



Senior Newsletter

12 December 2017



Dear Parents

I am three Christmas Dinners and three Carol Services into the festive celebrations and am very much looking forward to Senior Carols and the Staff Christmas Lunch followed by the Fishmongers' Christmas Dinner to finish off the term! This follows hot on the heels of writing a blog on exercise and body image, oh the irony.

I had the great pleasure last week to take some L6th pupils down to Tetbury to visit the Dyson Institute which is a very exciting alternative route for school leavers to standard higher education. Sir James Dyson spoke about the challenges we face and some of the possible solutions. There is no doubt that he is very driven to encourage excellence in the area of young people's education and his Institute is the most obvious recent example of this commitment.

<https://www.dysoninstitute.com/>

You will shortly receive an email linking to a survey about parental attitudes towards Gresham's and I hope that you will take a short time to fill this out. My door is always open to parents to discuss any ideas or suggestions that they have but this survey should give us a snapshot of how we are doing.

I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas break. I have said to the children that I have enjoyed this term enormously and feel that the sense of purpose and energy at Gresham's is exactly where I want it to be.

Kind regards





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GEOGRAPHY

Gresham's Geographers treble triumph at Notre Dame High School – Norfolk 2017 Worldwide Quiz competition:

The competition was strong for places in the Worldwide quiz teams this year. Elisabeth Von Gemmingen and Jack Gibson both narrowly missed out. Hector Cargill, Nick Morgan and Archie Thompson-Poole hope for better luck next year. Luke Nash captained the A team for the last time, having been in the team since Year 9. Quin Arundel returned for the second time, with rookie Lachlan Richardson the 3rd member of the A team. The B team were all rookies too and from Year 10, so may well feature in the A team next year. Michael Haney, Joey Robinson and Jerry Chu made the B team Tallus trio.

The journey down was the usual barrage of geographical questions and answers, with background rock ballads from Queen. The A team were expected to win and the B team had a target of a top five finish. The usual rounds before the half time dinner were physical landscape features, capital cities, OS map skills, Landsat images, Geography in the news and odd one out. After supper the scores were announced and Gresham's A team were leading by five points. The next four rounds lasted another hour. The A level Geography students who were marking the rounds were struggling with much of this U16 competition!



The final scores left our B team just ranked behind Framlingham B team in 4th place, so a mighty good effort. The A team were clear winners by fifteen points. An emotional Nash and Arundel lifted the glass decanter, with first time winner Richardson. The cup spent the first night in Farfield. The Year 10s will have to improve next year in order to beat Framlingham. We have lost some big names!

Mr S Brown, Head of Geography



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CCF

It has been a busy term for the CCF. All sections have undertaken lots of different syllabus lessons with Year 10 cadets completing key sections of their Army, Navy or RAF basic proficiency training and Year 11 cadets making progress with advanced elements of their programme.

In addition selected cadets attended a range day at RAF Marham on Sunday 3 December where they had the chance to fire the cadet rifle in a series of different shoots and complete tests of marksmanship and skill.

Next term we look forward to beginning leadership training for aspiring Year 11 NCOs and developing adventurous activities, including the newly re-introduced AT weekends in the Peak District, as well as time afloat and airborne.



Mr S Gates, Head of RS, Philosophy & TOK and CCF Contingent Commander

SCUBA—Try Dives

Outside of the usual CCF activities a total of twenty two CCF Navy cadets were given time out from CCF to have the opportunity to try SCUBA diving over a series of four sessions this term. This School activity was made possible in part by The Foundation grant that helped to buy key equipment four years ago and Mr Detnon, who is a PADI Diving Instructor. A further series of try dives in the School pool will be available for the students in the Army and Navy sections of the CCF during next term; the aim being to continue to provide the experience for in the region of sixty students each year, providing them with new challenges and experiences.

Following a safety briefing the students don the equipment and try their first breaths underwater, before moving off to the deep end to try headstands, hovering, finning around and playing with the underwater torpedo.



