

BACK TO THE 80'S



Read more about this amazing school production inside our latest newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

April 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Another term is over and I am very proud of the success we have had. I was delighted with the Ofsted report, which I felt overall gave a very accurate picture of where we are as a school. Please be assured however that we will not be resting on our laurels.

The new library is now properly open and proving a great success with the children. Within these pages there is a wealth of information about the trips, visits and clubs that we have been involved in. I think one of the great triumphs of this term has been the return of so much extra curricular opportunity for our young people.

We finish this term with an additional mufti for Ukraine. I am sure, like myself, you have looked on horrified at the unfolding events. It reminds us, perhaps, that however challenging our own lives can sometimes be, there are others who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in far worse situations.

Good luck to the Year 11s with their revision this Easter. Remember the balance. Rest and relaxation is key, but so is a timetable of when your child will do some studying.

Have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing your child back on **Wednesday 20 April**.

Kind regards



Francis Galbraith
Principal



**Year 10 end of year exams will be taking place between
Monday 6 June and Tuesday 21 June.
An exam timetable will be sent home next half term.
Please avoid making appointments**

NOTE FROM THE GOVERNORS

Dear All

As a governing body, we have known for a while that we were overdue a visit from Ofsted, but when the long-awaited phone call came in February, it still felt a surprise. The three days that followed were inevitably stressful for staff although, from my observation, all coped well. From a personal perspective, I really quite enjoyed the governors' meeting with the lead inspector and the opportunity to discuss how Goldington Academy has retained its values and ethos over a period of change. The governing body are very pleased that the published report reflects the hard work of the past six years as Goldington Academy has successfully converted to a secondary school. At the next meeting of the governing body, we will reflect on the good practice identified in the report and look at how we can develop the areas for improvement over the next few years.

Of course, Goldington Academy does not operate for the benefit of Ofsted, but for its pupils. As a governing body we want to help maintain a school that aims to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to meet their full potential. Ofsted state that the governors at Goldington Academy are "highly skilled". I am eager to ensure that as a governing body in the future, we are as well prepared as we are now. A good governing body will offer a range of skills and we are always interested in adding to our existing skill base. There are a diverse range of skills that a successful governing body requires – educational, financial, legal, HR, engineering and the arts to name just a few. Whilst we do not have any specific vacancies for parent governors, we do have a vacancy for an appointed governor and I am always interested in hearing from anyone (parent, carer or otherwise) who might like to join us whether as a governor or perhaps an available advisor, as and when required. If you are interested in supporting the school with the governing body, please contact me through the school office.

TERM DATES 2021 — 2022 / 2022-2023

Summer Term 2022	
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 18 April 2022
School Closed – Staff Training Day (4)	Tuesday 19 April 2022
Start of Term	Wednesday 20 April 2022
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 2 May 2022
Half Term	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June 2022
Last day of term	Thursday 21 July 2022
Autumn Term 2022	
School Closed – Staff Training Day (1)	Thursday 1 September 2022
School Closed – Staff Training Day (2)	Friday 2 September 2022
Start of Term	Monday 5 September 2022
School Closed – Staff Training Day (3)	Friday 21 October 2022
Half Term	Monday 24 – Friday 28 October 2022
Spring Term 2023	
School Closed – Staff Training Day (4)	Tuesday 3 January 2023
Start of Term	Wednesday 4 January 2023
Half Term	Monday 13 – Friday 17 February 2023
Last day of term	Friday 31 March 2023

CREATIVE ARTS

YEAR 9 CREATIVE ARTS DAY

This term, Year 9 students participated in their annual creative arts drop down day celebrating International Women's day. The students worked with the Art, Dance and Music departments to focus on how women have contributed to the arts.

In art, students made paper flowers, using extracts from the book 'Fight like a girl'. Every flower had hidden messages about female empowerment. We intend to produced a bouquet that will be displayed in the library entitled 'Flower empower'.

In dance, students experienced a ballet class, exploring the role of women within this dance form. They were challenged to learn the dance of the cygnets from Swan Lake which was lots of fun!



In music, we looked at strong, talented women in music, who had not only overcome adversity to reach the top, but used their considerable profiles to support a range of causes and lift others up too. The musicians we researched included Ella Fitzgerald, Aretha Franklin, Dolly Parton, Beyoncé and Lady Gaga.



60 BY 16 ARTS AND CULTURE CHALLENGE



In the autumn term, we launched a challenge to our KS3 students to complete 60 arts and culture challenges in and around Bedford. The aim of this project is to signpost our students to the wonderful arts and culture opportunities on our doorstep and to celebrate our town.

Challenges appear on our social media feeds and can be accessed through our website. Email 60by16@goldington.beds.sch.uk to let us know what challenges you have completed!

GOLDINGTON'S GOT TALENT!



At the end of this term we held auditions for the return of Goldington's Got talent!

Urban, in Y10, has done an outstanding job at organising this event. We are really excited to see the talent within the Goldington family and cannot wait to share the final with you after the Easter break.

CREATIVE ARTS

ARTS AWARD

A selection of students have been working towards achieving their Bronze Arts Award during sessions held every Friday after school. The group have had to complete 4 components to pass the course and prepare a portfolio of work as evidence of their journey. They have had to participate in a range of dance activities, plan and deliver an arts skill to share with the group, attend and review an arts performance and research their own arts inspiration.



On Friday 4 February, we attended a performance of 'The Beautiful Game' at The Place Theatre as part of our course. The dance piece was based on football and was so much fun! We particularly liked the moment the dancers re-enacted football players' reactions to being fouled on the pitch! We had the opportunity to speak and question the choreographers and dancers which gave us great insight into the choreographic process and life as a dancer.

SAVE THE DATE! CREATIVE ARTS EVENTS

Thursday 21 April	Drama Performance C2
Thursday 28 April	Goldington's Got Talent Final
Wednesday 4 May	Year 8 Arts Day
Wednesday 4 May	Year 11 Recital
Friday 8 July	Summer Music Concert
During the summer term:	Year 7 & 8 Art Exhibition
	Year 11 Art Exhibition

DANCE

During this term, our Year 8 students have been exploring Diversity Dance company by learning their repertoire and developing an understanding of the choreographic intentions of dance. Our Year 9 students have learnt all about the history of Urban arts and the fundamental principles of Hip Hop dance.

Our GCSE and PLP students have immersed themselves in performance preparation in readiness for the dance showcase which took place at the end of this term. This was our first opportunity to celebrate the students' work through live performance!

