

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

A Message from the Principal



The first few months of our new year have flown by and our new Year 7 students have settled in well at school. We have had an action packed half term with our students involved in many exciting projects.

In just one year, our school has rightly established a very strong reputation for both its academic outcomes and its nurturing pastoral care, and I am proud to tell you that we are now full in most year groups including Year 7. This summer saw the first set of results produced by Goffs-Churchgate Academy. In just one year, we have moved the school forward hugely. The key measure of progress is now above National Average, with a 105% increase on the previous year's results by the former school.

Our Open Evening in late September 2018 was another huge success. We welcomed over 1000 people to the school on the evening, including two packed speeches, with only 120 places on offer. The overwhelming response from all the parents was that our school community blew them away. All of our students were immaculate throughout the evening, and their enthusiasm and passion for our school were commented on consistently by our visitors. In the speeches, Grace and Tyrell from Year 7 stole the show with the self-written speeches they gave to prospective parents. In addition, we had the privilege of running 12 School in Action Tours, double the amount we had originally planned, due to popular demand.

We have had a range of fantastic activities in this half term. These included: our highly successful Mental Health Week; music workshops for Year 7 including singing and drumming; the launch of our Character Charter teaching positive traits such as collaboration and resilience, and also teaching students life skills including ironing a shirt and changing a tyre on a car; the casting of our Christmas show with over 70 students involved; the appointment of our new Student Executive including appointing our Head Boy (Michael Langdell) and Head Girl (Jasmine Alligan); the highly popular afterschool clubs including dance, drama, swimming, cheerleading and football, and finally, collecting for Harvest Festival food to be donated to the Broxbourne Food Bank.

We have more fabulous activities coming up next half term including the Year 8 day at the Cheshunt Marriott, and the Year 7 and 8 trip to the Houses of Parliament in London. I am also pleased to see many of our Year 9 and 10 students signing up for our forthcoming History trip to Belgium and Germany.

We are pleased to welcome Sharon Robson to our school as the Director of Learning for Year 7. Sharon joins us after half term and brings a wealth of pastoral experience to the role. She is looking forward to working closely with our Year 7 students and their families.

We are anticipating another busy half term after our break and will continue to celebrate further achievements and success. A reminder that school closes on the 19th October and we return at the usual time on the 5th November.

Tom Sparks, Principal

2017-2018 Exam Results

Goffs-Churchgate Academy is celebrating its first set of GCSE results since it opened as part of the Goffs led Generations Multi Academy Trust last year. The school has made tremendous progress in the first year. In just one year, outcomes show a 105% improvement in the progress students have made across all subjects. These exam results show significant improvements, across all measures, from previous years and highlight the remarkable turnaround in this school.

We are delighted that all of our Year 11 students successfully secured their place at their first choice college or Sixth Form. A large proportion of our students have gone on to study at Goffs Sixth Form with others doing a range of courses at Hertford Regional College and Capel Manor. We are very proud of all our students. Special praise must go to Charlotte O’Riordan who achieved the highest achievement in terms of attainment with most of her qualifications being at Grade 8 and 9. Jack Turner also performed extremely well by being the student who made the most progress across the year group.

Cheryl Goodchild
Assistant Principal

Swimming

The students have made a splashing start to the year with the incorporation of swimming lessons into their timetable. The lessons are designed to build confidence in the water and a key aim is to ensure that all students are water safe. Over the course of the year, students will be exposed to a range of survival strategies for the water. After just a few weeks, the progress being made by the students is phenomenal and students are clearly enjoying the lessons:

Year 7 student –

“I love my Swimming lessons. I feel very lucky that we have the opportunity to do swimming at this school because most people don’t have the facilities that we have at their secondary school”.

Year 9 student –

“I am really enjoying swimming. It is lots of fun, and I am already getting better.”

We would like to thank Kevin Yardley for his organisation throughout the first half term, and welcome Zara Thomas to the Swimming team.

Cheryl Goodchild
Assistant Principal

World Mental Health Day



World Mental Health Day took place on Wednesday 10th October 2018. As a school, we decided to have a week of events and meetings to show our support for this extremely important day and to continue to raise the profile of Mental Health across the school. On Monday 8th October, Mr Clune and Mrs Allum, who are the school mental health champions, met with the Samaritans and Herts MIND to discuss new and innovative ways of working together in the long term. The students have completed a strengths and difficulties questionnaire, and have written the names of five people on paper hands, who they feel they can talk to in times of need. These hands have been built into a montage, which has pride of place in the new building.

On Wednesday, Herts MIND came into the school and gave a presentation on Mental Health to the whole school to mark World Mental Health Day. The presentation required input from the students and was well received by all.

Thursday 11th October saw a mental health workshop take place for Year 8 students. This was run by our Drama teacher, Mr Noble, with input from the Samaritans. Thursday also saw the start of two days of discussions in each form class on issues surrounding mental health.

