

Excellence: for each, for all

PORTRAIT

THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER · OCTOBER 2017 · ISSUE 14



THOMAS
GAINSBOROUGH
SCHOOL

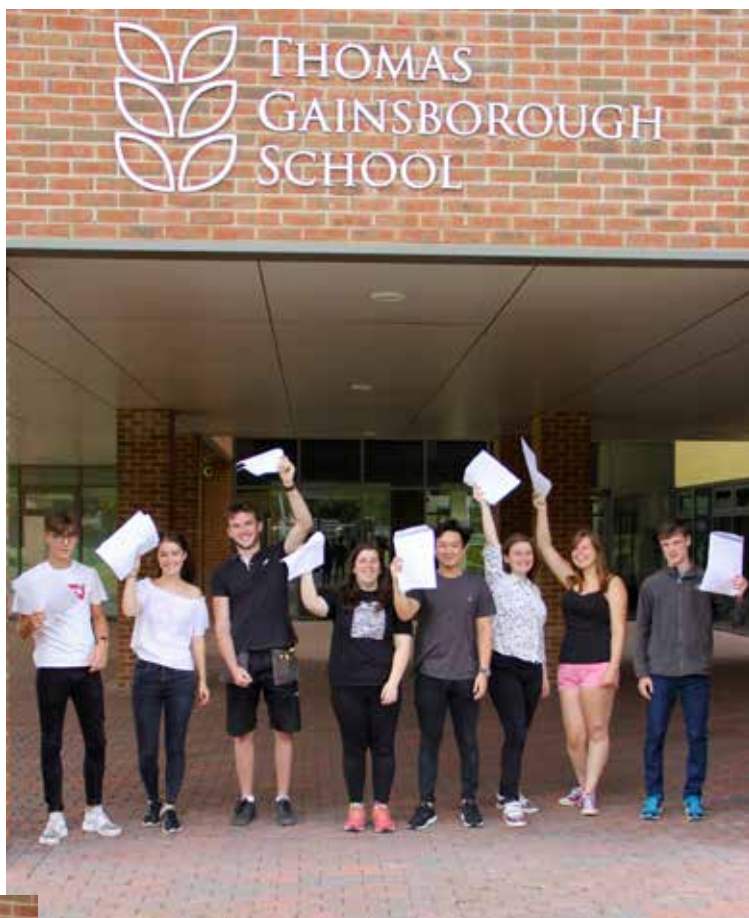


Exam Success!

GCSE students in 2017 at Thomas Gainsborough School, were, like their peers across the country, the first students to face the new style GCSEs in Mathematics and English. Designed to be tougher than the previous qualifications, with all of the assessment being through the final exams, TGS students did themselves proud with their excellent achievements, which place the school within the top 20% of similar schools nationally.

Reflecting on the results, headteacher, Wayne Lloyd, said: 'We are very pleased with these results. I would like to congratulate the students on their excellent performance. It is a fitting reward for their hard work and the dedication and the support that they have received from their teachers.'

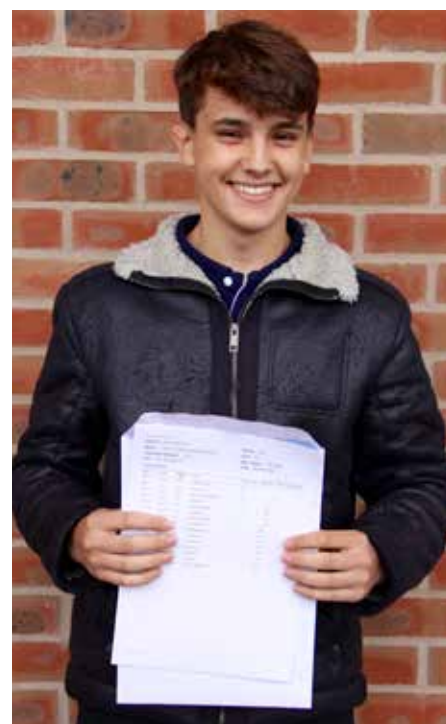
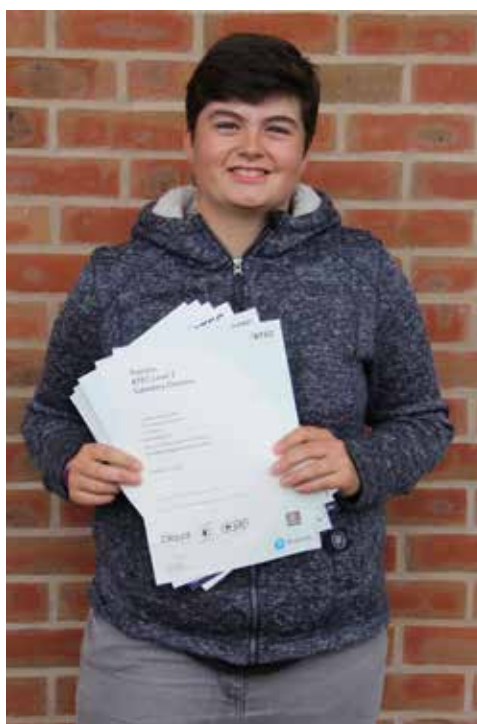
Students in the current Year 11 will face the new style GCSEs in nearly all their subjects this year as part of the government's ongoing reforms to the exam system.



Summary of 2017 Examination Performance Measures

The following data outlines the key performance indicators following the 2016-17 examinations. In 2017, new examinations in English and Mathematics were introduced that replaced the old GCSEs and graded students from 1-9 (with 9 being the highest grade) rather than A*-G. All other subjects were still graded in the old way.

