

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018

A Message from the Principal



As we come to the end of this half term, the school community has much to celebrate and share. It is my honour and privilege to be able to walk around the school on a daily basis and see the fantastic teaching and learning that takes place each day. Our current Year 7 continues to be full and also has a waiting list, whilst early projections for next year suggest that the next cohort of Year 7 will also be full.

I am pleased to be able to share that we are currently awaiting delivery of lockers for the school. This was a direct request by the Student Executive and these will be in the school in the next couple of weeks. It is excellent that our student population have suggested a way of improving the school and we have been able to directly action this. The lockers will work on a digital keypad system, where each day, students will be able to use a locker should they wish. They simply pick a locker, type in a 4 digit code and it is theirs for the day. There is no cost for the students to use these. We will give the students training on how to use the lockers. Once these lockers are in place, we will be moving to a position where students will not be allowed to wear coats inside the school buildings.

As is the cycle of schools, we welcome some new staff to join our academy. Jane Rose joins us as a Teacher of Science. Jane's main role in the short term will be to provide significant additional capacity to our Year 11 students by supporting them in the run up to the exams. She will also start intervention with students in lower years. We also welcome Sandra Skinner, who joins us as Student Support Officer. She will work closely with our Director of Learning Plus and SENCO Liz Allum and so will provide additional support for students across the school as well as delivering a daily homework club. We say farewell to Cathy Daniels, Student Support Manager and Brenda Beauchamp, Finance Officer and thank them for their many years of service at the school.

We will soon be discussing GCSE options for our current students in Year 8. This is an extremely important process and we will be providing full guidance to the students. Following feedback, we will be combining the Year 8 Parents Evening and the Year 8 Options Evening which will now take place on Thursday 15th March 2018. This means that you will be able to hear the options available for your child and then talk directly with the teachers about their current performance in school. Further details will be provided in due course.

I would continue to encourage you to come to all school events relating to your child and take this opportunity to remind you that I hold weekly parental surgeries at the school. If you have any concerns or queries and would like to meet with me at the school then please do contact my PA at J.Andrews@goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk or contact reception.

I hope that you all have a restful half term.

Thomas Sparks
Principal

GOFFS-CHURCHGATE FIRST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT



On the 14th December 2017, Goffs-Churchgate held its first annual Christmas concert and what a fantastic success it was! Students from all year groups assisted with the production and organisation of the event, this was a concert not to be missed! The concert was a combination of our school community coming together as well as acting as examinations for Key Stage 4 students within the Creative Arts faculty.

Year 10 and 11 showcased their Drama pieces that had been rehearsed in lesson time for the Autumn Half Term. Students doing Dance and Music also performed superbly with beautifully composed and choreographed pieces.



The students and staff of Goffs-Churchgate Academy truly did the community and school proud on the evening. I cannot thank the audience enough for their support also. Everyone left with a warm Christmassy feel and a feeling of pride for what all the students had accomplished and achieved.

Gemma Joyce
Head of Creative Arts

Year 11 Raising Achievement

It has been a busy term so far for Year 11 students who completed trial exams in January 2018 in English, Maths and Science. The hard work has continued. Since their last round of trial exams in November 2017 students have been attending after school intervention until 4.30pm, which run every night for different subjects. During form time, students have been taught a selection of revision techniques so that they can use the method that suits them best. These latest exams will provide them with the opportunity to see how far they have progressed having received this additional support.

In preparation for their examinations, all students were provided with revision packs including revision guides in English, Maths and Science. They will also shortly be receiving past papers in order to practise their exam technique.

In English, students have benefitted from several sessions with the Hertfordshire County Council Lead English Advisor, to practice examination techniques to ensure they secure the best possible marks in their answers. Some students have also benefitted from further intervention on specific areas of the course every day during form time.

In Maths, our new Head of Department has already implemented some changes by running form time intervention for those students attempting to achieve grades 7 to 9. This group will be ensuring they cover the higher level topics which are critical to gaining those higher marks.

