

IT'S SO GOOD TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL



PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Our newsletter is back and we will look forward to publishing one at the end of each term. The December edition is a bumper issue which I hope you enjoy!

In many ways the school has run normally since September. Our attendance figures show that the vast majority of children are attending and taking a full and active part in the activities of the academy. It has been wonderful to meet the new Year 7s and see the Year 8s move around the school in a normal fashion. A feature for Year 9 is that they are enjoying their Personalised Learning choices and Year 10 have begun their GCSE options. Best wishes to all Year 11s who are engaged in a mock exam process that takes place both before and after the Christmas holidays. Go for it!

A huge amount of enhancements to the site went on over the summer period. I am delighted with the new PE changing rooms, two new classrooms, retarmacked playground and new carpark. The latter will hopefully alleviate some of the parking issues that our neighbours have had in more recent times.

Thank you very much to all of you who submitted questionnaire responses earlier in the term. 79 staff, 383 parents and 766 pupils responded to our survey and a full and abbreviated set of results can be found under the "Performance" tab of our website.

Another piece of external review we have taken part in since September was a two day visit from the NSPCC that looked at all our safeguarding procedures. The full report can be found under the "Safeguarding" tab on our website. Overall we were delighted with this work and the report found that there *"was a strong culture of safeguarding at Goldington Academy"*. More coverage is given on page 28 of this newsletter.

Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Shortland (Cover Supervisor) and Mr Campbell (English Teacher). Both have made super contributions to the school, in their different ways, in recent times. I would like to thank them both, but I would like to finish by acknowledging the contribution Mrs Hopkinson (Learning Support Assistant) has made to school since she joined us in 2004. Over the past 17 years, Mandy has quietly set about working with thousands of young people at Goldington. In addition to her teaching assistant responsibilities she often contributed within performing arts as well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her tremendous contribution. We all very much hope she enjoys her retirement!

I hope you are able to enjoy a restful Christmas period with family and friends.

Kind regards



Francis Galbraith
Principal



NOTE FROM THE GOVERNORS

Dear All

On behalf of the school governors, it has been a pleasure to see a school term somewhat closer to what used to be normality. It has been particularly good to see the reintroduction of the wide-ranging extracurricular clubs and activities that go so far in making a school a community. The building work of the last few years has left the school in great condition and it has been good to see the new facilities such as the art block and changing rooms getting full use. Unfortunately, we are still not out of the Covid 19 woods yet and we will continue to monitor the situation and follow appropriate government and local authority guidance.

Governors were pleased to be able to take part in the Open Evening earlier this term and we were delighted to see so many current pupils guiding prospective pupils and their families around the school. A great job was done by all and it seems likely that Year 7 will again be full to capacity in 2022/23.

The governors are grateful to parents, staff and pupils alike for completing the recent school survey. The survey results have now been collated and there is a helpful summary to read on the school website. The school governors and SLT will be analysing this helpful data and using the information it provides to assist in school improvement over the coming years.

Finally, I am very pleased to welcome Carmela Martiello as a parent governor. As a former chair of the PTA, Carmela already has a great deal of knowledge about Goldington Academy. Her many and varied skills and interests will be of much benefit to the governing body over the next few years.

Have a great Christmas.

Robin Francis
Chair of Governors

TERM DATES 2021 — 2022

Spring Term 2022	
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 3 January 2022
Start of Term	Tuesday 4 January 2022
Half Term	Monday 14 – Friday 18 February 2022
Last day of term	Friday 1 April 2022
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	Friday 22 July 2022

CREATIVE ARTS

INTRODUCTION

The Creative Arts Team are thrilled to be back teaching practical lessons across the school and have started the year creating opportunities across the arts for students to get involved with. Here are some of the projects we have been working on.

BRONZE ARTS AWARD

This term we launched the Bronze Arts Award. This is a qualification run by the Arts Council to develop students' passion for the arts. We are running it with support from the University of Bedfordshire, which has allowed us to bring in a professional dance artist and choreographer, Hannah Pickett, to lead the group. Hannah is working with the group to develop their skills in dance. The group have created some beautiful pieces of choreography this term and the dance department are working on opportunities for them to share their work.

60 BY 16

The Creative Arts Team would like to introduce you to our Arts and Culture Challenge.

The challenge has been designed to inspire and widen our students' horizons and deepen their cultural and arts experiences within and around Bedford. With the lack of opportunity in the arts over the last year, we wanted to signpost our students to the arts and culture on their doorstep. To do this, we have created the '60 by 16' challenge. This is a list of 60 things to do, discover and experience before you turn 16.

Year 7, 8 and 9 students have been given a booklet with our first 60 challenges for them to explore with their family and friends. All they need to do is tick it off and select a new challenge to continue to explore Bedford's hidden treasures.

We are also encouraging our students to email us with their experiences of the challenges and to suggest some new ones. We see the first 60 challenges as a starting point and are looking forward to adding our students' ideas to the list.

So, have a look at the challenges, get involved, email us with your ideas and ENJOY!
Our email address is: 60by16@goldington.beds.sch.uk



CREATIVE ARTS

FEEDER SCHOOLS



The Creative Arts Team have had a busy term visiting our feeder schools over the last term. We loved dancing with St John Rigby, exploring and deepening their knowledge of South America through a tribal and carnival inspired workshop. We enjoyed our ceramics making at the Hills with lots of very creative children.