Key Stage 4 Measure (end Year 11)	% of students achieving measure
% of students achieving both English and Maths at Grade 5+ (a strong pass)	40
% of students achieving both English and Maths at Grade 4+ (a standard pass)	62
% of students achieving Grade 7-9 in Mathematics	13
% of students achieving Grade 5+ in Mathematics	52
% of students achieving Grade 4+ in Mathematics	75
% of students achieving Grade 7-9 in English	18
% of students achieving Grade 5+ in English	55
% of students achieving Grade 4+ in English	71
% of students achieving both English and Maths at Grade 5 (a strong pass) (Disadvantaged students)	21
% of students achieving both English and Maths at Grade 4 (a standard pass) (Disadvantaged students)	34
% of students achieving the English Baccalaureate	15
Progress 8 Score (Provisional)	+0.20
Key Stage 5 Measure (end Year 13)	% of students achieving measure
Overall Pass Rate	97
A Level Passes A*-B	41
A Level Passes A*/A	21
Vocational Qualification Passes at Distinction*/Distinction	76
Extended Project Qualification A*-C	82
Average Grade per entry	C



Welcome Year 7



Enrichment

Enrichment Opportunities at TGS Autumn Term 1 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
ICT Drop in - All years - GCU (219)	Dodge Ball - Yr 7 & 8 - BRI/RMY	European Film Club (312)	Badminton - All years - CBR/NBU/VBR	ICT Drop in - All years - GCU (219)
Music Practice Rooms available	ICT Drop in - All years - GCU (219)	ICT Drop in - All years - GCU (219)	ICT Drop in - All years - GCU (219)	Music Practice Rooms available
	Music Practice Rooms available	Music Practice Rooms available	Music Practice Rooms available	6th form voice - Week 1 only - JWK (301)
	Pokemon Card Club - TBC	Pokemon Card Club - TBC		
	Invitation Only - Advanced Vocals - AHN (112)	String Ensemble - All Years - NRE (111)		
		TGS Numismatic Society - All years - SMC (205) 1.10pm		
		Invitation Only -String Quartet (MP Rooms)		
AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL	AFTER SCHOOL
Careers Games and working party – BBA (Careers hub G Block)	Art Club - All Years - LNI (317)	Basketball - KS3 - VBR	Arts & Crafts Club - All Years - LSA's (204) till 4pm	Cricket Nets - All years -WLL, & WPO
Fitness suite - Yr 9+ 4-5pm	Arts & Crafts Club - All Years - LSA's (204) till 4pm	Card Making - All Years - LSA's (204) till 4pm	Choir- All years - AHN (112)	Knit & Natter - All years - JHI (105)
	Animation Club - All Years - GCU (219)	Exploring Christianity- Chaplains (101)	Creative Writing - All years - GED (305)	Dance Club - Years 7 & 8 Dance Studio
	Badminton – All years - BRI	Fitness suite Yr 9+ 4-5pm	Fitness suite Yr 9+ 4-5pm	Running Club- All years -Sudbury Running Club 4.30pm start
	Chess Club - All Years - SPE (216)	Food tech club Years 7 & 8 THU 008	Football - All Years - BRI/RMY	
	Debate Club-All years JHE (Rm 202)	Girls Fitness Club - All Years - NBU	Media & Drama Club - Yrs 7-9 - KFR/AGA (Media Suite)	

	Ensemble - All Years - NRE (112)	History Film Club - All Years - JLO (206)	MUN-Model United Nations - Yrs 8+. JHe (202)	
	Greenpower Karting - All years - ACA - (002)	Hockey - All years - DCH	Netball Club - All Years - CBR/NBU/VBR	
	Lego Tec Club - Years 7 & 8 - PBE (Rm 003)	Maths Club - KS3 - CHF & SST (103)	N.Vision - Chaplains (101)	
	Lego Robotics Club - All Years - GCU (219)	Prep - 4pm (LSSC) TOB and team	Prep - 4pm (LSSC) TOB and team	
	Prep - till 4pm (LSSC) –TOB and team	Spelling & Handwriting Club - KS3 - KMA (307)	Resistant Materials Woodwork Club – KS3 – SOV (002)	
	Invitation only - Vex Robotics - All years can apply - GCU (219) - email Riley Anderson	Tech robot club- KS3-AHA (001)	Vith form Netball - CBU/LKI/JAR	
		Textiles - KS3 - FRA (314)	Invitation Only - TGGT Dance - ABU	
		Invitation Only - KNex Club - RCA (005)	4U - All Years - LHE & ZBA (006)	



Enrichment at TGS

Launched at our Enrichment Fair, a wide range of clubs are now on offer at lunchtime and after school.

We have seen the introduction of several new clubs from History Film Club to Textiles. Most of our clubs are run on a 'just turn up' basis so if you have missed the start it's not too late to come along and join in. Please check out the full timetable on our website.

Remember there is an intervention timetable with a focus on KS4 support and revision, but there are also some KS3 sessions for those who wish to attend.

MINI BUS MADNESS has started!

As part of our Enrichment programme we are now running regular activities on a Wednesday after school. These activities may be something educational, social or cultural to enhance the extracurricular opportunities available to our students.

'A few students went on a trip to Arger Fen as part of 'Minibus Madness' to study Autumn colours and textures. We first had to pick a few different shades of a colour that we had chosen (green, brown etc.) We then picked some vegetation of that colour to crush down to make our own paint! It was really amazing to see the different colours you could make with natural materials.

Everyone on the trip really enjoyed making the paint. At the end we all had a chance to draw or design something with our

paint, which we put in little shells to hold it whilst we drew. A few people even managed to make their own paintbrushes out of some willow; they hammered the end of the willow stick to create a natural paintbrush which was really effective.

It was my first time on a school trip and I really enjoyed it. I would really like to go again and I'm sure the rest of the people who went would agree with me!

Holly Samways



Textile Workshops

Come along and try a range of techniques for print-making and fabric dyeing. Ideal for those of you who want to try something new, are creative or have an interest in taking GCSE Textiles.

Dates to be confirmed.

Miss J Hilson

Huge congratulations to all 398 students who managed to achieve 300 merits or more last year. It was a pleasure to spend a wet September Friday out with these students enjoying their rewards trips.

Thorpe Park

Despite the wet and windy start to the day the short queuing times meant that no time was wasted. Students could be seen travelling in all directions and screaming with both excitement and fear on many of the rides. Several returned home triumphant having faced their fears or won many of the cuddly toys on offer.

Some members of staff were lucky enough to spend some time in the presence of a celebrity having met comedian Jack Whitehall whilst waiting for the Ghost Train.



Braintree Freeport

With a later start than the other times, students of all years boarded the bus at 8.30am. First of all we went into the cinema, collected our munch boxes and went through to the screen which had been specially hired by school. Here we sat through the hilarious Emoji Movie.

When the movie had finished, in groups we were set free to roam around Freeport for some shopping. Our favourites were: Cadburys, Thorntons, Vans, The Works, Body Shop, Burger King and finally the Ice Cream Stall.

After shopping we went bowling. It all got very competitive with Frankie Day scoring an amazing 118! A fun day was had by all.

Megan Turner, Frankie Day & Kara Day



London

It was a wet Friday morning but it didn't dampen our spirits as we set off in the mini bus for the underground at Newbury Park. A quiet ride on the Central and Circle line saw us arrive at Westminster. Here we admired Big Ben, Parliament and Westminster Abbey. Hidden behind the abbey is the Jewel Tower where we learnt that a "grain" is a unit of measurement.

