



A STRONG ACADEMIC FOCUS



As we conclude the Christmas term, we are incredibly proud of the significant strides our Year 9 cohort have made. This term has been marked by a strong academic focus, coupled with a range of enriching experiences that have contributed to their personal and social development. The positive start to their GCSE journey, dedication and hard work in lessons have been commendable and recognised by multiple members of staff.

Many students have exceeded expectations in key subjects, demonstrating a clear understanding of the curriculum and a willingness to learn. Students have demonstrated resilience when, at times, the work was challenging. Teaching staff are committed to providing them with the support they need to succeed. Students should always remember to seek help if they encounter any difficulties, by talking to their classroom teachers, tutors or year teams.

Around 35 students and five staff embarked on the outward-bound adventure to Wales during our October half term, their resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving skills were truly inspiring. This experience has undoubtedly helped them develop valuable life skills that will benefit them both inside and outside of the classroom. *(See page 2 for more information.)*

As we move into the spring term, we encourage Year 9 students to:

- Stay focused: Maintain their commitment to their studies and set clear goals for the term ahead.
- Seek support: Students should reach out to their teachers or tutors if they need assistance.
- Embrace challenges: View challenges as opportunities for growth and learning.
- Stay positive: A positive mindset can significantly impact their academic and personal well-being.

We are confident that with continued hard work and dedication, our Year 9 students will achieve great things in the coming year. We wish all students and their families a restful and enjoyable break.

Best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

Mr A Heffernan, Head of Year 9, and Ms L Eadie, Deputy Head of Year 9

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.





YEAR 9 STUDENTS HEAD TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

On Sunday 27th October, 35 adventurous Year 9 students from Greenshaw headed to the depths of Wales for a seven-day residential to the Arete Outdoor Education Centre in Llanrug, during the first week of October half term.

The Welsh coach company delivered us to Llanrug in good time and on the beautifully sunny journey, we got to experience the stunning scenery as we approached the mountains and arrived safe and sound to be whisked straight out for some rock climbing in the beautiful sunshine.

The whole week was full of glorious sunshine, adventures and challenging journeys up the mountains of Tryfan and Snowdon, tackling waterfalls, through pitch black slate mines, down the mile-wide estuary and in the sea at Anglesey. The students were wonderful, and they overcame fears and problem-solved their way out of some difficult situations, saw lots of lambs, got very wet in the ice-cold spring seawater and some groups even encountered wild mountain goats whilst climbing!

The outdoor centre provided high quality outdoor learning for all the students and staff. Everyone completed a full week of structured activities with qualified outdoor instructors off site using the mountains and rivers of Snowdonia or the coastline of Anglesey. All students and staff participated in mountain walking on the mountains Tryfan and Snowdon, abseiling, canyoning, gorge scrambling, kayaking, canoeing, orienteering, white water rafting, sea level traversing and exploring the underground mines around Snowdonia.

Even though we returned exhausted from all the activity, we all wished we could have stayed an extra week!

Well done to all the students that attended, you were fantastic and a huge thank you to Mr O'Rourke, Miss Goodwin, Miss Ridley-Hammond, Miss Saunders and Miss Quin for accompanying the students and supporting them in their individual activity groups.

They say a picture paints a thousand words, the images certainly paint an incredible picture of courage, character, happiness, teamwork, resilience, opportunity and family!

Mr J Kennedy, Trip 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](#).

HISTORY CLUB CELEBRATES UK DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH

To celebrate UK Disability Month, Greenshaw's history club investigated the question "How have attitudes to and experiences of disability changed throughout history?"

Students in the History Club, from Years 7, 8 and 9, used sources from the Medieval to the Modern period to make inferences about what they could tell us about experiences and understandings of disability as well as the experiences of disabled people.

Tharinie made a comparison between the 'Natural Fool' of the Tudor Court and comedian Chris McCausland: "In the Tudor times they were laughing at the person not because of their jokes, but because of their impairment. But nowadays the view has changed in the sense that people laugh at the comedian not because of their impairment but because they're funny and they make good jokes."

After discussing what they had learnt from the sources, students shared their thoughts on why it was important that today all people are respectful and considerate to those with disabilities, even those that we can't physically see.

Ms D Ridley-Hammond, History Teacher





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 gongk’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

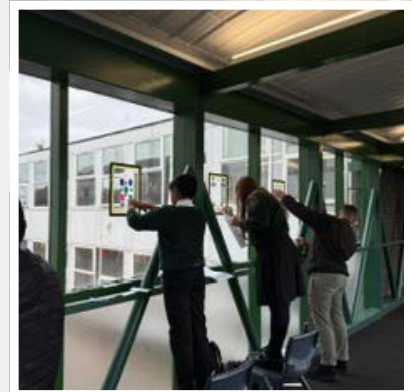
share their stories and thoughts of being second generation Britons.

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.

GOLD AWARDS IN SCIENCE



In November, students from Years 7 to 13 took part in the Bebras Challenge, a national competition organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation in collaboration with the University of Oxford.

Each participant had 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks designed to enhance logical thinking and problem-solving skills tailored to their age group.

Congratulations to all students who participated. Special recognition goes to Megan and Aradhy (Year 8), as well as E Shun and Matthew (Year 9), for earning gold awards (pictured with Mr House).

Ms N Haq, Director of Science





KEY DATES – YEAR 9

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 9 parents' evening	27th February	End of summer term	18th July (12.30pm)
Inset day (school is closed to students)	3rd March		

YEAR 9 CONTACT LIST

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