

YEAR
13



GREENSHAW NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

Year 13 students demonstrate resilience and commitment



Miss K Duce
Head of Year 13



Ms S Larkin
Director of Sixth Form

Preparation

Year 13 is an exciting year, which tends to whizz by fast. The theme of this term was preparation, both in terms of the October mock exams, but also for the students' next steps.

UCAS

A number of students started the new school year in earnest, putting in early applications to Oxbridge and to study medicine, dentistry and veterinary science. And many of these students have started to hear back from these institutions, sending off additional work and preparing for interviews. In addition to this, more and more students have sent off their UCAS applications, and we are excited to hear how they fare.

We are really proud of the hard work many of our Year 13s continue to devote to ensuring their next steps are as aspirational as can be.

Boost

In November we launched the four-week boost programme for any students looking to improve on their UCAS grades. A number of students signed up for the challenge, devoting their independent study periods to completing work that demonstrates quality and excellence. We have been really impressed with their enthusiasm and commitment to this process, and it has added a real feeling of momentum during what can sometimes be the difficult months of November in the run up to Christmas. Many of these students have started to receive the benefits of this hard work, and we sincerely hope this enthusiasm can be replicated in the coming months as the year group readies itself for the summer exams.

Bowmer and Kirkland visit

Danny Hoang and a small group of Year 13 students experienced a visit to the school's building site. He said: "Visiting the live redevelopment site of Greenshaw High School was an exciting experience. I had numerous questions, all of which were answered clearly by Scott, the Senior Site Manager overseeing the project. He guided me through the two/three-year redevelopment plan and explained technical aspects of the construction process, including the machinery in use and the installation of a

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First day of spring term is
Monday 5th January 2026



Year 13 highlights

► Continued from previous page



geothermal heating system for the new school building. After touring the entire site, I was struck by the scale of the land when viewed as open space. Overall, the site visit was an excellent learning experience. It was particularly impactful to stand on the location where the former maths block once stood.'

Charity and entertainment

October saw Spirit Week (pictured above), which was a valiant effort on behalf of Miss Albert to raise money for the Year 13 prom in the summer. The students were tasked with dressing up in the theme of a certain spirit each day, such as pink. As the week went on, more and more students joined the ranks. 'Throwback Thursday' saw a surprising number of students in American football shirts, many of whom enjoyed the film night in the SRC that evening. It was a wonderful week, and great to see so many students pull together.

Talent show

More recently, we held our annual talent show (pictured below). This is a chance for any student in Year 12 and 13 to showcase their talent.

We saw a range of performances, from pianists to tap dancers, singers to our Tamil dance crew. Again, it was a really special night which showcased all that is good in the Greenshaw Sixth Form community.

Thank you to Year 13 students for their resilience and commitment to their studies this term. We know how hard many of them are working, and hope the coming break gives a chance to rest.

Wishing you all a restful break, and we look forward to more excitement in the new year.

Miss K Duce, Head of Year 13





UK Senior Maths Challenge success

The maths department is proud to celebrate the successful completion of the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge 2025-26.

We would like to congratulate our A Level Maths students for their effort, resilience, and ambition. Taking part in this prestigious competition showcased their courage to think deeply and solve complex problems. This year, we had an excellent turnout and some truly impressive results.

The SMC not only strengthens students' problem-solving and reasoning skills, but also builds confidence and creativity, qualities that will serve them well in the future.

We would like to thank staff in the department for their continued support and enthusiasm in helping our students prepare.

Paak, Shantae, Rokith and Abielash were also invited to the Andrew Jobbings Senior Kangaroo Maths Challenge, a prestigious national competition run by the UK Mathematics Trust which took place on 19th November.

They demonstrated genuine enthusiasm for advanced mathematics and represented the school with pride.

Special mentions went to:

- Shantae – Silver, Best in School
- Paak – Bronze, first-time participant
- Abielash – Bronze, first-time participant



- Rokith – Participation Award

They have all set a strong benchmark for our senior cohort for future challenges.

Congratulations to all of them on their well-deserved achievements.

Mrs D Bansal, Teacher of Mathematics and UKMT Coordinator

Sports round up

We have kicked off this year with numerous PE fixtures and events from indoor cricket to borough cross country.

So far this year, our students have participated in 35 different fixtures in football, basketball, netball, athletics and cricket.



Here are some of the highlights:

- **Basketball:** our U15 team got through to the quarter finals after winning against Sutton Grammar 30-20.
- **Football:** our Year 11 boys won their first-ever game in a nail-biting penalty shoot out.
- **Football:** the Sixth Form team went through to the semi finals after winning 4-1 at Oaks Park.
- **Netball:** our Year 10 team kicked off a great start to the season with a 15-12 win against Cheam.





