



The VOICE

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www.gms.bucks.sch.uk

IMPORTANT REMINDER ABOUT DATES IN THE WINTER TERM

Term will end with final assemblies on Friday 17th December; buses have been booked for 1.00pm.

The new term starts, for all students, on Wednesday 5th January 2022. On Tuesday 4th January, students are asked to come to school for covid testing only. (Time slots have been allocated for each year group).

Please note all our important dates and events, including Parents' Evenings and Examination Timetables, plus all letters sent out, are available on the website and are regularly updated.



Don't forget to view the online gallery for photographs relating to many of the articles in this newsletter.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As I sit down to write for this Christmas edition of The Voice, there is a clear sense of déjà vous, so much so that a change of date on last year's article would have sufficed. I've resisted doing that!

In the first term of this academic year, very much like last year, the students and staff at Great Marlow School have displayed resilience, resourcefulness and readiness when dealing with the, now all too familiar, challenges of operating in a pandemic: no longer unparalleled or unprecedented but uncompromisingly frustrating.

We have become very adept at focusing on what we can control and 'banking' that which is beyond our control: at all times a desire to operate the school as close to normal as possible has shone through. We continue, even in a pandemic, to be a school where opportunities are created, potential is realised, and excellence is achieved.

The overall attendance figures this term have remained strong, indeed, the school's overall attendance data has continued to be better than the average attendance for secondary schools nationally.

In school, the increased appetite for learning has been fantastic to observe. Those students who give their personal best, each and every day will continue to reap the rewards of their increased efforts, both in the progress they make and the outcomes they achieve.

This festive edition of The Voice showcases the richness of our curriculum and the breadth of our extra-curricular activities. There is a celebration of the incredible work produced by the Art and Design students. Design and Technology showcase the excellent projects completed by students. Outstanding KS5 results in Ancient History, Politics and Law are commemorated. The

enormous success of Peter Pan is captured on the page to trigger long lasting memories of the fabulous production.

The range of educational visits and trips that have been provided and enjoyed by students, across all year groups, has been extensive this term: theatre trips, geography fieldtrips, visits to art galleries and even ice skating.

Of course, all of this is made possible by dedicated staff, who are among the highest calibre in the profession.

The environment, and being more environmentally friendly, has been a hot topic this term. Our Eco-Warriors under the leadership of Miss Addy, ably supported by Lisa Schafer in Year 13, have gathered significant momentum. Going forward, the group requires the support of the whole school, and our wider school community, as they strive to attain Eco-Schools' Green Flag accreditation. Please do read the article carefully to learn how you can support some of our environmental projects.

Physical education and sport activity at GMS is an integral part of school. The quality



GCSE artwork



of the curricular provision, breadth of sports played, and quality of performances continue to grow year on year. This term, the Year 10 and 11 boys' football teams both made significant progress in the county and national cup, with Year 11 winning numerous rounds to make the last 64 of the competition. On the water, our rowers continue to be very successful at a regional and national level. The school was proud of all the rowers who participated in the Virtual Indoor National Rowing Championships, and celebrated the wins, including those of our newest rowers in Year 7. The most significant sporting success of the term has occurred in hockey: both the U18s and U16s hockey squads became outdoor county champions. Both squads experienced even more success indoors, with the U16 squad finishing second in the regional finals, and the U18 team winning their regional tournament to qualify for the national finals that take place in mid-January. I would like to highlight the work of Miss Porter and Mrs Porter whose expertise and commitment to developing hockey at GMS has been instrumental to the success of the teams.

Sporting success is one important element of physical activity, but for me that is not the most important. I am passionate about highlighting the benefits of engaging

in regular physical activity as a means to secure physical and mental well-being. It has been long been accepted that exercise is key to good cardiovascular and respiratory health and is an important element in maintaining appropriate body weight, especially when accompanied by a healthy diet. Exercise also has a very positive effect on mood, releasing positive endorphins that reduce anxiety and stress. So please, over this Christmas break, and in New Year resolutions, make regular physical activity a feature of your plans for 2022.

This edition of The Voice celebrates the readiness, resilience and responsibility of our students to make the most of every opportunity. I am extremely proud to be the Headteacher of a school where staff facilitate, encourage and nurture opportunities that offer every student the chance to achieve their personal best.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Mr K Ford
Headteacher

It has been a busy and full term in the Art, Craft and Design Department with many enriching and exciting learning opportunities for our students.

Determined that pandemic would not interrupt our enriching curriculum this year; the term started with a trip to Borough Market and The Tate Modern for both our Year 10 and Year 11 cohorts who missed this trip last year.

For Year 11 in particular; the trip came at a welcome time to consolidate all of their technical learning from the Year 10 workshops, inspiring some really exciting and accomplished outcomes.

On the next page are some of the wonderful outcomes for this project delivered by our Year 11.

This was closely followed by our A-Level trip to the London Galleries, where student were able to immerse themselves in some much needed culture at the Hayward and Tate. For our A-Level students, attending galleries regularly is a vital component of the course which develops contextual understanding and inspires a whole range of responses back in the classroom. We also managed to organise and deliver a life drawing session for A-Level artists at a time when it is becoming increasingly difficult to do so.

We have continued to develop our use of YouTube video demonstrations which allow students to access teacher demonstrations at any time, aiding homework and our accessibility for students working from home. All year groups Year 9 and above now have access to a full catalogue of portrait demonstrations which has been of enormous benefit for students.

In other news; We look forward to welcoming two new members of staff to the Art & Design department in January – Mrs Sue Hattam and Ms Cate Stevens.

By Mrs E Sillwood
Acting Head of Art & Design

A-level artwork



GCSE STUDENTS FIND INSPIRATION FOR THEIR ART PROJECTS IN LONDON

On the 17th of September, the Art dept took both the Yr 11 and Yr 10 GCSE art students to Borough Market and the Tate Modern in London. The trip was a fabulous experience for all the students that took part, exposing them to a wealth of inspiration for their food and drink course work.

The Market its-self is a wonder of sights, sounds, and smells that have been instrumental in shaping student's art projects. Student were able to taste foods that they had never seen before, draw and photograph the amazing displays of fish, meat, and fruit. And for them to get to experience the atmosphere of such a multicultural and bustling environment unlike anything we have locally to Marlow. The Tate Modern was also an exciting part of the trip that allowed many students to experience their first art gallery and see some very iconic artworks. They were encouraged to explore the gallery independently, find artworks that inspired them and to create studies.



"The Borough Market trip was filled with amazing experiences, a wide range of foods, sensory exposure and artistic inspiration. There were vibrant stalls, displaying a rich variety of food: desserts, exotic fruits, smoothies, seafoods, burgers, meats and more all spread through the entire beautiful architecture of Borough Market.

This trip helped inspire my GCSE Art, I found many new and exotic fruits which had radiant colours that stood out from the stalls. I also enjoyed the location itself due to the fantastic natural lighting of the market, the inviting aura and beautiful architectural detailing.

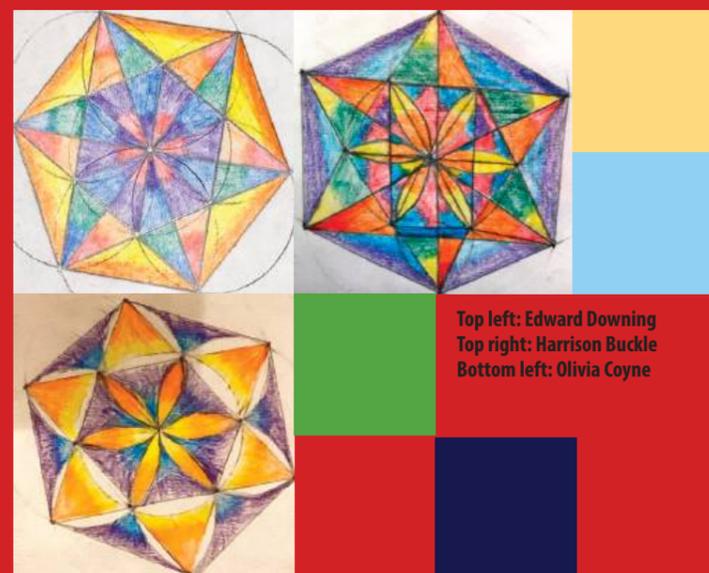
This location was very atmospheric, lots of noise and bustle, with everybody full of enthusiasm and excitement wanting to see what each stall had to offer.

Overall this experience was incredible. I would recommend it to everybody, Borough Market provides such a huge range of interest for everyone."

By Nicole Borkowska, yr10

YEAR 9 PORTRAITS SURPASSES EXPECTATIONS

Year 9 have been working on graphite pencil self-portraits using a mirror, a very challenging project that they have undertaken with enthusiasm and resilience. The focus of learning has been on proportions of the face, refined detail, delicate but bold shading and observation skills. They have also had to show independence and autonomy in this task. There have been some outstanding outcomes and the progress for all students has been very impressive. We are very proud of them.



Top left: Edward Downing
Top right: Harrison Buckle
Bottom left: Olivia Coyne

YEAR 7 EXPLORE THE USE OF PATTERN, COLOUR AND GEOMETRY IN ART

For Yr 7, This term has been about understanding some of the fundamental core skills of art. We have been exploring Colour theory and Islamic patterns with a focus on colour mixing, colour schemes and pencil technique. Students have transcribed a pattern, created colour wheels, and learnt about why pattern is so important within Islamic culture. They have recently created their own patterns using rotational symmetry.

By Mrs Abby Perman



Alexander Eldridge 9C1

Chloe Shepard 9C1

Frida Cook 9C1



Georgia Tate, 9H1

Iris Duncan, 9E2

Josh Bedford, 9E2

Morgan Dimmock, 9E2



Left: Callum Wolstencroft, 8K2

Below: Emilia Tribe, 8K2

Above: Isavel Heard-Norrish, 8K1

Right: Isabelle Butcher, 8H2

YEAR 8 POP ART PROJECT

Year 9 have been studying the Pop Art Movement this term.

As part of a 'Flipped Learning' initiative, students worked in groups to investigate how the events of the 1960s influenced the pop art movement. Students explored the concept of the American Dream in popular culture and the branding and mass production prevalent in society after the second world war. They investigated the political and historical events which shaped the art made by artists such as Andy Warhol, Richard Hamilton, Roy Lichtenstein, and Robert Rauschenberg. Students



were asked to present their findings to the rest of the class in a creative way of their choice. You can see by the fantastic cakes, presentations and title pages how well they did!

By Mrs J Hayward



GCSE FOOD TECH.

Year 10 embraced the Christmas spirit this week by learning to make and roll a fatless sponge. They have really impressed Miss Young this term, showing precise attention to detail and creativity!



By Ella Bristow - Yr 10 By Poppy Spence - Yr 10 By Summer Giebiel- Yr 10

By Emily Little - Yr 10

By Maria Eacott -Yr 10



Left: Emily Little - Yr 10

Left: Maria Eacott -Yr 10

D&T GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Year 8 have used various methods of CAD (Computer Aided Design) & CAM manufacturing (Computer Aided Machine) to design and develop an air freshener that can be sold to raise money for their chosen charity. Students researched a charity of their choice to focus and have manufactured an air freshener and the packaging.



By Jacob Masini -Yr 8 By Callum Wolstencroft -Yr 8 By Joely Chamberlin -Yr 8

air fresheners

During the two days of remote learning Year 9 graphic students were to upcycle/repurpose a cardboard box in to a usable storage. The students identified a problem at home to solve that they could use a cardboard box to fix. The outcome was fantastic, we had numerous items submitted including a beautiful Christmas star.

Right: Louis Gilmore-Yr 9



Right: Natalie Quinn -Yr 9



By Alexander Eldge -Yr 9

By Sam Hanks -Yr 9

repurposing products

YEAR 11 TEXTILES

GCSE Textiles students have been learning about the importance of deconstructing products to learn about their manufacturing process. The students were to take apart various items to identify the components involved and from this analyse the importance of 'Right to Repair'.

By Miss R Addy and Miss Young



Disassembly lesson - learning from existing product

Young Enterprise

Every year the Business Department alongside external business advisors, like to give the Y12 students the opportunity to set up their own Limited Company through the Young Enterprise Company Project.

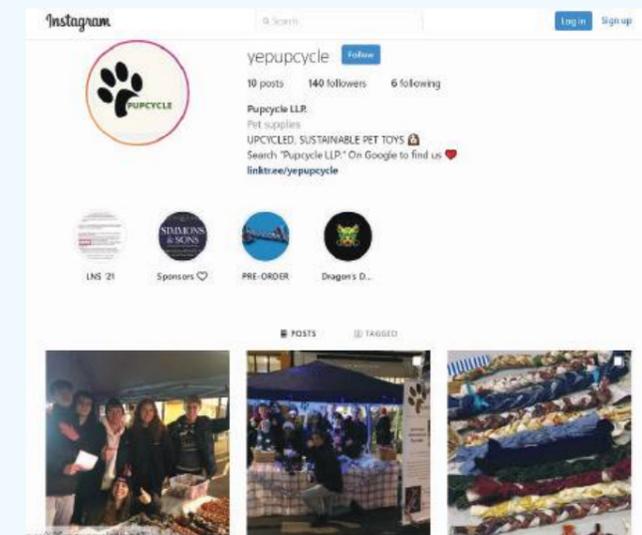


praised for their innovative idea as well as their dedication to upholding high environmental standards. In addition to this, the team have attended many selling events, most notably at the Marlow Late night shopping where the team sold out on many of their items and generated a significant sales revenue.

The Team are now looking forward to new selling events in the New Year as they continue to adapt and diversify their product mix whilst maintaining their core sustainable and environmentally friendly values.

The team have developed a professional website which can be found at www.pupcycle.co.uk, you can also hear about their latest products and events at @YEupcycle on Instagram.

By Ms Broadbent



This year's company is called Pupcycle. The company are a pet brand which makes and sells upcycled pet toy's and clothing for a sustainable business model. The team have been working hard to generate this unique idea and to produce a viable product. As part of the Young Enterprise project, the team took part in a 'Dragon's Den' style event where they were

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION RESULTS 2021

This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law. Three pupils that each took two of our courses, achieved spectacular results!



