

## GOLDINGTON ACADEMY IS CROWNED SPORTING SCHOOL OF THE YEAR FOR THE SECOND TIME

Goldington Academy has won the Sporting School of the Year 2018 award at the 23rd annual Bedford Sports Awards, which is amazing as it is the second time in three years that we have won this prestigious award. Our success is down to many factors: over the last year, Goldington Academy were District and/or County winners and/or runner-ups in a wide range of sports, including: hockey, football, dodgeball, netball, sports hall athletics, athletics, rounders, rugby, tennis and cricket. Over 50% of our students took part in our wide-ranging extra-curricular sports programme. We have worked with external clubs such as Star Rowing and Spiral Free Run to extend opportunities for our pupils. We took part in the Active Girls and Generations Dance programmes, went on a ski trip to Andorra and many pupils from across the years train as sports leaders, helping to run a range of sports clubs for younger pupils and assisting in primary school events.

Mrs Chapman and Mr Lodder



## PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

I was a very proud Principal last Monday when for the second time in three years we were awarded Bedford Sports School of the Year! Congratulations to Mr Lodder, Mrs Chapman and the wider team that includes Miss Hankins, Mr Llewellyn, Mr Lincoln, Mr Hall, Mrs Mahoney and Mrs Spencer. Sport continues to thrive at Goldington as our feature article shows.



It has been a fantastic term and once again I can announce we will have significantly more than 150 pupils on roll in Year Seven for September 2019. We continue to be humbled by our community's faith in us.

Can I say a big thank you to all pupils (more than 700 responses), parents (365 responses) and staff (49 responses) who took the time to respond to our big Education for Schools survey in October. Overall we were delighted with the responses and I've given just a flavour of some of the answers below. It goes without saying (but I'm saying it anyway!) that your views are very important to us as we shape the direction of our school going forward.

**The school is well led and managed:**

88% strongly agreed or agreed  
10% Neither agreed or disagreed  
2% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**My child/children is/are happy at this school:**

87% strongly agreed or agreed  
11% Neither agreed or disagreed  
3% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**I would recommend this school to another parent:**

85% strongly agreed or agreed  
11% Neither agreed or disagreed  
5% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**My child/children is/are taught well at this school:**

84% strongly agreed or agreed  
12% Neither agreed or disagreed  
3% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**There is a good range of activities that my child/children find(s) interesting and enjoyable:**

77% strongly agreed or agreed  
16% Neither agreed or disagreed  
7% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**My child/children feel(s) safe at this school:**

90% strongly agreed or agreed  
7% Neither agreed or disagreed  
3% disagreed or strongly disagreed

**My child/children is/are well looked after at this school:**

87% strongly agreed or agreed  
12% Neither agreed or disagreed  
1% disagreed or strongly disagreed

We have been busy recruiting more excellent staff! We have appointed first-rate teachers in Mr Finnie (Chemistry), Mrs Edwards (French and Spanish) and Miss Harte (Geography) for 2019. We also welcome Mr Campbell to school who will replace Mr Stiles as he is leaving us this Christmas. We also welcome Mrs Spavins to school to aid Mrs Hemming as a second science technician.

Finally, can I wish you all a happy and restful festive period. Thank you for your tremendous support of the school. We look forward to welcoming your child back on Monday 7 January 2019. Enjoy!



## IMPORTANT — CHANGE OF TERM DATES IN 2020

<b>Spring Term 2019</b>	
School Closed - Staff Training Day	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
Start of Term	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January
Half Term	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> February
Last day of term	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Summer Term 2019</b>	
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019
Start of Term	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
Half Term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> May
Last day of term	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Autumn Term 2019</b>	
School Closed – Staff Training Day	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2019
School Closed – Staff Training Day	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019
Start of Term	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
School Closed – Staff Training Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Half Term	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Last day of term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
<b>Spring Term 2020</b>	
Start of Term	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Half Term	<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup> to Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020</b>
Last day of term	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020
<b>Summer Term 2020</b>	
Start of Term	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2020
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Half Term	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Last day of term	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

## SCIENCE — ROBOTICS

On Friday 30 November, we hosted the annual VEX Robotics scrimmage event supported by a team of engineers from Lockheed Martin. We took six teams to the event, with over 60 pupils from Years Six — Ten being represented. The tournament was the largest to date, with nineteen teams from across the country having signed up to compete. Students worked tirelessly to perfect their robot over a series of pressurised time-trials before competing to secure a good pairing in the alliance selection process after lunch. Competition proved tough, especially from the StowBots team but our teams fought hard for their positions, moving up the ranking scales throughout the day. Particular congratulations must go to our mixed Year Six/Eight ‘Lamarz’ team who ranked third at the end of morning’s event and achieved a place in the quarter finals.



