

GROW @ GOLDINGTON GAINS LEVEL 4 RHS AWARD



We received some wonderful news earlier this term: we are very proud to announce that Grow @ Goldington gardening club has gained the Level 4 RHS Campaign for School Gardening award! Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas/Spring plant sale which enabled us to raise funds for our gardening club as part of our enterprise activity for this award. The feedback from the RHS was that 'it was a fantastic Level 4 entry'. We will be sent £100 worth of seeds to grow including fruit, vegetables and flowers as our award.
Mrs Sacre/Mrs Oates

Read more about this and other exciting activities and events that have taken place this term

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

Before I write introductions to any newsletter, I first read the articles already submitted and, once again, I have been struck by just how much is going on in our school at this time of the year. Within these pages you will often see individual students mentioned who are performing at the 'top of their game'! For example, at the Bedfordshire Festival of Speech, Music and Drama we are represented by Ellie, and Isobel - both students with fabulous talent in these areas. In addition, I read with interest the fantastic opportunity Perry and Harry have with their chance to attend the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia next year. They have already made sure I have sponsored them!



Goldington however is not just about elitism; it is also about participation. I was really struck with the article written by Mr Stratton on "Legally Blonde Jr". To see more than 100 students audition for a part in this show is phenomenal - well done all! In fact, whilst I am on the topic of drama, it has been fantastic to see the attendance at drama club this year under Mrs Wildman and Mrs Hopkinson - very well done to you both!

I hope you enjoy the articles on robotics, gardening, our new mural, Active Girls and 2Faced Dance to name just a few.

We have again seen great success with our sports hall athletics teams this term and as I write this, we are again preparing for this week's annual Gym and Dance Show.



I hope you and your child/children enjoy some lovely family time over the half term break and we look forward to the safe return of your child on Monday 19 February.



GROW @ GOLDINGTON

The children were so excited when they heard the news. They had been working on the enterprise project since September: designing posters, decorating festive pots, planting bulbs and selling them to staff, students and visitors. A total of £57 was raised, which we can now use towards future projects. This is a fantastic achievement, particularly as the award has been gained in less than a year. Well done to everyone and thank you for your hard work and dedication.



There is now only one more award to work towards - the Level 5 - which we will begin preparing for now. We are appealing to anyone who has any spare large pots or planters, tyres or hanging baskets, or anything we can upcycle to make into a planter that you wouldn't mind donating to us as we will shortly be receiving our spring plants which we gained from the Level 3 award. Due to our superb garden renovation, we are desperately short of vessels to plant our soft fruit trees and shrubs, strawberries, and spring vegetables that will be arriving to us any day now.



The garden renovation has been going well, thanks to Steve Burns of Castle Gardens. The gravel has been laid, our planters (donated by Ridgeons) have been placed, we have replanted some herbs, and made a start on our new bug hotel.



We recently made some winter bird feeders by using empty yoghurt pots and filling them with fat ball/seed mix, nicely topped with dried mealworms! We are looking forward to hanging these in the trees and bushes to encourage the birds into our garden.

New members are always welcome, please see Mrs Sacre for a priority lunch pass.

STEM ROBOTICS

On Tuesday 9 January, six teams of young and enthusiastic STEM students attended the practice '**scrimmage**' of the 2018 VEX Robotics Competition.

The competition was undertaken by Lockheed Martin's Outreach team in place of the usual Techbox tournament in the hopes of taking outreach to a national level. In previous years, the events have been based around an engineering challenge such as building a 3D printer, Rube Goldberg Machine or an 'Egg Rescue Module', with the aim of encouraging and promoting STEM subjects to schools in the local area.

Students from four local schools were provided with over £500 worth of VEX Robotics equipment with one goal in mind - to design and build a competition robot capable of competing at a national level.

The VEX tournament involves two teams working against another two teams as part of the red or blue alliance. The ultimate aim of the match is to score the most points as an alliance by stacking and moving cones into different zones on the match field. This is started by an autonomous period of 15 seconds, followed by a further 1 minute 45 seconds of manual remote control play.

There have been over forty pupils across Years 5-9 attending lunchtime workshops, which are supported by regular visits from Mr Harris, who has helped the teams program their robots so they may function during the controller or autonomous stage.

The scrimmage was a practice event of twenty-five matches per team, which prompted huge successes, catastrophic failures, creative design developments and a roller coaster of emotions for all those participating. The students were fully engaged with the day's events and got to develop their skills not just in engineering, but in socialising and communicating with their fellow alliance competitors through the world of STEM.

