



A TIME FOR REFLECTION



A key theme for this term has been reflection. Year 12 completed their mock exams at the very start of the year, and we have encouraged them to reflect on their results and predicted grades to make the changes needed to improve on them. It has been fantastic to see some students really take advantage of this opportunity.

During their tutorial lessons once a fortnight, students have been learning about what the next steps beyond Greenshaw might look like: will they choose to go to university, study for an apprenticeship, or take a gap year? Each of these choices involves careful consideration, and we have encouraged the Year 12 students to really think about the pros and cons of each, so they can pursue the path that's right for them. Over Easter, their challenge will be to start making some more concrete plans about life beyond Greenshaw, and we will support them in this.

Recruitment programme and work experience

Work experience is a cornerstone of the Year 12 experience. It is taking place in the last week of the school year from the 14th to 18th July, and we are really pleased to see how confidently some students are approaching the challenge of securing a placement. It is a vital opportunity to make connections and sample the working world in an industry.



The Year 12s have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into our brilliant recruitment programme, designed by our fabulous Careers Advisor, Mrs Sone. They have stepped far outside of their comfort zones to work with new people and tackle a range of challenges, from problem-solving to presenting in front of a group. The highlight has to have been the enterprise challenge, which saw our students design a product which could be made from the waste polythene sheeting left over from the building works currently being undertaken by Bowmer and Kirkland on the Greenshaw site. The final saw seven groups present to representatives from the construction team, and they blew them away with their ingenuity, research skills and confidence. The winning team – *The Waterproofs* (12GMX, pictured) – designed

and created an actual prototype for a raincoat, and showed a flair beyond their years in the presentation. We are really proud of how the year group embraced the challenge.

Charity and super-curricular events

In March, a number of Year 12 students helped out with two fantastic school events: the Iftar and the Tamil games night. A huge thank you to all those who helped and attended.

Bar Mock Trial

We are truly grateful to Mr Edwards and Mr Embers for organising two super-curricular events this term: the Model UN and the Bar Mock Trial. Our superb Year 12 team reached the final of the latter, and left the day with an award for the highest performing new team. What an accolade! Here Adwin (12SSN) describes his experience of the day:

Taking part in the Young Citizens' Bar Mock Trial was an unforgettable experience that helped me understand the legal system and build my confidence, teamwork, and public speaking skills. As a defence barrister, I was responsible for representing the defendant, preparing legal arguments, questioning witnesses, and delivering speeches in court. I took part in two cases, each requiring careful preparation, quick thinking, and the ability to respond to the prosecution's arguments. One of the best parts of the experience was how much it improved my confidence. Standing up in a real courtroom, arguing my case in front of a judge, and thinking on my feet under pressure was both nerve-wracking and exciting.



Continued on next page ►





► Continued from previous page

The competition also allowed me to meet and work with new people from my own team and from other schools, which made it even more enjoyable. We were also lucky enough to reach the final at the Royal Courts of Justice (RCJ), where I made even more connections with aspiring lawyers and legal professionals.

This was also Greenshaw's first time competing in the Bar Mock Trial, and we made an incredible impression. We gave it our all and left with the award for highest performing new team, which was a huge achievement and something I am really proud of. I want to give a big thank you to Greenshaw for giving us this opportunity and for all the support along the way. A special thanks to Mr Edwards and Mr Embers for their dedication, guidance, and encouragement. They played a big role in helping us prepare and believe in ourselves. Overall, this experience was amazing.

Wishing all Year 12 students and families a well deserved and restful break. We look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and ready for the summer term.

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

SPRING TERM ENDS ON A HIGH!

On Thursday 3rd April, we had our first enrichment day of the academic year, designed to broaden students' experiences and opportunities.

The sun was shining and over 1500 students had a great day taking part in activities that had a curriculum focus but extended beyond their normal classroom learning.

Our Year 12 students experienced the highs and lows of applying to the world of work. Prior to the interview day, students completed a job application, took part in an enterprise challenge presentation and a group assessment centre task.

On the day, every student took part in oracy workshops with Talk the Talk to help build their communication skills ready for their one-to-one interview with employers such as such as Bowmer and Kirkland, Trafalgar House, Pell Frishmann, SES Water, Greenergy and Allianz for our Year 12 recruitment day.

Ms Webb, Assistant Headteacher





SCHOOL COUNCIL DRIVES COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH SOCIAL ACTION

It's wonderful to see the year teams' school councils meeting regularly and actively engaging in planning of social action, charity work, and volunteering. This term, we have collected Easter eggs (*pictured below left*), organised bake sales and film afternoons. To build our dedication to making a positive difference in our school community we are holding our first volunteering week in the summer term 16th to 20th June.