DANCE

U:DANCE

One of the dance department's highlights of the year is U:Dance. The students, from Y8 to Y10 have been working incredibly hard to perfect our piece for this wonderful youth dance celebration. We spent the day at the University of Bedfordshire, with other selected youth dance groups from across the South East, and participated in a number of workshops as well as a careers talk. We particularly loved the Afrobeats workshop for its high energy and challenge!



We finished the day with an evening performance of our piece 'Forest of Fear'. The students were outstanding!

Here are some of the things the judges had to say about our piece:

"Some challenging choreography was shown in this piece which was handled very well. The aesthetic was very striking.

The intent of the piece built gradually - there were interesting changes in dynamic.

There was an excellent section involving the solo dancer facing the group in the upstage corner.

The dancers should feel very proud of themselves."



The organisers sent this through too:

"They were a credit to you and the group and their enthusiasm, energy and talent was wonderful to see."

The dance department are extremely proud too!

YEARS 9, 10 & 11 DANCE WORKSHOP

Our students had the opportunity to work with dance artist Bette-Ann Belton earlier this term as part of the Bedford Mobile Dance workshop programme. This enabled our students to develop their dance performance and choreography skills. This upbeat and challenging workshop allowed our students to access new movement material which will feed into their own choreographic work. Working with a dance professional helps our students to see that Dance as a future career is accessible and so very possible!



DANCE

GOLDINGTON DANCE DEPARTMENT SHOWCASE

We celebrated the end of the spring term with our first in-house performance of students' work. Due to the disruption of the pandemic, this milestone was the first opportunity our Year 11 students have had to perform exam work to an audience. GCSE students have worked so very hard this year and we thoroughly enjoyed this important celebration.

The evening was also an opportunity for our Year 9 PLP and Year 10 GCSE students to perform classwork to their families as well as giving our U: Dance dancers another opportunity to perform their piece at school.



DRAMA



Back to the 80's was an incredible show performed by the pupils of Goldington Academy. Both performances were sold out and it was an amazing opportunity to see my friends and peers perform in a show they had worked so hard to put together. The directors and hardworking teachers that put the show together were Mr Stratton (Head of Drama), Mrs Mahoney (Head of Dance), Mrs Lopez (Head of Art), Mr King (Head of Music) and many other teachers who worked incredibly hard behind the scenes. The show was incredibly

choreographed and staged amazingly. Based directly on the 80's, the show tells the story of Corey Palmer (played by Freddie) and Tiffany Houston (played by Amelie) in their senior year at William Ocean High School. It is remembered in the eyes of Corey Palmer Sr (played by Theo). Corey is madly in love with his next-door neighbour Tiffany but she is too interested in the hottest guy in school Michael Feldman (played by Gianluca). The storyline is displayed through song, dance and acting. The acting and singing in this show were absolutely phenomenal. All students had the chance to showcase their singing and dancing skills and some students had the chance to show the audience their acting skills as well. The performance had a mixture of whole group singing, trios, duets and solos. Throughout the whole show there was singing of many popular 80's songs such as 'Girls just wanna have fun' and many more. I loved how the show had links to events and trends in the 80's such as the Rubik's cube. The set design was very minimalistic with a few benches, lockers and a small desk. The use of props was also quite minimalist. There were blow-up speakers, a phone, sunglasses and folders. The costumes in this show were perfect for the era this was set in. The costumes were based on a neon colour scheme and they were quite abstract, including having fishnet gloves, beads and glasses that were all neon. The main thing about the show was that it was extremely enjoyable and fun. The audience was filled with laughter, cheers and lots of smiling as they watched. My favourite part was that the show ended happily with all of the cast singing together and the band playing. This brought the show to a great ending. Overall, this show was absolutely amazing and it was so enjoyable to watch over 6 months of hard work be put into one performance. Amelie Thomson Year 8

DRAMA



7

Year 7 drama club have been working hard with Miss Gardner on a project involving short stories and improvised endings. Miss Gardner says. It has been great fun working with such a talented bunch of students who all have a shared interest and passion for creating and performing!'

The club will continue next year and is open to all.

Once again, Goldington Academy students trod the boards of The Place theatre in their 2022 show 'Back to the 80's – The Totally Awesome Musical!' The two-night performance was a resounding success involving over forty students and selling out both nights. We would like to thank our Goldington Academy community for supporting the students and staff alike in getting this show up and running.



Some parent feedback:

"We just wanted to say thank you so much for the brilliant 'Back to the 80's' production, you did such a fantastic job – and the performers were all so good. It was really vibrant and uplifting and great fun. The students seem to have really enjoyed themselves as well – and it's been a brilliant experience for them all."

"I felt that I had to e-mail and say how brilliant the whole production was. The students were a credit to the school and the way your staff spoke about the Academy was sincere."

"I understand how important it is to have a sense of belonging at a school and it was evident that the staff and students have that in abundance. Thank you for a truly enjoyable evening and well done to all involved."

We look forward to next year's show!



Student Spotlight



Bea recently took part in The Bedfordshire Festival of Music, Speech and Drama and we are pleased to share that she came away with not only one, but two pole positions!

She achieved first place in Class 366: Prepared Reading – Year 7. Her chosen book was 'A Girl Who Walked On Air' by Emma Carroll.

She was also awarded third place with her partner for Class 375: Prose | Reading Duet – Year 7-8. The poem read was 'Knick Knack Man' by Laura Mucha. Well done.

Note: All students – if you have taken part in any Creative Arts events outside of school, please let Mr Stratton know so that we can celebrate your achievements!

MUSIC



Music has been constantly emanating from the music room over the last term in preparation for a number of exciting performances.

Our hugely talented Year 11 Bandits group represented Goldington at the long-awaited return of the Bedfordshire Battle of the Bands. After weeks of intensive rehearsals, the four-piece made up of GCSE students, took to the stage at one of the most iconic venues around, The Stables. Their performance of 'Old Yellow Bricks' by The Arctic Monkeys, followed by the Nina Simone classic, 'Feeling Good', was delivered with style and panache. The winners will be announced in a special broadcast on Thursday 5 May, so watch this space!

As a staff, we have been blown away by the talent on display in the auditions for Goldington's Got Talent and I have been lucky to see the hours of preparation that have gone into the performances from such a diverse range of acts. The organisation and production values for this competition have been largely down to the incredible hard-work, determination and commitment of Year 10 student, Urban. The much-anticipated final will take on Thursday 28 April, with details to follow soon.

Finally, the end of term is being rounded off in style, with musicians from Years 10 and 11 taking part in the Bedford Breakthrough evening at yet another local, iconic venue, Esquires. Rehearsals sound fantastic, so I am sure the final sets will be even better!

