

WHAT A YEAR!



Ofsted



Read more about what has been going on this term

PRINCIPAL'S INTRODUCTION

July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

What an incredible year 2021-2022 has been!

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



This year sees us lose some much loved Goldington staff. Firstly can I say thank you for the contributions that Miss Clifford, Miss James, Miss Luck and Miss Grimaldi have made to school. Each, in their own way have made a difference to the lives of many of our young people. I would also like to thank Miss Prior who has done a splendid job as art teacher for the past five years and second in Life Skills in more recent times.

We also see Mr Stratton leaving. He has transformed drama at school over the past six years into one of our most popular option subjects. He led many excellent productions that included "Into the Woods" and "Back to the 80's" and he really has been a positive force over more than half a decade. We also say goodbye to Mrs Mahoney, our Head of Creative Arts. Overseeing all arts provision for the past two years at Goldington she has done an absolutely excellent job and her promotion of dance at school during the past eight years has been exemplary. Wonderful relationships have been forged with the University of Bedfordshire and a whole programme of high quality dance opportunities have been made available to our young people that have included superb events such as U:Dance. All of these members of staff will be hugely missed as we count them not just colleagues, but friends as well.

But my final word must go to Mrs Ross. If I was to offer a word of advice to any aspiring headteacher, it would be get a great deputy, and that is what I have had for more than seven years. Mrs Ross has been a tireless advocate of Goldington. She has led on countless initiatives at school and developed wonderful working relationships with a whole range of stakeholders, that of course included governors and parents. However, I know she is held in the highest regard by the staff at Goldington for her kind support and wise leadership of them/us as a group of people. Finally, and on a personal note, I learnt a huge amount from Mrs Ross and I am really going to miss her. She leaves to take up a headship at a local school and I know she will do a brilliant job.

Mrs Chapman will be stepping up to the Vice Principal role and I am delighted and excited by the quality of all the replacements that will be joining us at school.

Finally to the summer holidays. Please keep your child active and take educational opportunities whenever they may occur. Most of all, keep safe. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child back on Monday 5 September.

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

Best wishes.

Ax Gullote

NOTE FROM THE GOVERNORS

I wanted to use this article as an acknowledgement and give words of thanks to two of our most experienced governors.

Sadly, at the end of March this year, Alan Dickinson passed away. Alan had been a governor at Goldington Academy and Goldington Middle School before that for the last 20 years. Alan was an active and effective member of the governing body. Not afraid of taking on some of the most challenging roles, Alan had been Chair of the Finance Committee for many years and most recently had taken on the role of Safeguarding Governor. In his tenure as Chair of the Finance Committee, Alan has successfully overseen many challenging circumstances including conversion to secondary school status. During this period Alan helped ensure that the school maintained a healthy financial position enabling Goldington to continue to offer students opportunities both academic and extracurricular. Alan was known for his attention to detail and willingness to take on complex work. He was a cherished member of the governing body and is much missed.

At the end of this year, Martyn Hallett, another long serving member of the governing body will retire. Martyn has been a governor at Goldington Academy and Goldington Middle School since 1996. Martyn is a past chair of governors and has served on all committees at Goldington Academy. In that period, he has helped guide the school during challenging times, resisting the closure of the school, recruiting a new headteacher and taking an active role in converting to an Academy and most recently to a secondary school status. Martyn is a great listener and a source of wisdom and advice. Martyn never loses sight of the impact of the decisions of the governing body on the pupils of the school and his caring and empathetic approach is always welcome. Martyn has been a great asset to the governing body and meetings won't be quite the same without him.

We do now have several vacancies on the governing body, and we will be advertising for governors in the new academic year. If you have any interest in joining the governing body, please get in contact. I can be contacted through the school office.

Robin Francis

TERM DATES 2022-2023

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
Last day of term	Friday 16 December 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
Summer Term 2023	
School Closed – Staff Training Day (5)	Monday 17 April 2023
Start of Term	Tuesday 18 April 2023
School Closed – Bank Holiday	Monday 1 May 2023
Half Term	Monday 29 May — Friday 2 June 2023
Last day of term	Friday 21 July 2023

MATHEMATICS

JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 29 April, 122 of our Year Seven and Eight pupils completed the Junior Maths Challenge run by the UK Mathematics Trust. This is a national competition for pupils entered by many schools with the top 40% of entries across the country gaining certificates.

We had an enormous 68 pupils who gained bronze, silver or gold awards - a super effort! While this is a fantastic achievement for all 68 of these pupils, a special mention must go to:

Our Gold award winners:

Year 7 — Frank M, Liam D and Aidan S

Year 8 — Alexander J, Eira C, Savanna DA and Alexander L

Four of these pupils scored highly enough to qualify for a follow on round and I am delighted to say that Frank M went on to achieve a Merit in this as well!

Our Silver award winners:

Year 7 — Evie B, Josh C, Delia C, Tilly H, Brandon M, Vanshi M, James R, Zack T and Felix W

Year 8 — Prince A, Salvatore B, Aston B, Zac C, Sienna F, Gianluca G, Aayan K, Yash M, Sophie M, Jeshurun M, Nicole N, Eduard S and Amelie T

The questions are challenging and designed to make even the best mathematicians think. In some of them the maths involved is not difficult, but a logical approach is required.

Here is an example question from the paper:

Each of the numbers 1 to 9 is to be placed in a different cell of the grid shown so that the sum of the three numbers in each row is 15. Also, the sum of the two numbers in each shaded column is to be 15.

How many choices are there for the number to be placed in the central cell indicated by *?

A 0

B 1

C 2

D 3

E 4



We are very lucky to have so many talented mathematicians. Well done to all of you who took part.

YEAR TEN MATHS

On Monday 4 July a group of Year Ten pupils went to the University of Bedfordshire to participate in an event run by the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme. Students spent the day taking part in mathematical talks and engaging with some different activities outside of the usual curriculum areas. Post GCSE options and career paths in mathematics were discussed and students gained a better understanding of their options moving forward in maths. Students particularly enjoyed the fourth dimension workshop and were able to create their own 4D representations, tesseracts. It was a great day, enjoyed by all!

