

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day was on Monday 27 January. Goldington Academy pupils were asked to represent our school at the ceremony at the Anne Frank Tree in Russell Park again this year; we were the only school in town to take part. Five of our Anne Frank Ambassadors delivered readings from Anne Frank's diary to the general public as well as some notable figures from the town, including the MP for Bedford and Kempston, Mohammad Yasin and the Lord-Lieutenant of Bedford, Helen Nellis. Needless to say, our pupils did an excellent job!



There are plenty of exciting articles to read about in this bumper edition!



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England



PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION



We have packed a huge amount into the first six weeks of this year and I am sure you will enjoy reading about some of our successes in the forthcoming pages.

A key feature of this half term has been the Year Eleven internal examinations. Everyone who has been involved at school has been incredibly impressed with the attitude of the students. It has been a fantastic learning experience for us all. The challenge for all the students now is, how to prepare for the next 12 weeks. That work begins this half term and, as well as a well earned break, students should be using school and revision materials, as well as GCSE Pod, to begin the process of prepping for their exams.

I am proud that once again Goldington Academy was in attendance at the Holocaust Memorial Day and that makes the front page of this issue. Within our newsletter my eye has been drawn to our cross country runners. Some outstanding personal performances have been registered by team members in the past six weeks. Well done to all! I also enjoyed reading the typically wise words of Mrs Bennett-Fowlds with regard to reading that I am hoping all parents/carers will be able to support us with.

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 24 February**.

Ax Gillette

GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Are you interested in becoming a governor at Goldington Academy? We are actively seeking new governors to help us on the next stage of the school's journey.

Becoming a governor provides an excellent opportunity to learn more about the detailed workings of the school. As a result, the governing body can effectively provide the necessary levels of support and challenge, thus ensuring our children receive the best experiences possible. It is an interesting, stimulating and rewarding role and we hope that parents will feel encouraged to put themselves forward.

Being a school governor means being committed to giving time and energy to the role. Governors are asked to take part in regular meetings, read papers in advance of meetings and find out about the issues being discussed. As well as full governing board meetings, held twice a term, you may well attend committee meetings to look at issues like pupil performance, the curriculum, staffing, finance and premises. Meetings are usually held on a Thursday at 6:30pm. There is the expectation that governors will attend training to help them understand and develop in their role.

If you would like an informal chat about what being a parent governor means, please contact the school office.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Dear parents/carers,

Our whole school attendance percentage is 95.8% 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 target is: **96.5%**.

FRIENDS OF GOLDINGTON ACADEMY

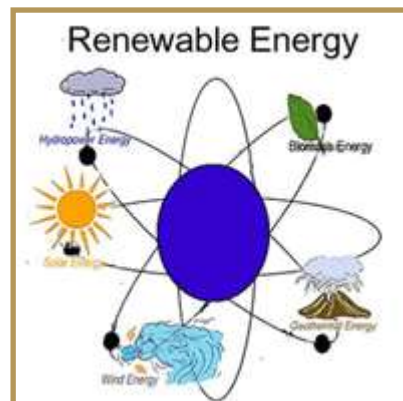
Are you looking for the opportunity to meet and socialise with other parents? Would you be keen to get involved with social and fundraising events throughout the year? If so, we would love to hear from you! The Friends of Goldington Academy is a small group of parents who work with the school to run events and raise money for equipment and facilities that might not otherwise be available. In the recent past, events have included quiz nights and discos as well whole-school events such as the Fun Run. As the school has transitioned to become a secondary school, we are keen to make our group of parents bigger and are ambitious in our desire to find new, enjoyable, age-appropriate ways to provide additional funding to improve the daily experience for all our children.

If you think you might be interested in supporting Friends, please contact Mrs Ross in the first instance on rossj@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Tomorrow's Engineers Energy Quest

Workshop 8 January 2020

This January we were visited by an engineer from Loughborough University. Goldington Academy students were given the opportunity to learn more about the critical issues facing society in the future and were challenged to develop ideas that could have an impact and improve the future by thinking like an engineer. Students developed several ideas relating to powering a city without using fossil fuels. The students then went on to build model electrical cars and challenged themselves to provide the exact amount of energy required for their car to reach the target point on the track.



Students were inspired to think like an engineer and were given careers information on how they can inspire to become an engineer in the future. Many of these students are now involved in Shell's Bright Ideas competition to design a city of the future with innovative forms of energy.