The tournament finale was held on Wednesday 31 January, hosting a series of knockout matches between the alliances. With one spot at the UK Nationals up for grabs, the teams were in tough competition with the other local schools and even some far-out visitors such as a Kings College London.



NEW YEAR - NEW ME - ACTIVE GIRLS



Us girls are having a great start to 2018 by taking part in the Active Girls Programme. It's a great opportunity because we get to take part in fun activities that we wouldn't be able to experience in PE lessons. So far we have done Clubbersise, Body Combat and Bootcamp and we are looking forward to next week's Yoga session. #Staying Fit!!

Alisha

The girls have been tracking their fitness with the aid of a tracking device. They are embarking on an 8-week programme of various activities which will enhance their overall fitness levels. In school, a number of girls have taken part in an Active Girls Survey which has secured the school the sum of £400 from the Youth Sport Trust. The current active girls will be known in school as the 'Glam Squad' and we will be organising a range of activities in the summer term which all girls in the school can sign up to. The money will be used to employ outside trainers and instructors in different fields to run a range of sessions which will hopefully appeal to those who are not currently taking part in extracurricular physical activity. The government states that girls who participate in physical activity can improve their school grades by 33% whilst at the same time enhancing their mental health and wellbeing for the future. Watch this space for more details.

Mrs Worthington

REMINDER — Please can all parents/carers periodically check their child's hair for any "unwanted guests" and treat as appropriate.
Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

ARTS

MUSIC - CONSCIA JAZZ



On Thursday 11 January, some of our Year 8 pupils worked with Conscia Jazz (a jazz promotion and education company based in and around the Bedford area). Our young musicians were treated to some fantastic live Jazz and then some improvisation workshops.

It was a great opportunity for them to enrich their curriculum learning and work with some experts in the field. We are currently in the process of working on their own compositions using some of the techniques and skills they have developed. We are looking forward to hearing the results – to be released on Twitter soon!



DANCE - 2FACED DANCE COMPANY

Last Monday we were lucky enough to be taught by a member of 2Faced Dance Company. He taught us a piece that they are going to perform on their tour. We really enjoyed learning new skills. **Molly**

It was an amazing opportunity and experience to learn new techniques we'd never learnt before. It was challenging but you need to persevere if you want to be successful. **Ismail**



ARTS

MUSIC - INFORMAL CONCERT

At Goldington Academy, we aim to provide pupils with a range of performing opportunities - both in school and at local and national professional venues. As part of this provision, the music department offers all pupils the opportunity to perform in the friendly and supportive environment of our Lunchtime Showcases. From these, a number of pupils are then invited to take part in one of our informal concerts.

The first of our informal concerts for this year took place after school on Wednesday 10 January. It was a lovely event in an informal and relaxed setting, allowing the pupils to gain confidence and valuable performance experience. Our musicians were wonderful: conducting themselves with professionalism and self-assurance. It really was a pleasure to observe.



DANCE WORKSHOP & PERFORMANCE

Year 8 Personalised Learning Programme and GCSE dance students had another opportunity to visit the University of Bedfordshire to participate in a workshop with dance lecturer Sadie Hint, and perform in the theatre. We also enjoyed watching three performances from the dance students. We all felt inspired and particularly enjoyed the contact duets performed by the students.

Mrs Mahoney



I loved watching the university students perform their pieces on stage and the workshop was good and I improved my skills. **Ellen**

ARTS

DRAMA



LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical JR.

Preparation has started for this year's production – Legally Blonde Jr- The Musical. We were overwhelmed by the pupils' response to this year's choice of show, as over 100 pupils turned up to our initial production meeting to express their interest in taking part. This is fantastic for the pupils and the school and has created a real buzz

around the upcoming show. Audition preparation is underway – Mrs Lodder has started a singing club for KS2 & KS3 separately in order to teach the pupils a song from the musical and best prepare them for the auditions after half term. Pupils will be expected to sing, act and dance in their auditions and the competition is high!

Details on casting, production and ticket sales will be shared accordingly. Please keep an eye on the twitter page for any news!!



Music and Lyrics by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin Book by Heather Hach
Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe)
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe www.mtishows.co.uk

BEDFORDSHIRE FESTIVAL

Two of our year 9 pupils are entering into this year's, Bedfordshire Festival of Speech, Music and Drama. Ellie is competing in the Verse Speaking solo class, performing Paper People by Harry Baker and Isobel will be competing in the Shakespeare Solo class, performing Emilia's monologue from Othello. Both pupils are incredibly committed to the creative arts within school and we wish them the best of luck!

