

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2019

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 August, we celebrated another fantastic set of GCSE results, which are testament to the high quality teaching and learning our students receive day in and day out. We expect our overall progress measures to be the highest in the local area, and amongst the highest in Hertfordshire. The school has truly been transformed over the past two years, as these results highlight.

Our Open Evening in late September 2019 was another huge success. We welcomed over 1000 people to the school on the evening despite only having 120 places in next year's Year 7 cohort; we even included two of our Year 7 students, Caitlin and Ryan from Year 7 who stole the show with their self-written speeches. The overwhelming response from all the parents was that our school community astounded them. All of our students were immaculate throughout the evening, and their enthusiasm and passion for our school were commented on consistently by our visitors.

We have had a range of fantastic activities this half-term and we are proud that we offer a range of clubs, trips and enrichment experiences for our students. We have worked to develop our clubs' offering and I would encourage parents to review with their children, which clubs they might like to attend and sign up to those activities. Full details can be found later in this newsletter.

Further to my recent letter, the catering facilities at Goffs-Churchgate will no longer sell any drinks in plastic bottles or cans, as part of the Trust's drive on addressing single use plastics. Each child will be issued with a reusable drinks bottle for which the catering facilities will have drinks dispensers where, once students have purchased a token, they can fill up their reusable bottle with a beverage of their choice. Furthermore, there will be additional water stations, where students can fill up their bottle with no charge, should children prefer this option. We look forward to further changes taking place this year to minimise our environmental footprint.

I am pleased to say that over the half-term break our MUGA sports area will be converted to a brand new 3G pitch. We are delighted that our Trust has been able to invest significantly in updating our sports facilities here at Goffs-Churchgate, with this initiative provide a high quality surface for the students. Students will be able to use the 3G pitch at lunchtime too, but they must have a pair of trainers to use this facility as they will not be permitted to wear school shoes on the pitch. Over the summer break, we also plan to upgrade the basketball court surface to provide a higher quality experience. 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 18th October 2019 at normal time and we return on the **4th November 2019 at 8:30am.**

Tom Sparks, Principal

A Message from the Executive Principal



Once again, half-term has come around at frightening speed. I am reliably informed by others that, sadly, that is a by-product of getting old. Enough said.

Both schools have had incredibly busy first half-terms, and both continue to celebrate the incredibly successful results that they delivered for their students in the summer. The DfE is about to publish the draft Progress data for the 2019 GCSE and A Level results; when you see it, you will, I hope, be as proud as we are. Our Trust continues to deliver great success for the students in our care. Whilst the data and national comparisons are important, what is most important to us is that our students are able to progress to their chosen next steps, be that after GCSEs or A Levels. We are delighted that all of our students were able to make their desired progression this year.

Mark Ellis and Tom Sparks have written to you this week, outlining the Trust's first steps on addressing single use plastics in both schools. No doubt there will be some teething problems as we move over to the new system, but we are all convinced that this is the right thing to do, and are very much focused on solutions not problems. I look forward to working with students on what they would like to tackle next as they continue to drive forward their environmental agenda. I am grateful to Chartwells who have engaged with us in a very proactive way on this piece of work, and who have been incredibly "can do" in their approach to something that, for them, has raised many operational issues.

It has, as you know, been our hope to establish nursery provision within the Trust for some time. Finding the right partner has proved to be more challenging than we expected. However, if things progress as they are currently, I hope to be able to tell you prior to Christmas about our partnership with an exciting provider. If successful, the partnership will offer discounted nursery rates for Trust staff, whilst also offering a very high standard of provision for local families. I will update you once/if the partnership is confirmed.

I hope that everyone has a good half-term break.

Alison Garner, Executive Principal

World Mental Health Day



World Mental Health Day took place on Thursday 10th October 2019. As a school, we decided to have a week of events to show our support for this extremely important day and to continue to raise the profile of Mental Health across the school. Throughout the week in form time, all years have received information on Mental Health provided by the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families.