Mr P Detnon, Head of Economics and IB DP Co-ordinator



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MUSIC

Musicians are never busier than when it's Christmas time, and so it has proved over recent weeks. The singers have had an especially full schedule. Hot on the heels of the musical, Schola Cantorum hopped on a coach and went to the beautiful village church at Cley to sing in the Advent Carol service. Beginning in the gloomy light at the west end, the choir sang Advent antiphons, summoning in the Christmas season. Between the lessons and hymns the choir sang Advent carols – old and new. Interwoven between all of this Sam Aldersey-Williams sang the medieval chants for Advent, sung since the Middle Ages, creating a special atmosphere in the half light. It was magical.



Back at School the Chapel Choir sang two Carol Services. Always a highlight of the School year, this year the music included a carol composed by Sir Lennox Berkeley. He was a pupil here in Howson's during the First World War, and went on to become one of the country's most distinguished 20th century composers.



Girls' Choir performed at the Christmas-themed Music & Munch. Singing *Winter Wonderland* seemed appropriate for the weather we are currently enjoying. Miss Kennedy's choir goes from strength to strength. No doubt the considerable amount of tinsel sported by the girls helped create that Christmassy feel.

Every year members of the Holt community, parents and pupils assemble to sing Handel's *Messiah*. Remarkably, pupils sing most of the arias. These are often very challenging, and it is terrific that so many pupils came forward to sing an aria or recitative with an orchestra. Congratulations to Libby Lukins, Iris Croft, Ella Fairbairn-Day, Clementine Chapple, Jemima Porter (who also played the timpani), Ashmole Faire-Ring, Daisy Quick and Rupert Tancred. They sang really well. They were joined by tenor Stephen Miles and soprano Nicki Kennedy. We were delighted to welcome back OG George Jefford, who, playing the trumpet, adding a special sheen to the sound of the orchestra, directed by Mr Bowley, who also sang an aria. This was a terrific concert, and certainly, if the Christmas mood had not already landed, it had by the end of the *Halleluia Chorus*!

New Year's Resolutions: If you might be wondering what your resolution should be for the New Year, I have it for you: 11 January, 7.30pm is the first Choral Society rehearsal. Come and get involved; if you have every wondered about joining a choir, now's the time to see what it's like. Begin your New Year with some fantastic – and convivial – singing. Be sure to get it in your new 2018 diaries!

Mr J Bowley, Director of Music



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MUSIC (cont/d)

The Gresham's Girls *Enjoy the Silence* – Single for Christmas 2017

During the latter half of the Michaelmas Term 2016 The Gresham's Girls recorded their first single, a soulful version of the Group James' song *Sit Down*. The lyrics echoed the sentiment behind the choice of the School Charity that year which was Young Minds and just under £1,000 was raised from sales on Bandcamp and iTunes.

This year, having moved into our industry-standard recording studio in the new Music School, The Britten Building, thoughts turned to what the Girls could do next and under the expert guidance and experience of Justin Myers and Chris Cooper, a cover of 80/90s Band Depeche Mode's *Enjoy the Silence* began to take shape. The upbeat electro song was awarded Best Single at the 1991 Brit Awards, but with its ballad-type lyrics, was originally written as a more reflective love song. This is the style Justin and Chris considered perfect for the Girls' voices.

The single will be available as a download from Bandcamp and iTunes from mid-December or on stream from Spotify and all proceeds will go to this year's School Charities, Opalagilagi School, Kenya and the I Afrika Boys' Home in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Gresham's Girls singing on the single are:

Maria Butcher, Clementine Chapple, Iris Croft, Ella Fairbairn-Day, Amelia Fox, Rachel Heath, Sophy Kenyon, Jemima Porter, Molly Sankey and Romy Sipek.

Thanks to Justin, Chris and Eric James at Philosophers Barn Mastering for the production of this single.

<https://greshamsgirls.bandcamp.com/track/enjoy-the-silence>





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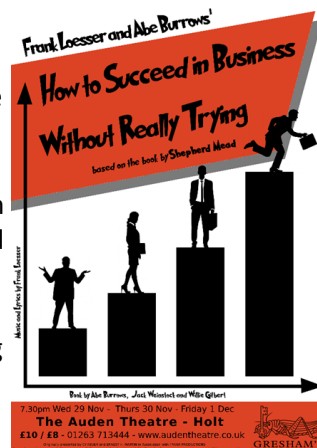


DRAMA

Three months hard work in rehearsal (excluding three weeks for House Music and Half Term) ending in three amazing performances.

