

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2020

It has been an extraordinary term at Goffs-Churchgate Academy. Looking back at my Christmas newsletter from last Year, who could have predicted how 2020 would have turned out for everyone. It will live long in the memory as a Year that I am sure none of us will ever forget. I continue to be immensely proud of our school community. Our staff body have worked tirelessly throughout the Year; keeping the continuity of learning and being available to support the emotional and pastoral needs of our community. I have been very impressed with the mature, sensible approach our students have shown, each of them has adapted very well to the Covid-19 procedures we have in place. Finally, I would like to thank our parental body, who have been so supportive during this time. In the Spring Term, we will be doing our annual stakeholder survey. However, we would like to collate any feedback that you have for the school, so please do email me at t.sparks@goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk.

As a school, we continue to move forward, and we have several new projects underway in the school. I hope you would have seen the communications from Ms Baker, who is leading a project this Year, to review our curriculum, and ensure that we continue to promote diversity across the school. If you would like to get involved, please do contact Ms Baker. We have also launched Project O, led by Mr Wise, who will be developing opportunities across the curriculum for students to develop their oracy skills. Year 7, for example, were engaged in some heated debates in form-time last week. In November, we celebrated Anti-Bullying week and took the opportunity to reinforce our stance on anti-bullying and raise further awareness across the school. We hope that as we move into 2021, we will be able to re-introduce a range of extra-curricular activities and our popular trips.

Our applications for the school continue to grow, and this Year, we have had our largest ever number of applicants to join our school community. Due to the growth of the school, we are busy recruiting additional teaching staff for next Year, including teachers in English and Music.

I am sure for many of us, Christmas will be different from what would have been planned. For those families that celebrate Christmas, at this time with Covid-19, we are reminded about the first Christmas, which was a simple, peaceful occasion, but full of love and joy. Whichever way you and your family are planning on spending this holiday, I hope that you are able to have an enjoyable time and make the most of the occasion, despite the restrictions in place.

We look forward to welcoming back all of our students on Monday 4th January 2021.

Thomas Sparks
Principal

ASK Apprenticeship Assembly



The National Apprenticeship Service funds the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges Programme (ASK). Their role is to raise awareness of apprenticeships and other vocational pathways, which students may consider once they leave school.

ASK Apprenticeship delivered an inspiring virtual assembly to all Year 10 and 11 students in November 2020. The session introduced the students to what apprenticeships are, the range of different options available in the local area, and the benefits of doing an apprenticeship as a credible option when they leave school.

The students were surprised about the range of apprenticeships on offer in the local area and the variety of different industries available to them.

The session has encouraged students to consider different opportunities for their future.

Students across all year groups will continue to receive information about the options available to them when they leave school, as part of the whole school Careers Programme.

Lucy Taylor
Director of Learning, Year 11

"I never knew there were so many options after school, I think earning while I train might be the best option for me" – Year 11 Student

Next Steps for Year 11

All students in Year 11 have individual careers advice and guidance from an impartial adviser from Youth Connexions Hertfordshire. Our adviser, Alex Bateson, is in school on Tuesdays.

All Year 11 students also have a personal mentor who will support them in their applications for College, Sixth Form or Apprenticeships.

Goffs School launched its virtual Sixth Form open evening on 26th November 2020, and all students have received an information pack detailing the course options available.

Please go to the following link for further information:

<https://www.goffs.herts.sch.uk/2004/virtual-sixth-form-open-evening-2020>

The other local Sixth Forms and Colleges are also holding virtual events this Year. Please go to the School or College website for further information.

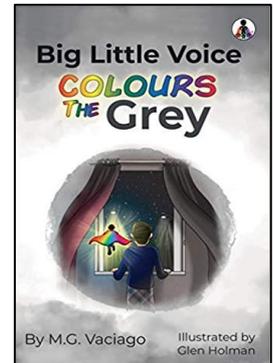
Lucy Taylor
Director of Learning, Year 11



Visit from Local Author M G Vaciago

On 19th November 2020, Year 7 were lucky enough to receive a visit from a local author, who is in the process of releasing her new book, 'Big Little Voice: Colours the Grey'. This book talks about bullying, mental health, and self-esteem, and was perfectly timed during our Anti-Bullying Week.

The author is a parent from our community who was inspired to write a book after reflecting on her own and her children's life experiences. It was fascinating for our students to hear about her journey to becoming an author and the process she took to write and publish her book.



The theme resonated with Year 7, who had been thinking about bullying through our Anti-bullying Week activities; the visit gave personal accounts of real-life experiences, which enabled our students to think carefully about themselves and the school community. It has been lovely to see so many students reading the book in school!

Sharon Robson
Director of Learning, Year 7

How we are Promoting Challenge at Goffs-Churchgate

Please find below some exciting opportunities for students at Goffs-Churchgate, beginning in the Spring Term.

The School-up Challenge – This will be an opportunity to encourage students to personalise and develop their reading skills. Students will complete various activities to earn points and rewards, include publishing their work on the school website. Students will receive further information in their lessons before February half term.