Year 13 geographers head to (Windy) Wales!

Our Year13 geography students have headed off to Wales for a five day field studies trip

Day 1

Our geographers have kicked off their fieldwork trip in sunny (and windy!) Wales, investigating coastal processes along the Porthcawl coastline. Today's focus was on measuring beach profiles – collecting data to understand how the shape of the beach changes with distance from the sea.

A brilliant start to the trip, with plenty of teamwork, field skills, and sandy shoes!

Day 2

Students swapped the beach for the town centre as they explored human geography themes – investigating how places change over time and the challenges coastal towns face in adapting to new economies and tourism patterns.

A highlight of the day was visiting the closed-down Coney Beach theme park, once a hub of seaside fun, now a fascinating case study in regeneration and changing sense of place.

Day 3

Our students got stuck into their NEA data collection today, splitting into two groups to investigate very different environments.



Those at Newton Beach were busy measuring sand dune profiles and studying how the landscape changes inland – a perfect example of coastal processes in action. Meanwhile, others explored Porthcawl town centre, researching place identity and how local character is shaped by people, history, and regeneration.

After a full day of data and discovery, students enjoyed some well-earned downtime in the onsite playground – the perfect way to recharge after three days of fieldwork!

Day 4

Our geographers wrapped up their NEA data collection today – completing final measurements, interviews, and observations across Newton Beach and Porthcawl town. From sand dunes to sense of place, it's been an incredible few days of hands-on investigation and real-world geography in action!

Last night, students celebrated their hard work with a bonfire by the coast, complete with laughter, reflection, and a stunning Welsh sunset.

But the work isn't over just yet – tonight they'll be sorting and analysing soil samples late into the evening, proving that geographers never stop exploring!

Mr A Barnes, Geography Teacher





School Council – a meaningful platform for student voice

At Greenshaw, our school council provides a meaningful platform for student voice – empowering students to express their views, contribute to school decisions, and take an active role in shaping a positive school environment. This sense of ownership and involvement is a key part of our school culture.

It's been fabulous to see the continued growth of our varied school council involvement this academic year from year team councils, whole school council, Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) and Sutton borough council.

The year team council have been heavily involved in supporting staff with student voice. They have been visited by our Assistant Headteachers, Mrs Carter and Mrs Weale, to discuss rewards, Deputy Headteacher, Mrs Wallace, to discuss safeguarding and Miss Kirby to discuss wellbeing. Students' thoughts and opinions have been insightful to support change here at Greenshaw.

The whole school council has been busy supporting the launch of this year's enrichment days. Students recently had the opportunity to meet with Mrs Langford to discuss attendance strategies and Mrs McCormick to discuss whole school social action initiatives.

The GLT school council has met once this academic year and they discussed shared experiences and ideas on important subjects, including improving attendance, extra-curricular activities, future pathways (A Levels, apprenticeships and careers) and a sense of belonging. Two of our Year 10 students, Liyah and Josephine, did a fantastic job representing Greenshaw High School (pictured). They joined students from other GLT schools to talk about what is going well and what could be even better across the trust.

The focus of the meeting was on the main priorities for 2025–26, and the students worked in small break out rooms to share ideas, chat about their own experiences, and give honest feedback.



Student input directly influences Greenshaw Learning Trust priorities and helps shape the vision for our 'family' of schools, ensuring student voices are heard by leadership and trustees.

The Sutton borough school council met on 7 November 2025, hosted by Wilson's School. Students discussed smartphone use in schools, favouring responsible use over bans, and received updates on knife crime initiatives, police safety measures, CCTV use, and youth vaping, with calls for better education, enforcement and awareness. They also heard about Sutton's new Youth Framework designed to amplify youth voices. The meeting ended with Councillor Barry Lewis praising all students for their thoughtful and insightful contributions.

All minutes from each school council page are recorded on Frog if you would like to take a look. If you have any suggestions for discussion with the year school council, please tap on the suggestion button and add the suggestion.

Ms S Webb, Assistant Headteacher

Support while school is closed

At Greenshaw, we work closely with a variety of agencies including the London Borough of Sutton, volunteer groups and the NHS. Please be aware that our website has many signposts to support agencies in the section '**Care & Support**' as needed.

Our Help for the Holiday booklet can also be found on our website [here](#) and provides lots of useful information including the HAF programme offering children on benefits-related free school meals access to exciting activities, enriching experiences and nutritious meals – at no cost.