Mr Stratton delivered a drama workshop on Greek Theatre to the Year 6 pupils at Hazeldene, which the children loved, and Mr King made plenty of noise making music out of basketballs at Brickhill. They have already asked him back!

DANCE

Year 9 dance students were the first group to experience live theatre since our return to school this year. During the autumn term, we were invited along to the University of Bedfordshire to watch the premiere of new dance work by immersing Hip Hop choreographers. The group were immersed in the beats and breaks of the style and were able to see the energy needed to perform this street dance style. This has really enriched their understanding in their recent dance topic. They were particularly pleased to meet Simon Quang, one of the dance artists, at the end of the show.



Goldington dance department is super pleased to announce that we have started our U:Dance journey. The application process has finally opened and we are beginning rehearsals in earnest. The students, and Mrs Mahoney, are particularly looking forward to this event as we missed the performance by one week due to the first lockdown. U:Dance offers our students a chance to dance at the highest level within the South East, with only the very best in the region selected. This platform then acts as a springboard to represent the region at a national level. But, before we get ahead of ourselves, Mrs Mahoney needs to choreograph it!

CREATIVE ARTS

DRAMA



Once again, Goldington Academy was invited to contribute to 'ACT!', a collaborative theatre festival organised and hosted by Bedford Modern School. Having been a part of the line-up since 2015, this event is a calendar highlight for our school community and we are pleased to report that once again, Goldington Academy pupils rose to the occasion! We were joined this year by pupils from Biddenham International School and Sports College, Lincroft Academy and, of course, Bedford Modern School. Pupils from all schools had to respond creatively to a stimulus and devise an original piece of theatre. All pieces were then 'put together' to form one performance that was shared with parents and friends on the evening of 15 November. Goldington Academy pupils created an episodic piece of abstract theatre that explored the moral messages in reimagined Disney classics. Their piece was original, creative, thought-provoking and funny! Well done to our ACT!'21 cast.



7

Year 7 drama club have been working hard with Miss Gardner on the creation and development of a Christmas themed performance! It has been fantastic to see lots of Year 7s attending drama club regularly and working together creatively. This term, the performances will be small scale and take place during the school day. It is our hope that in the new year we are able to invite an audience in to share the pupils' work with. Watch this space!

8 & 9

Drama club has been somewhat disrupted due to the building works taking place in the drama studio this half-term. We are pleased to report that as the work is now complete, it is all systems go come the new year. Year 8 & 9 drama club pupils will work on the 'The Exam' by Andy Hamilton with an aim to perform this to an audience. Auditions for roles will take place in the first two weeks back after Christmas.

CREATIVE ARTS

DRAMA

GCSE DRAMA

Our Year 11 GCSE drama pupils have been busy working on their Component 1 non-examined assessment. For this task, pupils are required to produce an original piece of theatre in response to a stimulus and create a portfolio of supporting evidence before evaluating their final performance. Component 1 is worth a total of 40% of their GCSE and really challenges the pupils to put into practice everything they have learnt over the course. As this is a live assessment we cannot possibly comment on the outcome, but we can say a huge well done to the pupils for their grit and determination in completing what, at times, can be a very challenging task!



Rehearsals are underway for our upcoming production, 'Back to the 80's'. The Creative Arts Team would like to once again thank all the pupils who auditioned – over 90! – and congratulate the final cast on their roles. This is a really fun show and we cannot wait to share it with you.

Performances take place at The Place Theatre on the 2 and 3 March 2022. Details about tickets will be released in the new year.



Here is a still of her performing at a recent concert.

A Year 11 student is part of the Bedfordshire Youth Opera and has been performing nonstop! We are so proud of her and wish her the best of luck for all future performances. Keep us posted and remember us in the award speeches!

CREATIVE ARTS

ART

CERAMICS WORKSHOP AT THE HILLS

Mrs Lopez and Mrs Hemming went over to The Hills primary school and worked with some very talented Year 6 students. They were working on the theme of Natural Forms in order to produce some amazing ceramic tiles. The students experimented with different techniques such as attaching, impressing and drawing in to clay. The results were fantastic! We cannot wait to see them glazed!



OUR NEW ARTISTS EXHIBITION

To celebrate the artistic talents of our new Year 7s, we are currently displaying some of their first final pieces of artwork in our wonderful exhibition space. The work on display is of tonal studies of elephants and rhinos, as well as biro study bears and any additional homework studies. We are really thrilled with the quality of artwork

from Year 7 so far. The exhibition as a whole can be viewed on the school's social media.

Twitter: [@GoldingtonAcad](https://twitter.com/GoldingtonAcad)
www.facebook.com/Goldington



CREATIVE ARTS

BACK TO THE 80S EXHIBITION PREP

Some of our very talented Year 8 and 9 students are currently working hard in order to produce paintings of key 80s musicians featured in the school show. They are having a lot of fun painting and singing to 80s music at the same time! Students are starting pieces that will grow to be really successful.



MINDFULNESS ART CLUB CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER



Students who attend Mindfulness art club have been developing new skills in lino printing. They have designed, cut and printed onto cards to sell in the run up to Christmas. Cards are being sold in the last two weeks of term in order to raise money for MIND charity and Cancer Research UK, as chosen by the members of the club. Check out the school's social media pages for up-to-date information on the event/money raised.

