## ENJOYING THE JOURNEY...



Issue 6 – March 2019

#### "The journey not the arrival matters." T.S. Eliot

I hope that you all had a relaxing half term and are ready for the next stage in our journey. It has been lovely to return to some brighter weather to lift the spirits - knowing that summer is just around the corner.

YEAR

As I write this, we find ourselves just past the midpoint of the cohorts' first year. The students have been through a steep learning curve, but with the support of the year team, teachers and parents, I am confident we have reached a

plateau where students are familiar with the processes and expectations of the school and so can concentrate fully on the task in hand – education. I would therefore expect to see real progress being made in lessons with students positively engaging with their learning and their homework and a settled and enjoyable social time. In a recent assembly, Mr House commented how impressed he had been when visiting lessons to see the students' engagement and enthusiasm in their learning. He went on to talk about excellence in terms of always trying to be your best in whatever you are doing.

With this in mind, we really strive to ensure our curriculum challenges all students appropriately, and as such we keep our curriculum under regular review. Miss Oliver (Maths Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator) and Mrs Wallace (Deputy Headteacher) met with a group of high attaining Year 7 maths students this week to gather their views on their maths lessons so far since September. Their contributions to the discussion were honest, insightful and invaluable in helping us to continue to refine our maths curriculum to ensure that students' thinking is always stretched and extended. Mrs Wallace and Miss Oliver went away feeling excited and energised by the enthusiasm of the students and we very much look forward to some new developments in maths.

The team of Year 7 tutors have worked especially hard in supporting all their tutees through the various ups and downs that is transition from primary to high school. I am sure many of you have had conversations with them about your child and how we can work together to make every day a positive experience. If you were able to attend the information evening at the start of the year, you may have had an opportunity to meet with your child's tutor. At Greenshaw we value this relationship highly for both you and your child and therefore we will be holding a 'meet the tutor' celebration evening in the summer term where you will be able to reflect with your child's tutor on time past, time present and time future. In the meantime, I would like to use the newsletter to introduce our team of tutors to you, where you can put a face to the name, and let them tell you how they feel our wonderful cohort of students are faring. Mr Jones and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their high level of commitment, focus, and attention – and most important of all the time and care they give to each and every one of their tutees – demonstrating excellence and expecting it from their tutees every day.

Ms Radwan, Head of Year 7, and Mr Jones, Deputy Head of Year 7



### U13 girls' futsal team

Congratulations to the under 13 girls' futsal team who represented Sutton in the Surrey finals last week, beating schools from Kingston, Wimbledon and Leatherhead to qualify for the regional finals. They will be competing at the University of Bedford in March in the hope of making it through to the national finals later on in the year. Watch this space!

## Meet our Year 7 form tutors

#### From the students of 7MKH



In 7MKH we are lucky to have a whole tutor group of talented people! Some of us are skilled in sports such a football and basketball; some of us are amazing dancers. Some of us love maths and science best; and there are others who prefer English or performing in front of an audience. A few of

us even like all of these things equally!

Mr Khan is our tutor and a maths teacher. He is also an awardwinning children's author. He reads to us every morning, checks we have all our equipment and are generally well-prepared for the day. If we have problems, he likes us to discuss them with him so we can try to sort it out together. We have a class representative who takes our points of view to student council meetings. We also have monitors who help Mr Khan keep our tutor group organised and happy.

If you would like to contact Mr Khan, please email *mkhan@* greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7MB – Miss Bowles and Mr Bell



I'm Miss Bowles, and I am one of the proud tutors of 7MB. When I'm not in the tutor base, I can be found in the food classroom as I am Head of Food

Technology. When I was first told by Miss Radwan that I had been given a Year 7 tutor group, I was excited. When I was told I was sharing that tutor group with the fantastic Mr Bell, I was doubly excited. We couldn't wait to meet them and when we were finally able to first get a glimpse of them all, stood in their line up in the playground on their first day, in their brand new school uniforms and polished shoes, with huge smiles on their faces – we knew we'd hit the jackpot.

The whole tutor group settled quickly into Greenshaw life. We watched strong friendships form and heard overwhelming praise from their class teachers over the course of the first term. I had the pleasure of joining the group on our trip to Blacklands Farm, where we spent the day learning a lot more about each other, having a lot of laughs (especially whilst cheating in the bin bag challenge) and conquering many phobias.