Assemblies at Greenshaw

This academic year, our assemblies have continued to foster students' cultural awareness. Due to the restrictions of the temporary site, assemblies have been delivered online and have included a range of thoughtful and reflective activities. Below is a brief summary of each assembly.

East and South East Asian Heritage Month

For our first East and South East Asian Heritage month assembly, led by our Equality Diversity and Inclusion team, we examined the impact the ESEA community has had on Britain and how we can celebrate these achievements. Students had an opportunity to discuss why it is important we have heritage months for under-represented groups within our society.

International Day of Peace

This year's assembly, led by the RS department, focused on the 2025 theme of acting now for a peaceful world. In a time of turbulence, tumult, and uncertainty, it is critical for everyone to take concrete action to mobilise for peace. The assembly asked students to speak up against violence, hate, discrimination, and inequality; practice respect; and embrace the diversity of our world.

Black History Month

This year's theme is 'standing in power and pride' and our assembly from our equality diversity and inclusion team highlighted the profound contributions made by Black British people – be they leaders, activists or pioneers who have shaped history. Students then discussed why it is important to remember these figures and what we can learn from them.

Armistice Day

The assembly reflected on the sacrifices made by soldiers in past wars and the impact of conflict on communities and families. It provided a space to encourage respect, gratitude, and thoughtful reflection.



Anti-bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week 2025 took place from Monday 10th to Friday 14th November, centred around this year's theme: power for good. Our assembly, from the PSHE department, explored how every young person can use their voice and actions to make a positive difference, whether they witness bullying in person or online. Students were encouraged to speak up safely and confidently when they see unkind behaviour and reminded that seeking help is a sign of strength. It's vital not to ignore bullying or assume that someone else will report it. We reinforced the message that they each have the power to help stop bullying by telling a trusted adult, speaking to a teacher, or using our school's reporting system on Frog.

International Men's Day

This assembly looked at the origins of International Men's Day and celebrated the achievements of positive male role models. Students were reminded that regardless of their gender it is important that they look after their mental health and well-being.

UK Parliament Week

During parliament week, we discussed the legislative role of parliament, focusing on who makes policy, and how laws get passed. Students then engaged in debate regarding which laws they would like to see introduced into parliament in the next session.

UK Disability Month

This assembly supported last year's, by re-examining different forms of disability and students had a chance to describe their own experiences. We also looked at the social model of disability, which suggests that disabled people are not disabled due to their impairments but because of the barriers they face in society.

We ended the assembly by looking at what we can all do to break down these barriers



Greenshaw Learning Trust winter concert at Charterhouse

The Greenshaw Learning Trust winter concert at Charterhouse School this week was a truly wonderful celebration of talent, teamwork and community.

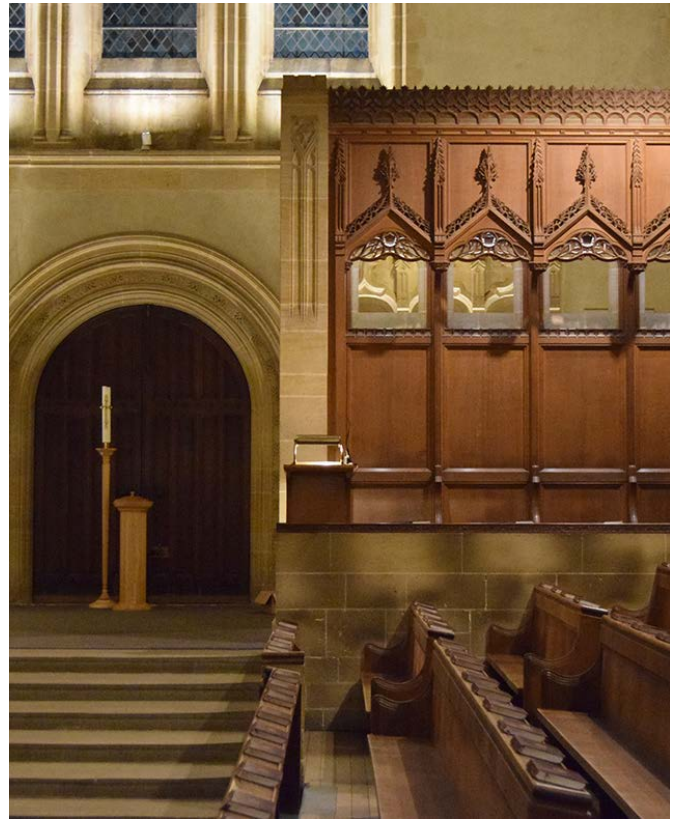
Students from across Brakenhale School, Broadwater School, Coombe Wood School, Greenshaw High School, Hartland High School, Park House School, Oakbank School, Orchard Park High School, and Wallington County Grammar School delivered an evening of fantastic music and impressively polished performances, showcasing months of dedication, rehearsals and hard work.