All teams are frantically improving their robots now before the VEX Regional Finals on the 25 January where pupils will be competing to earn a place in the National Finals in March.

## AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

An impressive 128 students are now representing their faculty areas as ambassadors, supporting teachers in delivering a wide range of initiatives including intervention and mentoring sessions, competitions and extra-curricular clubs. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm and resourcefulness displayed by the ambassadors who continue to be excellent role models to our younger students. Special congratulations must go to Isobel, Luana, Raahimah, Aqib, Camron, Humayal, Jack, Nihal and Sharon who have dedicated their time to support more than 100 separate sessions in the first half term.

## ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Our whole school attendance percentage is currently 96.8% 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.

Our attendance targets are: **KS2 – 97%**      **KS3/4 – 96%**      **Whole school – 96.6%.**

## BEDFORD HOMELESS PARTNERSHIP

We are supporting **Bedford Homeless Partnership** with a collection to help provide homeless adults and children in Bedford with some small comforts. Items that are suitable to donate include: warm hats, gloves and socks, clean clothing and blankets, wet wipes, roll-on deodorants, hairbrushes, body creams and lotions, toothbrush and toothpaste, cereal bars, chocolate bars, crisps and crackers, puzzle books and novels, colouring pens and books, torches and small umbrellas.

If you would like to donate, please bring any of the above items into school to place in the collection box in the library any time throughout the year. Our Community Ambassadors Lucy and Lily are leading on this initiative and are really keen to collect plenty of items to pass on to the homeless in Bedford.

## SCIENCE — BAE/RAF ASSEMBLY

A quarter of 14 to 18-year-olds said they would rather follow in the footsteps of innovator Mark Zuckerberg (23%) or tech genius Bill Gates (28%) for careers over household names such as Ed Sheeran (17%), David Beckham (9%) and Kylie Jenner (9%), according to research from BAE Systems.

The study has uncovered a surprising shift in perception of STEM among young people, revealing over half of 14 to 18-year-olds (56%) deem maths to be the most valuable subject for future career prospects, followed by English (50%) and science (42%). Two thirds (62%) of those currently studying STEM have also said they are likely to carry these subjects over to university.

The findings have been released as BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force and the Royal Navy come together again to launch this year's nationwide Schools Roadshow. Alongside The Royal Academy's #ThisIsEngineering campaign, the roadshow, now in its thirteenth year, aims to inspire and instill excitement among school pupils around STEM, in the largest ever schools programme of its kind.

This is our third year hosting the Roadshow and this year's focus was on maths titled 'It's a Numbers Game' and contained a series of workshops and demonstrations to showcase various applications of the subject, from robotics and coding through to the use of maths in iPhone technology and even magic. It was an extremely entertaining show which encouraged lots of audience participation and even a jet pack!

Mrs Spencer, Head of Science says: *"We want to encourage our students to consider a degree or future career in STEM and become more aware of the exciting opportunities available to them through these subjects. At BAE Systems, engineers work in a variety of different roles, from designing submarines for the Royal Navy, to developing innovative virtual reality technology for leading athletes to improve performance, or even working on wearable tech for the British Army and the latest fighter jets for the Royal Air Force. Initiatives like the Schools Roadshow are so important, especially as this is the Year of Engineering, to ensure we continue to excite young minds and inspire the next generation of scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians."*



## SCIENCE — DRAYTON MANOR

When going on the rides and being in the theme park, we had feelings and emotions of independence like the school were giving us a bit of freedom by breaking the barriers of non-independence into paths of independence and leadership.

People always say (and think) that science is just what you learn in your lessons. But really, science is everywhere, especially at theme parks, with gravity, air resistance and much more. And all of this was included in an educational, wonderful workshop! We went on many rides and discovered how speed and weight affects the rides.

Our day was full of fun activities, exciting opportunities and lots of learning too.

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting our educational workshop focusing on the scientific effects on a rollercoaster.

The best thing about the workshop was that it was interactive and that we were not just listening to the teacher for the whole hour. We got to test some of our theories with a K'nex model.

Later on, we decided to go on the rides. Being very organised, the teachers (we had Miss Davies) had planned out a route based on whether we liked fast rides or not. Firstly, some of our group decided to go on Shockwave, a ride where you stand up. Next, we went on a ride called Air Race, where you go upside down in loops.

