

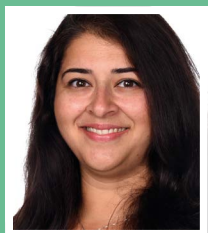
YEAR
12



GREENSHAW NEWS

MARCH 2026

Year 12 – a time for reflection and looking forward to the future



Mrs D Ayres
Head of Year 12



Ms S Larkin
Director of Sixth Form

A key theme for this term has been reflection. Year 12 students 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 Sixth Form 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.

Work experience is a cornerstone of the Year 12 experience. It is taking place in the last week of the school year from the 13th to 17th 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. If your child is yet to secure a placement then please encourage them to make further contacts with industry over the Easter holidays and do contact their tutor in the first instance, if you feel they need support with this.

Over the summer term, Year 12 students will have the opportunity to take part in our brilliant recruitment programme, designed by our fabulous Careers Advisor, Mrs Sone. The opportunity will encourage them to step 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 - all skills that will stand them in good stead for their time after Greenshaw Sixth Form.

Some of our students have already taken that step when they volunteered to deliver to students at a local primary school about the educational choices and routes they have made in arriving at their current A Levels. Feedback from the school and in particular, the many primary students was wonderful to receive knowing especially that the words and advice from our Year 12 students have guided and inspired younger minds.

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First day of summer term is
Monday 13th April 2026



Year 12 highlights

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A visit to the Girls in Tech event hosted by Harbottle and Lewis at Herbert Smith Freehills London office has also provided some students the opportunity to meet with female IT directors and spend time networking and in one-to-one conversations with a range of leaders from across the business.

In charity and Sixth Form events, a number of Year 12 students helped out with the Iftar celebrations, a fantastic culture day, Mother's Day raffles and Valentine's Day roses, which all helped raise money for St Raphael's hospice. A huge thank you to all those who helped and attended.

On our return from the Easter break, Year 12 will be in their final term of this academic year. It will be a

particularly busy term which will end with their end of Year 12 exams scheduled for June and their work experience placements in the final school week. To support students in preparation for these exams, and their next steps towards entry into Year 13, we will hold a Route to Year 13 event on Thursday 30th April, in school. Please save the date as we hope you will attend with your child.

We wish 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.

Mrs D Ayres, Head of Year 12, and Miss S Larkin, Director of Sixth Form

Big dreams and bright futures

In February, twelve Greenshaw Sixth Formers stepped into the role of mentors for Aspirations Week at Green Wrythe Primary School.

The visit was designed to bridge the gap between primary school and the 'big world' of secondary education and beyond. Our students spent time with Year 4, 5, and 6 children, offering a first hand look at what lies ahead on the academic horizon.

Sharing the roadmap

Transitioning to secondary school can feel like a giant leap, but our Sixth Formers were there to provide a soft landing. They shared personal stories about:

- The big move: navigating the transition from primary to secondary school.
- Academic choices: why they chose their specific GCSEs and A Levels.
- Future frontiers: their ambitious plans for university, apprenticeships, and the world of work.

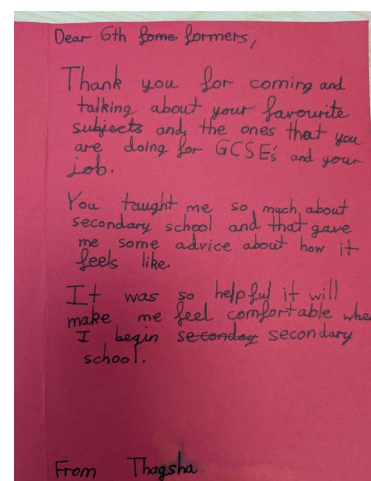
A win-win exchange

The impact of the day was felt on both sides of the classroom desk. While the primary students gained a realistic – and exciting – preview of life at Greenshaw, our Sixth Formers walked away with a newfound sense of leadership.

"It was great to see the kids get so excited about subjects they haven't even tried yet. It actually made me realise how far I've come since I was in their shoes," noted one of the participating Sixth Formers.



A thank you letter from Thagsha at Green Wrythe Primary can be seen below.





