

# **NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018**

## **A Message from the Principal**



I write on the back of another exciting and action packed half term for our community at Goffs-Churchgate Academy. Our school continues to go from strength to strength and projections suggest that our new cohort for Year 7 coming in September 2018 will be the largest cohort for many years. This newsletter only gives you a flavour of all the activities our students have been involved in, from Careers Days for Year 9 and 10, to Poetry Live for Year 11. Our Year 8 students are in the process of picking their GCSE options for next year, and Year 7 continue to grow in the school and are already undertaking GCSE work in some subjects.

In the last few weeks, we have invited staff, students and parents to offer their feedback on the school through our annual survey. The outcomes of these directly feed into our Strategic Development Plan for 2018-2019. The overall outcomes of the survey show the very positive changes that this school has made. Within the parents' survey, 91% of parents responded that they agreed or strongly agreed that their child was taught well at the school. In addition, 91% of parents responded that their child is well looked after and that the school is well led and managed. For our students, 85% of them responded that they are taught well in school: this is a significant rise of 25% from the previous year. In addition, 86% of students felt they were making good progress at the school, again, a significant 20% increase from the year before. The school is in the process of digesting all of the comments and suggestions and will be formulating this into our Strategic Development Plan for 2018-2019 which will be shared with all stakeholders in due course.

As is the normal cycle of a school, we say goodbye to some of our colleagues at Easter. Peter Bailey has worked for the school for 40 years and leaves us as Site Manager. Peter has been a dedicated member of our school community for so many years and has seen generations of children pass through the school. I would like to thank Peter for his many years of service to the school. Ashley Rose (teacher of Science) leaves us to take a role at another school. Finally, Sam Stamp (Office Manager) has left us to pursue a different career setting. We warmly welcome Lucy Hutton as our new Receptionist, who will join us after Easter to work in the main office.

We are pleased to see that the new lockers have arrived at the school and students are regularly using them throughout the day. A reminder that the lockers are reopened every evening and any contents left in the lockers are taken to lost property at Reception.

Finally, I would like to remind parents and students of our expectations regarding uniform and make-up. Students are not allowed to wear make-up; we have seen a few students wearing fake eyelashes and eyebrows. In addition, students must not have a shaved or part shaved head unless there are religious reasons for doing so. Finally, students are only permitted to have 1 stud earring in their lower earlobe. If students do wear make-up or have incorrect uniform they may be isolated until this is corrected.

I wish you all a restful Easter break and look forward to seeing all the students when we return on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

**Thomas Sparks**  
Principal

## **A Message from the Executive Principal**



I am very pleased to be able to say that our Multi Academy Trust continues to grow, develop and strengthen. Goffs-Churchgate is now firmly established as a school in the Goffs model, just on a smaller scale, reflected in it being full for the September 2018 Year 7. The current Year 7 is already full with a wait list, and the school is seeing increasing numbers of students asking to transfer into the Trust and Goffs-Churchgate. Tom Sparks, Principal, and all of the Goffs-Churchgate staff are to be commended for the outstanding work undertaken to date. It is a genuine pleasure to see the school growing and thriving. Goffs continues to perform extremely strongly, and is again significantly oversubscribed for September 2018, with a lengthy wait list. The calibre of staff at both schools is one of the Trust's greatest assets and I am very grateful to each of them.

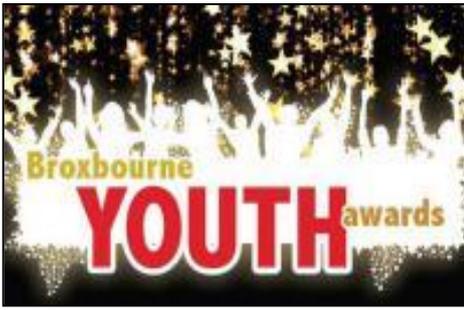
Restructuring to create centralised Trust roles in key areas such as oversight of the facilities on both sites is complete. Linked to this, Chris Turner, the former Site Manager at Goffs, will be moving on to new opportunities. Our thanks go to Chris for his years of service at Goffs, and we all wish him every future success and happiness. Following Chris's departure, we anticipate demolishing and levelling the house at the front of the Goffs site, with conversations being well underway with Trustees regarding a replacement facility that will both support lettings at Goffs, plus generate further income. I will update you on those plans once they are finalised.

