



AN UPDATE ON YEAR 8...



What a fantastic first term we have had, with a particularly busy flourish towards the well-deserved Christmas break.

Students from Year 8 have risen to the challenge set to them by Mr House in recently assemblies, asking them why they come to school and to start to look at the values they want to embody. I could not be prouder by the response, with groups of students demonstrating these in an array of situations.

Year 8 students performed in seven of the acts in the gym and dance display last week. All students demonstrated fantastic commitment and perseverance, with weeks of practice culminating in two amazing evenings. Special recognition goes to Shauna, Keely, Alexia, Lois, Birgit, Sheena, Holly, Sophia, Thalita, Ellen, Izzy, Sharona, Janina and Abi, as well as the two class pieces performed by 8ZG1 and 8XG1.

Our annual Christmas fair, Winter Wonderland, took place on 6th December. The passion and generosity of our Year 8 students helped to make it a success. Year 8 students were running or helping out on five of the stalls and were responsible for front of house, welcoming all our visitors to the school.

I have been fortunate to visit many of the lessons taking place and have seen excellent attitudes being demonstrated in the classroom. Mr House told me that students were in awe when observing a science experiment – their eagerness to learn is palpable in every class, with students pushing themselves, getting things wrong in the process and learning from their mistakes. As we look forward to starting the new year, this attitude will serve them well.

Mr Feenan (Head of Year 8) and Ms Wilson (Deputy Head of Year 8)

ASSESSMENT AND PERFORMANCE

More information on how students are performing will be available to view on FROG by the end of term. This will include information on their attitude to learning, homework and results from their most recent summative assessments. Parents/carers will receive a more detailed communication regarding reports towards the end of term.

As you will be aware, the first parents' evening is scheduled

for Thursday 31st January. At this point you will be given a more detailed breakdown of the areas where your son/daughter has scored their marks and be given the opportunity to discuss specific strengths and weaknesses with class teachers. These meetings are invaluable in helping to see the bigger picture of how learning is progressing and identifying any potential barriers.





IXL HOMEWORK AND CORE KNOWLEDGE SUMMARIES

Students have hit the ground running with their homework this year and the numbers have gone from strength to strength with each passing week. The vast majority of students are now completing the correct amount in the appropriate topic. This week we saw a total of 60,931 IXL questions answered. What an incredible achievement!

We absolutely believe that homework has a significant part to play in our students developing independence and a strong work ethic. We want the learning to be challenging and consistent, and have developed a specific routine around independent learning.

We particularly want homework that:

- Enables children to consolidate and reinforce their skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy.
- Builds an effective partnership between home and school.
- Enables parents to be involved in their child's education.
- Prepares children for the next educational phase.

With that in mind we expect students to complete one hour of independent work, four times a week. The table below gives the structure we want students to follow, this will help students to develop a healthy relationship with work and build their independent study and organisation skills; reducing the last minute panic and struggle to complete four hours of homework in one sitting.

Parents/carers should support this work encouraging their child to develop these routines and checking the homework is being completed and supporting where needed.

What the homework looks like:

IXL

IXL is an online English and mathematics programme that has questions on every topic for Years 7 to 13. You can check what your child has been doing and how long they have spent on IXL in the "analytics" tab found in the top left hand corner when logged in. The aim is to get each of the set skills to a proficiency score above 80 as possible. If over the course of the week you

complete the set IXL skills faster than the allocated time, you should then choose other skills that are appropriate to complete. Ensure your child is logged on as the time and questions answered will not be recognised unless they do so

Core Knowledge Summaries (CKS)

Core Knowledge Summaries in the journal contains the core knowledge for a particular subject for a particular term. These are the fundamental items of knowledge relating to each subject, e.g. key terms, dates, people, formulae, concepts, etc. These items of knowledge are the building blocks that will be used by teachers to help them explain their subject to you. The CKS does not and cannot contain all of the learning that is required for success within a subject but it does contain the foundations of that wider, deeper learning. There are two strategies that will be used to learn the content of the Core Knowledge Summary.

