



## A WORD FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Thank you for your support at what has been a hugely difficult time for all of us. We have needed to change what we are doing as a school on multiple occasions over the last week and a half and I want to say thank you for all of your support. It has been so heartening to hear your appreciation for the work we put together in a limited amount of time. As we are now in the second week of school closure it has also been lovely to hear accounts of how our students, your children, are making the best of the current very difficult situation.

### Learning next term

The work set for the closure of school this term focused on core skills, especially with a focus on maintaining reading and writing. The time we had meant that all of our students have followed a narrower curriculum than they would have experienced in school. From the start of summer term, which will certainly begin at home, we are aiming to have learning in all, or nearly all, of each young person's timetable.

Staff have been working hard preparing resources, and we will continue to upload these onto Frog over the Easter holidays. We will have quizzes that staff will be able to see how well students are doing and videos that will explain content. I'll write in more detail to families in the second week of the holidays, when it's fully completed. In summary, I'm proud of the job we have done for the last fortnight of this term, but we're aiming to give greater curriculum coverage next term.

### Year 11 and 13 results

One of the biggest actions of support you have taken as a parent and carer group is not to contact teachers about the system for GCSE and A Level results. That enabled us as a school to focus on the urgent actions last week. Regardless of government announcements this week, the position remains that the school is unable to discuss the situation, and certainly not individual students' circumstances. In the summer term, the Year 11 and Year 13 year teams will be in contact with students to check that they are okay, and specifically support with any queries about their next destinations.

### Advice for Sutton residents

Sutton Council has put all of its advice and information about the current situation onto one website. These pages include information about local parks, what to do if you feel you have symptoms and other information relating to our local area, ranging from refuse collection to council tax. I found it very informative, so please take a look.

[https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200588/health\\_and\\_wellbeing/2078/covid-19\\_coronavirus/2](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200588/health_and_wellbeing/2078/covid-19_coronavirus/2)

So, as I never tire of saying, I am a parent of two school aged children myself. This fortnight has been unlike anything I've ever experienced, but that has also brought the opportunity for me to spend (a little) time with my children and see their learning. I hope this time hasn't brought too much stress for you as family units and that there have been moments of light. I will write to you in the second week of the holidays about our plans for learning next term, but until then enjoy the extended company of your young people and definitely stay safe. Wishing you all well.

### Mr House, Headteacher

*In addition to all the home learning that has been taking place, our students that have been in school have been kept busy. They have painted rainbow pictures for the local community, made pom pom animals and even created a garden.*





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 7



Year 7, I hope you and your families are safe and well during what is a tough time locally, nationally and globally. It is important that you follow the advice of the Government to ensure that you are staying safe physically. However, it is very important that you also look after yourself mentally and think about the long term. Your mental health during this time is very important, as discussed in your recent assembly, and there are some very simple steps I would like you to ensure you are doing:

1. Ensure that you limit use of social media.
2. Ensure that you safely exercise (in line with Government regulations).
3. Ensure you stick to a daily routine.

Whilst we cannot assist with 1 and 2, the daily routine that we have created will provide stability. During this difficult time away from the day-to-day routine of lessons, it is important to stimulate your brain (academically) and to maintain your education for the long term. The daily tasks which have been provided will consolidate learning and help to ensure that when we return to school, in hopefully the not too distant future, that this transition is as seamless as possible. We will be tracking your daily activity and I would recommend contacting your teacher if you are struggling with any of the work. However, it is vitally important, that during what is an unusual time, that you stay fully engaged in the work that you have been given. Please look after yourselves and your families, work hard, and I will hopefully see you as soon as is possible.

**Mr Higgins, Head of Year 7, and Miss Wilson, Deputy Head of Year 7**

### Year 8



***"It was the best of times ... it was the worst of times."* – Charles Dickens**

I would like to start by firstly saying I sincerely hope you are well and coping under the circumstances. I want to reassure you that we are here to support you in any way we can. I have spoken to you and your children frequently about the importance of community, never has this been so true as it is now. We may be separated physically by distance, but we are with you not only in spirit, but also in the practical ways we can support you.

