students to express and be proud of their identity, which allows our ecosystem to flourish.

It was moving to see staff and students support, encourage and cheer each other on. Thank you to all staff who came to the evening and supported the students.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD



23 Greenshaw Sixth Form chemistry students took part in the Chemistry Olympiad run by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

The challenge was designed to test chemical knowledge through a written test with real-world chemistry problems. It was a great opportunity for students to develop and showcase some of the skills they'll need at university and beyond.

Congratulations to all the students that took part. As a school, Greenshaw received one Gold award (Joshua), three Silver awards (Asshvin, Arnav and Aburvan), and ten Bronze awards.

Ms Navaratnam, Head of Chemistry





GREENSHAW HOSTS SUTTON SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING



On 13th June, Mrs Miles (Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead) and Miss Webb (Assistant Headteacher), along with Greenshaw High School students, hosted the Sutton School Council with a focus on wellbeing.

The NHS definition of wellbeing is a positive state of mind and body, underpinned by social and psychological wellbeing. It enables and supports good relationships, improved resilience, improved health, meaning, purpose and control.

Students explored and shared ideas about what wellbeing means to them, as well as discussing the five pillars of wellbeing and how the five pillars can support/improve wellbeing with self-care. They also discussed what current provisions there are in each school and what further support could be considered.

Students also had the opportunity to hear from Dr Ellen Westwood, a clinical psychologist who is the Service Lead and Clinical Supervisor for Sutton Trailblazer, Mental Health Support Team Education Wellbeing Service. She promoted her service for young people and how they can self-refer and also be referred to by school staff.

We concluded the session with a 'take notice' mindfulness-based activity. Before beginning, students were asked to 'check in' with how they were feeling and to think about how their day had been. Then everyone had to keep a number of balloons up in the air for two minutes without letting them drop. Amongst a few pops and giggles, balloons were flying frantically around the air. At the end of the activity, Mrs Miles asked all the young people when they took part in that activity, whether they were thinking about the day, or stress or things they were worried about. With a unanimous 'No', the young people realised that the power of being in the present moment can simply be having fun. The idea behind the activity was to challenge some preconceived ideas of mindfulness activities that have to be conducted a certain way.

Following the event we received great feedback from staff and pupils from across the borough. For example: "It was an amazing opportunity, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon."

Mrs Miles, Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead, and Miss Webb, Assistant Headteacher

VOLUNTEERING HUB SUPPORTS LOCAL COMMUNITIES



The newly launched Volunteering Hub at Greenshaw High School has drummed up a whole school food bank collection and students across the year groups were busy sorting out the collected food for Sutton Foodbank this week.

A substantial amount was gratefully received by the charity. A representative from the charity said: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for the generous donations from Greenshaw. They weighed in at an amazing 211.2kg! Many thanks for your support."

The school also managed to assemble three hampers which will be given to families within the school community.

Mrs T Reid, Charity Enrichment Co-ordinator





CELEBRATING SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE

This July has seen Greenshaw launch its first set of events celebrating South Asian Heritage Month. The month officially starts on 18th July, but at Greenshaw High School we decided to get a head start on the celebrations.

With this year's theme entitled 'Free to be me', our events have enabled students to fully embrace South Asian Culture in all its forms. We had a viewing of the popular 2009 Indian Hindi-language film *Three Idiots*, the following week saw students enjoy a Bollywood dance class (pictured right), a traditional Indian games night and South Asian inspired Karaoke.

It has been a joy to see our students take part in these events and next year will be even bigger and better.

Ms M Mbema and the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Team



HIKING IN THE SURREY HILLS

Our Year 12 Silver Duke of Edinburgh award teams embarked on a three-day expedition in the Surrey Hills, near Dorking, from 5th to 7th July. Despite the challenging weather, (lots and lots of rain), all students demonstrated remarkable grit and determination and completed their routes in good time.

From setting up camp efficiently and cooking their meals, our participants proved themselves to be self-sufficient camping enthusiasts. We had campfires on both evenings. Students also engaged in many games – in particular, a very exuberant game of rounders.

Well done to all students for their wholehearted enthusiasm. The team are now looking forward to the assessed hike in September.

Ms A Fingleton, Mr J Kennedy and Mr L O'Rourke

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 summer break.





TERM DATES 2024-25

School closes for the summer break (12.30pm)	23rd July	2025	
Inset day 1 – school is closed to students	2nd September	Inset day 4 – school is closed to students	6th January
Inset day 2 – school is closed to students	3rd September	Start of spring term	7th January
First day of autumn term (Year 7 and Year 12)	4th September	Spring half term	17th - 21st February
First day of autumn (Year 8, 9, 10,11,13)	5th September	End of spring term	4th April
Inset day 3 – school is closed to students	4th October	First day of summer term	22nd April
Autumn half term	28th October - 8th November	Summer half term	26th - 30th May
End of autumn term (12.30pm)	20th December	Last day of summer term (12.30pm)	22nd July

Inset Day 5 – to be confirmed. **Please note that these dates are subject to change.**

YEAR 12 CONTACT LIST

Sixth Form Team

- Head of Sixth Form: Miss S Larkin – slarkin@greenshaw.co.uk
- Head of Year 12: Mrs D Ayres – dayres@greenshaw.co.uk
- Head of Year 13: Miss K Duce – kduce@greenshawhigh.co.uk

- Sixth Form Study Skills Manager: Miss T Reid – treid@greenshaw.co.uk
- Sixth Form Reception: Mrs G Lercher – glercher@greenshaw.co.uk
- Sixth Form Careers Advisor: Mrs P Sone – psone@greenshaw.co.uk
- Sixth Form Attendance Officer: Mrs V Roberts – vroberts@greenshaw.co.uk

- 12JJ: Mr J Jones – jjones@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12KHN: Ms K Hinks: khinks@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12KSC: K Scruton – kscruton@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12SCA: Mrs S Carran – scarran@greenshaw.co.uk
- 12NWL: N Walpole – swebb@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12RG: Ms R Graham – rgraham@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12SSN: Mr S Sundaram – ssundaram@greenshawhigh.co.uk
- 12ST: Mr S Trafford – strafford@greenshawhigh.co.uk

