

WHAT AN AMAZING YEAR IT HAS BEEN!



Cuffley Residential



Family Challenge Evening



Our new Eatery



GCSE Exams



Trip to Kew Gardens



Cultural Day

Principal's Introduction



July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

What an incredible year 2024-2025 has been!

In the last few weeks, we have held four splendid achievement nights, Year 11 Prom, the Creative Arts Celebration Evening and two Sports Days just to name a few events. Tennis, cricket and athletics have been in evidence!

Sadly, we are once again seeing some super staff leave school. Earlier in the year Ms Darvill left for a role closer to home and Mr Mehmi, Miss Barker and Mr Gordon are all moving onto new roles. Miss Barker has had a super three years within PE and Mr Gordon leaves after six years of excellent service in the maths department. However, I will remember Mr Gordon most fondly when I think of his most

generous contribution within the Arts department whether that be using his technical ability to bring our many shows to life or using his musical ability to influence the next generation of talent. With regard to support staff leavers, I would like to thank both Miss Franks and Miss Atkinson for their super contributions to our school and wish them well as they train as teachers. To all leavers, thank you for your contribution to GA.

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 in the top 5% of schools in the country for progress between the ages 11 to 16. I once again anticipate a strong 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 **Tuesday, 2 September**.

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

Best wishes

Mr Gordon

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 students' general knowledge on all aspects of biology. This year 190 Year Nine and Ten students took part in the challenge and we were delighted to receive certificates for all of our students, including 5 Gold, 13 Silver and 9 Bronze with many more highly commended. Congratulations to all of our students that took part.



Welcome to The Eatery

Since January, Goldington Academy decided to take over the kitchen independently, and we have rebranded ourselves 'The Eatery.' Over the last few months, the catering team have been concentrating on developing the menu to give the students not only healthy, but delicious meals, every day. Small changes such as moving the till area, and adding a drinks machine have helped to create a smooth flow at break and lunch times.

Recently students voiced their opinions: we took their feedback on board, and feel that the changes in the menu reflect the students tastes and beliefs. We want to continue to build a relationship with the students, where they can come to us with any questions about the food we serve, and give them confidence in understanding the importance of dietary requirements, allergens and nutrition.

Our achievements so far are maintaining a 5-star Environmental Health rating and holding successful event menus. The school celebrated Ramadan with minted lamb koftas and fresh fattoush salad, and mini egg millionaires shortbread for an Easter Treat. The team look forward to sharing many more special events with the students.



Computing

In this summer term, we held the school's first ever Hackathon event. Ten computer science students who have shown the best aptitude for Python programming competed against each other in two teams of five. Each team worked in a different IT room and had an entire school day to design, create and test a computer program that fitted or even exceeded some mystery specifications that were revealed on the day. Selected students came to school without

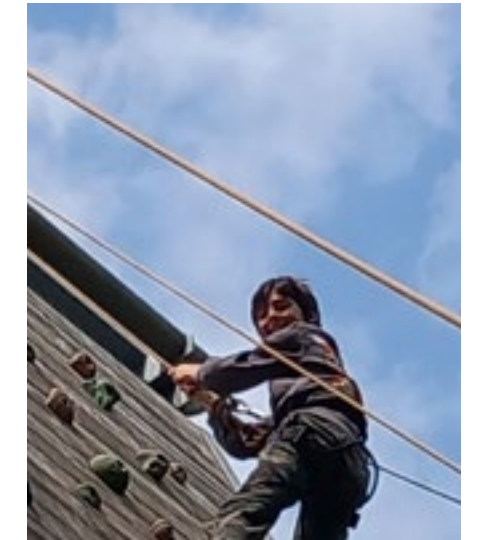
uniform and were able to decide when to take their own breaks during the day and managed their own time to achieve the programming task. Beyond giving the students an immersive experience of team working in a deadline-constrained software development project, it was also an opportunity for creativity and thinking outside the box. We are hoping to be able to organise Hackathons such as these against other schools in the future. Until then, stay tuned in the next newsletter about how the Hackathon unfolds!



Cuffley residential: a picture paints a thousand words



Cuffley residential: a picture paints a thousand words



Year Seven Yinka Ilori inspired mood lights



This term, our talented Year Seven students have been lighting up the Design and Technology department—literally! Drawing inspiration from the vibrant and joyful work of British-Nigerian artist and designer Yinka Ilori, pupils have designed and manufactured their very own vacuum-formed mood lights.

Ilori is known for his bold use of colour, geometric patterns, and storytelling through design. Pupils explored his work and cultural influences before sketching their own patterns and colour palettes. They then translated these ideas into 3D designs, using vacuum forming techniques to shape plastic into unique light casings.

Each mood light is a celebration of creativity, culture and craftsmanship. From neon pinks and electric blues to intricate patterns and playful shapes, the final pieces are as functional as they are fabulous. The project not only introduced students to industrial design processes but also encouraged them to express their individuality through colour and form.

Well done to all our budding designers for their hard work and imagination. We cannot wait to see what you create next!

Year Eight Planters

Our second rotation of the year and our planters are well on their way to being used at home to grow whatever will fit! A great unit and participation from pupils challenging themselves to create comb joints that are so tight we almost do not need any glue! Fabulous choice of acrylic colours combined with skilfully folded angles to complement each other. Growing confidence amongst all pupils tackling the likes of the belt sander and hot wire strip heater. Both of which are much harder to use accurately than they look! Well done, Year Eight!