LOCAL ARTISTS EXHIBITION - UPCOMING EVENT!

To promote careers within art and celebrate the talents of local artists, we will be hosting an exhibition of work made by local artists: ceramicist Amanda Silk, printmaker Katie Allen and mixed-media artists Anne-Marie Abbate and Fiona Wilson. We are thrilled to be able to exhibit their work and invite you to come along to a private viewing of their work on the evening of 10 March. Details will be shared nearer the time.



CREATIVE ARTS

MUSIC

It has been a pleasure to watch the various music extra-curricular activities develop over the term! Whether it is the choir, string group, ukulele cub, bandits or jazz group, there is something for everyone. In addition to this, we have turned the beautiful old grand piano in the main hall, into a community piano, where our pianists are encouraged to entertain their peers during lunch. It is just fantastic to hear music being performed again every day.

As part of Goldington's Act of Remembrance, gifted Year 11 trumpeter, Milo, produced a moving rendition of The Last Post and Reveille, at 11am on Armistice Day. Milo should feel extremely proud of both his stunning performance and the hours of practice that went into it. He is a credit to the whole Goldington community!



On Wednesday 17 November, I took six pupils over to Brickhill primary school, to deliver a music workshop for Year 6. The main challenge for these outstanding musicians was to lead their own group of pupils in developing, rehearsing and performing their own percussion composition. All six pupils displayed superb leadership skills and the outcomes were hugely impressive! A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon culminated in a demonstration of Samba and African drumming, to a hugely appreciative audience. We look forward to getting out into more of our feeder schools and spreading the Goldington musical message in 2022!

CHILDREN IN NEED



Children in Need

On Friday November 19 Goldington Academy pupils came together in spectacular 'style' (clad in their most fashionable mufti) to raise an incredible £866 for Children in Need and Cancer Research UK. The generosity and wonderful community spirit shown by all who contributed to this amazing result is something we should all be so proud of as a school. The KS3 and KS4 student voice reps deserve special credit for donating their time, energy and effort in motivating and raising awareness among their fellow pupils. The lovely posters and inspirational bulletin slides made by some of our talented student voice reps ensured that the event was promoted brilliantly.

During lunchtime there were two exciting teacher v student sports events held to raise further money for charity. Tony (Year 10) and Franciszek (Year 8) came out on top in football and basketball respectively, where they impressively beat the formidable Mr Lattimer and Mr Campbell (basketball hoops) and the equally daunting duo of Mr Murray and Mr Painter (penalty shots). Well done to all involved! I hear the teachers are plotting their revenge for the next teacher v student charity event...



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

YEAR 10 TRIP TO FROGMORE PAPER MILL

Year 10 pupils have been studying a variety of topics since September to support their GCSE course. To see how real manufacturing works we visited Frogmore Paper Mill to see one of the oldest paper mills in the country! Each step was shown to us and we made our very own paper and used a traditional print press!



YEAR 8 METAL TEA LIGHTS

Pupils have been working with aluminium and pine, learning all about their properties and uses, working with traditional hand tool skills, and developing their knowledge of health and safety further. Some are still a work in progress but will be a lovely addition to shelf, mantel piece or window sill. Well done, Year 8!



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

KS3 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CLUB

We have been busy over the term creating some one-off products, learning how to use new equipment such as the strip heater and belt sander! Lots more to come in the new term.



KS3 HEALTH AND SAFETY



It was great to see so many health and safety models at the start of the year. Pupils showed true creativity and model-making skills to develop a great range of ideas! It is so important to know how to work safely in the workshop.



YEAR 9 SUSTAINABILITY PROJECT

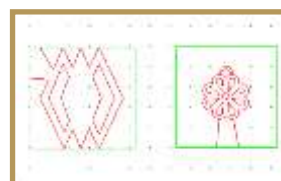


lovely recycled HDPE (milk bottles and bottle tops) keyrings and packaging to promote awareness of these issues!

Pupils have been investigating the need to think more sustainably when designing and making products and how they can be disposed of afterwards. Key points have also surrounded oceanic pollution, COP26 and creating an awareness of this issue. Year 9 pupils produced some

YEAR 9 PEWTER PENDANT

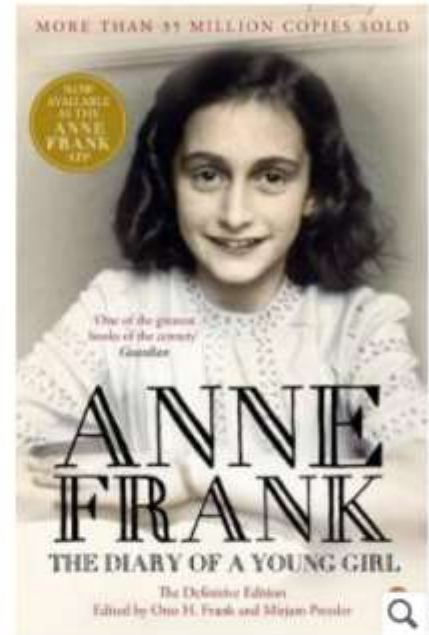
Pupils have been investigating the work of others to inspire their pendant designs. They have developed them on paper and recreated them on 2D design to make their MDF moulds. They are not completed yet but we have made a good start!



