

YEAR

9



GREENSHAW NEWS

JULY 2026

Year 9 build a positive and focused learning environment



Miss N Wiffill
Head of Year 9



Miss S Noble
Deputy Head of Year 9

“Celebrate how far you’ve come but never lose sight of how far you can go.” Michael J Fox

As we look ahead to Year 10, I'm excited to hear how the positive and focused learning environment we've built this year will continue to develop. Our Year 9 classrooms have been places where students have felt supported, challenged, and inspired to achieve their best. It has been a pleasure to see students actively engaged in thoughtful discussions and collaborative learning activities, while also watching their confidence grow through drama and dance performances, for example. One of the standout moments of the year was the Year 9 dance showcase, which provided students with a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and share their talents, achievements, and creativity. Events like these have showcased not only academic progress but also teamwork, resilience, and self-expression.

Another highlight of the year was the Year 9 Student Council's 'Golden Goal' charity event (pictured above). Miss Noble and the Student Council organised this incredible event, where teams played until a goal was scored. The



losing team then came off and was replaced by the next team in line. It was fantastic to see almost the entire year group come along to watch. Drinks and snacks were sold, and teams paid a £5 entry fee to play, with all the money raised going to Cancer Research UK. In total, we raised £300.

Students will have received their summer reports this week, and I encourage everyone to take the time to read them carefully. These reports provide valuable insight into progress, strengths, and areas for development. As students prepare to begin Key Stage 4, the summer break offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on achievements and set personal targets for Year 10 and beyond. One key focus moving forward should be the importance of

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First day of autumn term for Year 10 students is Friday 4th September



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homework and independent study, as these play a vital role in reinforcing learning and preparing students for the increased demands of GCSE courses. Achieving an 'Attitude to Learning' grade A reflects a high level of consistency in behaviour, perseverance, engagement, and attendance. Striving for this standard demonstrates a real commitment to success and is something every student can work towards.

As students move into Year 10, they begin an important stage of their educational journey. I have been incredibly impressed by the maturity, resilience, and determination shown throughout Year 9. Whether in lessons, enrichment activities, or wider school events, students have consistently demonstrated a positive attitude and a willingness to embrace new challenges. Their continued growth and development this year gives me great confidence in what they can achieve as they begin their GCSE studies.

Sports Day (pictured above) was without a doubt one of my highlights of the year. It was fantastic to see the entire year group come together, showing not only enthusiasm but also an excellent sense of team spirit. The healthy competition between tutor groups created a positive and energetic atmosphere, and it was wonderful to watch students encouraging and supporting one another throughout the day.

A huge congratulations to 9AJR, who were the overall winning tutor group this year. Their efforts and determination throughout the event were outstanding. I was also blown away by the creativity and effort that went into the tutor group banners, they were truly breathtaking. The standard was so high that choosing a favourite would be impossible! Moments like these highlight the strength of our school community and the pride students take in representing their tutor groups.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye (for now) to all of our students and families. Although, it is not goodbye – it is very much a 'see you soon'. From September, I will be starting my maternity leave and would like to thank you all for your support and kindness over the past three years. I have had the privilege of working



with this year group since their induction days in July 2023, and it has been incredible to watch them grow from apprehensive 'new' Year 7 students, into the mature, confident, and ambitious young people they are today. Seeing their development, achievements, and friendships flourish has been one of the most rewarding parts of my role.

As students move into Year 10, I know they will continue to achieve great things. I encourage them to remember our year group vision, 'We set the tone' – continuing to lead by example, work hard, and support one another. I am incredibly proud of everything this year group has accomplished so far and excited to see what the future holds for them.

I am delighted to share that Miss Noble will be taking the reins as Acting Head of Year 10, supported by Miss Fish as Acting Deputy Head of Year 10 (pictured below). Miss Fish is an experienced Sociology teacher and an exceptional form tutor, and I know that together they will provide outstanding support and guidance for the year group. I wish them every success in their new roles and know that Year 10 will be in excellent hands. From 1st September, any correspondence should be directed to snoble@greenshawhigh.co.uk and afish@greenshawhigh.co.uk.

I wish all students and their families a wonderful and well deserved summer break!

