

OPEN EVENING



On the 26 of September 2019, Goldington Academy opened its doors to parents and their children for the Year Seven Open Evening.

Tour guides led families through the school to see various pieces of work from the departments and clubs of Goldington Academy, to enable them to see what the academy has to offer.

All the departments had been busy setting up and preparing their displays and work. One club from the English department in particular, Journalism Club, was very active, with many people bustling in to see the magnificent articles on offer.

One person said about the school: "Blown away! I'd be gutted if my daughter didn't come to this school." Another person said about the

evening: "This is a very inspiring and informative evening." One other family praised their student tour guide, "He was a brilliant tour guide. A lovely student who made us feel very welcome!"

This evening has really inspired and intrigued primary, lower school and other secondary school students who want to come here. From this evening, hopefully many families will apply to come to Goldington Academy for the year to come and we look forward to welcoming them.

Zahid

Articles on Grow @ Gardening, Journalism Club and much more



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



PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION



Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted with the excellent start made this academic year.

Work is fully underway on the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP) works that will see more than £7 million spent on our school this year! I am pleased with the progress made thus far and in fact many of our key functions (main office, kitchen, hall and library) will return to the main building in the next half term.

One of the key features of Goldington Academy is the quantity of extra-curricular provision we provide out of hours. On the last two weekends, we have had students preparing for their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition, canoeing on the Severn, whilst others have been in London watching high quality netball. I also enjoyed my weekend visit to the Higgins art gallery to see Ms Lopez and students from Year Eight in a mixed media bug workshop as part of the Fun Palaces event happening all across Bedford. The aim of the event is to encourage children to get involved and learn new skills. We were very popular with lots of fantastic mixed media collages of bugs being made. A fantastic event, thanks to the Higgins for having us!

Another trip of note was last Tuesday's visit to the Bedford School Observatory. Mr Latchman and Mrs Gilbert told me that on a brilliantly clear night they were able to observe Saturn, a mere 750 million miles away!

As always our school newsletter highlights some of the many successes of our students in a wide range of activities. Please remember that most of these activities are not just about the students who are strongest in these areas, but indeed are open to all. Please encourage your child to take part in an extra curricular activity at school as this can really aid their understanding and enjoyment of Goldington Academy.

I hope both you and your child have an enjoyable half term. We look forward to welcoming children back to school on Monday 28 October 2019.



Ax Gilbert

LUNCHTIME HOMEWORK CLUB

Our computer suite, ICT 1, is open daily for homework club. If you have limited or no access to the internet at home, or would like to use part of your lunchtime to get ahead with homework, or just login to Show My Homework, check the timetable on the door of ICT Suite 1 and come along when you can. There are behaviour expectations for using this facility, and it is for the use of homework access only.

NOTE FROM THE GOVERNORS

Dear All,

This term sees my return to governance after a two term sabbatical and I would like to thank the Goldington Academy governors for all their hard work in my absence. I am very excited to be welcoming Jo Hawkins. Jo is an experienced governor with a background in finance and we are looking forward to working with her over the coming months. The governing body is always interested to hear from anyone who would like to find out more about the role of the school governor. Becoming a governor is a wonderful way of engaging with Goldington Academy in a meaningful way.

The governors would also like to extend our thanks to all who tirelessly support our students every day and would like to take the opportunity to publicly acknowledge staff and students alike for the exceptional SATS results that were achieved last term. Warmest congratulations to all those involved.

Kind Regards

Diane Field (Chair of Governors)

PARENT FORUM

Parents' Forum is a chance to meet the Principal and other senior members of staff. The evening begins with a short presentation on a particular topic of interest before a question and answer session on aspects of your child's school life at Goldington. Meetings begin at 7.00 pm.

The dates for 2019/20 are:

Wednesday 4 December 2019

Wednesday 11 March 2020

Wednesday 10 June 2020

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.

