

DATES TO LOOK OUT FOR

March

Mon 20 - Tutor Groups & Y11 Photographs

Tues 21 - Thurs 23 – GCSE Food Practical Exams

Thurs 23 – Y9 House Netball

Fri 24 – MFL Language Leaders

Sat 25 – Robin Hood Dress Rehearsal

Mon 27 – Y7, 8 & 9 House Hockey

Tues 28 – Remaining Y7 & 8 House Hockey

Tues 28 – Thurs 30 – Robin Hood Drama Production

Wed 29 - Hants Netball Championships (Y7)

Fri 31 Swimming Gala

Fri 31 End of Term

April

Mon 17 INSET Day

Tues 18 Return to School



TGS News

17th March 2023 Spring Term - Issue 13

Living History



Year 9 had a visit from Mrs Moira Shapter on Friday 10th March, who gave her excellent recollection of life in London's Blitz during WW2, sharing stories about school, home and work during the war.

Mrs Shapter fascinated the students (and staff) with memories of the Doodlebug bombs, time spent in the school playground Anderson shelter and her family's loss of a cow to a German bomb.

Mrs Shapter also showed us real shards of shrapnel that she had picked up at home and a certificate from King George VI, thanking her for her support as a child during the war years.

Students asked some excellent questions, having spent their homework time that week preparing them Miss Whittaker

Gardens Open Day

The weather wasn't on our side for the Gardens Open Day last Sunday but that didn't stop our visitors exploring the grounds, the music of Meridian Winds, the classic cars or enjoying some cake.

Thank you to the Garden Posse and our Groundsmen who helped get the garden ready and we were also impressed with Boudicca W (Year 7) penny farthing cycling skills!



Iconic Iceland

Last Thursday, 53 Year 10 and 11 Geography students departed for Iceland to explore this iconic country.

As part of the IGCSE Geography syllabus, students have covered a range of revision topics including volcanoes, dramatic waterfalls and coastal landscapes all of which Iceland has in abundance!



Landing in Iceland, the sun was out with a glorious blue sky and we started our tour heading to the Lava Tunnels. This was the highlight for many of our students, venturing deep into the ground to discover amazing colours on the walls and icicles hanging from the roof.

Friday morning began with a very relaxing dip in the pools at the Secret Lagoon in the small village of Fludir. This natural hot spring is heated to up to 40c with the steam adding to the magical feel.

Once our muscles were relaxed and fingers shrivelled, we headed north to Gulfoss.



Glacial waters flow along the Hvita (White) River before plummeting 32 metres over two tiers down into the gorge. We were able to walk from the lower path up to the upper viewing platform which



gave a spectacular view of the whole waterfall.

Our next stop was Geysir in the Haukadalur Valley.

The Strokkur Geyser erupts about every eight minutes shooting water up to a height of 20 metres. Several of the students got a little too close and received a

rather unexpected drenching whilst trying to film the eruption! Cathy, our tour guide and field study tutor, explained the physical processes that were taking place and the problems caused by so many visitors coming to this popular 'honey pot' site.



Next stop was the Þingvellir area which is part of a fissure zone running through Iceland. Its wide rift valley separates the North American Plate and the Eurasian Plate. It was here, in 930 AD, that the world's oldest parliament was established. We were able to walk between the steep fissure walls out into the vast rift valley. Cold winds and icy conditions made it a challenging walk.



We stayed at the wonderful Hotel Ork in the small town of Hvergerdi, about 40km away from Reykavik. The food was plentiful and the rooms were comfortable, but the real attraction was the geothermally-heated swimming pool, slides and hot tubs.



Saturday began with an early wakeup call and breakfast, then we set off on a drive along the southern coastline. First stop was Seljalandsfoss



waterfall. The glacial waters fall over 65 metres over old basalt sea cliffs. Gigantic icicles hung from the cliff face making it an even more impressive site. Sadly we were not able to walk behind the waterfall due to the ice.

We passed Eyjafjallajökull, which is the volcano case study for GCSE. We stopped at the iconic farm and view point to discuss the impacts of the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010.

After a short stop at the Black Beach or Reynisfjara, a black basalt beach, where we had the chance to see the basalt columns created by the cooling of the lava which produces pipe-like columns, we went to the town of Vik for lunch and souvenir shopping.



On the way back to the hotel we made two stops. The first was to the Glacier where we learnt about the impacts of climate change and glacial melt, followed by Skogafoss, one of the most beautiful waterfalls. We ascended the 527 steps up the side of the waterfall to reach the upper viewing platform to get a fantastic view of the 62 metre drop. It was an exhausting climb but well worth the effort.

On Sunday morning, our first stop was to the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant, where we enjoyed a talk from one of the employees explaining how the Geothermal Power Plant works and why it is essential in today's climate.