ENGLISH & LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

During the difficult experiences of 2020, 3 in 5 children in a survey carried out by the National Literacy Trust, said that reading made them feel better and we believe that reading is a companion for life. Our ambition is to encourage a love of reading for pleasure, because the research shows that not only does this make more successful adults through increasing cultural capital and vocabulary, but it is also beneficial for mental health, allowing us to escape into another world, and gives us lifelong enjoyment.

We have been reading in form time to build a shared enjoyment of books and to develop reading stamina. Hopefully students will begin their own independent reading journey or be introduced to books they might not normally read. The books we have chosen are selected because they are engaging, diverse and allow students to build on their understanding of cultural contexts. This term we have been reading *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *Point Blanc* (by Alex Rider) in Year 7; *Salt to the Sea* (Ruta Sepetys) and *I am Malala* (Malala Yousafzai) in Year 8 and *Noughts and Crosses* (Malorie Blackman) and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Mark Haddon) in Year 9. Our library is also back up and running and has a very large range of exciting and magical fiction to inspire and engage. The library is open before school, at break and lunchtimes as well as after school. In English, your child's class will also be taken regularly to the library during their lessons and this will recommence in the New Year.



With Christmas coming up, encourage reading at home by making a good book one of the presents you buy your child. Please have a look at recommended books on our website or the Guardian has some great recommendations at <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/dec/06/the-best-childrens-and-ya-books-of-2021>.

Elsewhere in English...



Mrs Mahoney's Year 8 English class entered a creative writing competition led by artist Arabel Lebrusan, in collaboration with The Higgins museum, called "Blunt Blades". The exhibition explores the stories and histories of the knives in The Higgins' archives. Three Goldington students' work was selected to be published in a book which accompanies the exhibition. Their work joins 40 other selected stories to form part of the art exhibition. We were privileged to be invited to the launch event at the The Higgins, which included a private tour of the exhibition.

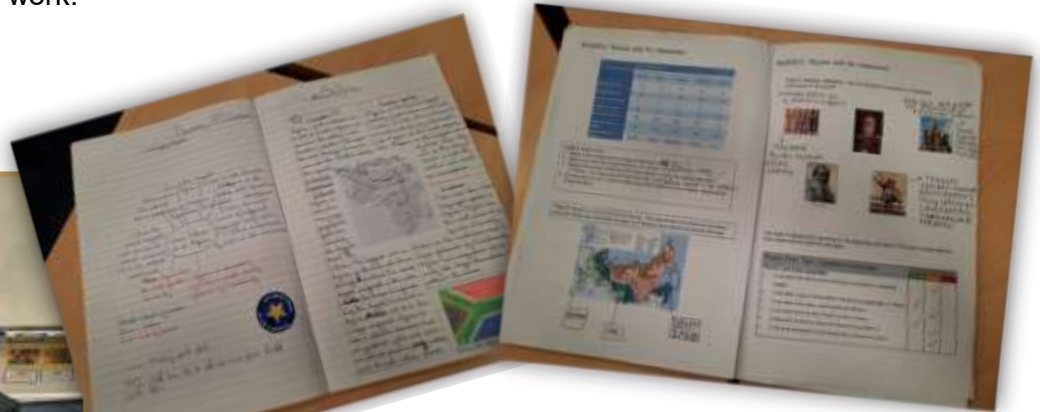
The exhibition, "Blunt Blades" and accompanying book, will be on display until October 2022.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

It has been a busy and exciting term for our geographers and here are just a few highlights.

YEAR 7

Year 7 have started their geography by exploring fantastic places. These included continents and countries. Students have studied location through a range of maps, the history of countries, culture and art as well as looking at sophisticated numerical skills. We are incredibly proud of the effort and hard work Year 7 have demonstrated in their first term at Goldington Academy! Here are just a few examples of some of their 'fantastic' work!

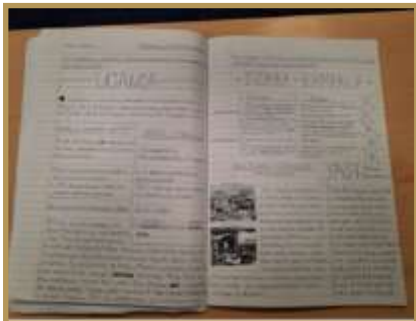


Year 7 boys in the picture:

"This was a fun monopoly game based on the geography of Bedford. We really enjoy the variety and fun in all our geography lessons".

YEAR 8

We have been really impressed with Year 8s work on development and life on four levels. By developing their prior knowledge from Year 7, students have been able to discuss and complete work using high level terminology. Independent case study work and group project work have demonstrated the progress they have made this term! Here are just a few examples of how wonderful they are!