Two sets of principals - a main cast Wednesday and Friday, and an understudy cast on the Thursday and a wholly committed, energised and hardworking ensemble throughout.

One extraordinary effort by an extraordinary company demonstrating they know 'How To Succeed'!



Miss B O'Brien, Director of Drama





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NETBALL



Netball Tour February Half Term 2019

It is with great excitement that we announce the tour destination for the next Netball Tour is Sri Lanka; a ten day trip, three different locations, and five netball matches. Current year groups 9 to 12 will be included. Further details will be available in the New Year.

Mrs J Flower, Head of Netball
jflower@greshams.com



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SHOOTING

British Schools Winter Open: The Rifle Club travelled to Bisley on Saturday, for the British Schools Winter Open. This is an annual event, which continues to get bigger and bigger every year. There were over 200 individuals competing, from 21 different schools, at this year's event.

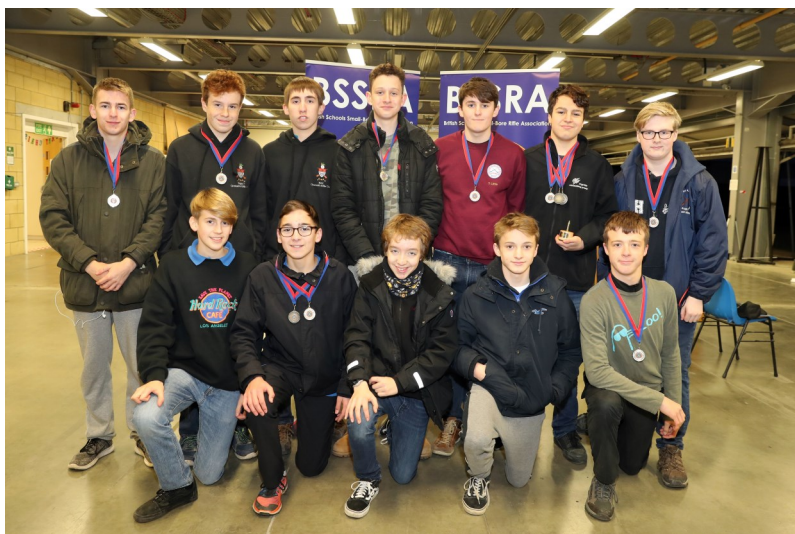
Individually Gresham's produced some reasonable scoring throughout the team but it was left to Rupert Tancred to really produce the goods. Taking into account the fairly busy week Rupert had already had, even by Gresham's standards, to score the third highest score on the day was an exceptional performance. Toby Cubitt and Harry Ardern also made it into the top twenty.

During Prize Giving it was starting to look like Gresham's would just miss out on everything. Toby Cubitt and Ben Danziger were 4th in the Junior Pairs. Toby then teamed up with Rupert for the Senior Pairs and they did manage to finish 3rd. In the Fours Gresham's were down in 6th. It all came down to the Team of Eight competition and thanks to everyone in the team shooting consistently pretty well, Gresham's were able to secure 2nd place, just missing out to Wellington College. It was a long day, at the end of an even longer term, and every member of the team did themselves proud. Thank you all and well done.

BSSRA Leagues: When you are at the top, unfortunately there is only one way to go. The Gresham's Rifle Team had won the British Schools Leagues for the past eleven consecutive terms but have narrowly been beaten by Wellington College this term. There were six teams in the top Division and at the end of the five rounds, there were just three points separating the top three teams. Toby Cubitt, William Cubitt, Ben Danziger, Toby Little and Rupert Tancred all did very well but are all going to have to up their games if we are to regain the title next term.

Unfortunately there is a pattern emerging this year with Rifle Club results. Second place to Wellington College in the BSSRA Winter Open, the BSSRA termly Leagues and in the recently published BSSRA Team of VIII results, Gresham's missed out on winning the competition by just one point, again to Wellington College.

Hopefully, next term, the Rifle Club can put an end to this one way flow of shooting titles.



