



## WHY DO YOU COME TO SCHOOL?



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” – Henry Ford

This week Mr House has been presenting assemblies about the right to an education and posing the question ‘why do we come to school?’ It may sound like a strange question, maybe an obvious question, but it is rare in these busy times to stop and think about the things we do on a daily basis and why we do them. However, for our students there can hardly be a bigger question. Mr House opened this question to the audience of enthusiastic Year 7 students.

The replies were as you might expect, ‘to get an education’ and ‘to learn’ were amongst the many similar answers. As adults, we know from past experience that there is a lot more to school than learning, and whilst of course this is important there are many other reasons we send our children to school. For the Year 7 team, a really important focus has been to learn to socialise by being kind and thoughtful, to meet children you would not otherwise and develop learning and understanding of different cultures from our own. We also experience how to be a community on many levels; the community of the tutor group, the classroom, as the Year 7 cohort and finally the community which is Greenshaw High School.

Operation Christmas Child, otherwise known as the shoebox appeal, which we took part in recently was a wonderful demonstration of the ethos we want your children to embrace. By understanding the importance of kindness and consideration we can create a congenial atmosphere where learning by making mistakes and pushing yourself can all be conducted in a safe and nurturing environment. There is no doubt the two are inextricably linked, and this is the perfect time of year to turn the spotlight on kindness, as whatever your beliefs, this is a commonality we all need to participate in.

The Year 7 team is very proud of the students who have completed a successful term with great aplomb. Every adult, including parents, teachers and support staff have all played their part in making this a smooth transition from junior school, and I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone for their support. However, I would like to give some special recognition to our team of tutors, some of whom were also new to the school in September. They have given their time tirelessly in making sure each of their tutees has the best possible journey and their contribution to the smooth transition cannot be underestimated. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of the students on an individual basis, and Mr Jones and I look forward to continuing this in the new term of a new calendar year.

We would like to finish by wishing all the team around Year 7, including families and staff, a very well earned Christmas break and a peaceful and very happy new year. We look forward to continuing our journey together next term.

*Ms Radwan, Head of Year 11, and Mr Jones, Deputy Head of Year 11*

## ASSESSMENTS AND THE REPORTING PROCESS

As you will know, students sit formative assessments once a cycle to enable us to measure progress across the subjects. Recently, the students sat their summative assessments in the classroom, which along with their effort grade, will form their performance report which will be available to you on FROG by the end of term. You will receive an email prompting you to log on when this is available. You will also receive a separate, more detailed communication regarding reports towards the end of term.





## YEAR 7 CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

I have really enjoyed observing the creative and practical lessons taking place this half term. From Miss Mountford's woodwork class, where the students are making pencil boxes, and Miss Parkinson's sewing machine lessons, to Miss Wiffill's food demonstration for a superfood salad.

During the demonstration students were asked questions such as:

- True or false, is a tomato a vegetable?
- How many grams of protein am I adding to my super salad?

- What ingredient might I add instead of meat if I am vegetarian?

I look forward to seeing the salads the Year 7s create.

You may recall from previous newsletters that students have been studying Greek mythology in English and below is an example of some art work created by Waiz and Bianca of 7RG.

*Ms Radwan, Head of Year 7*



## THE ORIGINS OF THEATRE



This term in drama, Year 7 students have been learning about the origins of modern theatre from Ancient Greece. This culminated in a group performance of a section of the play *Oedipus Rex* written by Sophocles.

They had to perform their section using a variety of drama conventions in the style of a Greek chorus. The overall enthusiasm and engagement has been electric throughout the whole year group, so I would like to offer an extra special well done to all those involved!

