

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS TERM?



Ski Trip



New Goldington Academy Banner



Duke of Edinburgh



Girls' Football Success



Science Week



Awards Evenings

Principal's Introduction

July 2023



Dear Parents/Carers

What an incredible year 2022-2023 has been!

In the last few weeks, we have held four splendid achievement nights, Year 11 Prom, Rock Night at Esquires, Sports Days, Summer Concert and Year 7 Drop Down Arts Day to name but a few events. Tennis, cricket and athletics have been in evidence!

Sadly, we are seeing some super staff leave school this year. From a teaching perspective, we wish a very happy retirement to Mrs McEvoy after a wonderful career in teaching. We wish all the best to Dr Arjan and are delighted to hear she will be teaching in a local school. We also say thank you to Mr Baio, Miss Stanton and Miss Gillies who have all played important roles supporting the school in a range of different areas.

I did however want to make mention of Miss Alexander leaving after five very successful years as our Cover Manager. When your child goes on a trip, or we have changes to our timetable e.g. Sports Day then it is Miss Alexander who has completed all the organisation for these events and ensures school runs like clockwork. She has done a splendid job, and we wish her all the best for her future career.

I am not going to report what is in our newsletter, but suffice to say, you will once again see how busy we have been! When I reflect on this year, my mind quickly goes to last year's splendid GCSE results which placed us easily in the top 10% of schools in the country for progress between the ages 11 to 16. I am once again anticipating an excellent set of results this year.

Finally to the summer holidays. Please keep your child active and take educational opportunities whenever they may occur. Most of all, keep safe. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back on Monday, 4 September.

To all our families, I would like to wish you a very restful and enjoyable summer.

Best wishes



Note from the Governors

At the end of the academic year, the governing body reflect on the successes and challenges of year. At the beginning of the year we set priorities for the year, which, this year, focused on high-quality teaching and learning, a broad and balanced curriculum and wider strategies to support pupils with additional needs. Whilst we will not know the year 11 GCSE results until August, at the moment it feels like school is in a good place. Academic outcomes last year were excellent, the school is oversubscribed and finances remain healthy despite all of the challenges faced by all local schools. Recruitment is difficult in the school sector at the moment, but there is a full complement of teaching staff across all subjects for the new academic year and very few teachers, leaving at the end of the year. Goldington Academy has developed a reputation the governors are proud of and keen to safeguard for current and future students.

It has been a privilege to be chair of governors. I feel sad that, in September, I will stand down as chair of governors.



This has been a difficult decision for me, but, due to personal reasons, it is becoming more challenging to find the time that role requires. Fortunately, I have a strong Board of Governors and two colleagues who are willing to take the chair. I plan on staying on as a governor for as long as I can.

As ever, the governing body is always interested in hearing from parents and others who would like to be involved in governance. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

Term Dates 2023 - 2024

| Autumn 2023 - 2024 | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| School closed - Staff Training Day (1) | Friday, 1 September 2023 |
| Start of term | Monday, 4 September 2023 |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (2) | Friday, 20 October 2023 |
| Half term | Monday, 23 - Friday, 27 October 2023 |
| Last day of term | Tuesday, 19 December 2023 |
| Spring Term 2024 | |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (3) | Wednesday, 3 January 2024 |
| Start of term | Thursday, 4 January 2024 |
| Half term | Monday, 19 - Friday, 23 February 2024 |
| Last day of term | Thursday, 28 March 2024 |
| Summer Term 2024 | |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (4) | Monday, 15 April 2024 |
| Start of term | Tuesday, 16 April 2024 |
| School closed - Bank Holiday | Monday, 6 May 2024 |
| Half term | Monday, 27 May - Friday, 31 May 2024 |
| Last day of term | Friday, 19 July 2024 |

Creative Arts Festival

On Tuesday, 18 July, we hosted our first Creative Arts Festival which included our Key Stage 3 exhibition whereby every student had a piece exhibited, with music in the Mindful Garden and the Alice in Wonderland drama production performed to a captive audience. We even had an ice cream van to add to the occasion!

Year Seven Creative Arts Day

Year Seven enjoyed a day of arts-based activities focused on the theme of diversity. They explored a range of cultures and learnt about how culture has influenced the arts. In art, students learnt about Islamic tiles and produced their own prints; in drama they studied Chinese puppetry and created/performed their own pieces; they performed African drumming in music and also learnt about rice dishes from different cultures in cooking and nutrition. A great day learning about and celebrating different cultures!



Key Stage 3 Artwork

As the year has drawn to a close, Key Stage 3 students have been completing superb final pieces! Year Seven have been learning about artwork from different cultures and have produced mixed media studies. Year Eight have learnt about the work of John Piper and Ian Murphy, and they have explored how they can layer different materials to create the tones, textures and colours of old architecture. Year Nine have created excellent portraits. Well done Key Stage 3!

