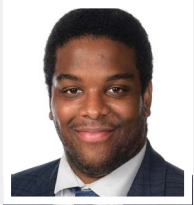
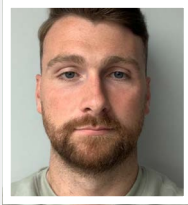




## LOOKING FORWARD WITH OPTIMISM TO YEAR 9



*Mr J Kennedy  
Acting Head of Year 8*



*Mr J Kennedy  
Deputy Head of  
Year 8*

As we approach the end of a long term, I look back and reflect on all that has taken place over the past year. We are now in a position where all the GCSE options have been made for next year and, as the end of Year 8 draws nearer, we reflect on the strides forward that Year 8 have made throughout the year. We have seen them grow and mature into the young adults that they are today who hold such promise and optimism for Year 9 and the GCSE pathways ahead.

The last few weeks of this term have seen Year 8 students sit their end of year assessments to demonstrate what they have learnt over the year. In addition, teachers have provided their views on every student's attitude to learning. These results will be shared with both students and parents imminently, and we hope that this will be a useful tool for discussions on what the next steps are towards every student reaching their full potential.

The students are acutely aware that anything short of an A or B will need to be addressed as a matter of priority, and students should be aiming to make targets for themselves in subjects where they can develop both in terms of attainment or effort. If you are in any doubt over why an attitude to learning score was given, I would encourage you to contact the member of staff directly to discuss this.

### **A goodbye....**

As many of you may be aware, I will be leaving the pastoral team at Greenshaw High School to start a new pastoral role as Head of Year 10 at an all-through state boarding school in Reigate from September 2024. This term I have had the pleasure of being Acting Head of Year 8 and they have always put in an amazing amount of effort and seeing how they have developed over the year's has made me so proud.

They are a brilliant group of young people who I'm sure will continue to positively contribute to the school and again their optimism for Year 9 and the GCSE pathways ahead. I will be leaving at the end of this term, leaving Mr Heffernan in the year team for September 2024 alongside our team of fantastic tutors. A new Head of Year will be confirmed in September and communicated to parents.

I look forward to watching the year group develop during Years 9, 10 and 11 from the sidelines, as I will be continuing as a Duke of Edinburgh Award leader at Greenshaw part time, alongside my new pastoral role in Reigate.

Finally, all that remains for me to say is to wish you the happiest of summers. Look after yourself, spend time with your friends and family, be safe and get prepared for Year 9.

I am sure that just like myself, Mr Heffernan and the team of tutors, it seems like Year 8 has gone in the blink of an eye. We all remain incredibly proud of the progress the year group have made and the seamless way they have immersed themselves into the Greenshaw community. I am excited about what is to come in the new academic year.

**Mr Kennedy, Acting Head of Year 8 and Mr Heffernan, Deputy Head of Year 8**





## ENDING THE TERM ON A HIGH!

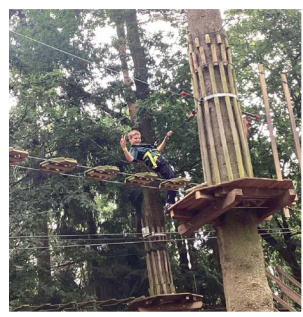
We ended the school year on a real high with our Enrichment Days on Monday and Tuesday. Some students headed off site by coach, and some were learning in school. The off-site days included visiting the Science Museum and collecting data on the coast, and on-site activities included an oracy skills careers workshop, professional actors performing GCSE texts, and a fun assault course.

### Day 1 – Monday 22nd July

#### Year 7

Our Year 7 cohort took part in team building activities for PSHE, across three Go Ape locations. Students participated in the Treetop Adventure, growing in confidence as they scaled new heights and Baboonzled, where students competed in a giant outdoor board game filled with physical and mental activities that got hearts pumping and minds racing. The day was full of adrenaline-filled fun, with laughter and screams of delight echoing in the great outdoors.