Afterwards, we ate lunch and bought food and drinks from the shop. Next, we rode on the bumper cars — twice because the first time some of us got stuck. Thereafter, we went on the rocking pirate ship, which was very exciting. We went on Accelerator, a boomerang coaster that went backwards. Next, we went on Pandemonium, a ride that did 360° full turns backwards and forwards. We went on it twice!

Then, we went on the flying Dutchman and the Buffalo Coaster which was fairly slow but still enjoyable. Finally, we went on our least favourite ride (Stormforce). Stormforce is a water log flume ride which goes down backwards at one point and goes forward down a hill very quickly. The worst thing about it was that we got so wet because we sat at the back of the log.

Although we didn't get to go on all the rides, we still had a pretty fun time and overall, we'd say that going to Drayton Manor theme park was probably the best trip and school experience we have had.

Laila and Margot (Year 6)



Next year we will be looking to recruit a pool of Exam Invigilators to form a team who will be responsible for supervising students sitting examinations throughout the school year. The hours are flexible, ad hoc and subject to requirement. This position would ideally suit a person living locally and looking to work occasional hours as and when required. If you think this is for you, or know anyone looking for this sort of position, please register your interest at

[examoffice@goldington.beds.sch.uk](mailto:examoffice@goldington.beds.sch.uk)

## SCIENCE — ADVANCED SCIENTISTS

It has been a very busy term for the Advanced Scientists in Year 8. We have carried out fish and eye dissections and looked at the 'A' Level theory linked to gas exchange in fish. Students have undertaken many challenges including the preparation of polymers from milk and creating density towers. We have also been visited by Lockheed Martin and Leonardos, and have completed some exciting and creative STEM challenges run by both of these organisations. On Friday 7 December, we visited Airbus Foundation Discovery Space in Stevenage and had an amazing opportunity to view the Mars Rover testing site and watch the rover prototypes carry out test drives on a simulated surface of Mars. The students also competed with their own mini Mars rovers that they had to programme and race to the finish line. We are looking forward to our final visitor, Mr Nick Chapman, an Airbus engineer who will challenge the students to build their own mini satellites and protect their payload from the dangers of passing through the atmosphere of Mars to the desired landing spot.

**Miss McKenna**



## NATIONAL YOUNG MATHEMATICIAN AWARD

For the first time this year Goldington Academy entered teams into the National Young Mathematician of the Year Award. Four Year Six pupils entered the primary competition and 3 Year Eights and one Year Seven were selected to enter the KS3 contest. We flew through Round One in both age groups, coming in the top 3 of local schools that entered, moving us into Round Two.

In Round Two the competition was judged nationally with the top 5 schools in the country being invited to the Grand Final at the University of Cambridge. Unfortunately, neither of our teams finished in the top 5 of the country, however, the KS3 team were the top team from Bedford and will be awarded medals after Christmas.

The competition is run by NRICH (a Maths problem solving website) and Explore Learning. Each year, pupils in the competition try to solve a new problem solving task made especially for the event. Some of the tasks used in previous years can be found here:

<https://nrich.maths.org/11587>. Each task comprised of 3 challenges to complete within an hour. The tasks are not about the amount of maths you know but are designed to be very tricky, hard to interpret and require a logical approach. Teams gain points for working together and as a team, managing time well and communicating, as well as for finding the correct solutions. Congratulations to all those selected to take part.

**Mrs Jackson**

*At the National Young Mathematician Challenge, we worked as a group to try and work out hard and tricky questions. We had one hour to complete a new and never seen before problem solving task. It was a great experience and really pushed us to work to our best ability. We combined ideas to get our overall answer and we were against some great teams from other schools. **Yasmeen Year Eight***

## CREATIVE ARTS — MUSIC

### INFORMAL CONCERT

The first of our informal concerts for this year took place after school on Thursday 6 December. 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.



### HANDBELLS

Our Handbells group visited the Mallards to perform to the residents and to help celebrate Christmas. The residents were delighted to hear our pupils sing and play and really appreciated the effort the children made to help them celebrate the festive season. Thank you to Mrs Cheeseman for organising this wonderful opportunity for our students to contribute to the community in such a positive way.





## CREATIVE ARTS — MUSIC

### CONSCIA JAZZ



Members of our Year Eight composing club had the great privilege of working with some extremely talented jazz musicians this term. As part of their unit of work on Jazz, we invited Conscia Jazz in to play some fantastic live music and lead some practical workshops. The



experience really helped our young musicians to develop their understanding of the genre and to improve their improvisation skills; it also provided a wonderful stimulus for their own compositions.