Key Stage 3 Artwork



Year Eleven GCSE Drama students

We were hugely proud of our Year Eleven GCSE drama students who performed their scripted pieces to a visiting examiner on Friday, 21 April. They performed challenging extracts from a range of plays such as Nick Dear's 'Frankenstein', Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Ernest' and Sarah Kane's '4:48 Psychosis'. The students all rose to the occasion, held their nerve and were a credit to the Drama department.



Alice in Wonderland

Our Year Seven and Eight drama club have been working hard this term on their production of 'Alice in Wonderland'. It has very much been a joint effort, where Mrs Taylor and her

art team have also been making set and props for the students to use. An excellent effort all round!



Back to the Future

On Thursday, 6 July we took 60 of our Year Nine students to watch 'Back to the Future' at the Adelphi Theatre. It was great to see one of our favourite films brought to the stage, and the use of special effects was incredible. The performance certainly had the 'wow' factor!



GCSE Drama Devised Performance Evening

Over the past two months, our GCSE drama students have been working hard to produce their devised pieces for their Component 2 assessment. Each group were given a selection of starting points, the most popular being an extract from George Orwell's dystopian novel

'1984'. They have scripted and developed their ideas, and they all gave a fantastic performance to family and friends on Tuesday, 27 June. Below are descriptions of the pieces written by the students. Well done to all involved!

Housewife

In this dystopian world, all women are taken by the government at the age of thirteen and sent to a camp where they learn how to become the perfect housewife. Cooking, cleaning, and obedience is at the core of the camp until at the age of eighteen, when they are auctioned off to a husband whom they will serve for the rest of their life. Our story focuses on a group of girls at the camp: a submissive one, a rebellious one, a selfish one and one who loves the system. Can this unlikely group try to plot their escape under the control of the evil matron?

The Mortis Games

Are you tired of bloodless days, happy endings and the lack of a stunningly drop-dead gorgeous host in your world? I would be too! So, tune in or buy a seat to the Mortis Games! Filled with state approved gore, thrilling action and through the roof ratings! When the world's a stage, everyone is a performer, whether they want to be or not. That is how the world of entertainment works. Take part in the number one gameshow or...well, there really isn't another option unless you have the money. So, enjoy the newest episode where we see four of our latest contestants share their pitiful stories and battle it out to ... well, survive?

The Loop

James Frater was imprisoned by his brother, the great dictator of this dystopian society – Big Brother. With the help of his fellow inmates: Xavier, a strong individual who failed the job role test, with nothing left in the world: Malcom, a computer nerd who used to work for the Big Brother but was cast aside and cruelly treated after one mistake: Kurt, who got sent to prison for dangerous affairs of the heart and mysterious Dylan, someone who doesn't speak enough for anyone to really know who he is. James attempts to break free from the regime, but what awaits him on the other side is an ongoing loop. Will he ever escape?

Music Competition Winner

I can see it all so clear
fresh cut flowers and white everywhere
a dress made of lovely design

I can see her caked on face
with an edible one to match
my God, it's the perfect day

as everyone smiles
she steps down the aisle
and takes a look around

ready for her big day
the greatest day of her time
ready for her big day
God she's so ready for her big day

she'll scan around anxiously
looking for that vacant seat
that will be burned into her eyes

the one who wanted to see it all most
could not be there to boast
that that was her little girl

maybe she'll reminisce
on all the things she missed
but she won't lose her mind

ready for her big day
the greatest day of her time
ready for her big day
God she's so ready for her big day

maybe up above somewhere
she would be sitting there
and sometimes at nights
she hopes she'll see her there
but I wouldn't keep my hopes high
no I wouldn't keep my hopes that high

As part of the fantastic Music for Bedford Borough Breakthrough initiative, young songwriters from across the borough were invited to enter a songwriting competition. After some gentle encouragement, Year Eleven musician, Charlotte Viola, entered her own composition, 'My Big Day', which she also performed in the acoustic room at Esquires with her friend, Megan Rogerson.

When the judging panel met to assess the entries, they unanimously decided that Charlotte's song should be given first place, along with the opportunity to record her song at a professional record studio!

Charlotte has worked incredibly hard on her songwriting skills over the last year and is richly deserving of this accolade.



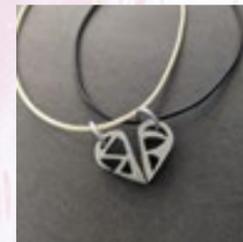
Composed by Charlotte Viola

Design Technology

Year Seven's rotation continued to upcycle their products and produce excellent recycled polymer key rings: a great unit to learn about where our rubbish goes, what we can do to prevent the damage to our environment and make some pretty cool things too! #D&T #biomimicry #sustainability

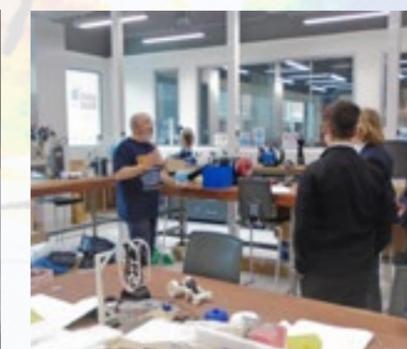


Perfect Pewter! - Our latest pewter products produced by year nine's continue to reflect what you can do through resilience and perseverance when using a combination of filing, sanding and time! Well done - perfectly polished with independently made jump rings! #perfectpewter