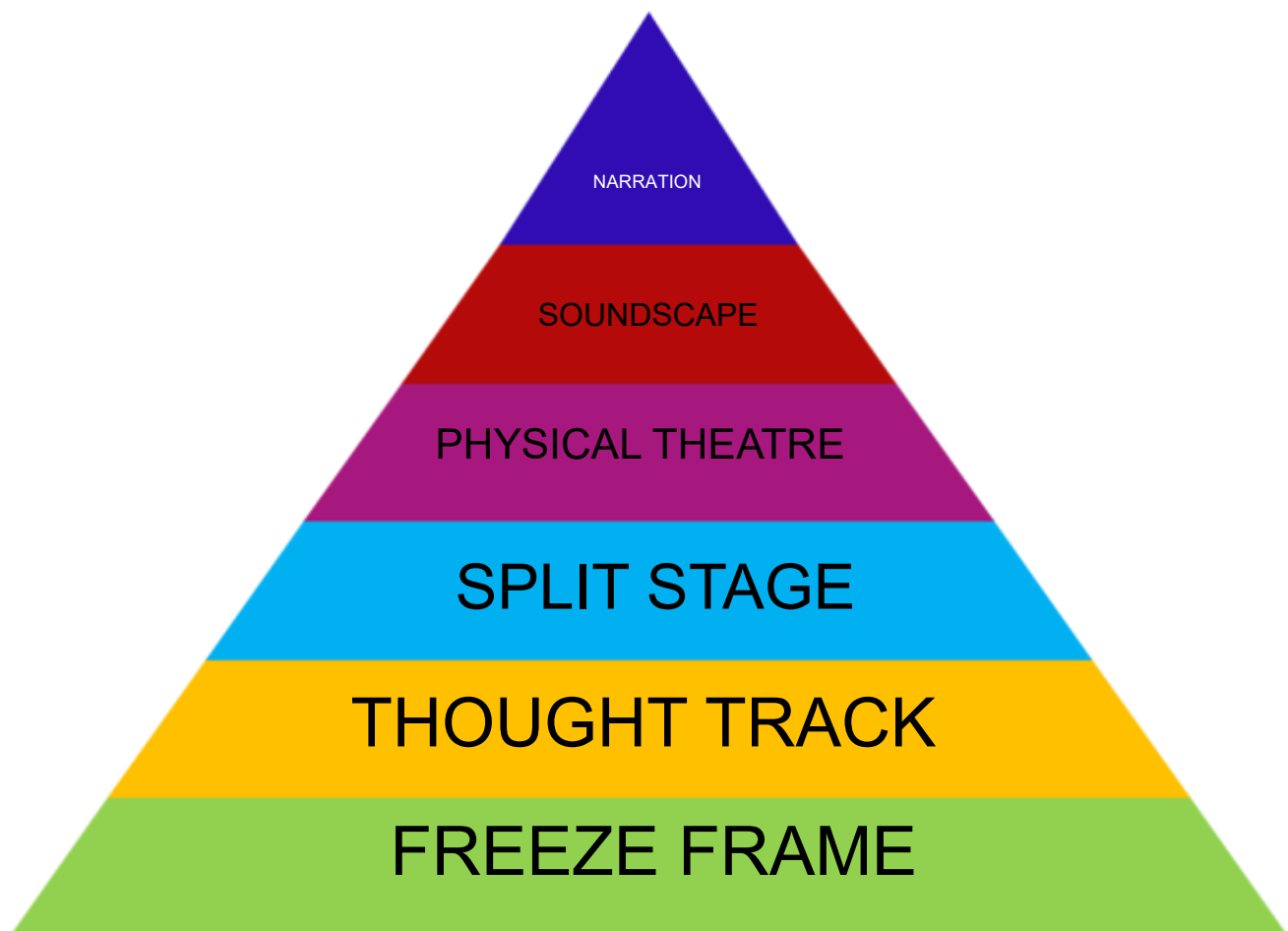
Mr Roopnaraian, SENDCO roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

Over the past half term, the Year Seven pupils have been working towards developing their characterisation and creating a role play. Every week pupils would analyse and develop a technique from the *Technique Pyramid*, learning what it is and exploring how they could use it. Students were always enthusiastic about showing their peers what they had worked on in each lesson and each student was able to identify when the technique was used and give feedback.