On Monday 7th October 2019, students attended a Stress and Anxiety workshop run by the School Nurses Team. Students looked at a range of issues including 'relaxation techniques'. On Wednesday 9th October 2019, all Year groups received a musical performance and talk from a singer/songwriter. The focus of the performance was wellbeing, cyberbullying and e-safety.

On Thursday 10th October 2019, the school had a non-uniform day to raise money for Herts MIND and we have raised in excess of £500. A whole school assembly took place with performances from Drama students, Dance students, and Years 7 & 8 students singing "Something Inside So Strong" by Labi Siffre.

On Wednesday 16th October 2019, we held another whole school assembly on resilience by "Making Generations R".

As part of our assembly, we also received messages of support from the school's external Mental Health Champions; Charles Walker MP, Martin Griffiths, and Helen Barnett. In his letter to the school, Charles Walker MP, said, **"We, in Broxbourne, are lucky that at Goffs-Churchgate, everyday is a 'Mental Health Day'. I congratulate the school for its foresight and determination to make sure that this is always the case."**

The students engaged in all activities with great gusto and lots of money was raised!



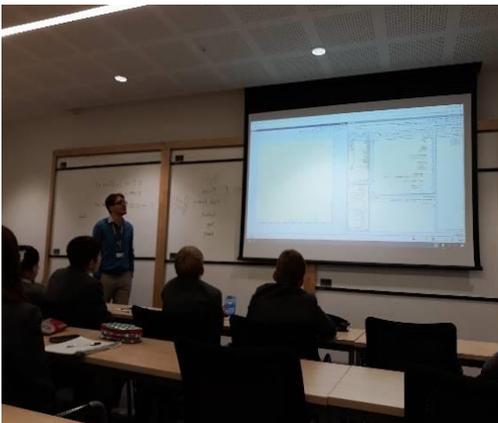
Mr J Clune
Director of Learning, Years 9/10

Trip to Oxford University



On Monday 7th October 2019, students from Years 9 and 10 attended a trip to Balliol College at Oxford University. Balliol College was founded in 1263 and is one of the oldest colleges in Oxford. On arrival, we were given a tour of the college by Jay, a Third Year History student. Whilst we were being shown around, Jay explained what student life was like. He showed us a typical dormitory room and the Junior Common Room and gave examples of the many different societies and sports clubs available.

After our tour, we had a short talk on Oxford University before lunch. We were treated to a two-course lunch in their amazing dining hall, which looked like it was straight out of a Harry Potter film! After lunch the students participated in an 'Oxpire' session, where a number of questions were discussed and debated.



The day was finished off with a Maths workshop by Dr James Munro, at the new state-of-the-art Maths Faculty building. During this part of the day, students were given a range of tasks to complete, in which they performed very well. Dr Munro confirmed at the end of the workshop that everything he covered was University level Maths as he does not believe in dumbing Maths down for Most Able students like ours. The students were impeccably behaved, and should be very proud of the fact they were successful in completing a University level Maths workshop at one of the most prestigious universities in the world.

A big thank you to Mr Massey for driving the minibus and for dropping us off and picking us up so we didn't need to walk so far!

Please keep an eye out for letters going home inviting students to go on more inspiring trips like this.

Miss L Johnson
Assistant Principal

University of Hertfordshire

On 1st October 2019, as part of the University of Hertfordshire's "Widening Access" programme, the whole of Year 10 undertook a study and revision skills session led by colleagues from the University. This workshop aimed to help students to develop into independent learners. The strategies discussed, were designed to encourage students to take more ownership of their studies, with a view to increasing aspirations for achievement in their GCSEs and where this may lead them in the future.



The session was a huge success with students taking away real life strategies and tips for how to successfully revise and prepare for exams. The University of Hertfordshire will be working closely with the school all year to deliver a variety of different workshops and face-to-face sessions with all year groups.