Miss N Wiffill, Head of Year 9, and Miss S Noble, Deputy Head of Year 9





Fun Friday: strengthening the sense of community at Greenshaw

Fun Fridays during this term have been a real highlight across the school, bringing together students and staff for a series of energetic and competitive activities that have boosted morale and strengthened our sense of community.

A particular standout has been the range of staff versus student challenges. While the students have performed brilliantly overall, it's fair to say the staff brought an unexpected level of competitiveness to the events. Activities such as tug of war, volleyball, beat the keeper, pie the teacher and sponge the teacher created plenty of excitement, laughter, and some closely fought moments right up to the final whistle.

More importantly, these events have helped to build a

stronger sense of connection across year groups and staff. Seeing students and staff engaging together in a positive and informal setting has been a real positive for the school community.

The final Fun Friday of the term was the Fun Friday fun fair featuring inflatables. All these events have been shaped by the student voice, with popular ideas including Krispy Kreme doughnuts, an ice cream van visit, Greggs bakery treats, and pick 'n' mix all being voted in.

We are excited to continue building on this momentum next term and to keep Fun Fridays as a key part of school life – combining enjoyment, teamwork, and community spirit.

Ms K Carter, Assistant Headteacher





What fantastic, sunny enrichment days we have had!

This term, our three sunny enrichment days once again provided students with exciting opportunities to extend their learning beyond the classroom. Carefully planned to complement the curriculum, these experiences enabled students to apply their knowledge in real-world settings while developing confidence, communication, teamwork and independence.

Year 7 developed resilience and teamwork through activities at Ninja Warrior Guildford, explored Hampton Court Palace, bringing their Tudor studies to life as they considered whether it was a palace of pleasure or power, and visited the beautiful St Paul's Cathedral, where they developed a deeper understanding of its rich history, architecture and significance in British history.

Year 8 artists found inspiration in the natural beauty of Morden Hall Park, they took a coach journey to Port Lympne to learn about conservation and the rewilding of endangered species and they also deepened their understanding of Hinduism through an educational visit to Neasden Temple, stopping off at Kew Gardens for lunch.

Year 9 applied their classroom learning through geography fieldwork at Worthing and Bognor beaches and developed their language skills during a London Eye and River Cruise experience, where the MFL department brought Spanish learning to life.

For the third Enrichment Day, students were able to choose from a range of exciting experiences based on

their interests, Harry Potter Studios, Horsenden Hill Activity Centre or Action Watersports. Whether developing teamwork and resilience through outdoor challenges, enjoying thrilling water-based activities or exploring the magic behind one of Britain's most famous film locations, students had a fantastic final Enrichment Day filled with fun, learning and unforgettable experiences.

Year 10 students looked ahead to their future through careers and communication workshops, helping them build confidence and prepare for their next steps, while also enjoying engaging performances of 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls' by the Globe Players. Students also enjoyed a well-deserved fun packed day at Thorpe Park.

Year 12 students developed their communication and employability skills through Talk The Talk workshops and took part in a recruitment day, preparing them for leadership opportunities and the next stage of their educational journey.

These memorable experiences brought learning to life and helped students make meaningful connections between their studies and the wider world. We are continually evolving our enrichment programme to ensure it remains engaging, relevant and enriching for all students. Please look out for our student and parent feedback surveys, as your views will play an important role in shaping our enrichment offer for the 2026-27 academic year.

Ms S Webb, Assistant Headteacher



What a scorcher!

Thursday 18th June saw our Year 9 and 10 students compete in their annual Athletics Championships.

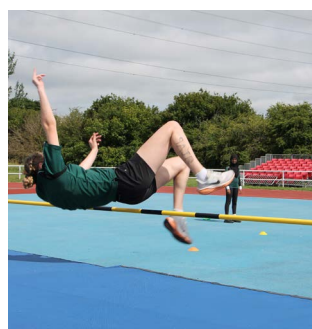
With the traditional athletics events such as high jump, 800m and 100m running alongside the more retro events, such as the sack and bean bag races.

Tutor groups had designed their tutor group banners to showcase on the bank for supporters, which all looked fabulous. Each tutor group were also given different coloured headbands and wristbands for students to wear. Year 10 in particular loved the music playing in the background, with around half of them showcasing the 'Macarena' and 'Cha Cha Slide' just before they were dismissed and the rain started.