We felt so proud of our brilliant tutor group by the end of the first term, we held our own tutor awards ceremony. During this, students received awards for their amazing attitude and effort in lessons, as well as personal awards for their kindness. Many of the group went away with a prestigious '7MB postcard'.

It would not be realistic to have an entirely positive year, and unfortunately more recently we have had to have some frank conversations about behaviour. These conversations have allowed for students to reflect on their own attitude, and we have noticed huge changes in those individuals. It is a relief to know that we have a resilient bunch, who care about the consequences of their actions and are keen to mature and progress.

Overall, we both feel incredibly lucky to have such a lovely group of unique individuals. Every morning our day starts with laughter in M3 and we usually manage to finish on a high too. We're really looking forward to the future journey together.

#### abowles@greenshaw.co.uk obell@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7SB – Mr Butcher



I had the great pleasure of meeting many of you either at the celebration at the beginning of the year or during the recent parents' evening. In both cases it has been a pleasure to report on the very positive contributions your child has made to the spirit and community of 7SB. I have

the greatest pleasure of leading our merry troop through the various activities we are involved in each morning, including this term looking at learning basic first aid skills having already explored communication skills in the autumn. What I love is the diversity of personalities in my tutor group, and the fact that we are able to appreciate and support each other. I really value the conversations I have had with many of you too, feeling the full support that you offer me and the school on improving the lives of your children. On that note, should you wish to contact me for whatever reason, then please email me *sbutcher@greenshaw.co.uk* 

#### 7BWL – Miss Walker

I teach dance and PE and am in my third year of working at



Greenshaw High School. 7BWL have made a good start to Year 7, working hard to get used to all the new systems and forming new friendships within the tutor group. Together we have been reading Anne Frank and 7BWL provided some thought provoking discussion into what

it must have been like to be living in such conditions or to be responsible for keeping a family safe. A particular highlight has been working with 7BWL towards Operation Christmas Child, in which the students created thoughtful gifts for children in Moldova who are less fortunate than them. It has been great to work alongside the tutees in 7BWL and I look forward to seeing how they progress across the remainder of Year 7.

If you wish to contact me, please send me an email: *bwalker@greenshaw.co.uk* 

## Meet our Year 7 form tutors

#### 7LBR – Mr Burgess



7LBR is based in the music department and led by myself, a drama teacher. Having settled into high school life, it seems that creativity is blossoming in 7LBR as, in addition to very pleasing effort grades in maths and science, our best performing subject last term was art and design. I

was very proud to see that 19 students achieved grade A and 9 students grade B – well done. I would like to thank you all for your continued support with equipment and homework, which has improved greatly and the vast majority are hitting the expectations week in week out. I have also been particularly impressed with the amount of hard work and commitment shown by my tutees in extra-curricular pursuits. The amount of shoe boxes created for our Christmas charity project was outstanding and thank you for help with this.

I would like to give a special recognition to our sporting girls in climbing and football, our boy's football players, our young actors and budding scientists who have all shown great initiative in being proactive and extending their learning far beyond the classroom.

#### lburgess@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7LP – Miss Planas



I'm Miss Planas, a teacher of modern foreign languages and I have been working at Greenshaw for over six years. During my years here, I have had the pleasure of being a tutor to Year 7, 9 and 11. I have always enjoyed my role as a tutor, but I have never felt as blessed as I feel now,

with this particular Year 7 group. 7LP are an amazing tutor group with very articulate, bright and thoughtful youngsters who have already made such a strong start to the academic year. I have been astonished by the work ethic I have seen amongst this group and I am so very proud to be in constant receipt of compliments regarding exceeding expectations whether that be associated with behaviour for learning or academically. We have also had a tutee, (Jaden) win an award for drama – an excellent achievement.

I am deeply proud of this tutor group and I am looking forward to working with them in the foreseeable future. I have no doubt they will all succeed at Greenshaw and I can't wait to see them all thrive and reap the rewards of their hard work and attainment.

lplanas@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7AM – Mr McMillan



I have taught at Greenshaw High School for the past seven years as Head of Geography. I really enjoy both the curriculum teaching and pastoral form tutor roles, as they allow me to meet so many of the great students here at Greenshaw. I am originally from Hampton in south west London, and previously worked on the south coast and in Watford in north London. As a geography teacher, I enjoy travelling and have been fortunate to visit areas of the USA, Europe, and Asia, although as a dad to two small children travelling has taken somewhat of a back seat in recent years. 7AM are a great tutor group who have settled in really well, and I am also fortunate enough to teach them geography also, so we are getting to know each other very well.