ART

HARPUR TRUST

Congratulations to three of our Year Nine students whose work has been displayed in the Higgins Gallery as part of their Future Bedford art exhibition. Students worked with local artist Anne Marie Abbate in a workshop and produced signage artwork promoting a positive outlook of Bedford's future. The exhibition runs from 9 July — 4 September and is definitely worth a viewing!



KS3 EXHIBITION



The art department was delighted to exhibit work from KS3 pupils on 11 July. Hundreds of works were displayed in our exhibition space, ranging from tonal elephants, biro bears, mixed media buildings to Cubist Still Life paintings. The quality of all the artwork displayed was superb. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

YEAR SEVEN



As new designers of the future, our environment and the world around us are so vital to understand. Pupils have looked at how technology and products have developed to make them more efficient and effective. That is why we study, and learn, how designers use the concept of biomimicry and biomorphic design within their products. Designers and manufacturers have been using these concepts for years! Lots of discussions and various tasks allow the pupils to identify real life products where this is happening! Using the ideas of nature as inspiration for form we then design and make our wonderful LED key rings, designed on 2D design and made on the laser cutter! After lots of assembling, there were some fantastic outcomes!



Year Seven students enjoyed the challenge of designing and making a **vacuum formed travel game**. Inspired by their country of choice, students investigated their theme through client information and mood boards.



STEM

Design Technology is part of the STEM subjects and, as such, we try to reflect this within our curriculum as much as possible. Obvious activities are coding and programming and how it can be used in everyday products and systems. Year Seven students have taken part in a 'Code and Rescue' task provided by the Royal Academy of Engineering using Redfern's Crumble kits! [#coding](#) [#STEM](#) [#designmatters](#) [#youngengineers](#)



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

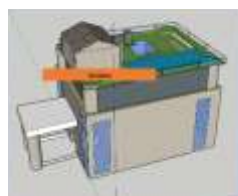
YEAR EIGHT

During the summer term, Year Eight students have been continuing to investigate terrific timbers and have produced some wonderful wooden trinket boxes. Within their studies, they have explored the different classifications of timbers, types of joints and used CAD/CAM for their laser cut lids. Fantastic work by all.



Year Eight Catapulting! We introduced a mini task towards the end of term to construct a mini catapult in teams. There were some interesting results! We definitely have some future engineers in the making.

Year Eight have also been building their skills on CAD using SketchUp to build their dream homes! There were some brilliant designs. We had a mini competition and some of the winners are shown below. We built mini blocks, designed on the laptops and discussed how the 3D printing process works.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

YEAR NINE



Magnificent metals! Year Nine students have been busy learning about the work of others such as William Morris, Raymond Templier and Ettore Sottsass. Students have taken inspiration and reflected it into their very own laser cut design work. Their CAD skills have been developed and enhanced to emerge the use of new technology within traditional methods of casting, trimming, filing and sanding. Take a look at some of the final products including some pillow box template packaging. Well done Year Nine.



YEAR TEN

Students have just begun their non-examined assessment; however, prior to this we managed to increase our CAD skills by redesigning shipping containers into sustainable homes. A few foam board models followed, upping our skills ready for the challenge of Year Eleven! Well done, Year Ten.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

MOUNTFITCHET CASTLE

In May, 65 Year Seven historians spent the day at Mountfitchet Castle in Stansted. The open-air museum is a recreated Norman castle and village, designed to give visitors a real feel of what it might have been like to live and work in this fascinating era. Students enjoyed wandering around the site and looking at the various buildings and tableaux of village life - the free-roaming rescue animals proved very popular! An added bonus to the day came in the form of a quick visit to the House on the Hill Toy Museum, which shares the site. The Museum contains the largest toy collection in the world with over 80,000 toys from the Victorian era right up to the 1990s. This comment from a Year 7 student who participated in the trip sums up the day:

'Recently Year Seven went on an amazing history trip all about the Normans. What was the most exciting bit? There was so much! Whether it was seeing realistic Norman houses and other buildings or the farm life, I can't say. Or was it the Toy Museum? Altogether it was a really fun trip and we all loved it.' Ella



NATIONAL ARCHIVES



evidence stored in the National Archives, and aimed to shine a light on the experiences of British soldiers fighting abroad in World War One. Students were posed the question, *'How typical were Albert Edward Rippington's experiences during the war?'* This linked well with our unit of study entitled, *'Why do we remember the First World War?'*

We are looking forward to engaging with the National Archives again next year, with our intention of enabling all classes in Key Stage Three to undertake an online session.

Year Nine history classes experienced a virtual session with the National Archives in April. The hour-long online session was led by an historian, who worked with classes on the focus of *'On the Front'*.

The session consisted of guided source work, using

REMINDER

Don't forget to download the SIMS Parent App if you have not 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 on the app!

CAREERS

UNIFROG



Students in 7A, 8E, 9G and 10Y are currently the top form groups in their year on the leader boards! As we reach the end of the term, I would like to recognise the following students for particular dedication to their careers learning, demonstrated by the superb progress they have made on their Unifrog accounts.

Year Seven	John A, Lucas S, Lolade, Frank
Year Eight	Daniel M, Liam W, Riya T
Year Nine	Elliot B, Rufina, Sasha, Mohammed B
Year Ten	Mia C, Jack F, Alice L, Sharon

Students have a wealth of information to explore on Unifrog, including webinars, subject-related information, post-16 pathways and much more. There are various quizzes to complete which link to careers exploration tools, and the opportunity to keep a record of any activities they complete – for example, attending extra-curricular activities or volunteering, both in school and outside of school.

There is so much to explore, that it would be well worth spending some time over the long summer break completing the quizzes and researching interests via the Unifrog platform. The more information we have from students about their subject preferences, career interests and future plans, the more bespoke we can make the careers-related activities and opportunities in school.



SKILLS BUILDER PARTNERSHIP

We were delighted to receive the BRONZE AWARD from the Skills Builder Partnership following our participation in the Accelerator+ programme this year!