We will be introducing some new extra-curricular groups next term, including a school orchestra and guitar ensemble. Look on the Goldington website for further information of these and all of the other music clubs and groups on offer.

Nothing beats live music and with that in mind, here are another couple of important dates for your diaries:

- Year 11 GCSE Music recital on Wednesday 4 May, which will take place in the Exhibition Space
- Goldington Summer Concert, which will again be held in the University of Bedfordshire Theatre, on Friday 8 July.

Both of these occasions will begin at 7.00 pm.



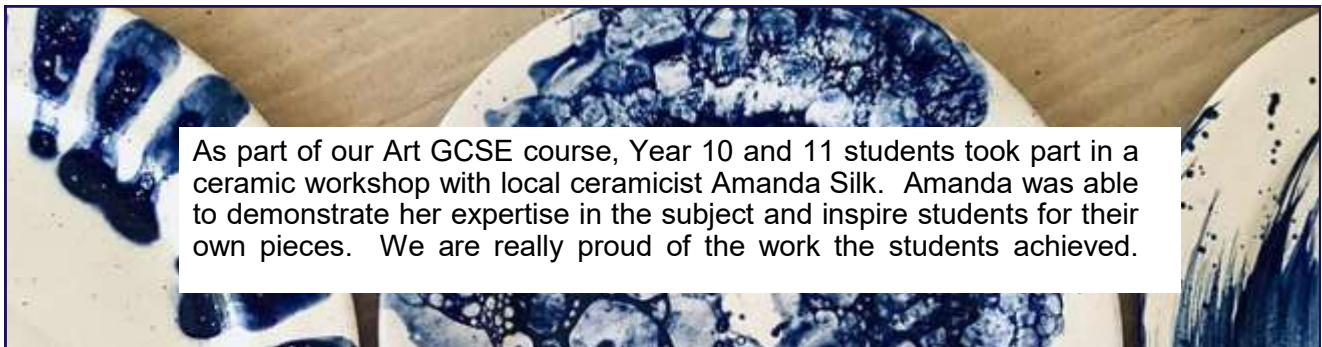
ART

HARPUR TRUST WORKSHOP

Selected Year 9 students took part in an art workshop led by Anne-Marie Abbate for this year's Harpur Trust competition. The theme was 'Future Bedford'. Anne-Marie spoke to students about Bedford High Street and how times have been tough for it, often leading to 'for sale signs'. Students were briefed to design signs advertising positivity and hope for the future in order to help support our local high street.



CERAMICS WORKSHOP



As part of our Art GCSE course, Year 10 and 11 students took part in a ceramic workshop with local ceramicist Amanda Silk. Amanda was able to demonstrate her expertise in the subject and inspire students for their own pieces. We are really proud of the work the students achieved.

THE PLACE THEATRE POP EXHIBITION



After many months of prepping and practising through workshops, Year 8 students were able to exhibit their final abstract paintings for the POP exhibition. The exhibition of paintings of iconic 80's musicians ran alongside the Back to the 80's performance. The exhibition also had pieces from winners of a 'Back to the 80's' art competition. Well done to Rhys for his winning entry!

ART

INSPIRE EXHIBITION



We were thrilled to invite the local community to the 'Inspire' exhibition at Goldington Academy, involving talented local artists Amanda Silk, Anne-Marie Abbate, Fiona Wilson and Katie Allen. We exhibited artists' work publicly for the very first time in our wonderful exhibition space within our new art centre. Students were able to discuss careers with the artists, enthusing future generations with artwork and the many possibilities it could give them.

Coming up in the art department

Year 8 & 9 end of year exhibition

Year 11 end of year exhibition

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

KS3

The first rotation of Year 7 students have completed their nature inspired LED laser cut key rings, learning all about biomimicry design, how to use 2D design to convert existing images ready for the laser cutting process. They were very happy with the results! [#CADCAM](#) [#design](#)



Below are wonderfully inspired designs from Year 7 for their vacuum formed travel games. Students have learnt: how to use hand tools safely and accurately; the importance of a draft angle when vacuum forming; what the difference is between thermoforming and thermosetting polymers and a lot more! Logo designs were developed to create unique and individually adapted ideas. Well done!



YEAR 8

Year 8 students have been investigating different types of timbers and the benefits of each to suit a purpose. Their confidence has grown when sketching out ideas, developing them on 2D design and having their designs engraved using the laser cutter. To build their timber frames, students learnt the importance of accurate marking with specialist tools and learnt how to make a lap joint. In addition, pupils refined their products through quality control and attention to detail. [#timberframe](#) [#oblique](#)

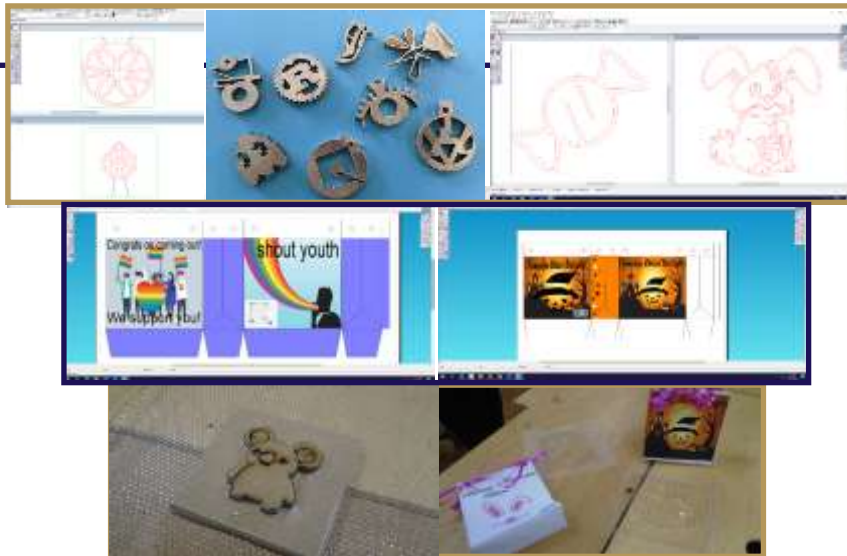


DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 9

Year 9 students in the first rotation have completed a range of wonderful pewter pendants inspired by existing designers' work. For example, William Morris. Can you spot his work?

Expanding on their CAD knowledge, pupils designed celebration inspired chocolate moulds using laser cutting and vacuum forming. To fully complete this mini task students created small bags to help promote their theme for a chosen client.



YEAR 10

In Year 10, students have continued to develop their drawing techniques through independent design and research. Students were given the premise of the design but were challenged to develop their ideas further. Lots of hand tools, CAD, vacuum forming, hot wire cutting, LED work, measuring and iterations!