**Miss Anius, Head of PSHE**

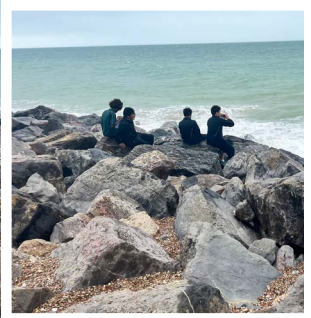


#### Year 8

On Monday 22nd July, over 200 students along with 32 staff members took the journey to South Kensington to attend the Science Museum. Students were tasked with completing a treasure hunt style activity which directed them around the vast museum. The task allowed students to explore our science curriculum in greater depth and provided experiences within science that are not achievable in a normal teaching laboratory.

Additionally, students were able to find out more about the fields of technology and engineering. These disciplines are not specifically covered within the KS3 curriculum but are nonetheless important as we aim to open students minds to the diverse academic and professional possibilities that may await them once they leave school. The students represented the school impeccably by demonstrating the highest levels of conduct throughout the day. Well done, Year 8.

**Mr Walpole, Head of Science**



#### Year 9

**Bognor Regis:** Despite the rain and wind, students had a blast on their school trip to the coast. They embraced the weather, conducted a clone town survey and field sketching in the gusty conditions. Indoor activities like the arcade kept spirits high. The laughter and camaraderie shared during the trip made it a memorable adventure, proving that a bit of bad weather couldn't dampen their enthusiasm.

**Mr Barnes, Teacher of Geography**

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**Worthing:** Year 9 were absolute superstars at Worthing yesterday. They didn't let the weather dampen their spirits like true geographers. They examined the high street, pier and coastal management looking at the impact of tourism on the UK seaside. Well done to everyone.

**Ms Maxwell, Head of Geography**



## Year 10

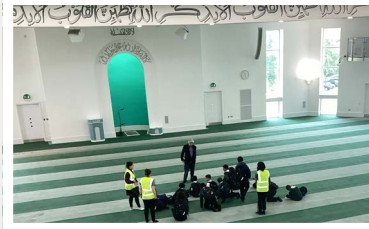
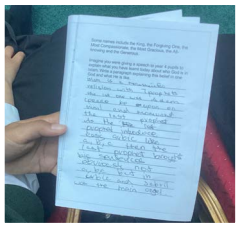
Our Year 10s were based at Greenshaw High School on Monday and enjoyed an insightful careers day. They have had the opportunity to do some post-16 research, with the aid of classroom workshops run by @talkthetalkUK. We hope that these will be followed up with some insightful conversations at home.

We were also lucky to have Sarah and Rebecca from @STCG\_College, who were providing information on apprenticeships and college opportunities in the school hall. The Year 10 students have also had an opportunity to hear from our very own Sixth Formers, and learn about the fun things that our A Level students get up to!

**Aburvan, Head Student**

## Day 2 – Tuesday 23rd July

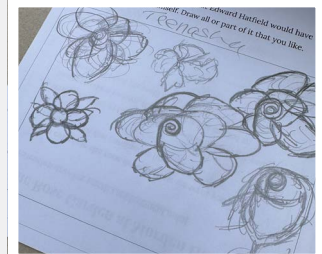
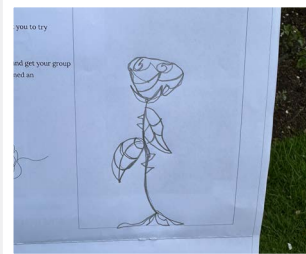
### Year 7



On Tuesday morning, our Year 7 cohort visited Morden's Baitul Futuh mosque in four different groups and took part in a variety of activities. This included a tour and completion of a booklet on the information that they gathered. They were able to visit the library, the prayer halls and the exhibition, which displays all the information about the Ahmadiyya faith and the importance of the mosque to the local community.

We had two wonderful tour guides who delivered a plethora of information to our Year 7 students who were very respectful, and were very inquisitive about this branch of Islam. Thank you to all who made this trip happen and to all supporting staff from the mosque.