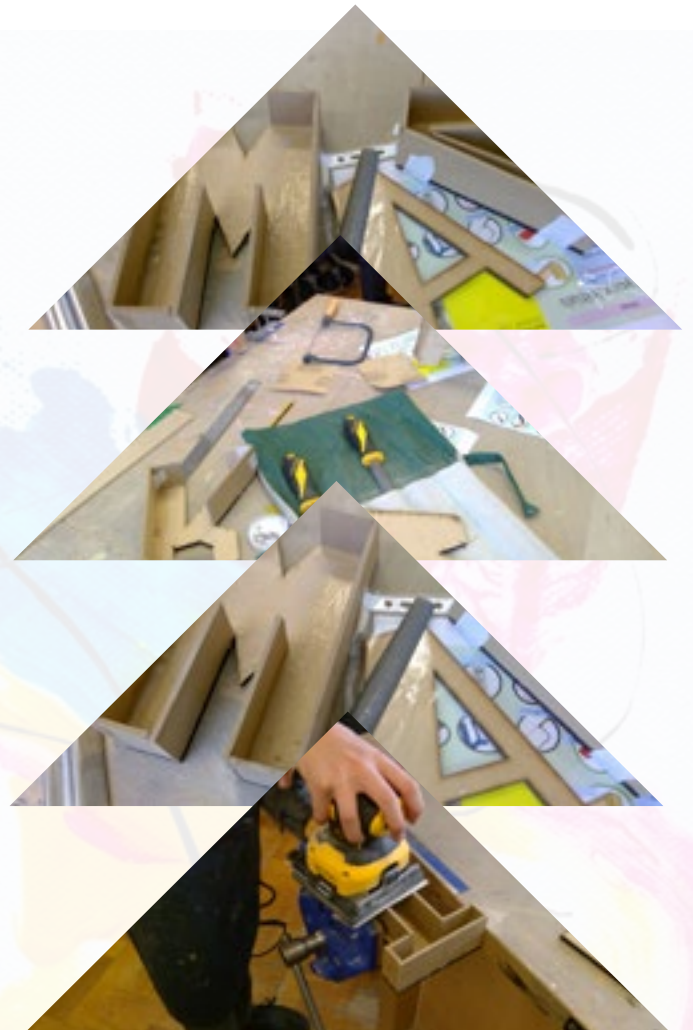


Year Nine Creative Construction

Our Year Nine Design and Technology students have been hard at work this term, bringing their creativity and craftsmanship to life through a unique project: designing and making 3D initials from MDF.

Each student selected a theme of their choice — ranging from Star Wars to the ocean — and used it as inspiration to personalise their designs. Throughout the project, pupils explored a variety of woodworking joints, including butt joints and mitre joints, learning how to select and apply the most suitable techniques for their structures.

This hands-on project not only developed their practical skills but also encouraged critical thinking and problem-solving as they overcame design challenges and refined their ideas. At the point of writing, we are still in the mix of completing our designs but I have no doubt that they will all be great!



Year Ten Lamps

Our talented Year Ten Design and Technology students have been hard at work designing and manufacturing their very own angle poise lamps, each inspired by a unique personal theme — from the intricate patterns of plant life to the structured geometry of road systems.

This exciting project challenged pupils to combine creative thinking with technical skill, using a wide range of workshop techniques including soldering, lap joints, drilling and the use of production aids such as jigs and templates. Students embraced the iterative design process, refining their ideas through sketching, prototyping and testing to produce functional and visually striking lamps.

The final outcomes demonstrate a strong understanding of both design principles and workshop techniques, with each lamp reflecting thoughtful design decisions and careful construction.

Well done to all involved — your hard work and creativity!



Art - Felting Workshop

Some of our Year Nine students took part in a felting workshop with local artist Anne-Marie Abbate. Students enjoyed learning a new craft and creating some brilliant winged designs. They used a dry needle technique to create intricate designs.



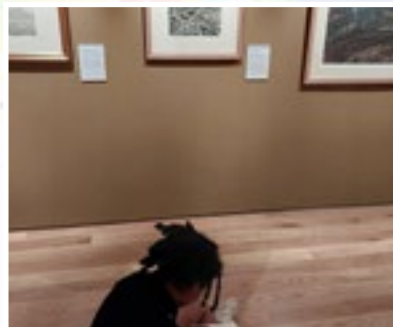
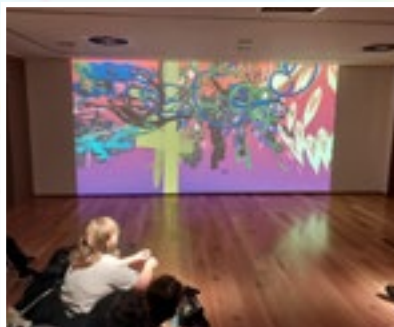
Local primary school

We have really enjoyed hosting workshops for our local primary school students. Brickhill and Hazeldene students have taken part in printmaking workshops and Hazeldene and Goldington Green have enjoyed some Van Gogh inspired ceramic workshops. Great work from all!



Higgins Trip

As part of the 'Art Talk' project; which encourages students to challenge themselves to deepen their understanding of artwork through talk, creating art and discussing in front of an audience, we visited the Colour and Light exhibition at the Higgins Gallery. The students enjoyed seeing such a wide range of artworks and hearing from the gallery's Keeper of Fine & Decorative Art, Victoria Partridge about specific pieces.



Set Design

KS3 pupils joined Miss Taylor in creating a range of pieces for the set of Romeo and Juliet. The students used paper to craft large scale flowers, and they used card to create backdrops. Great work from all involved.



The Laxton Project



We are thrilled to share with you that some of our Year Nine students have been working in collaboration with local artist, Katie Allen to design a large-scale outdoor artwork to be displayed at Goldington. The artwork draws attention to the history of our site as Thomas Laxton's orchard through which he bred many plants and fruits. He is known for his strawberry, pea pod and apple breeding in particular. You can still find a 'Laxton's Superb' apple around now! Students have created paper cut-outs which will be added to the overall artwork. We hope the work will provide a positive message to all about growth, resilience and reaching your full potential at Goldington. More info to follow, but for now, here are some sneak peek photos at the paper cut outs.

Creative Arts Celebration Evening

We were thrilled to host our annual Creative Arts Celebration Evening. This features artwork from every student at KS3. The exhibition features beautifully-drawn insects from Year Seven students, Piper-inspired Architectural mixed media studies from Year Eight students and expressive Herald-inspired lino prints from Year Nine students. Our talented pianists and other musicians played in our garden area for entertainment and KS3 students shone in their performance of "Romeo and Juliet". See the evening in pictures on page 11.

GCSE Drama

Our GCSE Drama students recently completed their Devising Exam, showcasing months of dedication, creativity and teamwork. Each group developed an original piece of theatre from scratch, exploring a range of challenging themes and using a range of dramatic techniques to bring their ideas to life. From powerful movement sequences

to compelling dialogue, their performances demonstrated maturity, imagination and a good understanding of theatrical storytelling. The students worked incredibly hard throughout the process researching, rehearsing, refining and their final pieces were a testament to that effort.



Romeo and Juliet



Our Year Seven and Eight students put on a fantastic production of "Romeo and Juliet", bringing Shakespeare's classic tale to life with a colourful, garden-gnome twist! The cast worked incredibly hard over weeks of rehearsals, learning lines and choreography with energy and dedication. Their creativity, teamwork and enthusiasm truly shone on stage, and it was clear how much fun they had performing. The audience was captivated by the humour, heart and talent on display, and everyone left with smiles on their faces. A huge well done to all involved you made magic in the garden!