The Year 8 team has been incredibly proud of how the students have managed with this situation. I emailed you last week to let you know how maturely they dealt with the changes at school and this has continued out of school. The engagement with 'My Daily School Work' on Frog has been excellent and we can see how hard they are working. Whilst the students are not in school it is really important they engage with the work on Frog and IXL to maintain good working practice and keep their minds agile. It has also been heartening to have received a number of emails from yourselves and your children with questions about the work. This is indicative of the community spirit and relationships we have built up in our journey together so far.

**Options:** It seems so long ago now that we met with Mr House and the Year 8 tutors to present the options process to you. I am grateful the timing was right which enabled us to be able to meet. I remember it was a particularly cold and wet night, but it was so uplifting to see so many of you there and a great opportunity to talk to you about your children. We have had many conversations with you about the option process since that night, and again, I would like to commend the students on how seriously they approached the research before choosing subjects, talking to teachers, the year team and Mrs Sone, our careers adviser. I know from your feedback that a lot of conversations have also taken place at home with yourselves, relatives and friends. The process will now be handled by our brilliant office team who are working hard and communicating remotely to keep the process on track as much as possible.

And finally... to end I will start with my beginning and the quote from Charles Dickens. While we are in these current difficult times I take heart from the immense effort made by all with regard maintaining our commitment to each other. As parents you have, and will continue to, play a huge role in this, and I would like to thank you for your efforts and communication under challenging circumstances at home and in the wider community. I would also like to thank the efforts of all at Greenshaw who made the process of home learning possible so expediently. Last but not least, I would like to mention the students who have much to be proud of.

On behalf of the Year 8 team I would like to wish you, your family and friends, a peaceful and safe Easter break, and look forward to the time when I will be writing this in more familiar circumstances and happier times for us all.

**Ms Radwan, Head of Year 8, and Mr Richards, Deputy Head of Year**





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 9



This newsletter finds us all in much changed circumstances. It is important to recognise that for many of us this next period of time and beyond will hold many unforeseen challenges to our lives, but also that we are a community, and as a school we want to play our part in supporting our Greenshaw families. We will be keeping in touch over this coming period and hope to build even stronger relationships with you.

In every newsletter we celebrate the achievements of our year group, and this one is no different. I am particularly proud of the seven Year 9 students who successfully made it through to the Grey Kangaroo round of the UKMT maths challenge (*see page 9*). It would be easy to say that it is due to their mathematical talents alone, but the truth is that for years these students have applied themselves in all their maths lessons and challenged themselves to truly understand the concepts they were taught. Behind every success there is many hours of unseen hard work.

This next period of time is now the challenge that life has laid before us. I urge Year 9 students to keep their focus on the end goals. There is so much potential in this year group that with our combined determination I know we can achieve great things. Check Frog daily for updates on your work and reach out to your tutors if you have any questions. Hard work and perseverance will be rewarded when you reach your GCSE exams. I leave you with a quote from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the *Sherlock Holmes* book Year 9 have been reading: **"My mind rebels at stagnation, give me problems, give me work!"**

**Mrs Blackham, Head of Year 9, and Miss Thompson, Deputy Head of Year 9**

### Year 10



Firstly, Ms Angell and I would like to offer each student and their families our best wishes, hoping you're all well and keeping safe during these uncertain times. We would like to thank and congratulate all of the Year 10 students for remaining so positive and well behaved, not only in their conduct around school but also towards their studies in the run up to the closure of the school. All those students in school showed great maturity in times of worry and all presented as fantastic role models to the younger students.



Shortly before the school closure, we were delighted that the Year 10 boys' football team reached the cup final for the Sutton Cup – due to be playing on Friday 27th March. Sadly, due to the unfortunate circumstances we all currently find ourselves in, the match has been postponed. The boys' teamwork shone through during each of their games with some real nail-biting moments, especially in the quarter and semi-final. There were spectacular goals throughout the competition; however the semi-final goals were notably the best with Charlie, Georgie and Sarasan all getting their names on the score sheet. The boys kept their heads and held onto their win right to the end, despite the opposition securing a last minute goal to pull the score back to 3-2. When the final whistle blew, the elation from the boys and both Mr Higgins and Miss Angell on the side-line was truly amazing.