ARTS

DRAMA CLUB

Drama Club will be back next half term after taking a short break whilst the Gym and Dance show and Battle of the Bands take place. Mrs Wildman is looking forward to seeing the regular attendees and welcomes any new faces!! Drama club takes place on a Thursday after school, in the main hall until 4.45 pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET

GCSE and PLP drama pupils will be going to watch Bedford School's production of Romeo and Juliet on Friday 23 February at The Quarry Theatre. Please remember to sign and return the reply slip by 9 February to ensure your child's place on the trip.

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Some of our budding rock stars took part in our inter-school battle of the bands on Thursday 1 February. It was a tightly fought contest with some fantastic performances from all the bands. Congratulations to Ellie, Molly-Rose, Raahimah, Alex, Ollie and Holly who go through to the Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands on Wednesday 28 February.

The band would really appreciate some support in the audience on the 28, so please do go along to support them. Tickets can be purchased online at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bedfordshire-ks3-battle-of-the-bands-tickets-38624277253>



ARTS

ARTS

The Creative Arts department are delighted with the wonderful new mural in the Arts Centre. This was created by local artist Sarah Hodgkins, who worked with our pupils to design a visual statement of our commitment to individuality and diversity.

The initial idea came through our work during Black History Month to celebrate its 30th anniversary. We wanted to reinforce the importance of a culturally diverse education and to promote our core values of diversity, tolerance and respect.

Pupils were asked to design a house to reflect their individuality and identity. This could have been to represent their hobbies or interests, or even create a design from their imagination. Designs were unique and charming, ranging from enchanting tree houses, to dome-shaped surreal structures. They came up with some wonderfully creative and exciting ideas, some of which have been used in the final design.

This wonderful piece of art will stand as a reminder of the importance of the spiritual, moral and cultural education of our young people.



"This generation has a chance, and it all starts with education. If we are taught to revel in the beauty of diversity and the beauty of culture, decades of war and misunderstanding could be changed. We could re-write our futures with the very same pens that are in our pencil cases"

Hazel

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE

The theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is 'The Power of Words'. In partnership with the Higgin's Museum and Gallery, the Anne Frank Trust have a number of exhibitions running to highlight this theme. On Thursday 25 January, forty Year Seven and Eight pupils went to the Higgins Museum to watch a performance of Crystal's Vardo, a play that examines the impact of being bullied at school on a young Gypsy girl's life. It also explores the rich history and culture of Gypsies and Travellers to raise awareness and improve understanding of the Travelling community.

In addition to this, Goldington Academy was the only school to send representatives to the Holocaust Memorial Commemoration on Monday 29 January. Ten pupils in Year Eight have been given the role of Anne Frank Ambassadors and, as part of this role, they delivered a poem at the Anne Frank Tree in Russell Park and spoke in front of an audience at the Higgins Gallery about the work they have done this year with the Anne Frank Trust. We are very proud of our work with the Anne Frank Trust and thank them for continuing to provide opportunities for our young people.

Mr Atkinson



FUNDS RAISED

So far this academic year the school has raised money for the following charities:

Children in Need (muffin day on 17 November)	£ 700.59
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	£ 543.41

PE DEPARTMENT

CROSS COUNTRY/RUNNING CLUB



Cross country is very hard! At the start I felt really nervous, but as I was running with all the other girls, it started to feel easier. When I crossed the finish line, I felt very proud of myself.

Summer

January and February are traditionally the cross country season. We tend to attend four fixtures over the half term, all different in their distance and difficulty. At the Bedfordia run, 56 pupils ran the race ranging from Year 5 doing their first run, to Year 8 who are now seasoned pros at these events. The numbers in each race were very large, but Goldington runners acquitted themselves very well and all completed the distance without too many problems. The biggest problem was a strong northerly breeze which made for very difficult running conditions.

At the district race at Priory Marina the following week, it was much warmer, but also more muddy under foot. The fields were smaller than the previous week, but the competition was still tough. All runners improved on their previous week's place and time, which was great to see. Well done to all who ran.

The next race was a qualifier to see if our runners could get into the North Beds District Team. To achieve this, you have to finish in the top 16 in the race. Again in very muddy and cold conditions our runners did the school proud. All who competed finished in very good places but a particular mention to Daniel Year 7, Stanley Year 7 and Millie Year 9 who finished 8th, 12th and 11th respectively. They will now go on to represent the District at the County Championships, at Amptill Park on Wednesday 7 February. We wish them every success at this race.

PE DEPARTMENT

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

All our teams were successful in qualifying for the county championships which were held in January in Bedford.