CAREERS

UNIFROG

Students in Years 7 – 11 all have an account on our careers platform, Unifrog. On here any careers-related activities students engage with are recorded by staff; students can add their own activities and store electronic copies of certificates and awards in their 'locker'. There are various quizzes to complete to explore subject interests, career interests and personality traits, as well as webinars for students to watch which support them with their future choices.



Currently students in 7A, 8E, 9C, 10Y and 11A are at the top of their year group leader boards for their engagement with Unifrog, and when students log in, they are told their position in their own year group. It can become quite competitive between individuals who want to be the top of their year group, and it is fantastic to see our students engaging so well with learning about their future options and interests.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK, 07-14 FEBRUARY



During National Apprenticeship Week, students heard about the variety of opportunities to study while working and earning a wage. Ask Apprenticeships presented an assembly for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and students engaged in subject-specific lessons with an apprenticeship theme.

In Life Skills, all year groups took part in virtual escape room activities, practising key employability skills such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving and aiming high.

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK, 07 – 14 MARCH



In celebration of National Careers Week, students were treated to hearing from subject teachers, support staff and governors about their own career journeys, that were shared either via our noticeboards, office doors or shared in lessons. We talked about our favourite subjects at school, post-16 studies, post-18 pathways and the various job roles undertaken over the years, with a focus on the employability skills used in context. Students learnt that career pathways are rarely straightforward, but that with positivity, aiming high and the essential skills, successes are possible.

The theme of this year's NCW was 'It's all about you'. Mrs Sacre delivered a themed assembly to all year groups, including an inspiring video where celebrities talked about overcoming adversity to reach their dreams. This short video can be seen here: <https://www.becomingx.com/#> and more inspiring films, including interviews from icons such as Roger Federer, Bear Grylls, Dynamo, Victoria Pendleton and Sir Ranulph Finnes can be found here: <https://www.becomingx.com/our-films/>.

In Life Skills, Year 10 and 11 took part in Young Citizens' 'The Big Legal Lesson' during National Careers Week, introducing them to careers related to law and sociology, and enabling them to explore the law in relation to social media and various associated crimes. They used their skills in problem solving and team work to judge the level of punishment for each of the social media violations.

In Life Skills, we combined National Careers Week with International Women's Day and Years 7, 8 and 9 completed a quiz celebrating some amazing women's pioneering careers which have impacted our lives as we live them now. Ada Lovelace, Emmeline Pankhurst and Josephine Cochrane were among the women whose achievements we learnt about, together with ways to challenge stereotypes, break the bias and the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

CAREERS



TRIPS

Year 10 were fortunate enough to experience a careers fair at MK Marshall Arena when they visited the National Apprenticeship Show and Higher Education Expo. This was our first careers outing since before the pandemic! Meeting and engaging with employers, taking part in team

building activities with the army and speaking to universities to find out about the courses they offer practised their communication skills, helped students to explore their future options, and the free pens were an added bonus!



SKILLS BUILDER PARTNERSHIP

Year 10 continue to build their employability skills via The Skills Builder Partnership during Life Skills lessons, and skills icons have been included in all schemes of work Years 7 – 11 to identify when students are practising each of the skills. You can find out more about Skills Builder here: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/about>.

As part of our Whole School Read, led by the English department, form tutors have been invited to nominate students in their key stage 3 tutor groups who have demonstrated particularly good listening and speaking skills during the form time reading activities. These students will be receiving recognition of these skills with a Skills Builder certificate, which they can add as a 'locker' item on Unifrog to celebrate their achievements!



CAREERS

SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS – VIRTUAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Speakers for Schools run a variety of activities for students to engage in, but in particular there are plenty of opportunities to join online/virtual work experience placements with some of the biggest names in business, including Superdry, Bentley, NHS, BP and The Royal Air Force, to name but a few. The range of businesses and subjects is extensive and worth exploring, as any experience gained helps towards future applications and CV-writing.



Placements are set-up to be convenient for the school day - most either take place in the evenings, during holidays or occasionally at weekends so essential learning is not missed.

Details of upcoming placements are periodically shared via email directly to students in the relevant year groups, although it's worth browsing the opportunities via the platform as new placements are offered all the time. All students have to do is complete an application for the placement they would like to join and provide details about their interests and a contact email. The employers receive applications from all over the country and successful participants are notified via email. Due to safeguarding, all students require parental consent to engage with the experience, and Mrs Sacre is also required to provide a reference/recommendation for every student. Several students, past and present, have undertaken these virtual placements, and have found them very valuable. But places are limited, so if students see one they like the look of they should apply as soon as possible.

More information about the organisation and opportunities can be found here:

[Virtual Work Experience | VWEX | Speakers for Schools](#)

LEVEL 5 RHS GARDENING AWARD



We were delighted to find out that we have been successful in gaining the highest award for our gardening club – the Level 5 RHS Campaign for School Gardening Award! Out of the 3458 secondary schools in England - 38 have got RHS Level 5 for School Gardening. Not all of those schools are registered with the Royal Horticultural Society.

To achieve this level we needed to:

- Talk enthusiastically about our garden and inform others of the plants we have been growing and any projects or activities we have done
- share our garden with others in our local community through open days, sales and events
- demonstrate what gardening skills we have learnt and passed onto others in the community
- use the garden as much as we can

We are looking forward to receiving our certificate, plaque and, of course, the £200 gardening vouchers Well done to all involved, but particularly Mrs Harvey for supporting the students to achieve this level!

CAREERS

GARDENING – SPACE TO GROW!

Space to Grow is an innovative project started this year by Mrs Harvey to allow small groups of students from Years 7-9 to learn skills and outside of the classroom environment, allowing them to benefit from a different style of teaching in addition to their science lessons. Students have been very busy this term planting many bulbs and seeds including crocuses, daffodils, coriander, watermelon, blue tomato and purple beans ready for planting out when it gets warmer. We have been prepping and planning for the spring/summer by measuring out their growing plots and working out which plant would grow best in which spot, practising their teamwork and leadership skills whilst continuing to stay positive and aiming high even when something does not go to plan. We have also had great fun building some sturdy bamboo structures, looked at using fruit and vegetables to power a clock, and have recently become home to 10 caterpillars who we hope we can release when they are beautiful butterflies!



Meanwhile, our lunchtime gardening club, Grow @ Goldington, has been busy on several other projects, including the very popular Valentines' roses which were delivered anonymously during form times to students and staff. All funds raised will go into buying plants and accessories for the school garden! Gardening club also joined forces with the ambassadors from Geography Club to plant some trees as part of the Bedford Borough Council tree giveaway, and Mrs Harvey had a special plaque made to commemorate the occasion for years to come.

