

# NEWSLETTER MAY 2018

## A Message from the Principal



Another half term has flown by and our school continues to go from strength to strength. This newsletter highlights just some of the many fantastic experiences our children are having in the school, including a fifth of students going to see a West End Musical Theatre production. Our Year 11 students are currently right in the middle of their exams. They are focused and working hard, and all should be commended on their dedication, effort, and positive attitude. They even survived through day-long revision sessions in English and Maths! We look forward to celebrating their fantastic achievements in August. Our Year 10 students are preparing for Work Experience in July and have a range of tasks and activities to do in preparation for this. Students in Year 7 to 9 continue to have a fantastic daily diet of high quality teaching and learning. It is always the most enjoyable part of my day when I am able to walk around the school and see all of our students learning in lessons.

We are currently very busy planning for next year. I will soon be in touch to share with you our Strategic Development Plan. This document highlights the key areas we are going to be working on next year as we continue to drive the school forward. It is written using the direct feedback from all stakeholders of the school gathered through our annual survey. We are projecting that we will be full in our new Year 7 cohort for next year, which is fantastic news for our school community.

I would remind you of the need to ensure that your child attends school every day in full. Wherever possible, I would encourage you to book medical appointments outside of the normal school hours. There is a direct link between the attendance of students at school and the outcomes they receive at the end. If there are any concerns or queries, please do contact Mrs Maton, Attendance Manager, at the school.

Our facilities allow us a large library area which has recently taken delivery of a new stock of books. Please do encourage your children to read on a daily basis. All the research shows us that students who read for pleasure on a regular basis, perform highly in their examinations at the end of Year 11.

We are very excited about our recruitment for next year and we have recruited some amazing teachers to work with our children. All of our new staff are raring to go and are keen to use their skilful teaching to pass on knowledge to your child. However, we do have to say goodbye to some colleagues who are moving on to new adventures. Stuart Taylor, Vice Principal, is leaving the school after 7 years of service. Stuart has been a member of the Senior Team for all of that time and we thank him for his contribution to our school and wish him every success and happiness. Carol Kearney, Learning Support Assistant, leaves the school after 19 years of service. However, we hope that you may still see Carol around school as she volunteers in the library. There have also been some promotions in the Senior Team. Sarah Baker has been promoted to Vice Principal and Cheryl Goodchild to Assistant Principal. A thoroughly well-deserved promotion for both.

I wish you a restful, and hopefully sunny half term, and look forward to seeing all of the students back in school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**Thomas Sparks**  
Principal

### Theatre Trips



On the 18th April 2018, Drama students in Year 9 and 10 went to the Stevenage Lytton Players main theatre venue to watch a fantastic and unique showing of 'Teechers' by John Godber, a play that they studied last term. The performance involved the audience immensely, and the students and staff thoroughly enjoyed watching recognisable themes of school, stereotypical teachers, and students.

We would like to thank the Stevenage Lytton Players for giving the Goffs-Churchgate Academy students the front two rows of the theatre experience.

On the 25th April 2018, fifty wonderful Year 7 and 8 students attended a fantastic and successful theatre trip to see 'Wicked the Musical' at the Apollo Victoria. Amongst the trip were five staff members who each played a key part in introducing students to their first West End theatre experience. The students absorbed the trip and experience on the Wednesday evening by applauding, laughing and reacting to the sensational moments that the show gave. They left with memories of the songs, characters and incredible set and costume designs! Goffs-Churchgate Academy is planning another theatre trip for July 2018 to see 'The School of Rock,' which we are very much looking forward to.

**Gemma Joyce**  
Head of Creative Arts

### Motivational Workshops with Mr Beezy

Mr Beezy finished his coaching with a number of our Year 11 students last week. Mr Beezy is an inspirational speaker and life coach, who has been conducting workshops with some of our students. These workshops have been focused on raising personal aspirations and self-confidence. Students who have a clear goal to aim for and a positive confident attitude on how to achieve it, have a greater chance of success. This has been vital as the Year 11 students make the final preparations for their GCSE exams.

The workshops have been a huge success, with fantastic relationships having been made between the students and Mr Beezy. Feedback from those who took part demonstrates that they took a lot from the experience. A number said that they quickly recognised themselves as being the greatest barriers to their achievement. Mr Beezy's message of "No grind, no glory" has certainly resonated with our students, who continue to work hard in their final few weeks.