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

YEAR 9

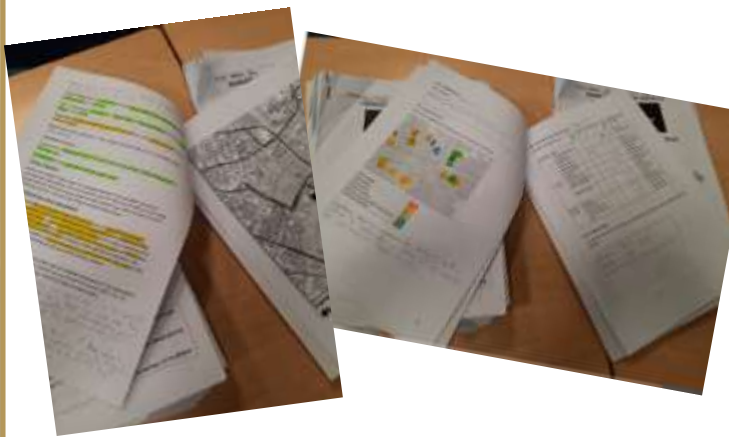
Year 9 have had a busy term exploring if the Earth is running out of natural resources. This topic has seen them investigating soil type in our school grounds and investigating lichens in Foster Hill Cemetery. This was a collaborative trip with history, art and science. Here are a just few of their highlights.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

YEAR 10

Year 10 GCSE geographers have had a busy, but productive start to the term. They have consolidated their learning from the end of Year 9 and completed the Urban Issues and Challenges section as well as completing the first of their two fieldtrips! Well done to all Year 10s for their hard work so far! Here are a few images of the fieldwork in action and the fieldwork booklets.



YEAR 11

We look forward to the new year which will hopefully see the launch of 'Thinking Aloud' a public event with MRS Sixth form geographers. I am very excited and proud to see some of our GCSE geographers putting themselves forward to speak at this event. We wish all our Year 11 good luck with their mocks!

COP26 was held in Glasgow back in November and in support of this our Goldington geographers pledged their support and commitment to tackling climate change by reducing their carbon footprints. Our student pledges included eating less meat, walking and cycling more frequently to school and recycling and re-using more. We were deeply humbled and inspired by their efforts and continued drive to sustain their pledges. Well done geographers – we are very proud of you all! Here are just a few examples to evidence their pledges:



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

YEAR 11 continued

Our pledge to tackle climate change continues at Goldington as climate change is one of our reoccurring themes that runs throughout our KS3 curriculum.



YEAR 9 CROSS CURRICULAR

FOSTER HILL CEMETERY TRIP



“We really enjoyed the trip to Foster Hill Cemetery on Wednesday 20 October”.

“Some of the things I enjoyed were the gravestone hunt and being able to identify the different types of lichen.”

“We really enjoyed this trip because it was very different and very independent, making it very enjoyable. We like how this trip covered a range of subjects not just geography, like, history, art and science. This meant we learnt many new things in one trip!”

“The trip was highly enjoyable and interesting making the wait worthwhile. “

Year 9 students



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

STEM CLUB

'STEM club is really fun and educational. The activities are very fun but sometimes kind of gross when doing dissections.'

So far this year in STEM club pupils have completed a range of activities ranging from heart and eyeball dissections to engineering projects. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed the activities and it has been well attended.

'STEM club is a great place to go. It is fun and interesting. We do many different activities ranging from experiments to dissections and making machines. It is always something new which can be educational too.'

YEAR 8

This term our Year 8s have been learning about climate change which coincided with COP26. Here are some of the posters students designed for homework from 8C.



Safia



Rudy

BIOLOGY WEEK



Biology week in October was celebrated with a biology quiz, including careers links that the whole school participated in. Watch this space for lots of fun science activities planned for Science Week in March 2022!

This month some students are participating in the Science Advent Calendar challenge as you can see on our Science Christmas display board.



Science Christmas jokes:

Ho, Ho, Holmium, anyone know a good Chemistry Christmas joke?

Soon the Science department will be launching a science joke competition, look out for information in the new year.



RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, AND ETHICS DEPARTMENT

AWARD WINNING STUDENTS

Blog competition winner:

2021 has been a great year for the Religion, Philosophy, and Ethics (RPE) department. Not only have we had an excellent number of students take up Religious Studies at GCSE in our first year running as an option subject, our students have also had great success in national and global competitions.

At the end of last term, a number of students from Goldington Academy entered RE:Online’s national blog writing competition in response to the question **‘Why does an education in Religion and Worldviews matter?’** We were delighted to hear that one of our GCSE student’s blogs was selected as a winning entry, whilst one of our new Year 7 students, Vanessa, was also highly commended!

In her winning blog, Caitlin shares her reasons for the importance of an education in religion and world views, citing the value of developing one’s own ‘patchwork’ of ideas, beliefs and morality, as well as beginning to understand more about humanity. Caitlin was also interviewed about her winning entry on ‘The RE Podcast’ which was aired earlier this year.

Caitlin’s winning blog can be found online here:

<https://www.reonline.org.uk/2021/05/12/why-does-an-education-in-rw-matter-caitlin-ks4/>

The RE Podcast recording of Caitlin talking about the importance of RPE can be found here:

<https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/season-3-episode-7-the-one-with-the-children>

Spirited Arts winner:



We would also like to say a huge congratulations to Grace in Year 10. At the start of the new school year, we were delighted to hear that she had been selected as a winner of the global Spirited Arts competition. Grace’s artwork and supporting write-up can be found here:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/about-natre/projects/spirited-arts/spirited-arts-gallery/2021/natures-resilience/>

This well-established competition has been running since 2004 and receives, on average, 25,000 participants every year from as far as afield as Cyprus, Australia, Indonesia and South Africa! At the end of last year, we ran a series of lessons in which students explored how the arts links to religion and spirituality before making their own spirited piece of artwork. We submitted 10 fantastic entries, from paintings, to poems,

and even recorded music, and would like to congratulate all the students who entered for their amazing work!

continued ...