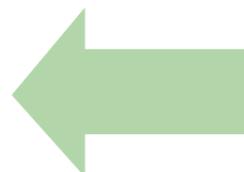
Florence Bonwick achieved:
Grade A* in Ancient History
Grade A* in Law



Jack Britnell now studies Law at Exeter University having achieved:
Grade A* in Ancient History



Charlie Martin achieved:
Grade A* in Politics
Grade A* in Law



Other successes were:

- Layla Ashton – Grade A in Law
- Isabelle Doherty – Grade A* in Law
- Freya Doyle – Grade A in Law
- Phoebe Hendry – Grade A in Law (Phoebe was a Borlase student who came to us for her Law lessons)
- Tiegen Johal – Grade A in Law
- Estella Miles – Grade A in Law

- Ben Pease – Grade A in Politics
- Aimie Smith – Grade A* in Law
- Sami Qureshi – Grade A in Law
- Amy Verhoven – Grade A in Law
- Harry Weaver-Poole – Grade A in Law

The Ancient History and Politics entries are very small compared to Law

Y13 MOCK RESULTS, NOVEMBER 2021

This department offers A-Levels in three subjects: Ancient History, Politics and Law. All y13 students following these subjects sat mock exams last term, before Lockdown.

Ancient History

Maddie Jones came top of the class with 88%, closely followed by Amber Bannon and Leo Simpson with 85%, all achieving Grade A.

Politics

Ella Moorin had no trouble coming top in the class with 90% which represents a grade of A*! In joint second place were Jamie Foster and Brendan Vaughan, both achieving Grade A.

Law

Lily Williams came top of the year with 97%! In joint-second place were Amber Bannon (who came top in the other class) and Taryn Lindsay. All these achieved Grade A* as did Lukman Hussain, Aila Hollows-Butwell and Eleanor Toppin.

An impressive number of students gained Grade A. These were: Lily Bridges, Eleanor Brindley, Vicki Webb, Tom Riley, Ella Moorin, Leo Simpson, Talieasin Pankhurst, Shanti Roselli, Evie Thackwell, Trinity Wiltshire, Lewis Edwards, Abdul Azam and Jamie Foster.

Congratulations to them all!

By Mr S Pugsley - Head of Department

THE PETER PAN PRODUCTION WAS SIMPLY OUTSTANDING!!

I am very pleased to be writing this report for the Voice about the Drama and music production of Peter Pan.

We have held many successful productions and I do not have a favourite one, as all have their special place and have showcased the amazing talent, we have at Great Marlow School.

This one, however, has been far and away the most emotional journey of all productions. In September I decided that we should pursue the Peter Pan Project, which has been on hold for almost two years. I was confident we could get it up and running, but from the word go I was aware that the pandemic could change our plans. Nevertheless, the Peter Pan team were determined to give it a go and see where it would take us.

The first step was to audition, as many of the original students were too old for the role: the first challenge was, were we going to generate enough interest? We certainly did, but it was an extremely young cast, who were very experienced in treading the boards. However, we had our Year 7 Peter Pan (Now Year 9) and some Year 10s who were Year 8s when we first started.

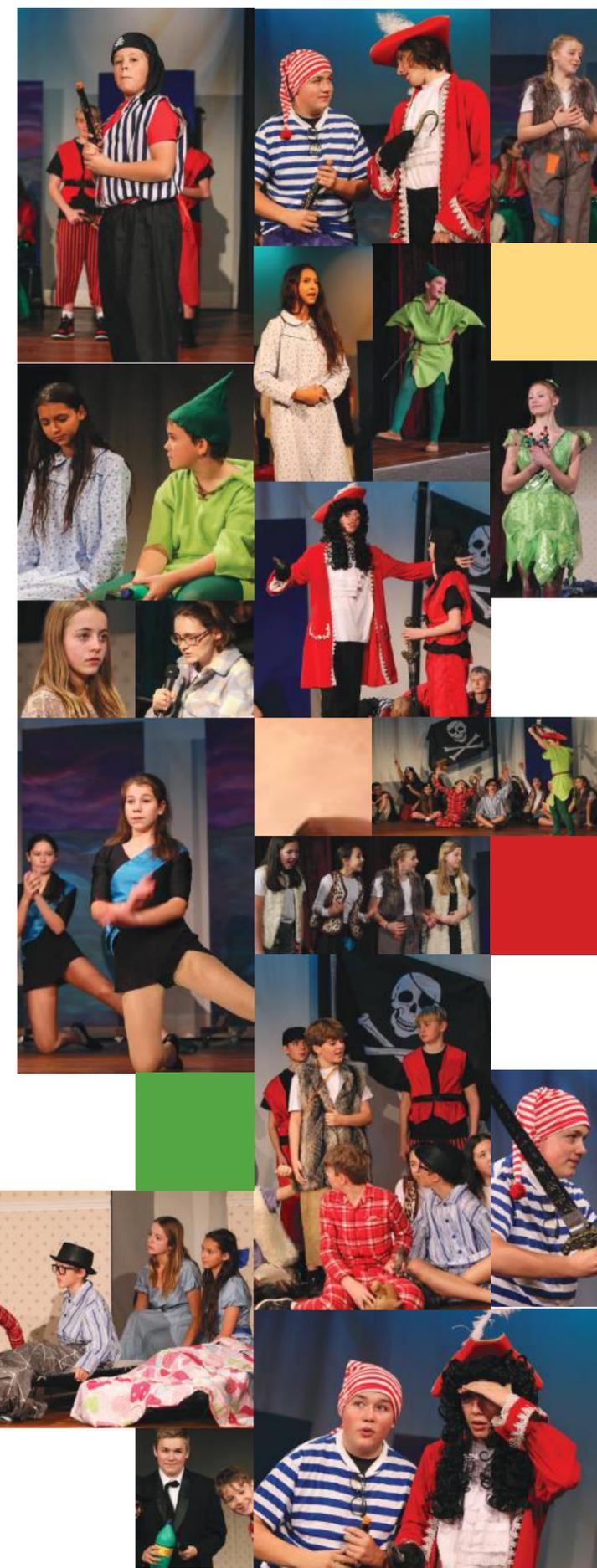
So, rehearsals started and the students, despite being young, were so committed and attended rehearsals enthusiastically; I could see that we had a talented, if lively cast, and also they were rehearsing on stage without scripts showing they were investing time at home to be word perfect.

Along the way more students joined, we also had a terrific backstage crew who were helping make props and a technical crew skillfully led by Mr Shaw.

I was hit by a mild Covid, which put me out of operation for the Saturday rehearsal. Needless to say, I was very grateful to Mrs Sharp, Mr Shaw and Mrs Samuel for continuing with the rehearsal, which I was able to join via Teams.

On the first full day of rehearsals, sadly, one pirate Zach, who had been so enthusiastic and showed great talent, had an illness and was unable to be in the show (I have seen enough to hope he auditions for our next production). Joel stepped up and took on a bigger role; he handled the pressure of this very well.

Whilst the show looked good, always in the back of my head, even with 24 hours to go, was enforced cancellation. I have to say given the work by the young cast and all the work backstage this would



have been a horrible decision to announce. It was amazing that despite all the issues both evening shows were sold out; it showed that people were keen to see the production.

Tuesday 7th December was the day of the show. All cast members reported for duty, and we managed to stage three shows. Two to primary schools. We are extremely grateful for their support and understanding, as we could have cancelled the dress rehearsals at the very last minute.

The show was outstanding: this cast managed to wow all three audiences. I was tired just watching them, in awe of how they managed to keep the energy levels so high.

Wednesday 8th December

Unfortunately, a couple of cast members and the musical director were ill, but thanks to resilience and determination of all the team we went ahead. You have to bear in mind that parents and carers chose which day to attend, therefore, it was important that this cast performed to their family if at all possible.

They did and were brilliant.

Whenever I direct a show, I always want it to be a high quality and not just a good attempt, that means pushing boundaries, encouraging students to reach their true potential. Testimonials show it was clear everyone was grateful for the escapism and humour the show generated, and how proud they were of the students.

The cast were very emotional, and I think this was a tension release over the fact that the production went ahead.

I have so many people to thank that I won't in case I miss someone out. The main team were Mr Shaw, Mrs Sharp and Mrs Samuel, who were there from the start, sadly, both Mrs Sharp and Mrs Samuel were ill and missed the live shows, I know they were incredibly upset at this: fortunately, they were able to see the show via Teams. Staff at GMS stepped up and made sure the show ran smoothly both backstage and on the stage.

I am so incredibly proud of everyone involved in this production. I know we are in a strong position with new actors coming forward. The cast of this show has already asked what is the next production. I said, 'Rest for a year!' Also, the staff that make drama productions possible, need a break. For three days, at the end of this Christmas term, we could forget the troubles of the year and give an audience an escape into the theatrical world..

For me personally I can now close this chapter on Peter Pan and complete this project. I look forward to the next production.

By Mr S Ross

Testimonials sum up the emotions of the participants and audience

"It was a pleasure to work with such a talented cast and I made loads of close friends and I enjoyed seeing them every rehearsal. We all got on well and the shows at the end made the experience even better."

**Thanks sir.
Liam (Peter Pan)**

"I would say- The Peter Pan production has been one of the best things I've ever done in school. Despite all the challenges we faced we were able to put on 4 shows which all were amazing and it was an amazing way to end 2021."

**Hamish Sharp
(Mr Darling and Smee)**

"It was an amazing experience being part of Peter Pan it couldn't have gone any better and the cast were amazing to work with."

Imogen Sharp (Tinkerbell)

"I would like to say that I met so many new people and made a lot of friends during the production and I am really happy that I made people laugh".

Sarah Head (Nana)

"Firstly, I left the Stage on Wednesday night crying, everyone kept asking me why I was crying and my answer to them was 'I don't know' but now I do know I fell in love with everyone. The whole production was an experience I will never forget. The nerves off stage were sickly but the moment I stepped on stage that all changed. Even when some amazing actors and actresses went off ill my heart sank because I couldn't leave the stage without that smile that we had all done it! Mr Ross changes that as soon as he took the place on stage."

I have loved Drama since year 7 and Mr Ross has been my teacher from the first time I took my first steps into his Drama Room.

Peter Pan has changed my confidence and was a show I will never forget, even when there was an 'impossible' Mr Ross made it 'possible' and Peter Pan showed that!

I have loved Drama but not as much as I have this past few months. I first auditioned in year 7 nervous as can be, covid stopped that from happening, year 9! Year 9 again I re-auditioned for Peter Pan, and it had changed a part of my confidence a part of drama in me.

**I loved Peter Pan
Florence Owen (Maid and Lost Boy)**

"I loved being in the show because I have always loved acting. It is a dream come true to be part of the cast for Peter Pan"

Ava Cryer (Pirate)

**Dear Mr. Ross,

Peter Pan was such an amazing experience but my favourite part of it all was the people. Everyone involved was so friendly and welcoming. I am so looking forward to seeing them again once out of isolation. Thank you**

Lois Peek (Lost Boy, Twin)

"Peter Pan was an amazing experience for all of the cast, it allowed us to make friends with people we probably would have never spoken to before. Everyone works so hard and we produced a performance that was in enjoyed by all of the audience. I would definitely recommend that students participate in the next play as it brought so many cast mates closer together and I have made some of the best friends that I have made in years. Although being in a play is hard work it is all worth it in the end and the majority of the cast were in tears on our final performance, as we enjoyed performing so much. Sharing such an exciting, nerve wracking and exhilarating experience with other people was the highlight of the production for me, along with the sensation of admiration that you helped to build such an amazing show!!"

Antonia Hay (Wendy)

Dear all

"I watched you all yesterday afternoon and this evening, you were all so amazing! I cried my eyes out as I watched because I've seen your journey from day 1 auditions to your confidence and professionalism on stage. Give yourselves a pat on the back. I am so proud of you all and can't wait to celebrate with you next week at the pantomime. Sleep well tonight and treasure the memories you've made."

Mrs Sharp(Backstage Manager and any job that needed doing)!

"I loved being part of the team and I have learnt lots of new skills to do with the technical aspect of putting on a production. Thank you for the opportunity. "

Jamie Tennant (Tech)

"Thanks again for producing such a fabulous show and giving the children the opportunity to get involved and create such precious memories."

A parent of the cast

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for all of the effort you put into the play, back in 2020 I was devastated when we went into lockdown And I thought we would never do the play but now we have finally done it. The whole cast are so grateful for all of the time and effort you put in and for pushing us all to perform to the best of our abilities."

Year 7 Theatre Trip – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

On November 17th, the English department took 106 year 7 students to Narnia, where it is 'always winter but never Christmas'. This magnificent production at Aylesbury Waterside Theatre was an absolute treat for staff and students alike. It had everything! Music, puppetry, imaginative lighting and staging, a very wicked witch and an exciting battle scene – all through the doors of a wardrobe.

The students were captivated by this memorable production which, as one of GMS whole school reading books, brought CS Lewis's words to life. Mrs Legerton would like to thank all of the students for being so enthusiastic and to the wonderful staff who spent their evening at the theatre or helped with the organisation of the trip.

By Mrs C Legerton

"enjoyed the theatre trip to The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. The reason I enjoyed it was because it had a creative way of presenting the show. I liked how they got the red cubes and move them around into shapes. I also liked the way they presented the lion because it was creative and it was very clever how it moved and someone talked for it. The live orchestra was very good how they played the instruments. One of my favourite things about it was how the characters and birds were flying. It was very clever how they did that. Therefore, I enjoyed it a lot and one day in the future I hope to go and see it again."

By Taylor Smith - Yr 7

I went on the school trip to Narnia. It was great! I loved it! The acting was brilliant. It was one of the best trips I have ever been on and I would love to see it again sometime.

By Alfie Kippax - Yr 7

"I enjoyed The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe because it was a good experience being in a live audience and the acting and lights were very well done. I liked the fact we were allowed snacks and got to sit next to whoever we wanted. The lights shone and the actors sung out their hearts, as the audience applauded, I thought to myself "Wow I'm so lucky to be here and enjoy this show." When the witch flew up and spun her flowy dress around, I thought she had superpowers or something because the way they hid her harness behind all the fabric made it seem as if she was floating."

By Izzy Matthews - Yr 7

Mock Examinations

The English department would like to commend Year 11 on their responsible and resilient approach towards the recent mock examinations. It is evident that many students worked extremely hard to effectively prepare themselves and as a result demonstrated significant progress.

The following students from each English class have been nominated by their teacher as 'stand out' students for the level of commitment they have demonstrated. Well done to them all!

11H1

Hannah Angelides for taking responsibility for her learning to achieve highly in her mocks.

Harrison Taggart for showing resilience during his mocks.