The overall winners were 9AJR and 10DRH. A huge congratulations to all competitors on the day.

Sadly, even though we tried to make many adaptations to the Year 7 and 8 sports day to be held on the following Tuesday, the forecast continued to increase over the weekend. In the light of the Met Office amber warning, it was no longer safe to go ahead with it.

Miss R Graham, Head of PE





PSHE highlights for Year 9 students

Impactful active bystander workshop

As part of our ongoing commitment to high-quality PSHE education, Greenshaw High School recently partnered with TalkConsent to deliver an impactful Active Bystander workshop for our Year 9 students (pictured top left).

Led by expert facilitator Lois Wong, the session explored understanding sexual harassment and provided practical strategies on how to safely challenge negative behaviours. Our students showed incredible maturity, respect, and active participation throughout this vital session, reflecting our school values of empathy and community. Thank you to the teachers in attendance and our safeguarding staff for their support.

Crime and punishment brought to life

As part of their Crime and Punishment unit in PSHE, 9JRC welcomed PC Clark and a local PCSO into their lesson (pictured top right). Students had the opportunity to bring their learning to life by engaging directly with serving police officers, asking a range of thoughtful and insightful questions. Discussions focused on laws, local crime issues, how crimes are reported, and the important role the police play within the community.

The visit provided valuable real-world context to classroom learning and encouraged students to think critically about crime, justice, and community safety. We would like to thank PC Clark and the PCSO for taking the time to share their experiences and answer students' questions so openly and honestly.

Miss L Anius, Head of PSHE

Mathematics superstars

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the brilliant achievements of our students in the recent United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT) Kangaroo rounds.

Following their stellar performance in the initial Intermediate Challenge, 14 of our top mathematicians were invited to compete in these prestigious follow-on rounds. This invitation is only extended to the top-scoring students across the country, placing our participants in the top 1% of young mathematicians in the UK.

A huge congratulations to our students who secured national certificates for their high scores:

- Best in School and Silver Award: Ron (Year 9) – Outstanding score of 85.

- Best in School and Silver Award: Dhivyan (Year 11)
- Silver Award: Inana (Year 11)
- Best in Year 10 and Bronze Award: Huvin
- Bronze Awards: Nathan Han (Year 9), Seongju (Year 9), Ralph (Year 11) and Nickish (Year 11)

To qualify for this round is a massive achievement in its own right. We also celebrate the following students for their dedication and for representing the school at a national level: Manasri, Karan, Josiah, Aarav, Ojen, and Saadit.

The mathematics department is incredibly proud of the grit and intellectual curiosity shown by all our qualifiers. We look forward to seeing these problem-solving stars continue to shine in future competitions!

Miss D Bansal, Teacher of Mathematics



GLT Student Council

The recent Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) Student Council meeting focused on sustainability and featured a visit from Miss Carran, the GLT Sustainability Lead.

The session began with a series of reflective questions designed to encourage students to think critically about sustainability within school life. Questions included: What is thrown away the most in our school? How much green space does your school have? How do most students travel to school? and On a scale of one to ten, how well do your friends take care of the environment? These prompted thoughtful discussions and highlighted the importance of environmental awareness in everyday actions.

Miss Carran shared valuable insights into the role sustainability plays in our daily lives and introduced the GLT Environment and Sustainability Policy. The policy reflects GLT's commitment to reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices across all areas of school life. Students also learned about the inspiring initiatives taking place across GLT schools, including the use of paper plates and cups in canteens, the introduction of beehives, tree-planting projects, gardening committees, and flower-growing schemes to enhance school environments in environmentally friendly ways.

Greenshaw High School students proudly shared examples of sustainability initiatives already taking place within our own school community. These included;

- Our chef grows fresh produce for use in school lunches.
- The installation of solar panels.
- Sustainability education within Year 9 geography

lessons, where students explore the meaning of sustainability and the importance of protecting the future for generations to come.

- Eco Club is currently preparing an assembly for World Ocean Day.
- Following the recent Earth Day assembly, students reflected on practical ways they can contribute to protecting the planet. Building on this momentum, the school is organising a litter pick as part of the annual The Big Help Out.
- Another exciting proposal from the School Council is to introduce a second-hand uniform shop, which would both support families facing financial pressures and encourage more sustainable practices.