GCSE Drama Workshop

Our new GCSE Drama students took part in an exciting devising workshop led by LSA and theatre practitioner Lizzie Franks. The session focused on using movement and props to spark creativity and build original performance pieces. Students explored storytelling through physical theatre, experimenting with everyday objects to create imaginative scenes. Lizzie encouraged them to think outside the box, and the results were truly impressive bold, thoughtful and inventive work that showed real promise. The workshop was a fantastic way to kick off their GCSE journey and left everyone feeling inspired, energised and ready to create more original theatre.



Creative Arts Celebration Evening



Music at Goldington

It has certainly been quite an action-packed Summer Term for our Goldington musicians. Here are some of the highlights:

It was fantastic to be back at the University of Bedfordshire Theatre for our Summer Concert. The evening kicked off with the String Group setting the scene perfectly and concluded with an 80-strong performance of a rock anthem. Also featured were rock bands from Year Eight, Year Nine, Year Ten and Year Eleven, who all showed off their collective rock skills and stage presence to a hugely appreciative audience. The Samba band delivered the spirit of the Rio Carnival (kind of), the Steel Pans provided their usual Calypso flavour, and the mixed ensemble gave their interpretation of a cheesy rock classic. At the start of the second half, our DJ Orchestra made their debut performance, which went down a storm. We also had a diverse range of solos, duets and even some buskers outside the theatre. Thank you to the huge team of Goldington staff, peripatetic teachers and University staff, along with, of course, all those who took part, for making it such a memorable evening.

The Goldington Awards Evenings are always a special time to give some of our students the recognition they deserve. I would just like to say a big thank you to the large number of gifted pianists who gave up their time to play for our award winners/nominees and their families.

Our Creative Arts Celebration Evening is just that: an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the arts in our school community. In addition to the fabulous Years Seven & Eight play and the marvelous key stage 3 art on display, we had performances in the garden from pianists, flautists, saxophonists and vocalists.

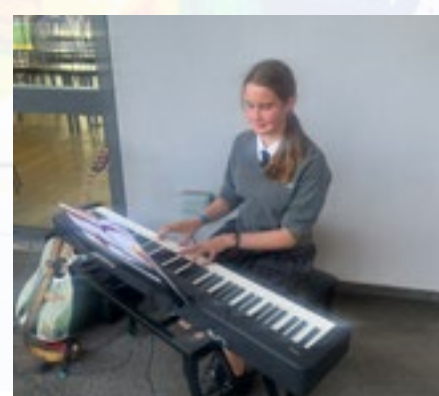
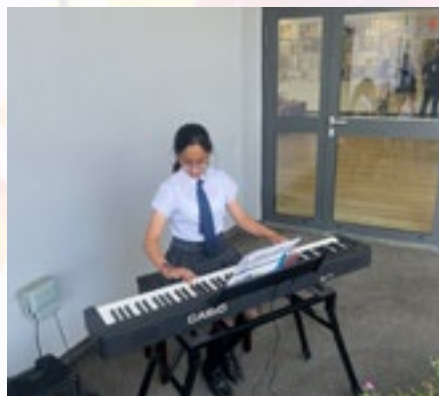
The annual Fiddle Fiesta provides our string players with the valuable opportunity to play with a very large string orchestra and is a collaboration with many local schools in the area. This one was another huge success!

Bedford Breakthrough is a hugely popular initiative, which takes place at the iconic Bedford Esquires, and gives our rock bands and DJ students the chance to play at a professional venue. As always, it was a joy to see our bands take to the main stages and put in outstanding performances. It is also a great opportunity to catch up with Goldington rock alumni in their respective Bedford Rock School bands. Also on the bill were a number of Goldington musicians playing some superb DJ sets, on both stages, along with some acoustic acts in the bar, including some jazz. We are already looking forward to the next one.

As part of our celebrations for Cultural Diversity Day, our wonderful, uplifting Steel Pans Group performed at lunchtime. In conditions akin to Trinidad, these talented panners went down a storm!

As Goldington's busiest ensemble, the Steel Pans Group joined together again last Saturday evening, in order to entertain the guests at the wedding of Miss Betteridge (or Mrs Berrington as she has now become), who is an LSA in the Goldington SEND team. Again, this hugely impressive group wowed a new crowd with a another stunning performance. Thank you to Mr Williams, who has worked wonders with this group, for giving up his Saturday evening. We cannot wait to see how they progress next year.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to another successful musical year in our school community, with a special mention to Mr Gordon, whose work in music will be hugely missed!



Maths

Primary Maths Challenge

On the 23 June, we hosted the first ever Goldington Academy Primary Maths Challenge. Twenty Year Five and Six pupils from local schools tackled a range of problems in teams of four. There were five rounds, that tested problem solving, logic, mental calculations and teamwork. A close eye was kept on the teams by our Year Nine referees, many thanks to Vedika, Kitty, Henry, Mustafa, Chloe and Fariz for their help. Here are a couple of sample questions from the group round:

A) Four teams played each other once only.

Three points were awarded for a win, one point was awarded for a draw and no points were awarded for a loss.

The teams scored a total of 14 points.

How many wins were there?

B) A 3 x 3 x 3 Rubik's cube lies on a table such that the bottom face cannot be seen.

How many smaller cubes have exactly 2 faces showing?

All teams worked really hard throughout the morning and the final result was close.

Well done to one of the teams from Hazeldene who were our first winners!

Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday, 1 May eighty nine of our most talented Year Seven and Eight pupils completed the Junior Maths Challenge run by the UK Mathematics Trust. This is a national competition for pupils entered by many schools with the chance of gaining a Bronze, Silver or Gold certificate for scoring in the top 60%. The questions are challenging and designed to make even the best mathematicians think. In some of them, the maths involved is not difficult but a logical approach is required.

We had an enormous fifty nine pupils who gained bronze, silver or gold awards: a super effort!

This is a fantastic achievement for all fifty nine of these pupils but a special mention must go to:

Our Gold award winners:

Year Seven - Polly

Year Eight - Jonah, Oli, Sam, Mahi, Zain, Ursula, Edwin

Despite the qualification scores for the follow on rounds being the highest they have ever been, four of these pupils scored high enough to qualify for a follow on round.

Polly, Oli and Sam were selected for the Junior Kangaroo paper: a superb achievement to qualify. Polly managed to achieve a Bronze award and Oli managed to achieve a Silver.

We then had our first ever Goldington pupil qualify for a Junior Olympiad paper: a massive congratulations to Jonah!

We are very lucky to have so many talented mathematicians. Well done to all of you who were selected to take part and to the Year sevens who attended Maths Club to help them prepare.

Des élèves de Lycée Courbetin nous rendent visite (A visit from a French Lycée)

On 30 April 2025, the French department were excited to host around 50 staff and students from Lycée Pierre du Courbetin for their first experience of a day in an English secondary school. This is the third occasion in the past couple of years that we have met with our French friends from Meaux, just east of Paris, but our first time hosting them here at Goldington.