11H2

Collette Fitzpatrick Resilience and readiness- these students were well prepared and ready for their mocks! Well done!

Lucia Rico Resilience and readiness- these students were well prepared and ready for their mocks! Well done!

Bobby Prowse Resilience and readiness- these students were well prepared and ready for their mocks! Well done!

Ashley Barber Resilience and readiness- these students were well prepared and ready for their mocks! Well done!

Rhys Sandells Resilience and readiness- these students were well prepared and ready for their mocks! Well done!

11H3

Annabel Millward Lots of hard work, building resilience, great progress.

Callum Monks - amazing amount of hard work, great progress.

Nina de Jager - works at 100% every day, pushes herself, great progress.

William Worster - always works so well, determined to progress, great progress.

11K1

Amelie Holder for reflective learning and always linking her ideas to wider reading.

Alfie Lock for his resilience towards his learning. He may not have (yet) achieved the result he wants but he is always trying his best.

11K2

Amelie Savage Reflection and resilience during the mock exam period. Amelie prepared exceptionally well.

Alana Ray Responsibility and Reflection. Alana continually seeks to improve on her targets and has produced some exceptional pieces of work.

11K3

Gabriella Dover Readiness to learn and responsibility for her own outcomes. Gabi has made huge progress since year 10 and is taking great pride in this.

11E1

Lauren Hudson Highly reflective and resilient approach to learning.

Abigail Judkins Abi attended every additional revision session on offer in order to ensure success. Extremely responsible approach towards the mock exams.

Lauren Simmonds Responsible attitude towards preparing for the mock examinations led to 3 grades of progress since the end of Year 10. Well done!

Owen James Responsible attitude towards preparing for the mock examinations led to 3 grades of progress since the end of Year 10. Well done!

11E2

Jasmine Cummins showing resilience to make significant progress!

Matthew McCall showing resilience to make significant progress!

11E3

Hassan Nurein: Is always ready to listen and partake in discussions. His fantastic mock results reflect his effort and the responsibility that he takes for his own learning.

Dylan Mallet: Works consistently and effectively, reflecting positively to feedback in order to improve. His mock examination grades reflect this.

Congratulation to all our students.

By Miss C Bevan

Head of Department

Year 11 Geography Fieldtrip to Swanage

On Friday 1st October five members of the Geog Squad (Mr Warner, Mrs Messenger, Miss Coates, Miss Miles & Miss Ashby) and an honouree member from the English Department (Mrs Sadd) made the early morning departure from school, down to Swanage, with 100 Year 11 Geographers.

Once we arrived we made the short walk down to Swanage Bay. Due to the cooler temperatures the beach was nice and quiet for us, a perfect set up to carry out our geographical investigations. Our aim for the day was to explore 'What coastal processes can be identified on Swanage Beach'. We did this by measuring longshore drift, determining the beach profile, calculating the amount of sediment on the north and south sides of the groynes and taking pictures as well as field sketches. The students were brilliant at listening to instructions and working well as a team within their classes.

After we completed our investigations on the Bay we headed north, along the South West Coast path. The students were able to take in the amazing views of the coastline on a sunny, clear day. We walked past Ballard Point and down to Old Harry Rocks. The students enjoyed seeing geography in action and were all encouraged to send a picture of the stack to somebody in their phone.

After enjoying the view at Old Harry Rocks we made our way to our final destination, Studland Bay.

The students and staff had a great day down at the coast and enjoyed getting out of the classroom and seeing geography in real life. We are looking forward to the human geography fieldtrip to Oxford which is happening in March 2022.

By Mrs N Messenger



Geography House Competition - Local landscape Photography challenge

Students were asked to step outside, soak up the beauty of their local landscape and submit a photograph that showed this off to its best advantage.

The challenge closed on the 20th of October.

The winner was the House that submitted the most entries; 10 points were awarded per entry and additional points were given to the photographs judged to be the best.

By Mrs M Messenger

Geography House Competition



Local Landscapes: Photo Challenge

Results

Place	House	Total
1st	Kites	420 points
2nd	Hawks	250 points
3rd	Eagles	210 points

The winning photographs seen here were by Top: Annabelle 7H1, Middle: Tori 11K2, Bottom: Vannesa 8E2



Congratulation to our winners... and a big thank you to all who submitted entries.

YEAR 9 SHOWED SOME GREAT TALENT IN DESIGNING THEIR WW1 RECRUITMENT POSTERS

Earlier in the month, Year 9 had the opportunity to create and produce their own WW1 recruitment posters. The students had to combine persuasive language with an original idea to encourage men to sign up for WW1. The students excelled in their designs and concepts, and it was an absolute pleasure to mark them. Congratulations on such a high standard of work in Year 9 History.

By Mrs L Evans



Henry Anderson 13H1 attends the National Trust Transport Awards 2021



Earlier this term, sixth former Henry Anderson, Year 13, was nominated to attend the National Trust Transport Awards ceremony, in the category of 'Young Preservationist of the Year'.

In his spare time, Henry is committed to restoring older vehicles. This has led him to work tirelessly to restore a 1955 Land Rover, which is no mean feat!



The venue for the Awards ceremony was Fawley Hill Estate, the home of Lady McAlpine who is the NTT President. The patron is HRH Princess Royal, who flew in to present the Awards. The steam train was in operation and a Spitfire provided a mini display. It made for an exceptional day, and certainly very different to a day of A-level lessons!

Although Henry did not win the "Young Preservationist of the Year" category, he and his Land Rover Series 1 were highly commended at the event. Well done, Henry.

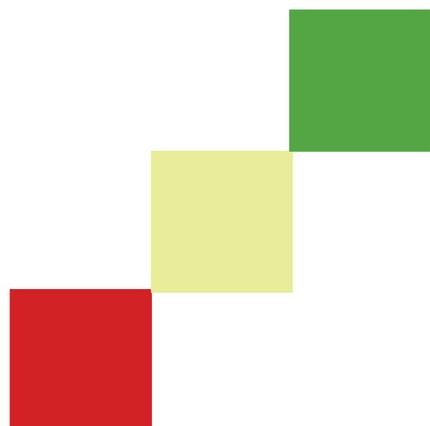


We are incredibly proud that Henry was recognised for his commitment and achievement.

He now drives to and from school in his restored Land Rover - do give him a wave if you see him!



The photos show Henry's recent restoration projects, one of which he is currently working on to put forward for the big award next year. The bottom are pictures of a meet Henry organised on Remembrance Sunday where he raised £500 for the Royal British Legion.



Senior Maths Challenge 2021

This year the Senior Maths Challenge took place on Wednesday 10th November. We had a total of 19 students from Year 12 and 13 taking part. This was taken by students studying A level Maths or Further Maths.

It is a national event where top mathematicians from every school answer challenging problem-solving questions. Of all the students who take part the top 11% receive the 'Gold Award', the top 22% receive the 'Silver Award' and the top 33% receive the 'Bronze Award'

It is a fantastic opportunity for the students to showcase their mathematical abilities, and is beneficial when applying for Universities and beyond.

Well Done to all the students who took part in the event, here are the results (In descending order).

By Mrs A Bansal

NAME	AWARD
Romily Wels	Silver - Highest score In School
Max Goff	Silver
Lukas Hasting	Silver
Aidan Kelly	Silver
MacKenzie Jameson	Silver
Ben Woods	Silver
Hugo Loretto	Silver
Solayman Bhuiyan	Silver - Highest score In Year 12
Alex Quinn	Silver
Ali, Malikzadeh	Silver
Peter McCall	Bronze
Aysha Jahangir	Bronze
Beatriz Vernizzi	Bronze

LIVING STREETS PROJECT

More recently, the year 7's have been involved in a challenge called the Living Streets project. Living Streets work to promote the benefits of walking, both to the person walking and the environment. The students have watched a presentation on the benefits of walking and cycling to school; they have learnt how walking and cycling positively impacts health and wellbeing; it also promotes independence; helps the environment and saves money.

Importantly, the assembly launched a challenge called "Next Steps", which ran from Tuesday 16th November until Tuesday 23rd November. Every student in Year 7 was given a 'Challenge Card', on which written challenges spur the students into being active. The challenges are designed to be interactive and include, creating a walking playlist to listen to on a walk, walk all or part of the way to school, persuade a family member to leave the car at home for a journey and walk instead.

The students were tasked to complete as many challenges as possible and tick them off on their challenge card. All completed challenge cards were placed in a prize draw. Living Streets have kindly donated a £50 Love2Shop voucher for the winner. We have had a significant number of entries with many students sending in evidence of themselves completing challenges such as this photo sent in by Emma Verity as she walked to school with friends. The winner for this challenge will be announced in our end of term assembly.

The student's enthusiasm for the challenge can be seen on the write ups they have created in form time.



As we look ahead to the end of term, it is a good time to reflect on how far the students have come since that first day of term. Many new

friendships have been formed and it has been a pleasure to watch the students grow and mature into secondary school students.

I hope the Christmas break gives the Year 7 students some time to relax and enjoy time with friends and family so that they start the new spring term with energy and enthusiasm. I must at this point, publicly thank the hard work of the Year 7 form tutors. We have an excellent team of form tutors who have showed unwavering support to the Year 7's over the course of this first term.

I wish all the Year 7 students, parents, and carers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Mr S Wilson
Director of Learning Y7

"Communication is fantastic!"

"My daughter is thoroughly enjoying GMS- all teachers Keep up the good work!"

"Thank you for support- my son feels he is understood"

Walk to School

"A charity called Living Streets is encouraging us to walk to school more to cut pollution. They have introduced a challenge called 'next steps to secondary school' with challenges for you to complete. There is a chance to win £50!"

You can do it in lots of different ways, with a friend, parents and lots more ways. The challenges include; making a walk to school playlist, having a phone free journey and many more. As a community we all need to cut our pollution to save the planet because if we all do lots of little things it will make a big difference."

By Lizzie, Jess, Holly 7E2

Next Steps to Secondary School by Living Streets

"Next Steps is a challenge set by Living Streets to reduce our carbon emissions. They set this challenge for all of Year 7. Some of these challenges are to walk to school with a friend; this can help with socialising in the morning. Another challenge is inventing the world's greatest sandwich on your walk to school to help increase creativity. Encourage someone to walk who doesn't already walk to school which will help someone with their physical and mental health. This challenge is great in many ways from the physical to the mental."

By Alexa 7E2

Living Streets

Living Streets is a community helping and encouraging children in secondary school to walk more often. There is a wide variety of challenges. I think the prize should go to someone who needs it and has attempted the challenges. They should persevere. Some of the challenges are; have a phone free journey, make a walk to school playlist, put a waterproof or umbrella in your bag in case of bad weather, count your steps to school, meet a friend to walk to school with.

By Sienna and Lorella 7E2

We have reached the halfway point of the academic year and it is fair to say that the Year 7 students have really embedded themselves into the school community. It has a busy autumn term for year 7 with so many new and exciting opportunities to take advantage of. Early in the term, the new year 7's showed excellent teamwork competing as part of their respective houses during the school sports day. The event proved very popular with Year 7's, their enthusiasm as both participants and spectators did not go unnoticed.

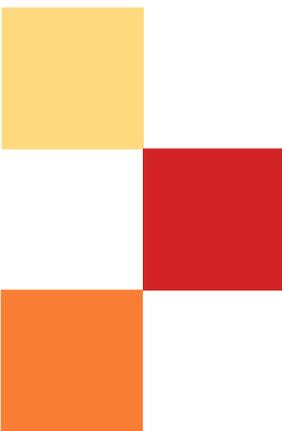
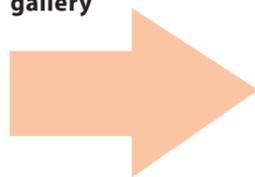
YEAR 7 ACTIVITY DAY AND SPORTS DAY

In addition to sports day, I had the pleasure of attending one of the three activity days organised for Year 7 down at Westhorpe Activity Centre. The students took part in a wide range of activities which were designed to develop teamwork, resilience and problem solving. The students enjoyed themselves as they took on the obstacle course, crate stacking and raft building activities. The students were impeccably behaved across all three days and were a real credit to the school.

PETER PAN PRODUCTION

More recently, many year 7's have taken activity roles in the schools Peter Pan production. Those involved performed three sold out shows to audiences which included parents and carers. The year 7 students took on a variety of roles both on stage and backstage, including prop and set design. I have enjoyed hearing how rewarding the experience has been for many of the students in our year group and my thanks go to Mr Ross and the team for proving the year 7s with this opportunity.

Photos of both these events can be found on the website in the gallery



Year 8 returned to GMS this academic year with the enthusiasm and positive attitude to learning that we have come to expect of them. It was a pleasure welcoming the year group back to begin their second year of secondary education. The students continue to develop positive relationships with their class teachers, form tutors, School Support Officer and Director of Learning who are there to support both the pastoral and academic needs and progress of the students.

The Year 8 Information evening in September introduced the year to parents and carers and covered a range of information to enable parents/carers to better support their children throughout the school year. This included: the Year 8 team, attendance, uniform and equipment, behaviour, attitude to learning, the 6 Rs, communication with school, parental support and safeguarding.

Prior to half-term, parent/carer surveys and student surveys were conducted to gather feedback from the Year 8 stakeholders. The feedback was incredibly positive with the following headline data:

Parents/carers (101 responses)

- 84% My child is happy at this school
- 92% My child feels safe at this school
- 83% My child does well at this school

Students (132 responses)

- 93% I am happy at this school
- 98% I feel safe at this school
- 97% I do well at this school

SELF-ISOLATION AND ONLINE LEARNING

The second half of the Autumn term has unfortunately seen a rise in Covid related challenges with increasing numbers of students self-isolating. Students in school have continued to maintain a good attitude to learning whilst those at home are continuing their studies online. Teachers are uploading resources to Microsoft Teams or are offering remote learning conversations as appropriate so students can stay up to date with their learning. Students, whether in school or out, have a daily form time to check in with their form tutors which is a great monitor for wellbeing and any problem solving.

YEAR 8 PROGRESS REPORTS

The first set of Y8 progress reports were published on the 3rd of December. These reports give students, parents and carers a valuable insight into the progress and attitude to learning of the student across the curriculum. This in turn promotes valuable reflection time about strengths and areas for development ahead of the New Year. Students go through their individual reports during form time with the support of their form tutor highlighting WWW (what went well) and EBI (even better if).

I continue to be impressed by the resilience, responsibility and respect that Year 8 are demonstrating for their education throughout ongoing challenges.