THIS HALF TERM'S HIGH ACHIEVERS

Congratulations to the pupils who have been given achievement points this half term. The top two pupils for each year group are as follows:

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Winner	Winner	Winner	Winner	Winner
Natalia	Aadhirai/Gracie	Tran	Ella	Raahimah
Runner up	Runner up	Runner up	Runner up	Runner up
Martha	Chaira	Daisy	Olivia	Lilly

MATHS DEPARTMENT



This year, for the second time, we entered the Explore Learning National Young Mathematicians Award. The first round took place in school with Jennie from Explore Learning testing 32 of our Year Sevens' logic and reasoning skills working on a task all about the National History Museum.

In round two, the competition was judged nationally with the top 5 schools in the country being invited to the grand final. Four Year Sevens were carefully selected to represent the school: Ollie F, Ollie M, Amelie and Mary. Unfortunately, our team did not manage to finish in the top 5 of the country, however, the staff at Explore Learning were very complimentary about our hard working, logical and well organised team.

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://rich.maths.org/11587>.

This year's task was all about creating symmetrical U shapes from matchsticks. 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

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.

PE DEPARTMENT

County Sportshall Athletics

All of our teams were successful in qualifying for the county championships which were held in January in Bedford. Some strong performances in both track and field saw Goldington win three sets of medals. We are looking forward to seeing these skills outside during the summer season.

Year 7 Boys silver medallists

Year 7 Girls bronze medallists

Year 8 Girls bronze medallists

Year 8 Boys fourth placed



Year 9 Sport Studies- Walking Football Workshop

As part of their sport studies qualification, Year Nine students learn about the different sporting initiatives that are in place to increase participation in sport for all. As opposed to solely learning this on a theory basis, Stevenage FC Foundation agreed to come and visit the students and deliver a 2-hour workshop on the initiative that they deliver to the community.

The aim of any sport is to encourage lifelong participation and this initiative is one way that the FA and Stevenage FC Foundation promote such. The coach, Poppy Bennett, gave some insight into Walking Football, the sessions she has delivered and the professional players she has worked with. The students then played themselves in some skill-based games and a tournament.

After the tournament, students had a discussion on why the initiative is inclusive, important and successful. Many expressed how much harder it is in comparison to the football game they play regularly. Others also explained how enjoyable it is even if you don't play football, as everyone has to play at the same pace. It was brilliant to see how engaged and invested the students were in a sport that they had never played before. Well done to all of the sport studies students. Keep up the good work!

Many thanks to Stevenage FC Foundation for the coaching and insight into sporting initiatives.

PE DEPARTMENT

CROSS COUNTRY



The cross country teams have been busy participating in a number of meetings over this half term. At the Bedfordia meet, despite some terrible conditions, we had some fantastic performances. We had a number of final placing in the top 20, which was very pleasing considering this was the first race many runners had participated in.

The following week we went to the Priory Marina District Race. All of our runners improved on their placings from the week before. Again, we had a number of pupils placing in the top 20.

We had a successful North Bedfordshire cross country race this year as 6 runners, including Mike from Year Seven and Daniel in Year Ten have qualified to represent the District Team in the Bedfordshire finals at Ampthill Park in early February. They all finished in the top 16 places, which results in them qualifying for the next race. We wish them well for the Ampthill run.



ARTS

OVERVIEW

The Arts team have had a busy half term, practical exams are happening in most areas as we approach the final few months of our Year Eleven courses. On top of this, all areas have had plenty to keep our students busy, with a wealth of extra-curricular opportunities and events.

The music department held a fantastic Battle of the Bands event this term, celebrating the talents of our youngsters across the year groups, as well as a music industry day exploring careers in the Arts.

The drama department took a number of Year Seven students to The Place to see Crystal's Vardo by Suzanne King, the play offered a colourful and educational insight into the rich history and culture of Gypsies and Travellers.

The dance department had another visit from Leah Waterfield as part of The Generations project, and they were successful in their application to U:Dance. They are also busy preparing for the Gym and Dance show next term. Make sure to get yourself along to dance clubs to be a part of it!

