

NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

A Message from the Principal



We have come to the end of what has been an extremely positive second year for Goffs-Churchgate Academy. The school continues to go from strength to strength and its reputation in the area is well established. We are extremely pleased to be welcoming our new Year 7 to our school community, and are pleased to say that we are full in this year group. This is a fantastic reflection of our growing school reputation. For me, the highlight of the term was celebrating with students at the recent Pride of Goffs-Churchgate Awards, where we had the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of so many of our children at the school. We look forward with nervous anticipation to the GCSE outcomes, and hope that our students get the results that they fully deserve.

This newsletter highlights just a handful of the opportunities that our students have in our school. From the highly successful Health and Wellbeing Day where students learnt first-hand about a range of topics relevant to their wellbeing, to our Cross-Curricular Day. I am pleased to say that we have many more exciting activities planned for next year. These include an enhanced range of extra-curricular activities for our school; a greater range of trips including residential trips, and the development of our new Art and Photography Suite.

As is the cycle of schools, we have to say goodbye to some staff, whilst also looking forward to welcoming new staff to our school community. As our school community grows in size, thereby requiring a larger staff, we have been able to recruit some fantastic new teachers to the school. We say goodbye to Miss Martin (English) and Miss Barnes (Geography) who are leaving the Trust, whilst Mrs Rodman (Science) is returning to Goffs. We welcome to the school: Miss Bajkartari (Lead Teacher of Science), Miss Charles (Design Technology), Mrs Hasler (Learning Support Assistant), Mr Hinchliffe (Geography), Mr King (Maths) Miss Johnson (who joins us as a new Assistant Principal), Ms Ozturk (English) and Mrs Pandoo (English).

We pride ourselves on the excellent communication that we have with our parents and carers. I very much appreciate parental support, and value the feedback that you give us at the school. As always, should you have any concerns, queries or would like to meet, all of our staff contact details, including myself, can be found on the school website. Please do get in touch.

Year 7 will start on Monday 2nd September at 8:30am for half a day, and then all students will return on **Tuesday 3rd September at 8:30am**. I would like to remind you all of our uniform expectations, including no nail varnish and make up. As always, students will be checked for correct uniform on their first day back and from there on, on a daily basis.

I hope that you all have a lovely, restful summer break.

Thomas Sparks
Principal

Health & Wellbeing Day – Friday 5th July 2019



Goffs-Churchgate Academy hosted their fourth Annual Health and Wellbeing Day on Friday 5th July 2019. The day was opened by the MP for Broxbourne, Charles Walker, who spoke with the students about the need for both positive physical and mental health. The focus of the day was to gain a greater understanding of, and access to, better health and making more informed life choices.

Due to the growth of the school, we were able to provide a huge range of activities for our students. Events on the day included: 'GK Icons', run by Ian Biggadike, focusing on physical health and positive mind set; Herts Mind workshops, focusing on stress and anxiety; Taekwondo, run by Richard Newcombe; 'Making Generation R' - service veterans talking about resilience, and Martin Griffiths, trauma surgeon and deputy lieutenant of London, presenting on 'Life Choices'. The Samaritans gave a talk to parents and Trustees about the '5 ways to wellbeing'. Further presentations, stalls and support were provided by Herts University and the school's nursing team.

The Woodland Trust gave presentations to each year group in the school grounds. Each year group planted a tree sapling, to show their commitment to fighting global warming, whilst also enhancing the school's already beautiful grounds. Further partnership work with the Woodland Trust is planned for the forthcoming academic year.

One of the highlights of the day were the video messages of support from ex-England football international Chris Kirkland and one of the school's Mental Health Champions, Helen Barnett (a former Metropolitan Police Officer). Their messages, about mental health were extremely powerful and very well received.

This year the school trialled Year 10 students leading certain events (including basketball, dodgeball, netball and rounders). The students did a sterling job, showcasing their talents, not only in organisation but also in leading and motivating younger students. They were fantastic role models. The day was a resounding success, with great feedback received from students, partners and parents alike.

Mr J Clune, Director of Learning Years 9 & 10

Year 10 Mock Interview Day – 7th June 2019

On the 7th June 2019, all of Year 10 were involved in a highly successful mock interview day. Employers from a wide range of professions and industries gave up their time to put our Year 10 students through a mock interview experience. In preparation for the day, students had to create their own CV and then receive feedback on this from the employer. Students were also invited to wear "business style clothing".