Looking ahead, one of the council's key aims next year is for GLT schools to collaborate on a shared sustainability project, allowing students to work together to make a wider positive environmental impact. Greenshaw have already begun this as our Green Team has been supporting Tweeddale Primary School in establishing a gardening club by volunteering their time, lending tools, and working alongside younger students.

The meeting concluded with the launch of an exciting pumpkin challenge. Students are encouraged to plant pumpkin seeds in May and submit photographs of their progress during the autumn term. We have already registered for the challenge, and seeds will soon be distributed to the Eco Council ready for planting.

Liyah-Rose, Josephine and Shayne, Year 10

Borough Sports competition



On 19th June, around 90 students from Years 7 to 10 competed in the annual Borough Sports event at The David Weir Leisure Centre.

We are still awaiting the final results, but some Greenshaw students attained some fabulous achievements, including third place for Harry (Year 7, 100m), Aliyah (Year 10, 300m) and Year 10 boys' relay. Numerous silver medals were awarded, including Isabelle (Year 9, high jump), David (Year 10, discus). Gold medals were awarded to Jaz (Year 9, shot), Aaron (Year 10, shot), Josephine (Year 10, hurdles). Finally, a huge shout out to Elo who won the Year 10 100m and also broke the Borough record with a staggering 11.99s.

Congratulations to all our competitors.

Mr J Fuller, PE Teacher



Sports tour offers a wealth of new experiences for students

The recent football and netball sports tour to Holland during the Easter break was an outstanding experience for all involved. Over the course of five days, students from Years 8 to 11 took part in a packed programme that combined high-quality sport, cultural experiences, and team-building activities.

Throughout the tour, students benefited from masterclass football and netball training sessions, designed to develop their skills, teamwork, and tactical understanding. These sessions were complemented by a series of competitive fixtures against local Dutch opposition. The students performed exceptionally well, achieving a 100% winning record across all matches – a testament to their dedication, preparation, and sportsmanship.

Beyond the sporting schedule, the tour also included a range of exciting excursions. Students enjoyed activities such as tobogganing and laser tag, which provided a fun and relaxed environment to bond with teammates and create lasting memories. A particular highlight of the trip was a behind-the-scenes stadium tour of Philips Stadium, home of PSV Eindhoven.

Overall, the tour was a huge success, offering students the opportunity to develop both on and off the field. They represented the school with pride, demonstrated excellent behaviour throughout, and returned with a wealth of new experiences and achievements.

Mr J Fuller, PE Teacher





Workshop to equip young people with life-saving skills



140 students from Year 7 to 12 had the valuable opportunity to take part in a thought-provoking Reducing Violence workshop delivered by StreetDoctors, a national charity dedicated to equipping young people with lifesaving first-aid skills.

The sessions focused on practical, hands-on training for real-life emergencies. Students learnt how to respond if someone is bleeding heavily from a wound. Through interactive demonstrations, discussions and scenario-based activities, students practised how to call an ambulance, and control blood loss.

The training went beyond the practical aspects of first aid. StreetDoctors also explored mental health and decision-making under pressure, helping students understand how stress and fear can influence reactions in emergency situations. The combination of science-based explanations, myth-busting, and practical exercises ensured students left feeling informed, confident, and prepared to step in and help if ever faced with a critical situation.

By welcoming StreetDoctors into the school, we continue to build on our PSHE knowledge and understanding, providing students with important life skills that extend far beyond the classroom. The workshop has built resilience, awareness, and confidence, empowering young people to support and protect others within the communities.

Miss L Anius, Head of PSHE

Fruity creations in Year 9 food

Our Year 9 students took part in a fruit salad competition in class this week and created some very unique centrepieces.

Miss Wifill and Miss Noble were asked to decide on the winning entries. It was a very tough decision, but after much deliberation, they decided on the winning entries below – first, second and third place entries are pictured from left to right. Congratulations to the winners and well done to all students who took part.





Extra-curricular clubs at Greenshaw – something for everyone

Our extra-curricular programme continues to go from strength to strength this academic year, providing students with opportunities to develop new skills, pursue their interests, keep active and build lasting friendships beyond the classroom. With over 80 clubs and fixtures running each cycle, there is something for everyone, whether students enjoy sport, the arts, STEM, music or academic enrichment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff in giving up their valuable time in offering clubs of interest.