### ARTS AWARD



As part of their Arts Award course, a group of our students were taken to see Nativity the Musical at MK Theatre. The day also included a backstage tour of the theatre and a visit to the MK Gallery. Arts Award silver encourages students to research careers in the arts and this was a perfect opportunity to develop their understanding of how theatres and galleries operate and to find out about a number of roles and opportunities related to these organisations.

### CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



Our festive season started with our choir performing at The Christmas Tree Festival. This is an annual event in the historic and beautiful St Paul's church which is lit by over 60 trees decorated by schools and community groups. Our young singers performed superbly and received many compliments about their brilliant singing.



## CREATIVE ARTS — DRAMA



Once again Goldington Academy pupils were fortunate enough to take part in an innovative, collaborative and challenging theatre festival hosted by Bedford Modern School. In September of this year, pupils from Mark Rutherford, Stratton Upper, Bedford Modern and Goldington Academy were treated to a workshop with professional practitioner, Nick O'Brien, from The Stanislavski Experience (<http://www.stanislavskiexp.co.uk/>).

The workshop provided pupils with an insight into Epic Theatre – the style most commonly associated with Bertolt Brecht. Epic Theatre is a style of theatre that uses stage craft and dramatic devices to alienate audiences, forcing them to think about what they are seeing and to not become emotionally attached to the content. Epic Theatre, and Brecht, aimed to promote change in the masses, or at the very least start a conversation around political and social issues.

Our Year Nine GCSE drama pupils were selected to take part in the festival. As part of their course, the pupils are required to devise a piece of original theatre from a stimulus (Component 1, 40%). The festival served as a fantastic opportunity to prepare for the component: exploring all of the necessary skills; bonding as a company and having a performance opportunity. It has to be said, the pupils certainly rose to the challenge.

ACT!'18 centred around the theme of Conflict. Each school was provided with a short text after the workshop and given the freedom to interpret and devise as they saw fit. Our story was, 'The Darkness Out There,' by Penelope Lively. Over the rehearsal period the pupils peeled back, layer by layer, the story until they had uncovered the key message. They experimented with music, song, placards, gestus and direct address to name but a few of Brecht's techniques. The end result was an imaginative and thought provoking re-telling of the events of Packers End (the village referenced in the story). The pupils, through a rather mature and polished performance, reminded the audience that, 'not everything is as it appears'. With this message the audience were forced to question their own views on judgement, darkness and innocence. Brecht would have been proud.

In November, we were thrilled to be joined on the evening of the performance by parents, friends and staff including Mr Galbraith, Mrs Ross and Mrs Lodder. Each school's entry to the festival was well rehearsed and performed, staying true to the style of Epic Theatre, and provided all in the audience a thought-provoking and thrilling evening.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Year Nine cast who were a pleasure to work with. The pupils demonstrated commitment to the course, energy, enthusiasm, professionalism and respect throughout the project.