Careers Programme

As part of our Careers programme, on 11th October 2019 we took half of Year 8 to the Marriot Hotel, Cheshunt. Students got a taste of the wide variety of roles available at the Marriott, and the day included a behind-the-scenes tour of the property. Throughout the day, students met with staff from Sales and Events, Hospitality, Human Resources, and Chef teams, to share their experiences and the opportunities available working for a multi-national hotel chain. Top class customer service was also high on the agenda, with students immersing themselves in a series of practical hospitality challenges; from planning a fully-budgeted wedding party to setting up conference facilities for the hotel's discerning guests.

Students were also provided lunch at the hotel's Iron Grill Restaurant. One student remarked, "This was a great day. I have learned so much about working in a hotel and all the different types of jobs that people do. It is definitely a careers option I will think more closely about." The other half of the year group will be doing the same trip on 18th November 2019.

Ms S Baker
Vice Principal

Sports Day 2019

On Friday 19th July 2019, the much-anticipated Goffs-Churchgate Sports Day took place. This event gives students the opportunity to compete in a variety of sporting activities against rival Houses. The results from each of the events contribute towards the awarding of the infamous Sports Day trophy and it is the last opportunity Houses have to earn points in a bid to be crowned House Champions.



The weather forecast for the day did not look kind but it was not going to hold us back; at least that is what we thought. The day started with Houses competing in the following team games; Rounder's, Benchball, Football and Dodgeball. The results from all year groups kept the scores close and it was shaping up to be a hard fought day between all Houses.



That was until a torrential down pour interrupted the day's play and forced us to stop proceedings. However, at Goffs-Churchgate we do not know when we are defeated, and refused to let rain stop what was turning out to be one of the most competitive Sports Days to date. With quick thinking, supportive staff, and enthusiastic students, we managed to make alternative provisions in the school hall.

Each House would now have to compete in a variety of team races and the all-important tug of war, which would accumulate points according to their position. If anything, this intensified the competitive spirit of each team, as everyone was watching and cheering on their teams together at the same time. It was rewarding to see the encouragement and enthusiasm shown by all the students and it really summed up what the day is all about. Each team member did an outstanding job, and did their House proud. However, at the end of every Sports Day there can only be one winner. In a competition that has been dominated by House Faraday and House Edison, there emerged a new victor, the 2019 Goffs-Churchgate Champions were.....House Curie.

Will House Curie be able to retain the trophy, will it go back to one of the other previous winners in Faraday or Edison, or will Rubik be able to claim their first victory? That will be decided at Sports Day 2020.

Mr T Massey
PE Teacher



RFU Report

On Monday 7th October 2019, the RFU took a visit to Goffs-Churchgate to give the students an insight into what it takes to become a rugby player. This opportunity for the students allowed them to take part in numerous fun and engaging activities led by qualified RFU coaches. From the off there were smiles on the students' faces, and these smiles certainly did not disappear across the course of the hour! Despite the weather looking like it could take a turn for the worst, the students did not let this dampen their mood and got stuck right in!

The RFU coaches were not there to find England's next best rugby player, but if they did then that would be a bonus; they were there to deliver an enjoyable yet rewarding class that would leave the students feeling like they accomplished something in their lesson. Following a starter drill, the foundations were set for a lesson that promoted progression and development activity by activity. At the start of the lesson, the students struggled to put together successful passes but drill by drill, this began to change. Over the hour-long session, the students went from not being confident in throwing a rugby ball, to effectively throwing the ball backwards and then running into space ready for the next pass whilst the opposing players were ready to intercept. Some of the higher ability students even managed to turn the jets on and run through everyone to score a fantastic try that even the coaches would be proud of!



Respect, discipline, enjoyment and attention were key characteristics that the coaches picked out. The coaches exemplified these to the students, and you could see the early signs of the students mirroring the values. It showed to them that rugby is not just a sport where you pick the ball up and run, but it is a sport that brings people together and leaves you with friendships and values that will be with you for the rest of your life.

Eddie Jones certainly has a selection headache in a few years' time, because the boys and girls of Goffs-Churchgate are coming for that jersey!

We look forward to the RFU coming back to run further sessions in the future weeks. Rugby training for boys and girls is after school on a Wednesday, so please do come along.