By Miss F Tuddenham
Director of Learning Year 8 & KS3

May I take this opportunity to wish parents and students a happy and relaxing Christmas holiday – I very much look forward to welcoming Year 8 back in January.

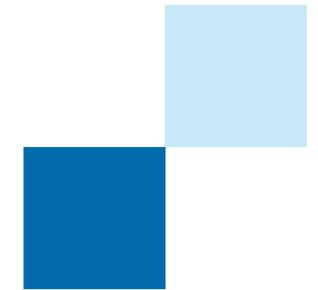
Congratulations to the following students who achieved all Excellent and Good Attitude to Learning grades in their first Year 8 progress report:

ALLEN Charlie	8E3
ANDERSON Willow	8E1
APLETREE Lucy	8H1
ARZBERGER Sam	8K2
BARTOSZ Alexandra	8H3
BASON Ava	8H3
BAYLISS Xanthe	8H3
BEDFORD Lucas	8E3
BENDYSHE-BROWN Zoe	8H2
BENNETT Daisy	8H2
BEWLEY Jessica	8H3
BLATT Alex	8K1
BLATT Joel	8K3
BOWEN Ashley	8E1
BRASIER Lenci	8E1
BROMHAM-KING Sadie	8H2
BROOKS Cameron	8E3
BUNTING Max	8E2
BUTCHER Isabelle	8H2
CARTER Harry	8E3
CHAMBERLAIN Joely	8K3
CHANA Ronak	8K3
CHAPPLE Ivy	8E3
CHERRINGTON Pixie	8H3
CLARKE Joseph	8E3
COLLINS Albie	8K3
CONNOR Jemima	8H1
COOMBS Luke	8H1
COOMBS Phoebe	8E1
CRAM Fraser	8H2
CUMMINGS Eleanor	8E3
DA ROCHA Daniel	8K3
DAY-STEVENSON Phoebe	8H1
DE CASTILHO ALVES GOMES Beatriz	8E3
DJILLALI Daniel	8H1
DONOHUE Freya	8K3
DOOLAN Millie	8E3
DOVE Sienna	8K3
FLEMING Nathaniel	8E2
FOYLE Mary-Ellen	8E3
FREEMAN Ella	8H3
FROOME Henry	8K3

GALE Samuel	8K3
GALE Thomas	8E1
GENTRY Archie	8E1
GIRT Tiaanii	8K3
GOUGH Jayden	8H1
GRAY Mina	8H1
GREEN Libby	8K1
GRIFFITHS Macie	8E2
GROOM Annabelle	8H2
GUINNESS Orla	8E3
HALL Charlotte	8K1
HARDING Scott	8E3
HARPER Tommy	8E2
HASSAN Zeinab	8K1
HOARE Edward	8E1
HOBDELL-WILLIAMS Freya	8E1
HOPKINS Bonnie	8E2
HUNT Ollie	8H2
JAMESON Mikayla	8E2
JARVIS Abi	8K1
JOHNSON Matilda	8H1
JOHNSON Nikita	8K2
JUDKINS Sophia	8E1
KENNEDY Brodie	8E3
KLUCZYNSKA Vanessa	8E2
KOPLIN Leon	8K3
LANCASTER Addy	8E1
LAWTON Libby	8E1
LOUGHLIN Tommy	8H2
LUNN Elise	8E3
MACKAY Nicholas	8E1
MARINCU Cassy	8K1
MARQUES Ava	8E2
MARSH Noah	8K3
MATTHEWS Evie	8H2
MATTHEWS Klea	8K2
MCCAHOON Rhiannon	8K1
MCKAY Max	8H1
MCKIE Tameka	8K2
MILES GRIFFITHS Charlotte	8H3
MILLWARD Lucy	8K2
MILLWARD Rebecca	8K1
MITCHELL Daisy	8H1
MONKS Eleanor	8E1
MORGAN Sienna	8H2
NICHOLLS Zoe	8H1
NORRISH Isabel	8K1
NUGENT Izzie	8H1

NYE Grayson	8H1
O'CONCHUIR Saoirse	8H3
O'DELL Eva	8E2
OGLE Jessica	8K2
PANTING Scarlett	8K1
PEARCE Sebastian	8H2
PEARSON Marie	8E1
PEEK Lois	8H3
PENDLEBURY Natasha	8K1
PHILLIPS Katie	8E1
PLATT Lucy	8K2
PRESTON Shyla	8K3
PRICE Ava	8E3
PRIOR Isaac	8K3
QUESTER Hannah	8K3
RADNEDGE Bea	8E1
RALSTON Amelie	8H1
RANDALL Freya	8H2
RASMUSSEN Erin	8E3
REDMOND Aedan	8K2
REEVE Tabitha	8H2
RICHARDSON Verity	8H3
RICHTER Benjamin	8K1
RIDGLEY Summer	8H2
RODGERS William	8K1
SALINAS Ava	8H3
SCHAFFER Hilton	8K3
SCOTT Ruby	8E2
SHAH Laiba	8K2
SHARMAN Hayden	8E2
SHARP Rosemary	8E2
SHERWIN Zak	8H3
SHILLITO Kayla	8E1
SINGH Apoorva	8H2
SMITH Matthew	8H3
SMITH Zachary	8K1
SOMERS Christopher	8H2
SPEARE Euan	8E3
SPENCE Beatrix	8K3
SPENCER Zahra	8K1
STEPHENSON Isabelle	8H3
SURDARIU Leonardo	8H3
SURMELI Can	8H3
SYLVESTER Megan	8K3
SYLVESTER Oliver	8K1
SYMON Ben	8E2
THEN Olivia	8K2
TODD Finlay	8E2
TRIBE Emilia	8K2

URIE Olivia	8H3
WALKER Jackson	8E2
WEEDON Abbie	8K2
WEISE Elisa	8H1
WELLS Lyra	8K1
WETENHALL Daniel	8K2
WHARFE Tom	8K2
WHITING Nicole	8H2
WHITTINGTON Jake	8E1
WILSON Amelia	8K3
WOLSTENCROFT Callum	8K2
WOOSTER Alfie	8H2
YELLOLY Emily	8E2
ZHENG Emily	8K2



The KS3 team and I meet regularly with the main aim of fostering a positive learning environment for the wellbeing of our students from both an academic and pastoral perspective. The School Support Officers (HHY, JSP, CCO) work closely with their respective Directors of Learning to provide efficient and effective support for all students. This dual approach has proved incredibly successful for each year group. Across KS3, the DOL team strive for consistency across the key stage in terms of behaviour management, intervention, rewards and praise. I would like to thank the KS3 DOLs Mr Wilson and Mrs Webster, and of course our SSOs Mrs Spencer, Miss Hyde and Mrs Connor-Price, for their continued enthusiasm and hard work.

By Miss F Tuddenham
Director of Learning KS3



Year 9 have returned to GMS this academic year with a lot of energy and motivation. They are excited to be back in the classroom and hoping for a year of fewer disruptions.

It has been enjoyable to welcome them back to school this year with the removal of Year Group bubbles providing increased opportunities to establish themselves in school.

The new class groups have proved incredibly successful for students throughout the range of abilities this year with further opportunities for both support and challenge being seen in the classroom.

There continues to be consistent supportive communication between all three stakeholders in each student's education: the school, home and the student and I would like to thank both parents and staff members for this continual support of the cohort.

Thank you to Mrs Connor-Price and the whole Student Support Team for the pastoral support they provide to the Year 9 cohort alongside the Form Tutors. Students know where to find support and utilise these routes successfully.

RISE IN YEAR 9 COVID CASES

The second half of the Autumn term has unfortunately seen a rise in Covid related challenges with increasing numbers of students and staff self-isolating. Students in school have continued to maintain a good attitude to learning whilst those at home are continuing their studies online.

Congratulations to our students that have shown great readiness for their learning with 100% attendance:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Baker, Thomas | Gilmore, Louis | Mitchell, Joshua | Rogers, Isabel |
| Blissett, Theodore | Hickman, Angel | Morgan, Ella | Rycroft, Peter |
| Chapman, Rudi | Hudson, Poppy | Munro, Holly | Sharp, Imogen |
| Davies, Rose | Jahangir, Fatima | Musoke, Isaac | Sinden, Adam |
| Dean, Khadijah | Kaczmarek, Jakub | Owen, Poppy | Smith, Barnaby |
| Duncan, Herbie | Lee, Hugo | Parks, Matthew | Smith, Paige |
| Eggleton, Emily | Lewis, Robert | Pierce, Riley | Spann, Tom |
| Ellwood, William | Llewellyn-Probets, Leah | Quann, Connor | Tate, Georgia |
| Fish, Miles | McDermott, Rosie | Quinn, Natalie | Trice, Chloe |
| Forbes, Charlotte | McGeachan, Jessica | Ras, Sophie | Wills, Ethan |
| Giles, Amelia | McGivern, Leon | Reynolds, Luke | |

GCSE OPTIONS

There is a strong focus this academic year on future decisions regarding GCSE's and future careers. The year group watch a new video each week regarding a different career to introduce them to the true expanse of the world of work. This is soon to be extended by videos created by the connections of the Year 9 Tutor Team to show the students how vast their own careers network might be.

It is important that the students recognise the importance of the decisions they make in their school lives, as well as the fact that there are many different routes to a successful future.

The options process will be in full swing in the new calendar year and communicated in detail with parents and carers.

PROGRESS REPORTS

We continue to work towards the Year Group Focus of "The Majority of students receiving "good" and "excellent" in all subjects they study at GMS.

The recent Progress Reports show;

- 65% of Students received "good" or "excellent" AtL scores in all subjects
- 95% of Students received no "poor" AtL scores

I am incredibly proud of the students in the cohort for their incredible efforts in the classroom and for being recognised by their teachers for their great attitude towards their learning.

I would like to wish you all a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

By Mrs J Webster - Director of Learning Year 9



It has been a great start for the students in Year 10 and their GCSE courses this term. Students are now engaged and enjoying their chosen options and have shown remarkable resilience and strength during these past few years, which has allowed them to start their GCSE course so well.

We have also had good overall attendance this term of 92.7%, which has also helped the students to have such a positive start to the year. I would like to thank all my tutors for their continued hard work this term in providing stability and care, whilst helping students get back to a more normal routine following so many disrupted years with lockdowns. I would also like to thank our Year 10 Student Support Officer, Miss Blanco-Rand, who works so hard to help students manage the inevitable difficulties lockdowns have created and for providing students with a safe place to go to talk to someone. This enables students to develop resilience and coping techniques that is allowing them to learn and progress at school.

YEAR 10 INDEPENDENT STUDY SESSION:

To help support the Year 10 students I have provided an opportunity for students to work for an hour afterschool with myself in an independent study session. This happens every Thursday afterschool and is a great environment for students to work in and develop their resilience and responsibility to their schoolwork.

YEAR 10 ACHIEVEMENTS:

Congratulations to Eagles who so far have the highest achievement points this term (as of that start of December).

10E1	10E2	10E3	10H1	10H2	10H3	10K1	10K2	10K3
753	916	575	602	804	777	644	481	475
Eagles Total = 2244			Hawks Total = 2183			Kites Total = 1600		

Thank you to all parents and carers, your support is very much appreciated and we feel this is having a positive impact on the year group as a whole.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year

By Mrs S Wheeler
Director of Learning Y10



The students listed below recieved excellent attitude to learning grades.

- 10E1
 - Oliver Braid 126
 - Nicole Borkowska 125
- 10H3
 - Rachel Clarke 107
 - Calum Donohue 84
- 10E2
 - Charlotte Greening 105
 - Rebecca Tinnelly 101
- 10K1
 - Archie Johnston 67
 - Jamie Tennant 52
- 10E3
 - David Mantle 78
 - Monty Todd 68
- 10K2
 - Robbie Gomm 72
 - Lauren White 55
- 10H1 10K3
 - Tia Horner 110
 - Kayla Bradfield 69
- 10K3
 - Harry Beechey 63
 - Emma Lumley 46
- 10H2
 - Arran Bligh 160
 - Lucas Gore 81

As with all year groups this has been another tough term where students have had to show real resilience to deal with all that is thrown at us.

With year 11 we had a great start to the term, and I was very pleased with the attitude towards their studies as without doubt this is a critical term aiming towards their GCSEs.

MOCK EXAMS

The Mock Exam season was extremely difficult, but the students were excellent in their attitude, and I loved the comments that the invigilators and exam officer say about our year group and their behaviour and attitude towards these exams this bodes well going forward. Because of some having illness the exams are still going on and I for one will not be sorry to see these end.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

As well as the exams the extra-curricular continues and I hope students are enjoying the different ways that they can relax in school.

I enjoy speaking to the students especially at break times, although went through a bad period with some lads who seem to take great pleasure in mocking me about my football passion and Manchester United!

BIG THANK YOU'S

I would like to thank all staff that are involved in the year group from the teachers who are working incredibly hard in lessons to give the students the best chance of reaching their potential in their GCSEs, they also run extra sessions. The Tutors who have a pastoral role as well as the various activities at Tutor Time.

Mrs. Paul for her hard work and Mr. Pendlebury for helping with the exams when I fell ill with Covid.

PROM DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

I know next term is the final term and the students need to throw everything at their studies, but I hope to do some things which will help. They also have a prom to look forward to on Friday June 24th which will be a lovely way to say goodbye.

Thank you to the Parents and Carers of the year group and their support.

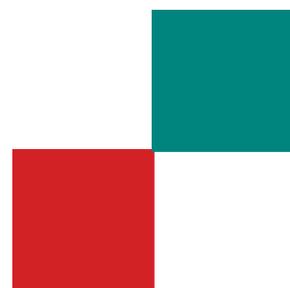
Most important of all I never take for granted how fortunate I am to lead this fantastic co-hort.

By Mrs S Ross

Director of Learning Year 11



**The Year 11 team
wish you a very
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New year.**



A NEW LOOK TO OUR LIBRARY

Students have enjoyed the exciting changes made to the library over the summer. The library was given a full facelift, complete with immersive wall art, new shelving, decorating and a completely new layout. The old rows of shelving were replaced with open spaces and forward-facing and easily accessible shelves. Ms Fisher and Mrs Joyce have worked tirelessly to improve the stock of books and have taken advantage of the reinvigorated reading scheme at GMS by purchasing over 800 new books.



