

# NEWSLETTER MAY 2019

## A Message from the Principal



We are nearing the end of another very successful year in the life of Goffs-Churchgate Academy. The school continues to go from strength to strength. I am pleased to say that all year groups are now full, with waiting lists in each year group. We have already had two transition evenings for our new Year 7 students, which is now full and has a very long waiting list of students wishing for a place in this school.

Our Year 11 students are working tirelessly as they have started their examinations. Each of them has made us all very proud with their efforts and dedication. We wish them all the best and hope they get the results that they truly deserve.

As a direct result of the feedback that parents, students, staff and Trustees have given us through the annual stakeholder survey, we have now developed our Strategic Development Plan for next year. I will be sharing this with you in due course.

You will see through the Newsletter, many exciting opportunities that our students have had. One particular experience has been the assemblies taken by Paul Hannaford. Paul's message for his assemblies was Tackling Drugs, Changing lives. Paul's story and message was based on his personal experience, which he shared in depth with the students. This included his life story, where he got in a perpetual cycle of drugs, crime and gangs. Paul was very open with the students, sharing exactly what happened to him, and the severe negative consequences of his actions. This involved showing students pictures of his injuries sustained as a result of his lifestyle choices. This was a no holds barred presentation, communicating with students the realities of making a poor choice.

Paul's story and messages are extremely powerful and resonated with our students. As schools, we thought it important to share with parents/carers the messages that Paul has given, and so Paul has kindly agreed to give a presentation to parents.

This presentation will be held at **Goffs-Churchgate Academy on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June starting at 5:30pm**. It is open to both parents of students at Goffs and Goffs-Churchgate.

**Thomas Sparks**  
Principal

## Year 11

We cannot believe that Year 11 have made it to the end and the written examinations have started. We could not be prouder of all of the Year 11s. They have worked so hard and genuinely deserve all the achievements that we know they are going to earn from these exams.

We set Year 11 a challenge at the beginning of the year; to improve on the success of our last cohort and they haven't let us down. Year 11 have attended all intervention sessions and taken every opportunity that we have given them as a school. We fully expect to see an outstanding set of results from them in the summer.

Last week, Year 11 had their final assembly and it was an event tinged with sadness and joy. Sadness that another group of young people is leaving us, but joy at the opportunities that they are all going to leave with. As part of that assembly students were given the quote: "Love many, trust a few and learn how to paddle your own canoe." This was a reminder that going forward they are in control of their own lives and we believe in them to do an amazing job. Thank you so much to the parents who sent in messages of good luck for their children. It meant so much to them and gave them some much needed inspiration for the challenge ahead.

While much of the upcoming weeks will be more revision and exam pressure, the students do have lots to look forward to. The Year 11 Leavers Assembly will be held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 5:00pm and the first Goffs-Churchgate Prom will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019. Further details will follow about both of these events. They will both give students a chance to celebrate and reflect on their time at school.

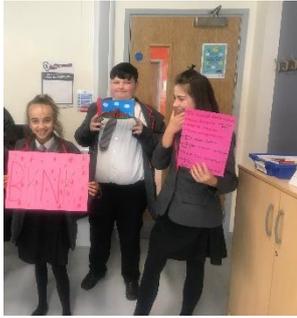
All Year 11 results will be released in August 2019, where we are sure that there will be further cause for celebration. Year 11 have been a great year group and have reminded the younger year groups that hard work does pay off.

We wish Year 11 all the best for a happy, healthy and successful future.

**Miss C Goodchild, Assistant Principal**  
**Mrs S Renew, Director of Learning Year 11**

## Our First SALAD Day!!

Just before the Easter break, on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019, we had our first SALAD (Speaking and Listening Active Development) Day here at Goffs-Churchgate. This day was incorporated into the half term calendar in order to promote the importance of spoken literacy. This was done through classroom tasks that were centred on being very active, but also involved the students having to listen to other students.



The day saw our students taking part in Dragon's Den style lessons, poetry slams, Mad Hatter tea parties, maths card hunts and more. It is clear to see that on this day students were able to practise their spoken literacy skills and their ability to be able to listen to others in tasks that were more on the active side.

I received many positive comments from staff regarding their first SALAD day, and the students were not only very excited for it but were also enjoyed it very much when the day came around.



We are very much looking forward to our next SALAD Day where the students get to learn more actively and practise their spoken literacy skills further.

**Mrs S Everist**  
English Teacher, Director of Literacy

**University of  
Hertfordshire UH**

## Year 9 University of Hertfordshire Pathfinder Day

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, the whole of Year 9 were taken to the University of Hertfordshire for the day, to experience all that they have to offer. The students were able to experience a wide range of activities related to life at University and learn about many aspects of University life, as well as challenging some preconceptions that they may have had.

Students found out about the wide range of courses on offer both at the University of Hertfordshire and Universities across the country, as well as information about student finances, accommodation and tips from current students, these mainly centred around the importance of learning to cook!

The student had a brilliant day and got a huge amount out of it, and we would like to thank the University Widening Access Team for organising the day for us. The feedback from Jonathan Sage, Widening Access Officer at the university was as follows: "I hope your students enjoyed their visit to the University. As I said at the time, I thought they were great ambassadors for your school and look forward to working with you again in the future".