Students received a 25 minute, one to one meeting, which included the formal interview as well as feedback afterwards. The employers were hugely impressed with our students, whom one employer described as, "extremely professional, courteous, confident and a pleasure to work with".

Both the creation of the CV, and the interview itself, formed part of the students' BTEC Business work, and we were delighted to be able to add to their qualification of this real life professional experience. We would like to extend our thanks to Youth Connexions for overseeing the organisation of the day.

This day enhanced the school's work towards the "Investors in Careers Award." The Commitment stage is complete and the Award is due for completion in November 2019. Please see the school's website for all aspects of our careers programme.

<http://www.goffschurchgate.herts.sch.uk/720/careers-1>

Ms S Baker, Vice Principal

Pride of Goffs Churchgate 2019 – Thursday 11th July 2019

We were delighted to welcome students, parents and staff to our annual awards evening, to celebrate the outstanding contribution made by students to the community, and academic excellence. There were over 80 students awarded for their achievements.

The evening was introduced by Tia Dike-Stephens and Dante Orr (Year 7), who shared their experiences of the school to date. We are very proud of all of our students who received awards. These included:

Director of Learning Awards

Year 7 Andac Bolat and Tia Dike-Stephens

Year 8 Andreea Duca

Year 9 Jake Rowley

Year 10 Chloe-Marie Clay

Senior Leadership Awards

Year 7 Louis Smithies

Year 8 Karim Mohamed

Year 9 Kavan Peck

Year 10 Phoebe Robinson

Character Charter Award

Katie Lindsay

Local Academy Board Award

Lily Smith

Principal's Award

Jemma Smith

As Ms Baker said in her closing comments, "it is evenings just like this, which makes us remember why we are so proud to be teachers – being able to recognise students' achievement is the best part of our job".

Mr D Emmott, Associate Assistant Principal

Year 11 Leavers Assembly – 20th June 2019

As a school, we were overwhelmed to welcome so many of our Year 11 students and their family and friends to celebrate their time with us as a year group. It was a very emotional evening as we looked back at the contribution that the students had made to our school community. Each student was recognised individually, together with memories of their favourite moments at school and some historic photographs. We wish to thank the parents for their support of the school, especially throughout Year 11 and we wish all of our Year 11 students the best of luck in all their future endeavours.



Mrs S Renew, Director of Learning Year 11



Year 11 Prom – Tuesday 25th June 2019

It was a lovely, warm summer evening as staff and students arrived at Goffs-Churchgate for the first Year 11 Prom. Everyone had made an effort, with many dazzling in sequins and glitter. As we sailed along the River Thames, what students weren't expecting, was a complimentary tour from Mr Sparks as we observed the famous landmarks of London Bridge and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. As the sun started to set and the disco lights came up, the party really got started, with some amazing dance routines to the Macarena and Oops Upside Your Head.



It was a fantastic way to end a year of hard work from the staff and students. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school on Thursday 22nd August, to collect what is sure to be an amazing set of results.

Mrs S Renew, Director of Learning Year 11



Taste of Science: Primary School Visits

The 'WOW', the 'Wonder' and the Explosions of Secondary School Science

In recent weeks, we have seen the Science department at Goffs-Churchgate proudly hosting a series of Science sessions for primary schools in the local area, entitled 'Taste of Science'. These sessions covered a series of exciting investigations and interesting demonstrations to inspire and motivate children in developing their scientific knowledge and understanding.

Wonder: Students did a series of experiments to find out what chemicals were present in fireworks and why different fireworks exploded into different colours. During this segment of the session, students deployed a series of skills, from observations to problem solving, to answer the question 'Why are fireworks different colours?'

Explosion: Students observed the explosion of jelly babies called the 'Screaming jelly baby demonstration'. This experiment modelled the reaction called 'respiration', which happens in the cells in our bodies and allows us to move.

Wow: Students got to 'Wow' at the reaction between potassium iodide and hydrogen peroxide called 'Elephant's toothpaste'. This reaction showed students the decomposition (break down) of hydrogen peroxide. Highlighting the importance of decomposition in the world around us.

Explore: Students also had the opportunity to independently mix chemicals together to model the reaction that takes place inside a volcano. During the reaction, the chemicals reacted together to create this foamy eruption, just as in a live active volcano. This emphasised the importance of volcanoes in the development of the world and the atmosphere as we know it today.

Amaze: For the grand finale, all students were given the opportunity to set alight methane bubbles. This reaction demonstrated the effects of burning fuels, similar to the ones in cars. The heat generated by this reaction and the large colourful flames, gave students a full sensory experience.