The whole school council had the opportunity to visit the construction site (*pictured below right*) and see first hand the classrooms the wider schools will be transitioning into in the summer term. They also hosted a meeting with Clare Parish from The Paul Alan Project. The charity is dedicated to providing free life support training, including CPR and defibrillator use. It also focuses on raising funds for and installing public access defibrillators. This academic year our year team councils are raising funds for this chosen charity.

The Borough school council last week was a great platform to hear the viewpoints of young people in the Borough and share their experiences. It offered access to valuable information and advice from a range of professionals including, Sutton Police, Community Safety team, Early Help and Integrated Youth Justice Service, Transport for London, Public Health Services, Children's Social Care and Sutton Safeguarding team. The Borough School Council plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between young people and the services that affect their lives. One agenda point was crime and anti social behaviour in town centres. The question to students was: "What is your experience as a young person and what can we do to make Sutton safer?" The challenges our young people brought up were groups hanging out, cat calling towards young girls, witnessing theft from shops on the high street. The solutions students presented that would make Sutton feel safer for young people was for more community officers in the local area and public education with consistent messages, for example, no balaclavas or hoods up in public areas. Sutton Police emphasised that Sutton is one of the safest boroughs in London. Crime rates are reducing and the police are proactively doing things to improve anti social behaviour and robbery. One action point we have taken back to our year team councils is: where do young people feel safe and unsafe in Sutton? Our findings will be forwarded to Sutton Police.



GREENSHAW'S FIRST IFTAR



On 11th March, students from the Sixth Form hosted Greenshaw High School's first Iftar, the meal eaten after sunset during Ramadan.

During the event, students took part in a quiz to test their knowledge of Islam, there were recitations from the Qur'an, a henna station and most importantly plenty of food to eat! In all, over £140 was raised for Islamic Relief and Oxfam. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the smooth running of the event.

Ms M Mbema, Head of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

There will be a phased return to school from Tuesday 22nd April.





ASSEMBLIES AT GREENSHAW



Our assemblies this term have continued to develop students' cultural awareness. We began the term focusing on community, belonging and togetherness. Communities can be powerful; positives of being a part of a community can bring with it connection with others, opportunities to build friendships, learn new skills and explore interests. During the assembly, a competition was launched to add to our site hoardings making them more visually appealing and reflective of our Greenshaw community. The competition was to design an image/piece of artwork that reflects our community. The winning artists will be announced next term and they will have their design created and a collage will be displayed in community notice

boards around the site. We will have one winner per year group.

Every February, lots of countries around the world celebrate safer internet day. There is always a theme, and this year the theme was all about scams. A scam is a dishonest plan to trick someone and make money out of them. Scammers use really quite sophisticated techniques to trick their victims. For example, the use of psychological tactics, like promising something that might otherwise be hard to get or too good to be true. Students were introduced to top tips for protecting themselves and signposted to the PSHE frog page for helpful advice.

The start of Ramadan was celebrated with an assembly given by Ms Uddin and Greenshaw Sixth Formers, Bilal, Saffi, Rayhanna and Rahma. Celebrations continued at the school's first ever iftar event on Tuesday 11th March.

On 20th March, an assembly introduced students to social change and how it can impact us (*pictured*). Mr Gardener discussed childhood experiences, both from his own experience and from students in today's society. He concluded the assembly asking students to consider the question, 'Should the UK follow Australia's example and ban social media for under 16s?'

Ms Webb, Assistant Headteacher

ZAMBIA EXPEDITION TRAINING WEEKEND



At the end of March, the Zambia expedition team of Year 11 students attended their last training event before heading off to Africa for three weeks to explore, work on construction projects in a local community and trek along the Zambezi river.

The weekend started by meeting the expedition leader, who had planned many activities to promote team building and getting to know each other. The team learnt about what to expect when they arrive in Zambia: the hot climate, the different culture and how to

maintain food and personal hygiene whilst living outdoors. In Zambia, each day the team will assume different roles. One member will be assigned day leader whilst others will help to manage the budget, cook food, do the shopping, navigate and look after others' wellbeing.

The team improved their leadership and communication skills in multiple ways. They divided into small groups to pitch their tents and the afternoon was spent completing first aid training and discussing specialist equipment. The team shared why they had signed up for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some want to learn more about a new place, some about wildlife, others want to give back to a community less fortunate than theirs and, lastly, develop their confidence as leaders.