The wet weather meant a change of plan so a bus trip from Victoria station up to Marble Arch and along Oxford Street came into play. However, the damp caused the windows to steam up so the sites were difficult to see. An executive decision was made by James Hancock to head down onto the Jubilee Line and head for Canary Wharf where James honed his photography skills and we tried to catch the eye of a lone builder several 100ft up a building site.

The DLR was taken back to Stratford for our final journey on the underground back to the mini bus.

Despite many changes of plans to accommodate the weather, a good day was had by all.
Mr K Gault



H O U S E N E W S



ABBAS



Head of
ABBAS
Mrs N Wilby

House Captains

Ben Wong

Evie Byatt



Deputy House Captains

Rosie Young

Harry Freeman



A warm welcome to the 2017/18 academic year! We are a month into term already. It is lovely to see how quickly our new Year 7 students have settled into life at TGS. They have become part of our Abbas House and are now keen to join in and get involved. A fantastic spirit and just what we want to encourage in Abbas.

We began the year as we finished the last. Abbas baked the most cakes for the Macmillan charity appeal and I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that contributed. The tables really did look spectacular and the Light Well had a delicious fog of sugar aromas. Our House committee and plenty of other volunteers helped to sell the cakes and raise over £500 for this worthy cause.

Continuing on the cake theme, the Abbas committee would like to introduce a "Munchy Monday". This will be a cake sale on the first Monday of each month starting on Monday 6th November. Any contributions would be greatly received to help us raise as much money as possible for the pupil chosen charities this year: Tom Bowdidge Teenage Cancer, East Anglia Air Ambulance and Suffolk Young Carers. We began the term with our Celebration Assembly, looking back at the successes of the previous summer term. We had to set a rapid pace due to the number achievements to note. Highlights included 20 students that had 100% attendance for the entire year, 81 students who received their Gold Merit certificate and an amazing 47 students their Platinum one.

I would like to mention Madalene Howard who received my Head of House Commendation for achieving an amazing 663 merits on her own. Can that ever be beaten?

Awards evenings for KS3 and 4 were held on 26th and 27th Sept. It was great to see so many Abbas students collecting awards for achievement and commitment. Congratulations to Alanah Reeve from ABO who received the Head of House annual award for her outstanding effort and contributions throughout the year.

One final appeal is to urge everyone to remember to use the Easyfundraising website and select Abbas House at TGS when shopping online. The website is a portal to the regular store website but makes a % contribution to the charity. This is any easy way for Abbas to contribute to the chosen charities this year.

A huge "thank you" for your continuing support, and I look forward to another successful and exciting term with Abbas.

Mrs N Wilby



HOUSE NEWS



CHAMBERLAIN



Head of Chamberlain
Miss J Hilson

House Captains

Bethany Ireland-Whittaker

Josef Thompson



Deputy House Captains

Daisie Houlden

Reuben Devereux



A huge welcome back to you all and what a great start to the year we have had.

Our celebration assembly looking back on the Summer Term saw plenty more merit certificates being awarded including another 31 students receiving their Platinum certificates for gaining over 400 merits last year. 38 of our Chamberlain students had an exemplary behaviour record last year – without receiving a single negative point. We also had 43 students with 100% attendance in the summer term and 11 of these having 100% attendance for the whole year. It was a pleasure to hand over the charity money raised last year to the Eden Rose Coppice Project.

I am also pleased to share some of the positive achievements members of our house completed over the summer holidays. Sydney Batt & Daisie Houlden took part in the Imagination Reading Challenge & Creative Challenge in the library. Megan Turner, Daisie Houlden, Katherine Chapman and Molly Houlden all volunteered their time in the



Winch supported a garden party raising money for St Nicholas Hospice Care by serving refreshments, organising the raffle and even clearing up afterwards. Well done to you and thank you for demonstrating our school values in such strength outside of school.

A special mention must go to Annabelle Krijgsman who received a Head of House Commendation for her contribution to form time and getting involved in school life with such a positive and cheerful manner. The Awards Evening this year saw many Chamberlain members receiving special awards: Megan Turner received the Chamberlain House Tutee Award.

Nominated by her tutor and form group for her work ethic and continuous positivity whilst getting involved in form activities, house committee and enrichment whilst encouraging others to join in along the way. Olivia Roberts was awarded the Betty Cocker Award for Volunteering for all of her support to house events, music events, charity events and volunteer work in the library. Lucy Amos was awarded the Paul Dainty Award for Character – someone who is always visible in our house getting involved and encouraging as much involvement in others as possible.

We have seen loads of Value nominations so far this term (keep this going as all of these merits will help us win the Chelsworth Cup this term) with winners so far being Harry Wilson for demonstrating resilience in the first week of term, Mackenzie Dingle for demonstrating respect whilst assisting a member of the public who had an accident and Sam Tolputt

for positivity having received a glowing reference for his work experience.

Thank you to all of you who brought in Chamberlain cakes for our Macmillian cake sale and to those of you who brought in money to buy cakes and donate – we saw some fabulous orange creations!

Now to start planning for our big charity obstacle relay event where we would like to cover the 47 mile distance from London to Brighton. Keep a look out for more details of this event and help to join or sponsor others to raise as much money as we can.

Here's to another great year! Miss J Hilson



HOUGHTON NEWS



HOUGHTON



Head of
Houghton
Mrs L Hurtado

House Captains

Oscar Edwards

Ella Keep



Deputy House Captains

Connor Crowley

Mollie Pratt



An exciting start to the term for Houghton House sees Mr Ryall, as Patron of Houghton, leading assemblies and supporting students. Mrs Butcher also meets with tutors and house Captains each week. Both Mr Ryall and Mrs Butcher are available to help support and encourage any Houghton student throughout this term.

House Captains, Whips and Sport Leaders

We are extremely proud to have many excellent students in positions of responsibility within the House who work very hard to organise, lead and support other students. This year our House Captains are Ella Keep and Oscar Ashdown and their deputies are Connor Crowley and Mollie Pratt. The Captains are supported by the energising “Whips”, Hannah Tinsley, Poppy Curran, Shannon Ambrose and Will Howard who work enthusiastically to encourage the involvement of other students in competitions and charity events. We also have the valuable support of two tireless sport captains Ben Lowe and Kaitlin Riddle. The vital role all these students play in the life of the House and the fine example they set to others is just one way in which our students serve and support one another.

