



# Senior Newsletter

26 January 2018



Dear Parents

This has been a rather hectic start to term with mock exams for both Year 11 and the U6th IB cohorts.

I hosted a group of Headmasters and Senior pupils here on Wednesday where we had a good discussion about a variety of topics which have an impact on our schools. It is always reassuring to know that we seem to be in a strong position at Gresham's on a variety of fronts!

I have been pleased to welcome a number of parents who have taken me up on my offer to have a meal with me in the School dining room. I have enjoyed their company and thankfully they have enjoyed the food. Please feel free to take me up on this genuine offer.

I hope you have a happy and relaxing Home Weekend.

Kind regards





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## GERMAN DEPARTMENT — Trips to Leipzig and Vienna

The German Department was in full travel mode at the beginning of the Christmas holidays, with two trips on offer - to Leipzig, Weimar and Dresden for the IB native speakers and to Vienna for non native speakers in Years 10 to U6th.



The L6th and U6th German Literature students spent the first four days of the Christmas holidays in Eastern Germany, following in the footsteps of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. We watched a stunning performance of Goethe's and Schiller's "Greatest Hits", explored the picturesque town of Weimar and found out more about its importance not only for German authors and their works, but also for Hitler's ideology and the Third Reich. Tim Risse and Clara Schill acted as excellent tour guides in Dresden, showing us the curious heritage of August II, the Strong and one of Dresden's most delicious specialities, *Eierschecke*. Our trip finished with a hearty meal in *Auerbachs Keller*, one of the most famous and oldest German restaurants that is not only known for its great food but also for Goethe's Mephistopheles who is said to have cast a spell on bibulous students in the early 16th century.





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## GERMAN DEPARTMENT —Trips to Leipzig and Vienna (cont/d)

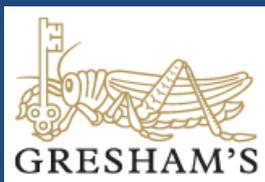
Highlights of the trip for non-native speakers to the Austrian capital included an energetic three hour bike tour, which enabled the group to see all the main sights, as well as visits to the Belvedere and Schoenbrunn palaces, to the quirky and engaging Third Man museum, the Prater park, various exhibitions, Christmas markets and a swim at the Jugendstil Amalienbad, finished off with an obligatory Wiener Schnitzel at a traditional Viennese restaurant. The only disappointment was the unseasonably warm weather - the only snow we experienced was at Luton!



Many thanks to Ms Zechiel, Mr Gillingwater, Mrs Ellis-Retter and Mr Retter for giving up the first week of their Christmas holidays to lead and accompany the trips.



*Mr F Retter, Housemaster, Head of German*



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## HISTORY



On Friday 12 January we were extremely fortunate to welcome Holocaust survivor, Eva Clarke, back to the school to talk with our Year 9s. With Holocaust Memorial Day fast approaching on Saturday 27 January, her excellent and incredibly moving talk will hopefully help foster a greater understanding of the importance of reflection on this date and the need to challenge racism and prejudice wherever it may be encountered. The Year 9 students asked some incredibly astute questions and I know will have drawn a lot from Eva's presentation.

*Mr Cox, Head of History*

## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

Our Lent Academic Enrichment Lecture Series has begun with two excellent speakers. First our own Mr Laurence Norfolk questioned whether 'Design is Dead'.

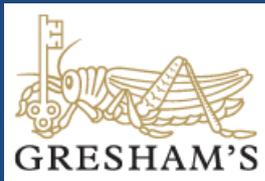


Mr Norfolk, who is the Dyson Foundation Fellow at Gresham's, took us on a trip through the history of designers from the early artisan designer-makers to the needs of the industrial revolution. He discussed the role of 3D printing in liberating everyone to become their own designer, but then suggested that the professionals will still be required as arbiters of taste! Last week we welcomed Dr Rebecca Mitchell, a languages and linguistics teacher who spends part of her time teaching at The Perse School in Cambridge and the rest as an Affiliated

Lecturer in the University of Cambridge's Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages. Dr Mitchell's talk touched on a number of different areas of theoretical and applied linguistics, shedding light on a subject many are unfamiliar with and showing why studying it can be both entertaining and increasingly useful in an ever-changing world.