Our Year Ten's had an informative visit to the University of Bedfordshire, Luton campus exploring the fantastic STEM building and utilising their facilities. Students undertook a Computer Aided Design workshop and were greeted by a dalek just

as a little surprise! This was a great learning opportunity for all of those involved which are now being applied to their Non-Examined Assessment skills including 3D printing and the potential avenue for future careers! #D&T #engineering



RAF STEM event

Key Stage 3 pupils had a superb day thinking and becoming excellent engineers thanks to The Smallpiece Trust and RAF. Students engaged in an excellent interactive session that allowed them to learn all about aerospace engineering and all the amazing possibilities that there are that involved all areas of engineering. Team skills was at the heart of the successful groups who worked on a tight timescale and learnt how to budget, plan, problem solve in addition to key features on an aircraft. So many challenges and lots of fun was the order of the day! #thisengineering #STEM



Angelpoise lamps



Year Ten tackled the brief of designing and developing individually-made LED lamps. All students produced unique and skill-based items including half corner joints, casting, vacuum forming, modelling, chiselling etc. In addition, students used a combination of materials such as pine, metal, paper and concrete to give them their stand out designs!

Year Ten: Taking Maths further

Sixteen Year 10 students visited the University of Bedfordshire for a day of stimulating mathematical talks and activities designed to help students see the usefulness and fun of maths outside the regular curriculum. The workshops and lectures offered students a taste of maths beyond GCSE and allowed them to explore potential careers supported by maths qualifications. Various real-life applications of maths were examined, including how insurance analysts use mathematical modelling to ascertain which driver was most at fault in the event of a collision and a look at the advanced statistics used in sports broadcasting.



number of threads used. If you've ever wondered why a seven-thread-skip-three pattern creates a beautiful braid, whereas a nine-thread-skip-four approach results in a twisted mess, these Year Ten students can explain it using the concepts of coprimes and factors.

The final session looked at the role of maths in the design of computer games, demonstrating that Pac-Man's maze is not flat, but in fact equivalent to the surface of a cylinder and the 80s game Asteroid looks like a 2D world, but is actually the shape of a donut! We also explored a proof showing which of the 256 million routes through a Pac-Man maze is the most time-efficient and learned how this branch of mathematics can be extended for use in the real-world of transport logistics.

The day was tremendous fun, but more importantly highlighted the wide variety of opportunities and careers which are available to young people who choose to study mathematics beyond GCSE.

Royal Navy chefs visit Goldington Academy



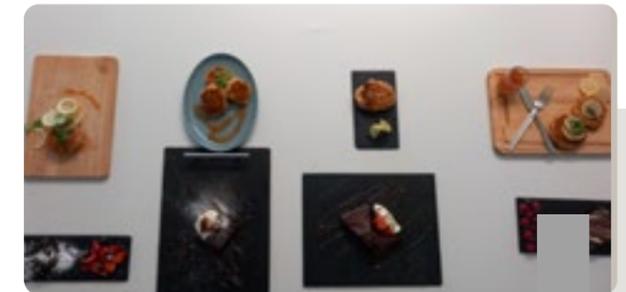
We were fortunate enough to have a visit from two Royal Navy Chefs, this term, for our groups of hospitality and catering students.

The Year Nines have been given a taste of what is to come in hospitality and catering next year and where this vocational course can lead to in their future careers.

Students were introduced to the work these chefs do and how their careers were made, training and the life of a Royal Navy chef. After this, students were teamed up and challenged to make a 2-course meal - fishcakes and chocolate brownies - in an hour. The task was set for these students and the challenge was high as our two professional chefs then tried their dishes and voted for the winning team.

A brilliant day was enjoyed by all.

All students had a great session and cooked so well that (for the first time ever) the chefs could not decide on a winner, and we ended up with a draw in our Year Ten class.



Need Help?

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)

Integrated Front Door team (safeguarding) - 01234 718700 (office hours) or ring 0300 300 8123 (out of hours)

National Domestic Abuse Helpline – 0808 2000 247

Report abuse in education call 0800136663 - help@nspcc.org.uk

In an immediate emergency always dial 999

Bedford Borough Early Help call - 01234 718700 - EarlyHelpHub@Bedford.gov.uk

PE Department Success

As a school, we have retained our platinum status for sports school mark which helps portray our strong extra-curricular provision that we offer here at Goldington.



The Year Seven rounders team are acing their league and will finish top!

Athletics

Following a successful District Athletics meet, Goldington had five students selected to represent North Bedfordshire.

On a hot evening, all of the students can be really proud of their efforts. Michael came 7th in the 800m and Leah came 3rd in her 800m event.