Well done Year Nine – keep up the good work. **Mr Stratton. Head of Drama**



**CREATIVE ARTS — DRAMA**



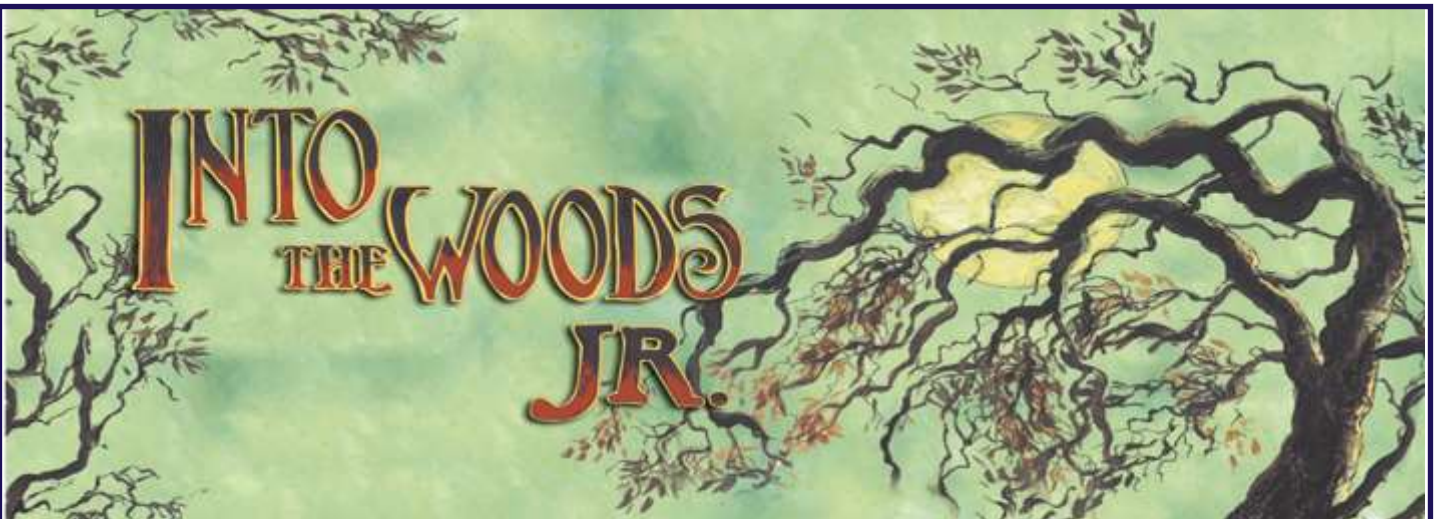
**Festival of Speech and Drama**

Next year (Spring 2019) Goldington Academy will host its first Festival of Speech and Drama – showcasing the talent and passion for theatre and performance our pupils have. Entries will be limited to:

1. Dramatic Solo (own choice of scene, time limit 3 minutes)
2. Duologue (own choice of scene, time limit 6 minutes)
3. Shakespeare Monologue (time limit 4 minutes)
4. Shakespeare Duologue (time limit 6 minutes)
5. Verse Speaking Solo (own choice of poem, time limit 3 minutes)
6. Rehearsed Reading (an extract of any fairy-tale/Grimm-tale, time limit 3 minutes)

Further details will be released next term.

**Mr Stratton, Head of Drama**



**July 2019**

Book by Music and Lyrics by James Lapine Stephen Sondheim  
Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine  
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](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



[theplacebedford.org.uk](http://theplacebedford.org.uk)

## CREATIVE ARTS — ART



### Painting to music workshop

Students got creative and expressive in the art room, producing abstract compositions painting to music. They used string, feathers, sticks and other objects to produce marks representative of the beat of the music. The abstract workshop was such a great success; it has inspired us to introduce 'Wednesday workshops' whereby students will be able to test out new techniques and work in more abstract ways.



### MIND Crafternoon

On Monday 3 December the art department hosted a Crafternoon in aid of MIND charity, promoting wellbeing through arts and crafts. We tested new techniques and had lots of fun producing finger print and block print Christmas cards.



Our School Christmas Card designed by Tasnim, Year 10

## CREATIVE ARTS — UPCOMING EVENTS

January	Rehearsals and auditions start for "Into the Woods"
Tuesday 29 January	GCSE Dance workshop at the University of Bedfordshire
Thursday 31 January	Battle of the Bands at Goldington Academy
Wednesday 27 February	Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands (KS3) at Redborne Upper
Friday 8 & 29 March	Workshops with ceramics artist Amanda Silk
Tuesday 12 March	Strings in Spring
Wednesday 27 March	Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands (KS4) at The Stables
Thursday 4 April	Guitar Concert
<b>FUTURE DATES FOR THE DIARY</b>	
Friday 5 July	Summer Concert at the University of Bedfordshire
Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July	"Into the Woods", The Place Theatre

## BOOK CLUB

**This term's book review is a recommendation from Goldington Academy Book Club.**

**'The School of Good and Evil' by Soman Chainani**  
**Star rating: 4.5 stars**



**Synopsis:**

This fantastical tale follows the story of two girls kidnapped from the village of Gavaldon. Every four years, two children from the village are taken and sent to the School for Good and Evil. Once at the school, the girls learn whether they will become fairy tale heroes or villains.

The most beautiful girl in the village, Sophie, has dreams of finding her place at the School for Good, while her friend Agatha, a girl of a much darker disposition, seems destined for the School for Evil. But when the two are kidnapped, the reality turns out to be quite different...

**What we liked:**

We really enjoyed the clear distinction between the two main characters; the fact that they were so different meant there were things that we liked about them both and they did not become boring. What made the story even more interesting was the way the characters later go against your expectations and challenge the stereotypes you first have of them.

The story is written from the perspective of both the girls and switches between the two, so you get to hear the story from two different sides and get more insight into their world. We also enjoyed the fact that it is set in a school, so it has a sense of realism about it and you end up really wanting to go there.

**What's not so good?**

Sometimes, the way the narrative switches between the two girls can be a bit confusing. Occasionally, new characters are introduced quite suddenly without linking them to existing characters or giving them back stories.

**You will like this if you like...**

Harry Potter, Percy Jackson, Magnus Chase, Tuesdays at the Castle.

The numbers below are for services which could help you should you have any worries or concerns at any time.