The library is a place open to all students in need of a quiet place to work, read or simply enjoy a quiet space at break times or after school. As well as this, Year 7 and 8 students have been enjoying once-fortnightly library lessons which have a new focus on promoting the love for reading across the different genres. The English Department has collated a new library lesson booklet designed to introduce our students to the different genres and the vast possibilities that reading can offer. The booklet takes advantage of the new library space by encouraging students to explore the different areas and genres that Ms Fisher and Mrs Joyce have painstakingly organised.

All visitors to the library are greeted with displays created by the library team each month to celebrate a different focus within literature. There have been displays to mark black authors for Black History Month and another based on Remembrance Day. The focus this month is "Merry Christmas" with a table based on Christmas themed books. The librarians are excited to continue to develop the library space at GMS and would like to encourage students in all years to come and have a look at the brilliant work that is being done!

However, the drive on promoting reading across the school does not stop there. The school have invested a considerable amount of money in purchasing books to read in form time once a week in Year 7 – 11. Whilst a challenge, the books were carefully selected to ensure that themes which are topical are read; there is a diverse range of authors and a range of different styles. The finalised list, it is hoped, provides something for everyone! It has been a highly rewarding experience to hear such positive feedback from both students and staff with regards to reading in form time.

Year 7

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis

Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo

Respect by Michaela Morgan

Year 8

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Nation by Terry Pratchett

One by Sarah Crossman

Year 9

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb

The Crossing by Manjeet Maan

Year 10

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Marlow Murder Club by Robert Thorogood

I know why the caged bird sings by Maya Angelou

Year 11

Oranges are not the only fruit by Jeanette Winterson

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Finally, our Sixth Form students have certainly not been forgotten! The mezzanine in the Sixth Form study area has been given a makeover and re-designed to provide a quiet space for students to read. In addition to a plethora of books donated by staff members, each Head of Department has also selected three books (both fiction and non-fiction) intended to help students have a deeper understanding of their subject area. We are hopeful that the students take advantage of these new resources.

As ever, the importance of reading at home is paramount and we are grateful for any way in which you are able to support this.

By Mrs A Fisher and Mrs M Morgan

GMS Community News

Can you help with..?

Gardening Equipment.

If you have gardening equipment that you no longer require at home, we would love to have it! At present, we have no tools or sweeping brushes, other than the ones owned by staff. Should you have redundant gardening equipment that you are willing to donate, please contact me, Miss Addy, to arrange a drop-off. Please do not send your son/daughter in with the equipment.

Morrisons Equipment for Schools.

If you shop at Morrisons, could you help us by collecting the "Gardening Equipment for Schools" tokens, and going through the app to donate them to our school?



Purchasing of Wildflower Seeds.

Currently, we have two plots of land in the school grounds selected for wildflower seeding, which need around 70 boxes of seed. Flowerland in Bourne End have been generous in donating over a £1000 worth of plants, but we require more. If you can help us, possibly by purchasing from Flowerland, it would be much appreciated, especially if you mention you are buying for GMS. All wildflower seeds brought in by students will be planted to support the Green Flag accreditation.

Exciting news for GMS to become an eco-school

This year our school has decided to work towards Eco-Schools' Green Flag accreditation. For further information please see <https://www.eco-schools.org.uk/>



Eco-Schools began in 1994 and is the largest educational programme on the planet. (There are currently 70 countries delivering the Eco-Schools programme around the world.) In England, it is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. The Eco-Schools programme focuses on empowering young people to be ecologically aware.

In our school, we don't want our student body to avoid, ignore, shy away or cower from the environmental challenges we currently face. Instead, we want to openly discuss the problems and tackle them

together, head-on. Through this approach, we hope to make a positive difference now. By empowering our students with the knowledge and skills required to make a positive difference, they will grow to become leaders, decision-makers and educators themselves.

You may be reading this and wonder, 'How does this impact me?' Over the coming months, you may notice your son or daughter becoming more interested in environmental issues. Communication is essential to success, so I just wanted to keep you informed of the projects that the students are working on and ask for your support at home.

The students meet weekly, on Mondays, during break 1. We have several projects in the pipeline including a wilding project (bee hotels), horticulture, and waste/recycling management.

To help us succeed in securing Eco-Schools' Green Flag accreditation, we ask for your support in the projects we are pursuing. Left is a list of items we require. If you can help, we would be extremely grateful.

I hope you're as excited about our Eco-Schools journey as everyone at school is - if you would like to find out more, or become involved, please feel free to contact me directly.

By Miss R Addy



BOYS FOOTBALL

This term has seen the return of competitive football at GMS and what a term it has been. From the first week of term where over 120 students turned out for football across all years right up to the end of term where year 7, 10 and 11s have remained in both the county and national cup. This demonstrated the students had the energy, passion, and desire to make up for lost time.

YEAR 7

As with every year, year 7 football started with incredibly high numbers for the season. Unlike previous years, the numbers remained high for the entire block of session – over 40 players every single session. As a result, there is a huge pool of players looking to play. A tough start in the National Cup resulted in a 3-2 loss against Southborough school. On the bright side, the team performance was strong at points and set a foundation to build upon in training and future fixtures. There were some strong performances in the county cup, winning 4-0 against Princes Risborough, and solid performances against John Hampden and Cressex school. There were outstanding performances from Zack Langley in defence, who is exceptional at recognising danger and stepping in to cut out the pass, and Archie Murphy in midfield with a phenomenal 30-yard free kick flying into the top corner against Cressex.



Ending this part of the season was a county cup fixture against Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School. The squad played with incredible composure, being calm on the ball and capitalising on SHFGS's tactics to play it out from the goalkeeper. A high press cut off the options from their goalkeeper and led to an interception by Jack Frazer-Hogg, who played a simple pass across the box to set up a tap in. Again, the team were switched on to recognise this tactic again to get another goal on the sheet. GMS were in control the game, clearly reading the play to intercept the passes to break up their play. The MVP for the game was Tom McDermott who was in complete control in the midfield throughout the game, and an outstanding defensive display by Freddie Williams. The end result of this - a 9-1 win to progress into the quarter finals of the county cup where they face Hazeley Academy.

YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

The year 8s have been the most affected year group in this COVID period, having missed out on the transition from 7 a side to 11 a side football. However, their enthusiasm and commitment to training has meant they have developed quickly and have started to understand the game more tactically. Throughout the term, the year 8s have been highly competitive with producing the results required to get them into the 3rd round of the county cup and 2nd round of the national cup. A highlight of this term for them was their victory in the 2nd round of the county cup where they demonstrated a lot of resilience to beat Amersham school 5-4. Having led the game 3-0 and looking very comfortable, Amersham fought back to lead 4-3 with 10 minutes to go, but togetherness and resilience shone through with Alfie Campbell capping off an outstanding performance with his 3rd goal of the game to seal the win for the team. Other notable performances this term are Jack Regan for his leadership throughout the term, Ashton Joseph for his dominant displays at the back and Oli Hunt with his energy, skill and outstanding finishing.



Year 8 squad

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

The Year 9 boys football team has had a tough return to competitive fixtures. Some strong opposition came in the form of John Hampden, Kents Hill Park and All Hallows school. From the start of the season to now however, they have been improving their performances on the pitch as they have begun to play good football to be on top for large parts of the games. It came together well in the final game against Princes Risborough school. An outstanding first half, with 2 one-on-ones and hitting the woodwork twice, but only coming into half time with a 1-0 lead. Once PRS settled, in the second half the game it became a lot more even. When they did score the GMS struggled to match Risborough's new-found mind set. Alas, a flattering score line for PRS, but with stronger determination and clinical finishing GMS could have come away with a result to match their performance. The progress of the team has been fantastic and we will keep on working to be the best we can for the fixtures in the New Year.



Year 9 squad

YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The year 10s have always shown promise and potential when they were in year 7 and 8, and it was excellent to see this promise and potential start to flourish this year. Training has always been well attended and a real team cohesion has developed within the squad. This cohesion mixed with their talent has led to impressive runs in the county cup where they reached the quarter finals and in the national cup where they reached the last 64.



These cup runs have been a reflection of their ability to be well organised and stick to their roles within the team, whether they are starting, or coming off the bench. All good teams have got a solid spine, and this is no exception. The defence has been well marshalled by the pairing of Charlie Ricketts and Henry Drummond and the hard work of David Mantle and George Hennessey has helped to create and develop attacks. The

highlight of the term comes in the national cup where they ran out comfortable 5-0 winners against Westgate school. This was a complete performance where organisation, decision making, and cohesion all came together.

YEAR 11 FOOTBALL

The year 11s are a successful team, as proven in their year 9 campaign. Not getting the chance to build on that last year has been a real shame. Over the last few years, we have seen key squad players leave the school, which could have hindered the year 11s ambitions this year. However, the togetherness of this year group has meant they have worked hard to adapt to a new formation and style of play which players have had to step up to. Their hard work and dedication has also been rewarded in the county cup where they reached the 3rd round and in the national cup where they also reached the last 64 (the same stage they reached two years ago). The last 3 years have seen this group of students grow from a collection of individuals with no cohesion to a very close-knit group of teammates who work hard for one another. Even though they were knocked out of the national cup at the last 64 round, the performance they showed that night was a real indication of how far they have come as a team, it was near perfect. Hardworking, courageous, resilient reflecting everything we strive to create in our students. However, as some stories go, we don't always get our perfect ending and this was the case with the year 11s. After dominating the game, creating numerous openings and being solid at the back, the result didn't go our way. The pain and frustration were clear to see, but the boys can be proud of themselves from where they were in year 8, to where they are now. It has been a pleasure to coach these students over the last 3 years and I know they will learn so much from this year, which will help build success later in their sporting careers.



This term has seen the most football fixtures ever played and has led to one of the most successful set of results in the county and national cup. This wouldn't have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our students. We have seen nearly 150 students come out to football this term and that figure really shows the last 18 months hasn't affected their enthusiasm for football but has only made them want it more. In the New Year, football will return and we have already got a range of fixtures to play from February onwards. I hope to see all of you participating in range of sports over next couple of months and ready to work hard and build on the success you have shown when football returns. Have a restful and well-earned break.

By Mr Higgins and Mr Magnay

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The turn-out for Girls Football this term has been fantastic with over 30 girls attending training every Friday afternoon, from Year 7 to Year 10. The girls have been working hard to their first touch, movement off the ball, meeting the high ball and marking, which has led to an improvement in their quality and style of play.

U13 GIRLS: WON 1 DREW 2 LOST 2

The U13 squad welcomed many new faces, and had a busy autumn playing their county cup fixtures. The girls showed excellent resilience and progress throughout the half term, with players becoming more confident in their positions as the games progressed. The girls had a convincing win against SWR, drew with SWB and BHS in two very well contested fixtures and lost by 1 goal to WHS. Year 7 student Jess Hennessey has been sublime, dominating in central defence and midfield, and Nikita Johnson has shown excellent strength and determination upfront to find the back of the net on several occasions. Lucy Apletree has also grown in confidence and shown exceptional progress in defence.

The U13 team also entered the EFL Cup Competition held at Cressex by Wycombe Wanderers Football Club. The girls settled into the 6 a-side format quickly, beating St Michaels 3-0, their keeper making several good saves to deny us of more goals. Next up the girls had a very tight game against an unbeaten Dr Challoners, who topped their county cup group. The game was extremely close, with Isla McDonald making some good saves and Joely Chamberlain working tremendously hard in defence to win possession and feed striker Nikita Johnson. Unfortunately, we could not find the back of the net and the game finished 0-0. Next up was BGS and the girls needed to win by at least 4 goals to top the group; unfortunately they could only manage 3 so ended up finishing second in the group by 1 on goal difference. In the afternoon

the girls played in tier 2 of the competition, where they significantly dominated and beat SWR, Cressex and AVA with ease, several goals coming from Nikita Johnson and Jess Hennessey. Unfortunately, due to the game the girls drew in the first round against eventual winners DCGS, the girls were denied the right to qualify for the next round of the competition despite being unbeaten all day and only conceding 1 goal. The tournament organisers praised the squad, and were very complimentary. Well done girls, a fantastic achievement. The girls are looking forward to the next round after Christmas and will be training hard in the new year.

By Miss G Muttitt



U13 Girls' squad

U15/13 Girls' squad

U15 GIRLS: WON 4 DREW 1 LOST 2

The U15 girls were raring to go after their success of winning the county cup in the summer v SWB in the extremely close Marlow derby. The transition to 11-a-side football saw the arrival of newcomers Lara Allen, Charlotte Timpson and Flo Owen, which was extremely positive. The girls began their league campaign on a wet and windy afternoon at WHS, and after going 2-0 down in the first half, showed determination and resilience to find the back of the net twice in the second half and finish the game 2-2. Their season continued with wins against Beaconsfield School, Highcrest and BGS, as well as a win against CGS in the national cup after extra time and penalties. Sir William Borlase were after revenge after the county cup result in the summer, and put on a very slick and professional display beating our girls 6-0. The girls also came up against a very talented Cherwell side in the 3rd round of the National Cup, unfortunately conceding a goal in the last 2 minutes of the game, losing 3-2.



U15 Girls Team after their win against Chesham Grammar in the National Cup

Rachel Clarke was exceptional in goal as always, Millie Catlin and Charlotte Greening grew game after game dominating in central defence and Becky Tinnelly and Rosie McDermott demonstrated excellence in midfield, creating and scoring several glorious goals. Lottie Shaw and Antonia Hay showed excellent progress throughout this half of the season, working on their physicality and ball control.

Roll on the second half of the season!

By Miss G Muttitt & Mr S Goodright

BOYS' RUGBY

Rugby training started early in September with a strong contingent of players joining us in year 7, this large intake enabled us to field two full teams. Since the beginning of the school year the squad have learnt to develop their fundamental skills, structure and style of play that is implemented throughout Great Marlow School rugby.

Year 7 boys' rugby

This term's focus within training sessions has been to develop communication and an understanding of the playing structures. These include each player understanding calls such as rhino and flash ball as well as the pupil's individual

positions within the game. The teams' first fixtures were in the Berkshire County Tournament. The 2 teams won 3, drew 1 and lost 1 fixture (both teams combined). This gave the pupils the opportunity to implement the strategies practiced in training. Kai Savage was extremely vocal from the kick off leading the team around the field. There were



also strong performances from Leo Shale, Ivo Chamberlain and Owen Caldwell. This tournament provided an invaluable experience to a number of players who had limited rugby experience. During the next training session pupils had the opportunity to reflect on their performance from the tournament, this enabled the group to focus on organising their pods and defensive structures. During the remaining fixtures the group displayed huge amounts of responsibility and commitment to developing not only their individual skills and talent, but ability to effectively perform as a team. The first half of the season has given this group of boys an excellent foundation to continue to develop throughout their time representing the rugby team at GMS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Goodright, Will Leach and Liam Bruno for their invaluable help with coaching the squad this year.