We have one more talk before the Half Term break: Philip Hunter, Visiting Lecturer in Law at the New College of the Humanities, will discuss various cases relating to foresight of harm in a talk entitled 'A person is killed: when is it murder?' on Friday 2 February. Please contact Mr Gillingwater on [mgwater@greshams.com](mailto:mgwater@greshams.com) if you would like to attend.

*Mr M Gillingwater, Teacher Research Lead*



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## **DRAMA —The Silver Sword**

A large, talented and enthusiastic cast of our younger pupils has begun rehearsals for their production of *The Silver Sword*, which comes to the Auden stage in the last week of term. Based on Ian Serraillier's novel for young people, the play tells the epic and inspiring story of how the children of a Polish family trek across Europe at the end of the Second World War in order to be reunited with their parents. At a time when so many of the world's young people are displaced by war or hunger the play does seem extraordinarily relevant to our own century and its message of courage and optimism are heart-warming.



There will be four performances on 19 to 22 March, the last week of term, in the hugely-adaptable Auden Theatre. As befits the epic style and scale of the production the auditorium will be in flat-floor mode, providing an arena space ideal for story-telling. Rehearsals have been full of energy and the novel is held in particular affection by all who have read it, so do come and see the production. Tickets are available from the Auden Theatre Box Office.

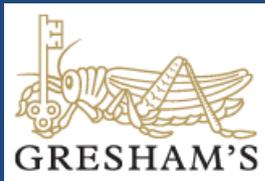
*Mr Paul Hands, Teacher of Drama*

## **MFL Theatre Evening**

After taking a year out, 2017's MFL Theatre Evening was even more hotly anticipated than usual. Each language studied was represented by various entertaining performances on a cold December night in Scruff Shacks. We even welcomed a new language to the fold this year - Lucy Baar made a speech in Finnish, talking about the recent centenary of Finland's independence.

Other highlights included Inma in Year 9, who taught a group to dance flamenco; the performance was hugely exciting and dynamic.





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## **MFL Evening (cont/d)**

The Year 12 Germanists also entertained us with a Männergrippe 'man-flu' sketch, which involved a languishing Ross Butler being carried in on a sofa. The theatre side of the evening was rounded off with a spirited performance of 'Feliz Navidad' with audience participation. Afterwards we all went next door to enjoy an array of international foods including Stollen, spring rolls, dim sum and tapas. It was a lovely convivial evening for staff and pupils alike and all are to be commended on their excellent performances and inclusive attitude throughout.



*Mrs A Watt, Head of MFL*

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

### **East Anglian Cross Country League, Mousehold Heath**

The first fixture for the cross-country team took part on Saturday 20 January. The event was held at Mousehold Heath with a challenging muddy and hilly course for the runners to contend with.

Joe Oxtoby and Ned Porter took part in the junior race where Ned finished 2nd and Joe finished 5th.

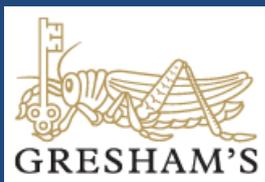
The intermediate race was a tight battle between Gresham's and Norwich School. Mattia Vancini finished 3rd, Thomas Bennett 5th, Pablo Castano Basurto 7th and Fritz Lange 10th. The intermediate team finished 2nd behind Norwich School by just two points.

Although the girls' race was hotly contested, Nelly Porter and Hattie Reynolds (Prep School) were able to pull clear of the main field and finished 1st and 2nd. Taylor Skerritt finished 11th, Eva Colomer 14th and Lora Naydenova 15th which meant the girls' team also finished 2nd to Norwich.

### **Norfolk Schools Cross Country Championship 2018**

Hattie Reynolds and Megan Willis had a super race in the intermediate girls' competition. Hattie paced herself very well and finished 2nd and Megan finishing 16th. With this result Hattie qualified for the County team.

The intermediate boys Ned Porter and Joe Oxtoby found the large field and strong head wind a challenge. They completed the course but were outside the County qualification spots.



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## CROSS COUNTRY (cont/d)



The senior boys also had a very tough field to contend with and found the pace set by the club runners difficult to keep up with and slipped back in the field. Mattia Vancini led Thomas Bennett and Fritz Lange home for Gresham's.

The senior and intermediate girls raced together. Kate Willis had a brilliant race and pushed to the finish line finishing 4th, with this result she qualified for the County team. The senior girls looking to end their school cross country careers on a high managed to qualify for the County team with Iona Stubbs in 7th leading home Taylor Skerritt 9th and Eva Colomer 10th.