The sprinters all had gold medal success in the relays. We are also proud to say that Quadri and Ariane came 2nd in their

respective 200m finals, both missing out on gold by a couple of tenths of a second. Sam, meanwhile came 4th in the 100m junior boys final, showing great progress from last year, but unfortunately just missing out on the top 3.

All of the athletes have done incredibly well to have been selected.

Tennis

Year Ten girls' tennis team finished 2nd in their competition at Riverside Tennis Club.

Football success

The P.E department have had another successful term with the following results:



The U15 girls' football team were crowned District Champions earlier this term after beating Samuel Whitbread 4-3 on penalties! It was a fantastic game to watch and the girls should be very proud of themselves!

Well done to all involved!

One of our students goes to Watford FC

Goldington has talent! One of our students recently trialed and was accepted at Watford FC as part of their Emerging Talent Centre programme.

Her elated mum exclaimed, "She is an exemplary athlete, much like her brother. She is always playing something, but football has been her first love!" The year 8 student has been playing for nearly 6 years and has grown in confidence and skill and is an enthusiastic advocate for girls' football.

Her mother suggested a few football trials and put her in for Watford FC, who confirmed they would see her on an



invite-only basis.

"She trialed on 2nd June and no-one knew, except the family. She went and played her best, but whole-heartedly she thought she did badly. We went home and decided we will forget about it. A bad trial is something that we try and learn from and then move on to the next which would have been Northampton. Her birthday was 9 June, and her birthday weekend was manic, but she was happy," said her proud mum.

"She intends to still play for her grassroots team (Real Bedford Girls U14s). She quietly goes about her business, but she loves the game and I want people to know. Watch this space, as the Watford born girl goes back to Watford! Home is calling her!"

Ski Trip

In April 2023, 46 Year Nine, Ten and Elevens and five members of staff set off to Italy. After a long journey onto the Italian Alps we arrived and got settled into our hotel.

The next day some of the group were quickly skiing, but many were experiencing snow for the first time so took it slowly, getting to grips with the button lifts and the slippery snow. By the end of the second day, all of our skiers were skiing blue and red runs and experiencing the beautiful and sunny Italian slopes. Our resort had its very own glacier, and it was thrilling to take the gondola up to 3000m above sea level and see the stunning mountain range. We were blessed with great weather which meant that everybody from beginners to experts made amazing progress throughout the week. Lunch was spent every day in glorious sunshine eating the best Italian pizza or pasta which everyone enjoyed.

Evenings were spent having fun on quiz night, limbo dancing at the disco and experiencing Italian gelato and pizza. Everybody also needed some chill time, especially the teachers!

Skiing on the last day proved challenging as there was a total white out, but thankfully everybody made it through the day without getting lost or injuring themselves.

Overall, the trip was a great success, everybody had fun and made good progress skiing. I would like to thank the staff – Mr Atkinson, Mr Lincoln, Mr Lattimer and Miss Barker - for giving up a week of their Easter holiday to make this trip possible.

Look out for details of the 2024 ski trip!

Mrs Chapman



Goldington's Got Talent

This year's Goldington's Got Talent was bigger and better than ever, with more acts, guest judges and video interviews with each contestant. Not only was this year's evening great fun (which brought together Goldington

parents and local friends), but it was an excellent night of celebration for a range of talented students who literally blew our socks off with their amazing talents, effort and energy on stage!



Summer Term Science Stars

Year 7

Hollie
Chloe
Elodie

Year 8

Scarlet
Vanshi
Savanna

Year 9

Brishna
Casey
Chanh
Dao
Hannar

Year 10

Zara
Susan
Noah
Evelina

UK Biology challenge

The UK Biology Challenge stimulates curiosity for the natural world and encourages students to take an interest in biology outside of school. The challenge involves two online quizzes that test student's general knowledge on all

aspects of biology. This year 225 Year Nine and Ten students took part in the challenge and we were delighted to receive certificates for all of our students, including 2 silver awards, 10 bronze awards and many more highly commended. Congratulations to all of our students who took part.

Rock workshop review



I recently had the pleasure of participating in a science workshop focused on rocks, and it was an enriching experience that left me with a newfound appreciation for the geological wonders that surround us. We were kindly given some of the rarest rocks from NASA which made the overall experience even more exciting. From start of finish, the workshop exceed my expectations, and I highly recommend it to anyone with a curious mind and a love for science.

One of the highlights of the workshop was the hands-on activities. We had the opportunity to examine a diverse array of rock samples, studying their textures, colours, and compositions. The teacher encouraged us to use our senses and employ various scientific techniques to identify and classify rocks. It was an immersive experience that allowed us to truly appreciate the remarkable diversity and beauty found within the earth's rock landscapes.

In conclusion, the science workshop on rocks was a new and amazing experience which taught me many new things. The hand-on activities, interactive demonstrations resulted in an immersive learning journey.

STEM trip to Kew Gardens

This term as part of STEM club we took 15 students to visit Kew Gardens. We were fortunate to have lovely weather and saw an amazing variety of plants. A fantastic time was had by all!