The Big Ideas That Shape The World

The Big Ideas that Shape the World is a programme, created by teachers at Greenshaw, which aims to broaden knowledge of the world and its history. Every week you will explore a new Big Idea. Your tutor will introduce you to the Big Idea on Wednesday in afternoon registration and you will then complete the relevant chapter of the Big Ideas booklet as homework that night. All of the ideas and activities are contained in 'The Big Ideas' booklet and all of your work should be completed in that booklet. Your tutor will check the booklets on Tuesday.

Big Words for Big Ideas

Big Words for Big Ideas contains two different sections – words of the week and root of the week. Every Wednesday night you will be expected to spend 20 minutes or more learning ten words and one Greek or Latin root. The ten words are called tier two words, which means they are words that are used in lots of different contexts and help you to develop a wide vocabulary for the rest of your life. The roots are the building blocks of words which, with the addition of a prefix or suffix, grow into other words. Knowing common roots can help you have access to literally hundreds of other words across all of your subjects.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
IXL English – 20 min IXL Maths – 20 min CKS – 20 min	IXL English – 20 min IXL Maths – 20 min CKS – 20 min	Big Words for Big Ideas – 20 min Big Ideas That Shape The World – 40 min	IXL English – 20 min IXL Maths – 20 min CKS – 20 min





SPORTS RESULTS



Indoor athletics

A selection of Year 8 boys recently competed at the Borough Indoor Athletics Competition, against eight other schools. The events were a mixture of track and field, several of the boys put in excellent performances across various events, but particular congratulations go to: Shams, Joseph, Andi, EJ and Samuel. The boys ended up coming third overall, which was an excellent result, and everyone involved should be extremely proud of their efforts.

Futsal

Our Year 8 girls took part in a futsal tournament and ended up winning it! They will be progressing through to the south London finals in February.

FOCUS: ART AND TECHNOLOGY

Throughout Year 8, students study art and technology subjects on a carousel – including fashion, art, art history, product design, graphic design and food technology.

The theme for Year 8 is *Festivals around the World*, with each discipline focusing on a specific famous celebration, such as the Mexican Day of the Dead. Students research the origins and attributes of each festival, whilst thinking creatively about how this can inspire outcomes. During practical lessons, students have been developing their knowledge of fundamental art and technology skills learnt in Year 7, such as joints in product design and cutting techniques in food technology.

The end of Year 8 will see a celebration of the disciplines, coming together and showcasing the Year 8 final products. Students are currently working on their final pieces in the second rotation; which in art and design is a Holi-inspired Indian Mandala outcome.

The art and technology department would like to congratulate Year 8 for a fantastic start to the carousel. Students have shown creative, independent and sensible working skills whilst consistently remaining safe in the classroom – a skill required for Year 9 GCSE art and technology subjects.

Miss Wiffill, Art and Technology Teacher



Left: Year 8 Art (rotation 1) final pieces inspired by the Holi Festival – Celebrating Good over Evil.



Left: Year 8 Fashion students (rotation 2) are underway with the construction of their Day of the Dead inspired tote bags.





AMAZING GYM AND DANCE DISPLAY



On Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th December, over 150 students from Years 7 to 11 took part in an action packed gym and dance display. This year the theme was stories, books and fairytales, featuring music from the *Hunger Games*, *Peter Rabbit* and *PS I Love You*.

In the first act, students displayed their gymnastic skills, with floor, trampette and vault pieces performed with great focus and determination. The second act saw dances performed in a variety of styles, including strong performances from the GCSE dance classes.

A massive congratulations goes to all students for their hard work and effort in preparing and performing in the event, the dance and PE department is very proud of the fantastic display that was produced. We hope that all students will continue to attend gym club (Thursday after school) and dance club (Tuesday after school) in the new year. We also welcome new faces!

Miss Izzard, Head of Dance





WINTER WONDERLAND AT GREENSHAW!

