



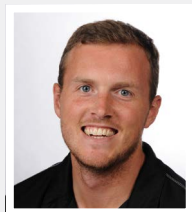
## A MAJOR MILESTONE



*Mr M Feenan  
Head of Year 11*



*Ms C Merrett  
Deputy Head  
of Year 11*



*Mr C Johnson  
Raising Standards  
Leader*

The final newsletter of 2024 is upon us – signifying the end of the students' final autumn term in key stage four. This one in particular feels like a major milestone and what is clear is that the students are turning their studies, inside and outside of the classroom, up a notch or two.

### **Year 11 mock exams**

Year 11 students worked incredibly hard across seven days of mock exams in November, as was evidenced by over one hundred students attending our Early 30 and Super 60 additional study sessions before and after school during this fortnight. They have

demonstrated maturity and resilience throughout. Their behaviour was outstanding and our chief invigilator said: "They are a really nice bunch and are really polite, just a lovely bunch of young people." The main purpose of these assessments was to inform staff and students of subject knowledge and understanding strengths and weaknesses. The mocks also gave us an opportunity to build positive assessment routines, with students completing practice papers in the build up, using Frog to support independent study and experiencing exam 'warm ups'. These are all strategies that we will utilise in the February mock exams and the public exams in the summer. The results of the assessments will follow shortly as part of students' first Year 11 progress report. Families will have the chance to discuss these results and more at the upcoming Year 11 parents' evening on Thursday 16th January – further details to follow.

### **Effective independent study**

To support students' ongoing preparation for their public exams, we have organised for InnerDrive, an organisation that helps students apply cognitive science research to improve learning and performance, to come in on Wednesday 8th January to deliver 'study skills' workshops to all Year 11 students. This is a really exciting opportunity for students to find out more about how to complete effective independent study (revision).

### **Performing Arts Christmas Showcase**

A group of Year 11 students who deserve recognition are those who have been rehearsing along side their studies for the recent Christmas performance on Tuesday 10th December. The evening was an outstanding success. Whilst I may be biased, the Year 11 students were truly amazing and served as fantastic role models to the younger students. Well done to all involved!

### **Sixth Form applications**

The deadline for Sixth Form applications for Greenshaw Year 11 students is 17th January 2025. This should allow students to be fully informed by their mock results before making a final decision to apply, and to give your child time to apply during the holidays. Please contact [6thadmissions@greenshaw.co.uk](mailto:6thadmissions@greenshaw.co.uk) with any questions about Greenshaw Sixth Form.

### **Other post-16 applications**

It is important that regardless of where students are applying, they make post -16 applications before February half term to give them the best chance of securing a place on competitive courses.

### **Welcome**

It seems odd to be welcoming new members to the team so far into the school journey, but I would like to welcome Ms Merrett to the Year 11 team as the new Deputy Head of Year. It already feels as though Ms Merrett has been with us since the beginning, taking time to support students who have warmly welcomed her to our year 11 family.

Wishing you all a happy, restful Christmas and new year.

**Mr Feenan, Head of Year 11, Ms C Merrett, Deputy Head of Year 11, and Mr C Johnson, Year 11 Raising Standards Leader**





## GREENSHAW RECOGNISED FOR 'EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION' IN RECENT OFSTED INSPECTION

We are delighted to share the outstanding results from our recent Ofsted inspection which celebrates the school's exceptional performance and commitment to academic excellence.

The inspection took place on 1st and 2nd October, 2024, and the school received the following judgements:

- The quality of education: Outstanding
- Behaviour and attitudes: Outstanding
- Personal development: Good
- Leadership and management: Outstanding
- Sixth Form provision: Outstanding

Inspectors made the following key points in their report:

There is an exceptional standard of education across Greenshaw High School. The school's purposeful 'Big Ideas' curriculum and academic rigour enable students to excel. Staff and students aim for excellence and they achieve it.

Leaders provide strong and effective support to staff, and are tenacious in their work to ensure students are safe and happy.

Exceptional support for students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) is present throughout the school.

A focus on personal, social, health and economic education enables students to develop into well-rounded individuals and equips them for the future. Students benefit from activities that



build confidence, leadership, and awareness of social values.

Behaviour and attitudes are exemplary throughout Greenshaw High School and students show high levels of respect for staff and their peers.

Nick House, Headteacher, said: "I am very proud of the hard work of students, staff and families. We have worked tirelessly on establishing the conditions for our young people to be successful at school, and long after they have left Greenshaw High School. I am delighted at what the Ofsted inspection team saw when they visited our school, when they described our school as both 'flourishing' and being a 'calm, safe and friendly place to be'. I am very grateful for the efforts of all involved."

Read the full report [here](#).

## BUILDING WORK UPDATE

The construction work on the temporary buildings is continuing on schedule. All 186 separate sections are now in place and the contractor is in the process of fitting out the interiors of all of the spaces. The external shells are situated, and power and data are being run into the classrooms as well as finishes like door frames.