Grow @ Goldington continues to run with Mrs Sacre and Mrs Harvey, and Mrs Harvey runs an additional lunchtime gardening club when she is in school for the Space to Grow project. Gardening is a great tonic for the soul, and it is very gratifying to watch your seeds, bulbs and plants growing, particularly in the spring. Everyone is invited to pop along and lend a hand. It will soon be quite a busy time of year in the gardening calendar and we are always grateful for extra pairs of hands to help with the watering.

We have been very excited to see our new shed and greenhouse being constructed in the garden area, and can't wait to start filling them with wonderful plants and our gardening equipment!



In February, Goldington Academy's geography and gardening clubs teamed up to plant four trees (three dogwoods and one maple tree) in the garden area. This was part of Bedford Borough Council's tree giveaway initiative during February half-term. The aim is to plant 10,000 trees in the borough and 5000 trees were offered to local residents, business and schools. We were lucky enough to get hold of some! The giveaway is one of many events taking place throughout the borough and supports the Queen's Green Canopy and other projects. So far, we have planted the three dogwoods next to the garden area's fence. They are only saplings right now but we are hoping they will stay in the school for many years to come. We decided to plant these trees because as a school we wanted to make a difference and help our school community.

Following this we will be plant some more trees before Easter as part of the Natwest Money Sense project. Watch this space for more photos!

ENGLISH & LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

BACK TO THE THEATRE! AT LAST

It felt so good this term to finally get back to the theatre again: the dimming lights, the hushed voices and the anticipation of that curtain rising. After two years of closed theatres and restrictions, we were able to take our Year 8 and our Year 9 to see fantastic live performances of the texts they have been studying and give them the kind of experiences they have been missing.

First to go were Year 8 to see 'The Woman in Black'. This was our fourth trip to see this well-known play and as expected it caused a few screams! The performance is interesting because it relies on minimal props and only two actors, yet the story is conveyed with just as much power and fear. Then there is the woman in black herself who never fails to terrify as she walks among the audience.

Next up were Year 9 to see the dazzling sets and costumes of 'Much Ado About Nothing'. A futuristic setting, gold fountains, silver frocks and impressive hairstyles certainly were a feast for the eyes. The musical moments were also fantastic.

Our current Year 10s will also have an opportunity with a production of Priestley's timeless classic 'An Inspector Calls' in September. This is a core English GCSE text and it will be a great opportunity to see a live performance of this play and revise whilst enjoying the show.



Have a few hours to spare?

The English department would be very pleased to hear from members of the community who would be interested in coming in to school to read with some of our students. Training will be given! If this is something you would like more information on, please contact Mrs Bennett-Fowlds (bennetth@goldington.beds.sch.uk) to find out more.

Reminder — please remember to update your SIMs App and Iris ParentMail App if you move address or change your telephone or email address so that you continue to be kept informed of school events and receive all correspondence

THE LIBRARY

It has been a fantastic spring term at Goldington Library. Each day the library welcomes upwards of 100 pupils who enjoy making use of the space to read or do their homework during break and lunch. On top of this, all Year 7s, 8s and 9s visit the library during their English lessons once a fortnight. In these lessons they are given the opportunity to learn about any new books that are available, see how the library can help them with their English studies, learn about current happenings in the “book” world, take part in fantastic book quizzes, swap their books, and take part in quiet reading.



We have been very busy making the library an attractive and welcoming space and have added some beautiful permanent displays. We are also highlighting different areas of our collection by regularly changing our display boards, keeping the library an interesting and dynamic environment.

This term we have focused on developing the library’s book collection. A total of 593 fiction and non-fiction books have been added to the collection since January. We have prioritised KS4 books and curriculum support, whilst making sure that we are also purchasing great new books that all

the children will enjoy reading. We have also made a start at developing our Manga collection – a form of comic originating in Japan – which has proven to be incredibly popular.

A number of occasions have been celebrated in the library since January. This has included ‘Harry Potter Book Night’, ‘Valentine’s Day’, ‘International Women’s Day’, and ‘St. Patrick’s Day’. March in particular has been a very busy month for books and reading. We have celebrated ‘World Book Day’ and hosted a successful Scholastic Book Fair. We have also run a creative writing competition which attracted a large number of excellent quality entries from all years.



The number of books borrowed by our pupils has been consistently high. Year 7 in particular are very keen readers, taking out a total of 689 books since January. As far as popular authors go, it is Jeff Kinney who comes out on top, with his ever popular ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ books being the most borrowed items. He is closely followed by Akira Toriyama, who writes the Dragonball manga series. In third place is Matt and Tom Oldfield, who write the very popular ‘From the Playground to the Pitch’ series about footballers.

If you would like to keep up-to-date with all things ‘library’, then feel free to follow Goldington Library’s Twitter account: [@LibGoldingtonAc](https://twitter.com/LibGoldingtonAc). Mrs Kelly Librarian

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING DEPARTMENT

COOKING CLUB

This year, we have opened up the cooking room on a Thursday after school for any Year 9 pupil who wants to learn more about cooking and gain some additional practical skills. These sessions are relaxed and provide a new challenge each week. Mary, a Year 9 student, has written a little about what we do each week.



"In Cooking Club, we get the opportunity to experiment and try out new skills that may not be as easy to do in a normal KS3 cooking lesson as they are more advanced skills. Some of the things we have made are mille feuille, chicken pie, bakewell tart, cookies, choux pastry, cinnamon rolls, chocolate roulade and pasta. It is a chance for us to have fun but also learn something new. It caters to allergies, likes, and dislikes, so there is something for everyone. I enjoy it a lot as I am sure everyone else does too. We have also learnt some other specific pastry skills like rough puff pastry and full puff pastry. While making these, we have learnt how to use utensils like a pasta machine and an electric hand whisk. Also, we have used some key techniques in cooking like a bain marie, how to knead dough, how to cut and shape pasta and how to fry certain vegetables. Overall, Cooking Club is a lot of fun and it is extremely useful too".



REMINDER

Don't forget to download the SIMS Parent App if you haven't done so already.

This will enable you to look at your child's:

- Attendance
- Timetable
- Achievements

Amend/update Data Collection Sheet (ie. address, telephone numbers etc)

Please email Mrs L Spinelli (spinellil@goldington.beds.sch.uk) to receive your activation code.

Particularly important for Year 9 pupils as GCSE choices will be made next term on the app!

