

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

### A Message from the Principal



At the end of what feels like a very busy half term, I continue to be very proud of our school community. Through my weekly letters, I hope you have got a flavour of the rhythm of the school, the many activities our students are engaged in, and the fantastic work they have produced. The highlight of my working day is always to walk around the school and visit students in their classrooms, learning.

I have spent much of the last term showing prospective Year 7 parents around the school. Each of them was very positive about our school and our community, and I am sure many will join us next academic year. On the tour, I often talked about the school's unique features: our caring community, our high levels of communication, and the fact we put our students at the centre of everything we do. I also shared on the tour that as educators, we have a responsibility, not just to teach English, Maths, Science, but also prepare our students for life in the real world and make sure they make the right choices if ever they are faced with difficult circumstances. So, when I read this newsletter, I am reassured to see our school leading the way in developing and educating our students to be active, responsible, and empathetic future citizens, with the skills to make the right choices in the future.

I hope that you all have a fantastic half term break, and we look forward to seeing all of our students in school at 8:30 am on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.

**Thomas Sparks, Principal**

### A Message from the Executive Principal



It is such a pleasure to be able to update you on the Trust in some form of normality. The past 18 months have been extraordinary for us all. I am incredibly proud of how both schools and all of their staff rose to the challenge of remote teaching, with everything that that entailed. We have always been blessed with phenomenally committed and professional staff, and I'm nothing but grateful that that continues to be the case. I'm equally proud of every one of our students, who also had to adapt to remote learning, plus a far more isolating experience, away from their friends. Their resilience is to their credit. Whilst the national press has led on much rhetoric about "the lost generation" of students as a result of Covid, we have deliberately taken a very different approach, focusing instead on the many skills and attributes that our young people have developed. Things like resilience, adaptability, determination, creativity, and empathy for others. These are skills and qualities that will stand them in good stead for the rest of their lives, and I would far rather see the Trust focus our young people on this.

In terms of the Trust's priorities for this academic Year, getting back to as normal operation as we can is my key priority. Notwithstanding my comments above, we are very conscious that times have been demanding, and as such, we have directed additional money and staffing to supporting emotional and mental health across the Trust.

In addition, we have a sharp eye on preparing our exam Year groups for exams in 2022, using the information being provided by exam boards. The current intention is that students will sit public exams in the usual way, albeit with some modifications to exam content and requirements. However, should Covid again make this impossible, the Government has a shadow plan to run a slightly refined version of the 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades system. It is the hope of all of us that this doesn't prove necessary.

On a general note, the national picture is that one of the key impacts of the pandemic has been a marked drop in student reading ages. Both schools are also seeing this. Significant time and money is being put into supporting literacy/reading age catch-up across Years 7 - 13. The key thing that you can do at home is to ensure that your children read every day, for at least 30 minutes. All of the evidence shows that daily reading significantly increases student literacy and comprehension. Given that the average reading age of a GCSE paper content is 16 Years old, if your child is operating at a lower reading age, they will struggle to understand the questions being asked of them in the exam papers. Both schools are working tirelessly on this, but you can also make a significant difference by having your child read every day. If you are struggling with ideas for books, contact either Principal and they will be able to help you. I really can't over state how important this is.

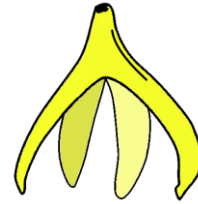
In terms of the Trust's expansion, this has been on pause throughout the pandemic. As I write, I am hopeful that I may soon be able to tell you about a nursery provider joining the Trust, on the Goffs-Churchgate site. In addition to offering the highest quality of nursery provision to our staff and the Cheshunt area, the company concerned are keen to partner with us in a very active way, offering work experience, plus opportunities for students to directly link relevant curriculum work to the nursery children. For example, if writing a storybook for very young children, our students could go into the nursery and work with the children there. I will update you on that as soon as I can, should it come to fruition. In addition, many of you will have seen the new building going up on the Goffs site. This has been a major challenge to effect throughout a pandemic, but we are almost there. The Goffs building is very much in need of additional space, and this building will offer 8 additional classrooms, plus a professionally run gym, offering Years 7 - 11 professional equipment during PE lessons, and staff and the Sixth Form discounted gym membership. It is our hope that the classrooms will be in use from 1st January 2022, with the gym aspect following around Easter 2022 - Covid permitting.