Please feel free to contact me at amcmillan@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7YBK – Miss Boukersi



I am a pharmacist by trade, however following a new career into teaching has been wonderful. My tutor group 7YBK have made it an even better experience. 7YBK is based in the science department and I am really proud of how much this group has grown since their nervous start

in September. I have tried to build a sense of 'family' belonging, whereby we strive for excellence together and if any hurdles come our way we get through them together.

Homework performance with 7YBK has been outstanding and numerous members of our tutor group have been part of the 'Top 10 IXL members', which makes me very proud! Thank you all parents/carers for your continued support with this.

I am also proud that many members of our tutor group belong to extra-curricular activities within the school particularly gymnastics, football, ping pong and fitness club, which I think is very important to channel any negative energy away from the classroom.

We have not gone without any difficulties, but students are very aware that I am here as a 'go to' to help them enjoy their experience at Greenshaw in any way I can! I just want to say a final thank you to 7YBK for their continued hard work and commitment at Greenshaw so – KEEP IT UP TEAM!

#### kboukersi@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7SAS – Miss Adams



I started at Greenshaw in 2017 and predominantly teach A level Psychology and GCSE Economics. Having a Year 7 tutor group has been an enjoyable experience. I've loved getting to know all the students in the tutor group and supporting them in settling in to life at Greenshaw. As a tutor

group, they have had a pretty impressive start, appearing on *ITV*, collecting lots of boxes to support the Christmas appeal and reading lots of books in our tutor session. I suspect *War Horse* was their favourite book, as they got to watch me crying over

Continued on next page ►

## Meet our Year 7 form tutors

the death of Topthorn (when I say watching, a lot of them were laughing!) The tutor group are generally settling well, making lots of friends and there have been some impressive emails from subject tutors about how much they enjoy teaching 7SAS, which has made me feel very proud of them all.

sadams@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7NRY – Miss Reynolds



7NRY has grown from strength to strength since the beginning of September. Upon settling into life at Greenshaw, they have been buzzing with enthusiasm, particularly as all students in the group gained effort grades A or B in five subjects, including maths and science. This is thoroughly

pleasing to see and is testament to the hard work and dedication shown not only by class teachers, but more importantly the students of 7NRY. Many students are actively taking part in extra-curricular activities and competitions within school or out. We had some brilliant contributions made to the LGBT+ poster competition to promote awareness, alongside gym-goers, aspiring footballers, avid dancers and gymnast extraordinaire. With all of this going on, you wouldn't believe that we have even had time to raise for charity too! In the weeks running up to Christmas, we raised £30.65 for Alzheimer's Society; a cause selected, discussed and voted for within our tutor group. On top of this, we contributed shoe boxes packed full of helpful items and gifts for children in Bulgaria - a great initiative for those less fortunate than ourselves. All of this couldn't have been achieved without the commitment and support of parents and carers - thank you all. Finally, we have evolved into a well organised group, particularly with equipment and homework, which necessitates a massive well done to students and thank you to those at home. This makes tutor time very calm and relaxed so that we can enjoy our time reading together. Over the course of the remainder of Year 7, I look forward to communicating more success stories with you.

nreynolds@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7KRG – Miss Rogers-Hinks

Being a Year 7 tutor has definitely been one of the highlights of my academic year so far. 7 KRG have coped brilliantly with the challenges of making a successful transition from primary to



secondary school, and are now settled into their learning routines. I spend half an hour with my tutor group every day, so I'm getting to know them quite well – finding out about their talents and interests. We begin each day with some simple exercises and deep breathing, followed by whole

class reading. We have nearly completed our third book of the year: Michael Murpurgo's *War Horse*.

As a tutor, I am aware of my students' academic progress, but

my role is about much more than this. If one of my tutees has a problem during the day, or has got into any difficulties, they know that they can talk to me and I will try to help. But they also know that I am the person who will be addressing any issues of poor effort or behaviour and that my expectations of them are high.

At Greenshaw, we encourage our students to strive for excellence. As a tutor, I feel it is important to help build confidence and resilience. Above all, I want my tutor group to be happy at Greenshaw. After all, they will be here for a long time.