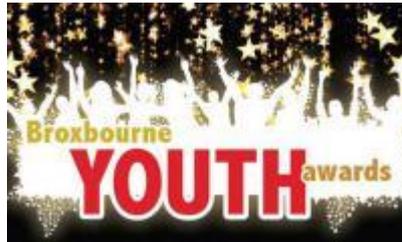
There has been some considerable progress in the Level 2 BTEC exams in Business, Performing Arts, Music, Sport and the Ingot ICT qualification. We have been very impressed and proud of the efforts of students in completing their assignments to a high standard and it looks like many students will have completed their written assignments by the half-term break. This will enable these students to focus more of their time on their other remaining qualifications.

The students' belief in themselves is vital along with being resilient and pushing themselves to being the best they can be. We have employed the services of Mr Beezy, a professional inspirational speaker and life coach, to meet with some of our students once a week to develop their confidence, self-esteem and most importantly arming them with the belief, that with hard work you can achieve. With the half-term shortly upon us, students will be able to attend further intervention sessions over the holiday which will help prepare them for their next round of trial exams in the week commencing the 5th March. We wish them all luck with those exams.

Stuart Taylor
Vice Principal

Inspirational Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award –

Broxbourne Youth Awards 2018



In anticipation of the Broxbourne Youth Awards, we have been nominating our teachers for the Inspirational Secondary School Teacher of the Year Award.

We decided to organise a vote again this year following the huge success we had last year, where we had 20 teachers shortlisted to attend the evening, and Mr Wisniowski was awarded the runner up.

We think it is important for us to be involved in this event because we really appreciate the hard work that all of our teachers put in for us, and we don't think they always get the recognition that they deserve for this.

The Student Executive carried out a ballot where the students could nominate the teacher of their choice. Once we had collated all of the votes we nominated the four teachers with the highest number of votes using the online form.

The reasons the students gave for voting for their selected teacher were very varied. Some of the reasons included:

- This teacher is always supportive
- This teacher is easy to talk to
- This teacher is great at their job
- This teacher is funny
- This teacher goes above and beyond to make sure they help us as much as they can
- This teacher believes in me
- This teacher work hard to make sure I do well

We now wait to see if any of the teachers we have nominated get shortlisted for the Awards Ceremony in March 2018.

Leah Foster
Year 7
Student Executive

Key Stage 3 Music Enrichment Day

Stomp Workshop



On the 9th January 2018, Pete Francis, from Nebular Artistic, came into school to deliver a music workshop to Year 7 and 8. During the morning we learnt about 'Stomp' and how to make music with our hands and feet.

In this workshop we firstly played a small rhythm game, then Pete told us a bit about what he does in his Stomp performances and he showed us a little bit of one of his routines. Subsequently, he taught us step by step, hand and feet movements which slowly transformed into a whole routine. We even had the opportunity to create our own pieces in small groups. We then performed our routines in the afternoon.



It was very interesting to experience a small bit of what it is like to perform 'Stomp' and we would like to say a huge thank you to the company that helped give us such a good day.

This activity was an exciting and a unique experience for everyone and we are really looking forward to the next music enrichment day.

Aimee Foster and Tia Svensson-Welch
Year 7



Guest Speaker at Goffs-Churchgate Academy

Mrs Sawatsky came in to talk to us about her job as a Psychiatric Nurse. She talked about what goes into being a nurse and also what she specialises in. She explained how she decided to become a Psychiatric Nurse and how it involves a lot of revising and hard work. She talked to us about a book called the DSM. This book helps her to find out how she can best treat a patient. It has symptoms for certain diagnosis such as depression or bipolar disorder. Lastly she explained how Psychology can have an important impact on many careers and help shape us as students soon becoming a part of society.