It is amazing to think that from the start of work in June 2024 to the end of March 2025 two blocks of our school will be in place, complete with specialist science labs, art and design workshops, food technology rooms, computer suites and

music and drama spaces. Each of these teaching spaces will allow us to continue to deliver our full balanced curriculum while the main build progresses.

We are now at a point that heads of department have visited the temporary accommodation, and given further feedback to the contractor (such as the number of plug sockets and their locations), and the facilities are looking very impressive. There will continue to be updates over the coming months, and it is hoped that we can share photographs after the Christmas break.





## ASSEMBLIES AT GREENSHAW

Assemblies are important occasions when all members of a year group gather together. They are a space in which important announcements can be shared and we can communicate our key social, moral, spiritual and cultural concepts. These create and foster a strong and united community. This year, we have had a greater emphasis on students leading our assemblies, and we have had students from Year 7 to Year 13 presenting. This is a huge accomplishment for them, and we would like to congratulate all those students involved.

This term's assemblies are outlined below.

### Reclaiming narratives

Reclaiming narratives, the theme for this year's Black History Month gave us the opportunity to shine a light on lesser known Black British heroes. This includes our own Dr George Rice, an African American physician who worked in Sutton for over 50 years in the 1800s. The initial aim of Black History Month was to make young Black people proud of their heritage however this remit has expanded and our assembly led by members of the sixth form highlighted how Black history is British history.

### Anti-bullying Awareness Week

A group of our Year 9 students proudly delivered a whole school assembly for Anti-bullying Awareness Week (*pictured top left*). The theme for this year's campaign was to choose respect. Our students explained the importance of showing respect within our community, providing effective strategies for showing respect, even during disagreement, to prevent bullying behaviours.

### Parliament Week

During Parliament Week, students encountered the etymology of the word representation, and explored how parliament helped to represent the people. They considered the role of the MP in their representative function, and reflected on how they could get their voice heard by them.

Disability History Month Members of 7MMB shared with the school the origins and importance of Disability History Month. They examined different forms of disability, the barriers Disabled people face and how as a community we can change our laws, environment and attitudes to ensure we can all flourish.

### The Nativity story

In our final assembly of the term (*pictured top right*), we have been learning about the symbolism behind the Nativity story, which Christians celebrate at Christmas. Sixth Form students explained the deeper meaning behind familiar objects from the Nativity- the shepherd's staff, star and gifts- and how, together, they represent the Christian message of hope in Jesus Christ. We enjoyed upbeat, gospel performances, including a cello, bass guitar, and drums, before ending with the student choir singing a rousing finale full of Christmas cheer.

**Ms S Webb, Assistant Headteacher**





## CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Our Christmas fair last week was packed and buzzing with excited students, parents and staff. Everyone enjoyed the many festive stalls, activities and goodies on sale.

We would like to thank the organisers – Ms Frewin and the Zambia team, Ms Elcome and her amazing elves, Ms Navaratnam and the Tamil team, the eco warriors under Ms Carran's lead, plus many lower school volunteers and Sixth Formers.

We would also like to thank our Christian Union group, who kept us entertained with live festive music throughout the event.

The fair raised over £1700 for our two charities, the Zambia trip and Jigsaw4U.

The winners of all our competitions: Guess the gonk's name, guess the value of the coins and guess the teddy's name were all very happy with their prizes!

**Ms T Reid, Sixth Form Study Skills Manager**



## 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.





## BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2024



Greenshaw High School celebrated Black History Month during October with a variety of special events.

At Greenshaw High School during October, there have been a number of events that have enabled all of our students to celebrate Black History Month.

The focus for this year's Black History Month is 'Reclaiming Narratives', stories that shape the world. This offered an opportunity for everyone to learn the forgotten stories of Black Britons who have changed our society for the better.

The celebrations began with an assembly detailing the origins of Black History Month with an excellent presentation from our Sixth Formers. Highlights from our after school events have included the Black British Book club, where students looked at extracts from Andrea Levy's *Every Light in the House Burnin'* which explores the Black immigrant experience in the 1940s. Students were invited to

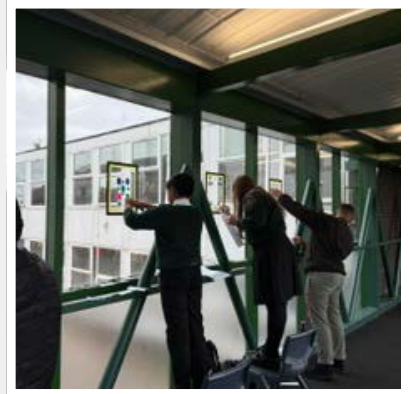
share their stories and thoughts of being second generation Britons.

There was a film screening of *Belle*, a fictionalised account of the life of Dido Elizabeth Belle, a woman of mixed heritage who was raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord William Murray, First Earl of Mansfield in 18th century England.