**Bedfordshire Police HQ** (non emergency) - 01234 841212

**NSPCC** - 0808 800 5000 (24 hour helpline)

**MASH** team (safeguarding) - 01234 718700 (office hours) or ring 0300 300 8123 (out of hours).

In an immediate emergency always dial 999.

## LEST WE FORGET

Goldington Academy marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Centenary of WWI in a number of ways. Mr Galbraith led whole school assemblies, students were involved in reading famous poems written by those affected by the war, and a bespoke school bench was presented to the pupils as a place to sit and reflect.



## FIRST WORLD WAR—CENTENARY BATTLEFIELD TOUR 2018



This year two excellent Goldington Academy Year Nine history students were lucky enough to attend a four day tour visiting different battlefield sites and memorials around the Somme, France, and Ypres, Belgium. They met up with students from across the country as part of a national education programme, led by the University College London, to commemorate the First World War at its centenary anniversary. The students were given the honour of laying a wreath, on behalf of the school and its wider community, in front of thousands of onlookers at the Menin Gate, Ypres. Every night the city of Ypres falls silent to commemorate those who lost their lives in the war. The Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate has been carried out, without fail, since 1928 (in WW2, it was temporarily carried out in England). The night that our pupils placed the wreath was particularly special, as it was part of the reinterment ceremony of two unknown Australian soldiers from WW1, who had recently been found in Belgium. The next day, the students got to visit their graves at Tyne Cot cemetery to pay their respects.



All over France and Belgium there are hundreds of memorials and cemeteries like Tyne Cot for those who fought and died in the First World War. Many of these are Commonwealth cemeteries for the British and their allies (France, New Zealand, India etc. and some other countries like China). Every soldier is remembered, either on their own headstone or a memorial for the missing. We often forget that people from many other countries fought on behalf of Britain during the First World War, so the students felt it was important to visit as many memorials of different faiths and ethnicities as possible whilst on the tour. There are also German memorials and cemeteries, but usually the soldiers are not remembered individually, this grave had 24,000 soldiers in. Unfortunately, these are not visited by many Germans. Most people who lay flowers are British or French. One wreath from a British school simply said '**there is no glory in war**', showing the honour and respect that both sides have for each other.



One of the main focuses of the tour was gathering information to share with as many people back home as possible as part of our own 'Legacy 110' project. At Goldington Academy, lots of students and teachers worked hard to contribute to assemblies and displays around the school. The aim of 'Legacy 110' is for every participating student to create an enduring legacy by impacting upon at least 110 people within their local community. The original aim of this was that the total number of people reached by 2019 would equal 888,246, which is equivalent to the number of British and Commonwealth soldiers who fell during the First World War. To date, the project has reached more than 15 million people.



## PE DEPARTMENT

### NETBALL

#### Year Ten

The A team's play developed over the season and they had great results in all their games, eventually finishing in third place in Division One. The B team produced some great netball which saw them finish in fourth place in League Two.

#### Year Nine — Bedford District Schools League Champions

The Year Nine A team had some amazing results in the District League Division One – they were unbeaten, meaning they were District League One Champions. The B team put on a consistent set of results and came fourth in League Two.

#### Year Six — Bedford District Schools League Champions and Runners up

Year Six netball club has been well attended and we had 4 teams playing some pleasing netball. The B team lost only one league game, which was to our A team, meaning our A team were District League Champions and our B team were runners up.





## GYMNASTICS AND PARKOUR

Gymnastics clubs have been running for all years – 100 children, boys and girls have been attending. We have also run two clubs for different year groups for all the gifted and talented gymnasts that Goldington Academy has.

It has been amazing to see the enthusiasm and dedication Goldington's gymnasts have. After Christmas we will all be working hard to produce some exciting numbers for our annual Gym and Dance Show, which will be held just before next half term. More details will be sent home at the start of next term.

## SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Sportshall Athletics Club has been very well attended this term and competition was strong to even make the teams. All our teams competed in the Bedford District Competition this term, where some fast running and great technique and power in the field events saw all our teams perform well ensuring that Goldington Academy was the most successful school in Bedford at the event.

### Year Six

The Year Six team scored an impressive 740 points, over 200 more than their closest competitor to finish as District Champions.

### Boys team

Year Seven boys – Joint District Champions.  
 Year Eight boys – District Champions.  
 Year Nine and Ten boys – Third place.

### Girls team

Year Seven girls – District champions.  
 Year Eight girls - District runners up.  
 Year Nine and Ten girls District Champions.



Well done to all the squads. They now all go on to represent Bedford in the County Championships in January.