**Stuart Taylor**  
Vice Principal



Students have had an amazing time on the CHEXS' Enrichment Course from day one, and have continued to develop their personal qualities, resulting in a brilliant day at the activity centre. All of the students took part in the challenges, with nobody saying those words 'I can't'. All students had a 'can do' attitude and were supportive and motivational to their peers, even when two of them fell off the ropes and into the water!

Our students said:

'I found the days out with CHEXS exhilarating. I have learnt how to communicate much better and it made me use my problem solving skills in different places'

'I am proud of what we have done for the local community at Lee Valley Park and enjoyed being with the primary kids. It has helped me improve my teamwork skills'

'My problem solving skills have improved. If I am in a difficult situation I will think about it more'

**Jim Clune**  
**Director of Learning for Years 9 and 10**

### Cookstars

During April, as part of the curriculum enrichment programme, all students in Key Stage 3 took part in the next set of cooking days.

The sessions were led by Cook Stars Academy, who run award winning cooking workshops for young people in Broxbourne and East Hertfordshire.



This time, the focus was on creating a meal from scratch, and saw all students create Chicken Jalfrazi and Sticky Rice, which they took home to their families at the end of the day.

During the session the students were also taught about food safety and hygiene, as well as teaching them how to prepare and cut the ingredients properly for their meal.

The workshop, and the food, received rave reviews from both students and parents:

“This was a day that my child really enjoyed. They learnt some really important skills”  
**KS3 Parent**

“The food was great. Really proud of what he produced. I heard they had to wash up as well which was good to hear – real life experience!”  
**KS3 Parent**

“Lovely flavour. I was really impressed with the standard of food produced. He is going to cook it for the whole family at the weekend”  
**KS3 Parent**

“Cooking the sauce was amazing, the spicy smell made the sauce more appealing to eat. I am very proud of myself.”  
**KS3 Student**

“I enjoyed cooking a full meal as I have never made one before.”  
**KS3 Student**

“The best thing about the day was how proud my parents were about what I had made.”  
**KS3 Student**

We look forward to seeing (and tasting) what the students make during the next set of cooking sessions, which are due to take place before the end of the summer term.

**Cheryl Goodchild**  
Associate Assistant Principal

## School Restaurant Menu

Over the past term the Student Executive has been working with the staff in the School Restaurant to develop the menu.

We began by surveying students to collect opinions about the current food, and to allow students the opportunity to suggest different items that they would like to be included.

We met with the restaurant staff to discuss our findings and plan the next steps. The staff also had some ideas about what could be included, and suggested that we have a series of tasting sessions where the students could sample some of the food, and vote on what new foods and flavours could be included in the menu.

The first tasting session took place during lunchtime on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2018, and included samples of the following foods:

- Glazed chicken in the following flavours:
  - Piri Piri
  - BBQ
  - Garlic Butter
  - Cajun
  - Italian
  - Jamaican Jerk
  - Kentucky Style Bourbon
  
- Southern Fried Style Chicken Poppers
- Southern Fried Style Chicken Fillets
- Chicken Nuggets
- Breaded Cod Fillets
- Sweet Potato Fries



All of the foods were very popular with the students, and there was no food left by the end of lunchtime.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the feedback forms, and will feedback the results to the restaurant staff this week, so that the most popular items can be added to the menu.

We have planned another tasting session on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, where a selection of sweet items will be available for everyone to try, which we are sure everyone is really looking forward to!

**The Student Executive**  
**Goffs-Churchgate Academy**

### **News from the Community Captains**

At the End of the Spring Term, Goffs-Churchgate Academy took part in two fundraising activities organised by the Community Captains.

On Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, our students came to school in their House colours sports kits to raise money for Sports Relief, where each year group took part in a House softball competition, and at lunchtime the gym hosted a fete with a cake stall and sports events such as goal kick, basketball shoot and skittles. On that day we raised £318.26 for charity

As part of National Autism week, on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2018, students had a non-uniform day with all proceeds going to the National Autistic Society. To represent the charity, all students were asked to wear something blue with their non-uniform. The day was a great success, with all our students joining in with the theme and we raised £230.95.

Student feedback from both days was really positive and the Community Captains are now working on a House Charity Day for later this term. More details on this will follow.

Thank you to the students, parents and staff for all their support for these two worthwhile charities.

**Gill Dane (House Co-ordinator) and the Community Captains**