So, it's a busy time. I look forward to keeping you updated as the Year progresses. In the interim, I wish you all a very happy half-term break.

**Alison Garner, Executive Principal**

## Relationships and Sex Education

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September, we welcomed the School of Sexuality Education back into school to deliver the statutory element of our Relationships and Sex Education curriculum.



**School of  
Sexuality  
Education**

It is always a really interesting day, as it allows students to ask questions and reflect on their values and ethics outside of the usual curriculum areas.

Our students took part in a range of workshops and activities, and feedback from the day was very positive. Students also took part in workshops that helped them to understand the law regarding consent and sharing images online. All sessions were specifically chosen to be age-appropriate and to deliver an important message to students in an interactive environment with trained specialists.

**"The sessions were helpful as they gave us the opportunity to ask questions."**

**"We learnt information that we haven't learnt in any other subject."**

As part of this day, we also welcomed Herts Young Homeless, who delivered their **Solve it – Resolve it** course on conflict resolution to students in Year 9.



Across our students in Year 9, 99% of students rated the session as helpful, with 97% of students feeling that they could now recognise how their behaviour may influence an argument.

As part of our continued work on Relationships and Sex Education, students in Year 8 and 9 have timetabled lessons on Respectful Relationships

## Paul Hannaford – Drug Awareness

At the end of September, we were delighted to welcome back to the school Paul Hannaford to talk to students in Years 7 and 8 about the dangers of addiction, drugs and alcohol, as well as his involvement in gangs, knife crime and county lines. Through his own experiences as a former addict of over 20 Years, Paul conveys an incredibly powerful and hard-hitting message. He gave all students the chance to reflect on the people they want to be in the future and the importance of making the right choices.

**Suzanna Renew**  
**Associate Assistant Principal**



## The House System

At the end of the last academic year, we changed our House names to reflect the diversity within our school community amongst all stakeholders, and ensure that the House names were relevant to our students. **House Attenborough, House Rashford, House Seacole, and House Trott now** make up our four fantastic Houses, and every member of our school community belongs to one.

During September 2021, we gave all students the opportunity to choose the new House identity, from its colour, logo, slogan, and House Charity. After a fantastic response from all members of the community, our new House identities are beginning to take shape.

### **House Attenborough**

Colour: **Green**

Charity: World Land Trust

### **House Rashford**

Colour: **Red**

Charity: Fare Share

### **House Seacole**

Colour: **Blue**

Charity: Great Ormand Street Hospital

### **House Trott**

Colour: **Yellow**

Charity: Sport in Mind

**Each House will organise one event involving the whole school to raise money for their chosen House Charity throughout the school year.**

## **House Competitions**

The first House Competition to take place was a teaching and learning escape room for staff. This took place on the staff INSET with staffing solving an escape room in the pursuit of developing exemplary lessons for our students **House Seacole** were the first winners.



Across September 2021, we ran a House Identity Competition for students to develop the House logos and slogans. The winners were:

### **House Attenborough**

1<sup>st</sup> Sienna Sandhu and Patryk Herman - Logo design

1<sup>st</sup> Chloe Finnigan-Tebby – Slogan - Nurturing the World for Future Generations

### **Rashford**

1<sup>st</sup> Ellie Halesworth – Logo Design

1<sup>st</sup> Ellison Healey/Sadie Tarplett - Slogan- Aspiring to Help Others

### **House Seacole**

1<sup>st</sup> Rocco Drenzo and Ray Smart – Logo Design

1<sup>st</sup> Finley McDowell - Slogan – Healing the World by Respecting Others

### **House Trott**

1<sup>st</sup> Cheyenne Winter – Logo Design

1<sup>st</sup> Aimee-Leigh Fortune – Slogan- Daring to Dream, Aiming to Achieve

The winning logos and slogans are with the designers and after half term the final designs will be unveiled.