The Trust's income generation work is reaping essential rewards in terms of ensuring financial certainty at a time of ongoing reductions in school funding. While messages from central Government are that school funding has increased, this is not the reality on the ground, with pay, pension and National Insurance increases being put through with absolutely no additional funding given to schools to cover these costs. As such, we are incredibly grateful to our Income Generation Director, Kevin Yardley, for his truly outstanding work ensuring that the facilities at both sites work hard to generate additional income for each school.

Staff and students at both schools are now deep into the final preparations for examinations. We wish each student across the Trust every possible success as they move into a period that will determine what their next steps and future opportunities are. As such, I know that they are aware that the Easter holiday needs to be one of extensive work and revision. The time for thinking that exams are a long way in the future is gone. The time to act and secure their futures is now.

I wish everyone a peaceful, and hopefully snow free, Easter.

**Alison J Garner**  
**Executive Principal**  
**Generations Multi Academy Trust**



## **Broxbourne Youth Awards 2018**

Broxbourne Youth Awards celebrates the Borough's brilliant young people and those who help them.

The 2018 awards ceremony took place at the Spotlight, Hoddesdon on Friday 9 March 2018, and was a hugely successful evening for the staff and students of Goff-Churchgate Academy.

Following the nominations led by the Student Executive, we had five teachers shortlisted for the Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award: Tom Massey, Mike Wisniowski, Sean Keever, Julie Gissing and Gemma Joyce. Of the 35 teachers shortlisted, Julie Gissing made it through into the final 6, and was described by the students as being 'caring, approachable and always encouraging them to achieve their best.'

Long Dang (Year 7) was selected to play piano on the evening and demonstrated his exceptional talent playing, Emeli Sande's 'Read all about it', to open the second half of the evening. We are hugely proud to have had two students winning awards on the evening:

### **Young Sports Personality of the Year Winner**



Dylan Tomkinson-Burden (Year 9) began canoeing in 2015 after being tested by the Team GB canoe slalom academy. He was promoted to Division One in both the kayak and canoe in 2017, with three consecutive wins in the latter making him the first in his group to be promoted. After further profiling and testing, he was one of just 16 selected for the Southern Super Regional Squad, again in both categories. He is certainly one to watch for the future.

### **Young People's Contribution to Culture Winner**



Since attending the X Studio Music Project in Waltham Cross, Andrada Fistic (Year 10), has progressed from singing cover tracks to writing and producing her own music. At present she has written over 20 songs. Project staff with many years' experience working in the music industry describe her as a natural talent which, combined with her professionalism, could lead her to achieve great things.

Well done to everyone who was nominated or involved in this year's awards, and huge congratulations to Dylan and Andrada. We are very proud to have such talented and inspiring young people as a part of the Goffs-Churchgate community.

**Cheryl Goodchild**  
Associate Assistant Principal

## Year 10 Dance Festival 2018

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the Year 10 GCSE Dance class went to Debden Park High School in Loughton, Essex to take part in their annual Dance Festival. The students were Mia Sansford, Jessica Allsop, Summer Nemeth, Austeja Baltrusaityte, Esraa Abdelrahman, Eduard Moldoveanu, Rileigh Griffis and Lucy Bartlett. We choreographed and performed a contemporary dance piece to the song 'This is Me' from the latest film 'The Greatest Showman'. The dance was inspired by the backstory behind the song about being who you are and embracing it, not shying away from your inner self.



This is the second year that we have participated in Debden Park High School's annual Dance Festival; last year we performed a contemporary piece.

To choreograph this year's dance, we mentally brainstormed moves that showcased ideas such as 'empowerment' and 'self-confidence' and based the rest of our choreography choices around those ideas.



On behalf of the whole class, I thank and owe deep depths of gratitude to Ms Baker – our teacher - as she helped us choreograph and polish this dance and organised our appearance at this amazing event, and gave us the opportunity to present what we worked so hard to produce. I would also like to thank Mrs Dane for driving us to the venue in the minibus, and Mr Sparks who was our chaperone for the evening. Thank you so much for everything.