Greenshaw High School's Winter Wonderland Christmas craft fair was a huge success this year, with a range of stalls selling craft items, decorations, gifts and tasty food. The festive atmosphere was helped along by a playlist of Christmas music.

The event raised £1100, which will be split between the Children's Trust, Tadworth and the National Refugee Council. Many thanks to staff and students for their hard work and to everyone who supported the event.

Miss Paisley, Head of Technology



ACCOLADE IN DRAMA

Reece from 8MDC has been chosen to receive the 'Year 8 Actor of the Term' award in drama. This is a new termly award which celebrates excellence in drama. Reece has had a particularly strong start in drama.

He was presented with a certificate in recognition of his achievement.

Mr Burgess, Drama Teacher





GREENSHAW RECEIVES LGBTQ+ BENCHMARK AWARD

Greenshaw High School is proud to have been awarded the LGBTQ+ Benchmark award from the Free2B Alliance.

The award is to highlight and celebrate LGBTQ+ inclusive practice. In order to receive the award, Greenshaw High School met the following criteria:

- Direct examples of positive practice fed back through our membership
- LGBTQ+ inclusive equal opportunities monitoring in place
- LGBTQ+ inclusive policies in place
- LGBTQ+ information on display
- Gender neutral toilets (where single stall cubicles are available)



LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE

A Free2B Alliance initiative

Policies and practise are reviewed annually to ensure standards are maintained.

For more details about the Free2B Alliance or the award, please click [here](#).

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

There are a number of parent workshops which will be taking place in the spring and summer terms. You are welcome to attend any or all of them. However, please do email lshaw@greenshaw.co.uk stating which workshop/s you would like to attend. All events are held at the school.

Monday 14th January 2019, 7.00pm-9.30pm – Drugs (targeted at Years 10-13 parents) – Fiona Spargo-Mabbs talks about her son, Daniel, and what she has learnt about how to speak to your child about drugs in the years since his death.

Wednesday 13th February 2019, 6.00-7.00pm – How to keep your child safe online – Steve Welding, Sutton borough’s E-safety advisor, will talk about the dangers which face your children online, as well as some tips and hints about security systems which you can install to support you to safeguard your child.

Date to be confirmed, 6.30pm-7.30pm – Positive mental health – A representative from CAMHS (Children and Adolescent mental health service) will speak about how to support and cultivate positive mental health in your child.

Wednesday 15th May, 6.00-7.00pm – Specific Learning Difficulties – The school Inclusion team will discuss what specific learning difficulties means (including dyslexia), and strategies your child can use to support their learning if they do have difficulties.

LOST PROPERTY

There is a vast amount of lost property that is unclaimed in Media Resources. This includes brand new school coats and complete PE kits! Please ask your son/daughter to come along to Media Resources to identify and collect their property as soon as possible, but by 14th January at the latest. All lost property will be disposed of by this date as we do not have the space to store it.





EB AND ME...

My name is Fazeel Irfan and I'm a Year 7 student at Greenshaw High School.

Recently, *ITV* came to our school to film me doing a presentation to my Year 7 tutor group (which I have also done in primary school). The experience was phenomenal, not just for me, but for our tutor group and all the teachers who were there. My presentation was on a serious, rare skin condition I have called EB (Epidermolysis Bullosa) or butterfly skin. It's called butterfly skin because our skin is as fragile as a butterfly's wings.

EB is a group of genetic skin conditions which cause the skin to blister and tear at the slightest touch. There are three types of EB: Simplex EB; Recessive Dystrophic EB (which is what I have); and Junctional EB.

EB affects my life in many ways, for example, every day I have to go through two to four hours of dressing changes as I have dressings all over my body, but I don't let that stop me doing the things I want to do in my life. I have to take regular medicines and pain relief because I am constantly in pain.

I want to tell all of you this because even though I'm going through this every day, I don't let it stop me from accomplishing everything I want to do, including having over 90% of attendance. If I can do, it I'm sure all the kids can. And if anyone wants to find out more about EB, you can go to Debra's [website](#) (who are a charity for people with EB) and you can also check out the programme made about me called *Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes - episode 3* on *YouTube* - and the news segment on *YouTube* called 'Boy with fragile skin spends spare time motivating others' on *ITV London News*.

