

YEAR
13



GREENSHAW NEWS

MARCH 2026

Year 13 rise to the challenge of the mock exams and look to the future



Miss K Duce
Head of Year 13



Ms S Larkin
Director of Sixth Form

Mock exams

The focus of the spring term has been on preparing the Year 13s for their final exams in the summer. The mock exams took place either side of the half term, with a handful of Paper 3s completed in the last two weeks. It's been fantastic to see so many students rise to the challenge, and the year group conducted themselves brilliantly throughout.

Teachers have worked hard to mark the mocks and used them to predict the latest set of grades for our students. This is a really reliable indicator of where students are at, and it will help them to make informed decisions about what their next steps beyond Greenshaw Sixth Form should be.

The last week of term has seen those applying to university think really carefully about their firm and insurance offers, and thank you for any support you have been able to provide with this at home.

Planning for independence

Once a cycle, Year 13 students meet with their tutor for one hour to address some of the core issues of the day, be it UCAS applications in the early stages of the year, or how to cope with exam stress. A short series of these sessions was based around supporting Year 13 students as they become more independent, including a cooking session for some students. The aim was for students who might never have set foot in a kitchen to practice their skills. In addition, Mr Gardner, our Head of Social Sciences, also delivered an engaging session on what home means to our students, and what it might be like to live away from it come September. Year 13 students have engaged throughout these sessions, and we hope they come in good stead.

Culture Day

Thursday 26th March saw Culture Day: one of the greatest days in the Greenshaw Sixth Form calendar! It was such a treat to see so many Sixth Formers perform, and we know what work they put into it. Thank you too for all of the beautiful food.

Easter Break

Finally, it wouldn't be Easter of Year 13 if it didn't involve some serious revision. However, we also hope our

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First day of summer term is
Monday 13th April 2026



Year 13 highlights

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students take some time to relax and recuperate after the mock exams, and before the intensity of the coming exam season brings. Please note the first exams are the creatives, which begin on Monday 27th April, with A Level Art and Photography.

Wishing you all a restful and productive Easter break.

Miss K Duce, Head of Year 13, 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:

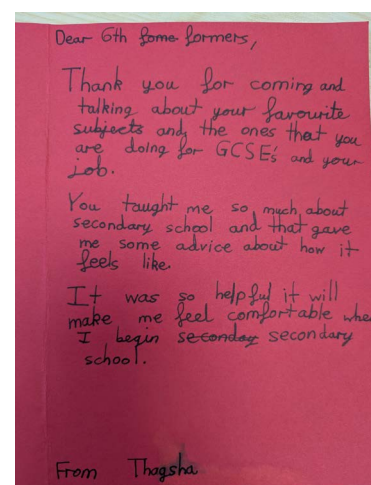
- The big move: navigating the transition from primary to secondary school.
- Academic choices: why they chose their specific GCSEs and A Levels.
- Future frontiers: their ambitious plans for university, apprenticeships, and the world of work.

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 on the right.





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

Jack Petchey Award winner!

Mayooraprian, in 13JDO, has received the Year 13 Jack Petchey Award for the spring term due to a wonderful nomination from his form tutor:

Despite personal challenges, Mayooraprian is always available to support the school, Sixth Form and his peers.

His dedication and lovely, generous manner is unwavering.

Mayooraprian also supports others at Scouts and Breakfast Club, and teaches at STEM Club and Physics Club.

Congratulations, Mayooraprian, on your well-deserved award.



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.



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



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.

Key dates – Year 13

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| Easter holiday | 30th March to 10th April | Written exams | 11th May to 18th June |
| Start of summer term | 13th April | May half term | 25th May to 29th May |
| Creative exams | 27th April to 8th May | Year 13 leavers' assembly | 24th June |
| Route to Year 13 event | Thursday 30th April | Year 13 Prom | 30th June |
| Bank holiday (school closed) | 4th May | A Level results day | 13th August |

Year 13 contact list

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