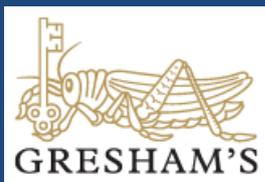
*Mr D Saker, m/c Cross Country*

## RUGBY

### Eastern Counties Under 16 Rugby

Congratulations to Paddy Mountford and Otto King on their selection for the Eastern Counties U16s this season. The boys have been training with the squad since the trial process was completed in December and they will be playing matches versus Leicestershire, Notts Lincs & Derbyshire (NLD) and East Midlands. This is a great achievement and we wish them all the best in these fixtures. Pictured are Paddy and Otto after their victory over Leicestershire last Sunday!





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## HOCKEY

The boys' season started with a pre-season training camp in Barcelona at HC Terrassa for the 1st team squad, the camp was a great success with the squad showing a huge improvement between the first and last games. We were also fortunate to be coached by an ex-Spanish international player and Terrassa ladies 1st XI coach Andreu Enrich. Prior to the camp Kieran Peters was named as Captain with Billy Buckingham his Vice Captain.

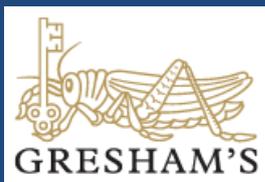
So far the term has been a huge success with a large number of players in all year groups training out on the pitches and playing in the block fixtures against Culford and Norwich School.

The U14s have qualified for the regionals which will take place on the Thursday 8 February, after coming second in the County and the U16s are looking to follow them when they play on the Thursday 25 January.

We welcomed The Perse School in the U18 boys England Hockey School Cup, this was an eventful match in which momentum swung several ways before it was decided. The Perse went ahead in the first half but we soon took control and scored 3 goals before half time. The second half saw the scores level quickly but for the game to then be open with both teams creating chances, The Perse broke the deadlock with 2 minutes to play to take the win. We now go into the Plate competition where we face either Kimbolton or Bedford School.



*Mr D Buckmaster, Head of Hockey*



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## NETBALL

We got off to a great start in pre-season training as some of our talented Netball players spent the day with Pamela Cookey, former England Captain and current Netball commentator on Sky TV. Pamela started the day with a presentation on her 'double life' – an inspirational talk about balancing academic work alongside sport, and how both compliment the other. She talked about battles with injury, and not being as tall as most Netballers; she was inspirational!



The rest of the day was made up of active workshops: fitness ideas, warm-ups, ball skills, as well as more detailed sessions on toughness, balance, and rotating the ball in the circle.

At the end of the day, there was a short presentation in which Pamela named two mentees who will have Pamela's support by Skype and email for the next six months – these two lucky girls are Esme Papworth and Florence Kemp. Pamela also presented 'highly commended' medals to Emma Woodhouse and Rosie Ringer. She was full of praise for our girls who worked extremely well all day. Daisy O'Hanlon gave a lovely thank you to Pamela and the Mintridge Events teams. It was a great day, organised for us by Alex Paske (OG) of Mintridge Events, and it has kicked off busy Netball Season.



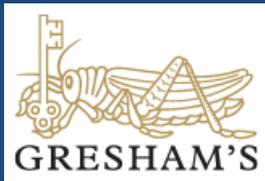
During the first week of term we were delighted to announce Captain and Vice-Captain of Netball for the coming season, Daisy Brucki and Daisy O'Hanlon respectively. They have both been awarded full colours and were congratulated by the Headmaster in Chapel. The first weekend back saw eight netball teams involved in pre-season friendlies; the senior and junior A teams at King's Ely against King's Ely, Wymondham College, The Perse, and RHS, the junior Bs and Cs at home to Prep School teams. The second weekend kept us all extremely busy, with six junior teams away, and four senior teams at home to Oakham.

Oakham being much larger in number were stronger in depth, but there were some very tight games and extremely good performances all round. 1<sup>st</sup> VII and 2<sup>nd</sup> VII had comfortable mid-week wins over Norwich High School, and are looking ahead to a busy fixture card next week.



The 1st VII travel to Welwyn Garden City at Home Weekend for the East Region Finals of the National Schools Netball Competition. It will be a very tough competition and we wish them luck!