The boys were delighted when they received Krispy Kreme doughnuts as a small token for their hard work from Mr Higgins and happily posed for the photo (*above*), some still scoffing their doughnuts! We were incredibly proud of the boys for their all their efforts in this competition and have every faith that when the cup final will be played, they will continue their success.

In very difficult times nationally and globally, we are also very encouraged by the level of engagement with the home-learning schedule that the youngsters have been following over the past week since the school closure. I am sure that it definitely provides a challenge for your families as many of you balance working from home as well as going out to work to provide keyworker support for the country. We are also aware that it is not easy trying to ensure that, in many cases, multiple children in the house are completing work to the schedule from the school and to the level of completion that ensures they are maintaining their learning whilst they are not in school. I am grateful for the support and guidance that you are giving our students during these difficult times and we look forward to seeing the students and their families very soon and the country back to normal circumstances.

**Mr Clarke, Head of Year 10, and Miss Angell, Deputy Head of Year 10**





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 11



Where to start. It's been a very surreal few weeks, particularly for our Year 11 students. In the time when our Year 11 students were expecting to be using the days that were left to frantically cram in last minute revision in preparation for their summer exams, students have seen schools closed and exams cancelled.

We worked hard to ensure the school doors remained open for all five days of our final week for Year 11 students and used Friday as an opportunity to run a low key celebration event for the year group. Students were given the choice of playing sport, signing t-shirts of friends, or chatting through school memories with the large number of teachers who made the effort to come over and spend time with students. Following this, students made their way to the gymnasium where myself and Mr House said a few words.

Not knowing when I would see students next, or under what circumstances, I decided to focus upon discussing the need to care for oneself and others during the period ahead to ensure a healthy mind, body and soul, using the following principles from the International Self-Care Foundation as a guide:

- 1. Health literacy:** Health literacy is about understanding information and using it to make informed decisions about your health. The ability to understand and implement health information, such as knowing to get seven to eight hours of sleep a night on a balanced schedule, eating breakfast and drinking lots of water is an important part of self-care.
- 2. Physical activity:** Regular exercise, especially outdoors, improves health, fitness, mood and sleep. There are many benefits that come with exercise for both mental and physical well-being. For example, leaving the home for your one form of exercise a day, whether that be a run, walk, or cycle – alone or with members of your household.
- 3. Healthy eating:** Generally, a healthy diet reduces the risk of diet-related diseases which is a major aspect of self-care. Therefore, self-care through healthy eating can have preventative benefits and whilst there will undoubtedly be challenges over the coming months, this is not something that should be ignored.
- 4. Risk avoidance:** Part of caring for ourselves and others includes avoiding or reducing any risky behaviours that will directly increase the risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, along with putting unnecessary additional pressure on our emergency services. Therefore, respecting the government guidance on staying at home and away from others is vital.
- 5. Good hygiene:** Good hygiene helps maintain health and prevent the spread of diseases through simple steps such as hand washing, brushing teeth, flossing teeth and showering.
- 6. Acts of kindness:** This is a period where we are going to need to stick together and support one another. Going out of your way to help a family member, friend, neighbour or complete stranger can make a big difference. For example, collecting shopping or medication for others who can't or shouldn't do so, checking in on those at risk of loneliness, etc.
- 7. Learning:** Learning isn't just about remembering facts to pass exams, in fact learning is a lifelong process that never stops. Packs of work have been provided and the school will continue to pay for the use of online learning platforms for students and further details will undoubtedly follow about how to effectively revise for any student who decides to sit an exam early in the next academic year, should they be unhappy with their calculated grade. However, as well as continuing to prepare for post-16 destinations, the coming weeks and months also offer the flexibility to learn about things outside of the confinements of exam specifications, whether that be through reading a book, using an app to learn a new language, teaching oneself how to sew, etc. If this time is used wisely there are endless opportunities for students to develop skills they had always wanted to try but never had the time to do.