Fun Friday: building community through shared experiences

Our Fun Friday initiative has continued to grow this term, bringing a real sense of energy and togetherness to the end of each week. As many of you will know, students have been receiving golden tickets at the gate each Friday morning. These are randomly allocated using a number generator, giving everyone an equal chance to take part in the weekly activity or prize.

Each week has offered something a little different. From sweet treats such as doughnuts, pizza and candy floss, to larger, shared experiences – the variety has kept students engaged and excited to take part. This term, we have placed a particular focus on community-based activities, helping to strengthen relationships between students and staff. Importantly, all Fun Friday activities have been chosen through student vote via Frog, ensuring that student voice is at the centre of what we offer.

Recent highlights have included our 'I'm a Teacher, Get Me Out of Here' challenge, where tutors, teaching staff and members of the senior leadership team took on a series of bush tucker-style trials. From mealworms to raw chillies, students watched with great anticipation. The event was full of laughter and proved to be a fantastic way of bringing the whole school community together.

As we went to press, excitement was building for the end of term staff versus students dodgeball event. With over 300 golden tickets being distributed, a large number of students had the opportunity to take on staff in a lively and competitive match. It is fair to say that enthusiasm was high on both sides.



We rounded off our community-focused events on the last day of term with 'Sponge the Teacher'. This took place on the playground for all students to enjoy, with golden ticket winners earning the chance to throw three wet sponges at a member of staff. Unsurprisingly, this generated a great deal of excitement.

Fun Friday has become an important part of our school culture. It has helped to foster a stronger sense of belonging, encouraged positive interactions between staff and students, and even contributed to improved attendance, with many students keen to be in school on Fridays.

Ms K Carter, Assistant Headteacher





Inspirational and educational geography trip to Morocco

A group of intrepid Greenshaw geographers from Years 10, 11 and 12 headed off to visit Morocco during half term...

Day 1 – first steps into a new world

The day started nice and early with students all meeting at Gatwick airport for 3.00am! Despite the early start, students were full of enthusiasm as we passed through the airport. On arrival in Morocco, we met our UK guide Ian and our Moroccan courier Mohammed, and made our way to our first hotel, where students checked in and were greeted with a traditional chicken tagine. After lunch, we ventured to the iconic Koutoubia Mosque where students discovered how religion has shaped the city's landscape, before then diving into the vibrant Marrakech souks. Students were given a crash course in how to haggle, and did they haggle! Some students were managing to snap up items for 80% less than the marked price.



Day 2 – fold mountains to sand dunes

Students got up early in preparation for the 350km drive through the High Atlas Mountains to our camping ground in the Sahara Desert. The views as we ascended the mountains were breathtaking. For students, seeing fold mountains formed by tectonic collision up close was geography brought vividly to life – far beyond any textbook diagram! We stopped for lunch in Ouarzazate, famously home to major Hollywood film studios. Our journey continued into Zagora, a city known as being the gateway to the Sahara Desert. There, coach travel gave way to camel caravans. Watching a 45-camel 'train' of Greenshaw students trek into the desert at sunset was a sight none of us will forget. An hour later, students reached our camp for the night – just before sunset. Many students chose to climb to the top of the tallest Saharan dune and peacefully watch the sun go down, providing a moment for them to quietly self-reflect away from modern technology.

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Inspirational and educational geography trip

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After eating a traditional Bedouin evening meal, students then gathered around the campfire where they played drums and danced with the Bedouin hosts. A reminder that culture is best understood when experienced, not observed.



Day 3 – silence, sunrise and sustainability

Having watched the sunset the night before it was only right that students also watched the spectacular sunrise from atop the dunes. Meeting at 6:40am students ascended the dunes, where they claimed their spot amongst the other desert travellers. At 7:00am exactly the sun's corona broke across the horizon. The silence was profound – only being broken by the laughter of students as Mr Barnes said it reminded him of the opening scene of 'The Lion King'. Once the sun was up, students ate breakfast before setting off to the town of Zagora. Our destination was the subterranean village of Tamegroute, known for its pottery making. Students learnt about traditional ceramic-making techniques that have been passed down through the generations. We also met a local farmer and toured his palmery, gaining insight into how date palms are cultivated in this arid environment and how oasis agriculture supports livelihoods in the desert.