*Mrs J Flower, Head of Netball*



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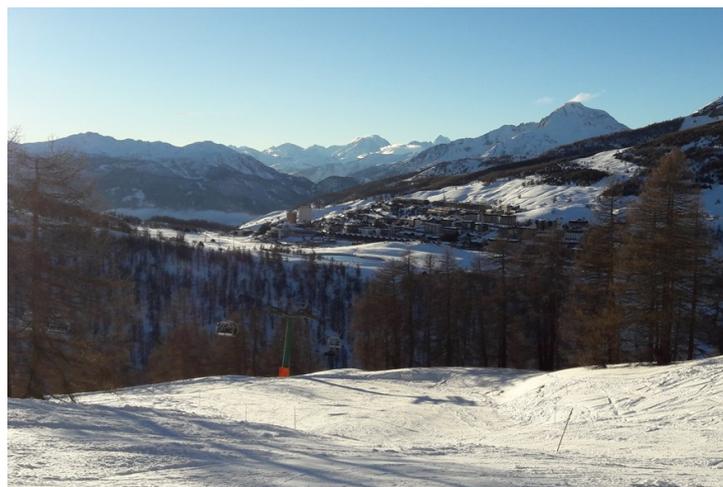


## SKI TRIP - Sestriere—January 2018



We returned to Sestriere for our bi-annual ski trip with a group of 34 made up from Year 7 to Year 11 pupils plus staff. We encountered all aspects of alpine weather whilst we were away from strong winds, rain, sunshine and 2 days of non-stop snow resulting in nearly 200cm falling which was an incredible sight on our final 2 days in resort!

The pupils were split into three ability groups, Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced and were led by our fantastic instructors from the Sestriere Ski School. We had 5 hours of lessons per day for six days and the improvement in skiing ability for all three groups was very impressive, with the Beginners tackling red runs by the end of the week, the Intermediates coming down part of the Olympic black run on day 2 and the Advanced group doing some waist-high powder skiing! All the pupils were presented with a certificate and badge at the end of the week which recognised their skiing ability. We were really fortunate to have a huge area of skiing to discover and I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed their ski experience. We encountered lost poles & gloves, Noah having a sleep in a snow hole after falling off the pommel lift and waiting to get rescued, Charlie being wiped out by the chair-lift on his first experience of those, thankfully a very good helmet protected him and Alistair being described as a 1:10,000 skier by his Instructor as despite only having skied for one week as a beginner on our last trip in 2016 and he skied all week in the Advanced group!



*View of Sestriere – Milky Way Ski region 440km*

*Ski School meeting point. (09.00 – 12.00 & 2.45 – 4.45pm every day)*



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## SKI TRIP - Sestriere (cont/d)

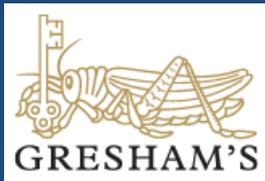
For apres-ski we did sledging (high-speed – with the highlight being Miranda wiping out a whole family as she veered slightly off course....!), karaoke, swimming in the outdoor pool (heated), quiz night and a pizza evening. The pupils at the end of skiing were able to explore the town and many became firm favourites with the local creperie!

Thank you to all the pupils who were excellently behaved, good company and hope that they enjoyed their trip. I would also like to thank Emma Brigham (Farfield Matron) and Lucy Worrall who joined us for their holiday and were great company along with my fellow staff; Mr Worrall, Mr Humphrey and Mrs Walton. Their efforts, expertise, support and giving up some of their holiday in order for us to run this trip, is very much appreciated!

We will be releasing details for our next ski trip for December 2019/January 2020 later this year and if the demand is there we will take our Year 7 to Year 11 trip as normal but may also consider a Sixth Form ski trip as well.



*Mr S Adams – Ski trip organiser*



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## MUSIC

The new term has carried on from where the old term left us – with really busy musicians. In fact, there were some Christmassy goings on in the holidays too, as Schola made two trips to London to sing for HRH, The Princess Royal, and for the Fishmongers at their annual dinner and carol service.

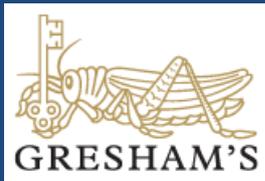
At the start of January many good things got underway. The Choral Society is up and running, rehearsing the Coronation Anthems for later in the term. (It isn't too late to join us if you are still considering joining on Thursday evenings). Perhaps the most exciting thing this term is the Individual House Music Competition. This is new this year, and approximately 120 pupils have come forward to audition to take part in the finals, on Sunday 4 February. This is certainly worth putting into your calendars (2.30pm Instrumental, 6pm Vocal). We have an excellent external adjudicator coming to award the cups; I hope you can come and support our young musicians at this event!