**Mr O'Rourke, Head of RS**



## Year 8 – Geography

Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed their biodiversity study at Morden Hall Park, where they engaged in hands-on learning amidst the park's diverse ecosystems.

The lush greenery, vibrant wildlife, and serene waterways offered a dynamic outdoor classroom, fostering a deeper connection to nature. The interactive experiences, such as identifying various plant and animal species and understanding their ecological roles, enabled the subject to come alive, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm. This immersive approach not only enhances their knowledge, but also cultivates a lasting appreciation for environmental conservation.

**Mr Barnes, Teacher of Geography**

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## Year 8 – Art

Whilst half of Year 8 were conducting some geography field studies, others were engaged in drawing and sketching in the gardens at Morden Hall Park. The groups then switched activities later in the morning. (See pictures on previous page.)

All students worked really hard on their drawing skills and observing nature. It was a really relaxing way to end the year.

They completed some very accomplished sketches, using cross hatching to create fantastic tone, as well as logo designs inspired by their beautiful surroundings. Well done, Year 8.

**Ms Paisley, Director of Art and Technology**



## Year 9

Sadly, the Year 9 sports day was cancelled earlier this month due to heavy rain. However, their 'Retro and Inflatable Sports Day' gave our Year 9 students the chance to flex their competitive muscles and take on the challenge of the inflatables! It gave them an opportunity to take part in team building activities, developing collaboration, communication and leadership skills. Congratulations to 9PAG, who were winners of the whole competition.

**Mr Fuller, Deputy Head of PE**



## Year 10

Our Year 10 students were transfixed as The Globe Players gave two highly engaging performances of *Macbeth* (pictured left) and *An Inspector Calls* (pictured right). Students enjoyed seeing the two texts in a different way, and benefited from professional actors embodying the characters and bringing the plays to life on the stage. Actors also 'broke the fourth wall' to discuss key themes and motifs within the texts. It was a brilliant morning for everyone involved.

**Mr Trafford, Head of English**





## GREENSHAW ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Tuesday 2nd July, all Year 7 and 8 students arrived at the David Weir Leisure Centre for the annual Greenshaw Athletics Championships.

Students competed in the usual athletics events such as 1500m, 100m, 4x100m relay and high jump, but traditional races such as the sack and hula hoop races were thrown into the mix to give all students the opportunity to participate in events.

As the morning progressed, the weather worsened and the rain moved in. The event was continued for as long as possible, but unfortunately the students had to be sent home early.

Despite the weather, the day still ended with smiles on student faces and the finalists did manage to compete in their final races so the winners could be announced later in the week.

Results were as follows:

### Year 7

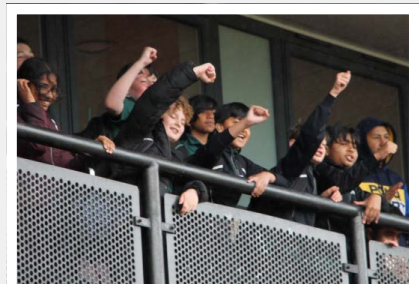
- 1st - 7MMR
- 2nd - 7TUD
- 3rd - 7JPR

### Year 8

- 1st - 8MSY
- 2nd - 8AVR
- 3rd - 8UUM

Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side for the Year 9 and 10 event and this was sadly cancelled.

**Miss R Graham, Head of PE**





## SPORTS AWARDS EVENING

The annual PE department's Sports Awards ceremony took place on Tuesday 16th July.

Students looked very smart and excited to celebrate the successes of the past season. We were very lucky to have a special guest speaker, Orlan Jackman, a GB Commonwealth Gold medalist in attendance. He gave an inspiring talk about life choices.

Team captains made excellent speeches about the highlights of their seasons to over 150 students who were in attendance. Students then received colours and half colours to recognise their dedication to their teams over their time at Greenshaw, that can be worn proudly on their PE kits. Players player and managers player awards were also distributed for each team.