The standard of performance was exceptional and was a powerful reminder of the creativity, commitment and confidence of the young people in our trust.

Thank you to all the staff who prepared students so thoroughly in the lead-up to the concert and who generously gave their time on the day and into the evening to ensure everything ran smoothly. Your support made a huge difference to the students' experience and to the success of the event.

The second GLT winter concert will be held in Bristol next week.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported our students – it was a night to be proud of.



Greenshaw chess team wins tournament

On Monday 24th November, our school took part in the Chess in Schools and Communities Qualifier that would allow us a chance to win the English Schools Chess Championships. Ultimately, after a long hour of fun, companionship and high spirits, we won the tournament and are now in the bracket.

Our team consisted of many players who were passionate about chess and chose to give up a substantial amount of their evening in order to help us prevail. I must truly give a special thanks to Patrick, Liam (Year 10), Ian, Aiden (Year 10), Bhatiyar, Shivam and Matthew (Year 10), Puviganth and Thusan (Year 11), for accompanying me to help us win this tournament.

Even though our team would not have been half as effective without each other, I must acknowledge the fact of the excellent display of chess shown by Patrick, Puviganth and Bhatiyar. They, along with me, ranked in the top five of the tournament, and without them, we would not have won by such a large margin.

Finally, I must thank Greenshaw High School for allowing us to have the tournament. They graciously lent us the Sixth Form computer room for the evening, as well as encouraging us to always try our best. I speak on behalf of the team when I say that without this, victory would have been impossible.

Krishang, Captain of the Greenshaw Chess Team





Adventures in Zambia

A group of our students and staff had an experience of a lifetime on their trip to Zambia during the summer holidays.

Day one

The team arrived safe and sound after almost 24 hours of travelling and set up camp surrounded by giraffes, zebras and monkeys. The team bought supplies for a barbecue and then prepared to travel to their project school in Mkushi where they will work and live within the local community.

Day 5

Nearly a week into the trip, the team arrived at Itala Foundation School and Orphanage and got stuck in to painting and plastering new classrooms. The Zambian students were in exam season and had tests in maths, English, the local language Bemba, and social studies. In between studies, they found time to play football and netball with our team, and exchange stories and games.

The group thrived in this very different setting. Even on very cold mornings, they prepared excellent cooked meals and worked as a team to keep their camp tidy.

Day 11

The team did an amazing job on the project work at Mkushi. They plastered, painted and laid cement in a block of new classrooms and worked incredibly hard. They were commended by the skilled trades people that they worked alongside and were so efficient that they had to find more work for them to do.

Whilst taking a break from the hard physical work, many of the team got involved in running games and teaching

dances to the children at the orphanage, as well as cooking with the local women on open fires. Some of the team were able to teach lessons in the Itala Foundation School. Excellent lessons were planned and delivered in both English and science to students aged between 10 and 15 years and class sizes of around 100 students.

After a week of project work, the group were sent off with a celebration including an orchestra and poems and dancing by students from the orphanage. They arrived back at Eureka camp in Lusaka to reconnect with the zebras and giraffes that roam freely around the camp. The team then moved on to the adventure stage of the trip.

Day 17

The team embarked on a three-day trek along the Zambezi river. Day one involved a steep descent into the gorge. Day two came as a huge physical challenge – clambering over rocks along the river, and on day three, the students took on the steep ascent back to camp. During the night, the team slept under the stars along the riverbank and cooked dinner and breakfast on an open fire. The whole team showed great resilience and determination and were rewarded with unique views of the river.

The weekend was spent on, a three-hour boat trip to see elephants, crocodiles, hippos and water buffalo. Followed by a game drive to see giraffes, impala, antelopes and lions. They then enjoyed a final celebration before making the journey home.

The students all showed tremendous respect, courage and huge amounts of personal development, whilst making friends and memories that will hopefully last a lifetime.

Ms Frewin, Trip Leader





Key dates – Year 13

Christmas holiday	22nd December to 2nd January	Easter holiday	30th March to 10th April
Start of spring term 2026	5th January	Start of summer term	13th April
Parents' evening	12th February	May half term	25th May to 29th May
February half term	16th to 20th February	End of summer term (12.30pm)	17th July
End of spring term	Friday 27th March (3.00pm)	Summer holiday	20th July to 31st August
Inset day (school is closed to students)	9th March		

Year 13 contact list

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