Year Ten have been focusing on employability through their Life Skills lessons over the course of the year. We have celebrated communication skills demonstrated via the Whole School Read, and Year Seven and Eight students involved in the Space to Grow Project with Mrs Harvey have completed skills passports and gained certificates for their progress.

All of these achievements can be added by students on their Unifrog profiles!

Thank you to Mrs Sacre for leading on this initiative, Miss Prior for her invaluable contribution to the Life Skills lesson materials, and to Mrs Ross for her unerring support!



CAREERS

SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS

Virtual work experience

Speakers for Schools are running a series of summer holiday work experience opportunities with large national employers.



We are partnered with S4S and students just need to apply, provide a personal email address and await a response from the employer, all conducted via the secure platform. Mrs Sacre will provide the reference from school, and we just need a parental email confirming consent to participate.

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

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>

DHL/TEACH FIRST EMPLOYABILITY PROJECT



A small group of our Year Nine students have been involved with an employability project led by Teach First and facilitated by the global business, DHL. During a classroom presentation they have learnt about different job roles and career pathways in DHL, and a few weeks later took part in a two-hour workshop where they practised employability skills in the context of a case study.

Moving forward, the project will continue next year and we are very excited about the links with DHL and Teach First.

SSG

We have been fortunate to work with local provider, SSG Services, during the summer term. A successful project with Year Ten students has seen them grow in confidence, resilience and other key employability skills as they have taken part in workshops and 1-2-1 mentoring.

Could you volunteer an hour?

We would be delighted to hear from any parents, carers, relatives or family friends who would be willing to visit Goldington to speak to groups of students about their own career pathway, current role or to support our students in developing their aspirations for the future.

If you would like to volunteer your time and arrange a visit, please contact Mrs Sacre
sacren@goldington.beds.sch.uk

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

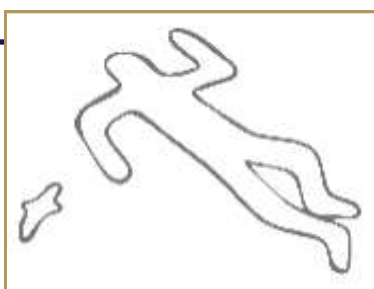
YEAR SEVEN CSI WORKSHOP

The brief:

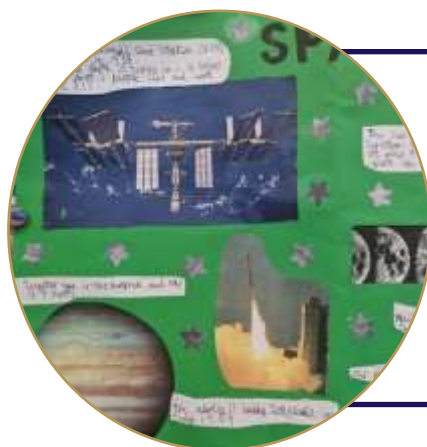
A body has been found with blood on its hands - but is it the sign of a murder? Students need to use their detective minds to determine the evidence that is most important and what it actually proves.

Teams had to analyse the scene, conduct forensic tests, interpret evidence and scrutinise statements made by witnesses and suspects. Players used techniques spanning the ages of detection, from powder fingerprinting through to the latest DNA fingerprinting tests. They applied their best problem-solving skills to uncover the twists, turns and shock revelations. As the complex story unfolded, players had to ensure they worked together to analyse all the information in order to draw a conclusion that fitted the evidence!

In a nutshell, it was the best activity at Goldington Academy so far!



YEAR EIGHT SPACE



Our Year Eight students have been learning about space this half term – made all the more exciting by having actual moon rocks in school! The students were set a project to research space for homework. Dante and Joseph created these very impressive posters of our solar system.



Well done to all of the Year Nine students who took part in this year's Royal Society of Biology 'BIOLOGY CHALLENGE'. The students took part in an online quiz to test their biology knowledge, from plants to the planet. This year we had one gold winner, three silvers, two bronze and many highly commended winners too. Well done to all the students who took part.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

MOON ROCKS



A few weeks ago, Goldington Academy students were given an amazing opportunity to view a collection of meteorites, volcanic rocks and samples from the moon on loan from NASA (US National Aeronautics and Space Administration)! The school had the rocks for about a week and students could view the rocks at one o'clock in one of our science labs. There was also an opportunity for staff to view the rocks. On top

of all this, Year Eight students had a science lesson to view and study the collection. We examined a group of rocks and had to determine whether they were meteorites or not via a series of tests involving density and magnetic attraction. We were also allowed to hold a large meteorite made mostly of iron and look at small samples of moon rocks collected during the Apollo missions (1961-1972)! Brandon E Year 8



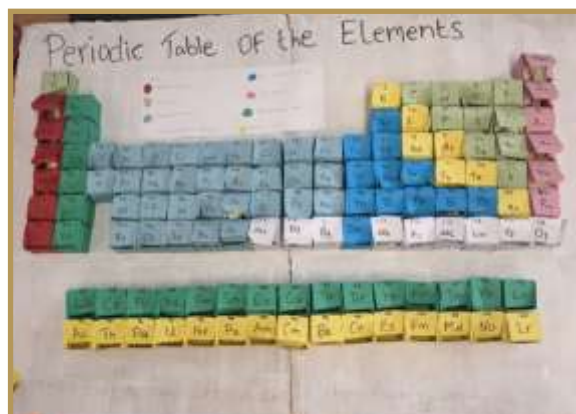
Using cross curricular links the Year Eight students made their own moon rocks in their food and nutrition lessons.

SPACE TO GROW

Students in the 'Space to grow' project have been working tirelessly in the garden this term and now our new greenhouse is up, we hope the garden's success and the variety of plants we can grow will increase. As well as planting a blackberry tree, Queen Elizabeth roses, a fig tree and two new apple trees, students have been enjoying the fruits of their labour and enjoying home-grown red currents, strawberries, snap peas and gooseberries. As well as planting, students also looked at different food preservation methods and tried preserving strawberries with salt, sugar, vinegar, vacuum packing and freezing. We also attempted to plant a living wall, have hung tomato plants upside down, had a successful plant sale and planted multiple pumpkin plants which we hope will grow some excellent pumpkins ready for Halloween!