Friday 12th October was a school non-uniform day to raise money for future partnership working with Herts MIND. The students engaged in the activity with great gusto and lots of money was raised!!



Jim Clune
Director of Learning, Years 9/10

Music Enrichment Day!

On Monday 8th October 2018, our Year 7 cohort had their first day of music with Hartbeeps and Umbunda Drumming. The purpose of the day was for Year 7 to experience different musical techniques of singing and drumming; learn how to write their own 12-Bar blues songs; conduct and work as a team in a different environment, and ultimately to have fun! Particular praise must be given to Leo and Vashni, who bravely performed solos in front of the year group. Listening to a loud version of 'This is Me' was truly a highlight of the year so far, and the many smiles and positive feedback from Year 7 proved that this will truly be a memorable experience. We look forward to welcoming both companies back later on this year.

Year 7 Student

"I really enjoyed the drumming; we got to lead the rest of our year group to all play together. It was very loud though!"



Dave Emmott
Associate Assistant Principal



CHEXS 2018-19

Goffs-Churchgate is busily preparing its students for another year of positive CHEXS activities. 56 students have been chosen across Year 9 and 10 to complete activities throughout this academic year.

The Role Model Mentoring Scheme, where our Year 9 students work with primary school children in a creative Environment, starts on the 18th October 2018. The key skills being learnt in these sessions are leadership, confidence and working as a team. The students will complete four different days on the project, finishing in November. Year 10 students will start on this project in April 2019. They will again complete four days on the project which runs through until 5th June 2019.

On the 19th October this year, Year 9 students will start on the Community Enrichment programme in Lea Valley. They will be involved in habitat management, scrub clearance and dead hedge construction. Year 10 continue this programme at the end of January next year, completing four days on the project, finishing in March 2019.

Twelve students will take part in a three-day course in July 2019, entitled 'My Life Project'. The students will, in part, be learning more about positive and negative life choices. This will equip them to make positive choices when faced with tough decisions in the future. A mixture of Year 9 and 10 students will also take part in family Christmas and Easter Workshops. The workshops are after school sessions where students volunteer to work in primary schools and help families to get involved in art and craft projects.

In May and June 2019, the students will be involved in the enrichment days in the Lea Valley and will take part in a challenging activity day to consolidate their personal development.

We look forward to a very positive and productive year working with our partners from CHEXS.

Jim Clune
Director of Learning, Years 9/10

House Update



Our students have already started the drive for House Points as Faraday set out to defend their title against Curie, Edison and Rubik. There are many fantastic plans for this year and our Student Executive, alongside our Community Captains, will be ensuring that there are plenty of activities for all year groups to get involved in. As well as the weekly form time competitions with the Churchgate Challenge, we will be using our Charities Club to form the basis of our major competitions each half-term.

Our first competition was raising donations for Broxbourne Food Bank, which was narrowly won by Curie and so they have taken an early lead in the House system, but there are still plenty more points up for grabs.

Coming up in the next half term we have a Christmas Box Charity Drive, House sports competitions and a charity non-uniform day.

Dave Emmott
Associate Assistant Principal

Character Charter

Why would a student need to learn how to give a presentation? Or learn how to manage a bank account? School is more than just grades– it is about building the essential personal skills needed to thrive in the professional world.

Our Year 7s are completing Goffs-Churchgate's inaugural Character Charter, a series of practical challenges that will develop students' leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication skills. I look forward to updating the newsletter with examples of challenges being completed and our termly 'Charter Champion'. If you would like to make any suggestions, or volunteer your time to assist our community in their completion of certain activities on the Charter, please contact me at the school – d.emmott@goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk

Dave Emmott
Associate Assistant Principal

Enrichment

This year has seen an expansion of the selection of clubs that we are offering, with the notable inclusion of a number of MAT-wide opportunities in conjunction with Goffs Academy. This includes rugby teams and free use of the gym after school at Goffs. Goffs-Churchgate are also hosting a number of clubs including swimming and the Sapphires Cheerleading club. All our clubs are free to attend. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the school – d.emmott@goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk

	Lunch-Time	After School
Monday	Learning Resource Centre	Generations Gym - Girls Homework Club – Learning +
Tuesday	Dodgeball (Yr 7 + Yr8) – Gym Book Club – Learning Plus Learning Resource Centre	Performing Arts Club <i>Army Cadets – starting soon!</i> Netball (all years) Boys Rugby Homework Club – Learning +
Wednesday	Dodgeball (Yr9 + Yr10) – Gym Singing – 112 Learning Resource Centre	Year 7 Dance Club Girls Rugby Homework Club – Learning +
Thursday	Games Club – 011 Learning Resource Centre	Football – Yr 7-10 - Field Cheerleading – Gym – sign up required! Swimming – pool – starts 20/9 Homework Club – Learning +
Friday	Charities Committee – 011 Learning Resource Centre	Generations Gym - Mixed Homework Club – Learning +