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

BLACK VICTORIANS

All Year 8 history classes enjoyed a virtual session with the National Archives in January. The hour-long online session was led by an historian, who worked with each class on the focus of 'Black Victorians'. The session consisted of guided source work, using evidence stored in the National Archives, and aimed to shine a light on the experiences of Black Victorians living in Britain during the industrial era. This linked well with our unit of study entitled, 'Industrial Britain - a great time to be alive?'

We are now looking forward to another set of sessions with the National Archives, in April. This time all Year 9 classes will work with an historian to question how typical the soldier Albert Edwin Rippington's experiences were during World War One.



HISTORY FILM CLUB

History Film Club – to celebrate Women's History Month

-For Key Stage Three and GCSE History Students-

Next screening: Thursday 10 March @ 3.50pm (film finishes at 5.40pm) in Room 34

Film: **Suffragette** (2015, cert. 12)
 About the film: Inspired by true events, *Suffragette* explores the passion and heartbreak of those who risked all they had for women's right to vote – their jobs, their homes, their children, and even their lives.
 Sign up in advance: On the door of Room 34 (see Miss Andrews if you would like further details).

INTO FILM

History Film Club has continued to screen a film, once per half-term on a Thursday, aimed primarily at GCSE history pupils. Since the start of the academic year, pupils have been able to opt into the following films, selected on the basis of their loose links to our curriculum and/or their historical merit:

- *Glory* (to coincide with Black History Month)
- *1917*
- *Jojo Rabbit*
- *Suffragette* (to coincide with Women's History Month)

Our next screening is scheduled for Thursday 5 May – and the title of the chosen film will be revealed after Easter!

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On Thursday 24 March sixty-five Year 9 pupils and five members of staff journeyed to the Imperial War Museum, London, in order to further investigate the History Department's World War One, World War Two and Cold War units of study. Whilst there, pupils were able to spend time in three separate galleries, which contained primary evidence and interpretations from each war. Pupils were impressed with the detailed content of each gallery, as well as the display of various aircraft, munitions and a recreated trench from World War One. At the end of the day, many pupils were already planning their next visit in order to learn more about twentieth century conflict.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Q & A WITH A SCIENTIST



Year 10 students attended a virtual question and answer session with the fantastic Dr. Deepthi Gurdasani, a researcher and lecturer at Queen Mary's University. Students listened to her speak about her role as an epidemiologist and statistician. Furthermore, Year 10 was given the opportunity to ask her questions about her career, such as the diseases she works on, skills involved, work/life balance, salary expectations, challenges and also which animal she would like to be! This was an inspiring session that we all learned from.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE DAY – FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY

Leading up to this day, students were introduced to inspiring women in science through the school daily bulletin, such as NASA trajectory guru Katherine Johnson and DNA pioneer Rosalind Franklin. They were set activities inspired by these scientists to complete at home over half-term.



SIRUS

OBSERVATORY TRIP 24 FEBRUARY

On Thursday 24 February twelve Year 10 students went to the Bedford School Observatory and were lucky enough to see Sirius, the Seven Sisters, BetelGuese, a binary star system and a planetary nebula! For more information about the observatory go to:

<https://www.bedfordschool.org.uk/venue-hire/observatory/observatory-planetarium/>

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK ACTIVITIES — MARCH 2022

Science Lecture: During a lunchtime Mr Lattimer put on some fun experiments for the students to watch. There were big bangs, flashes, flames and some elephant toothpaste!



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK ACTIVITIES — MARCH 2022

Virtual Talks:

We have been very busy for British Science Week. Our students were very fortunate to have a virtual talk from Professor Alice Roberts - academic, author and TV Broadcaster for the BBC. Professor Roberts shared with us her career pathway and her experiences as a prominent author of several books, her work in forensics solving crimes, and the lengthy journey involved in making documentaries. Students of all year groups and subjects joined the session and asked really interesting questions. The message to take home - pursue a career in a subject you enjoy! Students have also had talks from an Evolutionary Virologist that researches the flu virus in chickens, the Head of Education and STEM at Jena University in Germany, and one of our inspirational past pupils – Daisy McKenna – who is currently studying at university to become a Vet! We wish her all the best.



STEM CLUB

For science week in STEM club, the members helped to solve a crime by dusting for fingerprints at the crime scene!



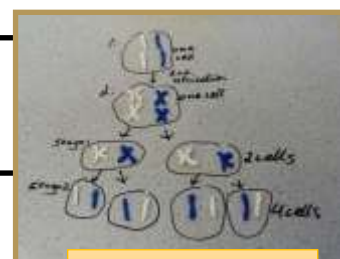
SPAGHETTI TOWERS



Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been thinking about what it takes to construct skyscrapers. For British Science Week, they have been provided with spaghetti and playdoh to see who can construct the tallest tower!

CLASSWORK

As part of their genetics topic, Year 10 students have been learning about DNA, cell division and the process of meiosis this term. Students modelled this process using plasticine to help them remember the various stages.



Jack, Year 10



Amelie, Year 9

Year 9 students have been learning about separation methods this term. They were tasked with growing their own salt crystals at home using the process of evaporation and crystallisation. This student used her initiative and added food colouring to grow red salt crystals.

PE DEPARTMENT

MARATHON CLUB

Eight pupils took up the challenge to run a half or full marathon distance over a period of six weeks. For some the challenge proved too much, but five pupils from various year groups completed the gruelling 13 miles to complete the half marathon distance. An amazing achievement.

Congratulations to Charlie, Frank, Sabrina, Eniola and Freddie. Each child was presented with a medal, certificate, and a really special surprise ... a signed photograph from Sir Mo Farah!



YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

The Year 8 boys football team won their league before Christmas. On the 23 of March they played their district semi-final against Robert Bloomfield. Goldington went 1-0 up from a corner which was scored by Mason. The first half was an even contest with both teams having chances that narrowly missed the target. In the second half Goldington had to defend a lot to protect a 1-0 lead. Every player involved worked really hard with multiple tackles and blocks, limiting the chances created by Robert Bloomfield. Lewis made 2 good saves to keep the lead. Goldington looked dangerous on the counter attack and a scuffed shot from Jason fell to Mase who lobbed the goalkeeper to send Goldington through to the district final against Arnold Academy which is to be played in the 30 March 2022.

YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

I really enjoyed the brief season. 2-2 away at Castle Newnham. Elephants hiding in the long grass. 2-1 at home to Wootton in the mud. A brace from Rayhan E. Beaten 5-2 at Bedford Academy, (only poor result of the season). Splendid 3-0 victory against the might of Sharnbrook. Mike G and Max N excellent throughout. Giuliano M and Luca V providing much needed team balance. Favourite moments? Mustafa's overhead scissors kick! Player of the season? Michael C in goal! Fantastic, but the reality is the whole team did well. Thanks lads — hope you enjoyed it. Mr Galbraith

RUGBY



Well done to the Year 8 rugby team. They have gone undefeated in the league and finished their season with an impressive 50+ to nil victory over Bedford Academy. The team has been expertly captained by Harry and shown massive improvement throughout the season. A massive well done to all those involved!