#### krogers-hinks@greenshaw.co.uk

#### 7KRG – Mrs MacGillivray (Mac)



I have had the pleasure of working as a Learning Support Assistant at Greenshaw High School for 14 years. I support the members of my tutor group. I am an ELSA Mentoring Supervisor and outside of school I am a qualified psychotherapist. Although I support in most subjects, I have a passion

for English and fashion textiles. Over the 14 years I have worked at Greenshaw, I have supported all year groups. I love to work with the Year 7s as their enthusiasm inspires me. I am very proud to be a part of 7KRG. The are a kind and considerate bunch of students who are always keen to share their triumphs and willing to accept that struggle is an important part of the learning process. They support each other and are a joy to work with.

jmacgillivray@greenshaw.co.uk

#### Community spirit – Ismail, 7NRY

We are very proud of Ismail in 7NRY, who received a wonderful email from a member of the local community praising him for his caring and public spirited actions recently. It read:

#### Dear Greenshaw,

I was walking behind one of your students the other week and there was litter on the floor. He must have picked up five or more pieces of rubbish that was not his from the floor. I congratulated him and thanked him for looking after our environment. He is a real credit to our community.

#### Geographer of the term



In addition, Ismail has just won geographer of the term – one student was chosen from each year group, so he is clearly working extremely hard.

He has been issued

with this lovely certificate. Well done, Ismail. He is a credit to himself, his family and the school.



## SKI TRIP 2019

During February half term, 50 students from Years 8 to 12 travelled to Warth, Austria for a fantastic week of skiing.

After a challenging 20 hour coach journey, the group arrived at the Pension Birkenhoff on Saturday morning and we were immediately impressed by the landscape and climate in which our home for the week was set.

After a restful night's sleep, students took to the slopes on Sunday morning. Beginning on the nursery slopes, they were starting to find their way on their skis and after the first day, they were able to make their way up the mountain to explore the slopes of Warth. By the end of the week, beginners were skiing down from the top of the mountain, with some taking on the mighty red and, in some cases, black run. The evenings were equally busy, with students enjoying a series of activities including bowling, swimming and a fiercely competitive quiz night. In between activities, they were able to enjoy the hotel's facilities during some well-deserved down time; playing pool and table tennis or supervised trips to the local village to purchase some well-needed snacks.

I would like to thank the glorious sunshine which greeted us each day on the slopes, the enthusiastic ski instructors, our committed Greenshaw staff, and finally, the high standards of behaviour from all students which together made it a very successful trip.

Mr Carter, Assistant Headteacher









## Greenshaw High School to lead Sutton schools' mental health pilot

Greenshaw High School will lead the first wave of schools in a new 'trailblazer pilot' which aims to reduce rates of self-harm in children and young people across Sutton. The school will work alongside other Sutton schools in both primary and secondary phases, and schools from mainstream and special school sectors.

The Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group successfully bid for a mental health support team, with each one expected to support an approximate population of 8,000 children and young people. The workers located in the Sutton schools taking part will undertake their training with Health Education England, delivered at Kings College London, before the pilot goes live in the autumn.

Sutton was announced as one of 25 mental health 'trailblazers' in England which will roll out new mental health services to 500,000 people in the country.

Mr House, Headteacher, explained: "We are very fortunate to be involved in this work. The purpose of the 'trailblazer pilot' is for groups of schools to work together, alongside significant investment from health, and see what we can all do better in supporting the wellbeing of young people. This is the most important thing for the next generation of young people to be healthy. Exam grades are of little use if the students that gain them are not confident and happy."

Dr Jeffrey Croucher, clinical lead for Sutton CCG, said: "This is all about reducing self-harm in children and young people in Sutton. We've already heard that there's a high incidence of this and what we hope to do over the next three years is to reduce that incidence by 20 per cent.

"We're trying to build emotional resilience in our young children, supporting the teachers, support for ADHD [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder] and ASD [autism spectrum disorder] children, and support for the parents."

# Why we use differentiated questioning in class



You may be aware that in lessons, when teachers are checking for understanding, we expect our teachers to direct their questions at individuals rather than asking the class for hands up. There are several benefits of this approach. It ensures all students get the opportunity to share their ideas, and to develop their oracy skills and confidence when speaking in public. In classrooms where the teacher takes hands up responses, often only the most confident answer and sometimes students will stop thinking if they are under the impression someone else will always answer. The approach also ensures that the teacher is in control of finding out who knows what in a class, directing their questions to specific students to see what they have understood and whether they need to re-explain the material.