New and established students have an impact in charity activities

The new Year 7s made a fantastic contribution to the first major charity event, the MacMillan Coffee Morning, by baking and buying cakes. Many other students also brought in cakes, helped at the stall and stayed behind to help tidy up. All their hard work helped raise over £500 and we came second for the number of cakes produced with a beautiful and delicious sea of purple delicacies!

Sixth Form achievements

We also have two Sixth Form tutor groups in our House and we'd like to especially congratulate Reece Hartley in Year 13 for winning a Law essay competition organised by local solicitors Wayman and Long. We are also very impressed by Ollie Shennan in Year 12 who is a master at the weekly current affairs quiz, and also Bethany May, also Year 12, who you may spot frightening people at this year's Scaresville! Houghton students can accomplish anything!

Assemblies to inspire and enthuse

Each Thursday morning we meet together as a House to celebrate our achievements. We have been able to recognise the success and hard work of almost 200 different students already for their progress, achievement, attendance, positive behaviour, exemplification of school values, musical exams and completing Royal Marines visibility training. Well done to all of you who have received certificates celebrating your achievements. In assemblies we have also learned about the history of maths, how the school parliament operates, the importance of targets and how to achieve them, how to become a reading ambassador. Assemblies have also featured wonderful musical performances from Elicia Glass, Hannah McGrath-Wells and Keira Hall.

Be Brave!

Our House motto, “Honour is the reward of valour”, also reminds us of one of the assembly messages to be brave in our learning, to try new things and work hard to support others. Well done Houghton on a great start to the term, keep going throughout the year, and remember “Be Brave!”



HOUSE NEWS



PEYTON



Head of
Peyton
Mr W Ponsford

House Captains

Jacob Micolub

Zara Hearnden



Deputy House Captains

Mason Boggis

Chloe Cowlin



Things are looking very positive for the future of Peyton House as our new Year 7s retained the Transition Week cup so we now have two champion year groups in a row.

During our recent Celebration assembly, we had the pleasure of handing over a cheque for almost £500 to Jill McGlashon from 'The Bridge Project' after all the fundraising efforts from last year. We also celebrated the achievements of pupils last year.

Last term's Head of House commendation went to Millie Simon for her outstanding efforts both in and out of the classroom. She has been fully involved in the work of the house and I know she will continue to be this year too.

Mr Bennett's tutor group were so close to a hat-trick for our 'Most Valuable Tutor Group' award by Mrs Lindsay's team. Huge congratulations to them.

Thirty Peyton pupils have been awarded our highest Merit award certificate for achieving 400 merits last year. Well done to you all! I also need to say huge congratulations to Tilly Motts who received the annual Peyton House Tutee award for last year. She has made a superb start to her time at TGS and continues to impress us regularly. Well done Tilly!

My new House Committee have come up with our first charity event of the year which is taking place on Halloween! Tuesday 31st October will see TGS 'Thomas Goes Scary!'. Pupils will be allowed to come to school in a Halloween outfit for the day for a minimum donation of £1. Further details will follow via parent mail and to students via email.

Now let's focus on this year and winning that Chelsworth House Trophy!

Good luck!

Mr W Ponsford



HOUSE NEWS



TOLLEMACHE



Head of
Tollemache
Mrs F Raleigh

House Captains

Thomas Dudden

Emma Crossley



Deputy House Captains

George Dunn

Mabel Frost



Welcome back to school, Tollemache students. You have started back with a bang. Watching how you conduct yourselves in and around the school I have been very impressed by your maturity and kindness towards each other. This was evident when we hosted our first charity event of the year, The McMillan coffee morning. The weeks leading up to the Coffee Morning, Heads of House were meeting with their house reps and planning their bakes. The students arranged a host of activities to amuse the students and raise some money along the way. The house captains thought it would be great fun to decorate gingerbread men which was a popular stall. On Thursday evening myself and the House reps met and with the help of Mrs Hunt we produced as many 8 inch sponges as we could. Tom Dudden and Mabel Frost produced chocolate sponges which looked and smelled delicious. Emma Crossley and George Dunn made the Victoria sponges. The cake was assembled by Henry Clayton, who produced a range of brightly coloured icings. The cake took a colossal 18 eggs and was 27cm high. Apparently the winner who guessed the correct height said the cake tasted delicious.

I was amazed and delighted to see the whole school bring cakes of every size decorated in their house colours. Staff commented on the community spirit which our students do so well.

I am pleased to see that Tollemache students have started the year so positively. I was astounded by the amount of certificates awarded to the house during the Celebration assembly. I hope you are all busily gathering merits. I look forward to seeing your competition entries and hopefully some green ribbons on the cups at Christmas.

Mrs F Raleigh



Open Evening





We are always really excited to start the new academic year by celebrating the success of our students. On Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th September both students and parents joined us to share their achievements in subjects across the curriculum and their involvement in whole school life. Tuesday was the Key Stage Four and Five Awards Ceremony and we were delighted to welcome Mike Parish, Chair of Samuel Ward Academy Trust Board of Directors, to help present the awards. Curriculum Leaders announced the winners for Academic Excellence and Outstanding Effort and Progress for all subjects in their areas. Mr Alexander, Director of Sixth Form, also presented awards for Commitment to Learning across all subjects in the Key Stage Five Curriculum, which was an addition to the ceremony this year and reflects the growing strength of the Sixth Form.

Special whole school prizes were also presented to a number of well deserving students. The Good Citizen in the School Community Award went to Thomas Dudden, the Betty Cocker Award for Services to the school went to Josef Thompson, the Jan Wait Award for Overcoming Adversity went to Daniel Herring and the Headteacher Award for Excellence went to Francesca Perkins- Taylor for her phenomenal set of GCSE results this summer. We were also pleased to welcome Amanda Skinner and Katie Belsey who both sponsored and presented the Wardale Williams Award for Science to Peter Rose, along with alumni student Rebecca Goss, a published poet, who presented the Rebecca Goss Creative Writing Award and thrilled us all with her poem about homing pigeons.



The Key Stage Three ceremony followed the same format with curriculum leaders presenting a whole host of awards for success across their curriculum areas. Heads of House were delighted to hand out House Tutee Awards for students who have gone above and beyond to support their tutor group and house. The Abbas award went to Alanah Reece, Chamberlain to Megan Turner, Houghton to Molly Goldsworthy, Peyton to Tilly Motts and Tollemache to Matthew Spooner.