RELIGION, PHILOSOPHY, AND ETHICS DEPARTMENT

We will be running the competition again this year with the intention of submitting the best 10 pieces in the school – students are welcome to get started straight away on searching for spiritual inspiration for their artwork. This year's themes are as follows:

- ◆ 'We have far more in common with each other than divides us'
- ◆ God's good earth?
- ◆ Searching for God
- ◆ A view of the world
- ◆ Celebrations: Big days and big ideas

If you would like to know more about the competition then please use the following link:

<https://www.natre.org.uk/uploads/Spirited%20Arts/2022/Spirited%20Arts%202022%20competition%20details%20Final.pdf>



PHILOSOPHY CLUB



Finally, our new Philosophy club has taken off with a bang! We are really impressed at how many students are giving up their lunchtimes to come and debate (argue passionately) with us over some really tricky questions about life. So far, we've had some really interesting discussions about whether science is a force for good, and whether or not we would be 'good' if there were no laws (you may be interested to know that most students agreed school rules were a 'must have'). Students have also had the opportunity to select and host their own 'big question'. We look forward to getting more students and pupils involved in the future and also inviting teachers to come along too.

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

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The start of the new academic year saw the foundation of History Film club, aimed at enriching the curriculum for Years 10 and 11 GCSE historians. The aim is to screen a different film each half-term, with pupils signing up in advance if they wish to see that particular film. So far, 'Glory' and '1917' have been shown, both of which were enjoyed by those present. The next film screening is scheduled for Thursday 20 January, and the film for that session is currently under consideration! Jack, one of our Year 10 historians, had this comment to make about the new club.

I think that the GSCE Film club is a great addition to help pupils with independent learning. It also allows those pupils who like to learn in other ways not just the written word, to see an event in history 'come to life'. So far my experience has been entirely positive and because of the amount of different historical films there are, we can potentially cover a variety of topics from the ancient Romans to the modern day. I recommend the club as an excellent option for anyone looking to extend their general historical knowledge..

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) whereby scaffolding or differentiation (as appropriate) form the foundation of all lessons; this approach is in line with the SEND Code of Practice document (2015).

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 do 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.

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

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

PE DEPARTMENT

It has been great to see pupils from all years taking part in a variety of clubs and fixtures again. Since September, fixtures have restarted in a number of sports. There have been clubs and/or fixtures in football, rugby, netball, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, dodgeball, badminton, gymnastics, dance, running and sports hall athletics.

FOOTBALL

Year 7 Boys' Football

The Year 7s started their fixtures in the first week of the term so it was a frenetic rush to get a team together. In the first practice it was great to see nearly 50 boys come along. The A team played in the District League and played really well at times considering they are a new team. Their results were as follows:



Goldington 5	Bedford Greenacre 2	Goldington 15	BFS 0
Goldington 0	Castle Newnham 6	Goldington 3	Bedford Academy 2
Goldington 3	Bedford Academy 2	Goldington 2	Wixams 3

Goals For 29 Goals Against 15

They finished joint runners up in their league.

Year 8 Boys' Football

Although this is the Year 8s second year at Goldington they had never played a fixture due to the pandemic. From what we had seen in lessons in Year 7 Mr Lincoln and I thought we may have a strong team so we were really keen to test them against other schools. Their results have been very encouraging as they remain unbeaten and have won their league comfortably. They have now qualified for the Bedfordshire semi finals in February so well done boys! Their results were:

Goldington 8	KCA 3	Goldington 7	Biddenham 2
Goldington 5	Mark Rutherford 0	Goldington 5	Lincroft 3
Goldington 7	BFS 0	Goldington 2	Castle Newnham 0

Goals For 34 Goals Against 8

The Year 9 &10 fixtures begin in the new year.



Year 7 Girls' Football Team

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football

The Year 7 and 8 girls' football team progressed through numerous stages of the ESFA National Cup.

PE DEPARTMENT

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9/10 SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Last week, the district competitions took place in sports hall athletics. Goldington has been very strong historically in this competition but again, due to the absence of fixtures, this was a first time for many of the athletes. The top two teams qualify for the Bedfordshire Finals in February, so this was the aim for each team we took. Each and every athlete performed superbly leading to every team finishing either District Champions or runners up. The results were as follows:

Year 7 Girls-1 st District Champions	Year 7 Boys – 2 nd
Year 8 Girls 2 nd	Year 8 Boys 2 nd
Year 9/10 Girls 1 st District Champions	Year 9/10 Boys 1 st District Champions

Well done to all who competed.

A really big thank you to all of the staff who have given up their time before or after school and lunchtimes to run these clubs. Without staff giving up their free time, no clubs or fixtures would be able to take place.



RUNNING CLUB

It has been great to see children from the various year groups taking part in running club each Monday. They have been learning new techniques for racing in preparation for the cross country season that will hopefully start in January, (Covid permitting).

Date for the Diary: **MARATHON CLUB** will commence after February half term, giving all children the chance to run the distance of a half or full marathon (72 laps of our playing field).