Day 4 – heritage and enterprise

After awakening from their slumber, students enjoyed a buffet breakfast before setting off for the fortified village of Ait Benhaddou. Ait Benhaddou is a UNESCO-listed kasbah where students climbed to the top for stunning views across the valley. They were fascinated to learn

how this historic settlement has featured in numerous famous films and TV series. Heading back over the Atlas Mountains, we stopped at the mountain outpost of Taddert, where students toured a woman's Argan oil factory whilst learning about how organisations like this provide important economic opportunities for women. Arriving back in Marrakech, we returned to the souks so students could enjoy some final shopping and spend their remaining dirhams.

Day 5 – perspective



We were really not sure what to expect from Day 5 as all we knew was that the tour company had arranged for us to spend the day in Douar Ouled Elguern Village. This is a very rural and traditional settlement. When we arrived, we had a second breakfast and some traditional Moroccan mint tea, before the girls split off into groups to help make bread, omelettes or tagine. Boys, as is traditional, helped to make bricks and charcoal. After completing their hard day's work in the village all students came together to spend the afternoon playing with the children who lived in the village. For myself as a teacher this was the most powerful moment of the trip. It provided perspective – not through text books, but through lived experience. Students left with a deeper appreciation of opportunity, privilege and global inequality. Some chose to donate toys and remaining spending money to the village pre-school – a small act of generosity that spoke volumes about their character.

It has been a privilege to watch our students grow – not just as geographers, but as young adults. They demonstrated resilience, curiosity, kindness and cultural respect throughout.

My sincere thanks go to Miss McDonagh, Miss Shandulovska, Miss Frewin and Mr Dowie for giving up their half-term to support this experience. Most importantly, thank you to the students. They represented Greenshaw with maturity, humility and heart. They showed that being 'Committed to Excellence' is not just about academic success – it is about character. And that is something far more powerful than any photograph, souvenir or sunset.

Mr Barnes, Deputy Head of Geography and Trip Lead



School council leads the way in shaping the school environment

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 term from year team councils, whole school council and GLT student council.

The Year team council have continued to be heavily involved in supporting staff with student voice. They have been visited by Mrs Wallace to discuss safeguarding at Greenshaw and Mr House visited to get a sense of their organisation for their Spring term charity enrichment. Mr House said, "It was also brilliant to hear the students debate the relative merits of different good causes, comparing charities raising money for research into health conditions with others set up to conserve wildlife. As ever, our students never cease to impress me with their maturity and care for others." The activities confirmed so far are Year 7 and 10 organising a trainer day raising funds for Cystic Fibrosis trust and Cancer Research, and Year 8 organising an ice cream sale for Young Minds (once the weather improves).

The Whole School Council, led by Chair, Hiera (Year 11), and Secretary, Karan (Year 9), is reviewing our extra-curricular provision to ensure it meets students' needs. While we currently offer 56 clubs, participation declines as students get older – from 63% in Year 7, to 38% in Year 10 and 14% in Year 12. The council is exploring possible reasons for this, including time pressures, interest levels,

and whether current clubs remain relevant. They are also reviewing the schedule (lunchtime versus after school) and investigating student-led activities that may not yet appear on the official register. Students suggested potential new opportunities such as a Christian Union for Years 1 to 11, a school newspaper, boxing or martial arts clubs, a debating club, and a social reading club (some of these have already been added to our programme). Council members have also been visiting clubs to evaluate atmosphere and engagement, with their reflections featured later in this newsletter.

The GLT school council has met once this term and they discussed how the GLT Council Leaders can support the future of 'Belonging' in the trust. Liyah-Rose, Josephine, and Shayne from Year 10 represented our school. They were confident and fully engaged, articulating their views exceptionally well. The council agreed that belonging isn't something you can buy, nor is it a club you simply 'join'. Instead, the students identified it as a feeling of happiness, active contribution, and recognition. One of the most striking debates centred on the difference between fitting in and belonging, fitting in and changing yourself to match the group (often feeling inauthentic) as opposed to belonging, being accepted for exactly who you are – your genuine, authentic self.

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

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.



Our assemblies this term

This academic year, our assemblies have continued to foster students' cultural awareness. Due to our temporary site, they have continued to be delivered online and have included a range of thoughtful and reflective activities. Assemblies have been presented by a range of teaching staff and students, providing diverse perspectives and encouraging wider participation across the school community. Below is a brief summary of our assemblies this term.