A number of KS3 clubs also ran events: history club examined sources about the impact of Black Britons during World War One, and science club wrote letters detailing the importance of diversity in this field of study.

Students at these events and others, have stated how much they have enjoyed learning more about our shared history. I would like to thank everyone who has run and supported events and the EDI team promise that next year's celebrations will be even bigger and better!

**Ms M Mbema, Senior Equality and Diversity Lead**





## FOOD BANK COLLECTION



Our social action group organised a Harvest Foodbank collection for Sutton FoodBank on Monday and Tuesday this week, and the response from families, students and staff has been amazing

Over the two days, there were collection boxes at each gate of the school for donations of tinned foods, drinks, instant foods and toiletries.

It was an amazing effort from our school community, and we are grateful to all the parents/carers who donated so generously and all the students who volunteered to pack and load items for delivery to Sutton Foodbank. Students also assembled and wrapped six hampers for families in our community that are most in need.

Sutton Foodbank were very grateful to everyone for the donations.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Greenshaw High School staff and students observed Remembrance Day with an assembly on Tuesday 12th November.

Students were given the chance to reflect upon all those who have lost their lives in war and consider the act of remembrance as a way of preserving our family and national identity.

Headteacher, Mr House, talked to all the students about why the Remembrance ceremony is always held at 11.00am on 11th November, when World War I finished in 1918, and about the significance of red poppies. He shared a letter written by Private Charles P Johnson to his family back home, which contained a pressed red poppy:

"Just a few lines to wish you many happy returns of the day. I am sorry I cannot send you anything along, but I have picked a flower

in the dead of night on that space between the trenches that are called No Man's Land. I hope you will treasure it. I was sniped at many a time, going out for them but with lying flat I managed to get one."

The school community then listened in silence to a poem:

### **For the Fallen, by Laurence Binyon (1914)**

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,  
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.  
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

The assembly concluded with a minute's silence.

## GUYS AND DOLLS EXPERIENCE



45 students from the GCSE Dance and Drama cohorts made their way to The Bridge Theatre, London to be transported to 1930s New York City for the performance of *Guys and Dolls*, including songs such as 'Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat' and 'Luck be a Lady'!

The immersive tickets made sure that everyone was up close to the action and completely engrossed in the story and performances of the cast. At the end of the show, the students were encouraged to dance with the cast and show off their skills, to which the students responded with great enthusiasm. Students were a credit to the school on the evening.

**Ms C Izzard, Head of Dance**





## ZAMBIA-BOTSWANA EXPEDITION 2026

A group of Greenshaw students will undertake the trip of a lifetime in 2026 – three weeks across two countries. They will be trekking the Zambezi river, contributing to a community project to develop a local school and visiting some of the country’s most popular attractions including Victoria Falls and Safari.

The students ran a successful car wash at the end of the summer term, raising just over £350 and held food and face painting stalls at the Christmas fair on 17th December.

In March they will be heading out for their first outdoor training as a group. They will be sleeping and cooking outside, developing map reading and planning and leadership skills.

Students are also raising money through the easyfundraise app. When you sign up and make online purchases from 1000s of brands they will contribute to the trip. It is an easy way to support the expedition without spending any additional money.

Follow the QR code to get involved:



## KEY DATES – YEAR 11

End of autumn term	20th December (12.30pm)	End of spring term (13.30pm)	4th April
Start of spring term	6th January	Start of summer term	22nd April
Year 11 parents’ evening	16th January	May half term	26th-30th May
February half term	17th - 21st February	End of summer term	18th July (12.30pm)
Inset day (school is closed to students)	3rd March		

## YEAR 11 CONTACT LIST

Head of Year: Mr M Feenan – [mfeenan@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:mfeenan@greenshawhigh.co.uk)  
Deputy Head of Year: Ms C Merrett – [cmerrett@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:cmerrett@greenshawhigh.co.uk)

- 11AMK: Ms A Monk – [amonk@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:amonk@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11DED: Mr D Edwards – [dedwards@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:dedwards@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11HMB: Mr H Embers – [hembers@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:hembers@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11JHG: Ms J Hughes – [jhughes@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:jhughes@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11MB: Ms A Bowles – [abowles@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:abowles@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11NGN: Ms N Giny – [nginy@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:nginy@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11SHS: Ms S Hasnat – [shasnat@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:shasnat@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11SRM: Ms S McDonagh – [smcdonagh@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:smcdonagh@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11TBO: Mr T Booth – [tbooth@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:tbooth@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11TEV: Mr T Evans – [tevans@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:tevans@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11TJN: Ms T Jones – [tjones@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:tjones@greenshawhigh.co.uk)
- 11VFR: Ms V Frewin – [vfrewin@greenshawhigh.co.uk](mailto:vfrewin@greenshawhigh.co.uk)