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

PERIODIC TABLE



Our Year Ten students have been learning about different groups in the periodic table. Millie produced this fantastic interactive periodic table for her science homework.

IF YOU WERE an
ENGINEER
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



Once again, the KS3 scientists and budding engineers have taken part in the Engineering Leaders Awards. We were delighted with the achievement of our students with many of them receiving distinction or merit for their engineering inventions.

A great achievement by all!



STEM CLUB

This term in STEM club pupils have been working hard to build eco-friendly bug houses. Pupils have learnt a range of skills around design and woodworking and thoroughly enjoyed the project.

Over the summer holidays have a look on Show my Homework for some summer science challenges you can complete.

PE DEPARTMENT

ROUNDERS

County and District Champions

This year Goldington Academy has had a great turnout at rounders club with over 120 girls and boys regularly participating (far too many to name!). This has meant that we have had teams entered into the district leagues and tournaments in all possible year groups plus mixed teams for Years Seven/Eight. This would not be possible without staff support and I would like to thank Mr Lincoln and Miss James for all their coaching and umpiring throughout the term.

Year Ten

The Year Tens enjoyed the challenge of playing double header games each week, losing only two games all season to finish in third place in the District A League. A great season – well done to everyone who played.

Year Nine

The Year Nines were undefeated all season in the district league, winning their league and then placing third in the play offs. In the county tournament, which consisted of teams from Bedford, Central Beds and Luton, the team played magnificently, winning all of their games to be crowned county champions. Well done to everyone who played.



YEAR NINE COUNTY CHAMPIONS

Year Eight

The Year Eights won all of their matches comfortably against Mark Rutherford, Castle Newnham and St. Thomas Moore, making them the District League winners. The Year Eights also placed third at the district tournament and should be very proud of their efforts in their first competitive season of matches.

Year Seven

The Year Sevens played a great season of rounders, winning all but one of their matches in the district league and finishing in 2nd place overall! The girls then went on to play in the district tournament where they were undefeated and became District Champions. A huge shoutout goes to Iman who was our most frequently named player of the match. Fantastic efforts and commitment from all squad members and training partners. Well done!

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

NATIONAL FIELDWORK WEEK



This term our geographers have been investigators, explorers and creators. In support of national fieldwork week back in early June, Years Seven to Nine explored fieldwork around our school investigating different aspects of 'place' and 'space'. Here are a few examples of their great work.



YEAR SEVEN

Year Seven celebrated World Oceans Day on the June 8 with their own creative interpretation of this year's theme: Invest in our planet. Well done Year Seven geographers!



YEAR EIGHT

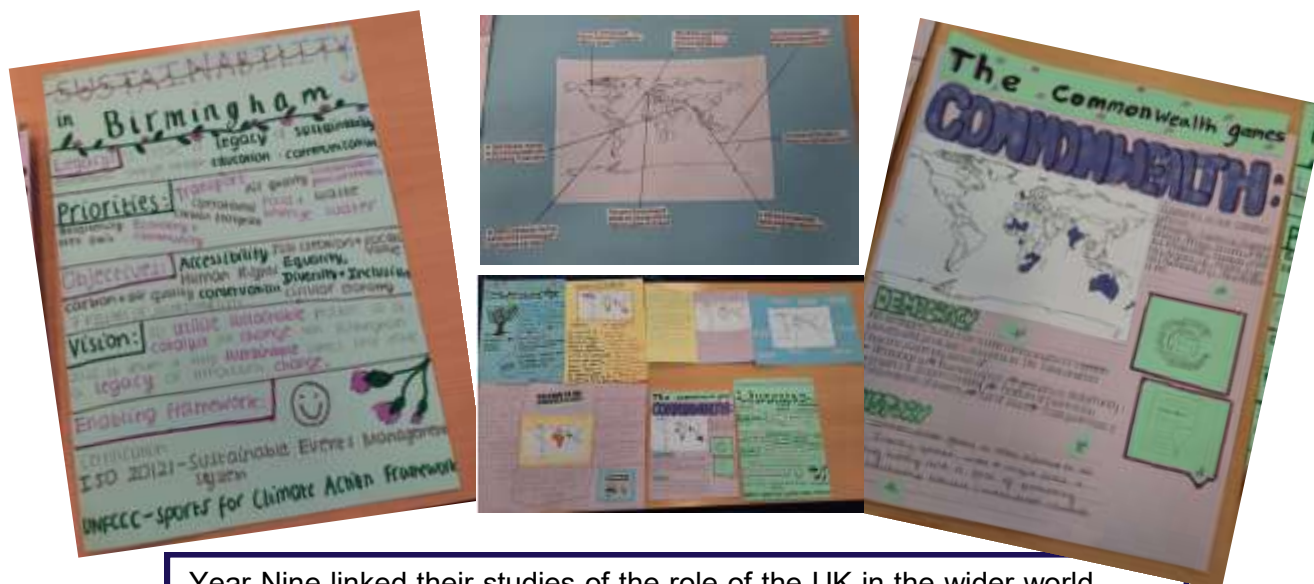
We were really impressed with the quality of the work produced by our Year Eight students for their self-directed frozen planet investigations. Work ranged from designing informative websites about cryogenics to amazing creative posters about the causes, impacts and

management of climate change in frozen places like the Arctic and Antarctica. We were so impressed with their research, resilience, presentation and communication skills. Well done Year Eight! Here are a couple of examples of their great work.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