The exhibition was presented in interactive multimedia installations, wall displays and presentations and enabled students to examine Iceland's geothermal energy utilisation.

The final two stops of the trip were to the bridge between the plates (Eurasian plate and the North American plate) showing the strength of plate tectonics and the conservative plate boundary before heading to the natural hot springs and mud puddles.

The students were a credit to the school and hopefully they have had an experience that will stay in their memories for many years to come.

My thanks to Ms Rendall, Miss Carter, Mrs Toward and Mr Bartlett (DT) who gave up their own time to support the trip. Mrs Le Cornu

Our Rayburn representative Catherine Rule has written to the school to express how impressed she was as always with our students whom she found engaging, polite and respectful and also the knowledge and enthusiasm of our staff.



Anyone for Pie?



Who doesn't like a pie? Our caterers Holroyd Howe celebrated British Pie Day last week with some delicious menu choices. Our students could choose from: Drunken Cow Pie (Beef and Ale), Notorious Pig (Pork and Stuffing), Piñata (Vegetarian Chilli) and Cow Pat (Mississippi Mud).

The next special day will be the 'Scrumble Crumble' in May where students can devise their own crumble toppings. Yum!

Blood Brothers

Review by Fraser E (Year 9)

Last week a number of Year 9 students went to watch Blood Brothers. The trip was really good, the coach journey was fun and watching the play was brilliant. I thought that the acting was excellent, with most of the actors having very authentic Liverpool accents.

There were lots of different school groups at the theatre and everybody seemed to enjoy the play tremendously with lots of funny bits and swearing!

We even enjoyed the ice cream cart during the interval which everybody flocked to. The actor who played Mickey portrayed him slowly acting less and less childish whereas Eddie stayed the same throughout and the two men were very funny pretending to be 7 year old boys.

At the end of the play when Mickey and Eddie died, the scene was really emotional and very realistic. Another realistic scene was when Mrs Lyons told Mickey about Linda's affair with Eddie; when Mickey looked away Linda pushed Eddie off her then they both left, which added even more to the atmosphere. When Mickey pointed the gun at Eddie and as Eddie was pleading for his life he said that he and Linda were just friends which I found very emotional. Everybody jumped out of their skin when the two guns were shot and the prediction came true that if they found out they were twins they would both die on the same day.

The audience all stood up and clapped for a long time to show how much they had enjoyed the play and I would give it 10 out of 10.

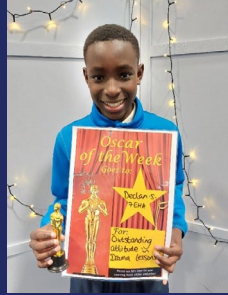
Overall I thought the play portrayed the ideas and themes of Blood Brothers really well and also the acting was great and the whole experience was very enjoyable.



*It was a brilliant trip with an incredibly awesome production. The students were all totally engrossed in the play and behaved impeccably!
Mrs Roy*

Drama News

Oscars of the Week



Congratulations to Grace P in Year 9 for excellent skill in her devising lesson and Declan S in Year 7 for his outstanding attitude in Drama. Well done both of you! I hope you enjoy your sweet treat and that your mini Oscar statuettes have pride of place at home.

Drama Club



Year 7 and 8 Drama club continues to go from strength to strength. This week the students impressed me with their performances inspired by British Science Week which made me smile.

I would also like to thank Ollie H and Sam K in Year 9, who have recently started assisting me with Drama Club as part of their D of E award. Drama Club runs on Monday lunchtimes and is open to all Year 7s and 8s.



Robin Hood

Looking ahead to “Robin Hood”, I am still in need of a few more raffle prizes. If you are able to donate something, however small, please drop it at reception, clearly marked “ROBIN HOOD RAFFLE”. Alternatively, students can bring them to me in the Atrium.

West End Summer School

Away from The Gregg School Drama Department, I have received some details about a “West End Summer School” in London. This involves a week of training in Acting, Singing and Movement, before performing to an audience on a West End stage. There may also be an opportunity to be seen by industry professionals. If students would like to find out more, they can collect a leaflet from the Atrium. Alternatively, parents please email me on naz@thegreggschools.org

Parent Opportunity

I have also recently become aware of a great playwriting competition at The Chesil Theatre in Winchester. “Take Ten” is a competition to write a ten minute play, with a deadline on the 2nd June 2023. Winners will be announced in November, and the winning ten writers will have their plays premiered in February 2024. Although I would love to assist our students in this venture, the competition is only open to over 18s. For more info, please see <https://www.chesiltheatre.org.uk/taketen.html> I would love to know if any of you take up the opportunity!