Finally, we talked about how this was, hopefully, a once in a lifetime occurrence, and this was their opportunity to make us proud of the generation whom showed remarkable resilience to get through a troubled time. Having listened to what was said, students made their way to the astro-turf for a group photo from the sky, as they made the number 2020 on the ground, a year that will never be forgotten.

I made a point of not saying goodbye, in part due to the fact that I have feared saying such words for many months, as I know how hard and upsetting I will find this having worked with your children for so many years. However, the main reason for not saying farewell just yet is that I don't believe this will be our final hurrah. Where possible, I want to commit to a further, more formal event, when safe to do so, where all can attend, including those unable to come into school on Friday. This is what I believe the year group deserves.

We will continue to be in touch with further updates about how we can work together to support your child, as well as of course keeping you updated on any education-related COVID-19 developments.

*Mr Johnson – Head of Year 11, Mr Feenan – Year 11 Progress and Mr Parker – Deputy Head of Year 11*





## AN UPDATE FROM OUR YEAR TEAMS...

### Year 12



I hope this finds you all safe and well. In these uncertain and testing times it is important for us to find familiarity and a sense of normal, albeit a new normal. For this reason, subject teachers and the sixth form team are working to ensure that students are able to maintain a routine around their studies wherever this is possible.

All Year 12 students have been provided with a daily study routine which I hope they are finding helpful and sticking to. The expectation is for the same number of hours to be spent each week on a subject as students would do when attending school. This is at least seven hours in addition to lessons, per subject per cycle.

This is a really important academic year and despite the current uncertainties, students must keep going with their studies to offer them the strongest opportunity of success when we return. All departments placed work on Frog for students to access before school closed last week and it has been great to have some students email in their completed tasks. All students should keep a record of the work they are completing.

In due course, we will write to inform you about subject content which will be covered and the structure for this, following the Easter break. In the meantime, students must log onto Frog daily to complete tasks set by their subject teachers. This is an opportunity for students to practice and develop their independent learning skills as well as an opportunity to discover wider reading and MOOCs, all of which can be used on CVs and personal statements in the future.

Although school is closed, staff remain available to support you whether with an academic question or a pastoral issue so please do get in touch, should you need us and continue to work hard in your subjects every day.

***Mrs Ayres, Acting Head of Sixth Form***

### Year 13

With the end of the academic year always comes a flurry of mixed emotions; a sense of real pride and accomplishment, excitement and hope for what the future will bring our young people, tinged with little sadness in the know that we have reached the end, for many, of a seven-year relationship. It is hard to not acknowledge that this year is different for both students and teachers alike. The role we are passionate about playing in our students lives, to nurture and to educate until results day when we are able to share in their final successes at Greenshaw has been cut short and sadly so has the opportunity for our students to achieve that sense of accomplishment through the exams they have been working hard towards, since Year 12. In accepting that the current circumstances remain out of our control, do not lose hope for your futures or a sense of accomplishment in getting there.

You have built amazing relationships with staff and fellow students during your time at Greenshaw. You have volunteered your time, supported one another and your efforts have helped shape Greenshaw for future generations. You chose three, maybe four, A Level subjects to specialise in and learned about these, enriching yourself and widening your knowledge and skills which you will carry with you throughout life. You will go on to use this knowledge and the experiences that have come with it to fulfil your aspirations, and however large or small, making a change to our world for the better. Cast your net wide. Be courageous about meeting people, about having a go at something you haven't done before. I wish you all the very best in doing this and I look forward to hearing all about your many adventures in the coming months. Please do not be a stranger. Come back to say hello when you can or drop us an email. It is always wonderful to hear from our students.

To our parents, Thank you for the support that you have given to Greenshaw Sixth Form teachers, tutors and the sixth form team over the years. We are incredibly grateful for this.

And so, it is with a very heavy heart that I write to say a fond farewell and wish you all the very best you deserve in your futures. It has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to share in your experiences at Greenshaw.

***Mrs Ayres, Acting Head of Sixth Form***





## THE FUN FRIDAY CHALLENGE



This is a difficult time for all of us, including our youngsters. To create a sense of escape, as well as community, students in all schools in the GLT are being invited to take part in a variety of challenges.