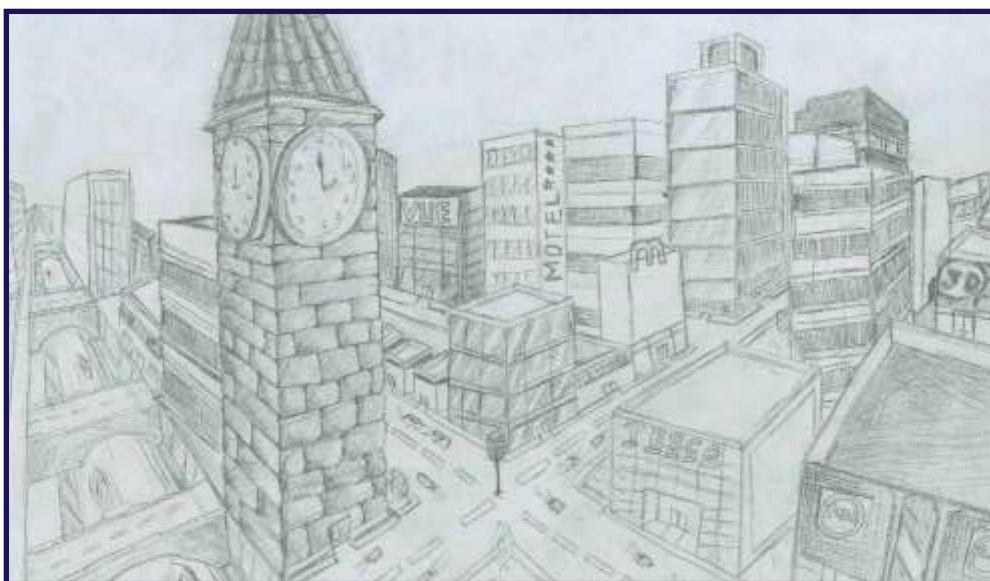
The Art department have continued to work tirelessly to prepare Year Eleven for their practical exams, with great attendance to lunchtime sessions. Year Ten are preparing for their ceramics work in readiness for a visiting artist next term.

The Arts team are also pleased with the students who have started to work towards their Arts Award Silver this half term. We have the wonderful Hannah Delaney supporting students and this exciting project.



ARTS**ART & DESIGN**

Year Eight students have begun their architecture project this term and have made a wonderful start! Students think creatively about architectural design and so far in the project, they have been studying how to draw with accurate perspective. Many students have taken to this naturally and have produced incredibly accurate drawings.

**DRAWING BY GRACIE YEAR EIGHT****DRAWING BY ADAM YEAR EIGHT**

ARTS

MUSIC

It was lovely to see so many students come along to support their friends at our Battle of the Bands. All the performers did an amazing job and it was so hard for the judges to make their final decisions.

Congratulations to Zain, Alice, Emma, Reicela, Lily, Emma and Tamzin who have been selected to perform at Beds Band Factory on Wednesday 4 March at Redborne Upper School.

Holly, Fin, Connie, Raahimah and Alex who have been selected to perform at Bedfordshire's Battle of the Bands on Thursday 26 March at The Stables.



Please do come along to support our young musicians at these events. They are both excellent, high-quality occasions. Tickets for Beds Band Factory can be purchased via this link and tickets for Battle of the Bands can be purchased through The Stables' website:

<https://stables.org/event/bedfordshire-schools-battle-of-the-bands-2>

DANCE

The dance department are thrilled to announce we have again been selected to be part of U:Dance: the national dance platform celebrating youth dance across the country. We are busy working on our piece for the show, ready for Saturday 28 March. We will share the stage with other outstanding youth groups from across the region with the hope of being selected to represent the region in the national event, this year is being held in Glasgow!



Gym and Dance show

You may have noticed a few changes to our regular calendar this year regarding the Dance and Gymshow. The show will still be happening, but with a few developments! Firstly, we have secured the use of the University of Bedfordshire theatre. This will make such a difference to the children, who get to experience the fantastic facilities, and as an audience, the luxury of a theatre. We will also be using the show as a showcase of our Year Eleven GCSE dance students who will be sharing their practical work. They have worked incredibly hard; we are very proud of our exceptionally talented students.

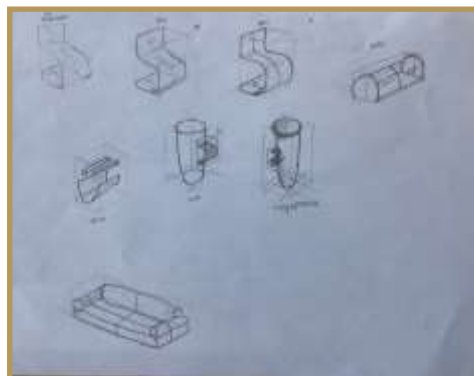
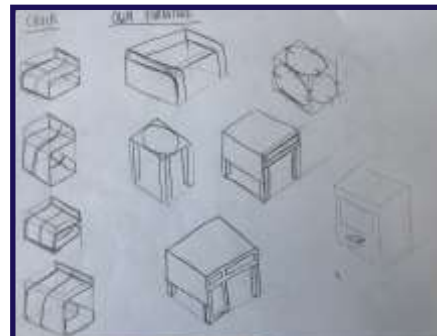
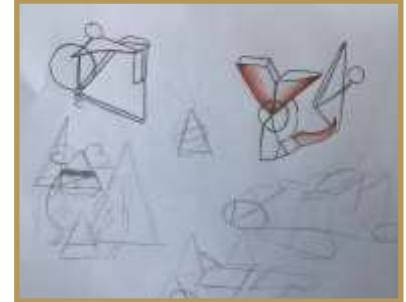
Clubs