We were also pleased to welcome Tim Coulson, Chief Executive of Samuel Ward Multi Academy Trust, to present the awards and celebrate with our students. The special whole school awards went to two very deserving students. The Shelley Baisden English Award for Learning was presented to Elicia Glass for her resilience, creativity and flair in her writing and the Paul Dainty Award for Character went to Lucy Amos whose passion and commitment to school life are evident in everything that she does.



Geography

Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz

A TGS team of Year 8 and 9 Geographers took part in the Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz in 9 competitions between the five secondary schools in the Samuel Ward Academy Trust.

The quiz, which is held at Newmarket Academy, involved up to 10 rounds with TGS in the lead in every round until the final one, finishing 2nd overall. Congratulations to the team of Daisy Hanmer, Megan Turner, Sam Wainwright and Davit Rickards.

Mr N Bennett



The Year 8s worked really hard during the day and developed their understanding of coastal protection and longshore drift. This was done by walking from the spit all the way down the promenade, a real pleasure in such wonderful weather.

Thank you to all of the teachers who worked with the students during the day - it was a fantastic way of learning.

Mrs C Kelly



Felixstowe Field Trips

On a really hot and sunny day in May, Year 8 geographers visited Felixstowe for the annual coastal field trip.

The students were there to look at various coastal sites, areas of coastal erosion and to question local people about their views of coastal management. This was to get data to complete a project once back in school.



Access

The Year 9 geographers visited Felixstowe at the end of September to carry out fieldwork for their geographical investigation into land use and coastal protection.

Despite some blustery weather they managed to collect plenty of data and interview locals to find out if the benefits of Felixstowe council's updates to this coastal town outweigh their cost.

Pupils worked hard demonstrating longshore drift, using body parts to measure the sea walls and they even found time for chips on their lunch break.

Ms J Lomas

Access 1 students enjoy their Golden Time session in which they develop their social skills with their peers and other Year groups. These sessions are really important for our students; so if you have any games or puzzles gathering dust at home we would be more than willing to take them off your hands.

Thank you, Mrs R Canham



Whipworm Genome Project



On Thursday 28th September, students from Year 12 Biology were given the opportunity to visit the Wellcome Genome Campus near Cambridge to learn more about a ground-breaking genetics project involving Sixth Form students working alongside scientists.

The project has the intention of finding potential targets for new drugs to treat, and eventually cure the Whipworm parasite which affects a large proportion of people in Asia, Africa and South America. Infection causes malnutrition and developmental issues in many young children, however the problem could be solved completely if we can break the cycle of poverty. This cycle is caused by low sanitation levels and a lack of resources to fix this. If scientists can find an effective treatment for the condition, the cycle would be broken and the risk of re-infection would be lowered dramatically.

To discover or create this cure the Wellcome Genome Campus has joined forces with the Institute of Research in Schools to recruit A level students across the country to read and decipher the genome sequence of the Whipworm. A collaboration like this, between schools and scientists, has never been done before and it gives students the chance to experience real life scientific research as well as helping to make a change to thousands of lives around the globe.

Before the project could begin, there had to be some form of data to work with so they enlisted the help of a very brave participant who ingested the Whipworms to enable a live sample to be obtained! The DNA was then sequenced to provide all the data for the project. It now needs to be checked through to work out if the predictions made by the computers are in fact correct. This is where we come in. Over 60 schools have been enlisted to scan through the data and help correlate each sample of the Whipworms' DNA. This will be done using The Apollo computer system so that it can be completed by any A level student.

The project needs as many helpers as it can get, but it only takes a small amount of time. If you are currently

taking your A levels why not take part. It provides extra information for a Biology course in the future but also further informs you of current situations taking place around the world. We got the chance to change people's lives. We took it. Will you?

Beth Mills



Learning Scientists Trip

On Thursday 29th June, three lucky Year 9 students went on a trip to learn the Six Strategies of Effective Learning from two American Memory Specialists, Megan Smith and Yana Weinstein, who work for a company called Learning Scientists. After a delicious breakfast we listened to them individually review the six methods of easy learning, talking through the methods of learning that were effective and ones that are not so effective. They had long psychological names, such as; elaboration, interleaving and retrieval practise.

One of the methods that we found really helpful was "Spaced Practise". This involves revising in small chunks over a period of time, say 20 minutes a day, instead of cramming it all into your head the night before an exam.

The "Retrieval Practise" was something that many of us use without knowing. It was about writing, sketching then checking and making easy ways of learning from materials such as, flashcards or work books. Combing words and visuals is something we do in our school life, particularly in languages.

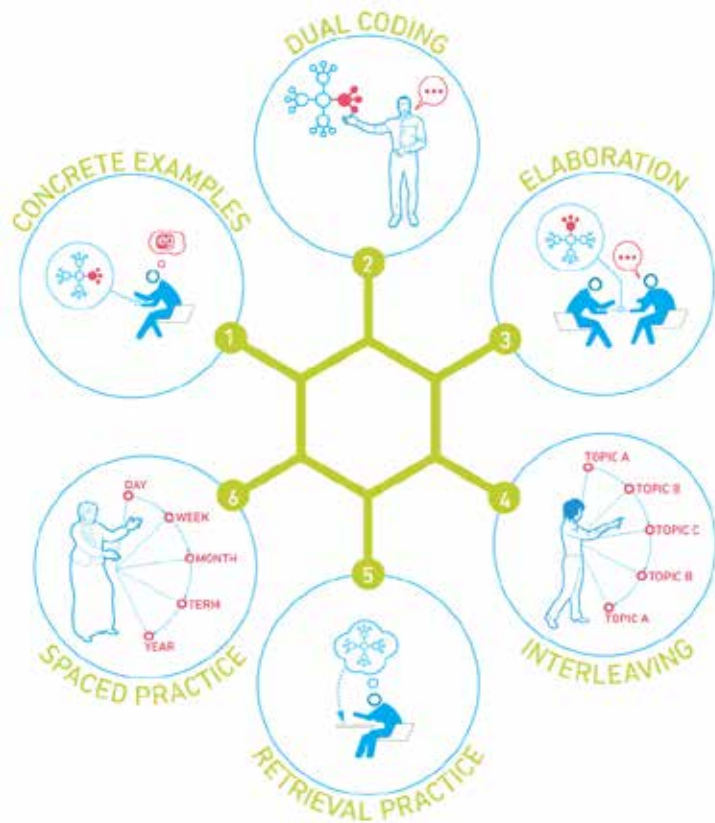
"Dual Coding" clearly explains when struggling

with words, visuals help maintain that information. Remembering definitions of words can simply go with an image linking to the word. Megan and Yana thought this was very effective.