The Challenge Club – The club will be set each fortnight to develop students' creative skills, critical thinking, and communication skills. Students will also be able to take Mensa IQ quizzes and win prizes. This club will start the first week back after the Christmas break.

Challenge Stations - In lessons, students will have access to challenge stations where they can extend their learning by completing a task card or reading an educational article.

Careers Café – Guest speakers will join us virtually to provide students with live questions and answer sessions about their careers, and their journey, to provide students with more information about future opportunities.

Saturday Masterclass - Saturday School Masterclasses will begin in the summer term for students who will join us as Year 7s in the following September. Our students will take a leading role in delivering these sessions.

Anisa Bajraktari
Lead Teacher of Science

Online Learning Programmes

Our competitions for online learning programmes have continued throughout the autumn term.

The Year 11 winners have managed to hold the top spot, despite lots of changes in the top ten positions. The full league tables are published in the year group zone, and rewards points are issued to the top 3 students in each programme. The winner of each category is awarded a £10 Amazon gift card.

Key Stage 4 Winning Students

		Year 10	Year 11
 hegartymaths	October	Ryan Marsh	Kavan Peck
	November	Ilknur Cam	Kavan Peck

 TASSOMAI	October	N/A	Marinela Tsepa
	November	Karim Mohamed	Marinela Tsepa

 gseepod education anywhere	October	Lee Newbury	Liam Lovlund-Troy
	November	N/A	Liam Lovlund-Troy

Congratulations, and well done to all the students who have received prizes so far.

This competition has now been extended to all Key Stage 3 students. The Directors of Learning have sent information out to the students and parents informing them that the league tables for all Key Stage 3 students will begin in January 2021. If any students are unsure of their login details, please see your subject teachers or Directors of Learning before Christmas.

Cheryl Goodchild
Assistant Principal

Access to Computers at Home

The use and demand for digital technology continues to increase and is particularly important at the moment. We are aware that many students access the internet, the online learning platforms, Classcharts and the School Website through their Phones or Tablets. However, we are currently reviewing how many students do not have computer access at home. If your child does not have access to a PC or Laptop at home, please inform your child's Director of Learning.

Christmas Events at Goffs-Churchgate

December has been the month for keeping Christmas spirits high and being positive at the end of a challenging year. Again this Year, we were lucky enough to have four beautiful Christmas trees spread throughout the school to assist our school community with this.



On 9th December 2020, it was Rainbow Laces Day, which is a charity event organised by the LGBTQ charity Stonewall. The rainbow shoelaces on sale throughout the day sold quickly and helped us to raise money for this good cause.

In the weeks running up to Christmas, we have been holding a shoebox collection, to provide gifts for the residents of our local care homes. Although this is our first Year of holding a shoebox collection, the photo demonstrates its success. This is due to the kindness and generosity of our school community. All of these gifts, plus the others that wouldn't fit on the table, will be packaged into shoeboxes, wrapped and delivered, to ensure that those residents who do not have any family will have something to open on Christmas Day. Thank you very much to everyone who has donated to the Goffs-Churchgate Christmas shoebox collection.

On Friday 18th December 2020, we will hold our Christmas Accessory Day. This is instead of the typical Christmas Jumper Day, as we appreciate some people may prefer to be festive and Christmassy in a more subtle way! More information and photos of the best jumpers and accessories worn will be in the next newsletter.



Lyndsay Johnson
Assistant Principal

Autumn Term Rewards

As we come to the end of another successful term, we would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all of the students on their achievements this term.

Behaviour Rewards

The behaviour of our students continues to be excellent, and many of our students will receive awards for their exemplary conduct at the end of the term. To congratulate these students, they will all receive a Christmas Selection Pack

Subject Awards

For each subject, across all year groups, two students have been selected to win the termly subject award: One student who has demonstrated outstanding effort and commitment to their learning and one student who has shown excellent progress or attainment.

Director of Learning and Senior Leadership Team Awards

For each year group, the Director of Learning and SLT link have awarded one student each who have had a particularly impressive term.

Congratulations to all award winners!



	Director of Learning Award	Senior Leadership Team Award
Year 7	Utku Kartal	Molly Campbell
Year 8	Ozgur Yayla	Alex Keefe
Year 9	Chloe Ramthor	Frankie Russell
Year 10	Tyler Pheasant	Solomon Cooper
Year 11	Alexandru Apetroaei	Annie Shackleton



Virtual Pastoral Workshops

This term, we held two live virtual workshops for Year 7 and 8, which were a huge success! The first was for Year 8, and was entitled “Conflict resolution”. The content of this session was anger, conflict, resolution, managing feelings, supporting others, and staying mentally healthy. The session was fully interactive with students being given a chance to ask and answer questions via the chat function! The Year 7 workshop was entitled “Life skills” and explored strategies for students to deal with difficult emotions positively. Both workshops were part of our strategy to support student welfare and were funded by our Covid-19 welfare budget. One student in Year 7 stated “this was a really interesting workshop which made me think and thank you to the school for organising this for us!” Both workshops were organised by KIP Education please feel free to explore their website for further information, <https://kipeducation.com/>

Sarah Baker
Vice Principal