The Staff Half Hour concert took place in a Music and Munch slot. Tig's Café was packed and a number of staff played and did not disappoint. It was so good for the pupils to see their teachers perform.

Perhaps the highlight was the Headmaster's singing of *Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better*, with Miss Kennedy, and Mr Chuter's "drunken" interjections adding further jollity to the occasion. What good sports!





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## MUSIC (cont/d)

We were really fortunate that Ronnie Scott's All Stars visited us, and performed in the first Subscription Series concert of the term. The players are the 'House Band' at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in London, and their recreation of all things from 1959 was mesmerisingly good.

Looking ahead we have some other key dates for your diaries. We celebrate Schubert's birthday with a Schubertiade on Wednesday 31 January. This will feature a tremendously broad range of interpretations of his music, interspersed with film and text. It promises to be great fun. Do come along. The annual Songs from the Shows takes place in The Auden Theatre on Monday 5 February. A popular annual show, please be sure to keep this evening free.

Excitingly, as you will have seen from emails, straight after half term on Wednesday 21 February Schola Cantorum will be performing at St John's Smith Square in London with The European Union Chamber Orchestra, singing Haydn and Mozart. They will be joined by the Fellowship of the National Youth Choir, so this will be a stunning event. Also playing is Benjamin Goldscheider (BBC Young Musician of the Year, Brass category). This promises to be an absolute treat; I do hope you will be able to come. For more information and to book tickets please click on the link: <https://www.sjss.org.uk/events/european-union-chamber-orchestra>

## EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

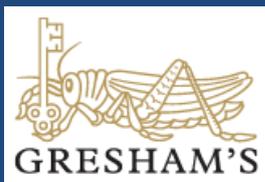
A celebration of music by Haydn and Mozart with the choir of one of Britain's historic musical schools and the National Youth Choir Fellowship, conducted by John Bowley. Joining them the EUCCO, Director Hans-Peter Hofmann and BBC Young Musician of the Year Finalist, Benjamin Goldscheider for Mozart's 4th Horn Concerto.



For those nearer to school and not able to get to London, Schola will be performing with The Fellowship and The European Chamber Orchestra in the Auden Theatre on Monday 19 February.



*Mr J Bowley, Director of Music*



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## GRESHAM'S FUTURES

Gresham's Futures 'Career Bites,' a series of talks from visiting professionals begin again this term. These sessions run on Thursday afternoons, offering pupils in all year groups an informal opportunity to find out about a range of jobs that interest them. The first speaker is Phil Holdway, a former Police Officer who is now working as a Paramedic. Subsequent sessions will include a focus on: Architecture, Medicine, Investment Banking, Automotive Engineering and Sports Journalism. If one of these highlights an area of interest for your child, please encourage them to take advantage of these super opportunities to meet people from industry and professions.

On Thursday 8 March, to coincide with National Careers Week, we will hold another of our successful Business Breakfasts. We would be delighted to welcome any parents to School for this inspiring and bustling event. It provides an opportunity for you to network with each other but also to chat to our Sixth Form pupils about your career area. They will be trained up on personal presentation and communication skills, and will be keen to practice these on you! More information to follow, but please do email if you would like to register your interest in joining us – the coffee and bacon rolls will be ready at 7.45am.

Another date for your diary is our Gap Year evening for Year 12 pupils which will take place on Wednesday 7 February, from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. This event will showcase some of the opportunities open to pupils to experience a memorable Gap Year between school and university. Parents will be welcome to attend too and we will send more details shortly.

Finally, a reminder that individual Careers Interviews are freely available for pupils in all year groups, with our qualified Careers Adviser, Emma Durand. The discussion will help to develop ideas for future work and study and a detailed action plan will be produced and circulated afterwards.

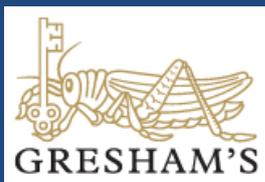
Similarly, we are able to offer online psychometric careers testing in collaboration with Morrisby. Please see more information about this service here: [www.morrisby.com](http://www.morrisby.com) There is an additional charge of £30 for this external provision. Please email us – [futures@greshams.com](mailto:futures@greshams.com) to arrange either of these services.