Year 8 boys' Rugby

The year 8 team had strong start to this year's campaign and hit the ground running with an excellent turnout to the first rugby training session after the summer holidays. The squad's first fixture was against Furze Platt and the year 8 team were up for the challenge. Great Marlow

kicked off deep into the opponents half and immediately made their mark on the game, driving the first ball carrier back with an excellent tackle and forcing a mistake. The boys were able to capitalise on this and gain ground. They continued this dominance from the restart and then began to put phases together and apply pressure which resulted in a try. However, Furze Platt battled their way back into the game and were given a scrum in Great Marlow's half and capitalised on this and scored. This was followed by back to back tries from Furze Platt. Solid performances from forwards Frazer Cram, Tom Wharfe and Tommy Laughlin dominating rucks enabled the team to get a foot back in the game which enabled GMS to score try's in quick succession. This resulted in a 5 -5 draw. The boys continued to perform at this high standard winning multiple fixtures and dominating games. This was evident in their 7 - 1 win against Thorpe House with standout performances from Alfie Cambell and Etienne brooks as well as the two MVPs Jack Regan and Zack Bolton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Goodright, Liam Bruno, Rico Morgan, Malakhi Allick, Johnny Green, for their invaluable help during training and matches.



By Mr J Gilpin

Year 9 Rugby

This entire team have been an absolute pleasure to work with. Their player manager James Hunt, has done his utmost to develop high levels of organisation and communication, ensuring all students attend training and are available for the fixtures and it has proven invaluable, with solid attendance at training and excellent availability for training.



The team have been working on these 'soft skills' on the pitch as well. Organisation and communication are integral skills for any rugby player. At times it has proven difficult for all of the players to be reflecting these skills whilst on the pitch. However, the boys are beginning to realise how important it is and that the days of the '1 big kid, or the '1 fast kid' are gone, as they begin to embark upon developing tactics and strategies.

This realisation of the need to demonstrate these skills has led to excellent progress in training and the team are showing signs of playing to a plan and coordinating this amongst themselves on the pitch. Unfortunately, they have not managed to show this in a competitive fixture yet. The testosterone of a 13/14 year old can often rule their brain and game plans go out of the window and are replaced by "I can hit harder than you".

The team have experienced a mix of wins, losses and even 2 ties (not that common in rugby). They are keen to improve and our target is always based upon the performance and not the result - they will get there as they have the correct attitude towards improvement. This, combined with their physical attributes, should enable the training ground practices to come to fruition in the games.

It should be noted that Will Leach, year 13, has given up his time unreservedly to support the development of this team and has ably assisted with both coaching sessions and games. He also refereed some of the fixtures. Thank you, from the PE staff and the year 9 team. And finally, on behalf of the team and the PE staff, we'd like to say goodbye and good luck to Ollie Bolton, who has remained a formidable force in GMS rugby programme, as he begins a new life in Australia with his family who have emigrated...enjoy the sunshine!

By Mr S Goodright

Year 10/11 Rugby

The long awaited return to rugby was welcomed by the year 10 and 11 boys. Both year groups have a significant number of players who represent both school and local clubs, so we had the basis of what could be a very good team. Moreover, many of these students want to maximise their GCSE PE practical grade and are using rugby to do this facilitating positive platform to start from.

Numbers at training were strong and this meant we could work on patterns of play, tactics and strategy, as opposed to the more fundamental skills which are taught at ks3. The students responded well and it became apparent that we had a strong side, which could be competitive in all facets of the game - powerful forwards, rapid backs, and a loud, militant, scrum half to adjoin the two respective groups together. Both teams played games within their own year groups and faired particularly well against local opposition, utilising the basics from the practice field in their games. However, it was the combination of the 2 year groups which would see the best rugby played. In their first 'combined' fixture, despite 3 key players being out injured, they held JHGS to a closely fought tie. This was commendable as the squad had to work doubly hard with a reduced strength side. Their next combined test would come against SWBGS. A fresh afternoon, saw SWB host us on their 'games afternoon'. So, with clear skies, still conditions, a low sun and about 300 Borlase students watching, the epic battle commenced.

An early exit for the previously mentioned militant 9, Rico Morgan, meant that Issac Maddern had to step up

to the job and run the game. He did a sterling job. The forwards were ably led by Liam Bruno, whilst the swift moving backs, kept order both defensively and in attack. Hal Doyle demonstrating incredible tenacity with ball in hand and JJ Wilkie the same on the defensive front, putting in big hits all around the park. Despite the GMS boys having the edge physically, the Borlase team kept us honest and made us 'play' rugby as opposed to just using brute strength and direct running. The training ground strategies came to fruition, which was particularly pleasing to see for myself and Mr Gilpin, as the whole team played to a plan reflecting what a cohesive unit, with the same agenda can do. Borlase were not only out muscled, they were out played as well. Final score 40-12.

Moving into the second half of the season (February - April) the students will continue to work on the tactics and strategies as they re-meet some of the local teams and have their first fixtures against others. Both myself and Mr Gilpin are looking forward to working with the team again after February half term.

By Mr S Goodright



Won 9, Drew 4, Lost 6

The numbers have been outstanding at Year 7 netball club this year, with over 45 girls regularly attending training each week. The girls have shown fantastic commitment and excellent teamwork, turning up rain or shine. The progress made by the groups has been exceptional, considering some girls had done very little netball before joining GMS. The sessions have focused on developing fundamental skills, and the students' knowledge and understanding of the rules. It has been fantastic to be able to put 5 teams out against other schools in fixtures, as well as the A and B team qualifying for the Wycombe District League.



The girls have played a series of friendly matches against Claires Court, Furze Platt and Newlands picking up many wins, and showing excellent progress throughout. These matches have allowed for squad rotation, with a large number of girls who are involved in training getting time on court in competitive matches. Outstanding performances in the A team go to Maisie Marshall and Ella Seeley, dominating in the centre court. In the B team, Charlotte Pearson and Daisy Dudley have been very consistent in



the shooting circle. In the other teams, Maia Timpson and Claudia Payne have grown in confidence in defence, and Sophia Mills-Miguel and Jess Royds, have shown excellent attacking skills. The girls are looking forward to playing the majority of their league games after the Xmas break.

A big thank you must go to Miss

Whelan, and Sixth Formers Izzy Talbot and Devan Gibson for their help and support at training sessions.

Well done to the following students who achieved 100% attendance at training:

Lulu Keedwell, Ella Seeley, Claudia Payne, India Rhodes, Lexie Togwell, Ruby Cicchirillo, Chiara Broadbent, Maia Timpson, Jess Royds, Erin Ford, Isla Moriaty, Lyla Jacobs, Emma Verity, Bella Street, Grace Hull, Sofia Mills-Miguel, Izzy Matthews, Rosanna Di Donna.

By Miss G Muttitt

Year 8

Year 8- Won 6, Drew 1, Lost 1

It has been an incredibly positive start to the season for the Year 8 Netball teams. The year 8 girls have consistently turned up to training each week, with a willingness to work hard and improve their court play, as well as their attacking and defensive set plays to develop the tactical



side of their game.

The Year 8A team had a successful start to the season coming second in their group at the WHS seeding tournament. Each of the A team girls have carried their momentum from the tournament forward, and remain unbeaten in the district league, with impressive performances and emotional wins. Outstanding performances go to Joely Chamberlain for her rock-hard defence and superb leadership of the team, Sienna Morgan for her calm and collective attitude when shooting and Lucy Apletree for her tenacity and movement around the court. The year 8B team are going from strength to strength this season and are also unbeaten in the district league. The girls turn up each week with an infectious positive team attitude, and are determined to win each game they play. Outstanding performances go to Daisy Mitchell for her consistent shooting and Freya Hobdell- Williams for her interceptions in defence.

The girls are looking forward to continuing with their good run after Christmas. A big thank you to sixth former Izzy Talbot who has helped each week at training and fixtures.

By Miss I Bateman

Year 9

Year 9- Won 4, Drew 1, Lost 1



The Year 9 netball A and B teams have gone from strength to strength during this first half of the season. The girls have shown true resilience against some hard opposition and entered into each game with a positive attitude that has been hard to match. The A team have started the season with some great

wins. The B team also remain unbeaten in the league winning 2 from 2. Millie Giles and Chloe Lee have been exceptional, stepping and growing in confidence to secure their place in the A team. Esme Parr has also shown excellent development working on her holding in the circle, and Lottie Shaw must be commended for her commitment to training.

The girls also competed in the National Schools competition in November, against local comprehensive, grammar and private schools in the area. These games were highly competitive and GMS finished 5th on the day out of 12. Despite the wet and cold weather, the girls took a lot from the experience and bought home some hard fo

By Miss E Boddy

Year 10/11- Won 5, Drew 1, Lost 7

The attendance at KS4 netball on a Monday evening has been very good with students showing dedication, commitment and a desire to achieve at a higher level, as they complete their GCSE PE courses.

The Year 10 squad have worked hard this term on developing their awareness on court and working as units on court, as opposed to individuals. The A team have shown fantastic resilience and currently sit top of the league, with wins against Wycombe High A and B, Pipers Corner and Princes Risborough. Special mention must go to Lizzie Megson, who has demonstrated consistent shooting throughout and led by example as captain, Rachel Clarke who shows continual drive in the centre court, Sophie Apletree who has been outstanding in defence and Erin Anstiss who has stepped up from the Year 9 squad on several occasions and demonstrated exceptional maturity. The B team have also had several close games against Highcrest, SWB and SWR. Well done to new additions Sophie Wharfe and Ella Bristow who have showed excellent determination at training and in games.

The Year 11 squad have also worked hard on keeping possession against more physical competition, and success from centre pass to goal. The girls have had many close games, and came out winners against Claires Court and Pipers Corner. Special mention must go to Abbie Stewart and Mabel Daw who have shown excellent progress and commitment this term. Bring on the second round of fixtures in January!

By Miss G Muttitt



SIXTH FORM

Won 0 Lost 3

This year marks the third year of the 6th Form netball team entering the district league. The girls have had some very close fixtures with Pipers Corner, BCA and Sir William Borlase. Outstanding performances this term have been seen by newcomers Ellie Brindley, Katie Jenkins and Devan Gibson and captain Izzy Talbot. The girls are looking forward to securing a win in the new year!

By Miss G Muttitt

After Christmas, we turn our attention to the 7-side competitions.

The year 7 hockey team is the largest squad of players we have seen at Great Marlow School, with more than 40 students having attended training across the term, and over 30 having participated in fixtures. The students are progressing all the time, with many of the students having never played hockey before, but already proving that they can compete against those with years of experience. I have no doubt, that if they continue to work as hard as they are, with the same brilliant level of enthusiasm, that they will have just as much future success as the older students before them.



U13/U14 hockey

It has been a great start to the hockey season for the U13 and U14 squads. The team have consistently turned up to training each week with a determined attitude to improve and develop their hockey skills. The U13 team finally got the chance to represent GMS at their first ever fixture against a local school. Maintaining the large uptake from last year, we fielded two teams. The scores didn't go our way, but it was an amazing opportunity for our girls to experience a school hockey fixture. A special mention to Freya Randall and Amelia Wilson for stepping up on the day and being goalkeepers for the games. Bring on the rest of the season!



The U14 team had a frustrating start to the season. However, the girls did not let this phase them and have come back even stronger through a huge eagerness to learn and develop during training, this has made them a force to be reckoned with. Back in October the U14's took part in their county heats; all the girls knew this was going to be a hard tournament. The First game of the day was a tricky one and even though the girls showed they were the better team, as the final whistle went it was a 0-0 draw. After refuelling and an incredibly motivational speech from Mrs Porter the girls went into their second game full of urgency and energy,



emerging with a 2-0 win and huge smiles on all their faces. This was enough to secure 2nd in the group and move them through to the semi-finals. The team brought everything they had to the semi-final game, but unfortunately it wasn't meant to be. The girls finished the day coming 4th overall. Special mentions go to Chloe Lee whose work rate and fiery attitude helped spur her team on, and Hannah King who has grown hugely in confidence and skill over the last term. A massive thank you to Mrs Porter for all her help with training these two age groups and attending fixtures. I know myself and all the girls appreciate the time you put into the hockey at GMS.

By Miss I Bateman

GMS HOCKEY HAS HAD AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL RETURN

There is no doubt that our first competitive hockey season since the outbreak of COVID-19 has been a successful one. After a year away from fixtures, the squads have certainly made up for it this term, with over 60 hockey matches played in just 14 weeks. I hope you enjoy reading about this successful first term back, as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Emily Miskell – Futures Cup

First of all, our congratulations must go to Year 13 student Emily Miskell, who was selected to represent Mercia Lynx U17s in the 2021 Future's Cup. This is the final stage of the performance pathway before selection for England trials, so a fantastic achievement. We have loved watching Emily's progress throughout her time at GMS, and wish her luck for all of her future endeavours, both within the sport, and outside it.

Colette Fitzpatrick – England Trial

Our second notable individual achievement that must be recognised, is Colette Fitzpatrick's trial for the England National Age Group Squad. We are incredibly proud that Colette has been recognised at this level, and is thoroughly deserving of this achievement. Colette is undoubtedly an incredibly talented hockey player, but this feat is also down to her consistent hard work, commitment and coachability. There is no doubt that this is only the start of Colette's success in the sport and we are excited for what the future holds for her.

GU18 indoor hockey – National Finalists

In the last three Autumn Term editions of The Voice, there has been an article about a certain group of indoor hockey players. Possibly the best quote to highlight from these articles is from the 2018 edition, which read "this team has an extremely bright future, and I have no doubt that if they continue in the manner that they have started, they will be extremely successful, perhaps even our first national finalists..." (Miss Porter, 2018).

I am very proud to be able to sit here and write that this quote has proved to be correct. In their fourth year together as a squad, the team have finally qualified for the England Hockey National Indoor Finals.