These may be written, mathematical, artistic, physical or something else. We will text students to make them aware, publicise it on our social media channels, the school website and students' Frog pages. These challenges will last for seven days, with as many examples of student submissions being shared online as possible.

We are delighted to be launching a weekly competition across all the Greenshaw Learning Trust schools, and we're calling it the Fun Friday Challenge!

### What is it?

It's a competition across the Greenshaw Learning Trust.

### Why?

We're convinced it's crucially important to keep connected to our wider school community while we're all at home and support in keeping the mind stimulated beyond the confinements of the curriculum.

### Who?

Anyone in Years 7 to 11. Teachers are also welcome to contribute!

### When?

Every week, you will receive either a letter/email/text from us to alert you to a selection of some of the wonderful submissions we've received from the previous week's challenge, and to launch the next. A new challenge will go live at 12 noon every Friday lunch time.

### How?

From the new challenge being set at 12.00pm on a Friday, you will have until the following Thursday at 10.00am to submit your best attempt.

You need to send your entry to [funfridaychallenge@greenshaw.co.uk](mailto:funfridaychallenge@greenshaw.co.uk)

Each Friday we will share a selection of our favourite responses for that week from the thousands of students and staff across the trust, before then setting the challenge for the following week.

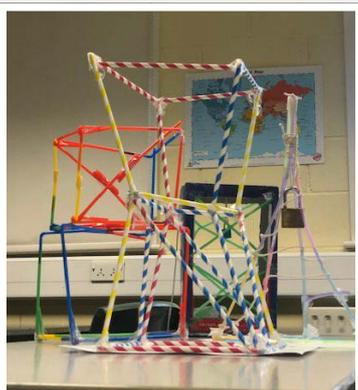
### Do you have what it takes?

You can download each week's challenge here: <https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/news-events/news/latest-news/the-fun-friday-challenge>

*Mr Johnson's contribution to the first Fun Friday Challenge can be seen top right!*



## GEOGRAPHY CLUB



Students in the geography club have been constructing earthquake-resistant buildings. They compared buildings in richer countries to poorer countries, and learned how difficult it is to construct a building when you do not have enough resources and your workers keep falling ill.

There are about ten regular members of the club, with the majority of students from Years 7 and 8. We alternate between physical and human geography – some days involve creative tasks and others are focused on writing/discussing larger world problems.

*Miss Hall, Geography Teacher*





## SUMMER 2020 GCSE AND A LEVEL EXAMS

I am acutely aware that the uncertainty surrounding the current grading of qualifications is still very unsettling. Indeed, many of you have contacted us for further information and guidance as to how your child will be awarded their GCSE/A Level grades now that it has been confirmed that the summer exam season for Year 11 and Year 13 students has been cancelled.

The Department for Education (DfE) are currently working with Ofqual (the independent qualifications regulator) to ensure that students are awarded a fair grade, one which does not disadvantage any particular group of students. As the situation stands currently, we do not have specific information on how grades will be awarded nor what instructions will be provided to schools for this to happen. This information is currently being worked through at government level and we will of course communicate this with you as and when it becomes available.

I understand the huge impact all of this has had on these two year groups and that you will have vast concerns and anxieties about what this means for a range of applications for colleges,

sixth forms, universities and apprenticeship. However, I would ask that you please do not make contact with teachers or heads of subject departments asking for further information or guidance on this, or to make the case for a particular grade for your child. Instead, please be assured that teachers and heads of departments will act with utter professionalism and will follow the guidelines for submitting grades as will be instructed by the DfE.

To clarify the position, we are expecting the DfE to release specific guidance to schools soon, so that we can support all of our young people in accessing the vital next stages of their education.

It is important at this time that schools are able to focus on ensuring students are safe and have support with, and access to, the online resources we are preparing. I absolutely appreciate the frustration, but we do not have any information other than what is provided in the link above. We will ensure that any updates provided by the DfE are communicated to you as soon as we receive them.

*Mr House, Headteacher*

## INTERNET SAFETY

Many children will be at home for long periods due to the Coronavirus outbreak. It is inevitable that they will be spending more time online. It is important that we keep our children safe when they are using the internet/social media and gaming.