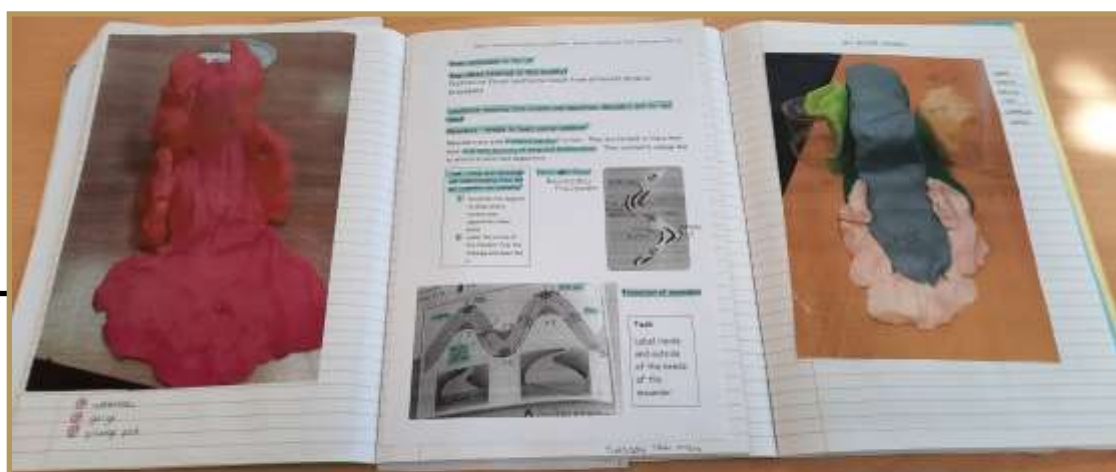
YEAR NINE



Year Nine linked their studies of the role of the UK in the wider world by exploring the history and impact of the Commonwealth Games which are due to start in Birmingham on the 28 July. Some great work here geographers!

YEAR TEN

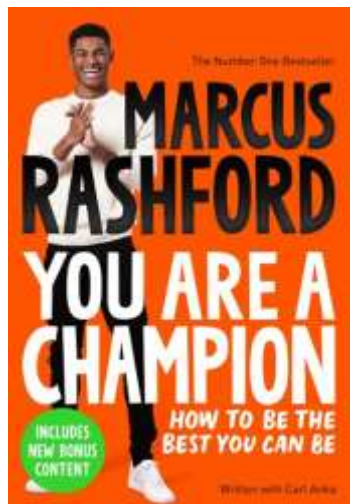
Year Ten also got creative by recalling and applying their geographical knowledge through play dough and table pens! Here are a few examples of their excellent work.



ENGLISH & LITERACY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

DIVERSITY IN THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

This year the English department have been working to implement a more diverse range of texts and authors into the curriculum across all year groups.



In Year Seven, we introduced the brand new “Words that Burn” poetry topic, which is a scheme created by Amnesty International challenging students to explore human rights through poetry. We covered a diverse range of topics through examining the poems, including war, racism, gender equality and immigration. Students really enjoyed discussing these key issues in depth and getting creative with their own poetry ideas.

Alongside this, we also added the novel “The Bone Sparrow” to the curriculum. This allowed students further opportunity to explore perspectives on the refugee crisis and equality.

Year Eight continue to study a wide and exciting range of texts, some of which cover issues around class, equality and education. As with previous cohorts, this year group have examined issues surrounding “Global Education”, including a look at education systems throughout history, in more deprived and war-torn countries, and hearing about trailblazers in the world of education today, such as Malala. Malala is also one of our Whole School read books during form time, so pupils are able to bring together what they have learned to reflect on the experiences of others in the world.

Year Nine began their English studies this year by looking at a range of stories called “Diverse Shorts”. These pieces encouraged students to think critically about important issues surrounding identity and diversity, and covered themes like race, immigration and inequality.

In addition, we introduced a new scheme of work on “Non-Fictional Heroes”. Students examined the history and challenges of real-life heroes from a variety of backgrounds, and discussed the impact they had on reshaping views of marginalised groups. Some names we studied include Olaudah Equiano, Katherine Johnson, Marsha P. Johnson and Marcus Rashford. Pupils then researched and created their own persuasive speeches about a modern-day hero who inspired them.

Years Ten and Eleven continue to follow the AQA GCSE syllabus and study set texts linked with this. However, we still have the chance to explore some diversity issues through this work, including discussions surrounding class, hierarchy and power.

We continue to encourage diversity in reading outside of our core English lessons with the vast range of texts on offer in the school library. We also implemented “The Whole School Read” in form time for KS3, where students enjoy being read to from a variety of fiction and non-fiction books from diverse voices. These include ‘The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time’, by Mark Hadden, giving the perspective of a boy with autism. We also read Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman, as well as the aforementioned memoir of Malala Yousafzai, just to name a few.

Each fortnight students are taken to the library and our new librarian, Mrs Kelly, is fantastic at signposting students to our wide range of diverse texts on offer; it is so important that our pupils can see themselves reflected in the books that we read here at Goldington.