On an untypically British glorious sunny morning, all 70 of our Year 10 French GCSE students combined with their French counterparts in joint French-British teams of 4 to play a variety of sports, including basketball, flag football, Ultimate frisbee and laser-run. The French PE staff and students gave expert explanations of the sports that were new to our Goldington students (Courbetin has a strong sports focus as a school). Laser-run was a real favourite as students had to shoot laser guns at targets, secure a hit by illuminating a green light and then run back to their team, by way of relay, so the next player then has a turn.

The Courbetin students experienced breaktime in the British school cafeteria – the “cheesy tator tots” were a huge hit! – and then lunchtime outside, which gave the rest of the school an opportunity to practise their French speaking

skills with the young people from Meaux, by coming over to give them a “Bonjour” or “Salut”.

Next, it was the turn of 45 of Year 11 students to meet the French students, for an afternoon collaborating – again in mixed Anglo-Franco teams – on bilingual quizzes followed by a highly competitive team task of “build-the-tallest-tower”, using just three materials: spaghetti, Blutak and Sellotape.

We said a fond “au revoir” at 3.00 pm, as “nos amis” headed back to their homestays in North London – but, are already making plans to meet up again, when we visit Paris in October this year.

What a huge privilege to be able to host both teachers and students from Meaux for the day, and an excellent opportunity for students across Key Stage Four to practise their French communication skills in order to collaborate, compete and build friendships.

À la prochaine fois, Courbetin!



University of Oxford Trip

Fourteen high-achieving Year Ten students visited the University of Oxford, engaging in a series of activities designed to provide insights into undergraduate life and strategies for enhancing future university applications.

The day's highlight was an engaging seminar focused on Engineering, where students explored various case studies showcasing innovative solutions to complex challenges. Practical demonstrations included examining how car engines are designed to transfer maximum power to the wheels and conducting a chemistry experiment that vividly illustrated the explosive results of building up pressure in a sealed container.

A guided tour of Wadham College offered students a glimpse into collegiate life, featuring picturesque quads, extensive walled gardens, a beautiful chapel, and an historic dining hall dating back to 1610, adorned with portraits of notable alumni.

Students also learned about the diverse range of over 50,000 undergraduate courses available across the UK. The session outlined financial support options and highlighted some of the more unique clubs and societies that students can join, providing a comprehensive overview of university life beyond academic study.

The final activity took place at the Ashmolean Museum. Students viewed historical artefacts, learned about their cultural significance and engaged in discussions about the sensitive issues related to foreign treasures being exhibited in British museums. This experience prompted thoughtful reflections on the complexities of cultural heritage and museum practices.



Goldington Distinction Award



Going for Gold

This term, a group of our most motivated and ambitious Year Eight students have continued to excel in the Goldington Distinction Award. This initiative is designed to foster creativity, improve written communication skills and encourage students to make contributions to the wider school community.

Participants have engaged in a variety of tasks, including:

- Crafting the opening scene of a play set at Goldington Academy
- Reviewing an informative podcast
- Conducting an interview with an adult about their career
- Summarising a recent news event
- Designing a revision task that could be used in the classroom
- These activities aim to broaden students' horizons and develop essential transferable skills for their future. The most successful projects will be awarded the prestigious Gold Award, recognising outstanding achievement and dedication.

Here is an extract of the play written by Eryn.

MR LINCOLN: (looks around the room and sighs then mutters) Kids these days. The pesky vandals

MR LINCOLN EXITS

LIGHTS DIM. PEEPING OUT FROM THE TABLES THEY WERE HIDING BEHIND

MISS LOPEZ: (giggling) Do you think they're gone?

MISS TAYLOR: (with a wide grin) Yeah. The coast is clear!

MISS LOPEZ: Again?

MISS TAYLOR: (with a serious face) No. We need to tidy this up.

MISS LOPEZ: (whines) Really?!

MISS TAYLOR: (shouts) No!

BOTH TEACHERS LAUGH. MISS TAYLOR THROWS A BALL OF PAINT AT MISS LOPEZ

Goldington Academy Family Challenge



Some of our highest-attaining students (and their families) participated in The Goldington Academy Family Challenge, in which they battled through a series of tricky activities.

Working as a team, each family gained points by demonstrating their knowledge and problem-solving skills across a broad mix of challenges, ranging from Sequences to Spatial Awareness, and from Literature to Logos.

One of the most demanding tasks proved to be finding the hidden link between a series of quiz answers. Would you be able to work out what links these four things?

- In America, a tornado is often called by what name beginning with T?
- What is the name of the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police?
- What is the word for an outbreak of a disease that occurs over a wide geographic area, such as multiple countries or continents?
- What is the scientific name for the skull?

Another tricky round involved students trying to establish the next item in a sequence, such as this one: Bill Bailey, Rose Ayling-Ellis, Hamza Yassin, Ellie Leach,?

Many thanks to all families who attended, and to the staff who helped design the tasks and oversee the various sessions.



STEM this term

Goldington Academy brings back the bees!

STEM club teamed up with #GeoRocks, Gardening and Eco club this term to help bring back the bees and pollinators to Goldington!

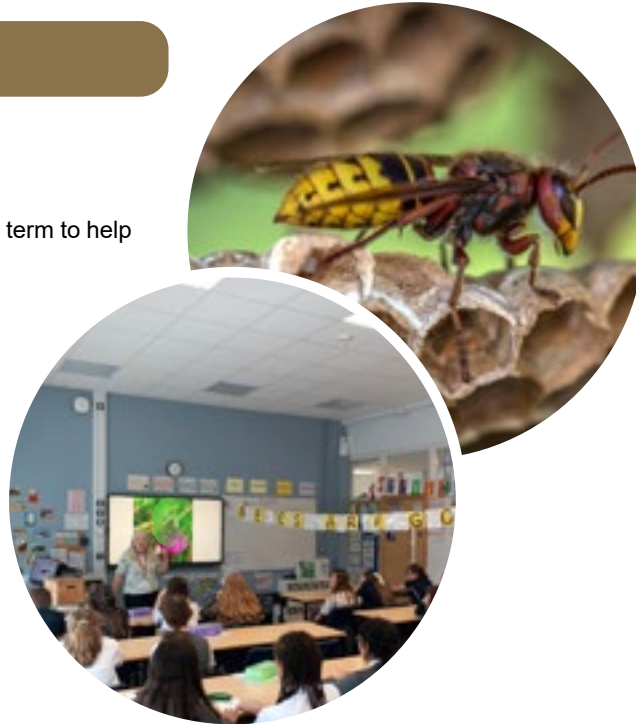
The project kicked off with a fascinating bee talk by Caroline Luxford from the Bedford Beekeeping Association.