**Ms S Baker**  
Vice Principal



A group of Year 10 students visited Brooklands Primary School on Thursday 2nd May 2019 and St Joseph's Primary School on the Wednesday 8th May 2019. The purpose of these visits was for them to do 'role model mentoring' with the children from primary schools. The range of activities including students coaching other students in making objects from willow.

Julie Cottenden, CHEXS, commented on the students that attended Brooklands, "What another lovely groups of students from the school! They interacted well with the primary pupils and were proactive in the work." Julie, went onto say, about our students that attended St Josephs, "Another fantastic day was had with your students despite the wet weather! They are all so engaged with the younger children whilst working together. Please make sure you congratulate them on being such positive role models".

**Mr J Clune**  
Director of Learning for Years 9 and 10

### **Paul Hannaford Assemblies on Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives**

As part of the school's continual work on addressing and educating students on a range of local issues, we were delighted to be able to welcome Paul Hannaford to talk with our students. Paul's message at his assembly was Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives. Paul's story and message was based on his personal experience, which he shared in depth with the students. This included his life story, where he got in a perpetual cycle of drugs, crime and gangs. Paul was very open with the students, sharing exactly what happened to him, and the severe negative consequences of his actions. This involved showing students pictures of his injuries sustained as a result of his lifestyle choices. This was a no holds barred presentation, communicating with students the realities of making a poor choice. Paul's story and messages are extremely powerful and resonated with our students.

We look forward to be able to share Paul's story at a forthcoming Parents Assembly on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**Mr T Sparks**  
Principal

## Transition at Goffs-Churchgate Academy

On the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019, 120 Year 6 students were given the news that they would be joining Goffs-Churchgate Academy. We invited our new families to attend our very first Welcome Evening on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019. I believe having early contact with our new students is key in the transition process. Many parents spoke to me about how they appreciated this opportunity to visit the school again and meet with the Senior Leadership and Student Support Teams.

Mr Sparks and I were delighted to welcome the new cohort into our community. Our Year 7 representatives, Jorja and Tarell, did a fantastic job of explaining what the life of a Year 7 student looks like. It was a pleasure to meet the many new faces of Goffs-Churchgate Academy.

Phase two of the Transition Programme took place in early May 2019, when Year 6 were asked to come along for their 'Transition Interview'. This is a new evening in our Transition Programme and was hugely successful. It was a fantastic night where the students were able to question us, as much as we questioned them! It was a pleasure to begin to know the personalities of the students that will soon be part of our student body.

I am currently visiting students in their primary schools and look forward to welcoming Year 6 back on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 for the Transition Evening. I cannot wait for Year 6 to join us; already I can see that this year group is going to achieve many great things. I have already met future teachers, pilots, footballers, and doctors and potential Head Boys and Girls and perhaps the next Prime Minister.

**Mrs S Robson**

**Director Learning, Year 7**

### Student Executive

The environment has been the focus of Student Executive's time this half-term. In keeping with the form time sessions exploring the issues of waste and the state of the global climate, we decided that we needed action, rather than words. As a result, we put up a 'litter-picking' sign-up sheet and were flooded with responses! We completed our first 'pick' of the school site last week, and have many more planned over the next few weeks. We have also applied to the Council to 'adopt-a-street' – a scheme where members of the public can organise their own local 'litter picks' and get resources to do so from their local council. We plan to make the areas outside our school better for everyone.

As the weather gets better we start to think about end-of-year sports! Students have been organising House football competitions, and there will be the ever-eventful sports day at the end of June which is normally the deciding factor in the House contest. Currently, Rubik have the edge in what is a very close run contest based on the current House point total. Remember, House Points are awarded for excellent attendance and behaviour, so students need to keep pushing themselves for their House!

We are preparing for our first annual Student Executive Conference; here we will be finishing projects and planning our intentions for next year. The students are working towards a leadership accreditation and this Conference will be used to collate our evidence for a management qualification which will be brilliant for their CVs. We will also be restructuring our Student Executive to include more opportunities for more students throughout the year with a specific focus on charities, community projects and House events.

**Mr D Emmott**

**Associate Assistant Principal**

## German Culinary Delights

Last half term, Year 8 students took part in two projects as part of their Year 8 “Food and Drink” topic in their German lessons.

The first project enabled students to improve their cultural understanding and awareness of the “Black Forest Gateau” festival – a tradition which has been celebrated in Germany on the 28<sup>th</sup> March every year since 1915. Students researched the history of the cake, wrote German recipes and exhibited their culinary skills in the food room creating their own mini versions of the “Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte” (Black Forest Gateau) - A gateau consisting of several layers of chocolate cake, with cream and cherries between each layer, decorated in additional cream, cherries and shavings of chocolate.

Congratulations to Long Dang and Gowiria Mohamed who were voted Year 8 winners for their creations.

The second project took place as part of the whole school “SALAD” day (Speaking, Listening and Active Development). Students had the opportunity to taste different foods, connected to Germany, blindfolded and they had to guess what each were. Students had fun trying a variety of foods from “Kinder” chocolate to even “Sauerkraut” (pickled cabbage). Students discussed their food preferences in German and were surprised that some of these easily available foods had a connection to Germany.



Year 8 - Food tasting  
Connor Flood  
Valentino Markowski  
Vincent O’Callaghan  
Long Dang



Winner  
Long Dang



Winner  
Gowiria Mohamed