PE DEPARTMENT

BASKETBALL/NETBALL

The Year 11 boys' basketball team started their games in September against schools across the Bedford area. The team was successful in winning all of their matches and remaining unbeaten. Wins against KCA, Bedford School, Bedford



Free School and Daubeney have set up a semi-final fixture in January against Samuel Whitbred. The whole team should be really happy with themselves and have been a credit to the school.

Well done: Dylan, Daniel, Stefan, Charlie, Nathaniel, Dylan, Bobby and Brandon.



The Year 7/8 girls' basketball team are currently undefeated in their fixtures. The Year 7/8 girls took part in a netball festival to help raise awareness of the sport. For some of the girls it was their first ever time playing the sport.

The Year 10 netball team were bronze medallists at the County Netball Tournament.

YEAR 7/8 & 9/10 FUTSAL

After half term the Year 8 and 9/10 entered the District Futsal competition. The Year 8 team had not played much futsal before, but soon gelled and won most games comfortably. Just one final loss against Bedford Academy put them into runners up position, but overall it was a really encouraging performance.

The Year 9/10 team dominated their competition and won every game convincingly. They scored lots of goals and some of the football played was great to watch. Well done boys!

RUGBY

It has been fantastic to see rugby club starting again. Year 7 and 8 fixtures start in February so we look forward to seeing them play against other schools. The Year 10/11 team played a very entertaining fixture against Samuel Whitbread with lots of attacking rugby played against a strong opposition. Hopefully more fixtures will be arranged when the light returns next year. A big thank you to Mr Latimer for giving up his free time to run the club.



Year 9/10 Girls 1st District Champions
Year 9/10 Boys 1st District Champions

Well done to all who competed.

LIFESKILLS

In Life Skills this term, Years 7 – 10 have been considering 'Life Beyond School'.

Year 7 have explored careers, teamwork and enterprise skills and will be delivering short presentations in the final week of term about job descriptions for careers involved in Christmas festivities. We are looking forward to seeing their wonderful teamwork and presenting skills.

Year 8 have been considering equal opportunities in the workplace, careers and life choices and different types and patterns of work. This has provided the opportunity for plenty of interesting discussions and using Unifrog has supported students to explore careers in their own time as well.

With this year being the year of their GCSE options, Year 9 have been considering different career pathways, their strengths and aspirations, and have explored the routes that are open to them post-16 and beyond. They have also been delving into Unifrog to complete quizzes and explore the careers library to help them develop their shortlist of subjects to choose.

Year 10 have been exploring financial decision making, including financial planning, avoiding debt, gambling and the impact of advertising on financial choices (quite a timely topic in the run-up to Christmas!). Students have taken part in a virtual workshop, run by volunteers The Personal Finance Society via the 'My Personal Finance Skills' scheme. The Personal Finance Society is the leading UK professional body for financial planners, and although the workshop was virtual due to the pandemic, students engaged well and heard from financial experts about 'Dream versus Reality', giving them plenty to think about when planning their future and career.

GARDENING — SPACE TO GROW



Space to Grow is an innovative project started this year to allow small groups of students from Years 7-9 to learn skills and areas of the national curriculum outside of the classroom environment, allowing them to benefit from a different style of teaching in addition to their science lessons. Students have taken part in multiple projects so far, such as re-growing food from scraps, building a business plan for plant-based venture, making propagators, growing various microgreens and making various decorations for our Christmas tree! Students have said that the project has

'made them enjoy science', that *'the ideas are great'* and they have *'learnt a lot'*. The project is making a real positive impact, not just for the students involved but we are creating an area which can be enjoyed by all. We have lots more ideas for the future and have harvested lots of seeds so hopefully we will have a successful fruit, flower, tree and vegetable crop next year - watch this space!

Our lunchtime gardening club, Grow @ Goldington, continues to run with Mrs Sacre, and Mrs Harvey runs an additional lunchtime gardening club when she is in school for the Space to Grow project.

We are always on the look-out for items to upcycle and use as planters, or for items of gardening equipment such as trowels, brooms and dustpan and brushes. If you have anything to donate, please do let us know!

CAREERS



This term Year 11 have heard from many of our post-16 providers about their courses and study options, leading up to their applications for their next chapter post-Goldington. Assemblies have been delivered in-person or virtually and include Kimberley College, Bedford Academy, St Thomas More, Moulton College and Bedford College.

Year 11 form tutors and Mr Hall are currently busy writing references for the students in their forms, and it has been wonderful to see so many applications being made across the year group. Our careers advisor, Faye Gadsby, has continued to be in school on Thursdays to meet with students and provide

careers guidance, making use of Unifrog and post-16 provider websites to explore options for next year and beyond. Although we are currently focusing on Year 11 students while they undertake this stage of their school career, Faye is available to speak with students of any year group during lunchtime drop-ins. Appointments are bookable via Mrs Sacre.

Over twenty volunteer members of teaching and support staff have further supported our Year 11 students with short mock interviews this half term, to help them prepare for their post-16 interviews. Staff were allocated a small group of students each, and they then organised the mock interviews using questions and criteria gathered from some of our post-16 providers. Students have found the experience 'really useful' and 'helpful to make me think about what I will say in the real interview' and several have commented that it has helped them to feel less anxious about their upcoming interviews. We wish everyone the best of luck!