Thank you.

Fazeel

You can watch the *ITV London News* interview with Fazeel and his tutor group [here](#) and *Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes - episode 3* [here](#).



GREENSHAW VALUES

In recent assemblies, Mr House spoke to students of all year groups about the values we want to encourage at Greenshaw High School.

He explained that our values shape how we behave, and that in turn as a school we want to more clearly communicate what these should be.

Mr House talked about examples such as 'resilience' and 'hope', and that the school needs to adopt these to clearly signal what matters in our school, and life beyond.





POSITIVE CHOICES...

This year, Greenshaw High School is a part of a research project in conjunction with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The project is called positive choices and will be delivered through the PSHE department. The provision of relationship and sex education (RSE) will be mandatory in schools from September 2019. The purpose of positive choices is to improve the knowledge and understanding of healthy relationships and to improve sexual health. As part of positive choices, a school health promotion council has been established. The group includes both staff and students and they will be discussing the content of the Year 9 curriculum, launch positive choices in school and communicate with parents about the process of the project.

To launch the project, members of the council have been delivering a series of assemblies to students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Olivia and Sanjay, Year 10

KEY DATES – YEAR 8

End of autumn term (12.30pm)	21st December	End of spring term	5th April
Start of spring term	7th January	Start of summer term	23rd April
INSET day	7th January	May half term	27th May to 31st May
Parents' evening	31st January	End of summer term	23rd July
February half term	18th February to 22nd February		

YEAR 8 CONTACT LIST

- Head of Year:** Mrs R Blackham (maternity leave)
- Acting Head of Year:** Mr M Feenan – mfeenan@greenshaw.co.uk
- Deputy Head of Year 8:** Ms J Wilson – jwilson@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8ABL – Miss A Brailsford – abrailsford@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8AGY – Dr A Grey-Areben – agrey-areben@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8CI – Miss C Izzard – cizzard@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8DRL – Mr D Rollins – drollins@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8MCH – Mr M Chanter – mchanter@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8MDC – Miss M Decret – mdecret@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8MSY – Mrs M Sayarh – msayarh@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8NWF – Miss N Wiffill – nwiffill@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8SRB – Mrs S Robb – srobb@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8ST – Mr S Trafford – straftford@greenshaw.co.uk
- 8THV – Mrs T Harvey – tharvey@greenshaw.co.uk





KIDS FIRST SESSIONS

Kids First is Merton's forum for parents and carers of children and young people with disabilities or special needs, from birth to age 25, and is a project of Merton Mencap. Parents will need to be Merton residents in order to join Kids First and attend their events. Please be aware that places on any of the sessions need to be booked in advance. Available sessions can be found on the website at www.mertonmencap.org.uk.

The first session is **Transition with Crystal Minors and David Cafferty**. The session will take place on Thursday 17th January from 10.00am to 12.00pm, at the Chaucer Centre, Room D, Canterbury Road, Morden, SM4 6PX. These sessions are for parents/carers only.

ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL



New Year to Easter events 2019



If your children like history, they will love our club... from prehistory, Romans, Vikings and Normans, to World War 2 via the Tudors!

CLAIM YOUR FREE FAMILY DAY PASS*

The perfect place for you and your family

You'll be amazed at how much you and your family can do in a day here at David Lloyd Clubs. With something for everyone our clubs are not only the perfect place to keep active but great for spending time together. For one day you can make the most of all our fantastic facilities, all for free.

Why not try a Family SYMBIOF 360 class in our state-of-the-art gyms, or get competitive with a family tennis match, try one of our energetic group exercise classes and finish it off with some family fun in our indoor or outdoor pools.

Watch how David Lloyd Clubs transformed the Lewis family's life



Visit: <https://www.davidlloyd.co.uk/forms/Acquisition/Day-Pass-Family> to get your free family pass.

