



WELCOME TO YEAR 12



I am very happy to be writing our first sixth form newsletter for the academic year and I hope that you find it useful to know a little more about what we are doing as a school, but also specifically what we are doing as a year group. I would also like to say a huge and warm welcome to the many new families to Greenshaw who have come from a variety of secondary schools in and around the area. Year 12 is an exciting year and the students are now well under way in their A level studies and any changes to subjects being studied should now have happened allowing the students to get to grips with A level study and all that it entails.

The students have now had their first mentoring and tutorial sessions run by tutors with a focus on how students learn and how to study and the feedback from these has been very positive. They should also now all be using FROG as their main resource for homework, using the already set grids as well as any additional assignments set by teachers and lessons taught should also be available on here so that they (and you if you wish) can access this outside of lessons and from home.

Equipment is still very important at this age, if students have the resources ready for learning, lessons can be more impactful. All Year 12 students should now have their own mini whiteboard, as well as basic stationary needed for their classes. Please can you support them and their teachers in ensuring that they have these for all lessons; the mandatory equipment list issued at the beginning of this academic year is also available on Frog.

In future newsletters I will showcase certain departments and what they are learning about with your sons/daughters but for this first issue I wanted to just go over some of the basics that are on offer and that I feel you should be aware of:

- Current week (commencing 7th October 2019) is Week 2.
- Year 12 students have an option to do sports on Wednesday P4a, if they do not already have a timetabled lesson. The options include: working with basketball and netball coaches, lawn bowls at Sutton Bowls, football on the astroturf, fitness in the gym, table tennis and badminton in the sports hall. I would urge them all to take this opportunity to use the facilities and add to the enrichment of their experience here. Please just help them to remember to bring a PE kit or sensible sporting clothes for this day to be able to take part.
- Assessment hours are on your son/daughters timetables in week 2, but they alternate these with the Year 13s which means that they have these formalised assessments once every four weeks. The next (second) Year 12 assessment week will be after half term, week commencing 4th November. Please encourage them to study hard for these as they allow us to provide feedback on how students are coping with courses and how best to improve. Later assessments also help us to form the predicted grades necessary for university for the following year.
- Uniform – we do not have a uniform policy other than to wear sensible clothing in the sixth form. Recently there has been a mini spate of overly ripped jeans and some tracksuit bottoms – these are not permitted, so please support us in not allowing your son or daughter to wear these at school.

The first few weeks are now behind us and students are starting to settle in to their new routines. It has already been a pleasure to start to get to know so many old and new faces in Year 12. I am very confident that we will have a successful year ahead with our focus on independent learning and following the A level mindset programme. If any parents wish to read further into the teaching practices and ethos we follow here in Route to Success, I have added a couple of books below as some suggested reading.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Dione Ayres, Acting Head of Sixth Form

A Level Mindset – by Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin

Practice Perfect by Doug Lemov





A LEVEL RESULTS SUCCESS!

2019 has seen another bumper crop of A Level examination results for Year 13 students at Greenshaw Sixth Form. Over one in five of every grade was at A or A*, with 73% of students achieving a pass at A*-C. Headteacher, Mr House, said: "These results demonstrate the hard work and dedication of both youngsters and their staff. At a time when these new exams have harder content it is brilliant to see that inspired learners continue to thrive."

Some individual students attained extraordinary results. The following students achieved three A Level passes, all at A or A* grades: Amy, James, William, Reon, Oliver, Ryan, Joshua,

James, Aisah, Suzanne, Larissa, Mayurapiriyam, Emily and Adnan. Marcus, Aditya and Vithushan achieved the quite extraordinary feat of three A* passes each.

Our A Level students have gone on to on a wide range of destinations, with up to 40 of our Year 13s progressing to undergraduate courses (including several for medicine and law) at prestigious Russell Group universities. We are equally proud that our strong work in the creative arts continues to enable large groups of students to move on to foundation art courses and directly into world leading institutions such as London College of Fashion.

SUPERB GCSE RESULTS

Greenshaw High School was the location for smiles and happiness on 22nd August when Year 11 students nervously opened their GCSE results envelopes. With three quarters of all qualifications being graded at 4 or better (the old grade C), and nearly a quarter at 7 or higher (what used to be A grade) there were few reasons for nerves.

Mr House, said: "Do not underestimate the pressure of these new GCSE courses. Many subjects have more exams than previously, and in all specifications what is expected of students has risen. I am really proud of all of our students' achievements, and grateful for the support of the staff who are also navigating these new courses. And of course, the families without whom none of this would have been possible."