There have also been plenty of careers-related activities taking place around school in different subject areas, including embedded within lessons and trips/visits. Year 10 DT students visited the Frogmore Papermill to look around at the workplace machinery and how it works, speaking with employees at the mill about their job roles. In a cross-curricular trip between geography, history, science and art, Year 9 students visited Foster Hill Cemetery where they investigated types of lichens and the impact of weathering (scientific and geographical careers) and located historical figures that were buried there. There was a live streaming of coverage from COP26 in Glasgow for Year 7, where they explored aspects of climate change and careers linked with journalism, engineering, politics and the environment. Year 10 geographers have been exploring the impacts of regeneration on Bedford Town Centre and have discussed town planning, geographers and being a civil servant. Year 10 hospitality and catering students took part in a webinar with IGD where they had interactions with professionals in the industry to develop employability skills. These are just a few of the activities that our students have had the opportunity to take part in; there are many more events planned for the coming months across all year groups and subject areas.

Year 10 have been involved in The Skills Builder Partnership this term, which aims to boost students' eight employability skills – Listening, Speaking, Aiming High, Staying Positive, Creativity, Problem Solving, Teamwork and Leadership. These skills are important for future careers, and students have been evaluating their own skills via the Benchmark platform, developing skills within Life Skills lesson via bespoke activities, and identifying where they are using them in other aspects of school and home life. You can find out more about Skills Builder here: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/about>



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
Frank M	Savanna DA	Amelie M	Joseph H	Anat O
Runner up: Najada G	Runner up: Amelie T	Runner up: Ollie F	Runner up: Mason N	Runner up: Raif M

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE SCHOOL SHOP



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

NSPCC AUDIT

An audit was recently carried out by the NSPCC of the safeguarding practices within school. The auditor was impressed by every aspect of the school and was overwhelmingly positive about how well we look after our pupils.

Here are a few highlights from the report:

- There is a strong culture of safeguarding at Goldington Academy which is actively promoted and supported by the leadership. The DSL and DDSL were described as 'leading from the front, role modelling good practice, staying on top of safeguarding issues'.
- The senior leadership prioritise student welfare and well-being and this is reflected in the school's ethos
- Safeguarding training is a key priority at Goldington - training records are comprehensive
- Safeguarding is integrated into the school curriculum
- The pupils described the DSL and DDSL as accessible and approachable. A culture of looking after each other was also described by the pupils.
- Safeguarding arrangements are excellent with many examples of best practice.

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.

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 3 January		School Closed — Bank Holiday
Tuesday 4 January		Start of term
Tuesday 4 January — Friday 14 January		Year 11 mock exams continue
Thursday 3 February	4.30 pm — 8.30 pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Wednesday 9 February	4.30 pm — 8.30 pm	Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual)
HALF TERM HOLIDAY — Monday 14 — Friday 18 February		
Wednesday 9 March	6.30 pm	Parents' Forum
Wednesday 16 March		Year 10 Parents' Evening
Friday 18 March		Red Nose Day, Comic Relief
Wednesday 30 March		Year 7— 10 Interim Reports home
Thursday 31 March	4.30 pm — 8.30 pm	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Friday 1 April		Last day of term
Saturday 2— Saturday 9 April		Ski Trip
EASTER HOLIDAY — Monday 4 — Friday 15 April		
Monday 18 April		School Closed — Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19 April		Summer Term begins



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.

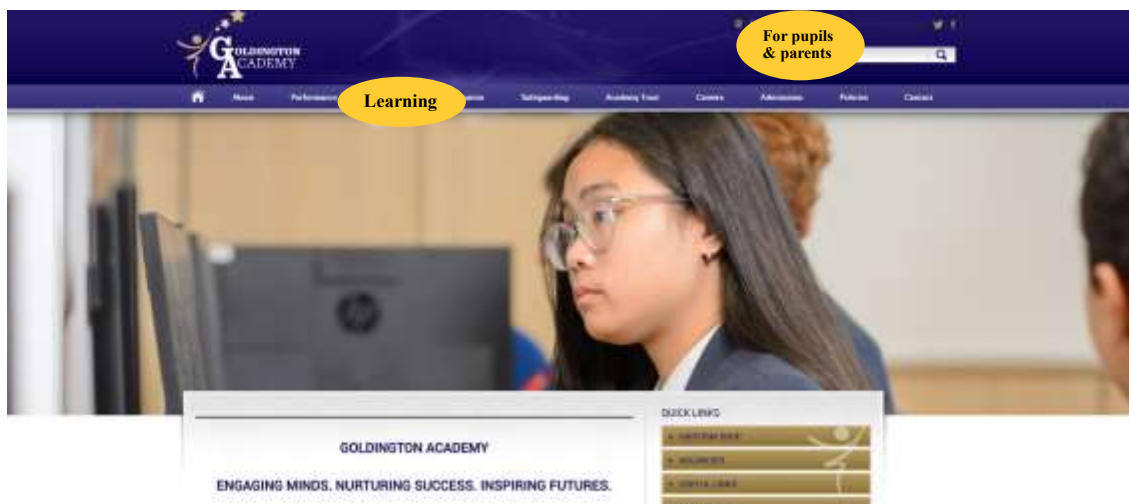
www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/learning/curriculum-subjects

- 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



IT'S SO GOOD TO BE BACK IN SCHOOL