For their first assessment, students had to use each technique within the pyramid to create the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, whilst also thinking about their character's body language, facial expressions, gestures, proxemics and levels. Each performance was fantastic and it was lovely to see the students so passionate and energetic during rehearsals and when performing.

We cannot wait to see what the students will achieve next half term!



TERM DATES

Autumn Term 2019	
School Closed – Staff Training Day (3)	Friday 18 October 2019
Half Term	Monday 21 to Friday 25 October 2019
Last day of term	Friday 20 December 2019
Spring Term 2020	
Start of Term	Monday 6 January 2020
Half Term	Monday 17 to Friday 21 February 2020
Last day of term	Friday 3 April 2020
Summer Term 2020	
Start of Term	Tuesday 21 April 2020
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Friday 8 May 2020
Half Term	Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020
Last day of term	Friday 17 July 2020

Please note the change to the first May Bank Holiday, to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day

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.

JOURNALISM CLUB

Editors appointed at Journalism Club

Following the successful first year of Journalism Club in 2019, six pupils have now been promoted to the role of editor.

Following their dedication to the Goldington Gazette over the last academic year, the six successful candidates will take on the responsibility of proof reading and editing articles written by other pupils who attend the club; monitoring the progress of articles that are being written; as well as promoting the club across the school to encourage new writers.

All students have been presented with badges as a mark of their new role and responsibility in school.



The students awarded the roles of editor are: Alex F – 10W (reviews), Georgia C – 10B (school news and opinions), Isma B – 10M (local news), Vili V – 10W (music and fashion), Mia C – 8H (food and environment), Urban J – 8G (design).

Journalism Club is a growing extra-curricular activity that takes place in room 20 every Thursday lunchtime. Pupils bring their lunch and learn about different journalistic writing styles, as well as giving an update on their latest writing progress. All pupils are welcome and encouraged to write about whatever topics interest them and these are then published online. Once a term, a small lunchtime celebration takes place and pupils' work is showcased to pupils and teachers across the school.

We are currently updating the Journalism Club site with new articles from this year, although a sneak peak of Zahid M's (8H) write-up on Goldington Academy's Open Evening can be found on page 1, but if you would like to read some of last year's work, it can be found at:

www.goldingtonacademy.org.uk/Journalism-Club

COMMUNITY NEWS



THE SCHOOL SHOP

The school shop runs every **Thursday during form time**, for pupils to buy their much-needed stationary equipment. If you need any stationary – pens, pencils, highlighter, purple pens, rulers, rubbers – ask your form tutor to let you visit the shop.

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
Linda S	Hannah C	Daisy L	Ella S	Abby N
Runner up: Amelie A	Runner up: Reicela Z	Runner up: Lila A	Runner up: Brooke W	Runner up: Brianna B

GROW @ GARDENING

A garden picnic was held at the end of the summer term for the children to showcase their achievements to staff. We were joined by members of staff keen to enjoy the sunshine and sensory experience of being surrounded by home-grown fruit and vegetables.



During the summer break we were lucky to get help from Morgan Sindell, who kindly put together some garden planters, added top soil and filled in a large space with pebbles to match the rest of the garden area. They also assembled our new shed and greenhouse, which were purchased with some of our Tesco Bags of Help money. We have decorated the greenhouse with some solar lights which look fantastic when the sun goes down!

The spring onions we planted as an experiment to explore whether they will grow into full onions have produced interesting flowers that were popular with bees and butterflies alike. They have now seeded and self-propagated, so we are growing spring onions from seed! The 'sacrificial' cabbage that we planted for the caterpillars to protect our other plants has worked a treat – we are now hosting our third lot of caterpillars and there isn't much of the cabbage left.



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When we returned to school at the start of the Autumn Term, the tomato plants that Miss Thomas' mother had donated had grown in abundance and were ready for harvesting. The children have enjoyed picking and tasting them over the past few weeks. We always encourage our members to learn about what they have grown at every stage from seeds to fully grown plants, and they enjoy discovering new things in the garden such as the occasional nut that has been carefully hidden by a squirrel.