Buzzing about our Bee Boxes

Inspired by Caroline's Bee talk we joined up with the Design Department and set to building bee boxes to adorn the walls of our rewilding area.

The students were inspired yet again by the work of Dominic Knowler from 'Niche'.

Dominic hosted a Zoom call for the students to talk through his career pathway of working in garden centre to setting up his Niche company, then going on to become a gold medal winner with the design of his amazing bee posts and planters. Dominic spoke to us about the design process and how many of his habitat solutions have been inspired by years of observing and enjoying the work of those who are truly trailblazing in the biodiversity space.



Coming soon: Rewild GA

We are currently having plans drawn up by Jo Roberts from the Forest of Marston Vale, who is helping us design and develop a rewilding area at the front of the Academy. We are planning for the future, planting trees, shrubs, wild flowers, pollinating plants, oh, and not forgetting our bee boxes, posts and planters! It's going to be wild! Planting will begin this Autumn. Watch this space!



STEM this term

Kew Gardens competition winners

Bee Project participants were given the chance to win a minibus seat to the annual Kew Gardens STEM trip. They

were asked 'What can we at Goldington Academy do to bring back the bees?' Some fantastic entries, presentations, even a fabulous poem from Isaac Harris:

Bees are important because they're cute,
And covered in a fluffy, fuzzy suit.
They collect all the pollen and pollinate the flowers,
It's like they have awesome superpowers!
They pack a mighty sting, but don't be scared,
They'll only defend if you let your teeth be bared.
But bees are dying because of climate change and habitat loss,
So, we must do our bit and become the climate boss!!!
We need to raise awareness and let others know,
The bees are going extinct and are on the go!
Put it in the bulletin and in the newsletter,
So, everyone's understanding can become better!
Promote 'No Mow May' and say,
"Don't cut the grass and let wildflowers grow,
Watch as the bees fly in as if you're watching your favourite show!
So spread the message so the bees can live,
And pollinate the flowers so there are more to live with.

Issac

Year Eights Borrow the Moon

Year Eights have been studying Rocks and were lucky enough to take advantage of UK Research and Innovation's, 'Borrow the Moon' project. Each class had the opportunity to become 'meteorite hunters' and explore boxes, containing earth, space and fossil related rocks. It was wonderful to see the amazement on the students' faces as they handled their own bit of space and, by the end of the session, all of them could tell you the difference between a meteoroid, meteor and meteorite.



Year Ten Legoland trip & the science of rollercoasters

Year Tens put their physics into action when they discovered and investigated what energy transfers occur during a rollercoaster cycle. Using their forces knowledge or gravity, friction, air resistance and centripetal force, they set to work in groups to design and build their own loop-the-loop LEGO rollercoaster.

They went on to experience the gravitational potential and kinetic energy on the rides. Scream if you want to go faster!

Gardening Club

This term has been a very busy in the garden and what with the weather being so good our seedlings have flourished.

We have had tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots and peppers to share with the Goldington community and plenty of flowers that have been displayed on main reception and in Student Services. The weather has ripened the soft fruit and the gardeners have enjoyed strawberries, raspberries and blackberries.

Here are a few words from our gardeners..... why we love coming to gardening club...

"I look forward to Thursday."

"Calming, Always great fun, Every week is different."

"Get way to socialise outdoors, We love to eat what we grow."

"Takes our minds off a bad day."



Kew Gardens

This term our gardening club and STEM club pupils visited the spectacular Kew Gardens. We were fortunate to have lovely weather and saw an amazing variety of plants. A fantastic time was had by all!



Special Education Needs & Disability Update



SEND identification:

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, scaffolded for individual pupils.

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

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 SENDCo 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. Please contact Miss Johnstone (johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk) 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 summer term to discuss progress, provision and Pupil Passports. If you have not yet had a chance to meet with the SENDCo, then please feel free to contact us to arrange a meeting in the Autumn Term. Correspondence about the next round of SEND consultation meetings will be sent out via Parentmail. Please make your appointment times via the booking system.

Important SEND 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-andor-disabilities>. We invite feedback for review and feedback of the current document and consequent update of these for September 2025.

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.