Overall, we think that this experience has been something worthwhile. It's basically learning how to study in an effective way, rather than wasting your time before an exam. We believe that every student should be reminded of this, as we think it has really shaped our ideas of revising.

For further details visit the Learning Scientists website at LEARNINGSCIENTISTS.ORG.

Millie Simon and Fergus Dark



My Summer at The National Youth Theatre

Back in February I auditioned for the National Youth Theatre alongside six thousand other young people aged 14-18 from across the country. In my audition I did a three-hour workshop and performed a monologue in front of the course directors. With only three-hundred spaces available each year, and being only thirteen when I auditioned, it seemed the odds were stacked against me. Despite this and my own doubts, I was successful in my audition meaning that I would be attending a two week course in London over the summer, by myself. This was a big step for me as I had to learn how to cook, handle my own money and live independently in a flat with three other students.

We were taught in the LABAN studios in Greenwich. Our days there were long and hard: working on Shakespeare, characterisation, modern drama, physical theatre and many other skills. Days started at 8 am, often finishing more than twelve hours later. As challenging as this sounds, it was the best way to learn what it is like in the professional theatre industry. In groups we prepared a short piece of drama to show to the head of NYT as well as agents, friends and family at the end of the course. Having completing the course, I am now a NYT member, meaning I can go on to audition for BBC or West End shows and plays which the National Youth Theatre put on around the UK. The course was an amazing experience and being part of NYT will open many doors for me in the future.

Chelsie Lockwood



CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS

Welcome back! In Careers we have been extremely busy, as we completed our revalidation for the Careers Quality Standard. As part of the process 50 students were interviewed by the Assessor, Sarah Lawrence, regarding the standard of careers advice at Thomas Gainsborough School. We are waiting for verification but all feedback from the assessor was positive.

Sarah Lawrence made these comments in her report: "The Careers Hub is well resourced and used by students. The students know this is where they can access resources in a variety of formats as well as get advice and guidance. Student really value all the experiences and opportunities they are given during their time at the school and appreciate the individual support they receive to help them make informed decisions about their futures. It is without reservation that I recommend that TGS is revalidated the National Quality in Career Standard."

Student's comments regarding Careers:

Year 8 and 9 students:

- "The careers hub is a great opportunity for everyone to use and is an amazing addition to the school."
- "I think the enrichment days are helpful and inspiring as the employers come in. The employers all have different jobs."
- "Careers is friendly and it helps us get ready for the future"

Year 10 students:

- "Mrs Baker has really helped me to make choices for later on in life. She is so welcoming and approachable and so is Miss Perkins."
- "There is always something available to do with careers going on in and out of school. The staff in careers are really nice and have given me many ideas about what I would like to do in the future."

Year 11 students:

- "Careers at TGS has been a huge support to myself and many other students. They are very welcoming, informative and engaging."
- "I like the careers hub, always friendly and welcoming. They will help you in any way they can whether it is interviewing you or advising your career paths, they are always there."

Year 12 students:

- "Careers has helped and supported me in making vital choices for my future".
- "Careers has helped me to organise my work experience and has prepared me for the future with my ROA folder and mock interview".

Year 13 students:

- "The careers team at TGS are fantastic. They helped me discover who I am and have made my career dream possible. I am hugely grateful and know that many more students to come have some wonderful opportunities available and a great future ahead of them".

Since the beginning of the new academic year 1,506 students have visited the careers for advice, to arrange work experience, to attend work shops or to put evidence in their ROA folders. Tutor groups have been coming into the department for their careers induction. This provides all year groups as well as newcomers with an insight into what is offered within the department

Our first visitor of the new school year was Victoria Strudwick from Lavenham Beauty Clinic. We would like to express our thanks for the employer workshop presentation she gave to our students who are interested in a career in Beauty and Dermatology. Victoria will be returning in the New Year to give an afterschool presentation on dermatology and skin care, details will be nearer the time for all those interested.

Our second employer workshop was given by Val Dutton from West Suffolk Hospital Volunteering Programme. Her presentation detailed a scheme run by the NHS that allows students over the age of 17 to volunteer within local medical establishments. This was well attended by our sixth form students who are considering a career within medicine.



CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS CAREERS



The Royal Navy employer workshop was well attended by students across the year groups including Sixth Form. Able Rate Philip Gent informed students about the many careers available to recruits and shared publications to support learning.



The careers department has been extremely active during September and we have managed to secure 34 placements with a number of employers for our students in Years 10 and 12. A few of these include primary schools, mechanics, catering establishments and an Architect company. We are grateful to all employers who take part in our work experience. This allows our students to have a greater variety of choice when considering their work experience placements.

We have a number of upcoming events in the careers department over October. For all our Year 9 students we have the Skills Show in Ipswich where they will have the opportunity to speak to a number of employers and take part in number of careers related activities. We are also looking forward to welcoming back one of our alumni students, Shannon Smith, who has kindly agreed to give an apprentice workshop. She will be speaking to our students about

what an apprenticeship involves and how she went about deciding what career path to follow.

We would also like to announce that the Year 7 and 8 half ribbon award has been launched and so far has been well received by the students. They are all very eager to gain a half ribbon! We have seen a steady stream of students visiting the department to provide evidence for their awards. We would like staff to encourage and remind students to keep as many pieces of evidence for these awards as possible and bring them to the department so they can be collated in their record of achievement.



University Of Suffolk Family Awareness Day

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 along with their parents/guardians are invited along to the University of Suffolk, Ipswich to find out more about studying.

The Family Awareness Days are free to attend and include a buffet lunch. It is a great opportunity for students and families to find out about university life and the opportunities higher education can offer.

The event will take place on Saturday 18th November 2017 from 11.30am to 3pm. Places can be reserved by using the booking form at www.uos.ac.uk/fad. Please apply by Monday 13th November 2017 as places are limited.

If you require any more information please come to the Careers Hub in G Block at TGS.

Mrs B Baker

Sixth Form Trust Challenge



On 18th July, twelve Sixth Form students, including myself, from Thomas Gainsborough School attended the Sixth Form Trust Challenge at Samuel Ward. Unfortunately due to travel issues, King Edwards School were unable to attend, leaving two teams Samuel Ward and Thomas Gainsborough School. In the last few years it had been Samuel Ward that had been the most successful at keeping the trophy, and with the first challenge it seemed that they had a good chance of retaining it.