*Mrs E Durand, Careers Adviser, Mrs V English, Head of Careers*

## CHARITY—IAfrika



The football shirts donated by several Gresham's pupils were delightfully received. The photo shows some very proud IAfrika recipients.



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## IB CAS (Creativity Action Service)

CAS is part of the IB Diploma Core, with all students required to undertake a variety of experiences during their course. Participation in the many extra-curricular activities on offer in School enables students to fulfil the CAS requirement. They have to maintain a reflective record of their involvement, showing commitment and development over time. They also have to undertake a CAS project in which they should plan and initiate activities taking a leadership role, working collaboratively and addressing some global and ethical issues.

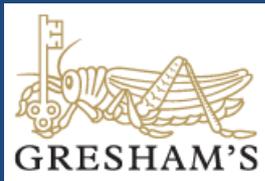
Appropriate creative experiences can include learning a musical instrument, being in the choir or a theatre production, debating etc.

The Action requirement is easily achieved through our sports programme, with pupils being encouraged to try something new or set themselves goals to achieve in their regular sports.

Service activities are many and varied. Members of the CCF can provide service by instructing groups on a Friday afternoon. Some students might provide free lifeguard cover in the pool others volunteer to help on Thornage Hall farm, a residential home for adults with learning difficulties. One group of students spend time each week creating basic teaching resources for use by the group working with Olpalagilagi School in Kenya.



*Miss F Gathercole, Assistant Head (Co-Curricular) & Head of Environmental Systems*



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## **CLAY CLUB supported by the GARDENING GROUP**

As the Clay Shooting Club nears the start of their competitive season, works have continued in the old quarry in the School woods to ensure that the Clay Club has an area on site to be able to use for shooting. This site will mainly be used to support in the region of 60 students each year to have experience sessions, providing them with an opportunity to try out the sport. Those that show keen interest and an aptitude for the sport then have the opportunity to join the Clay Shooting Club.

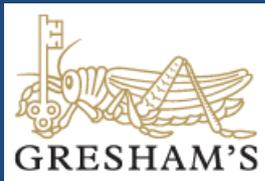


The Gardening Group helped to clear the invasive, non-native Buddleia plants and other undergrowth in the quarry after more major earthworks were provided by the company completing the Outdoor Activity Centre in the woods. This work has enabled a large, safe and clear area to be formed with several options for clays to be presented to shooters. The area will be seeded with a carefully selected local wildflower meadow mix to ensure a haven for bees, butterflies and other wildlife is created. Smaller native shrubs and an understory will then be created along the borders in the woods, providing plenty of shelter and food for birdlife and insects too.

The Gardening Club, which now numbers in the region of 12 members, works hard on various projects around the School and the local area, including their own gardening. A new area outside the English block has been allocated with raised beds and paths installed and kindly funded by Chartwells Catering. Once the weather starts to improve the group will embark on their goal to grow herbs and plants for harvest to provide fresh organic produce for the School kitchens.

Recent work this academic year has included helping out at Thornage Hall, The Glaven Rivers project, logging and clearing in other areas of the School woods.

*Mr P Detnon, IB Cordinator and Mr S Brown, Head of Geography*



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## PREPARING A FREE RANGE MEAL

Pupils really did receive a countryside education this week. A group of 20 pupils of all ages (including a vegetarian) gathered in the CFB to learn about one of the countryside's most free range meats – pheasant. Mr Mack brought in 20 pheasants from his family farm at Hempstead Hall where they had been shot the previous day. The pupils then plucked and dressed the birds and prepared them for lunch on Friday.



Thomas Kingston Executive Head Chef cooked up a treat, serving up roast pheasant with maple roast buckwheat and a port reduction. This dish went down so well that there was a longer queue for the pheasant than for the usual Friday favourite of fish and chips!



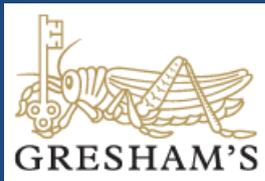
*Mr C Mack, Teacher of Economics*

## SOUTH AFRICAN EXCHANGE

Joshua Anthony (Year 10) has just started his exchange at St John's College, in Johannesburg, South Africa. He has had a great first few days (including both rugby training and cricket nets!) and has been warmly welcomed by everyone there, including the new Head Boy, Ray Barrow, who was here at Gresham's himself two years ago, on this exchange. The photograph shows Josh, on the left, in his new school uniform.