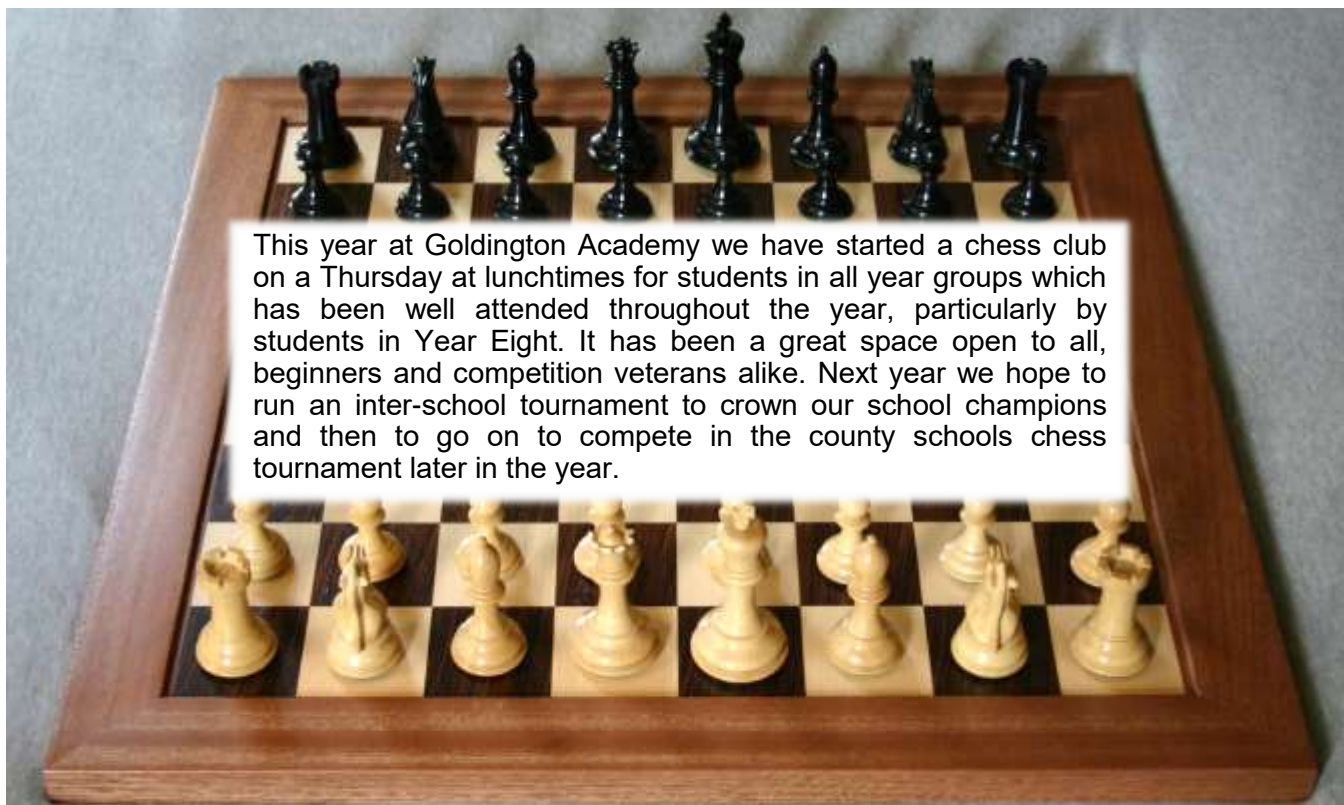
BLUE PERIS

On Friday 24 June, 60 of our Year Seven pupils along with 8 members of staff travelled to the beautiful Snowdonia national park for a long weekend of outdoor activities. Despite the wet weather, all pupils and staff had a fantastic time rock climbing, canoeing, and gorge walking up a spectacular gorge. All pupils were fantastically well behaved and represented the school brilliantly, receiving praise from the Blue Peris centre and activity staff. On the journey back we were fortunate to have the sun come out just in time for a lovely amble around the picturesque village of Beddgelert and to enjoy a delicious award-winning ice cream. The perfect end to a wonderful trip.



CHESS CLUB

This year at Goldington Academy we have started a chess club on a Thursday at lunchtimes for students in all year groups which has been well attended throughout the year, particularly by students in Year Eight. It has been a great space open to all, beginners and competition veterans alike. Next year we hope to run an inter-school tournament to crown our school champions and then to go on to compete in the county schools chess tournament later in the year.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY UPDATE

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

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

Teachers are responsible for every pupil including those with SEND.

- Teachers are responsible for the progress and development of every pupil in their class, including those who get extra support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.
- The first step in supporting all pupils, including those with SEND, is high-quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils.
- Some pupils may need additional help to access the curriculum or make expected progress. These pupils may have SEN.



Not every pupil making slower progress has SEN.

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

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

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

Staffing

We wish Miss Katelyn Clifford and Miss Holly Lane (LSAs) all the best as they depart Goldington Academy and embrace new chapters in their lives at university. They will be missed by students and staff alike. We look forward to welcoming our new LSA staff who will be starting in September.

Important SEN information and documents:

Local offer: we subscribe to the Bedford Borough Local Offer which offers a variety of services for young people that include behaviour support, parental support, etc. See link for the services offered:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/home.page>

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY UPDATE

SEN information report: information published on the school website about how the school's SEN policy will be implemented. The latest report is available here: [SEN Information Report 2021.pdf \(goldington.beds.sch.uk\)](https://www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/SEN%20Information%20Report%202021.pdf). We invite feedback for review and feedback of the current document and consequent update of these for September 2022.

Would you like to join us?

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

Contact us

With any issues regarding pupils and their SEN, the SENDCO, Mr Roopnarain, can be contacted either by phone, in person or by email roopnarains@goldington.beds.sch.uk. A drop-in session is available to parents on Thursdays between 2.30 pm — 4.15 pm each week during term time.

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

Bedford Borough Consultant quality assurance visits – October 2021

“All of the SEND learners articulated that they felt well supported and that they felt safe and secure.”



UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

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

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

1. One small plain stud in each ear
2. One ring permitted on each hand
3. Bracelets on the grounds of religious or medical needs

Any student attending school with piercings that are not permitted will be asked to remove them, once they have healed. No other visible body piercing is acceptable. The school recognises that areas such as uniform can be open to subjective interpretation and on occasion abuse. Therefore, to avoid difficulty or embarrassment, we ask parents and pupils to operate well within these guidelines rather than at their extremes.



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

SCHOOL UNIFORM DONATIONS WANTED

We are collecting any **school uniform** and **PE kit** that is clean and in good condition that could be reused as part of our second-hand school uniform shop.

Items can be dropped off at reception, or brought into student services by your child.



We are pleased to announce that, as of September, we will be opening a second-hand school uniform shop for all year groups. Uniform will be available to purchase at a discounted rate from a pop-up shop once every half term. Further details about this will be communicated in September. It will also be available by email request; please contact Mrs Bell

(bella@goldington.beds.sch.uk) with your requests, including size requirements, to find out what we have in stock.

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.

Undoubtedly the pandemic has hindered pupil attendance, however attendance at Goldington Academy remains strong. Absence results in lost learning that cannot be replaced. We ask that parents carefully consider if absence is absolutely necessary when deciding whether or not to keep their child off school for any reason. Our school attendance target is 96%, which is considered to be good attendance by the DFE.