Dance clubs continue to be well supported and we look forward to celebrating our work with you in the Dance and Gym show. Our new Tik Tok club has been incredibly successful. Keep up the good work! It's not too late to get involved, so come along! There have been a couple of changes to lunchtime clubs, so check out the timetable which is on the notice board in the Arts centre.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Today's designers are taught to sketch using the "Industrial Design" style. This is used by universities and professionals around the world. To prepare our students for this, we have been teaching this in Years Seven and Eight. The style is deliberately sketchy with the emphasis on the elegance of lines rather than the accuracy. Here is a selection of their work:



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The importance of reading

According to the research, the time that students spend reading is one of the strongest indicators of success in all subject areas. Reading has been linked to measures of general knowledge, vocabulary, verbal fluency and the less time students spend reading, the higher the achievement gap at all ages.



According to the National Literacy Trust, the number of children who say that they read for pleasure has been declining and only 52% said they read. Furthermore, from those asked, only a quarter read every day. There are lots of distractions for our children in society today, but we would love to encourage our students to read much more to achieve their potential and also find relaxation and escapism in a busy and technological world.

In tutorial time, we set aside regular time for students to read as well as sharing with them some fantastic writing to tempt them to read more. We would like all pupils to have a book on the go and to find the time to read every day.

How can you help at home?

- Make sure that your child has a book and that they bring it to school – there are plenty of fantastic books in the local libraries.
- Encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes before bed every night.
- For younger students, they will still enjoy sharing a book, taking it in turns to read and discussing characters and themes with you. Then watch the film version if there is one and discuss the differences!
- Look on our web page for recommended reading lists to find the book that will engage your child.
- Encourage your child to join one of our book clubs (KS3 on Mondays and KS4 on Wednesdays).

Key dates:

World Book Day is on the 5 March and we will be celebrating this in school and sending home book tokens to go towards their next new read.

Book swap – 5 March at break. Students can start bringing in unwanted books to receive a book voucher to spend on the book swap stall at break time on WBD.

The Bookfair is coming to Goldington on the 25 March where there will be a full range of affordable secondary aged fiction available to buy. World book day tokens may be redeemed at the fair. More information will be sent home next month.

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.

FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

Thursday 27 February	4.30 pm—11.45 pm	Year 8 Woman in Black Trip to London
Friday 28 February		Amanda Silk Workshop (selected students)
Monday 2 March		Bedfordshire Festival of Speech and Drama
Tuesday 3 March		Boys Dance Workshop
Wednesday 4 March		Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands KS3 at Redborne School
Thursday 5 March		Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.30 pm—8.30 pm)
Saturday 7 March		Choir perform at the Bedfordshire Festival
Tuesday 10 March		Selected students STEM day at Wadham College
Wednesday 11 March		Year 10 Arts Award Silver students visit the Royal and Derngate theatre to watch "Everyone's talking about Jamie"
Wednesday 11 March	7.00 pm	Parents' Forum
Friday 13 March		Big Bang Fair (advanced science students)
Tuesday 17 March		Maths Feast (selected Year 10 students), MK Academy
		Strings in Spring, Main Hall
Saturday 21 March		Young Enterprise Trade Fair (Year 9 students)
Wednesday 25 March		Youth violence Production (Year 10 students)
Thursday 26 March		Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands KS4, The Stables
Thursday 26 March	4.30 —8.30 pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Saturday 28 March		U:Dance at the University of Bedfordshire
Monday 30 March		The Dance and Gym Show at the University of Bedfordshire

EASTER HOLIDAYS Monday 6 April—Monday 20 April inclusive

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

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. There is a SEND drop-in session once a week, where parents and carers can speak to the SENDCO without an appointment. The details of these sessions are published in the school newsletter, but they are normally held every Wednesday from 2.45 to 4.15 pm during term-time.