Mr T Massey
PE Teacher

Parent Forum October 2019

On Friday 4th October 2019, we held our first Parent Forum. The event was very successful and I would like to thank all the parents who attended. It was fantastic to be able to speak with parents face to face and to respond to queries. The following areas were raised by parents:

- Confirmation of enrichment activities for students including sports teams - we have reissued the extra curricular clubs timetable to all students in assembly; sent the timetable home via the parent bulletin, and we have updated the timetable on the school website. With regards to enrichment, especially sports teams, we have reminded students that if they want the clubs to run and fixtures to be arranged, then they must commit to attending sessions regularly
- We have reminded staff to be issuing R1s in every lesson when students are attending on time and are fully equipped
- More feedback was asked for regarding the Character Charter, and I can confirm that certificates have been given out this week celebrating student successes, and that a more detailed reporting process is being reviewed. The Character Charter is designed to build students' independence, so please do encourage them to discuss with you how they are getting on
- I can confirm that Hegarty Maths has now been rolled out to all Year 7 students, and Mr Adedipe has put a message about this in the weekly parent bulletin
- We will be having electricians on site over half-term to install some new lighting at the front of the school; this as part of responding to some concerns raised about the poor lighting in this area as it starts to get dark much earlier now

As you can see, we have actioned all these points within three weeks of the Forum. I am also very pleased to say that there was an awful lot of extremely positive feedback from parents about the school, including how happy children are here.

If you would like to join us for the next Parent Forum, please do so on 31st January 2020.

Ms S Baker
Vice Principal

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



The wellbeing of Goffs-Churchgate students is integral to the school, and this includes our understanding of each child's needs. Although there isn't a significant issue at our school, bullying can have a detrimental effect on a child's learning. At the end of last year, Goffs-Churchgate assembled a team of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. We have a team of 13 Ambassadors, who range from Years 8 to 11, and they can be found all around the school. We all attended a training session lead by the Diana Award, teaching us how to act/respond in many difficult situations, involving bullying. As well as around the school, we can be found in 'Learning Plus' at break time, should any student want to discuss any concerns.

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

RAK SU

On the last day of the Summer term, as part of our Music curriculum, we were pleased to welcome Rak Su to the school to give a music performance to all students. Rak Su were previous winners of the X-Factor, so we were very lucky to have them perform at Goffs-Churchgate. They performed a range of songs and were available to answer questions from the children. Students who wished to, also had the opportunity to have their photography with the band. It was a great way to end a very successful year and the students thoroughly enjoyed the music.



Enrichment

This year has seen an expansion of the selection of clubs that we are offering. 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

	Lunchtime	Afterschool 3.15-4.15
Monday	<i>Dodgeball - Yr7 Boys – JOL - gym Art Projects – KES - 201</i>	<i>Boys Football (all years) (MAT) - field Games Club (NIA) - 002 Homework Club (L+)</i>
Tuesday	<i>Dodgeball - KS3 Girls – MAT - gym <u>Litterpicking</u> – EMD Student Exec Meetings – 004 Photography Club – KES - 201</i>	<i>Cheerleading (Ext.) - gym Fit Club (EMD) - field Glee Club (Ext.) – 112 Homework Club (L+)</i>
Wednesday	<i>Dodgeball – Yr11 – GOC - gym KS3 Basketball – quad STEM Club – EDJ – 104 Board Games – ADS - 008</i>	<i>Rugby Club (girls and boys) (EMD) - field Homework Club (L+)</i>
Thursday	<i><u>Dodgeball</u> – Yr9+10 - MAT Dance – BAS – dance studio SALAD Club – EVS - 102</i>	<i>Swimming (KYA) Basketball (Dylan TB) - quad Displays Team (TAL) – 009 Performing Arts Club (JOG) - 112 Homework Club (L+)</i>
Friday	<i>Dodgeball - Yr8 Boys – EMD – gym Graphics Club – 006 Performing Arts Club – JOG - 112</i>	<i>Homework Club (L+) Performing Arts Club (JOG) – 112 Girls Football (JOL) - field</i>

Mr D Emmott
Associate Assistant Principal