The first challenge was the University Challenge: unfortunately, Thomas Gainsborough School were well and truly beaten in this challenge giving Samuel Ward an early lead. However after this, the different representatives for each challenge all broke off into different groups and completed their challenges. In the physical challenge again Thomas Gainsborough School fell further behind, as they lost this challenge. However over in the Maths challenge we saw a different story playing out: Thomas Gainsborough School proved to be the better team and came out the winners of this challenge. Then the challenge I was a part of, the pubic speaking took place, and it was a closely fought challenge and resulted in a controversial decision of a draw. This last result meant that overall the teams in regards to the points were equal. However Samuel Ward felt as we were their guests we should be the ones to take the trophy home. Therefore to everyone at Thomas Gainsborough School, we were the overall winners of the challenge!

It was a fantastic day overall. It was great seeing at lunch and at the end of the challenges both teams coming together and making it a fun as well as a competitive day. Thank you very much to all the organisers at Samuel Ward, and all the judges for each of the challenges.

22 Katharine Rose

Memory Walk - #UnitedAgainstDementia

The Sudbury Memory Walk was founded by Jerry Thatcher, 70, to help raise awareness and support for people living with, or affected by dementia. It is a cause that is close to his heart, as he had pushed his well-travelled 100 year old mother in her wheelchair for the last 12 years. Unfortunately, so many people suffer from dementia, through no fault of their own, and it falls to the rest of us to try and make a difference and support them.

The Sudbury Memory Walk is in its second year, and last year around 156 people, both young and old, participated in the walk. This year, 253 people participated on the day, and people could choose to walk either 1, 3 or 5 miles. We and our family walked the 5 mile route along the Valley walk, Sudbury, and hope to raise over £200 for the charity.

Last year, they raised over £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society, however, this year they chose to support local charities who are supporting people who are living with dementia. The benefactors of the walk will be Decaf Sudbury (part of the Bridge Project) and the Ansell Memories Cafe in Hadleigh. The Decaf at The Bridge Project cafe in Gainsborough Street supports both people with dementia and their carers. The group has an aim to offer people affected by dementia a chance to socialise and make new friends.

The Ansell Memories Cafe is a place for support on a regular basis in a friendly environment, for people who are living with dementia, and their carers. Our sincere thanks go to all those who have sponsored us. To donate to the foundation go to the crowdfunding page: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/sudbury-memory-walk.

Megan, Molly, Niamh and Gabriel Bailey.





Ex-Student Update

We were delighted to hear from Georgia Burke who left Sixth Form in 2016 to study Children's Nursing at Anglia Ruskin in Chelmsford, and Matt Chambers who left this year to do an Apprenticeship at London Transport.

"I just thought I'd fill you in on what I've been up to. My first placement was on the ward at Colchester General Hospital which was great! I saw so much, got to take out cannulas, see scans being done and work with children with various different complex needs.

I saw a few horrible things too but it's all great experience.

I went on to do health visiting which was also good, but I found it a little boring as I'm more of a hands on person and it was mainly sitting around. I loved my last placement over the summer, however, which was at a special needs school, it was so rewarding. The children there were on the autistic spectrum, so they were very unsure about me at first, but towards the end of the placement they were really comfortable with me and we had lots of fun. I've officially started my second year and passed everything which I'm really happy about.

This year has been quite hard so far but I'm really

enjoying it. I go onto my first placement for this year in November which is in the community, so it's likely to be oncology and complex needs; it should be really interesting!"

Georgia Burke

'I have absolutely loved my first few weeks at Transport for London where I have started my apprenticeship since leaving the Sixth Form. I have learnt lots and am really enjoying it.

Last week I went to Mark Wild's leadership event; he is the boss of the London Underground. Unfortunately, the only seat in the auditorium was next to him! So I spent the afternoon with him and he got me up on stage, so now 300 people know me in the Underground. During the event, Mike Brown, the boss of Transport for London turned up so I had a chat with him as well. I don't think there are many people who can say they have met the two main bosses within a month of starting.'

Matt Chambers



SPORTS NEWS

ELLA in GB



After a successful U15 Regional Development Tournament (RDT) at the National Basketball Performance Centre in Manchester on 16th and 17th September, the initial rosters for the England U16 Men's and Women's National Squads and England U15 Boys' and Girls' National Development Programme have been announced. With over 60 games spanning across the RDT weekend, there was plenty of opportunity for all players to show the watching selectors their potential. The standard of play was very high on both days and everybody in attendance can be proud of their efforts. After this gruelling weekend,

TGS' Ella Pearson has been selected for the GB squad. She was noted for her development and improvement over the summer and her commitment to training and self-development. The first GB camp will be over Christmas. A great achievement and well deserved.

Lords Day Out

On Thursday 7th September we went to the home of cricket Lords to watch England vs. West Indies. This was a lovely exciting game to watch with 14 wickets in total and 6 from Ben Stokes with amazing figures of 6 for 22. Sadly, we did have to say goodbye to one of our P.E staff Mr Piddington, so pupils such as Alex and James Quin, Lucy Amos thought to buy him a signing bat to remember Thomas Gainsborough School by, which was presented to him by Alex Quin on the coach home. None of these trips would be possible if P.E staff were not able to get us there. So a big thank you on behalf of everyone to the P.E staff, Mr Lloyd, Mr Gibson and Mr Ponsford for running cricket club and for making this possible.



Football

U13 v Westley A & B

The first school fixture for the very talented Year 8 A team saw Westley Middle school travel from Bury St Edmunds to the hallowed turf of TGS. The weather was perfect, a small crowd of parents had gathered. It was all down to the nine starting players to perform. With no recognised goal keeper available for the team Tom Templeman-Taylor stepped up to go in goal. The boys were a touch rusty to start with, but were playing some very nice football, creating numerous chances, but to no avail. However, five minutes before half time Louis Arnold skipped past a few Westley players and rifled a shot into the top corner of the net, making the score 1-0 to TGS. The second half saw a more even affair with Westley coming more into the game, however it was TGS who took a 2-0 lead through a goal from Bertie Keep. The defence kept it tight for the rest of the game facilitating a victorious start to the season.

The B team also had a game against Westley. A very solid performance from players who were playing together for the first time ever. There were some very pleasing performances against a very strong B team from Westley, namely Madison Gardiner in goal, Jacob Woollatt, Tomas Soborg and the captain for the match, Millie Dexter. It wasn't to be for the B team however, as they lost 2-0, but a pleasing

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performance all the same.

U16 Football

The U16s played their first game of the school season against Newmarket with a mixture of Year 10 and 11 players.