The county tournament proved to be routine for the squad, as they claimed an 11-0 win over Wycombe High School, followed by a 5-1 win over Sir William Borlase. The South Central Regional Finals took place at Bradfield College. Despite winning the county tournament, which supposedly grants you an easier journey through the next round, the GMS squad were drawn in a tough group, which included Wellington College, King Edward VI School and Oxford High. Although the girls started brightly with a strong performance over Wellington, claiming a 2-1 victory, they stuttered slightly through their next two group games. However, the girls managed to clinch an all-important semi-final spot, where they faced friends and rivals, Sir William Borlase.

Knockout stages of competitions have enough riding on them, without the added pressure of playing against your local rivals. This fixture had 7 years' worth of history attached to it; with the girls going toe-to-toe with each other throughout their secondary school life. This team was the first to challenge the SWB dominance in the local area, so they were desperate to claim the bragging rights one final time.

It is fair to say the SWB began the sharper of the two teams, with Goal Keeper, Izzy Talbot being called into action on a number of occasions. However, the girls managed settle into the game and took a 1-0 lead late in the first half. This gave the girls confidence going into the second half, and their dominance prevailed, as they kept a clean sheet to win the game and march on to the South Central Regional Final.

The final, was to be a re-run of the first fixture of the day; GMS vs Wellington College. Having beaten Wellington once already that day, the girls were confident that they could achieve what they'd been working towards for the last 4 years; a place in the National Indoor was no slow start from the girls in the final, as they dominated the worked move from the defence, all the way up to attack, claimed the game. A 1-0 win was enough to take the girls through to GMS's

I don't think I can put into words quite how monumental this made history every year they have been at the school, but this has when they first started playing indoor I thought, if any group can girls, I never quite believed it would actually happen. There have quite" moments that I wondered whether I'd underestimated quite there. I was totally right that it was a hard feat to achieve, but I was whether they could do it. Every set back they've had, they've taken when it really mattered; their final year together as a squad.

Having said all of that, we're not done. Yes, being one of the top 8 teams in the country is a phenomenal achievement, but we don't want to stop now. We have a National Finals to win. Bring on Thursday the 13th of January.



U18 Squad
Emily Miskell, Grace Kisbee, Katy Windsor, Amelie Fitzpatrick, Immy Spooner, Izzy Talbot, Zoe Clarke, Tilly Brown, Alba Braybrooke, Kiera Allen, Kesia Richardson

GU16 indoor hockey – 2nd place in Regional Finals

Following the success of the U18 girls' indoor team, both this season and previously, the U16 girls' hockey team were inspired to follow in their footsteps. The team, captained by Colette Fitzpatrick, had high hopes for their season having trained hard throughout the previous year, despite the cancellation of the 2020/21 indoor competition. Their hard work and commitment to training had clearly paid off as the girls cantered to three wins from three at the county tournament at the start of November. As such, the girls qualified in top spot for the South Central Regional Finals at the start of December.

Though feeling confident off the back of their county success, the team were under no illusion that the Regional Finals would be easy. With their first round match to be played against Wellington College; a team with longstanding indoor history, and finalists at the U18 competition, the team knew they needed to start strongly. They did just that, cruising to a 4-1 victory. Next, the team faced King Edward VI School, another school with years of indoor experience. Although an extremely dominant performance, with plenty of attacking opportunities, penalty corners and possession, the team couldn't quite get over the line and endured their first loss of the season, with the score line finishing 2-1. Thanks to KES's earlier defeat, this didn't upset the table standings too much, but the GMS girls knew they couldn't afford to drop any more points. The girls revived themselves to win their next two games, the first a comfortable win against St Helen's & St Katherine's, followed by an extremely tight fixture against fellow Buckinghamshire qualifiers, Sir William Borlase. Captain Colette's three years' worth of indoor experience in this fixture as she dominated the game, staying calm under some of the situations, which included scoring a penalty stroke to win the game.

the team level on points at the top of the table with KES, but second on goal 9 goal win was required in the team's final game against Farnborough, a tall team couldn't be playing better. So, a place at the National Finals was still within girls looked dead set to achieve this as they went into half time 5-0 up, thanks Helena Sykora. A further two goals quickly followed in the second half, but team couldn't quite find the remaining two, to finish in that all important top

It isn't normally that a 7 goal win ends in heartbreak, but on this occasion it did. I could not be prouder of the way the girls took on that 9 goal challenge, and indeed conducted themselves on and off the pitch, throughout the entire tournament. There is no doubt that there is more to come from this group of players. If the bounce-back ability from the U18 squad is anything to go by, then a National Finals will be on the cards in the future for this squad. Watch this space.

By Miss L Porter



GU16 Squad

Colette Fitzpatrick, Mabel Daw, Rachel Clarke, Helena Sykora, Sophie Apletree, Lara Allen, Poppy Ungar, Faye Simpson, Flo Horan, Nicole Roach, Ash Barber, Milly Horan

2x Outdoor County Champions!

We haven't only seen success indoors this season, the U18 and U16 girls' outdoor squads have also been triumphant. Both teams had good runs in the EH cup competition, but it's at the outdoor County Championships that the girls really demonstrated their dominance within Buckinghamshire. Both teams remained undefeated to be crowned county champions. For the U18s, this was a feat they had achieved a number of times before, but in their last year together it felt all the more special. For the U16s this title was a first, demonstrating that their commitment to training had paid off; their progress at this level becoming really evident.

Congratulations girls, all of your success is thoroughly deserved!

By Miss L Porter



BU16 indoor – 3rd place in Regional Finals

For the first time ever, GMS has fielded a boys' indoor hockey team. Bolstered by the achievement of the girls' squad back in 2019, along with a number of talented and committed male players, the boys were set for a successful first season.

The team have been in training since the summer of 2019, when they began their preparation for the 2020 England Hockey U16 Schools Indoor competition. With training combined with the U16 girls, and outstanding commitment from both teams, training sessions were proving to be of significant quality and the boys were improving considerably. Unfortunately, due to the cancellation of all indoor sport, and no external fixtures taking place thanks to COVID, the boys would have to wait another year for their first competitive indoor hockey fixture.

A tough first fixture awaited them, taking place against Sir William Borlase, whose boys' teams have had success on a national level in previous years. Full of enthusiasm and gusto, the boys stepped up to the challenge magnificently, claiming a 5-4 victory in a fast and exhilarating, end to end match.

This set up the team nicely for their county tournament a few weeks later. The boys started well with a convincing win over John Hampden Grammar School, but unfortunately just fell short in their final game, experiencing their first loss of the season in another goal fest vs Sir William Borlase. However, the team still qualified for the South Central Regional Finals; a first for this committed group.

In the regional finals, the boys were set to play SWB (for a change) and King Edward VI School, who also featured in both girls' competitions. The boys competed well in both fixtures, and could have taken the spoils in either game, being up at half time twice. Unfortunately, the boys were pipped in the second half of both games, losing 7-5 and 5-4, respectively.

Although disappointed, the boys can proudly say that they are the third best indoor team in the region. This team has an extremely bright future, and I have no doubt that if they continue in the manner that they have started, and all stay for 6th form, they will be very successful at U18.



BU16 Squad

Isaac Maddern, Harry Critchlow, Malakhi Allick, Charlie Rhymer, Will Clayton, Ethan Wills, Tre Jacobs, Theo Besnard, Benny Maddern, Ed Drummond, Hayden Wilson

By Miss L Porter

GO-KARTING SUCCESS FOR OLIVER

Oliver Kerr is a student in Year 9, who currently races go-karts, with DSM Motorsport and regularly competes at British Karting Championship Level. Oliver has been racing for the last few years and often finishes in the top 10 within the UK. This is a highly competitive intense level of racing and taken incredibly seriously by the participants. The go-karts reach amazing speeds of 70MPH. This standard of go-karting is where many professional racing drivers started their careers: current Formula 1 drivers Lando Norris and George Russell, who currently race for McLaren and Williams, both started their racing career in go-karts.

Oliver said that his biggest achievement to date was winning a race at British level. His achievements and the ability to compete at a British standard take huge levels of commitment and involves Oliver and his family attending race meetings nearly every weekend. To keep ahead of the competitors, Oliver spends hours every night on the race simulator that he has at home. Oliver explained that the racing takes enormous amounts of resilience and concentration, particularly during races when he starts further behind the race leaders. He says his determination and focus enable him to work his way past other drivers and further up the field of racers into one of the top 5 positions.

The whole of Great Marlow School wishes Oliver the best of luck in his upcoming races.



Youth Sports Awards

The Youth Sport Award has returned to GMS after a short period away due to COVID. The award facilitates the development of leadership, which is a key aspect of our PE curriculum and extra-curricular programme. This year, 28 of our year 12/13 students have signed up to this Youth Sport Trust certified programme and have been relishing the opportunities which it has presented to them.

So far, the 28 strong team have supported PE lessons, taught PE lessons, run primary school events, officiated school fixtures, coached school teams and even worked with students from other secondary schools with significant physical disabilities. Their work has been outstanding and they have again, become an integral part of our extremely busy department – it goes without saying that we, as a department, could not facilitate the range and quality of our lessons and extra-curricular practices without their support.

The year 13 students have all used the course as a 'talking point' for their personal statements and are looking forward to expanding on their experience of the YSA course in their interviews. Our very own PE technician and Girls Football Strategic Lead, Miss Whelan is a huge success story of this course and she has confirmed her place at Brighton University, studying PE Teaching. Miss Whelan confirmed that over half of her interview was based around her experiences of the YSA course.

As we progress through the year, the students will continue to develop as leaders and further their involvement in lessons and practices. By the end of the course, the target is for all of the YSA students to be proficient at planning, delivering and reviewing lessons or practices. This process will support their development in all walks of life, both within and away from the world of sport and has proven to be a key driver in the development of significant competency skills such as, confidence, empathy, communication, teamwork, resilience, organisation and responsibility.

By Mr S Goodright
Head of PE



YSA- Disability Support Day



On Wednesday 1st December our YSA students had the opportunity to attend an event, specifically learning how to support students with Special Educational Needs. In the afternoon, students put these skills into practise, delivering a range of activities to a group of students with physical disabilities. The students took this event in their stride, and were a credit to the school.

The students demonstrated fantastic communication and empathy, whilst working with the other young people. The sessions the students created were very innovative and flexible to cater for the other students' needs. One game was a parachute filled with foam balls. The students had to try and knock off the balls when the parachute was in the air. This idea was created by Viola Marengo and Zoe Clarke.

Libby Bunt was very popular amongst the students, when she delivered a session using bubbles. Students would chase and pop the bubbles. Lastly Finlay Murton, Charlotte Wellington and Devan Gibson got arm ache, flying a large parachute up and down!

Some highlights from the leaders who were involved in the day are below:

"I enjoyed seeing the joy on the children's faces when we

were playing parachute with them. This showed me that the smallest things can put a smile on their faces!"

-Libby Bunt

"Seeing the children smile and being able to help those in need was a fantastic experience." –Zoe Clarke

"I thought the SEND training went really well. One of my main highlights was seeing the children having fun and getting involved in the activities that we created in the morning. It was good to see all the children smiling and laughing and not finding things difficult, as we managed to adapt the activities to each individual child. My second highlight was seeing the YSA leaders enjoying helping out with activities, adapting activities and having fun." – Devan Gibson

Well done to all the students involved.

By Mr S Goodright
Head of PE



Girl Active – All Years

Sports leaders Annabel Millward and Emily Bowles have done an amazing job leading the girls' multi-sports club this term. The girls do an excellent job delivering sessions to younger students, training younger leaders and coming up with great ideas on how the sessions are run. So far this term, the students have participated in a range of sports including badminton, football, dance and a favourite of the club... basketball! Girls' multi-sports is a great environment for girls from years 7 to 11 to come along and try out new sports, meet new people and have fun whilst doing so. The girls particularly enjoyed the Millward Sisters' dance session where they were taught an outstanding routine the girls choreographed themselves, showing superb levels of responsibility, leadership and readiness.

By Miss E Wheelan



Garry Trainer Visit

Earlier this academic year, the GCSE PE and the KS5 sport students had the opportunity to attend a seminar led by West Ham Osteopath Garry Trainer. Garry has extensive knowledge and experience of working in professional sport, including Cardiff City, West Ham United, and has also worked with many Hollywood 'A listers' such as Justin Bieber, Rita Ora and George Michael. The idea behind the session was to raise awareness about potential careers in this line of work, and how their educational and vocational options in the coming years can direct them into a career in sport if they wish to do so.

The session highlighted the roles and responsibilities of someone working within the medical department of an elite sports team, what kind of things they would do regularly to improve the condition of an athlete, and some methods and treatments they would undertake to do so. This would include the use of equipment and techniques used for treatment. Garry explained the theory behind why these methods are beneficial, demonstrating the real-world application of some of the theoretical content the students learn in their respective courses. The bonus of Garry being an incredibly practical professional, is that the students could experience some of the treatments Garry would perform. This included self-massage, joint manipulations and soft-tissue modalities using a range of equipment he uses on the West Ham football players. Overall, it was an insightful session into a career into sports medicine, and a physically beneficial session too!

By Mr H Magnay



Cycling - Years 9 & 10

The cycling club has continued to remain one of the schools' favourite extra-curricular activities, the GMS cycling crew have worked together as a team to deliver some exciting training sessions to their peers this half term. As well as this, we have been training hard on our fitness, including intense fitness sessions, wacky obstacle courses and fierce relay races, ready for the next cycle trip extravaganza. Cycle enthusiast Chloe Stevens and junior cycling coordinator Timmy Richardson have excelled this term as leaders by encouraging other students, demonstrating outstanding levels of commitment and always



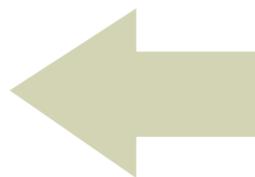
SWIMMING

This December we entered a local swim meet at Pipers Corner school, and had a number of swimmers in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories. There were a number of standout performances, especially considering the selection problems caused by Covid that week. Adam Kharbouch stepped up to compete in a number of events showing great determination and enthusiasm. In the intermediate races Ethan Wills and Isabel Rogers put in some strong performances in the 50 fly and 50 free, and the ever reliant Quinn's demonstrating their sporting prowess. The gala also provided the GCSE PE students, Collette Fitzpatrick and Tori Mann, with races to showcase their skills, and gather evidence which will go towards their final grade. It was an outstanding effort to fill the events, with competitive swimmers in the Junior, Inter and Senior teams given the challenging circumstances. We will look to showcase our full strength in the next meet, and have even more swimmers represent the school!