The current House Competition is to design a T-shirt to represent the **European Day of Languages**. Winners will be announced in the next Half Term. Every student who enters will receive reward points.

**Up-coming competitions:**

- Anti-Bullying Week activities
- Children in Need
- Christmas Tree Competition
- Through Your Eyes Art Competition



**House Captains**

Our students are amazing. They have highlighted this no more so than when we asked them to apply to be Student Leaders. Over 60 students completed an application form. We had some outstanding applications that showed how committed our students are to being a member of our community and making it the best it can be.

This week we have been voting for our four House captains and building our House teams.

**Attenborough**

**House Captain**

Galia Boateng

**Deputy House Captains**

Alessia Giugliano

Ashton King

Hisham Akram

Chloe Finnigan-Tebby

Sharn'tae Linton-Lewin

Angel Lavington

Scarlett Barmes

**Rashford**

**House Captain**

Tia Dike-Stephens

and Tarell O'Brien-Williamson

**Deputy House Captains**

Lenny Godden

Liya Cakmakyurdu

Brooke Sutherland

Ellie Bennett

Nathan Boateng

Kristina Jethwa

Shav Bailey-Findley

Nico Direnzo

Rocco Direnzo

**Seacole**

**House Captain**

Metin Ekinci

**Deputy House Captains**

Vafin Dukyly

Maisie-Sue Clark-Mears

Beau Bowden

Scarlett O'Sullivan

Metin Ekinci

La'Trice Peart

Mark King

Maddie Mills

Shanai Brade

**Trott**

**House Captain**

Daniella Ako-Nai

**Deputy House Captains**

Ollie Smithies

Ayla Cargill

Molly Campbell

Dylan Noronaha

Aimee-Leigh Fortune

Euthalia Marcos

Eloise Cobain

Brandon Loader

The House teams will be sending out regular communications to all stakeholders, so please look out for information from them in future Newsletters.

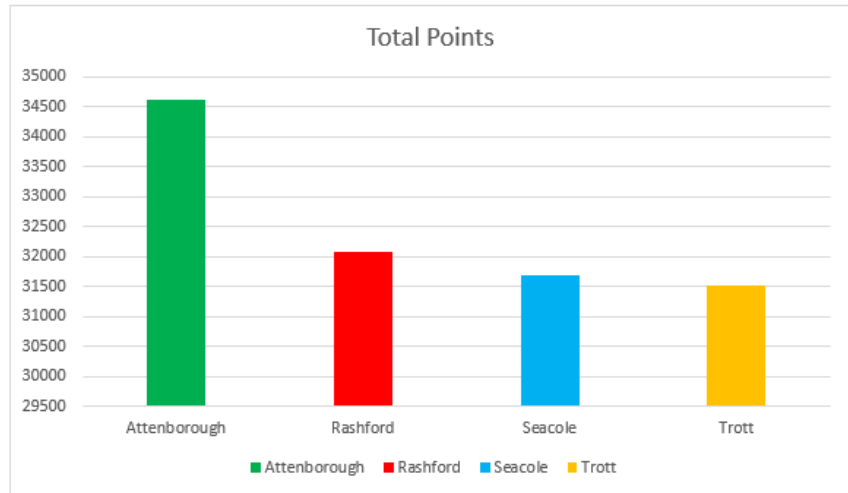
## House Pledges

This year we have launched our new House Pledges. Our Pledges initiative encourages our students to value extra-curricular involvement within and outside of the Academy. By meeting the Pledges, ranging from attending enrichment activities to organising fundraising events, students gain confidence and valuable life experiences that will help prepare them for life beyond our Academy.