It quickly began to get dark and Mya, Chloe and Gabriel took charge of dinner. The cooking team were presented with an unusual array of ingredients and four small stoves. They set up their mini outdoor kitchen and prepared and cooked a warming pasta dish before the washing-up team took over! The evening was spent learning how to complete risk assessments, playing Mafia and eating custard creams.

After a cold night's sleep, everyone woke up to take on the day's hike! In Zambia, students will trek for three days on rough terrain, clambering over rocks along the Zambezi and carrying over 15kg of equipment on their backs. They will sleep outdoors under the stars and get the chance to see lots of wildlife. In preparation, the team packed up their rucksacks and strapped on their tents and took a hike through the forest. Although on this occasion it was only a short walk, it gave them a real insight into what it might be like to carry this weight over a number of days. After an informative and enjoyable weekend, the team said farewell, excited about the next adventure – headed to Zambia!

Ms Frewin, Trip Leader

There will be a phased return to school from Tuesday 22nd April.





STEPPING INTO THE NEXT STAGE OF GREENSHAW'S DEVELOPMENT

Greenshaw High School is about to undergo a transformation, with much of the school being completely remodelled.

Science labs and art rooms from the 1960s will be replaced by modern successors. Upgraded facilities like drama studios and music practice rooms will be in place, and classrooms of all subjects will be lighter and better designed. We will also gain a brand-new learning resource centre for independent study, something that we do not currently have.

Movement around our popular and busy school will be much improved, and the environmental impact of the school will be significantly improved. Crucially, the remodelling of our current single-storey buildings will mean increased outdoor space for sport and play, and more green space for students at break and lunch times.

To achieve this, we will be demolishing around 70% of our existing classrooms, offices and buildings. These will be replaced by two three-storey permanent buildings, with the larger being available in about a year and a half.

What happens next?

On Friday 4th April, we will be packing up the vast majority of our classrooms. Books will be placed into crates, and furniture (every desk and every chair) labelled, with their destinations marked in their new rooms in the temporary school. Computers will be dismantled, and digital screens removed from walls. All the artwork on every corridor will be taken down. Materials for practical subjects (arts, science, food etc) will have their specialist equipment put into protected cages for careful transportation, also over to the temporary school.

From Monday 7th April, a commercial removal company will move the contents of over 60 classrooms, 15 offices and other spaces, into the temporary school (*pictured top right*). This will take all the Easter holidays to be completed.

How will you get the school ready for the summer term?

We will get the keys to the temporary school on Tuesday 22nd April. We will then need to unpack boxes and set up rooms, as well as run IT checks on all classrooms. Staff will need to orientate themselves with the two new temporary buildings as they will not have entered them until the first day of the summer term.

To give you a sense of the size of the project, there are over 2,000 chairs, 1,000 tables and desks being moved. Classrooms will also have bookshelves and cupboards put in place, and whiteboards and digital screens fitted in each room. The Easter holidays will certainly be very busy!

What impact will this have on the students?

We have prioritised the exam prospects of students in Year 11 and Year 13 in the coming summer term. They will not miss any days of school, and we will continue to teach them in the parts of school that are not being demolished. Our students in Years 11 and 13 are already familiar with these buildings, and we can continue their exam preparation without interruption.

For students in other years, we will be setting some learning from home to allow us to pack up on the final day of the spring term, and then smoothly start the summer term. We will get all students in as quickly as is safe in the first week of the summer term.

Regular updates on the project will be posted on this section of the school website: <https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/buildingproject>

Nick House, Headteacher

There will be a phased return to school from Tuesday 22nd April.





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 Easter break.

KEY DATES – YEAR 12

Start of summer term (phased return)	From 22nd April	May half term	26th-30th May
Year 12 roadmap evening	1st May	Year 12 work experience	w/c 14th July
Bank holiday (school closed)	5th May	End of summer term	18th July (12.30pm)

YEAR 12 CONTACT LIST

Sixth Form Team

Director of Learning Post-16: Miss S Larkin – slarkin@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Head of Year 12: Miss K Duce – kduce@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Sixth Form Study Skills Manager: Ms T Reid – treid@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Sixth Form Attendance: Ms V Roberts – 6thform@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Sixth Form Head of Careers: Ms P Sone – psone@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Sixth Form Administrator: Ms G Lercher - 6thform@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Sixth Form Tutors

12DC: Mr D Clarke – dclarke@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12GCA: Mr G Carter – gcarter@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12GMX: Ms G Maxwell – gmaxwell@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12KA: Miss K Armstrong – karmstrong@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12KHN: Ms K Hinks – khinks@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12KSC: Ms K Scruton – kscruton@greenshawhigh.co.uk

12SSN: Mr S Sundaram – ssundaram@greenshawhigh.co.uk