From the first whistle it was a very fast tempo game from both sides but TGS got the better of Newmarket early on creating some good chances. The breakthrough came from Jack Wiffen after some great build up play by TGS. The team pushed on creating more chances which led to Wiffen scoring again from close range. As the game went on Newmarket started to get back into it, looking dangerous with their attacks. As TGS started to tire, Newmarket got one back through a long range deflected shot which left Alex James no chance. Newmarket continued to press but it was TGS who got the ball out wide on the counter, and a good ball in lead to TGS scoring a third and Jack Wiffen getting his hat trick.

Well done to the U16s who look like a good side this year and will hopefully push on in the league and cup matches.

U14 Football

The U14 boys football team played Newmarket at home in their first league game of the season. A very solid start where the boys were confidently passing the ball around and looked the better side. However, Newmarket were looking the more threatening team with

some very quick strikers, and it was Newmarket who took the lead after an error from the home goalkeeper. This knocked the confidence of the team and Newmarket scored another goal, as they were now well on top. A strong half time talk from manager Ryan Brace, gave the team the confidence to start well again. However, some great build up play didn't come to anything unfortunately and as the TGS team pushed forward it was Newmarket who scored the next goal to put the tie to bed.

Netball



On Wednesday 4th October the U15 girls' Netball team brought home a victory from Stowupland High winning a close 16-15. In the first quarter the girls faced some challenges getting into spaces and building the defence, causing silly mistakes. Down by 1-6 we came back stronger. In the second quarter Eliza Betts (GA) and Bella Turner (WA) took to court with determination to pile on the pressure, successfully taking a small lead advantage. With our strong attack and Stowuplands' strong defence it was always going to be a close score. we managed to receive 6 points in this quarter.

Sophie Hayward (WD) and Rosie Maguire (GD) worked hard to defend their attackers who were tall and quick. Mollie Pratt (C) played a quick movement down the court to get the ball into our end and made some good interception. The third quarter was an excellent one, as all the girls used tactics and performed both successful attacking and defences leaving us with a score of 12-11.

During the last quarter we played to our strengths as we all desperately wanted a win. The silly mistakes reduced and the shooters' (Eliza Betts and Jodie Bray) accuracy developed. Mollie Pratt and Sophie Hayward played the ball down the court with sharp passes to Eliza (who had a strong GD marking her) but successfully managed to gain us 4 points before the end of the game. Celebrated with a group hug and a cheer, we congratulated Mollie Pratt for getting Man of the Match. By Mollie Pratt

Year 9 Netball

The Year 9s had their first few matches of the netball season against OSA and Stour Valley. Despite hard work from the students, in particular Niamh Bailey, the girls were unable to defeat their opponents and lost both matches.

The girls are looking forward to participating in the Western Area Netball tournament on 11th October, where they hope to be successful in their matches.

SPORTS NEWS

Good luck girls!

Year 8 & 9 Netball

On 29th September both Year 7 and 8 had their first games against OSA. Both teams played their absolute best and remained persistent which led to victory, with the Year 7s winning their first ever game 8-5 and the Year 8s winning their first game back 10-2. The girls are looking forward to their next game on Tuesday 10th October against KEGS. Good luck to both teams!

U16/U19 Netball Tournament

On the 28th September, the U16 and U19 girls held a Western area Netball Tournament at TGS. The U16 team kept a consistent work ethic throughout all of their games and worked well as a team, even with some late call offs. The team worked hard for each other, as many of them were playing out of position, winning one game in a very strong group. The U19 school team were playing together for the first time. Up against some very strong teams who have played together for many years, unfortunately did not chalk up a win. However, the team stuck together through the whole tournament which is a building block for future games.

On Saturday 7th October, I competed in the Ryvita Touch Nationals as a member of Midlands Cambridge U15 junior squad. We participated in a series

of round robin matches against other regions. Our first match was against the Northern Stars, who we beat 2-1. Our second match was against a formidable team, Midlands Nottingham, which resulted in a draw 1-1. We then went on to play the West Wildcats who were a tough but inexperienced team and we won 5-0. In our last semi match we played the Southern Mavericks and after an incredibly tense game the score wound up as 2-1 to the opposition.

After the try tallies had been counted we were placed in the final of the competition, playing for 1st and 2nd place. We had to replay the Southern Mavericks to whom we had already lost but we were determined to give our all. After a nail biting 20 minutes play the score settled at 1-1 where we then went on to a drop off decider. The drop off conditions were established; the purpose of the drop off is to start with 5 players on the pitch and every two minutes a player is called off. The play is continuous until one team scores unless said team scores in the first set of six, then the opposition is allowed a right of reply.

In our drop off match we played through seven sets of six after which the opposition made a breakthrough the line while our Wing was subbing, and went on to score. Although there were many doubts as to the legitimacy of the try, the ref's decision was final and so my team, Midlands Cambridge, placed as Nationals First Runners up, 2nd best team in England.

Kayaking

Kayaking is a brilliant sport for all ages and is extremely fun. You can do all sorts of manoeuvres like rolling, double pumping, going down weirs and bowstalling.

Ben Bloomfield

I do freestyling kayaking which is flips and cartwheels. I entered the European Open and came 15th out of 55 in the Novice category.

James Ward



SPORTS NEWS

PE Extra Curricular Programme: Autumn 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch 1.00 – 1.20pm		Dodge Ball- Year 7 & 8 (only trainers needed) BRI/ RMY		Badminton- All Years (only trainers needed) CBR/ NBU/ VBR	
After School 3.20 – 4.15pm	Meetings	Badminton- All Years BRI	Girls Fitness Club- All Years NBU Basketball- KS3 VBR Hockey- All Years DCH	Netball Club- All Years CBR/ NBU/ VBR Sixth Form Netball JAR/CBU/LKI Football Club- All Years BRI/RMY G&T Dance (invite only) ABU	Cricket WLL/MGI/WPO Dance- 7&8 Kyle and Georgina
After School 4.00- 5.30pm	Fitness Suite Sport Centre Staff (4.00pm)		Fitness Suite Sport Centre Staff (4.00pm)	Fitness Suite Sport Centre Staff (4.00pm)	Running Club Lisa Dalton (4.30pm)



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DRAMA SHOWCASE

GCSE & LAMDA

November 15th 6.30pm
Drama Hall,
G Block





Autumn Term 2017

Wednesday 6 September –
Wednesday 20 December 2017

Half Term:

Monday 23 October –
Friday 27 October 2017

Non Pupil Days:

Friday 20 October 2017


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Open Evening

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