Mrs Azor

Netball News

The Under 12 netball girls won two out of two games on Tuesday winning 4-1 against Oasis Mayfield and 6-2 against St Anne's. The team have now made it through to the Hampshire finals in a couple of weeks! Well done girls.



Rugby Win

Well done to the Year 9 rugby team who after playing four matches on Tuesday won the bowl at the Rugby Festival held at Boundary Oak. Also, congratulations to Fergus N who was voted the most improved player.



Up for the Cup

The enthusiasm and quality of the Year 7 boys in football lessons and training meant Mr Wilford entered a team into the town cup this year, something we wouldn't usually do.

His faith has been repaid as the boys showed great resilience and mental toughness to win against St George's in a penalty shootout that went to sudden death and ended on 7 penalties each! Well done to Elliot S for remaining calm and cool to convert the winning penalty. Then in the semi-final away at Deer Park the boys thoroughly deserved the 1-0 win they secured via a penalty from Declan S. Cantell await in the final...

Hampshire Cross Country

Last week saw 12 students travel to Basingstoke to take part in the Year 7 and 8 Hampshire Cross Country Championships. As you can imagine, with a whole county of runners, the standard was incredibly high.

The boys and girls tried their very best and represented our school and city really well. The best finisher was Camilla W, who was 14th and qualified for a regional race, involving 5 counties.

Mr Wilford



Maths News

MathsWatch and DrFrost February Winners

Well done to the students below who finished in the top three of their year in February and will each receive 10 Learning Habits stickers.

Mathswatch:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Elise B	Sebastian R	Helelna R	Jake B	Vyom S
Leo C	Hilary-Ann A-A	William R	Henry P	Holly K
Wakhile M	Ziming W	Josie W	Jemma R	Nadine M

DrFrostMaths:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Elise B	Zachary R	Pippa W	Nicole G	James S
Jack G	Hilary-Ann A-A	Helena R	Lucas H	Ben N
Benjamin P	Ethan R	Grace P	Jake B	Alice B

Senior Maths House Challenge

Congratulations to Trojan who won the Senior Maths House Challenge thanks to gold awards from Hannah T and Chris L and silvers from Henry P, Sam K and Grace P. Spartan came second and Roman third. Well done to all that took part.

University of Southampton Maths Challenge

Well done to the students from Year 8 and 9 who participated in the University of Southampton Maths Challenge. The questions were structured by the University to promote problem-solving and mathematical reasoning.

The following students have been awarded a Senior Leader Commendation for their submissions:

Ethan R, Sebastian R, Alexander T, Elliott S, Hilary-Ann A-A, Yasin A and Helena R

Here is a question from the junior paper for you to try...

A Pyramid Paint Scheme

Imhotep the Architect want to paint the Great Pyramid. He wants one red side, one blue side, one green side and one yellow side. How many different ways can he paint it?

His assistant is tasked with making models to show the possibilities. He realises he can make far fewer models as they can be turned around. How many different models does he need to make? Show how he would need to paint each of the models. Miss Carter

Number day

The Maths department combined Number Day with Pi Day this year. On Tuesday, students entered various house competitions with a Pi or Mathematical focus. These activities included identifying famous Mathematicians, naming movies with Mathematical content and a fun round of Pi Dingbats. Students also took place in a Number Hunt which involved finding numbers stuck on various teachers and answering questions like 'Who is the biggest prime you can find today?' and 'What is the square root of Miss Le Cornu?'.

Finally, congratulations to Vyom S (Year 11) who was our winner in the Pi Recital house competition, with an incredible 211 digits recalled! Our second and third place winners, Seb R and Hilary-Ann A-A were also seriously impressive, reciting 124 and 80 digits, respectively. Fantastic!



Well done to all our students who put their memory to test by entering the competition. All those who could recall 10 digits or more gained a point for their house.

Results of the various house competitions to follow. Mrs R Webb

Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries



HPL students from Year 9 and 10 went to Winchester Theatre Royale on Wednesday to watch the tour of Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries by Kate Mosse.

Kate Mosse tells the stories of under-heard women's history and of how and why women's achievements have routinely been omitted from the history books.



This fascinating talk about her book outlines an alternative feminist history of the world and a personal memoir about the nature of women's struggles to be heard, about how history is made and by whom.

Kate told the stories of female inventors and scientists, philanthropists and conservationists, authors and campaigners, including names such as Sophie Scholl, Mary Seacole, Cornelia Sorabji, Helen Suzman, Shirley Chisholm and Violette Szabo.

In deeply personal passages Kate tells the story about the life of her great-grandmother, Lily Watson, where she turns detective to find out why she has all but disappeared from the record.

The evening was a truly inspiring event for our future Historians.

Miss Carter

Cake Bake

Thank you to everyone who supported our cake sale and non-uniform day in support of Comic Relief yesterday we raised over £760.