## CAREERS FOCUS

### SIR GAVYN ARTHUR MOCK FAMILY COURT EXPERIENCE

On 10 November, I took part in the family law competition run by the Magistrates Association at the Bedford Family Court. Goldington Academy were given three case scenarios to present in front of the magistrate/audience/court alongside other schools who participated. The scenarios were about real life events that have occurred within legal jurisdiction. Lots of preparation was needed in order to know the cases well. The opportunity enabled me and my team to present a case as well as judge a case. In particular I enjoyed being a winger (decision making role), as I was able to judge both sides' cases and make an informed decision from a legal point of view considering the different aspects of law/statutes. Everyone in my team was nervous however despite the nerve wracking feelings, it was an enjoyable experience where we came runners up. This was an amazing result considering that it was the first time we had entered this competition and the other teams we were up against were all sixth formers! Overall, we all worked really hard and this was a fantastic result. **Year 9 student**



## EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURES

We endeavour to keep the school open at all times during the school term. However, there are very rare occasions when the school has to close. If such a decision is made by the Principal, the following action will be taken to communicate with parents:

The school website homepage will be updated to advise parents of the situation and it will be updated as and when more information about the situation is available.

[www.goldingtonacademy.org.uk](http://www.goldingtonacademy.org.uk)

The school's phone message will be updated with pertinent information about the situation.

**Tel: 01234 261516**

All parents and staff will be sent a text message advising them of the closure, to the mobile number provided for our records. ***It is therefore important that you notify the school office whenever your phone number changes.***

Information will be shared via the schools Twitter feed.

**@GoldingtonAcad**

The 'school closure' page on the Bedford Borough website will be updated to show our status as closed, and the information kept updated.

[www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/schoolclosures)

We will ask BBC Three Counties radio to include an announcement in their radio broadcast.

**BBC Three Counties Radio: 95.5 FM**

Rest assured that any such decision is taken very seriously and informed by rigorous assessment of any situation and risk that presents itself.

In the event of this occurring over a weekend or overnight, we will endeavour to take the decision as early as possible (and by 7.00am at the latest) and notify staff and parents immediately thereafter.

## CAREERS

### GOLDINGTON'S FIRST EVER CAREERS WEEK

During the week of 10 – 14 December, we hosted our first ever 'Careers Week'. With the help of our Year 10 Careers & Enterprise Ambassadors, a programme of careers-focused assemblies and lunchtime workshops were held within school with visitors from different professions giving up their free time to come and talk about their careers and routes in. Over the course of the week, students had the opportunity to find out about apprenticeships as well as routes into the music industry, firefighting, law, occupational therapy, highways engineering, accountancy, banking and finance, lighting design engineering, sports leadership, public relations, project management, production at Sky Sports and different routes into retail.

A big thank you to all staff and students involved in these events, and particularly to our visitors:

- Peter Rayner – South East Midlands Enterprise Partnership
- Nigel Essam – Sainsbury's
- Geraldine Conway – Buckingham Healthcare NHS Trust
- Shona Nash – Barclays Bank
- Phillip Sacre – Performance in Lighting
- Mark Stapley – AECOM
- Rob Hulatt – Bedfordshire Fire Service
- Meredith Major – New Court Chambers
- Andrew Page – C.I.M.A
- Wayne Instrell – Sky Sports

Also thank you to Miss Lambe, Miss Moyster, Mrs Bridge and Ms Fearon who spoke with students about their exciting career backgrounds prior to working in school!

There will be plenty more opportunities like this during the remainder of the academic year, so please do encourage your child to make the most of the guidance they will receive about their future career options. If your child has a particular career they may be interested in pursuing and want to find out more, please encourage them to explore their Start Profile online. Students can also suggest career sectors to Mrs Sacrew so she can try and organise an information session/workshop for them within school time.



## PE DEPARTMENT

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL

This term has seen our first ever girls U15 team, who have been led by Miss Moyster with considerable support from Freya in Year 10. The girls made it through to the semi finals to beat Etonbury 2 -1. A tense final played at Kempston Rovers ground under the floodlights saw the girls become runners up in the Bedford and Central Bedfordshire league after a 5-0 defeat. This is a great achievement as it is their first season at this level.



### SPORTS LEADERSHIP

The sports leaders have been very busy supporting extra-curricular clubs this term and they have all done a great job of assisting the teachers and developing younger pupils' skills and confidence. They have been invaluable in helping out at Year Six district hockey league, shown enthusiasm and patience in leading Year Six gym and dance clubs and been assisting the development of players at football and netball clubs.