The Year 7 rugby team has performed brilliantly in the league and shown great improvement. After losing their first match to a physical St Thomas Moore side they have since gone undefeated. Under the leadership of Lucas the team has gone from strength to strength and now looks to be a strong organised unit moving forward through the years. Well done to all those involved!

PE DEPARTMENT

BASKETBALL

On Monday 28 February Goldington Academy played Samuel Whitbread in the semi final of the Year 11 Basketball County Finals. Goldington was unbeaten heading into the fixture and were full of confidence. In what was a tight game, both teams played well, with the lead changing hands numerous times across the first half. As we got closer to the final whistle, Goldington started to pull away and finished winning 53 - 45. A massive thank you to Mr Lucas for his help and I wish the following boys the best of luck in the final when it arrives. Dylan L, Dylan C, Brandon, Nat, Charlie, Stefan, Dan.



SPORTS LEADERS

On Thursday 10 March, Goldington Academy hosted Bedford Borough School Sport Partnership Year 3/4 multi-sport festival. 370 pupils from 11 local primary schools attended the event where pupils had the opportunity to participate in netball, athletics or inclusive activities. All events were led by 27 sports leaders from Years 9 & 10.

In the netball, the sports leaders delivered a short coaching session to the younger pupils to introduce them to the basic skills required to play. Then, the sports leaders took on the roles of umpires and coaches overseeing their teams play a number of competitive matches.

Indoors, the Sports Hall Athletics event was designed as a personal best challenge where the primary school pupils were trying to improve their own score with each attempt to jump, run or throw further and quicker. All the activities were demonstrated by the sports leaders who then taught and encouraged the young athletes to do their best.

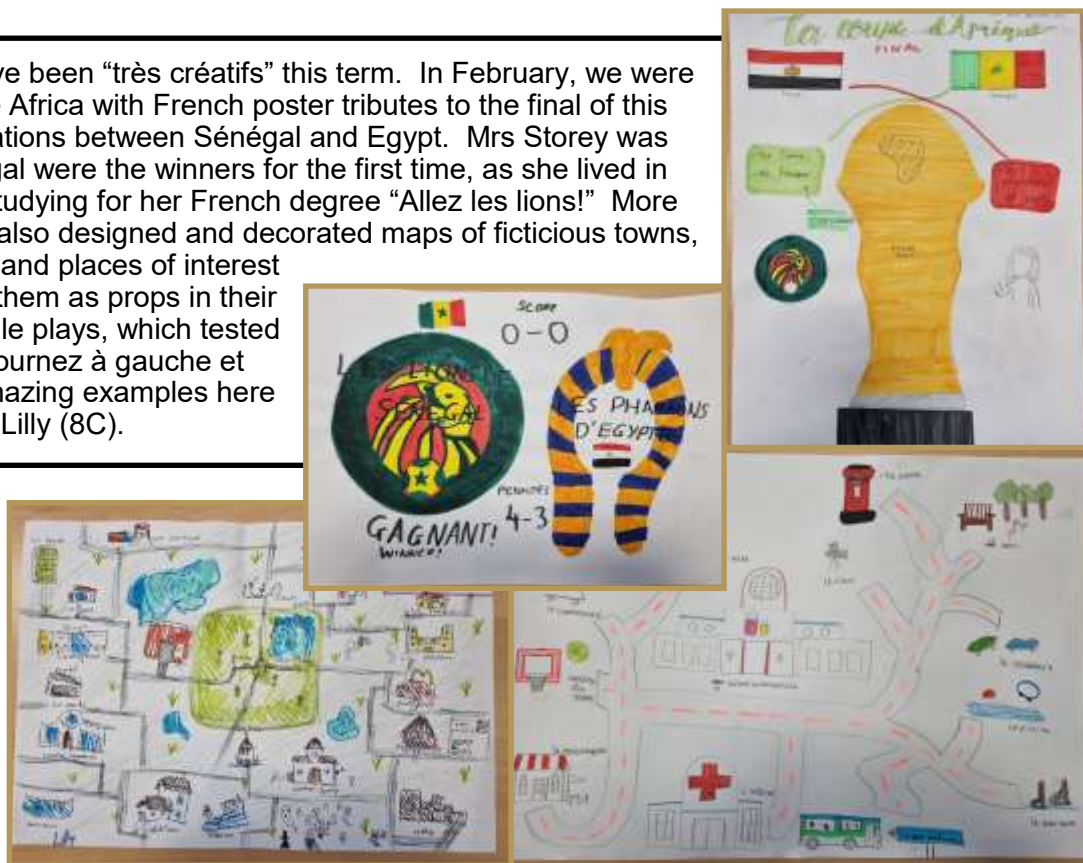
The final set of events on offer were inclusive activities which were a combination of summer & winter paralympic games sports. The sports leaders led activities in boccia, curling, sitting volleyball and archery. This gave both the leaders and participants a chance to learn and participate in a number of sports they may not have previously experienced.



FRENCH DEPARTMENT

“TRÈS CRÉATIFS

Our Year 8 students have been “très créatifs” this term. In February, we were celebrating francophone Africa with French poster tributes to the final of this year’s African Cup of Nations between Sénégal and Egypt. Mrs Storey was very pleased that Senegal were the winners for the first time, as she lived in Dakar for a year whilst studying for her French degree “Allez les lions!” More recently, students have also designed and decorated maps of fictitious towns, labelling all the facilities and places of interest in French, before using them as props in their “asking for directions” role plays, which tested their speaking skills: “Tournez à gauche et continuez tout droit.” Amazing examples here from Ava, Gianluca and Lilly (8C).



Meanwhile, Year 7s culminated their clothes topic earlier this term by mocking up social media style posts of clothing hauls, complete with French descriptions of the items pictured with colours and patterns – some wonderful work on demonstrating the importance of adjectival agreement in French. Well done to Delia, Samuel and Gabriella for their great work pictured here.



MATHS DEPARTMENT

UKMT INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 3 February 120 of our Year 9 and 10 pupils completed the Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is a national competition for pupils in Year 9 to Year 11 with the top entries across the country gaining certificates. We had 15 Year 9 pupils and 25 Year 10 pupils who gained certificates, a super effort! This is a fantastic achievement for all 40 of these pupils but a special mention must go to:

Year 9 pupils - Mustafa (Gold certificate) and Rayyan (Silver certificate).