New and old members can join us on Tuesday lunch times.

Mrs Sacre and Mrs Oates

PE

School Games Kite Mark

Goldington Academy has once again been awarded the Gold School Games Mark by The Youth Sport Trust. This is the fourth year running that we have been awarded this national award in recognition of a school's participation in high quality PE and School Sport. To achieve the Gold School Games Mark, Goldington Academy were able to show that during 2018 – 2019, 50% of all pupils had participated in extra-curricular activities. We had taken part in competitive opportunities in 16 different sports both within school and against other schools. Goldington Academy also had nearly 250 pupils act as leaders to provide activities both within school and for local lower schools.



NETBALL

Netball Club has been really well attended with over 100 girls (and some boys) at training. We have had at least an A and B team for all years.

Years Nine, Ten and Eleven

The Year Nine, Ten and Eleven netball teams are competing over the term against other schools from across the county. In the first round of matches the girls showed great determination and improved their play throughout their game and 3 out of 4 teams are so far unbeaten.

Years Seven and Eight

The Year Seven and Eight netball clubs have been very well attended and we have enough players for 7 teams between them. The club has been supported by sports leaders from Year Ten. Matches for both clubs will be held after half term.

Netball trip to Fast Five Netball at the Copper Box

On Saturday 12th October, twenty seven excited netballers from Years Seven, Eight and Nine went to see the exciting Fast Five Super League Netball Tournament being held at the Copper Box Stadium in the Olympic park. Once there, the girls were able to test their reactions in a wind tunnel alongside a competitive Mrs Chapman and Miss Davies. The girls had fun being up close to the players and were able to meet them and collect their autographs. The netball lived up to its name and was extremely fast and enthralling to watch. The trip was a great success; thanks go to Miss Hankins, Mr Lincoln, Miss Davies and Miss Moyster for making the trip possible.



PE DEPARTMENT

RUGBY

It has been an extremely busy term for rugby, with Years Seven to Ten involved in fixtures and competitions.

Year Seven are currently taking part in the District League with five strong wins so far.

The Year Eights also played in the District League playing five, winning five games.

The Year Nine played brilliantly and won the Year Nine District Competition, scoring over sixteen tries and conceding only two tries. Well done to Thomas, Trevor, Daniel, Nat, Karl, Demaris, Dylan, Henry, Rishi and Jake. The Year Nines have also been involved with the County Cup, losing a tightly contested fixture against Harlington.

The Year Tens also competed at the MRS District Sevens; they played well on the day, losing one game, drawing one and winning four. Well done to the Squad of Noah, James, Eliot, Dan, Anton, Matteo, Henry Curtis, Thomas and Scott.

There are plenty more fixtures to come and I would like to say a big thank you from myself to all those students who either played in the fixtures or have been coming along to practices.

Mr Llewellyn

GIRLS' FOOTBALL

Over the past four weeks our Year Seven and Eight girls' football team have been competing in the annual seven a side Bedfordshire Tournament. Having only lost one game, the team have progressed to the finals.

Following the first four fixtures, the team were unbeaten having competed against schools such as Bedford Free School, Mark Rutherford and Castle Newnham. Although the next fixture ended in a marginal loss against Wixams Academy, the girls kept a positive attitude and won both of their remaining games.

Well done to all that have come along to Football club and represented the school so far this year!



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.

ON LINE SAFETY FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

ONLINE SAFETY FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Enhance your awareness of how to reduce the online risks to your child.

70% OF PEOPLE AGED 13-22 HAVE BEEN A VICTIM OF ONLINE BULLYING

www.antibullying.gov.uk

40% OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN SEXTING ACCORDING TO SOME MEASURES

NSPCC

UP TO 80,000 PEOPLE IN THE UK PRESENT SOME KIND OF SEXUAL THREAT TO CHILDREN ONLINE

National Crime Agency, September 2018



The rise of digital technologies has seen children and parents / carers facing challenges not faced by previous generations. It is essential that schools and families are aware of the risks involved and the actions that can be taken to reduce these risks.