Selecting individual students by name enables the teacher to target differentiated questions at specific students, thereby using their questions to assess students' learning rather than just taking contributions from students who already know the answer. This differentiated questioning can also be used to really stretch and challenge certain students and assess the understanding of fundamental concepts for other students. Also, when students sit with their hand up during class discussion, it becomes difficult for them to really carefully listen to what the teacher or students are saying as they can become preoccupied with thinking about what they want to say. It is important to point out that if a student has a question they want to ask or they need some help or clarification, we absolutely encourage and welcome this.

Mrs Wallace, Deputy Headteacher

### Important letter from Mr House

Mr House requests that families contact their local MP about the current funding crisis: https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/news/?pid=25&nid=2&storyid=363

## Fantastic opportunity to get into teaching...

We currently have a fantastic opportunity for someone who is looking for an opportunity to gain classroom experience in a successful and forward thinking school.

Greenshaw High School is looking for a highly motivated and committed individual with excellent organisational skills and a desire to work with young people to join our curriculum support team as a Curriculum Support Officer. The successful candidate will supervise classes in the absence of teaching staff, prepare and display curriculum materials and co-ordinate school trips. For the right candidate, this is a fantastic opportunity to gain classroom experience and an insight in to our successful curriculum departments.

The curriculum support team is a well-established and integral part of the classroom experience at Greenshaw High School. Our curriculum support officers play an active role in supporting teaching staff across the school, and many have gone on to pursue careers in education and teaching, or to study for post- graduate qualifications.

If you are interested in applying, please see the school website: <u>https://tinyurl.com/yynr5gyo</u>

## OUR IMPACT ON THE WORLD

In recent assemblies, students from Year 8 and Year 13 have been raising environmental awareness. Harriet, Isobel, Jahzarrah, Zaman, Lauren and Phoebe, used shocking imagery and descriptions to highlight deforestation and plastic pollution of the oceans.

They revealed that many of our daily actions have global consequences. For example, just eating a KitKat will contribute to destruction of rainforests. The students gave suggestions of small changes we could all make, to reduce our impact on the world.

Mr Booth, Geography Teacher



### Year 7 Assemblies – Spring term

15th March – Holocaust Memorial Day 2019

28th March – Making our mental health better

### Key dates – Year 7

Positive mental health presentation Assessment week Big Ideas lecture End of spring term 5th March 18th-22nd March 2nd April 5th April

Start of summer term May half term End of summer term 23rd April 27th May to 31st May 23rd July

### Sutton Council to celebrate Hindu and Buddhist new year

Sutton Council will officially celebrate the Hindu and Buddhist new year for the first time at Stanley Park High School, on Sunday 14th April, 5.30pm.

The full council agreed an amended motion by Councillor Param Nandha on 28 January to promote all major festivals of main religions as notified to council. Councillor Param Nandha said: "I am delighted Sutton Council has adopted this motion. In this difficult time of division in our nation and communities, it is a well timed chance to celebrate another nation's faith and culture, and to reinforce the values that all parties in our borough have been proud to support and proclaim."

### Year 7 contact list

Head of Year: Ms L Radwan - Iradwan@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 – Iburgess@greenshaw.co.uk 7LP: Miss L Planas – Iplanas@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



It's science week from the 11th – 15th March Science will be running amazing experiments every day! Sign up on the sheets outside the science office



Ever wondered why chickens can't fly? Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 3.10 – 4.00pm



Ever wondered what a forensic scientist does? Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 3.10 – 4.00pm



Ever wondered how this happens?

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 3.10 – 4.00pm



## Ever wondered how fireworks are made?

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2.15 – 3.00pm



Ever wondered how bath bombs are made? Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 3.10 – 4.00pm YEAR





Have you ever wondered where the word hippopotomus comes from?

Have you ever wondered where the Harry Potter spells are from?

Have you ever wondered why the Romans loved watching people die in the Colosseum?

or

Why London is even called London?

If you have, and you are in years 7 or 8, then come and explore the Ancient World with us!

You will learn about Greek mythology, Ancient Greek and Roman history and learn some Latin and Greek as well!

Every THURSDAY (starting from March 21<sup>ST</sup>) in E8

Sign up on the sheet by reception



## ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL







YEAR

### Join us on Twitter and Facebook!



You can find us on Twitter @greenshawhigh Or find us on Facebook @GreenshawHigh