Year 5/6 Mixed Team

The team gave a great performance which gave them a gold schools award. They were runners up in the competition.

Year 7 Girls

The girls competed really well and finished fourth.

Year 7 Boys

The boys gave a very mature performance, particularly in the longer track races and finished as bronze medallists.

Year 8 Girls

The Year 8 Boys performed well and were placed in fourth place, narrowly missing a bronze medal by 2 points.

Year 8 Boys

The Year 8 Boys performed well and were placed in fifth place.



Year 5/6 Runners up

BADMINTON

This term has been very busy for badminton with both the Year 7/8 girls' and boys' teams involved in the district competitions. The girls finished a very credible third. The boys' team managed to qualify for the finals, and finished runners up.



Year 7/8 Runners up

Two Year 5/6 badminton teams also played in the district finals in late January. They finished third in a competitive field.

If you would like to get involved in the badminton club, then please feel free to come along. Listen to the bulletin for more information, or look at the weekly extra curricular sheet for more details.

Mr Llewellyn

As always, we would like to thank all the staff who assist or run an extra curricular club for giving up their time and energy, which allows our pupils to have so many opportunities to participate in a number of different sports.

PE DEPARTMENT

YEAR 7/8 BOYS HOCKEY

A huge congratulations to the boys who became District Champions in the hockey league in January. The boys played 4 games and remained undefeated to claim the league title. The scores were as follows:

Goldington	5	Rushmoor	0
Goldington	7	Bedford Academy	0
Goldington	0	Westfield	0
Goldington	5	Lincroft	1

Well done to the boys for becoming champions for the second year running.

WORLD SCOUT JAMBOREE

World Scout Jamboree West Virginia 2019



Back in May this year, we had the idea of the international Scout Jamboree suggested to us. We found out that it was going to be held in West Virginia and we completed a long application form with a big personal statement section and submitted it. From this, we were invited to attend a selection weekend at the end of September. We were put into patrols with 8 other people we didn't know and before we went we had to organise all our tents, food and other things for the weekend. This was scary as I had never met any of them before! Thank goodness we all had our own mobile phones and could set up group messages!

On our selection weekend, there were 88 of us from the county and 36 places up for grabs, so we had to impress! We had many challenges to do in our groups, including song-writing, designing a coat of arms and assault courses plus the most nerve wracking an interview! One of the questions was: 'If you were a biscuit, which would you be and why?' My answer was a ginger-nut because I can be fiery!

After a nervous 2-day wait, the emails came through and we were in! We are over the moon! We will be meeting with 30,000 Scouts from around the globe to experience new adventures, cultures, and friendships. Now we have the task of raising £4000 each! Please consider supporting us. **Perry and Henry**

SCHOOL REMINDERS

Dear parents and carers,

Your continued support in ensuring that your child is properly equipped and wearing the correct uniform is much appreciated. Your child's form tutor and head of year will be closely monitoring uniform and equipment for a number of weeks, with a particular focus on the following:

- ⇒ Plain dark grey trousers (not skinny-cut or denim), or the official school skirt
- ⇒ White shirt and tie
- ⇒ Blazer (Year Nine only)
- ⇒ Black shoes (not trainers)
- ⇒ Hair styles which should not include colours, patterns or designs
- ⇒ Children being equipped with correct basic equipment, e.g. pens, pencils, rulers etc.

Thank you again for your support in this matter. We strongly urge you not to purchase your uniform at Josens because the garments are often the wrong colour and the logo is incorrect.

Dear parents and carers,

We value volunteers' assistance in school and on school trips, amongst other things. Indeed, without your support many events could not take place.

In order to safeguard the pupils in our care we maintain a volunteers list of all those individuals who are approved to help out in school. Joining this list puts you under no obligation to help in school; however, we will be unable to accept any offers of help from those not on it and we therefore urge you to sign up. All our volunteers work under the guidance of a member of school staff at all times and may be approached to help out in a variety of situations, for example accompanying staff and children on school trips; providing support at a sporting fixture; creating displays of pupil's work; talking to pupils about careers and helping with make-up, hair and costumes for school productions.

The process is simple, but it can take some time for the checks to be processed and we therefore recommend you join now to avoid disappointment in the future. To join the list, please contact the school office or visit our website to download the relevant forms.

Dear parents/carers

Our whole school attendance percentage is currently 96.3% for the year so far. Please help us to keep up this excellent attendance average by ensuring that pupils are organised for school the night before and are only taking time off school for genuine illnesses. Please also be aware that the school cannot authorise absences for family holidays.