We can only be successful in keeping children safe online if we work with you to ensure the e-safety message is consistent. Your help is needed to talk to your children about how they can keep safe and behave appropriately online. Recently we have had a number of parents express concerns about children's behaviour online. Children can accidentally or deliberately be exposed to unwanted or unpleasant content or comments online and there are steps you can take at home to minimise this risk.

All the popular social media platforms (Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Tic Toc etc.) have an age restriction of 13, and WhatsApp has an age restriction of 16. Therefore, no primary school student should have a social media profile. There are good reasons for this age restriction to be in place. For example, inappropriate content, lack of maturity to use the site safely, exposing them to harmful content, risk of being contacted by

sexual predators, creating an online profile which will be hard to remove in the future, placing added pressure on the child to deal with situations beyond their years. The list goes on, but as parents you need to be aware of the safety implications by allowing your child access to social media at such a young age. If you do allow your child to have a social media account, make sure you set the privacy settings to private and check your child's account on a regular basis.

The Communication Act 2003 makes it an offence to send anything on the internet that is offensive, indecent, threatening or false and the reason for sending it is to cause the other person annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety. Remember the age of criminal responsibility in England is 10 years old. We would not want any of our children to get on the wrong side of the law, so we have to ensure they are using the Internet in a responsible and appropriate way.

What can parents/carers do? Follow the **Golden Rules**, which can be found on the school website here: <https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/news-events/news/latest-news/a-reminder-about-internet-safety>





## AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

**World Autism Awareness Week 2020: 30th March to 5th April**

I work within the inclusion team as 'Autism support and intervention worker'. I support students with Autism Spectrum conditions within the school, ensuring that the best quality of support is provided for students and parents.

I recently contacted Chris Packham through his agent to see whether he would kindly write a quote for our school, to inspire our students (in particular those on the ASD spectrum) and to help raise awareness. Chris is also an ambassador of the charity NAS (National Autistic Society). With the help of his very friendly PA (Cate) and Chris himself, we were very fortunate to have a personalised quote and photo for the students of Greenshaw

***"Life can be difficult, especially when you are a bit different. And especially when you are young. But you can make things better and easier by concentrating on what you can do, rather than what you can't. And there is a lot you can do, things that many people can't, because being different means you have abilities they can't even dream of. Use your powers to be super!"***



To the students of Greenshaw School – from Chris Packham

I really hope that this quote inspires our students and gives them hope and determination to be the best that they can be! I want them to believe in themselves as much as we believe in them.

*Mrs Mitchell, Autism Support and Intervention*



## KS3 ASPIRE TO HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Fifteen of Greenshaw students recently visited Roehampton University to inspire them to think about university as an option in the future.

It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to visit a highly renowned university which is very close to home. The university has run these visits for some years and the impact on students is considerable:

- 87% of students said attending the KS3 conferences last year had encouraged them to think about their future and how to get there.
- 82% of students who attended last year's conferences said after attending it made it more likely they will go to university.

Going to university can mean there are many opportunities for young learners to thrive, study a course they are passionate about and improve their job and salary prospects. This Aim Higher conference aims to give young people the chance to

start thinking about planning their future and the progression pathways to get there, in order to support making an informed decision when selecting their GCSE options. The aims are:

- To give learners a clear idea of the pathways that can lead to higher level study.
- To offer a taste of subjects in higher education and how they relate to GCSE options.
- To have the chance to talk with current undergraduates about student life.

The students attended workshops lead by expert university facilitators, were given campus tours and were able to explore the interactive fair with a selection of subject related activities. Their interaction with the various companies present on the day was impressive and they were also able to speak to current university students and those who had just graduated, whilst collecting informative and useful gifts.

