



POSITIVE CHOICES



Ms N Wiffill
Head of Year 8



Ms N Noble
Deputy Head of Year 8

"It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
– J.K. Rowling (*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*)

As the autumn term draws to a close and the festive season approaches, I want to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements of our Year 8 students. This term has been filled with exciting opportunities, incredible milestones, and plenty of proud moments for all. It has been inspiring to see how our students have embraced this new chapter in their journey, growing in confidence, maturity, and resilience along the way. This year, our theme in Year 8 is positive choices. Every decision we make, whether it's being kind to a peer, staying focused in lessons, or striving to improve our attendance;

shapes not only our school day but also the wider community we're building together. Positive choices create a safe, supportive, and successful environment for everyone, and I encourage everyone to think about how your actions, big or small, can make a difference.



Ololade and Ariana (8MCW) in their practical food lesson.

Starting a new academic year can be a big adjustment, but our students have handled it with enthusiasm and determination. They've stepped up to new challenges, forged stronger friendships, and taken on greater responsibilities within our school community. From their involvement in classroom activities like 'turn and talk' discussions, to excelling in creative subjects such as drama and music, Year 8 has demonstrated their ability to collaborate and express themselves. Watching them thrive in these settings has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this term. I have especially enjoyed visiting the Year 8 practical food lessons this term. It's been fantastic to see them developing important life skills while preparing a variety of delicious dishes. From perfectly spiced vegetable and meat curries to seaside inspired Cornish pasties, their attention to detail and teamwork have been impressive. These lessons not only teach valuable cooking skills but also foster confidence, independence, and an appreciation for healthy eating.

I am thrilled to share this term's RS shout-outs! Reading about these achievements fills me with pride and reminds me of the incredible potential within our Year 8 students:

- Sofia (8AJR): "For excellent independent practice throughout this first term." – Miss Quin
- Kristiyan (8MMR) - "For great participation in lessons and excellent independent practice." – Mr O'Rourke
- Diluxy (8JNS): "For expressing a deep interest in the subject and involving her own experiences into debates." – Mr O'Rourke
- Merveille (8LP): "For great participation in class discussions and answering questions." – Mr O'Rourke

Year 8 has had very good attendance this term, and it's great to see so many of you every day, ready to learn. Being in school every day helps you keep up with your lessons and be part of the Year 8 community. As we head into the next term, let's keep this up and make sure our attendance stays high. Every school day is important, so let's make sure we all continue to show up and give our best in the new year! To encourage excellent attendance, we have some great incentives in place, like the ten-day challenge with lots of exciting prizes to be won. We look forward to running something similar at the end of the spring term to keep everyone motivated and engaged!



This term, Year 8 took part in a heartwarming collection for Sutton Night Watch, contributing to their incredible work supporting the homeless in our community. Students were invited to bring in shoe boxes filled with essential items and thoughtful gifts, and we were overwhelmed by their generosity and compassion. A huge thank you to parents and guardians who supported this initiative, it wouldn't have been possible without your kindness and encouragement. Congratulations to 8LP, who went above and beyond to bring in the most entries, demonstrating outstanding team spirit and care for others. Together, we have made a meaningful difference to those in need, showing the true power of positive choices in action.

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Pictured left to right: Karthikan, Jack and Kwadjo (8AJR) and Isfahan (8RKH) – geography lesson on biome characteristics.

Right: Manasri's brilliant art work.

Congratulations to Year 8 students on successfully completing their first term of the new academic year. This term has been full of hard work, growth, and achievement, and I am incredibly proud of everything you've accomplished so far. Looking ahead, I am excited about the challenges and opportunities that await us in the coming months. I have no doubt that each of you will continue to grow, excel in your studies, and make positive strides in your personal development.

As we approach the holiday season, I encourage you to take this well-deserved break to relax, recharge, and enjoy quality time with your loved ones. Use this time to reflect on all you've achieved this term and return in January ready to build on that success.

I look forward to seeing you all refreshed and energized for the new year. Don't forget, we will begin with Week 1 on your timetable when we return. Wishing you a restful and joyful holiday season.

Ms N Wiffill, Head of Year 8, and Ms N Noble, Deputy Head of Year 8

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.

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 Ridley-Hammond, History Teacher





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](#).





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

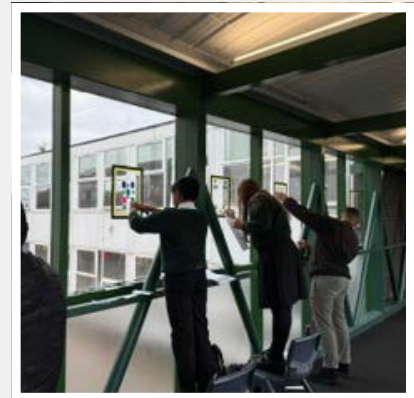
share their stories and thoughts of being second generation Britons.

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.

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 Aradhya (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





DIVERSITY IN SCIENCE

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Students in the Greenshaw science club were recently discussing the issue of diversity in science. They were asked to create a piece of writing to convince people from underrepresented groups to join science club and become a scientist. Here is some of their brilliant work.

Ms L Hill, Science Teacher

Charly, Ariana, Emma (Year 7):

Everything works
Because of science
Even your old kitchen appliance.
With science we could make
A computer or phone
With that we could use to clone.

It is also used
To find cures for disease
Science is cool.

The evidence is clear
It's too much fun
So enjoy it here.

Don't worry about looking the same
Because when you come here no one is the same
We all have different interests
Don't worry we're not perfectionists.
In science club don't worry about working away
All the experiments will blow you away.

Piriyanka and Megan (Year 8):

Diversity in science is important because different people have been brought up differently and they come from different cultures, ethnicities, and religions. So the more diversity we have in science club, will bring a wider range of theories and suggestions. So this is why diversity in science club is important for the growth of our scientific knowledge.

Some barriers stopping people from studying science includes: accessibility, lack of representation, and discrimination. A way of overcoming these barriers it for the club to stay free. A way to overcome discrimination could be studying about people from different cultures and backgrounds like Maggie Adherin-Pocock.

The reason why I enjoy science is that it is a subject that has a lot of knowledge gaps that interest me such as magnetic fields. The reason why I also enjoy science is that it is a subject that I can do experiments in.

In conclusion, I would recommend science because I believe that every person has the chance of becoming a scientist regardless of barriers.

Umar (Year 7):

Imagine being part of a world where there is constant innovation. Imagine creating phenomenal, life changing inventions. Imagine being renowned for it, receiving credit for it. That is possible by being a scientist.

Being a scientist is hard, it's challenging, but that's the fun of it! You may think that you can't be a scientist as you're 'different' but that's a lie if we look at Maggie Adherin-Pocock. Maggie is a black British scientist that suffered a hard childhood but still ended up becoming a world-renowned scientist. She was born with a neurodevelopmental disorder called ADHD. She was a black girl with a dream. Even though she was different from other scientists, she was dedicated to being a scientist and she pursued her dream until she did. In fact, she became a role model for other diverse people who wanted to change the world.

Now, that clears up the doubts of being a scientist. Trust me, it's fun. Doing experiments and learning about the world is interesting and the potential is already inside of you.

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KEY DATES – YEAR 8

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
Inset day (school is closed to students)	3rd March	End of summer term	18th July (12.30pm)

YEAR 8 CONTACT LIST

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