Forest of Marston Vale

Student reflections on their Year 8 fieldwork trip.

"My favourite part was plotting things on the map and exploring because it was fun and interesting." Tara

"I learnt that there are so many different types of bugs in that area." Tia

"My favourite part was when we did the bug hunting because we found butterflies and moths. I also liked when we went to the Bird Hide because we could see the lake." Scarlett



Duke of Edinburgh

On the Coronation weekend, Goldington Academy took 36 Year Nine students for their DofE bronze training. After a smooth start, it quickly turned into the wettest and muddiest DofE we have ever done with the amount of mud resembling a festival. Despite all of this, the students showed great resilience throughout the weekend. All students had a first aid session and were given instructions on what to do. 22 pupils were on the canoeing DofE and were learning how to canoe. Students also had to perform self-rescues where they were capsized into the water which were all successfully navigated. Meanwhile, the walking groups were putting their map reading skills to the test and completing a short walk on day one. The evening resulted in pupils cooking their own meals and one group who decided to take their own tent down during

the heaviest part of the rain.

Day 2 had an early start with pupils in mostly good spirits. Students plotted their route cards in the morning for their day's journey. With it being a sunny day, this resulted in different challenges. The canoeing groups arrived back ahead of schedule, with the walking groups returning on time. Despite some comments of "it is the worst weekend of my life," we are fully looking forward to the qualifying expedition in July.

Special mention should go to Mr Lattimer, Mr Lucas, Miss Geoghegan and Mrs Dear who supported the weekend. I would also like to say thanks to Canoe Trail who were brilliant as always.



Careers

Thank you to all parents/care givers who have responded to my request for feedback on our careers programme. Your contributions will help to formulate the programme moving forwards. If you haven't yet provided your feedback and would like to, please follow this link to the short survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/CkCi4JcR3n>

I would like to signpost you to the careers section of our website, where you will find a wealth of resources about apprenticeships, post-16 options and destinations and much more. The parent section is here: <https://www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/careers/parents>

Work experience information

Did you know - any meaningful experience of the world of work counts as "work experience"! This may include voluntary work, helping out in a parent's office/company, babysitting, doing a paper round or completing the DofE volunteering section.

Many of us are familiar with "work experience" that we completed while we were at school (for me, that was many years ago!). However, with the advent of stricter health and safety guidelines for employers, increasing costs for schools to complete checks on potential employers, and the sheer amount of time it takes to organise (arranging WeX is someone's full-time job in many schools!), the guidelines about what counts as work experience is changing; now it is more about having a meaningful experience of the workplace rather than a week off school for work experience which may not prove useful for the young person. When I think back to my time at school, one of my peers, who was an aspiring medic, spent a week mucking out stables because they didn't manage to find their own placement in a hospital, and felt they had no meaningful experiences other than knowing that they definitely didn't want to work with horses (which they knew already before the week!).

As long as a student has an immersive experience, talks to various people that work within that environment and undertakes roles within the work environment (even, but not exclusively, filing or photocopying!), this counts as work experience. It is more meaningful if the student works alongside someone who they are unrelated to, to make it realistic of the world of work, although the experience may be facilitated by a relative and who they know.

All students will complete work experience placements during Year 12, at college or during an apprenticeship during their post-16 placements.

Students at Goldington won't take part in a dedicated week of work experience before they leave us, however there are several ways in which students can gain experience during their time here, all of which count towards experience of the workplace (and actually are viewed more favourably because the student has taken their initiative and organised it for themselves!):

- Participation in a work experience placement via Speakers for Schools
- Attendance at an insight day with Speakers for Schools
- Engaging in Medic Mentor activities
- Signing up for virtual experience via Spring Pod over the summer break

All opportunities are shared with students either by email or on Satchel, and when they apply, the school is asked to provide a reference to verify their placement. Students who have engaged with activities in the past have enjoyed the opportunity and gained valuable insight as well as developing their skills. Students create their own account, using their school email address and complete the application forms for as many or as few of the opportunities as they would like to.

There are some age limits on some of the activities, and some are specific to certain regions of the UK, so students need to make sure they read the information carefully before applying, to avoid disappointment.

For further information, you can visit:

Speakers for Schools – <https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience-opportunities/>

Spring Pod – <https://www.springpod.com/>

Medic Mentor - <https://medicmentor.co.uk/>

Careers

Apprenticeships and T-levels

An area that is rapidly changing is the provision of apprenticeships and T levels.

We are fortunate that Bedford College is involved in launching many of the new T level courses as they become available, and Mrs Sacre attended a launch event in June. She had a tour of the construction, IT, Art and science departments and heard from the Principal about the new courses which start in September.

More information about Bedford College offer for T levels can be found here: <https://bedfordcollegegroup.ac.uk/study/school-leavers/tlevels/>

ASK Apprenticeships visited to present to Year Ten students about apprenticeships at the end of June, as part of the post-16 topic they are completing in Life Skills. Students were offered the opportunity to stay for a workshop facilitated by Claire from ASK, where she showed them how to set up their accounts. Apprenticeships can also be searched for via Unifrog.