	Participation	Leadership	Excellence	Diversity	Giving	Environment	Service
<b>Bronze: Pledge to the school</b>	1 Attend an after-school club for half a term.	2 Produce a piece of work which is read out / performed in an assembly.	3 Receive an academic, sporting, or other award from school.	4 Take part in one event during Anti-bullying week.	5 Donate money towards a charity event in school.	6 Volunteer and complete clearing duties in the school canteen for 5 break/lunch times.	7 Be a tour guide for parents or visitors to the school, either during school times and/or after school events.
	8 Go on a school trip.	9 Apply for a school leadership role.	10 Represent the school in a sporting or drama event.	11 Visit a culturally significant place and write a report about the culture.	12 Take part in an event, which raises awareness of a charity or community project.	13 Complete 5 litter picks during your free time for a whole week.	14 Play a role in supporting an after-school activity through providing a service to staff/parents / community.
	15 Read 3 non-fiction books outside of school time and write a book review of them.	16 Take part in a school assembly.	17 Win a House competition.	18 Take part in a House competition.	19 Donate old school uniform / PE Kit, books toys or games for the benefit of the school community.	20 Create a poster about a STEM career.	21 Take part in a service activity outside school such as scouts, police cadets, army cadets for at least 6 sessions.
<b>Silver: Pledge to my future</b>	22 Have 100% attendance for one term.	23 Plan a school event or activity.	24 Win a Director of Learning or SLT certificate.	25 Contribute your ideas to the student voice about improving the school community.	26 Organise an event to raise money towards a House Charity.	27 Design an Eco Champion mascot	28 Receive 0 behaviour points in a school academic year.
	29 Take part in at least one event on Sports Day.	30 Lead a form time session.	31 Receive an R4 reward.	32 Attend a residential trip abroad.	33 Volunteer at a charity event outside of school, such as a sponsored walk.	34 Create a 'woodland scene' piece of art.	35 Get involved in the Duke of Edinburgh' Award.
<b>Gold: Pledge to myself</b>	36 Attend an out of school club for at least half a term.	37 Lead an after-school club for half a term.	38 Receive an R5 reward.	39 Deliver an assembly on Diversity.	40 Take the lead organising a charity event for your House.	41 Lead a project that improves the school community.	42 Present to the Senior Leadership Team.
	43 Perform a regular activity at a district or regional level.	44 Hold a student leadership position within the school.	45 Win the Principals Award.	46 Complete a range of sporting, academic and creative events / competitions.	47 Raise over £100 for a House Charity.	48 Take part in a project that improves the local community.	49 Win the LAB award for Service to the school.

Each student has been given a copy of the House Pledges to keep in their planner. Please encourage your child to be an active member of our school community by completing the pledges. In achieving the pledges, students will engage in valuable experiences, make a contribution towards their House points total, and receive Amazon vouchers.

## House Totals as of 10/10/21



**Suzanna Renew**  
Associate Assistant Principal

## Extra-Curricular

We are incredibly proud of the range of extra-curricular opportunities we offer to students, from Games Club to Anime Club, Art and Drama clubs, and a wide range of sports clubs. It has been amazing to see that such a large proportion of our school population, over half, have signed up for at least one club, attending either an after school or lunchtime provision.

At the beginning of this year, we were able to secure funding from Sport England in order to be able to provide a larger range of sporting activities and the best equipment. We have used this funding to invest in swimming coaches 4 nights a week, a Rugby Coach twice a week, a Netball Coach once a week, an Athletics Coach 3 nights a week, and we hope to begin Boxing coaching after half term.

Please do encourage your child to attend these activities. A full timetable of what is available can be found on the next page. Regular attendance at a club will earn students their first Bronze Pledge.