Salvatore Carini
Year 10

Holocaust Memorial Day Event



On January 24th 2018, we visited Dame Alice Owens School in Potters Bar for the annual Holocaust Memorial Day event. This educational trip was about the Holocaust, how, why and when it happened. We had the rare opportunity of hearing Holocaust survivor, Zigi Shipper, share his personal story and give a moving testimony of his life as a survivor of the Holocaust.

This trip was a privilege that both Year 9 and 10 High Ability students were able to attend. It taught us about the trauma and damage that the Holocaust caused, which is still felt to this day. We learned a lot about Zigi's personal story but he was keen to stress how we should remember just how many people were affected, with over 6 million people being killed and 1.5 million of those being children. The event also made us think about those killed in genocides around the world since.

The trip taught us the importance of the event and why we choose to remember this traumatic time. This trip was not just educational but inspirational too. The survivors of the Holocaust show us that no matter how horrific events can impact your life, people do survive and go on to live happy lives. Instead of reliving bad memories you can create something new. The experience taught us many things that will stay with us forever.

Chloe Clay
Year 9



Community Enrichment

Our students continue to be involved in supporting our community through a range of projects organised by CHEXS. On Wednesday 10th January 2018 students supported CHEXS in Lea Valley.

As Julie Cottenden (Children and Young People's Support Lead) said, "We had a brilliant day in Lea Valley with your students today! The enrichment included taking 4 targeted primary pupils with us that the students were to support and mentor. What a fantastic job they did! They kept the young ones focused and engaged, giving them praise and encouragement. They even included them into their game of football at lunchtime. These really are polite and caring young men"

I have been impressed not only with the attitude and hard work of the pupils involved in the enrichment programme but also the commitment and organisation shown by the staff from CHEXS. I get constant feedback from the pupils who all comment on how much they enjoy the project and look forward to working as a team, dealing with and solving problems, and achieving success. They have all said that they feel more confident as a result.

Jim Clune

Director of Learning for Years 9 and 10



Income Generation Update - February 2018

The Generations Multi Academy Trust has enjoyed a successful start to the New Year in its drive to bring more community groups to its facilities.

The 1st January 2018 saw the operation of the leisure facilities at Goffs Academy transfer from Broxbourne Borough Council to the Trust. For the first time in many years the school is managing the operation in the evenings and weekends and we have been welcoming new and existing customers onto the site for a variety of activities including:

- Rugby Tots
- Girls Football
- Martial Arts
- Dance Classes

Goffs-Churchgate has also been a hive of new activity. With the following launching in January 2018:

- One to One Swimming Lessons
- Yoga
- Pilates
- Insanity Fitness Classes

Highlights of the month have been seeing the first group of new football coaches gain their qualifications at our sites and bringing two enthusiastic personal trainers to the organisation to provide after school sessions for students and develop their businesses in our gym in the evenings. If you would like to take part in any of these great activities please contact me at KYA@Goffs.herts.sch.uk and I will connect you with the relevant club or instructor.

We are now operating two thriving community hubs and are working to support all of the groups based at the schools to offer quality activities that help get everyone active. There are still opportunities to access our fantastic facilities so if you run, or know someone who runs an activity that needs a new venue please contact us at bookings@goffs.herts.sch.uk.

Despite this success we are not planning to stand still. In February, there will be even more new activities launched for the community with plans in place for drama and boxercise clubs to start soon. The X-Plosion disco will also be coming to Goffs-Churchgate. Goffs will benefit from a gourmet food truck at the weekends to provide refreshments to the ever increasing number of Rugby and Football teams playing their matches on our pitches and we hope to match this provision at Goffs-Churchgate before long.

Perhaps the most rewarding thing for me is seeing our fantastic students from both schools when they come back in the evenings and weekends to take part in other activities and knowing we are helping them pursue their interests in an environment they are comfortable with.

Thank you all for your support

Kevin Yardley
Director of Income Generation - Generations Multi Academy Trust