The variety of reactions allowed students to 'taste' the rich broad curriculum that the Science department at Goffs-Churchgate has to offer at secondary school, whilst also learning key Science phenomena.

Ms Z Bird, Head of Science

Cross-Curricular Day – Tuesday 9th July 2019

On Tuesday 9th July 2019, students experienced a range of activities developed across various themes. Year 7 experienced being shipwrecked on an Island, Year 8 had a Shakespearian experience, and Year 9 experienced a day in the life of a Forensic Scientist. This year we have been working to strengthen the connections between the skills and knowledge learnt across the curriculum, so that students are able to apply knowledge in multiple situations. The activities were developed for each year group to enable them to use and apply skills in real world situations.

The day itself was amazing, with the whole of Year 7 working together in form groups in order to ensure their survival after they were shipwrecked on an island. Students learnt how to set up an emergency shelter and build a tent. They practised map reading skills that they then used when orienteering around the school. By far their favourite activity was learning how to survive in water whilst fully clothed. In the afternoon, students used their drama skills to create still images to reflect the “punishments” they wanted to give to people that had committed offences to others on the Island.





Year 8 began their day by writing a modern version of one scene from the Shakespeare classic: Much Ado About Nothing. This script was then acted out as a drama piece.

In the afternoon, students opted to try out some Tudor sports or design and create a Tudor Plaque. Students then worked in small groups to complete Tudor style puzzles and write some poetry.



Year 9 welcomed Pulse CSI, a company that specialises in forensic workshops. As part of this workshop, students were able to create a handprint, turn their fingerprint into a key ring and collect a footprint. Students also learnt how Forensic Officers collect and interpret the evidence left behind at a crime scene. In the afternoon, students dressed up as CSOs and conducted their own investigation of a crime scene. They had to use the evidence in order to work out who the guilty person was.



It was a fantastic day that students thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to the second Cross-Curricular day next year!

Mrs S Renew, Director of Learning for Year 11

Transition Day – 11th July 2019

On Thursday 11th July 2019, the new generation of Goffs-Churchgate students arrived for their transition day. It was wonderful standing in the car park in the morning, as 120 eager and excited faces walked into school without their parents for the first time.

We started our day with an assembly, the first of many times that this year group will come together in the hall. Mr Sparks, Mr Emmott and I spoke to the students about their worries and how we can overcome them, our standards in and out of school, and what lay in front of them for the next 5 years.

Each student had a fun filled day of exciting lessons and experiences. In Design and Technology, students took part in their first woodwork lesson, as they designed and built their own wooden avatar. I saw some amazing designs, each one reflecting a different personality!

In Science, students were given an amazing practical Science lesson, where they discovered how fireworks get their colours, and then were taken into a lab where they each had a chance to set their teacher on fire. I thought this was a great lesson until I was nominated to be the next member of staff to be set alight! Don't worry though, no teachers were harmed, and the experiment highlighted some key scientific knowledge.

After a delicious lunch provided for all students by our caterers Chartwells, students had a sports competition to finish off the day. It was wonderful watching them cheer each other on and begin to create the bonds that will last a lifetime.

I am looking forward to the new year group joining us in September, and I can already tell that I am going to be a very proud Head of Year.

Mrs S Robson, Head of Year 7

Year 7 Cadbury's World Trip – 12th July 2019



Year 7 students had a great time at Cadbury's World in Birmingham. They were fully indulged in chocolate, not only in terms of how it is made and where it is sourced from, but also eating it! The trip focused on the production process, highlighting how the food that we eat, starts as a raw ingredient and is then manufactured into a finished product.

I was blown away by how well they endured the almost 6 hour round trip and we must commend Mr Massey for manning the 'fun bus'!

The trip was a great success and I hope students will be fully infused with ideas for their first Design and Technology Chocolate Bar project in Year 8.

Many thanks to all the staff and students who partook in the day.

Mrs C Kamara, Teacher of Technology

Relationships & Sex Education (RSE) Day - Wednesday 26th June 2019

On the 26th June 2019, all students received lessons as part of the school's commitment to provide a comprehensive education on all matters relating to healthy relationships, sex and sexual health. Students were delivered age-appropriate workshops by Sexplain, a forward-thinking organisation that have partnered with Girl Guides UK to deliver their RSE provision. Feedback from students included many comments about increased body confidence and feeling more secure about the understanding of consent, and the role of sex in relationships.

Mr D Emmott, Associate Assistant Principal