Several members of 8MMB created our first assembly celebrating **Lunar New Year**. With a growing number of our students marking this festival, it was a great opportunity to teach our school community about its origins, traditions and links to the Chinese Zodiac. As Lunar New Year is often celebrated near the start of spring, students were invited to discuss questions such as, "Why might some people prefer to start their new year nearer to spring?" and, "In the Year of the Fire Horse, what new experiences or adventures would you like to undertake this year?"



This year's **Holocaust Memorial Day** was marked with an assembly planned and delivered by Mr Kearns. The 2026 theme, 'Bridging Generations', ensures that the experiences of those who lived through the Holocaust continue to be remembered and shared.

With so few survivors still alive to

bear witness to the horrors they endured in Nazi Germany, educators now play a vital role in passing these stories on to future generations. Mr Kearns spoke about the terrible events of the Holocaust, but also about the importance of learning from the past. Students were encouraged to reflect on how prejudice, discrimination, and hatred can grow if left unchallenged in our communities.

Every year we celebrate **Safer Internet Day**, which is an international event, and the theme this year was Artificial Intelligence. Students heard about some creative ways that AI is being used to improve people's lives and protect the environment and also some of the concerns that people have regarding AI, including bias in AI technology. After reminding students about safe and responsible uses of AI, they were invited to respond to a couple of scenarios and consider the extent that the benefits outweigh the costs. Information was shared with Sixth Formers about how important it is for social science students to influence the way that AI affects our lives in the future.

World Hijab Day was marked by the creation of an assembly created by two Year 12 students, Aalia and Basma. The aim of this assembly was to promote greater understanding

of hijab, to reflect on why some Muslim women choose to wear this and why some do not, as well as addressing any misconceptions students may have about this item of religious clothing. To personalise these messages, the assembly ended with Basma sharing the experiences of her sister, who is proud to wear the hijab as a sign of her faith.

This year's **LGBTQ+ History Month** was celebrated with an assembly created by Ms Saunders. This year the theme of LGBTQ+ History Month was 'Science and Technology'. The assembly examined the origins of this month and then celebrated the work of great LGBTQ+ heroes in the fields of science and technology, including Alan Turing. Students were then asked to reflect on how they can mark this month and make our school community even more inclusive.

The **National Science Week** assembly was planned and delivered by Mr Beecham, Head of Science. The aim was to introduce this year's British Science Week to students and to get them thinking about what makes them curious. Tutor groups had some really interesting and lively discussions on questions including: "Could humans realistically live on another planet – and if so, what would we need to survive?" "If scientists could edit your DNA to prevent disease, should they — and where should the limits be?" "Can science alone solve climate change, or does it depend more on human behaviour?" "Will AI create more jobs than it replaces — and what skills will matter most in the future?"

Several members of Year 12 took up the challenge of creating a celebratory assembly for **International Women's Day**. International Women's Day began in 1911 and students were guided through its history by exploring its origins, its aim to create greater equality for women and one of its current themes: 'Give to Gain'. To illustrate how we all benefit when we support women, Year 12 students chose to showcase the work and achievements of Michelle Obama and the incredible impact she has made in the US and beyond.

The assembly for **World Book Day** was an opportunity to join in with the national buzz around reading and the celebration of books that encourages everyone to grow a lifelong love of reading. It was a chance to spotlight and celebrate reading for pleasure, supporting autonomy in book choice, and embedding a habit of reading that brings a wide range of benefits. All students were offered a World Book Day voucher, giving them the chance to visit their local bookshop and take home a book of their choice. The objective was to get all students thinking about how much they read on a daily basis, as well as the benefits of reading regularly.

In our final assembly of the term for **Easter**, students have been reflecting on what Easter means to them, considering the person of Jesus and what he did by dying on Good Friday, and the belief that he rose again on Easter Sunday. Mrs Sztypuljak explained the key ideas of love and forgiveness woven through Christianity and contained in the Bible, and that Christians find hope and joy through faith in Jesus Christ.