*Mr A Stromberg, Housemaster Howson's*





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## CCF—RAF

On Sunday 21 January, 13 RAF cadets spent the day at RAF Honington taking part in the Air Squadron Trophy, an annual competition against RAF cadets from other schools in the East region. There were excellent individual performances from Harry Ardern, Kira Kapustina and Lorenz Romeni, and Gresham's recorded top 5 finishes in the shooting and aircraft recognition competitions. Overall, Gresham's finished just outside the top 10 of all schools in the region; a commendable performance in our first foray into the competition, and a solid platform to build on next year.

*Mr C Reed, Teacher of Physics*

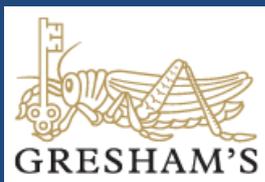


## HOWSON'S

Snow briefly reached Gresham's last Sunday, so it was a good excuse for Ross Tolliday and Alex Cowell to light the fire after brunch and to keep it blazing all afternoon, while they watched Leicester Tigers losing to Racing 92 in the Champions Cup. At least they were toasty in the common room!



*Mr A Stromberg, Housemaster Howson's*



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## OLD GRESHAMIAN CLUB

On the 12 May last year, Big School was packed with pupils, staff, parents, governors, OGs and friends of the School to witness the unveiling of a new copy of the portrait of the School's founder, Sir John Gresham.

Due to popular demand we are hosting another event which will be held at Fishmongers' Hall, London, by kind permission of the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers' Company. If you missed the 'official' unveiling last year and would like to know more about Sir John Gresham and the mysterious case of the wrong portrait, please join us at **Fishmongers' Hall, London on Wednesday 21st February, 5.30 pm.** Tickets are £10 per person, book online [www.trybooking.co.uk/2277](http://www.trybooking.co.uk/2277)



The evening will include the presentation of a copy of the Sir John Gresham portrait from the School to the Fishmongers, followed by talks by Charlotte Crawley (Art Historian) on the portrait of Sir John Gresham and Simon Kinder (former Head of History at Gresham's) on the historic relationship between Gresham's and The Fishmongers' Company. Together they throw light upon a Tudor entrepreneur, who founded our School 462 years ago.

## OG DEVANTE AFIA

Very sadly, a young OG passed away just before Christmas. Devante Afia had been a Howson's boy, and left in the summer of 2013 having taken the IB Diploma very successfully. He went up to Westminster University and was in his last year, studying Mandarin and Economics. He was 23.

Devante had had a difficult childhood, and it naturally took him time to settle into the way of life here, but the wonderful community that is Gresham's embraced him, and by the end of his school days he was a lovely, charming, happy and confident young man with the world at his feet. He developed his love of Mandarin while here, and took part in the inaugural School trip to China. Many OGs and staff, including Kathy and Philip John, Jeremy Quartermain and Dr Angel Tsai, attended his funeral recently in Camden, and two of his closest friends, Aaron Agboola and Seb Welford (both ex-Farfield) spoke at the service. A full testimonial will appear in the next OG magazine, but in the meantime, a photograph of Devante from his school days. He is reciting the poem 'Talking Turkeys – why turkeys don't like Christmas' by Benjamin Zephaniah at the House Christmas party in 2012.





# Senior Newsletter

26 January 2018



## LEAVERS' BALL

Our 2018 leavers and their families can look forward to the landmark occasion of the Valedictory Ball on Saturday 30 June. We are spicing it up with this year's theme; 'La Bohème – Hungry for Moorish!' To get in the mood, the event organisers encourage us to, 'think hot spice, cinnamon, gold threads and silk, dancing freely in Bedouin lounges to sultry beats'. The image above gives you a flavour of what might lie ahead ...



## HALF TERM ACTIVITY PROGRAMME



Keep your gang going with a range of courses and activities this half term. Choose from drypoint etching, tennis, swimming, football and fine Belgian chocolate making, perfectly timed to make scrumptious Valentine's gifts. To book places, please go to [www.greshams.com/halfterm](http://www.greshams.com/halfterm)..

## Football Action Camp

This half term we launch our new Football Action Camp led by Ray Hall, the former Director of Everton FC Youth Programme, responsible for identifying and developing England players Wayne Rooney, Ross Barkley and many more top class players.

With Gresham's coach Darren Gill assisting, this is an opportunity not to be missed. To book places, please go to [www.greshams.com/halfterm](http://www.greshams.com/halfterm)