Amazing Apprenticeships has a comprehensive area of their website dedicated to parents and carers, which can be found here: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/parent-zone/>. There is a wealth of information available, including about the different levels of apprenticeships available from aged 16 onwards.

Bedford Creative Arts Project

A small group of year 9 students are working with Bedford Creative Arts, through Aspire Higher at the University of Bedfordshire. Bedford Creative Arts is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and a registered arts charity dedicated to commissioning high-quality art with communities and working with artists to explore new developments in socially engaged art practice.

The students are working with local artists Katie Allen and Anthea Barclay to produce a 'Zine' which will be launched at the end of the summer term! Creative Culture Club has been really informative and has allowed me to use my creativity and imagination in fields of work I didn't even know existed as well as being really fun to do with friends."

Careers in the curriculum

There have been plenty of careers-related activities taking place around school in different subject areas, including embedded within lessons and trips/visits which you will find out about in other sections of the newsletter.

The weekly 'World of Work Wednesday' has explored a variety of careers and job roles over the past term, linked with the SMSC Theme of the Week. Such roles have included E-learning developer, event manager, music promotions manager, RSPCA inspector, cyber security, corporate responsibility and sustainability practitioner, outdoor activities instructor, equalities officer, air accident investigators, countryside ranger!



Friday Futures careers talks

Our Friday, Futures talks have continued this term, and have included visits from Milagros Guerrero Espino, a Geotechnical Engineer/Civil Engineer background at AECOM, and the student outreach team from the University of Hertfordshire visited to introduce university life and opportunities. Mme Barbot also gave a talk to students about her career before teaching, which was an interesting insight into how modern foreign languages can be used in many different careers.

Stephen Kimbell, Director of Greenspires Advisors Limited, visited to talk about his career in the legal profession, and the different routes into law. Jacob, Year Seven, said "I think the bit about the different types of law was my favourite part."

We have a continuing programme of speakers visiting the school over the next few months. Students can sign up to attend any or all of the talks – spaces are limited to 30, and it is first-come, first-served. There is an Eventbrite booking system (link available via Show My Homework noticeboard), or students can sign up when the career ambassadors visit form times.

If any parents, carers or relatives of our students would like to visit us on a Friday 1 – 1.30 pm, to give an inspirational talk about their career pathway, current role or previous roles, we would love to hear from you!

Please email careers@goldington.beds.sch.uk

Student Ambassador programme

Being an ambassador in school is a role that many of our students relish and excel with. As well as being an important part of our school community, our ambassadors volunteer to help subject areas in many different ways, from making displays, facilitating extra-curricular clubs, running the School Shop or assisting with the day-to-day running of a department.

The ambassador programme has been launched to all students this term, with the invitation to apply for a particular area of school they would like to support with. This may be a subject area, the library, careers/futures or the running of the school shop!

Being an ambassador not only helps students contribute to the school community, but helps them to develop vital employability skills they will take with them in their next steps beyond Goldington, and for all students, provides an activity or them to include in their personal statements and applications for post-16 placements. All activities can be recorded on Unifrog and used when students build their CV!

Applications are open for students in all year groups until Friday, 14 July, when they will be viewed by the relevant Curriculum Leaders and ambassadors chosen, ready to start in their roles from September 2023. The links for the prospectus and application form is available via Satchel, as a flexible task set up by Mrs Sacre.

Charity fundraising

As every with every year, there have been many fundraising events taking place in school, so at this time of the school year we thought it would be great to celebrate the generosity and thoughtfulness of our school community by summarising the total amounts that have been raised through mufti days and cake sales in school, and other events such as the Christmas Fete in aid of Mind.

| | Amount raised |
|--|----------------------|
| Children in Need mufti day | £111.35 |
| Children in Need bake sale | £92.55 |
| Goldington's Got Talent – raising money for the Daniel Spargo-Mabbs Foundation | £227.50 |
| Turkey relief bake sale | £249.39 |
| Christmas Jumper Day - for Save the Children | £603.12 |
| Year 11 Prom cake sale | £155.00 |
| Christmas Fete for Mind | £222.50 |
| Penalty shoot-out for Children in Need | £19.80 |
| Pride mufti | £282.45 |
| Pride cake sale | £43.25 |
| Grand Total for the year | £2006.91 |

Pride Month

In June we celebrated Pride month for the LGBTQ+ community. This involved staff highlighting LGBTQ+ people who had significantly contributed to their subject with poster displays, fundraising for the charity Just Like Us through ribbon sales, and a mufti day and cake sale on 30 June where we raised £325.70 in aid of AKT and LGBT Foundation. These events were enjoyed by staff and pupils alike, and were a warm reminder of what a welcoming community Goldington Academy is.