Here is what a student thinks of our clubs:

*"Girls football in our school is really good, it brings different types of skills to our team, from different girls, in different years. Our coach Miss Luby is an amazing coach, she has helped us get so far, and with a little help from Mr Welch, our skills and our bond as a team has got stronger. We are all glad that we can share our skills and work as a team. We hope one day we will play against other teams and one day make our school proud day" – Year 9 student*

**Suzanna Renew**  
Associate Assistant Principal

**Autumn Term Extra-Curricular Timetable - 3:10-4:10pm**  
Sign up today!

Week 1	Lunch time	After School		
Monday	Drama and Musical Theatre Club – all years Room: Drama Studio with (JOG)	Anime club – all years Room: 102 with SPJ	Elite swimming team training – all years Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	Homework Club – Year 7 Room: Learning+
		*Debate Club (all years) Room: 304 with WIA	Netball – all years Room: Changing rooms	
	Robotics Club – all years Room: 104 with EDJ and EBP	Rugby Training Room: Gym with external coaches	Retro games club Room: 106 with SPT	
		KS3 Football 7,8 & 9 Room: Gym with MAT & WEB		
Tuesday		Girls only swimming – all years Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	Athletics Training Room: Changing Rooms with external coaches	Homework Club – Year 8 Room: Learning+
		Dance Club – all years Room: Dance Studio with Saracens		
Wednesday	Games club – all years Room: 008 with ADS	Christmas Concert rehearsal – all years Room: Drama Studio with (JOG) Start date: 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Elite swimming team training – all years Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	Homework Club – Year 9 and 10 Room: Learning+
		Project Pattern - Textiles - Year 8 Room: 004 with CHC. Please note that this club begins on 3/11/21	Rugby Training Room: Changing Rooms with external coaches	
		Eco Club – Year 7,8,9 Room: 307 with PAS	Girls Football Room: MUGA with LUK	
		Aspirations Club – Years 9 and 10 Room: 007 with CHS		
Thursday	Mental Health – all years Room: Breakout with CLJ	Christmas Concert rehearsal - all years Room: Drama Studio with (JOG) Start date: 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Athletics Training Room: Changing Rooms	Homework Club – Year 7 Room: Learning+
		Social Swimming for all Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	KS4 Football 10 & 11 Room: MUGA with MAT/WEB	
Friday	Art Club – all years Room: 202 with KES	School team fitness for all sports Room: Changing rooms with external coaches		

Week 2	Lunch time	After School		
Monday	Drama and Musical Theatre Club – all years Room: Drama Studio with (JOG)	Dungeons and Dragons club – all years Room: 102 with SPJ	Elite swimming team training – all years Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	Homework Club – Year 7 Room: Learning+
		Robotics Club Room: 104 with EDJ and EBP	Rugby Training Room: Gym with external coaches	
		KS3 Football 7,8 & 9 Room: Gym with MAT & WEB	Netball – all years Room: Changing rooms	
Tuesday		Girls only swimming – all years Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	Athletics Training Room: Changing Rooms with external coaches	Homework Club – Year 8 Room: Learning+
		Dance Club – all years Room: Dance Studio with Saracens		
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		Social Swimming for all Room: Swimming Pool with external coaches	KS4 Football 10 & 11 Room: MUGA with MAT/WEB	
		*Research Project – Year 10 invitation only Room: 012 with HIL		
Friday	Art Club – all years Room: 202 with KES	School team fitness for all sports Room: Changing rooms with external coaches		



## Head Students' Article

Hello, we are Ryan (Year 9) and Caitlyn (Year 9), Tianna (Year 10) and Mark (Year 11), and we are the Head Students for this Academic Year. We want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for us – we are genuinely excited about what this year has in store for the Student Executive. In this article, we will be talking about our priorities and plans for the year. We have a Student Development Plan, which details everything for the year, which can be found on the school website (<https://www.goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk/272/school-development-plan>). Here is a summary of some of the main points:

- We would like to continue to improve peer support for positive mental health by working closely with the Wellbeing Committee and Anti-bullying Ambassadors. Mr Clune already has a Wellbeing Club, and students in the Wellbeing Committee are looking at a rota to make sure that the Mental Health Breakout room has students in it for peer support, as and when needed, at lunch and break times
- We would like more competitive sport teams to run this year and participate in more local competitions and tournaments. The student Sports Committee will oversee this, whilst working closely with the PE department. Mr Massey already has all of the dates of different competitions, and we look forward to taking part in these events in the future
- We want to work with external local organisations to help the local community more. For example, collections for the food bank and repeating the success of the shoebox collection from last year!
- Lastly, we will work closely with Miss Johnson to develop a wider range of reward opportunities for students. So, if any students have ideas about different reward opportunities, please come and speak to one of us, and we will pass on all ideas.

## Trips

As you may have seen on our school website (<https://www.goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk/679/trips-1>), there are a huge array of trips planned for all students this year. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, some trips have had to be cancelled or postponed. For example, the British Library Treasure Tour, as the British Library are currently not open to the public; however, most trips are currently going ahead as planned. Miss Goodchild is overseeing trips and is regularly updating the trips list on the school website.

Our first trips of the year have gone out, with the whole of Year 9 and Year 8 being given the opportunity to learn and experience practical fieldwork skills in Geography, with trips to the Old Pond and Loughton Brook, respectively.

Further trips are planned before Christmas, including; The Play that Goes Wrong, London Zoo, the Science Museum and a bowling Rewards trip. So look out for further information coming out shortly.

**Lyndsay Johnson**  
**Assistant Principal**

## **Year 11 Examination Preparation**

On the 11th October 2021, we held an exam preparation day for Year 11 students. The day aimed to prepare the students for their forthcoming mock exams with a range of revision strategies, and to focus them on the importance of organisation and looking after their own well-being. "Positively You", an external company, came to run an "Exam Busters" session with the students; our Year 10 students were also able to participate in this workshop.

The Year 11 students were guided through how to work with GCSE Pod to aid their revision. They also received a presentation from Mr Cahill about Goffs Sixth Form, and spoke with students who have now left Goffs-Churchgate about their experiences post-16.

In the afternoon sessions, students received motivational messages from staff members, alongside creating a revision timetable for their forthcoming examinations. If you would like to view some motivational messages from staff members, and some key documents about how to support your child, please view them on our website. <https://www.goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk/329/year-112021-2022>

## **Diversity**

Our work on diversity continues this year, with work progressing towards the accreditation of the RACE charter mark. The Senior Leadership Team have all undertaken further training on this, with additional training planned for the Middle Leaders and the school's LAB members and Trustees. This is a really exciting opportunity for the school, and we will keep you updated with how it progresses.

The school has also celebrated Black History Month this month, with a range of exciting events happening; students created an insightful and thought-provoking assembly which was delivered to the whole school, students also created a new and vibrant display of inspirational figures from black history, key role models from all curriculum areas were covered in all subjects, and a range of thought-provoking posts have been updated on our Facebook page. Celebrating Black History Month is extremely important, but we are passionate about making sure our cultural diversity is celebrated throughout the year and not just at this one time, so do look out for updates on various events happening throughout the year.

**Sarah Baker**  
**Vice Principal**

## **World Mental Health Day**

As part of our events to mark World Mental Health Day on the 10th October 2021, we hosted our annual Non-Uniform Day to raise money for Herts MIND. This year we also decided to raise money for 'Making Generations R', who have visited the school on several occasions, as well as supporting the Health and Wellbeing Days

Donations are still coming in. At the time of this report, more than £450 has been raised. We would like to thank all our students, parents/ carers and staff who have donated.

**Jim Clune**  
**Mental Health Lead**