Enrichment days – summer 2026

We are delighted to be preparing for an exciting programme of enrichment days taking place during the summer term 2026. A wide range of activities has been carefully planned for each year group, offering students valuable opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 12
Ninja Warriors Hampton Court St Paul's Cathedral	Port Lympe Neasden Temple and Kew Gardens Morden Hall Park	The Beach London Eye and river cruise Horsenden Hill Activity Centre or Shepperton Splash or Harry Potter Studios	The Globe Players Thorpe Park Talk The Talk Communication Workshop	Talk The Talk Communication Workshop Recruitment day

These enrichment experiences are designed to help students develop new skills, broaden their knowledge, and enjoy memorable learning experiences through engaging and practical activities. Each year group will take part in a programme tailored to support both personal development and curriculum enrichment.

We would like to thank all families who have already completed their payment, your support is greatly appreciated and helps us provide these opportunities for our students. If you have not yet made payment, we kindly ask that this is completed via your MCAS account, where enrichment days can be found under the Trips section. Please note that by completing the purchase on MCAS, you are providing consent for your child to attend all three enrichment days and the associated activities.

Further information, including detailed itineraries for each year group, will be shared closer to the event dates.

If you have any questions, concerns, or require support regarding payment, please do not hesitate to contact us at enrichmentdays@greenshaw.co.uk

We look forward to an inspiring and enjoyable series of enrichment days for all students this summer.

Life-saving opportunity for students

We are excited to offer a one-off opportunity for students to take part in a special life-saving training session.

Thanks to secured funding, the award-winning national charity StreetDoctors will be delivering a hands-on first aid workshop for 150 students.

During this interactive session, students will learn practical skills that could help save a life in an emergency. The training will focus on how to manage and control bleeding,

a vital first aid skill that can make a critical difference in situations involving accidents or injuries.

The workshop aims to give students the knowledge, confidence, and practical experience needed to respond quickly and safely if someone is hurt.

If students would like to take part, they should sign up using this [form](#). Students who are selected will be contacted with full details by Miss Webb.



An evening of expressive dance

Our recent 'Dance Expressions' evening was a resounding success! This event provides GCSE Dance students an opportunity to showcase their examination pieces before their final practical assessment. The evening delivered high-caliber performances. In addition to the GCSE pieces, the audience was treated to several vibrant extra-curricular performances that showcased the breadth of talent across the school.

The standard of student-led choreography was exceptionally high, demonstrating both technical skill and creative maturity from students in Year 7 through to Year 11. Our dancers rose to the occasion, delivering focused, professional performances to a supportive audience of family, friends and staff. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and countless hours of 'studio time' these students have put in to achieve such a high standard of performance.

As our Year 11 cohort heads into their final practical exams, we wish them the very best of luck.

Miss C Izzard, Head of Dance



AN EVENING OF CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE

Sixth Form philosophers compete in Ethics Cup

Five of our Year 12 Philosophy students took part in the Ethics Cup, an ethics and debating competition held at Caterham School.

The students had been practising and improving their skills during the autumn term in preparation for the competition, which took place on Wednesday 14th January.

Greenshaw High School's team faced off against last year's finalists, as well as other seasoned schools, and stood their own when facing down some of the competition favourites. This is made even more impressive when noting that Greenshaw was the only state comprehension school taking part, whilst all the others were fee-paying schools and regular attendants to the competition.

Unfortunately, we did not make it through to the semi-finals, but the team-work and in-depth critical analysis presented by our Greenshaw's team was something to be really proud of.

A final shout out to Favour (in Year 12) who was personally praised by the Head of Philosophy at Caterham School for her clear and concise debating skills. All the students said



they wanted to return and continue to debate next year, with plans on bringing an even bigger team in 2027.

Mr Barnes, Deputy Head of Geography



Key dates – Year 12

Easter holiday	30th March to 10th April	End of year exams	15th - 26th June
Start of summer term	13th April	Greenshaw open evening for Year 6	25th June
Route to Year 13 event	Thursday 30th April	Year 12 work experience	13th to 17th July
Bank holiday (school closed)	4th May	End of summer term (12.30pm)	17th July
May half term	25th May to 29th May	Summer holiday	20th July to 31st August

Year 12 contact list

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Head of Year 12: Ms D Ayres – dayres@greenshawhigh.co.uk

Head of Year 13: Miss K Duce – kduce@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

12ABD: MsA Bednarz (Tues, Wed)

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

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

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

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