*Mr Burgess, Drama Teacher*

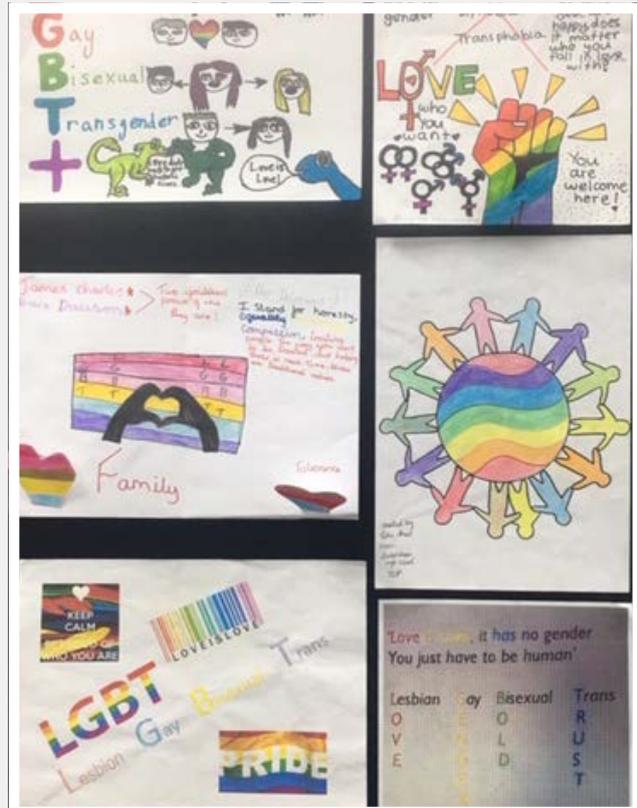




## LGBT+ POSTER COMPETITION

Year 7 students were invited to take part in a national poster competition held by The Anti- Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying Alliance.

The aim of the competition was to find a new poster that spread the message that LGBT+ students and staff are safe and welcome, and that Homophobic, Biphobic and Transphobic Bullying is not acceptable. The poster that wins the national competition will be displayed in over 200 schools across the UK. These results have not been announced yet, but regardless of the outcome, we are very grateful to the students who joined in, and created beautiful posters for this event. These will be on display in the school during LGBT+ History month.



## GREENSHAW RECEIVES LGBT+ BENCHMARK AWARD

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

The award is to highlight and celebrate LGBT+ 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
- LGBT+ inclusive equal opportunities monitoring in place

- LGBTQ+ inclusive policies in place
- LGBTQ+ information on display
- Gender neutral toilets (where single stall cubicles are available)

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

For more details about the Free2BAlliance or the award, please click [here](#).





## 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



Jaden from 7LP has been chosen to receive the 'Actor of the Term' award in drama. This is a new termly award which celebrates excellence in drama. Year 7 has had a particularly strong start in drama and there was plenty of competition, but Jaden edged in front having demonstrated a variety of key skills in creativity, knowledge and leadership.

He received his certificate from Mr House earlier this week.

*Mr Burgess, Drama Teacher*





## 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](#).





## 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](mailto: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.

## 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*





## 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.

## KEY DATES – YEAR 7

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	17th January	End of summer term	23rd July
February half term	18th February to 22nd February		

## YEAR 7 CONTACT LIST

- Head of Year:** Ms L Radwan - lradwan@greenshaw.co.uk  
**Deputy Head of Year:** Mr J Jones - jjones@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7AM: Mr A McMillan – amcmillan@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7BWL: Miss B Walker – bwalker@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7KRG: Miss B Rogers-Hinks – krogers-hinks@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7LBR: Mr L Burgess – lburgess@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7LP: Miss L Planas – lplanas@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7MB: Miss A Bowles – abowles@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7MKH: Mr M Khan – mkhan@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7NRY: Miss N Reynolds – nreynolds@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7SAS: Miss S Adams – sadams@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7SB: Mr S Butcher – sbutcher@greenshaw.co.uk  
 7YBK: Miss Y Boukersi – yboukersi@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](http://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.





## JOIN US ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!



You can find us on Twitter @greenshawhigh



Or find us on Facebook @GreenshawHigh

## AND DON'T FORGET THE GREENSHAW APP:

You can download it from the app store on your phone or tablet.

## 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\*

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You'll be amazed at how much you and your family can fit into 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.

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