### RUGBY

The Year Nine rugby team won the County Shield Tens competition at Robert Bloomfield. They played some fantastic free flowing rugby, in wet, windy and very muddy conditions. Well done to all for their really positive and hardworking manner.

Four Goldington students also represented North Beds in a highly competitive representative fixture vs South Beds played under the lights at the athletics stadium pitches on 6 Dec 2018. Well done to the team for showing off their great skills .



### BADMINTON

It has been a busy badminton term for the KS4 students. The Year Ten girls' team finished third, the Year Nine girls' lost in the final, whilst the boys' Year Ten team came third in the District and the boys' Year Nine team qualified for the county finals in the New Year by comprehensively winning their competition - well done to all the pupils who have been involved in the fixtures. Year Six ,Seven and Eight competitions are due to take place in the New Year.

Badminton club runs on a Thursday after school until 4.40 pm. If you still wish to get involved practising or learning an exciting social sport, do come along.

**Mr Llewellyn**

## GROW @ GOLDINGTON

Over the past few weeks, the members of gardening club have been weeding, pruning, composting and generally tidying up the garden in preparation for the winter months. The last of the bumper crop of tomatoes has been harvested and the fruit bushes have been transplanted from their pots into one of our large planters. We are taking a break from building the upcycled greenhouse while we concentrate on painting and decorating our Christmas pots in preparation for the plant sale.



Many thanks to all of our members who have worked tremendously hard this year, particularly during the summer months and in the damp autumnal weather.

Apart from learning how to garden, the children have learnt many other skills such as team work, consideration of others, patience, responsibility and building relationships. It has been lovely to see them grow as a team and take great pride in their school garden!

Gardening club is open to all year groups and provides a great opportunity to make new friends, so, why not make it your New Year's Resolution to start something 'new', learn a new skill, make new friends and help to look after your school environment. Join our friendly team of gardeners who will welcome you along.

As a gardening ambassador I assist with preparation and ensure that everyone involved participates in tasks set. This month we have been decorating Christmas plant pots to sell to students and teachers in order to raise some money for solar lights to go in the garden so we can enjoy the area even in the darker winter months. We have also been busy working hard building the upcycled greenhouse from recycled 2L plastic bottles. The greenhouse will help our garden, is eco-friendly as well as helping us strive and achieve the level 5 RHS award. The hard work over the summer months really paid off as seeding, tending to our crops at Grow@Goldington meant that with the onset of autumn our harvest of vegetables and fruit were surprisingly plentiful. This term we saw strawberries and tomatoes. The commitment of the Goldington Academy gardeners has allowed our garden to blossom and we even supplied our school canteen with the abundance of tomatoes we grew! In commemoration of Remembrance Day this year DT student club members made poppies from recycled materials which were displayed in our garden area. With winter approaching we are going from strength to strength and are always happy to have more helping hands in our gardening team. Mrs Sacre and Mrs Oates work very hard to ensure that Grow@Goldington is a continual success along with the gardening ambassadors. Next month's projects include finishing the greenhouse so we can build and install new vegetable beds ready for the spring plants, planting the trees and hedgerows we were lucky enough to be awarded by The Woodland Trust, and planning our spring bulb presentation beds.

**Year 9 Gardening Ambassador Isma**



**DIARY DATES — SPRING TERM 2019**

Friday 4 January		Staff Training Day
Monday 7 January		Start of the Spring Term
Monday 7 January		Year Six height and weight measurements
Monday 7 January — Friday 18 January		Year Ten mock test week
Monday 14 January	6.30 pm	SATs Information Evening
Wednesday 16 January	7.00 pm	Parents' Forum
Thursday 24 January	4.30 pm— 8.30 pm	Year Six Parents' Evening
Friday 25 January		Vex Robotics
Tuesday 29 January	All day	Year Ten GCSE CDP — Anthology
Wednesday 30 January	4.30 pm— 8.30 pm	Year Ten Parents' Evening
Thursday 31 January		Trip to see Swan Lake (selected pupils)
Thursday 31 January	4.15 pm— 5.15 pm	Battle of the Bands (selected pupils)
Wednesday 6 February	7.00 pm— 9.00 pm	Gym and Dance Show
Thursday 7 February	7.00 pm— 9.00 pm	Gym and Dance Show
<b>Half Term—Monday 11 February—Friday 15 February 2019</b>		
Monday 11 February — Friday 15 February		Bikeability course (selected pupils)
Tuesday 19 February	All day	CSI Day —3 Year Seven forms
Wednesday 20 February	All day	CSI Day— 3 Year Seven forms