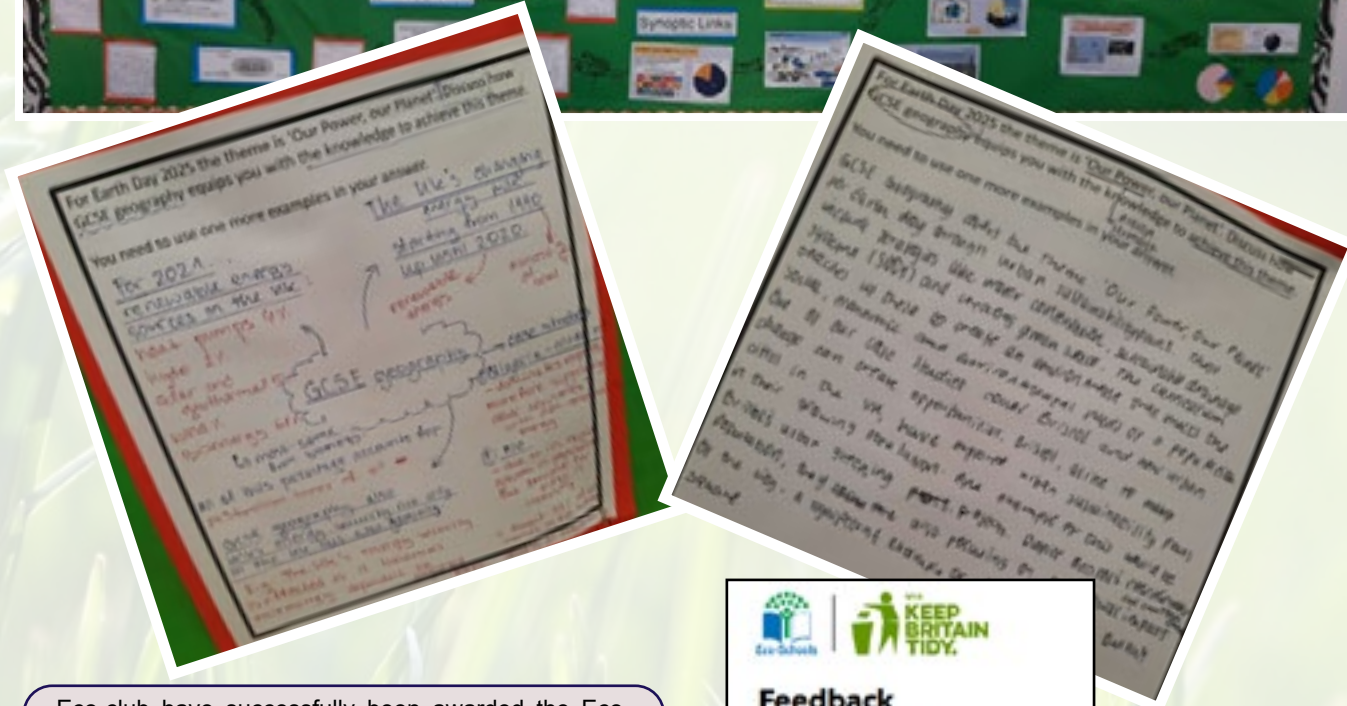
Contact us

With any issues regarding pupils and their SEND, Miss Johnstone, can be contacted either by phone, in person or by email johnstonec@goldington.beds.sch.uk. A drop-in session is available to parents on Mondays between 2.50 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."

Geography

Some of our wonderful Year 10 GCSE geographers took part in the Earth Day 2025 live lesson with the Economist Education Foundation. This was an interactive topical talk about green energy and sustainability. This year's Earth Day theme was 'Our Power, Our Planet'. Below shows some of the great work the Year 10 produced to capture their learning and link it to their GCSE studies. It is fair to say that they were amazing.

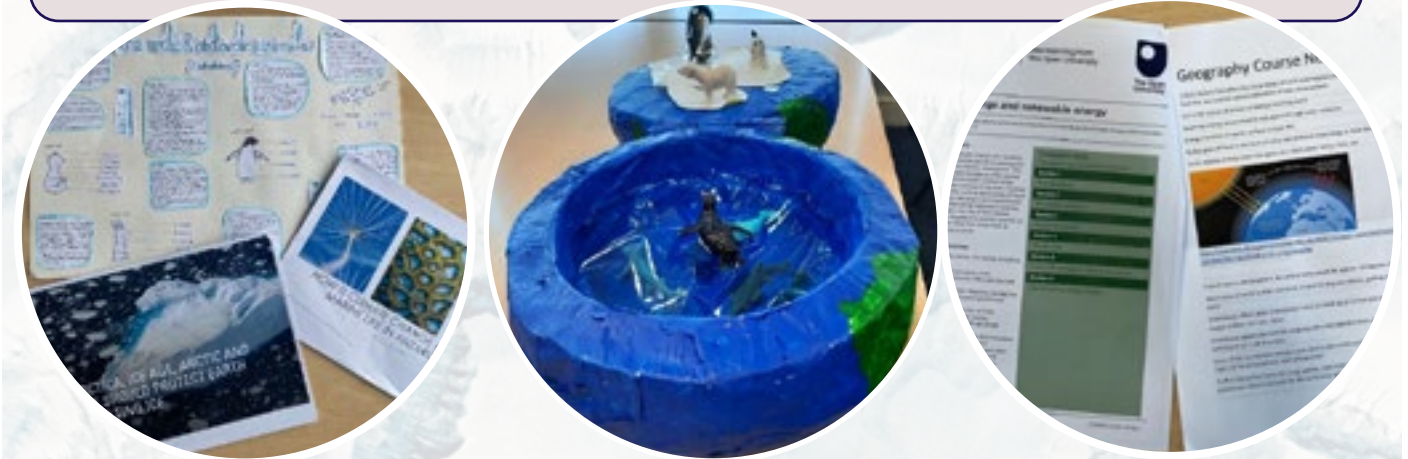


Eco-club have successfully been awarded the Eco-Schools green flag award with distinction. The eco-club has worked very hard this past year by trying to make Goldington Academy more environmentally friendly with different endeavours ranging from organising clothes drive and raising money for 'Just one tree' to partaking in a talk by the bee keeping society about how the school can increase the biodiversity on the school site. Following this talk they collaborated with the STEM club to make bee boxes. How great are they!



Frozen Planet

Our Year Eight geographers have been busy this term completing their self-directed project about the frozen planet. Topics ranged from the impacts of climate change, animal adaptations in cold environments to how the Northern and Southern lights attract adventure tourists. This year for the first time fifty two students decided to complete a free online level one Open University Course titled, 'Climate Change and renewable energy'. They displayed their understanding in the form of a final reflection. Here are just a few examples of their amazing work. Well done Year 8 we are very proud of your efforts, independence, creativity and ambition.



Key Stage Three Fieldwork



All of KS3 took part the Geographical Association's fieldwork fortnight, either around our school grounds or in the wider community. Here is what Year 8 did. On 24 and 25 of June 190 Year Eight students visited Marston Vale Forest Centre for an introduction into ecology and to take part in the Geographical Association annual fieldwork fortnight. Students were tasked with creating maps to get understanding of analysing their surroundings by adding trees, paths and bodies of water to a blank map. Furthermore, students then participated in a leaf hunt. Here students undertook the task of finding different types of leaves of varying shapes, sizes and variety. It was then a welcomed break for students to sit in the bird hide and draw and field sketch of their surroundings tying all their skills together that they had used that day.



Climate Change



Two Year Eight geographers wrote to one of our local MPs Mr Mohammad Yasin about their concerns about climate change and the impacts of this on cold environments and coastal communities, and we were delighted to hear Mr Yasin's response to both their letters. In short, he pledges to continue to advocate in Parliament for policies

that reduce emissions, protect communities from flooding and build a fairer, greener future for all. The boys' voices of concern were heard with compassion and action. It is now up to us to support them through education and action so that they can create the change they want to see locally and globally.

Geography Club

Geography clubbers have been very busy this term creating an ambitious display about the plight of plastic pollution in the ocean. This theme was inspired by our love of the ocean and it also coincided with this Year's Environment Day theme; 'BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION'. To create their display, they made a fish from old cardboard and crisp packets and tissue paper. They made a sculpture of a person using chicken wire and designed clothes and accessories using an unused shower curtain, recycled cardboard, old bottle tops, plastic wrapping and old newspapers. What a superb creation and collaborative effort it was and it didn't

stop there; they also made a separate skirt, top and a hat. The skirt was made from old curtains, they reused a zip from a cushion cover and decorated the front of the skirt with plastic bottles. The hat was sculpted from chicken wire, decorated with old felt and accessorised with marine animals from the unused shower curtain. The top was made a cushion cover. They exhibited their creations in the main hall for the school to enjoy. Here are some pictures to show them in action. They are now planning their Christmas project! Look out for this in the autumn newsletter. The geographer clubbers are incredible - #geogrocks



Cultural Day

This term, we proudly celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity, an initiative inspired by a former Year Eleven student who was passionate about promoting the richness of global cultures. We were delighted to support their vision and bring this celebration to life.