GREENSHAW IS PROUD TO RECEIVE THE HEALTHY MINDS KITEMARK



Greenshaw High School is proud to announce that its involvement in the Healthy Minds research project has led the school to being awarded the kitemark, only achieved by schools who successfully met all the criteria of the project to a consistently high

standard. This milestone is a major move forward in our mission to deliver the best personal, social and health education available and evidence of our ongoing commitment to the personal development of our students.

Healthy Minds is an evidence-based health and relationships curriculum for Years 7 to 10 that is equipping young people with the life skills they need to thrive in and beyond school. This unique study helps us understand the impact that good quality teaching and learning can have on important outcomes, and how to create a culture of resilience where teachers and students thrive.

Starting as a research project by the London School of Economics and Bounce Forward, Healthy Minds was funded by the Education Endowment Foundation and trialled in 34 schools over five years. Building on learning from the project

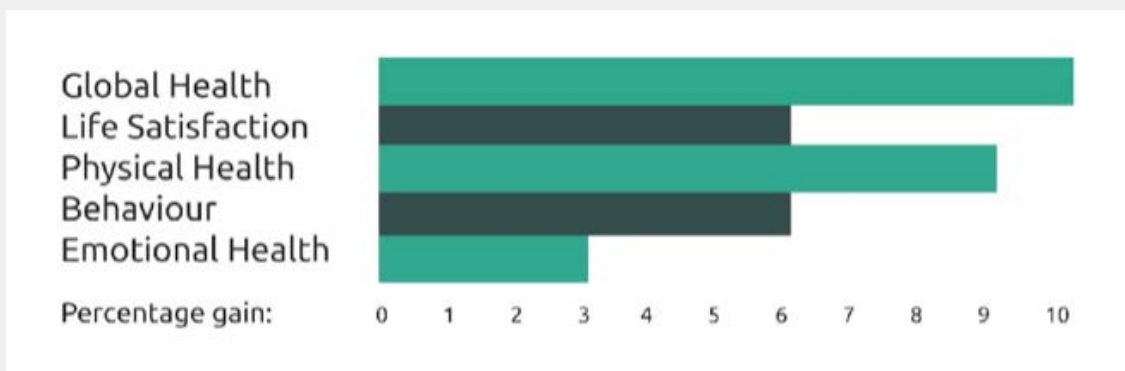
and feedback from teachers and students, the curriculum is now available to all schools.

As Lord Richard Layard, London School of Economics has said: "Young people need to develop healthy minds and schools should make it a top priority. It is the most outstanding wellbeing curriculum in the world".

Headteacher Mr House said: "We are really proud that we committed to the Healthy Minds project several years ago, and have played a key role in its evaluation and planning. As a school we remain committed to being a place with an equal focus on wellbeing and pupil results. The Healthy Minds programme gives us a dedicated space in the curriculum to ensure this aspiration is made a reality."

The curriculum consists of 113 lessons over four years and includes topics such as resilience, mental health, social media, mindfulness, sex education, alcohol and drug awareness, relationships, decision making, media awareness and more. Students across the 34 schools involved in the research project completed questionnaires before and after completing the curriculum, the results can be seen below.

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Healthy Minds Research Project.





WHY WE DO THINGS THE WAY WE DO AS A SCHOOL



Mr House spoke to students across the school about the reasons for some of the things we do in lessons. He explained that the use of mini whiteboards in lessons, and not doing much 'hands up' answering was to ensure that all

students were thinking deeply, rather than relying on students who were confident enough to give out answers aloud. The mini whiteboards also allow staff to see what all students know, especially if they walk around the room and see all students' answers.

Mr House also explained about the 'testing effect', which has shown that long term memory is improved by retrieving information. Bluntly, if we're tested on something repeatedly, we recall it better over time. We retrieve information at the start of every lesson in what we call a 'Do Now', and he explained why this can have a great impact.

Both of these teaching techniques have been shown to positively improve students' learning, and their overall performance. We have been awarded 'Research School' status in recognition of the fact that we try to look at what has worked in other schools around the world and adopt the best practice here at Greenshaw.

YEAR 12 ASSEMBLIES – AUTUMN TERM

16th October
20th November

11th December

KEY DATES – YEAR 12

INSET day (school closed to students)	18th October	Spring half term	17th - 21st February
October half term	21st October to 1st November	Year 12 parents' evening	26th March
Sixth Form open evening	21st November	End of spring term (3.05pm)	3rd April
Winter Wonderland	19th December	Start of summer term	20th April
INSET day	6th January	Summer half term	25th - 29th May
Start of spring term	7th January	End of summer term (12.30pm)	21st July

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Or find us on Facebook [@GreenshawHigh](#)





YEAR 12 CONTACT LIST

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