Both of these pupils also qualified for another paper; we are eagerly awaiting their results.

Year 10 pupils – Daniel (Gold certificate), David, Guraj, Lily, Adam, George, Djorde, Matt, Austin, Samuel, Ashton and Lauren (Silver certificates).

The questions are challenging and designed to make even the best mathematicians think.

Here is a sample question from this year's competition to try.

Pete's pies all cost an integer number of pounds.

A cherry pie costs the same as two apple pies. A blueberry pie costs the same as two damson pies.

A cherry pie and two damson pies cost the same as an apple pie and two blueberry pies.

Paul buys one of each type of pie. **Which of the following could be the amount he spends?**

A £16

B £18

C £20

D £22

E £24

We look forward to some of our Year 7 and 8's taking part in the Junior competition later in the year.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Did you know:

- that you can find out what your child is learning on our school website by clicking on the 'Learning' tab and then on the relevant year group. www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/learning/curriculum-overview
- That every subject has their own page on our school website that includes a variety of information and resources. You can find this information by clicking on the 'LEARNING' tab. www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/learning/curriculum-subjects
- That each year group has their own page on our school website with information relevant to that particular year. For example, the year 11 page includes revision hints, tips and resources. You can find this information by clicking on the 'FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS' tab. www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/for-pupils-and-parents
- That every parent can have their own login to their child's Show My Homework account to be able to support their child. This can be set up by emailing Mr Gordon – gordonc@goldington.beds.sch.uk



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) provision at Goldington Academy focuses on an inclusive, collaborative and holistic approach whereby the ethos of “all teachers are teachers of SEND” operates. To this extent, we focus on a Quality First Teaching (QFT) where scaffolding or differentiation (as appropriate) form the foundation of all lessons; this approach is in line with the SEND Code of Practice document (2015).

Our latest Ofsted report states: “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.”

Each pupil identified as having additional needs has a Pupil Passport, which all staff have copies of. The passport contains support strategies to help the pupil make progress at school.

To embed an inclusive approach to teaching and learning, expectations of all lessons are that:

1. Background of all power points to be pastel shade in colour
2. Print outs of power points for SEN students (as appropriate) – allows for ease of access for students
3. Adaptation of power points/presentations to avoid text heavy content

Where interventions take place with identified students (based on lack of progress), these will be during form times so that crucial teaching time with subject specialists is not compromised. Current SEND interventions include Lexia, guided reading, Year 8 maths, spelling and mentor sessions with Year 11s.

To support the social and emotional well-being of our students, a ‘Fun Friends club’ operates at lunchtimes on Mondays – Thursdays for those who may want a bit of quiet space or joining in arts, crafts and games. On Fridays, a Year 10 & 11 ‘Mental Health drop-in’ session is available for those who might want to talk through any social, emotional or mental health difficulties being experienced. GCSE independent study is also available at lunchtimes for academic support.

To further enhance our provision, all Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) are working on Continuing Professional Development (CPD) aimed at “Maximising the Impact of Teaching Assistants”. This CPD will expand to teaching staff over the next term so that our SEND Quality First Teaching offer is further embedded, and students more effectively supported.

If you have any concerns or questions about your child’s learning, please contact me at school by email or by phone. There is a SEND drop-in session once a week, where parents and carers can speak to the SENDCO/SENDCo Assistants without an appointment. These are normally held every Friday from 2.45 to 4.00 pm during term-time.

Mr Roopnarain, SENDCo

roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk

E-SAFETY FOR PARENTS



Have you enrolled on National Online Safety? This is free for all our parents.

In order to access the links, you will need to have first registered for your account.

Please find below the URL you will need. Complete your details and select "I am a: Parent/Carer" from the dropdown:

<http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/goldington-academy>

Once you have registered, you will be able to access the "Online Safety for Parents and Carers' course and National Online Safety's Resources (which include a wide range of online platform guides on the latest social media channels and games). This aims to empower parents with the knowledge to protect their children from the dangers of the internet.

If you have any questions, or trouble accessing the course please contact support@nationalonlinesafety.com.

We hope you will find this useful.

What Parents Need to Know About Roblox

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it is a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

In the guide below, you will find tips on a number of potential risks such as in-app purchases, online dating and chat functionality.

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/hub/view/guide/roblox-2021>

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.**

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

Dear Parents/Carers

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 unavoidably lower than normal, we have remained considerably above the current national figures – a testament to the resilience of Goldington Academy pupils. Please remember that children can and should attend school if they have a mild seasonal illness, as long as they do not have a main symptom of Covid 19. If in doubt, we advise that children carry out a lateral flow test.

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

Thank you again for your efforts in ensuring that your child attends school as regularly as possible.

THIS TERM'S HIGH ACHIEVERS

YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Andrey ML Runner up: Frank M	Sofia N Runner up: Adrian L	Amelie M Runner up: Ollie F	Joseph H Runner up: Urban J	Raif M Runner up: Anat O

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SCHOOL SHOP



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

UNIFORM

Dear Parent/Carer

We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is properly dressed and equipped for school. All pupils must wear school shoes, as trainers are not permitted. **Skirt lengths should be appropriate to ensure modesty** and pupils should be wearing a coat on colder/wetter days. Please remember that children are only permitted to wear one pair of stud earrings; any other piercing is not permitted to be worn in school. Please see the school website for further details.

Following government guidance we are in the process of creating a second-hand uniform shop that will be available to current and prospective pupils. We would appreciate any donations of clean, good condition uniform that you may have. More details will be available in due course.

FORTHCOMING DIARY DATES

Monday 18 April		School Closed — Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19 April		School Closed — Staff Training
Wednesday 20 April		Start of the summer term
Thursday 21 April	5.30 — 6.30 pm	Informal drama performance of Year 11 exam pieces
Wednesday 27 April		GCSE Options Evening for Year 9
Thursday 28 April		Goldington's Got Talent Final
Monday 2 May		School Closed — Bank Holiday
Wednesday 4 May		Year 8 Arts Day
Wednesday 4 May	7.00 pm	Music Recital
Friday 6 May		Year 11 Interim Reports home
Thursday 12 May		Year 7 visit to Mountfitchet Castle
Monday 16 May		Year 11 GCSE exams begin

Half Term 30 May — Friday 3 June 2022

REMINDER

Dear Parents/Carers

As you may be aware, an extra bank holiday has been announced for 3 June 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As this date falls within the May half term holidays, the governors, in line with the Department for Education's recommendation, have agreed to take the additional bank holiday at the end of the summer term.

**Your child's last day of the summer term will now be on
Thursday 21 July 2022.**