Students engaged in a range of enriching activities that highlighted the importance of intercultural dialogue and understanding. Students in Years Seven to Nine took part in specially designed lessons aimed at deepening their

appreciation for the values of cultural diversity.

The day was made even more vibrant as many students arrived in traditional cultural attire, showcasing the beauty and variety of their heritage. A lively performance by the steel pans band added a joyful rhythm to the celebration, making it a memorable experience for all.



Year Seven Mountfitchet Castle

On Friday, 23 May, we took the majority of our Year Seven students on a visit to Mountfitchet Castle in Stansted. With two coaches filled, and the weather being kind to us, we departed at 9am, all looking forward to the day ahead.

During the course of this year, Year Seven have studied Norman England and the castles built during that time, so this trip was a fantastic chance to connect their classroom learning with a real historical site. The castle, which acts as a living museum, gave students a vivid sense of what life might have been like during the Norman period.

While exploring the site, pupils listened to animatronic figures describe aspects of daily life in the castle. There were also interactive experiences — some students discovered how tiring it was to grind flour by hand, others curiously examined old torture devices (though only lightly!), and a few even experienced what it was like to be locked inside the castle's jail.

Overall, the visit was a great success and gave Year Seven a memorable insight into the past. We're already looking forward to organising another trip next year.

PE

Rounders:

Our rounders teams have had a busy term. Their results are as follows:

- Year Seven district tournament winners!
- Year Nine Rounders Team undefeated
- Goldington vs STM – Won 8 - 3
- Goldington vs Wootton – Won 19 - 3
- Year Ten rounders team undefeated
- Goldington vs STM – Won 8 - 4
- Goldington vs Wootton – Won 14 - 8.5

Netball:

- Year Nine netball team had their Bedfordshire league final vs Pixbrook and won! Bedfordshire League champions.
- Year Seven Netball Tournament District Champions!
- Year Eight Netball Tournament District Champions!
- A huge congratulations to our Year Nine netball team who finished the season as County League Champions! The girls were undefeated in their league pool, winning all their matches comfortably and showing real confidence and teamwork throughout.

They continued their brilliant run in the knockout stages, winning both the semi-final and final away from home to claim victory across Bedford. Every player gave it their all and the team played with energy, focus and a fantastic team spirit.

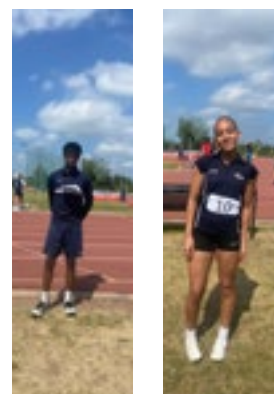
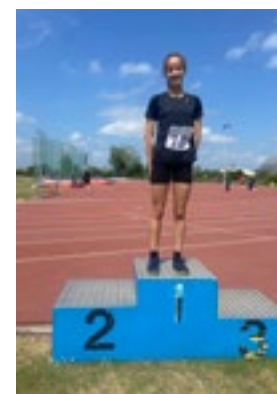
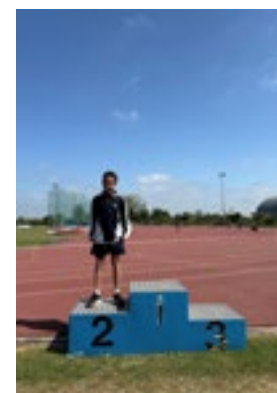
This is a fantastic achievement and we are incredibly proud of the whole squad. Well done, girls – you have represented the school brilliantly!

Athletics:

This term, our Year Seven, Eight, Nine, and Ten athletics teams have shown great commitment and achieved some fantastic performances on the track. We are especially proud of the individuals who secured 2nd place at the Year Seven/Eight district finals. Our Year Nine and Ten students had a fantastic time at the district athletics event, showing great spirit and determination throughout the day. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to compete against other schools and test their abilities on the track and field. Among the many strong performances, there were several standout achievements that deserve special recognition

- 2nd place in Junior Boys Shot Put
- 2nd place in Junior Girls 200m
- 2nd place in Junior Girls Relay
- 2nd place in Intermediate Boys 200m
- 2nd place in Intermediate Boys Javelin

Congratulations to all who participated and represented our school so proudly!



PE

Football:

The under 16 boys had their county final on their last day of school against Vandyke Upper School. The boys suffered a setback early on with a missed penalty but a moment of brilliance put them 1-0 up. Goldington Academy were controlling the game but were hit on the counter attack in the first half which saw Vandyke equalise. In the second half, a wonderful pass created the second goal. Five minutes later, Goldington were awarded a second penalty which this time was converted. Key interventions and an excellent save kept the score at 3-1. All the boys can be very proud of their efforts throughout the four years and there have been moments of excellence from all.

The under 13 girls had their county final against Robert Bloomfield on a roasting hot day. The girls were nervous at the start but quickly established themselves in the game with Lara forcing a number of good saves from their goalkeeper. Lola then put Goldington 1-0 up with a left footed finish. After half time two quick goals from Lara gave Goldington an established lead. However, two quick goals from Robert Bloomfield left the girls under pressure at the end but they managed to hold on for the win.

Rowing:

The rowing club is thriving, with sessions running smoothly every Tuesday and Friday morning. Recently, our pupils successfully completed their capsized drill, demonstrating their ability to swim 50 meters and tread water for two minutes. With this crucial skill under their belts, they are now eager to progress to rowing on the water in the upcoming weeks.

Tennis:

Well done to the Year Seven and Eight girls' teams yesterday who managed to secure 1st and 2nd places in their respective tennis competitions, which was held at Bedford School tennis courts. The girls battled hard in the hot conditions and did themselves proud.

Cricket:

Next term, our girls' cricket matches start.

Sports Leaders:

Our sports leaders, who range across all year groups, have been doing a fantastic job. They participated in an event at Hazeldene, where delivered multi-sports activities to the younger years, showcasing their leadership and coaching skills. Additionally, they played a crucial role in organising and assisting with our sports day, ensuring it was a memorable event for all.

Golf:

We had a great day playing with our groups, some good and bad holes along the way. Had it not been for the fact we were short on one player we would have placed joint 1st, but we had to concede 2nd, but were were happy with that. It just showed us that we need to strive and work harder in future competitions if we want to reach for the top position. Choe & Lily (Year Nine).