The school day begins at 8.50 am and pupils are expected to be on the school site by this time. We appreciate that sometimes lateness is unavoidable for a number of potential reasons, however we kindly ask that parents let the office know in advance if a pupil will be arriving after 8.50am where possible. Persistent lateness cannot be authorised without just cause.

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
Liam D Runner up: Najada G	Sofia N Runner up: Adrian L	Amelie M Runner up: Ollie F	Joseph H Runner up: Gabriella R	Raif M Runner up: Anat O

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.**

CREATIVE ARTS

This year, the creative arts team launched our annual arts celebration days by offering each year group a dedicated day exploring the arts. As a team, we selected a theme for the children to explore, as outlined below.

YEAR SEVEN

Year Seven explored the theme of 'Save the Arts, Save the world'. This theme, a celebration of the arts, came out of our desire to give a space to celebrate as we recovered from the pandemic and as a reminder of the importance of the arts in our recovery. Students enjoyed a day of protest songs and dance and drama workshops, finishing with an afternoon on the playground recreating their murals and enjoying a well deserved ice cream treat!



YEAR EIGHT



Year Eight discovered the force! Injecting a bit of fun into our 4 May date, we chose the theme, 'May the Force be with you!' Students explored an array of Star Wars themed activities, including storm trooper dancing, Yoda mindfulness painting, musical character motifs and drama monologues.

YEAR NINE

Year Nine Arts Day linked to International Women's Day and the important roles women have had within the arts. In dance, students participated in a ballet workshop, learning set repertoire from Swan Lake. They did extremely well learning the key skills needed for this highly technical dance style!



CREATIVE ARTS

BRONZE ARTS AWARD CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Ava, Liam, Eira, Nicola, Ari, Elliot, Laila, Frank, Zuzanna, Sofia, Vladimirs, Margot and Azhariah for completing and passing their Bronze Arts Award!



The qualification has taken several months to complete. The course explores new art skills, sharing their passions for the arts with others, researching and developing deeper understanding of different art forms and reflecting on professional theatre work.



GOLDINGTON'S GOT TALENT

We were thrilled to introduce Goldington's Got Talent back onto the Creative Arts calendar this year, and we were not disappointed with the talent on show! After a week of intense selection rounds, the final did not disappoint! Romea, in Year Seven, was victorious with an outstanding rendition of Halo. We cannot wait to see her talent develop over the coming years. Our runners up were Zuzanna with a fabulous version of Sky Fall and John and Umair, with an original song. Amazing talent across the school that blew us away and was a highlight of the year. This event however, was especially successful thanks to Urban, who single handedly organised the show. With special video messages from celebrities and a visit from our local MP for support it, he created a very special evening. Well done Urban!

DANCE

During last term, Goldington Academy was part of the National Youth Dance festival: U Dance. It was a pleasure to see our students perform in this exciting venture. Well done to all involved.

MUSIC

As the school year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to look back on some of the musical highlights that have taken place during the Summer Term.

The GCSE Music Recital enabled our hugely gifted Year Eleven musicians the opportunity to display their talents in an informal setting, in front of their friends and family. The evening took place in the Exhibition Space, which provided the perfect venue for such an occasion, and we look forward to this event becoming a regular feature of the music calendar. I would like to personally thank Miss Gardner for providing the catering, which greatly added to the night. I was delighted that all twelve members of the group performed a solo on their main instrument. The diverse talent on display was a joy to see, but away from the outstanding musical offerings, it was wonderful to witness the support the students had for each other. As they all move onto new and exciting challenges, the music department and the whole Goldington community will miss them all immensely.



After the enormous success of the first night at Esquires, back in March, various Goldington rock bands and DJs had the opportunity to take part in the second Bedford Breakthrough event, again held at this iconic Bedford venue. Making their much-anticipated debut performance, were our brilliant Year Nine Bandits Band, 'The Lemons', and they certainly did not disappoint! Looking like they had been on stage all their lives, they wowed the crowd. Later in the evening, our Year Ten Bandits group, 'The Kingsmen', got the whole place jumping, including their biggest fan, Mr Galbraith! Alongside them on the bill, were Year Eleven musical superstars, Izzy and Max, solo performances and DJ sets from a host of our DJing students. There was also an amazing display of raw musical power from one of the Rock School bands, 'Monochrome', featuring predominantly Year Ten Goldington musicians. We are already looking forward to the next instalment of this exciting and innovative initiative.



On the next day, we headed over to yet another professional venue, The University of Bedford Theatre, for the long-awaited return of The Summer Concert. And what a night it was! Starting with some Samba and concluding with a sixty-five student-strong rendition of Don't Look Back in Anger, the audience were treated to a range of high-quality performances from some of our brilliant bands, the String Quartet, the Jazz Group and the Choir. In addition, there were some hugely impressive performances from a range of soloists, from sonatas on cello and flute, to spine-tingling vocal performances and superb piano playing, to the Percussion Group, with their crowd-pleasing version of Wipeout, played on wheelie bins! As well as the music during the concert, we also had a selection of piano favourites from Adeera, prior to the concert and some amazing accordion solos from Antonio, as the audience enjoyed their interval refreshments.



MUSIC

As we look to give our musicians increased opportunities to perform in public, I was delighted that a number of our most accomplished pianists gave up their time to perform before each of the Goldington awards evenings.

The garden area is a pleasant, peaceful place for our students to congregate. It is also the perfect place to hold a lunchtime outdoor rock concert, which we did on the last Friday of term. Featuring bands from Years Seven, Nine and Ten, with a headline performance from the up and coming 'Lunchbox', the whole school community were able to watch and enjoy some great music.

Thank you to some of our string players, who represented Goldington at two of Bedford's Fiddle Fiesta.

As we look forward to further musical adventures next year, huge thanks should go to everyone who has contributed to a much-needed return of live music, with special mentions going to our outstanding peripatetic instrumental teachers; Mrs Bell; Mr Gordon; and of course, all of our fabulous musicians!

