



## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



Year 12 have had a busy autumn term which has seen them embrace new challenges and opportunities.

### Assessments

They have so far completed two assessment hours, which is a monthly occasion when they sit a 45-minute assessment for each of their A Level subjects in the Sixth Form Centre. The rationale behind these is to familiarise the students with the different question styles they face and get them into good habits of consistent revision,

which will serve them well throughout their A Levels. Every student has conducted themselves brilliantly in these, which is commendable.

After Christmas, Year 12 will sit their first mock exams, which will be sat in the school hall and will each be an hour long. We wish the students the best of luck as they prepare for these, and look forward to seeing how well they do.



### Super-curricular

We have seen a number of students take part in an array of super-curricular activities. The idea behind these is that universities and employers look for more than just strong A Level results – they also want to see evidence that our Sixth Formers have attended programmes, lectures and events which link to what they want to pursue after school. Mrs Reid, our study skills manager, and Mrs Sone, our head of careers, have been instrumental in providing a number of these exciting opportunities. In November, a group of Year 12 students attended a workshop at finance firm KPMG in Central London (*pictured above left*). Their visit, which included presenting on a real client brief to their peers and staff at KPMG, was designed to introduce them to what it might be like to work for a large finance company. Another group visited the Cancer Research Institute (*pictured above right*).



Sixth Form students also took part in the regional heat of the Bar Mock Trial, which is a national competition which challenges A Level students to prepare and deliver a legal case in a court room setting. The group of Year 12 and Year 13 students (*pictured left*) won the regional heat in Reading, where they were up against nine other schools, all of which were either grammar or private. This is a huge achievement! They will now go ahead to the National Finals at the Royal Courts of Justice in March 2025 and we wish them all the success in this last stage. We are so proud of the efforts the Year 12s have made in pursuing these opportunities and encourage them to continue to seek them out.

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## Community



A core part of our values in Sixth Form is on the school and wider community. Our harvest collection was widely contributed to, and a number of Year 12s got involved in the organisation of it. On 19th December we had our annual Greenshaw Sixth Form talent show to round off the year, and we enjoyed watching our brilliant Year 12 students demonstrating their talents.

We are very proud of the way in which Year 12 have risen to the challenge of studying A Levels, and we look forward to seeing what they achieve in 2025.

Wishing all students and their families the very best for a restful and productive Christmas.

**Ms K Duce, Head of Year 12, and Ms S Larkin, Director of Sixth Form**

# 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 pupils to excel. Staff and pupils aim for excellence and they achieve it.

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

Exceptional support for pupils 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



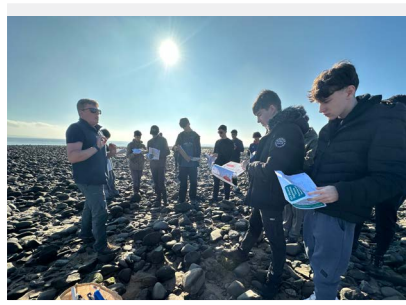
build confidence, leadership, and awareness of social values.

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

Nick House, Headteacher, said: "I am very proud of the hard work of pupils, 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](#).





## YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHERS EXPLORE MARGAM DISCOVERY CENTRE

During October half-term, 23 of our Year 13 Geography students attended a five-day fieldwork course with the Field Studies Council to collect data for their NEA, contributing 20% of their grade

Day 1 began at 7.00am, as students gathered in the Greenshaw car park, sleepy but excited. They travelled 200 miles to get to Margam Discovery Centre, in the 850-acre Margam Park in Wales. Upon arriving, students stretched their legs and visited the friendly Shetland ponies in the farmyard. They then began exploring water and carbon cycle themes for their projects.

Waking up on Day 2, students were greeted with the picturesque Welsh scenery. Students then tucked into a hearty breakfast before a morning spent in the classroom learning about the history and geography of Porthcawl. We then all set out to the Newton Burrows and Merthyr Mawr sand dunes, where students explored how to use ranging poles and clinometers to calculate the profile of sand dunes and how to use a point quadrant to calculate biodiversity. The afternoon was then spent in the town of Porthcawl where students explored how the local regeneration had impacted the area, whilst also talking to local residents about their views on the changes going on in Porthcawl.

Starting off Day 3 with a plate full of homemade pancakes and compote, students then began to finalise their fieldwork equipment lists, before being driven by Mr Barnes and Miss

Frewin to their desired fieldwork locations.

For students at the beach, this meant a combination of measurements being taken, such a beach profile gradient. For students in the town, they spent their time taking a variety of measurements such as residents' views via questionnaires, and anemometer readings to calculate if there was the presence of the venturi effect between their buildings.

Day 4 was very much used as an opportunity for students to act on any lessons they had learnt the previous day and make the necessary adaptations to their data collection methods to increase the accuracy of their data.

Day 5, our students' final day, started at 8.00am with a full Welsh breakfast before they set out cleaning the labs and classrooms they had been using throughout their stay. Our students then thanked the FSC staff who had hosted us for the past four days, and then all boarded our minibuses ready for the 200-mile trip back to Greenshaw.

The geography department would like to extend its thanks to all the teachers who gave up their time to ensure the success of this annual trip. We wish all Year 13 students the best with independently writing up their NEA and would like to thank them for representing both the geography department and Greenshaw Sixth Form in the most positive way by demonstrating their commitment to excellence.

**Mr A Barnes, Geography Teacher**





## SILVER STUDENTS EXPLORE THE SOUTH DOWNS



In September, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, some of our Sixth Form students successfully completed their assessed expedition in the North Downs.

There were a few tough hills that the students had to navigate to complete their routes, but they were all smiling at the end.

A few 'scenic detours' were taken, but all teams managed to find their way back on the right path to complete the route. The students enjoyed the experience and were excellent ambassadors for the school with their attitude, behaviour and determination.

Well done to all the students who took part, and we look forward to distributing their certificates once the rest of the sections have been completed.

**Ms A Fingleton, Duke of Edinburgh Leader**



## UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



We are incredibly proud of our A Level Maths students for their fantastic participation in this year's UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. Their hard work, dedication, and sharp mathematical minds shone through, and they made us all proud.

A special round of applause goes to Maanav, Naman, and Jathhi, who have excelled and earned a place in the highly-competitive Andrew Jobbings Kangaroo Maths Challenge. This is a remarkable accomplishment.

**The Maths Department**



## FASHION STUDENTS HEAD TO LONDON



Year 12 and Year 10 fashion students enjoyed a day out at two of London's most popular exhibitions.

Their first stop was The Design Museum, which is running a retrospective of *Barbie*. The show looks at the last 65 years of the famous Mattel product, and how both cultural and technological change has been reflected in her evolution. The exhibition will provide primary research for our current Year 10 students.

In the afternoon, we headed to the Fashion and Textiles Museum, where a celebration of eighties club-life with a focus on Taboo, a club night hosted by performance artist and designer Leigh Bowery. This will, in turn, provide a rich source of inspiration for our Year 12 fashion students.

**Mr B Broniecki, Head of Fashion and Textiles**





## 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**

## 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 12

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
February half term	17th - 21st February	May half term	26th-30th May
Year 12 parents' evening	13th February	End of summer term	18th July (12.30pm)
Inset day (school is closed to students)	3rd March		

## YEAR 12 CONTACT LIST

### Sixth Form Team

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