**Jessica Allsop**  
Year 10 GCSE Dance Student

### Year 11 Raising Achievement

Well done to the Year 11 students who have just completed another set of trial examinations earlier this month! After school interventions continue every night after school, and students have had a number of opportunities to boost their progress through specially organised days which are dedicated to just one of their subjects. We have a full programme of support for our students in the run up to the exams including a full programme of intervention over the Easter holidays. At this crucial time, it is important that students attend every session.

### Easter Intervention

	Monday 2nd April	Tuesday 3rd April	Wednesday 4th April	Thursday 5th April	Friday 6th April
<b>9am-12pm</b>	Bank Holiday	Maths Mr Adedipe	Maths Mr Adedipe	German Mrs Powell	Maths Mr Sparks  BTEC Health and Social BTEC Business Ms Goodchild
<b>12-12.30pm</b>		<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12.30pm-3.30pm</b>	Bank Holiday	English Language (Reading & Writing) Mr Kelly	English (Inspector Calls & Poetry) Mr Nichola	Maths Mrs Gissing	BTEC Health and Social BTEC Business Mr Sparks

	Monday 9th April	Tuesday 10th April	Wednesday 11th April	Thursday 12th April	Friday 13th April
<b>9am-12pm</b>	Maths Mr Sparks	Art Photography Mr Keever	PE Miss Goodchild	Textiles/ Mrs Dane Science/Mrs Rodman	Maths Mr McDowell
<b>12-12.30pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>12.30pm-3.30pm</b>		Art Photography Mr Keever	History Mr Gill Geography Mr Taylor	Product Design Mrs Dane	English Macbeth & Christmas Carol (Mr Wisniewski)

Stuart Taylor  
Vice Principal

## **Black Forest Gateau**

Did you know the “Black Forest Gateau” festival is celebrated in Germany on the 28<sup>th</sup> March?

The “Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte” is the name for the German dessert named the Black Forest Gateau.

The cake consists of several layers of chocolate cake, with cream and cherries between each layer and decorated in additional cream, cherries and shavings of chocolate.

Our Year 8 students took part in the Black Forest Gateau competition, where they researched the history of the cake, wrote recipes in the target language and showed their culinary skills by creating their own mini Black Forest Gateau in their German lesson as part of the project.

This activity was hugely successful in developing German language skills and increasing cultural awareness about traditions in Germany.

Congratulations to Liam Lovland-Troy and Tanaya Hughes- Hall who were voted competition winners in Year 8.



Year 8 (Black Forest Gateau winners)

**Ms E Powell**  
**Head of Humanities and Languages**

## Careers Fair



On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018, students in Year 9 and 10 had a Careers Fair organised by Youth Connections. The Fair was to give the students an idea of what certain types of real life jobs are like. There were 15 different companies at the Fair including: The RAF, Hertford Regional College, Youth Connexions, University of Hertfordshire, and The Rhapsody Institute. This cross section of sectors gave students a varied insight into the world of work. I felt like this Fair helped me a lot because I was struggling to decide on my work experience, and one of the companies gave me direction with what I wanted to do. The Fair also provided me with lots of ideas about future career paths and how to reach them.

**Reggie Sullivan**  
Year 10



## Poetry Live

Deciding to attend Poetry Live with my school was one of, if not the most wise choices I have ever made. The captivating performances excitingly heightened my understandings of each and every poem that I have been studying especially Remains by Simon Armitage and Tissue by Imtiaz Dharker. Having the pleasure to witness living legends in the flesh like John Agard and Simon Armitage read out their masterpieces to us was astonishing and gripping. I felt as if every word they spoke roped me tighter and closer in, enticing and intriguing me, forcing me to stay yet without conviction. I wish to experience this feeling once again as I ambitiously hope for the opportunity to arise once again and of course, attend it.

**Nicholas Smith**  
Year 11

### Aspirations and Achievement Group



During March, Youth Connexions put on two interactive and challenging workshops for our Aspiration and Achievement groups in Year 7 and 8. These were part of the “Navigate your Future” package designed to support schools to ensure students are prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of their future life. The sessions were run by two Youth Connexions advisers with up to date knowledge of the local labour market, through extensive work with employers.

The Navigate your Future workshops enable students to develop and practice key employability skills, identify options, investigate careers and labour market information.