Mountfitchet Castle



To complement their recent studies about Norman England, Year Seven students went to Mountfitchet Castle, a recreated Norman motte-and-bailey castle. The trip to this living museum was an informative and fun day out for pupils, who got the chance to learn more about what the day-to-day life in these castles would have been like. This allowed our students to see something which we have studied in detail this year and allowed them to supplement

their learning with a hands-on approach to history. Pupils also got the opportunity to visit the toy museum there and see some farm animals which they keep on site. All in all, Year Seven had an excellent day, and we are already looking forward to our visit next year!



Year Seven History Studies

As part of their Year Seven history studies, each class have had the opportunity to take part in a 'What is History?' session, organised and led by the National Archives in London. Year Seven have been developing their key historical skills throughout this year, and this session allowed pupils to continue to develop their skills of inference and deduction by looking at primary sources from the archives linked to the women's suffrage movement. Students learnt about Evelyn Manesta and Lillian Forrester, two suffragettes who vandalised artwork at Manchester Art Gallery in the name of the

movement, before using their own skills to piece together the stories of two sets of clues linked to the period. Students really enjoyed these interactive and engaging sessions, and it also helped them to further understand the important role historians play through the work they do and how there is still a lot of history left to discover.

This term's high achievers

| Year | Winner | Runner Up |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| Seven | Alfie | Richa |
| Eight | Scarlett | Bobby |
| Nine | Liam | Joel |
| Ten | Haroon | Zara |

Attendance Figures

We have been really proud of the efforts made by our pupils to be in school as much as possible this term. Whilst our attendance figures are significantly above national figures, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage good attendance amongst our pupils. Our current percentage is 93.75% and our school target is 96%. Please ensure that your child comes to school on time as regularly as possible. We appreciate that illnesses present themselves throughout

the year, but minor illnesses can be managed in school. If you are unsure, please contact Student Services.

Please remember that the day starts at 8.50 am and ends at 3.40 pm. Students need to be onsite by 8.50 am.

Please be aware that we are unable to authorise absences for family holidays.

School Uniform

All pupils at Goldington Academy must wear the school uniform as set out in the uniform policy, which includes proper school shoes, school tie, blazer and the full PE kit. Exceptions may be granted under certain circumstances, e.g., for medical reasons. Pupils must wear the full school uniform to school every day and should only arrive at school dressed in PE kit if they have been told they can do so. If a child is unable to wear the full uniform for any reason, then parents should communicate this to the school via either the child's Form Tutor or Head of Year.

open to subjective interpretation and on occasion abuse. Therefore, to avoid difficulty or embarrassment, we ask parents and pupils to operate well within these guidelines rather than at their extremes.

All pupils must bring the basic equipment needed for lessons. On occasions when pupils are not properly equipped for lessons valuable learning time is often lost, which is detrimental to pupil progress. Pupils, at the least, should be equipped with pens, pencils and a ruler.

Hair styles should not include unnatural colours, patterns or designs. Jewellery other than that listed below is not allowed:

- One small plain stud in each ear
- One ring permitted on each hand
- Bracelets on the grounds of religious or medical needs

Any student attending school with piercings that are not permitted will be asked to remove them, once they have healed. No other visible body piercing is acceptable.

The school recognises that areas such as uniform can be



Reminder - parents please check and amend accordingly your child's data collection sheets found in the SIMs ParentApp. In addition, if you make any changes in ParentMail you must also update details in the SIMs Parent App too. This will ensure you continue to receive all school correspondence.

Special Education Needs & Disability Update



The following from the SEND Code of Practice (2015) underpins our provision for students who have Special Educational Needs or a Disability (SEND).

According to the Code of Practice, "a pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age."

Teachers are responsible for every pupil including those with SEND.

Teachers are responsible for the progress and development of every pupil in their class, including those who get extra support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

The first step in supporting all pupils, including those with SEND, is high-quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils.

Some pupils may need additional help to access the curriculum or make expected progress. These pupils may have SEN.

Not every pupil making slower progress has SEND.

Some pupils may make slower progress for a reason unrelated to SEND, such as a gap in their learning.

Teachers regularly assess the progress of all pupils and work with the SENCO to identify whether a pupil has SEND. Some factors to consider are the following:

- Significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Failing to match or better the pupil's previous rate of progress
- Failing to close the attainment gap between the pupil and their classmates
- Widening the attainment gap

Pupil Passports:

Strategies and bespoke approaches for SEND students are shared with teaching staff via Pupil Passports. This document is co-produced with students, parents and the SEND team. Passports are sent home with

the interim reports, and you have a chance to feedback if you want to review any strategies that you feel warrant changing. Feel free to contact Mr Roopnarain (roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk) to arrange an appointment if this is the case.

SEND consultation meetings:

A series of productive SEND meetings with parents and students took place over the course of the half term and progress, provision and Pupil Passports were discussed. Parents were invited via ParentMail to attend a meeting. If you have not yet had a chance to meet with the SENDCO, then please feel free to contact us to arrange a meeting.