As we are still in the winter months, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather to reduce the risk of illness.

Please remember our attendance targets are:

KS2 – 97%

KS3 – 96%

Whole school – 96.5%.

FREE! FREE! FREE!

Did you know ... just registering your child for Free School Meals means that the school gets extra money?

Register now to make sure we don't miss out!

The government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a '**Pupil Premium**'. Your child will receive pupil premium for **SIX** years after registering (even if you no longer qualify for free school meals.)

For every child registered, Goldington Academy gets £1,320 a year to spend!

With this money we could offer your child 1:1 tuition, or small group support in school. If you are registered for free school meals you could also get help with costs of school events, trips or music tuition. The money also supports the cost of the additional learning support staff in your child's class.

Please register as soon as possible to make sure your child and others in his or her class don't miss out.

How does it work?

1. First, check if you qualify – it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list at the bottom of this page.
2. Registering is really quick and easy – if you think you qualify, contact our office staff who will help you.
3. If you want your child to have a free school meal at lunchtime, then he or she will get the free school meal (saving you more than £300 a year), and extra benefits; and the school will receive £1,320 extra a year for 6 years whilst your child is in our school.
4. If you don't want your child to have the free school meal they do not have to have one; as long as you qualify and are registered, the school still gets the £1,320 extra.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

Please talk to us about registering your child today.

Do you qualify?

You can register your child for pupil premium and a free school meal if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At different times through their education, lots of children can experience challenges, struggles and difficulties with their learning with things such as: communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health difficulties; sensory and/or physical needs. The reasons for these difficulties are wide and complex, and each pupil is an individual.

At Goldington Academy, we support children with their learning and their social and emotional development in a number of ways.

Some of these include:

- ⇒ Additional adult support in lessons
- ⇒ Differentiated teaching resources in class to match ability
- ⇒ SoundsWrite phonic support
- ⇒ Small group guided reading groups
- ⇒ Handwriting intervention
- ⇒ Lexia reading (an ICT reading program which can also be accessed by children at home)
- ⇒ Power of 2 maths coaching
- ⇒ Specific dyslexia support

Each pupil identified as having additional needs has a profile, which all staff have copies of. The profile contains differentiation strategies to help the child make progress at school.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's learning, please contact me at school by email or by phone. Alternatively, there is a drop in session on Fridays between 3.30- 4 .00 pm, when parents can come and see me without an appointment.

Bedford Borough Council has published a "Local Offer" which sets out, in one place, what support and services are available for children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs and their families. For further information see:

<https://sendguide.bedford.gov.uk/>

I encourage parents to act quickly if there is a concern, as we can plan steps to help your child achieve his or her potential and be happy in school.

Mr Roopnarain, SENDCo

roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Reminder—please inform the school office if you move address or change your telephone or email address so that our records can be kept up to date

SPRING DIARY 2018

HALF TERM — MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY — FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2018

Monday 19 February		Visiting Author - Year 8
Thursday 22 February	4.30 pm—8.30 pm	Year 7 Subject Teachers Parents' Evening
Friday 23 February		Romeo & Juliet - Quarry Theatre
Monday 26 February — Friday 2 March		Mock SATs (2) Week
Tuesday 27 February		7YTW CSI Day
Wednesday 28 February		7PSL CSI Day
Wednesday 28 February	Evening	The Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands
Wednesday 28 February		Parents' Forum
Thursday 1 March		World Book Day
Thursday 1 March	4.30 pm —11.45 pm	Woman in Black - London
Saturday 3 March - Saturday 10 March		Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama
Thursday 8 March	4.30 pm —8.30 pm	Year 9 Subject Teachers Parents' Evening
Thursday 8 March		Year 5 Bedford School Chemistry Lecture
Friday 9 March		Year 8 STEM activity - Air Bus
Monday 12 March		Year 8 STEM Family Evening
Friday 16 March		Big Bang — Birmingham
Wednesday 21 March		Strings in Spring (tbc)
Thursday 22 March	4.30 pm—8.30 pm	Year 5 Subject Teachers Parents' Evening
Thursday 29 March		Year 6 & 8 reports sent home
Thursday 29 March— Thursday 5 April		Ski Trip to Andorra
Friday 30 March		School Closed—Bank Holiday

EASTER HOLIDAY — FRIDAY 30 MARCH — FRIDAY 13 APRIL 2018

Monday 16 April		Summer term begins
Thursday 19 April	4.30 pm—8.30 pm	Year 8 Subject Teachers Parents' Evening