This term, we were delighted to introduce a new club with Mr Aonan – Mahjong Club – to our extra-curricular programme. We purchased four Mahjong sets and students have been learning this traditional strategy game,

developing their problem-solving, concentration and tactical thinking skills, while enjoying friendly competition. The club has provided a welcoming environment for students to learn something new, socialise and challenge themselves.

Our clubs are available before school, at lunchtime and after school. Next term, students can view the latest timetable and sign up through the 'Clubs' button on their Frog homepage. We are always keen to hear suggestions for new clubs, so please speak to your School Council representative or contact Miss Webb with your ideas.

This term's assemblies...



This term, our assembly programme has continued to promote students' cultural awareness, wellbeing and understanding of important local, national and global events. As in previous terms, assemblies have been delivered online by a range of staff and students, encouraging reflection, discussion and active participation across our school community. Below is a summary of our summer term assemblies.

- **Maths Awareness Month** was celebrated by Mrs Bansal, highlighting the importance of mathematics in everyday life and future careers. Students explored how maths underpins everything from technology and engineering to sport, finance and medicine.

- **Earth Day** was presented by Miss Maxwell, she provided an opportunity for students to reflect on the importance of protecting our planet and the role we all play in creating a more sustainable future (pictured).
- For **Mental Health Awareness Week**, Miss Kirby explored the importance of looking after their mental wellbeing and supporting those around them. The assembly encouraged students to recognise that mental health is just as important as physical health and highlighted practical strategies for managing stress, building resilience and maintaining positive relationships. Students were reminded of the support available within school and encouraged to seek help whenever they need it.
- During **Pride Month**, students celebrated the diversity of our school community and reflected on the importance of equality, respect and inclusion.
- The **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** assembly, presented by Mr Kearns, was engaging and informative, highlighting the valuable contributions these communities have made to our society over many generations.
- **World Ocean Day** by the Eco Council encouraged students to consider the threats facing marine environments, including plastic pollution, climate change and overfishing. To celebrate World Ocean Day, students were invited to design a poster that inspires environmental protection and action. The competition winner will be announced in September.



Celebrating Mr Gardner



Mr Gardner was a well-loved and respected member of staff at Greenshaw High School, who sadly passed away unexpectedly at the weekend.

Alan Gardner started teaching at Greenshaw High School all the way back in 1987. Over the 38 years he has been with us, he has influenced so many students, across a huge range of subjects, as well as being Head of Yellow House, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher.

He was, put simply, an inspiration. His commitment to students being successful, often beyond what they thought was possible at first, marked him out as a beacon within the teaching profession. He has taught subjects from drama to computer science, from economics to graphic design, and all with huge distinction and complete expertise.

If your family would like to thank him, we have set up a form on our website here. If you know of students who have been taught by Mr Gardner in the past, then please let them know. We will be sharing these comments of appreciation with Alan's family and I want them to understand just how significant his influence continues to be.

Mr N House, Headteacher

You can read the messages celebrating Alan Gardner here.

If you wish to leave a message, please complete the form here.



Building update: the external build is nearly complete

The work on the major new building project is running to schedule. Only a year ago, we were surrounded by rubble as the demolition of the existing buildings was in full flow. Now, twelve months later, the external build is nearly complete. Panels and tiling surround the building, and the structure is watertight.

This might be misleading for our students. Despite the outside being finished, the next phase over autumn will see the wiring, plumbing and plastering happening internally. This main building will include state of the art science laboratories, a new dining hall and a brand new library suite. There are two drama studios and a range of music practice rooms. This is alongside typical classrooms for maths, English, geography and modern foreign languages.

At the end of a school year when the majority of our lessons have happened in the temporary school buildings, our students have been brilliant. They have shown great resilience in moving around the site, complete with a crossing point into the building site that students and staff sometimes have to wait for large vehicles to pass through. We hope to be in the building in the summer term of 2027, all things being equal.

Mr N House, Headteacher



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.



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Key dates – Year 9

21st December to 1st January

Year 9 contact list

9GBR: Mr G Brobbey – gbrobbey@greenshawhigh.co.uk

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