It was a fantastic evening celebrating past success and future goals. Congratulations to all of the students for a brilliant year of sport.

**Miss R Graham, Head of PE**

## YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST COMPETITION



We are delighted to announce that two Greenshaw High School students, Nellie and Daleen in Year 7, are the proud winners of the national Rotary Club's Young Environmentalist competition. The competition is organised and promoted by Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland. There are three stages to the competition, each designed to support and encourage the development of environmental skills. Nellie and Daleen were district winners (*pictured below being presented with their award by The Rotary Club*) and then were thrilled to discover that they had also won the national stage of the competition.

Nellie and Daleen's project was an 'Almost Zero Waste' Christmas fair event, where nothing was purchased new, no plastic waste was generated, and only one small wastepaper basket of waste was produced at the end of the event. Games were made from scrap materials, and prizes were made from donated materials that would have

gone to landfill (e.g. end of roll upholstery fabric made into cuddly toys nicknamed 'scrapmallows!'). The Greenshaw High school Eco council supported the event by making items and running stalls. Nellie and Daleen wrote a report on the project to submit to the competition. The fair raised just over £220 for charity.

Congratulations to both students on their amazing achievement.

**Mrs S Carran, Eco Co-ordinator**





## 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**





## SUMMER DANCE SHOWCASE

Students from Year 7 through to Year 13 performed a series of brilliant pieces to a supportive audience of family, friends and staff on 11th July.

The evening was designed to celebrate and share both GCSE performances and extra-curricular work. Some of our Year 7 students shared a performance of *'The Big Dance'*, the Year 9 GCSE class shared their piece based on *A Linha Curva* and The Company performed their catalogue of routines that they have been developing throughout the year. A highlight of the evening was a fantastic performance by Arianna, a Year 13 student, who performed a jazz piece to *Macavity* from the musical *Cats*.

Students performed with great commitment, energy and passion which shone through their bright faces. I was extremely proud of all of the students who performed on the evening - Congratulations to everyone who participated.

**Miss C Izzard, Head of Dance**



## MINI LIBRARIES IN ENGLISH CLASSROOMS

This year, mini-libraries were introduced in all English classrooms, to allow students an opportunity to borrow books from their teacher. We have been very pleased with the number of students who have borrowed books over the past term, and plan to expand the mini-libraries further next year.

One of the newest books to be added to the mini libraries is *Arsenic for Tea*, an Agatha Christie-inspired whodunnit following two schoolgirl detectives, Hazel and Daisy. This book comes highly recommended by the members of the Wild Readers club, who Miss Vairavanathan and Miss Saunders would like to thank for their enthusiastic participation and for sharing their love of reading over the past year. We encourage any student from Year 7 or 8 to join us next year when we vote for our next read.

**Miss A Vairavanathan and Miss G Saunders**

## CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

This year, the English Department enlisted its Year 12 enrichment class to create a creative writing competition for KS3. Over 40 students submitted both short stories and their own poems inspired by the theme 'falling'.

I was incredibly proud of the imaginative, sophisticated and thought-provoking work produced by our KS3 students. Our Sixth Formers eagerly read through each submission and selected our winners.

Rachan won first place with his beautifully descriptive short story about a mysterious portal and Mathuson won second place with his thoughtful poem about love.

It has been wonderful to see the amazing talent we have at Greenshaw and the dedication from our Year 12 students who made this happen for our younger students.

A huge well done to everyone involved.

**Miss J Pereira**







## 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.

## KEY DATES – YEAR 8

School closes for the summer break (12.30pm)	23rd July	<b>2025</b>	
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 8 CONTACT LIST

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Deputy Head of Year: Mr A Heffernan – [aheffernan@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:aheffernan@greenshawhigh.co.uk)

- 8AFS: Ms A Fish – [afish@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:afish@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 8AGY: Dr A Grey-Areben – [agreyareben@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:agreyareben@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
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