To enhance your knowledge of the risks children face and how you can help them to deal with these challenges, your child's school has arranged for you to have access to access OSA online safety training for parents.

Training includes:

- Social media management
- Online risks to children
- Keeping children safe

Support safeguarding procedures in your child's school

The training, completed online, should take up to an hour to complete but does not need to be completed in one sitting.

How to complete the training

- Go online and visit <https://certificate.onlinesafetyalliance.org/login/>
- Select to log in with either Microsoft or Google. If you do not have an account with either of these, you can select the Google option and then select 'Create account'.
- Once logged in, select 'Courses' and then 'Online Safety for Parents Certification'.
- You will need to enter an enrolment code – this will be provided by your school.
- Work through the three presentations and two on-screen assessment to complete the course.



Online Safety for Parents and Carers

www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

SICKNESS ABSENCE — Guidance from Public Health England

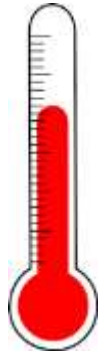
Dear parents/carers,


Please see below the guidance from Public Health England regarding some of the more common illnesses children face. For many of these illnesses it is recommended that children do not have time off school. Instead it is recommended that children come into school; if the illness begins to get worse a member of the first aid team will make contact with a parent or carer to discuss whether or not the child should remain in school.

Where children are having time off school for such illnesses, we may request medical evidence before authorising the absence. In order to avoid unnecessary absence, please ensure that your child:

- is dressed appropriately for the weather
- has a healthy breakfast every morning
- has hand sanitiser to use at lunch and break time
- attends all GP and dental appointments
- is not absent from school for minor illness/injuries

If your child is ill and you are unsure as to whether or not to send him or her to school, please contact the office for further advice.



Rashes and skin infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders	Comments
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash	
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2).
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Headaches, sore throat, Common coughs/ colds, raised temperature, tonsillitis, Threadworms, head lice, conjunctivitis, glandular fever, cold sores	0 days	
Head lice	None	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Dear parents/carers,

Our whole school attendance percentage is currently 96.4% 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%**.

OBSERVATORY VISIT

On Tuesday 8th October, eighteen Year Ten students made an evening trip to Bedford School to use their observatory, the largest school observatory in the South East region. Pupils used three of their fantastic telescopes and had spectacular views of Saturn, the Moon up close, star constellations and Jupiter with some of its moons. We learnt a trick to help get the most out of observing the night sky, which is if you don't look directly at the star/planet you want to observe (you just look a little to the left or right) then it appears brighter! We also spent some time in the planetarium and experienced what the night sky would be like without any light pollution from the town. The experience was out of this world!



GEOGRAPHY CLUB



At Geography Club this half-term, we have joined a scheme called plastic free schools. As part of plastic free schools we have been walking around the playground at lunch time and recording which single use plastics are found around the school. We are planning a video to teach our fellow students about our club and what we are doing. We have also begun a terra cycle programme, recycling old pens and stationary.
Mia

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Goldington MacMillan coffee afternoon raised a huge £145.87. Thank you to everyone who donated their time, money and beautiful cakes. It was a really successful and enjoyable afternoon in support of this truly amazing charity.



FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

7 November 2019	4.30 pm— 8.30 pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening (subject teachers)
14 November 2019	4.00 pm— 9.30 pm	An Inspector Calls — Year 10 — Birmingham
18 November 2019		Act!19 Performance (Year 9 GCSE Drama students)
29 November 2019		Uncle Vanya at University of Bedfordshire (Years 9, 10, 11, GCSE Drama students)
4 December 2019	7.00 pm	Parents' Forum
w/b 16 December 2019		Drama Club Performance
18 December 2019	am	Hansel & Gretel performance at The Quarry
20 December 2019		Last day of Term
23 December 2019 — 3 January 2020		Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 January 2020		Start of the Spring Term