*Ms Radwan, Head of Year 8*





## YEAR 11 PRACTICAL FOOD EXAM



Just before the school was closed, our Year 11 Food and Nutrition students had fortunately been carrying out their practical exams. Their final pieces can be found on the link below. The brief was 'Valentine's Day' and students worked tirelessly to create three dishes in just three hours. Whilst looking at the photos, it is worth noting that everything has been made from scratch. Bread, pasta, pastry, crackers etc are all made by hand. Any sauces such as bbq, ketchup, chutney or mayonnaise have been made by students. Where students have made cheesecakes and tiramisu, they have made biscuits for the base and sponge for layers. Some students even churned their own butter and clarified homemade butter to make sauces.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1ptPzllvurVKbhPue0K5gqzueo1choVsM>

## UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

76 Greenshaw students entered the UKMT Maths Challenge this year. 19 of these entrants achieved a bronze certificate, 11 silver and 6 gold. That means that just over 47% of our entrants receive a certificate, a noteworthy achievement as only the top 40% of participants are awarded bronze, silver and gold in the ratio 3:2:1.

There were a further nine of our students advancing through to the next stage of the competition, our biggest number of qualifiers to date. Congratulations to the following Year 9 students: Aburvan (best in Year and school), Csongor, Gracie, Hariharan, James, Jathurshan and Rebecca.

We look forward to the results of the Grey Kangaroo round!



## NATIONAL WRITING COMPETITION



The Henrietta Branford Writing Competition, the annual competition for young people which runs in conjunction with the Branford Boase Award, is now open.

One of the most prestigious of UK children's book prizes, the Branford Boase Award recognises a debut children's author and their editor and was set up in memory of the children's writer Henrietta Branford and the her editor, Wendy Boase, Editorial Director of Walker Books. They both died of cancer in 1999.

The competition aims to find and encourage writers of the future. The 2020 competition is open to anyone under the age of 19. Entrants are invited to finish this story begun by last year's winner, author of *I Am Thunder* and 2020 World Book Day author Muhammad Khan, who was a teacher from Greenshaw High School.

If you want to find out more, please see the competition website: <https://branfordboaseaward.org.uk/2020-competition-details/>

## GOOD THINKING: MENTAL HEALTH APP



Greenshaw High School is proud to be working closely with the NHS leading a cluster of Sutton primary and secondary schools focused on mental health and wellbeing.

We all have mental health, and looking after it is a choice we can make. That's true for all of us – our students, our staff, our families and young people that have long since left our school.

The NHS has introduced us to this app (details are in the video – the link for which is below) and we wanted to share it as widely as possible. Please watch the video, consider downloading the

app and definitely forward/share/re-Tweet. #lookafterourselves

The video can be played here: <https://youtu.be/jyVRPNygTUg>





## A VISIT TO OXFORD

A group of our highest achieving Year 11 students visited Oxford University last week to gain a taste of what the UK's top universities can offer students.

They were given an interesting tour of Queen's College, met some current students studying at the college, had a tutorial and then enjoyed a tour of the college and city.

## GREENSHAW HOSTS UNITE VISIT



On Monday 9th March, the Year 12 politics class hosted Vic Paulino from 'Unite the Union' and 'Unite Community' to talk to them about the function of trade unions in democracies. Vic talked about the origins of unions, the employment laws that they seek to uphold and the rights they seek to protect.

Students were interested to learn about the changes made to the world of work through the actions of unions: their role, for, example in promoting sick pay and holiday pay, maternity rights and health and safety. There was some robust discussion around the union campaign to lower the voting age to 16, which was not very well supported by the politics group, but this seemed to prove the case that, if anything, our Year 12 students are better informed than many who do have the vote.

They also looked at some recent high profile union campaigns such as in improving working conditions in warehouse businesses and in the 'gig economy'. Students were particularly interested to find out how to protect their rights and pay in part-time work with zero hour contracts. There was a full range of opinion about the relative merits of joining a union, and the place of trade unionism in a free market economy. The group was grateful to Vic for his time.

*Mr Ferguson, Politics Teacher*

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS ASSEMBLIES

The Year 10 PSHE ambassadors recently spent some time working with IKWRO, a women's rights organisation on healthy and unhealthy relationships, and their work was shared during an assembly. We are educating students on this topic because we are responding to local needs in our community. Tackling domestic abuse in all its forms is an urgent priority to ensure Sutton is a safer place for everyone.