Under 16 Boys' Football Team



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 94% and our school target is 96%. Please ensure that in September 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.

This term's high achievers

| Year | Winner | Runner Up |
|-------|---------------|-----------|
| Seven | Safiyah | Laura |
| Eight | Otis | Johnny |
| Nine | Emily & Riley | Vedika |
| Ten | Amal | Samuel |

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
- **In an immediate emergency always dial 999**
- **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
- **Bedford Borough Early Help** call - 01234 718700 - EarlyHelpHub@Bedford.gov.uk
- **National Bullying Helpline** - 0330 3230169
- **Young Minds** - <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>
- **CAMH Self-referral** - <https://www.elft.nhs.uk/camhs/self-referral-form-bedford-north-bedfordshire-camhs>

Anti-bullying & Restorative Justice

Well done to this year's anti-bullying ambassadors and restorative justice ambassadors. These ambassadors have played a vital role in our anti-bullying ethos through this peer-led initiative.

| Year | Anti-Bullying | Restorative Justice |
|--------|--|--|
| Seven | Bella, Lacey-Mai, Corey, Lyra, Jack | Olivia, Livvy, Giorgia, Kataleja, Macie, Zak |
| Eight | Hayleigh, Millie, JJ, Harry, Jack, Lucas | Nina, Mahi, Emilie, Isaac, Jethro |
| Nine | Elodie, Austin, Emma, Matthew, Lexi | Ella, Jacob, Charlotte, Gabriella, Ethan |
| Ten | Dearan, Delia, Eva, Aleeza, Ruby | Vanshi, Divjot, Jessica, Andrew |
| Eleven | Brishna, Freddie, Max, Dansh, Miah | Haddiyah, Jay, Emily, Joel, Mohammed |



Second-hand Uniform Shop



Second-hand school uniform can be purchased at a discounted rate via email request. Please contact Mrs Catrambone (catrambonej@goldington.beds.sch.uk) with your requests, including size requirements, to find out what we have in stock.

We are still gratefully receiving any donations of school uniform/PE kit that are clean and in good condition. Items can be dropped off at reception or brought to Student Services by your child.

Brand new school ties are available to purchase via Student Services for £7.25. Please email Mrs Catrambone on the above email address.

School Uniform Expectations

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our uniform policy - please see below:

Pupil non-compliance

Teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy. A Principal, or a person authorised by the Principal, may ask a pupil to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision, schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents.

This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence. In either case, the pupil's parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy, then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.

Form Tutors and Heads of Year will routinely check the uniform and equipment of students in their year group/form group and will follow the procedure outlined below when challenging non-compliance with the academy uniform and equipment policy.

Unacceptable items of uniform/dress:

Trousers with decorative items, such as buttons or embroidery are **NOT** permitted. Trousers should be tailored and **NOT** be made of stretch, lycra, skinny or highly fashionable in style, nor should they have cargo or jeans style pockets. Dark grey shorts do not form part of the school uniform and therefore they should not be worn.

- 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
- Please note - piercing retainers are not allowed to be used as a substitute for piercings. 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. A watch may be worn provided it is marked with the owner's name.
- The wearing of wrist bands and bracelets is not permitted, unless for religious purposes.
- Only badges provided by the school are to be worn.
- Hair styles should **NOT** include unnatural colours, patterns or designs. Any student wearing unnatural colour in their hair will be asked to remove it immediately.
- No tramlines or patterns should be shaved into hair or the eyebrows.
- Hair bands should be discreet and plain in colour e.g. black, blue etc. Fashion type hair bands should not be worn in school.
- Trainers should not be worn during classroom-based lessons, unless otherwise agreed by the Academy Principal. If trainers are to be worn for an agreed reason, they should be black and discreet.
- Light make-up may be worn e.g. concealer, mascara. However, students may be asked to remove make-up if it is deemed to be inappropriate or too heavy e.g. foundation.
- Nail varnish should **NOT** be worn. Any students who are found to be wearing nail varnish will be asked to remove it. Continued wearing of jewellery, nail varnish will result in a referral to the Head of Year and may result in a consequence such as loss of break/lunch time.

Debate Club



Some exciting times for Debate club, although winding down now for the summer.

Since last we spoke, we have undertaken a great 3 part debate over at Bedford Academy where our KS3 teams won the question of 'pineapple should go on pizza' and 'Jaffa cakes are cakes'. Our KS4 debate about 'Genetic editing should be allowed to guarantee health' was neck and neck, with both teams

using the same sources of information to argue the opposing points, and Goldington losing to Bedford Academy in the last round of questions.

In school club sessions, we have held Speed Debating, Balloon debates, and a great extended debate about whether the school holidays should be shorter or not. The jury is still out on this one, with both sides arguing some very strong points related to costs, parental holiday rights, and even students ability to recall knowledge over such a long summer break.

Alongside this, our existing debate club members welcomed a number of year 6 students on transition day, where we introduced them to the world of debate with such topics as 'dogs are better than cats' or 'aliens exist', and we listened to some very interesting reasons behind their choices.

We look forward to the coming year, and are actively planning our next calendar of competitions and interschool debates for September onwards.

TEDx Goldington Academy Youth

Wow! Our first TEDx Youth event was such a success with many high quality speeches and an enthusiastic audience. Year Ten students spoke about a diverse range of topics with titles ranging from 'Narratives, Noise and Norms' through to 'Emotional Human Connections', all with a shared theme of "Lenses of perception in a noisy world."

TEDx Youth events are special because they remind us that young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but also the thinkers and dreamers of today.

We were delighted to welcome parents, staff, governors and future student TEDx presenters to an evening of sparks — sparks of curiosity, courage and creativity.



Term Dates

| Autumn Term 2025 | |
|--|--|
| School closed - Staff Training Day (1) | Monday, 1 September 2025 |
| Start of term | Tuesday, 2 September 2025 |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (2) | Friday, 24 October 2025 |
| Half term | Monday, 27 October - Friday, 31 October 2025 |
| Last day of term | Friday, 19 December 2025 |
| Spring Term 2026 | |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (3) | Monday, 5 January 2026 |
| Start of term | Tuesday, 6 January 2026 |
| Half term | Monday, 16 - Friday, 20 February 2026 |
| Last day of term | Friday, 27 March 2026 |
| Summer Term 2026 | |
| School closed - Staff Training Day (4) | Monday, 13 April 2026 |
| Start of term | Tuesday, 14 April 2026 |
| School closed - Bank Holiday | Monday, 4 May 2026 |
| Half term | Monday, 25 May - Friday, 29 May 2026 |
| Last day of term | Friday, 17 July 2026 |