Important SEN information and documents:

Local offer: we subscribe to the Bedford Borough Local Offer which offers a variety of services for young people that include behaviour support, parental support, etc. See link for the services offered: <https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page>

SEND information report: information published on the school website about how the school's SEND policy will be implemented. The latest report is available here: <https://www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/learning/special-educational-needs>. We invite feedback for review and feedback of the current document and consequent update of these for September 2023.

Would you like to join us?

We are always on the lookout for Learning Support Assistants or volunteers to support effective learning in the classroom and beyond. In addition, we also have a Learning Apprenticeship partnership with Bedford College where apprentices (subject to an interview process) can work four days a week as an LSA and a day release at college to attend study sessions.

Contact us

With any issues regarding pupils and their SEND, the SENDCO, Mr Roopnarain, can be contacted either by phone, in person or by email roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk. A drop-in session is available to parents on Thursdays between 1.40 pm — 4.15 pm each week during term time.

Ofsted – February 2022: "The school supports pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) effectively. Leaders ensure that teachers understand the best strategies for every pupil with SEND. This helps these pupils to thrive and flourish studying the same curriculum as their peers."

Debate Competition

The Key Stage 3 Debate Club had the very exciting opportunity of competing in our very first inter-school debate this term. A team of four students represented Goldington against Bedford Academy on Thursday, 25 May, with the focus being the very current and controversial statement: "This house believes that monarchies should be abolished".



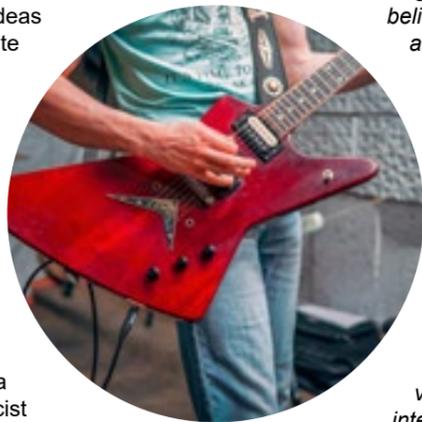
Eventually, Bedford Academy were declared victorious by a very narrow margin. However, I think we can be very proud of our effort as a "novice" team, and we look forward to returning with more experience next year and hopefully bringing back a trophy!

The Key Stage 3 Debate Club will be open next year to all students in Years 7-9 and we always welcome new and enthusiastic members who are interested in developing their oracy and critical thinking: skills which are really valuable not just for academic success, but also future life prospects

We were assigned to debate in favour of the motion, and the team worked extremely hard preparing, researching and putting together presentations in the run up to the competition. There were a huge range of excellent points raised on the night and some great interactions as the two opposing sides intervened and challenged each other's ideas, making it very difficult to judge a winner.

Big ideas for bright minds

Fourteen of our highest-attaining Year Ten students visited Oxford for the Big Ideas for Bright Minds conference, to stimulate thought beyond the constraints of the school curriculum.



They attended a series of in-depth and fascinating lectures covering topics such as justice, psychology, physics and music, which were approached from many different viewpoints so that students could see connections between different areas of study and the bigger picture.

For many students, the highlight was a combined lecture/rock show by a physicist (described as a cross between Einstein and Jimi Hendrix) showing how guitar string vibrations relate to string theory, which might answer questions about the Big Bang.

Zara (Year Ten) describes some of the other activities:

"One great session was a debate: This house believes that it isn't OK to make comments about another person's body. It was amazing to see how many students from across the country were so enthusiastic about expressing their views on this matter: a topic that many of us are aware of in these current times. It produced incredible discussions from many people, based on knowledge, experience or understanding. Also, an Oxbridge interview question was shown to us. When we talked through the question, it was interesting that the question could be approached from a variety of angles depending on how you interpreted and carefully thought about it; there were many possible answers. Overall, the trip was a brilliant opportunity to learn and contribute ideas - a friend of mine said that the whole experience 'broadened their mind to new possibilities and a different way of thinking'."

Geography

The geography department have been very excited to see the instalment of a new digital weather station. We are really looking forward to using real-time weather data in our lessons.



Eco Club



The eco-committee have been promoting Eco-Club by running assemblies for Years 7-9. They produced informative and inspiring assemblies which encouraged more students to join! Students are now in the initial stages of working towards gaining an Eco-Schools award for Goldington Academy. This has included organising and leading meetings with the school business manager and also Roger, our head cook. Watch this space for updates on our application! Students can keep up to date with what is going on via our display board outside of room 32.

'Being a part of Eco-Club has opened up a range of opportunities. I now work with students from across all year groups that I would not have done before and it is also all for a great cause!' Zara, Year 10

Geography club have been busy this term designing and making an Earth from a balloon and plaster of paris and making a wind-powered house using a circuit and a small wind turbine from science! This project was in collaboration with Ben from Bedford School, an A level geographer who helped with the construction of these projects. What fantastic work from our geography clubbers. Well done, everyone! #geogrocks