**Year 7** took part in a session focussed on Self Development, called “Reach for the Summit – Building aspirations & resilience” which involved:

- Understanding the meaning of aspiration
- Exploring their own aspirations and the setting of short-term and long-term goals
- Understand the steps needed to take in order to achieve their goals/dreams
- Understand the importance of building resilience and positive thinking

The **Year 8** session was called Pathways Explorer – Identifying options, choices and opportunities. This session focussed on:

- Identifying what is important to consider when making decisions
- Learning about and practicing decision making techniques
- Exploring future options including Sixth Form, College, Apprenticeships and University
- Exploring what they want from the future and keeping that as their goal.

It was a very interactive session, which had students actively involved in the process of making decisions and the importance of taking everything into account before moving forward. The session was specifically aimed at students who are in the process of choosing their Options to study at GCSE, and helped them to understand the importance of having goals and the steps you have to take in order to achieve them. Students also learnt that you can learn valuable skills from different subjects.

Both sessions were a success and had students considering their future goals and building the resilience needed to achieve them.

Our students said;

“I learnt about how to overcome obstacles and think about the future.” Year7 student

“I was encouraged that I could achieve anything I put my mind to.” Year7 student

“The fact that we did various activities and talking through options got me thinking.” Year 8 student

“It showed me the importance of finding out as much as possible before making a decision.” Year 8 student

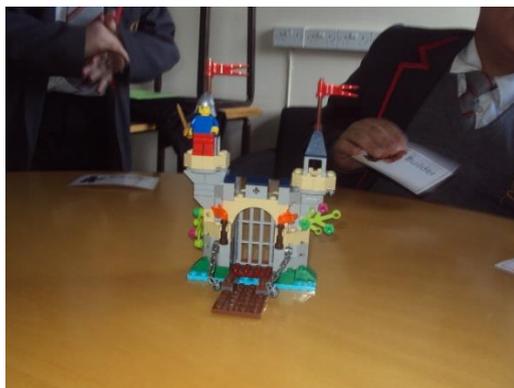
**Mr Sean Keever**  
**Teacher of Art**

### **Lego Therapy**

Lego therapy aims to develop social skills through the Lego Therapy Programme. Collaborative play provides opportunities for children to practise skills such as turn-taking, listening, sharing ideas, communication, compromise, problem solving and shared attention.

Michelle Tate, Secondary Outreach Worker from Rivers ESC has facilitated this with some of our students this half term. Each student plays the role of an ‘engineer’, a ‘supplier’ or a ‘builder’ and together they follow pictorial instructions to build a model.

The feedback from the pilot group of Year 8 students was very positive. They enjoyed the way the Lego building developed and all felt that regular Lego therapy would help them with their learning at school.



**Ms Emile**  
**Director of Learning for Years 7 and 8**



## Community Enrichment

### Life Project 19-21<sup>st</sup> March 2018

The Life Project was attended by eight pupils from the school. There were lots of lively discussions and a real insight was given to them about the how the choices they make can change the course of their life.

The project included the following sessions;

- A drugs, alcohol and sexual health session delivered by Youth Connexions Hertfordshire
- A visit to a B3 Living flat to give a clear indication of the cost of accommodation in our area
- Herts Young Homeless gave a presentation on what constitutes being homeless, and a young man who had been in that situation gave a talk about his experience
- A budgeting session was delivered to give them an understanding of the cost of living
- A relationships session, looking at positive, negative and abusive behaviours and qualities. This included discussions and video about child sexual exploitation
- A session about sexting and its implications

The feedback was very positive from the students. One spoke of having a better understanding of finances saying, 'I understand why I have to save more money for housing, cars and a lot of other reasons'. Another student said, 'It helped me to make better choices and I'm prepared for things in the future,' and, 'It makes you realise the effects of drugs and alcohol'.

### Lea Valley 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018



The students really took on the challenge of felling a tree. They had a lot of problems to consider including factors such as the proximity of the path, a stream and a telephone wire. With a lot of team work and problem solving between the whole team, including the St Joseph's Primary School students, they accomplished the task. It should be noted that our students always included the younger students, even within their lunchtime football game!

The students clearly enjoyed the day, one stating that, 'when we were cutting down the big tree we didn't give up!' Other students said, 'I really wanted to get the big tree down' and, 'we had to communicate with each other to get the work done'.

**Jim Clune**  
Director of Learning for Years 9 and 10