The assembly presented the foundations of a healthy relationship; good communication, trust/ honesty, respect, being treated equally etc. and what makes an unhealthy relationship; checking your boyfriend or girlfriend's phone, telling your boyfriend/girlfriend what to wear, being pressured into sending nudes or having sex, using physical violence when angry or annoyed etc. During the assembly, the students explored two particular aspects of domestic abuse; honour based violence and child marriage. It also highlighted that in January the ambassadors visited Parliament to hear how gender based violence can ruin lives. They heard how one young girl's life was cut short through an honour killing and how her sister's future was taken from her due to child marriage. They heard how reputation and family standing can be put before happiness. Our ambassadors believe children should be allowed to be children – to play, to aspire and achieve their dreams – not to be someone's wife. The assembly signposted students to agencies that support gender based violence and we encouraged students to ask for help if they need support.



The ambassadors have continued their work campaigning against child marriage by writing to their local MPs and supporting the petition #ONLYAGIRL. This petition is to support a change in the UK law to raise the minimum age of marriage to ten and criminalise the act of child marriage. If you would like to sign the petition, please use this link: <https://www.freedomunited.org/advocate/safeguard-futures/>





# GREENSHAW NEWS

## KEY DATES

End of spring term	3rd April	Summer half term	25th - 29th May
Start of summer term	20th April	End of summer term	21st July
Bank Holiday (VE Day)	8th May		

## STAFF CONTACTS

You can contact members of staff at Greenshaw High School via the school office at [info@greenshaw.co.uk](mailto:info@greenshaw.co.uk).  
 There is also a comprehensive list of staff email addresses on the our website here:  
<https://www.greenshaw.co.uk/page/?title=Staff+contacts&pid=106>

## 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.

**If you or anyone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, help is available.**

**You are not alone.**

**NotAloneInSutton.org.uk**

Call free **0808 168 9291**\*

\*Victim Support  
(Mon - Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm)

**THE SUTTON PLAN**





## USEFUL INFORMATION

 Are you OK Greenshaw?



Do things feel like they're getting a bit much?  
Search 'Kooth'

Talking to a mental health expert anonymously online can help. Support is a click away. 

 Are you OK Greenshaw?

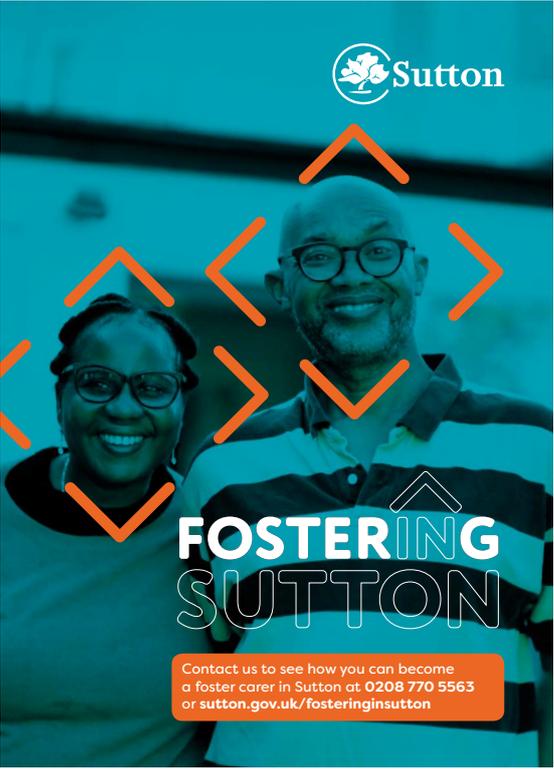


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[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS KOOTH](#)





**FOSTERING SUTTON**

Contact us to see how you can become a foster carer in Sutton at 0208 770 5563 or [sutton.gov.uk/fosteringinsutton](http://sutton.gov.uk/fosteringinsutton)

What should I do to prevent catching and spreading the virus?



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or use a sanitiser gel



Catch coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues



Throw away used tissues (then wash hands)



If you don't have a tissue use your sleeve



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid close contact with people who are unwell