Mr King



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

DRAMA

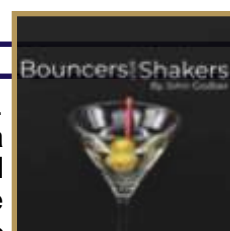


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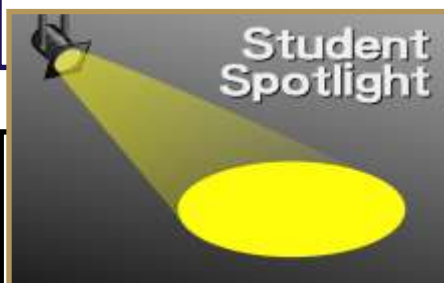
This term, in Year Seven Drama Club, we have been focusing on a twist on the traditional fairy tale and how we can finish a story in our own way, taking an audience on an unexpected journey. This has included reading short stories as a group and pairing off to come up with an alternative ending. One story that the group really enjoyed was 'a person is walking down the street in front of you when they drop something. You try to get their attention when you notice something strange...' We had stories moving from aliens to long-lost family reunions. This allowed the group to experiment with story writing and let their imagination 'go wild'.

Over the last half-term, we have been preparing for a performance of a short script based around a beautiful princess who has an ugly personality. This princess is given the gift of beauty by a fairy, who soon comes to realise what a curse it really is. Each member of drama club has auditioned and been cast as well as set the challenge of learning their lines and preparing their own props and costumes. In our last week, we will be showing friends and invited guests our final performance and celebrating how much hard work this small group of students have put into this club this year. Miss Gardner

In our Year Nine PLP lessons, students finished the year with an informal performance. Throughout the year we have explored devising theatre, studied practitioners and read a number of play texts as a group – the overarching aim of this work, for the students to find something that resonated with them and sparked their interest. Towards the end of the year, I introduced two renowned plays by John Godber, 'Bouncers' and 'Shakers'. The plays focus on what it's like to work in the 'nightlife' industry as young adults, depicting caricatures of the social classes and stereotypes of the sexes. The text really stood out to the students, after a number of failed attempts to 'hook them in', and we spent a number of weeks blocking out some key scenes. During the process some students explored other directions and learnt more toward devising their own original pieces of theatre, or using a previously explored text. At the end of the process, I was really pleased to see that all students were able to share a performance, be it scripted or devised, in front of an audience, conquering for many a fear of performing! We were also wonderfully supported by a small group of students who took on design and front of house roles. The process was excellent for the students and they got an insight into what it takes to produce work. I particularly enjoyed seeing the students gravitate toward styles of theatre and subject matter that interested them.



Well done Year Nine PLP on a brilliant final project. Mr Stratton



Congratulations to all the winners of drama awards this year. You are so deserving of the recognition for either **Effort**, **Achievement** or the much-coveted **Arts Award**. I wish you the best of luck for the future and hope you continue to thrive in the performing arts.



COOKING & NUTRITION

YEAR NINE & TEN CAREERS WORKSHOP



On Thursday 14 July, we were very fortunate to have two Royal Navy Chefs come into school to run a workshop for the H&C students to take part in. As well as learning all about what it is like to be a chef in the navy and how apprenticeships works, all the students were set a Ready Steady Cook challenge of making a lasagne and strawberry Swiss roll in only an hour. Everyone completed their challenge and the chefs were thrilled with the results. As you can see, the Swiss rolls turned out perfectly.

It was an amazing experience for the students to have professional chefs work alongside them and share their skills and knowledge. There will definitely be some improved cooking and presenting because of their helpful 'real life' tips and tricks.

It is so important for students to feel joy from cooking and see where a career in cooking can take them. We look forward to inviting them back next year.



TEACHING AND LEARNING — SUMMER STUDY

What is summer learning loss?

Summer learning loss is when students return to school at a lower academic level than the end of the previous school year. This happens when your child doesn't use or practise the skills they have learned at school during the summer break.

The facts on summer learning loss

A recent review of 13 studies, which looked at over 50,000 students suggested that they experience an average summer learning loss estimated to equal about one month of the academic year.

What can you do?

Reading - Encourage your child to read either with you or alone. Reading does not have to be time consuming to make a difference, as research conducted by the National Literacy Trust found that *"reading for just 10 minutes a day is enough to have an impact on a child's learning"*.

Did you know that it is free to join the Bedford Library in order to access a variety of reading materials? You just need proof of address. This is the link to join the virtual library -

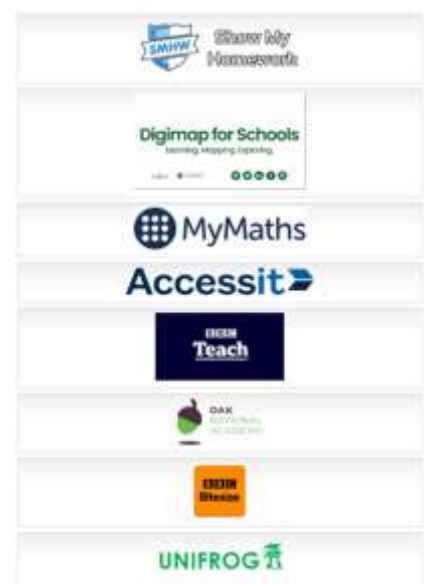
http://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/bedfordshire/vlib/0.beds_libraries/joining_library.htm

This is the link to the virtual library. Here, once you are a member, you can download e-books, listen to audio books, read e-magazines and download music.

<http://virtual-library.culturalservices.net/cgi-bin/vlib.sh>

There are a variety of resources on our school website for students to study. Each year group has their own page on our school website with information and websites relevant to that particular year. You can find this information by clicking on the 'FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS' tab. www.goldington.beds.sch.uk/for-pupils-and-parents

Years 7 – 11



Years 10 - 11



In addition, every subject has their own page on our school website that includes a variety of information and resources. You can find this information for every subject by clicking on the 'Learning' tab. -

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

Many subjects will set a summer homework project which can be found on Show My Homework –

www.goldington.satchelone.com