By Mr H Magnay

Opportunity FOR ALL Events

Over the course of the first term we have been running and attending a number of festivals for students who have not had as much opportunity to be involved in fixtures during their time so far at Great Marlow School. The events bring together a number of schools in the area, and promote inclusivity for all.



Tennis Festival

On the 6th October we had the opportunity to take 12 students to RAF Halton Tennis Centre. Two tennis coaches delivered a range of progressive activities to each school developing skills such as ball control, the forehand and backhand. The progressive practices got very competitive, with a game of four square, between, Aeron Willis, Harry Carter, Finlay Todd and Jacob Masini. Ruby Scott and Lois Peek made huge improvement becoming more confident throughout the session, gaining more ball control, to be able to maintain a longer rally. Students also did some target practice games. This got very tense with score being so close. Sam Gale showed huge amounts of resilience to try and hit the targets. The students showed responsibility ensuring the coaches had help clearing the equipment away at the end of the session. The coaches were very impressed with the students and awarded them all with a certificate for their participation in the session.

By Miss E Boddy



Orienteering

Orienteering was something new for our year 7 students to have a go at. This was hosted at Alfriston School. Students had to navigate themselves around the wooded area and playing fields to find the check points. At each check point students had to complete a different problem solving activity, including English and Maths tasks. Once the students had mastered orientating the map, they were off! Megan Hayward, Luke Michel, Kemisha Brown and Ewan Williams did not shy away from this challenge, sprinting between check points to ensure they completed as many challenges as possible. Due to great teamwork and determination, some students completed a record of 10 challenges in a hour! Of course, after all this hard work, the students deserved a sit down in the fort they found, which had been created by the other students.



Football



This term has seen a wide range of students from different year groups represent the school in various football tournaments and fixtures, that have been hosted by Chiltern Way Academy.

The year 7 and 8's were invited to participate in a 6-side competition. This provided an opportunity for some students to represent the school for the very first time. Our students demonstrated outstanding levels of respect and empathy throughout the day. Both teams were highly competitive with the year 8's finishing third in their group of six and the year 7's reaching the semi-finals of the tournament. Some standout performances included Christian Parker, who made numerous saves in goal, Seb Pearce, for his commanding performance at the back and Max Bunting for his outstanding effort and support towards fellow peers and opposition.

We welcomed the Chiltern Academy to compete in a 6-a-side game for year 7 and 9 students. The year 7 game was a closely fought contest. Harry Jones played some fabulous football with his excellent close control, and ability to identify and pass into teammate in space. Charlie Szucs made a number of vital saves in goal. The end was a close result, but unfortunately went to Chiltern Academy 3-2.

Farnham Park Softball Trip

A select few year 8 students completed six sessions in the sports hall at break time practicing different skills to improve their coordination. This was achieved through a range of activities including hitting, throwing and catching. Due to fantastic commitment from the students, they were all invited to visit Farnham Park on the 20th October to learn new skills for softball. Students took part in four sessions, at Farnham Park, learning about the principles of softball; batting, pitching and fielding.

The warm up game saw all our students sprint around the bases, and our team were very competitive! We took a close first place, finishing one player ahead of the other team! The pitching session was a challenge to the students, as they were trying to pitch fast and accurately. Students showed great resilience and all performed a successful pitch. Summer Ridgley, Annie Groom and Nicole Whiting never gave up during the fielding sessions, making sure they had successfully stopped a ground ball. When it came to batting, Brodie Howard and Daniel Djillali were determined to try and hit the ball further than Sheheryar Babur and Apoorva Singh. There was a different competition between Emily Chapman, Katie Taylor and Jess Davey to see who could achieve the best hitting technique. Well done to all the students involved!

The year 9 game was a closely fought contest. In the centre, Greg Gomez displayed his skill on the ball to take it round their players, but struggled to offload it in the final third. Faris's Ben Haj Ali physical attributes made him an effective defender, therefore he was able to beat the attackers to the ball, hold them off and cover other players when they went to press. It was a competitive fixture, ending in 5-4 win for GMS.

The year 10's played in an 11 a side fixture at Chiltern Way Academy. This fixture was highly competitive and gave an

opportunity for student's who had been attend training regularly the opportunity to showcase their talents on the football field. The game was a close affair with chances falling to both sides, but Joseph Windell produced a string of good saves to keep GMS in the contest. At the other end, Chiltern Way defended heroically with many last-ditch tackles and blocks frustrating our students. Chiltern Way led 1-0 at half time but an outstanding display of passing football in the second half brought GMS back into the game and the game finishing in a 1-1 draw.

By Miss E Boddy



Netball



Fifteen of our year 7 students committed to five lunch time sessions to practice and develop their netball skills. With the help of two year 8 students, Lucy and Rebecca Millward these sessions were very successful and the students' progress each week was fantastic. Sadly, our first fixture was cancelled however, the students managed to get a fixture after the

half term break against Egerton Rothesay School. This was a close fixture with a final score of 4-4. Egerton Rothesay School awarded two MVPs, Millie Ford and Grace Puddephatt. Since this fixture, many of the students have continued to attend year 7 netball club and are developing their skill and knowledge of netball. The students should be proud of the levels of commitment and responsibility they showed to attend the practices in preparation for this friendly fixture.

By Miss E Boddy

Medals Galore at National British Rowing Indoor Championships

Medals Galore for GMS at the National British Rowing Indoor Championships (BRIC). The BRIC took place on Saturday 4th December. For the second year running this was a virtual event, which is not quite as exciting as competing in front of thousands at the Olympic Velodrome in London. However, the noise levels in the school hall, as the whole squad cheered on the competitors, certainly was a rival to the live event.

The competition started with our Year 7s racing over 2 minutes: they were brilliant, beating their personal bests on this national stage. GMS kicked off GMS's haul of medals with Tommy Pitwell picking up Bronze in the boys' event and Sofia Mills Miguel collecting Bronze in the girls' event, beating team mate Erin Ford by just 4m.

In the Year 8 event, Ernie Stevens kept the medal tally rolling, going one better with his row over 3 minutes to collect Silver. Ben Symon had a good result in 6th place. In the girls' event Lucy Platt and Natasha Pendlebury had a very close race, with Lucy just piping Natasha coming 6th overall.

In Year 9, both boys and girls raced well, with Can Guccumengil for the boys and Elise Whyte for the girls being the best performers.

Year 10 had 4-minute races and 500m sprints. For the boys, Leo Chapman set off at blistering pace and was up at the top of the field for the first half of the race, but started to drop behind a little as the race went on, while Ethan Hunt took a more conservative approach, and although giving up quite a lot at the start gained on all the leaders over the final 2 minutes. They both earned themselves great results: Leo just beating Ethan into 4th place on the line.

In the Year 10 girls' race Charlotte Greening performed amazingly, with her usual determination settled at her personal best (PB) pace well, but she knew she had to stay in touch with the top few. As the race wore on and the whole field started to slow slightly, Charlotte was amazing in the way she pushed harder, finishing in Bronze medal place. She later competed in the 500m with other Year 10 girls. In the sprint, the noise level in the hall was enormous as at one point: GMS were 1, 2 and 3 in the race. A fantastic row by Sophie Wharfe, who won Gold and Poopy Spence who won Bronze.

Year 11 boys have struggled recently with illness, injury and a focus on their mocks, and so were not expecting great things but they out

performed their expectations. The three Year 11s raced each other as much as the rest of the field and finished an amazing 4th, 5th and 6th. Sal Dunn 4th, with Jack Clark and Foe Cogan just behind.

The Year 11 girls, including reigning champion Emily Downing, entered for the 6 minute and the 500m sprint. In her first race, she set off on her target pace and maintained a cool head when a couple of her rivals opened up a lead of some 20 plus metres. With 2 minutes left, her pacing sped up and she gained time on the leader. The gap closed steadily, with just 20 seconds left the gap was down to 2 m. Her opposition found something in those last 10 strokes to hold her at 2m down. A great Silver but bitter disappointment from Emily's viewpoint. Later she rowed in the 500m, despite being the third race of the afternoon she came away with Silver: a brilliant result for this exceptionally competitive young athlete, despite the Gold eluding her.

The Sixth Form rowers concentrated on the team relays, with one exception where James Robson wanted to go for yet another individual medal in the 500m sprint. True to form he did not disappoint winning an impressive Bronze. The relays were the crescendo for the cheering rowers. GMS had three teams:

Boys -Henry Gavin, Tom Wiles, Aidan Kelly and James Robson

Mixed – Erin Huddleston, Amelia Eldridge, Noah Grottrup, Hugo Loretto

Girls – Emily Downing, Olivia Fyfe, Maddie Jones and Abi Forgenie

Last year, GMS earned a Silver in the boys' event, so hoped to medal with this team. The results blew away all previous years' successes with the boys taking Silver; the two other teams taking Gold.

In the girls' event, GMS dominated from the start and forged ahead of the field throughout the race.

In the mixed event, sadly, there were technical difficulties, which meant three of the crews had to compete off-line and submit the scores. From all the online scores the participants and spectators knew GMS were over a second ahead of the field, but had to wait a tense 10 minutes before the Gold was confirmed.

Saturday was a really great day for GMSBC.

By Mr F Mursion



Wallingford Head

Sunday 28th November saw GMSBC racing at Wallingford fours and eights head. This year there was a particularly strong field with entries from all over the country. Crews form as far a field as Chester in the North to Exeter in the west, not to mention all the usual top Thames Valley squads.

At the top end we saw Oxford University with a couple of Olympians on board take on Leander and Oxford Brookes. Oxford Uni beat the Brookes crew by just over 2 seconds with Leander some 14 seconds behind in third place. It was exciting to see Toby Lassen (GMS 2020) in the Brookes 3 seat. In the afternoon he went on to win the Under 23 eights.

There were several alumni out competing which is always pleasing to see, with Blaise Ivers Dreux in another Brookes boat and Hannah Clayton and Ruth Rackstraw racing together for MRC.

In the first division GMSBC had a boys 1st eight, a girls year 11 eight and a boys year 10 eight. Illness and injury had curtailed a number of our boats and changed a few line ups. The boys first eight felt they could have raced better, and indeed were held up by other crews along this somewhat windy course. They did over take Reading Blue coats very quickly and pulled away from Winchester behind them. As they came under the road bridge, 1000k from

the finish they were pushing past the eight two places ahead of them and closing fast on a Marlow Rowing club eight. They ended second in their event which was an excellent result.

The girls J16 eight has had little time on the water and was made up of half year 10s, so their first rowing race (sweep as opposed to sculling) for half the boat. They had a slowish first half and lost ground on the field in this section, but once they hit their rhythm the boat started moving well and produced the fourth fastest time out of a top class field on this section. A very promising first outing for this eight.

The year 10 boys had a very contentious start to their race with a crew they were overtaking not yielding, resulting in both crews stuck in the bank for a reasonable delay. Their 7th position, beating St Pauls, Westminster and Latymer amongst others was very respectable given this early set back. They are a strong squad and I am sure we will see some exciting results in the months ahead.

In the second division we just had our top girls eight and like the mornings crew, they have had little time out in the boat. For half the crew this was their second race of the day. 4 km upstream in freezing conditions was a challenge, but the girls coped well and came off the water, cold, but feeling they had raced well. While they have some ground to make up on the top eights, beating the likes of St Pauls Girls and Sir William Perkins is no small achievement.

An exciting day on the water

By Mr F Mursion

Year 7 Rowing gets off to a good start

This term, the Year 7's had a fantastic opportunity to take part in indoor rowing. The aim of these sessions were to develop students rowing technique, and their understanding of the activity on the rowing machines. This should put them one step ahead and fully prepare them for when they can join the GMS Boat Club. Over 80 year 7's regularly attended the club on a Wednesday afternoon. During the sessions the rowers completed a number of technical drills, fitness exercises and competitions against each other. The rowers achieved some top scores in the team relays, in addition to the 500m sprints.

Due to the outstanding scores and commitment of these students, we invited 10 year 7 students to attend the British Rowing Indoor Championship. Sadly, this event was held virtually, so didn't have the atmosphere we expected. However, the students performed fantastically, and there were some outstanding performances throughout the day. The students raced for 2 minutes and they all managed to beat their personal bests. Tommy Pitwell picked up Bronze in the boys event, and Sofia Mills-Miguel collected Bronze in the girls event, beating her team mate Erin Ford by 4m. A big well done to these students and all those who took part.

The PE department also ran a rowing camp during the first two days of the October half term. The students had great fun completing the water sessions in single boats. Even if there was a few near misses, all the students managed to stay dry! Due to the colder weather and water temperature, all the students stayed on the ropes during the camp but the progress was fantastic and some will quickly be rowing without the rope in the summer. Students also managed to do some technical drills within the singles, such as rigger dips. The students demonstrated fantastic teamwork throughout the sessions, carrying the equipment to and from the water and getting set up as quickly as possible, which allowed them more time on the water.

Well done to all of the year 7 rowers who attended the extra-curricular club. I look forward to seeing you in the summer for some more water training, when the weather is warmer and dryer ... hopefully.

Thank you to all the students and coaches who helped the year 7 camp run successfully.

By Miss E Boddy



Congratulations



BRITISH WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

Ex GMS Student PJ O'Donovan who plays in the Premier Division of the National League is continuing his success in wheelchair basketball.

Over the past weekend six teams were in action in the Premier Division. GMS were delighted to be forwarded a report with special mention to PJ.

"Elsewhere in Sheffield, the Steelers narrowly edged out Thames Valley Kings with a final score of 60 -53. It was an outstanding third quarter that ultimately decided the contest, with the contest tied at halftime the likes of Will Bonner and Conn Nagle turned on the style to establish a lead to hold onto going into the final stages. Thames Valley player PJ O'donovan was influential throughout the contest, his creative capabilities on full display as he provided four assists for his teammates."

We wish him continuing success in his sport.

AND FINALLY....

ALL THE STAFF
AT GMS WISH ALL
STUDENTS, PARENTS'
AND CARERS' A VERY
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND CONTINUED
SUCCESS FOR EACH
AND EVERYONE
OF OUR STUDENTS
THROUGHOUT THE
FOLLOWING YEAR.



Heading for a family day out and travelling by train?

Trainline have put together a guide to booking family train tickets which provides all the information you need to make your family train trip a breeze. From easy ways to save money on train tickets to offers and child fare information, they've got you covered. Discover top destinations, travel tips, money-saving ideas and much more in trainline's travel guide.

Click on the link to discover more about reduced train fares this winter. <https://www.thetrainline.com/trains/great-britain/family-train-tickets>



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