Mr F Grounds, Master in Charge of Shooting



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GIRLS' HOCKEY



Headmaster's Game:

The 1XI hosted an OG team for the annual Headmaster's invitational match with the added rivalry of the Gill sisters playing against each other, the OG team included staff members Miss Mullan, Mrs Watt and Mrs Horsley. It was a tight match that was played in great spirit with the occasional competitive twist, both teams played some good hockey but the 1XI with scorers Pip Howes and Daisy Rennison (2) on a rare appearance up front and for the 1sts, won 3-1. Both teams then enjoyed the social afterwards and look forward to next year's match.

The last few weeks have seen block fixtures against Wymondham, Wisbech & Norwich, along with ones against Langley, Cromer & Norwich High School. All teams have competed well and shown how well they have improved since the start of term. Unfortunately our final test of the term against Framlingham had to be cancelled due to frozen pitches.

The hockey club has had a very good season, we have continued the School's representation within the National competitions and shown how much strength in depth we have with how competitive our lower teams have been. I would like to thank the girls and coaches for their enthusiasm this term, everyone has shown improvements and hopefully had fun despite the weather at times. In recognition of individual efforts, the following pupils have received the 2017 team awards:



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HOCKEY (cont/d)

	Player of the Season	Most Improved
1st XI	Alice Gowing & Charlotte Seaman	Lucy Reader
2nd XI	Emily Brinsden	Genevieve Iles
3rd XI	Amelia Fox	Opal Malai
4th XI	Jemima Porter	Natalie Wells
U15A	Amy Garrod	Anna Sowerby
U15B	Anna Flint	Emily Howard
U15C		Livia Wandt
U14A	Phoebe Worrall	Henri Colclough
U14B	Leila Yuasa	Molly Fields



Finally, in the last assembly of term the Headmaster awarded colours to a number of students for their high standard of play and commitment to the sport.

Senior Colours

Philippa Howes
Alice Gowing
Evie Wills
Anja Finegan
Daisy Quick

Junior Colours

Ella Gill
Sophie Turner
Lucy Reader
Maddie Gainher

Mr D Buckmaster, Head of Hockey

Table Tennis

Jonas Lee was selected to play for the Norfolk Junior Team at Northampton. His opposition were teams from Lincolnshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Jonas was selected to play at Number 1, which means he plays all the Number 1s and 2s from the other county's over three matches and six singles (two against each county). Jonas was unbeaten all weekend; an excellent achievement.

Mr I Darricott (Coach)





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THE CLAY CLUB

Clay shooting has resumed in the last week with a festive feel! Two sessions were run last week in a race against the fading light and the freezing cold. Luckily mince pies and hot chocolate in the field helped! This year's club members and teams got together over the two sessions, with four girls and eight boys taking part.

We are pleased to announce that Billy Addison will be captaining the teams this year.

We have some great talent and look forward to shooting with previous members of the club; Joseph Kooreman, Joseph Ward, Paddy Mountford and Tom O'Hanlon representing the boys and Adrienne Flux, Amy Matthews and Lucy Clements, the girls. Pieter Myburgh, Poppy Vass, Joseph Hall and Dougie Wright came to join in with these sessions too.

The club has been very successful over the last two years and we are very lucky to have the continued support of the Flux family, OG Robert Sayer and parents Ben Jones and Ed Jones in providing fields on which to shoot and Mid Norfolk Shooting Ground for their support with the club shooting at their shooting ground in Taverham. Work will continue early next year to clear the old quarry in the woods, with a view to being able to shoot within the school grounds once again. We will continue to use our outside locations for variety, extra training and spread of noise pollution. Next term, sessions will be run for some 50 CCF cadets to try out Clay Shooting and will continue with the club shoots whenever possible.

We are hoping to buy some new Promatic clay traps early next year and are looking forward to matches against King's School, Ely during next term.



Mr P Detnon, Head of Economics and IB DP Co-ordinator



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DEBATING

Sixth Form Inter- House Debating Competition 2017

The Michaelmas Term has witnessed seven fixtures in the Sixth Form Inter-House Competition with sixteen talented debaters competing to win the Marsham Debating Trophy, which was first awarded in 1985. The quality proved exceptionally high this year, allowing for some very taxing motions. The debaters played to packed houses throughout with questions coming from all year groups, including Year 9.

First Round Matches:

Motion	Proposition	Opposition	Victors
This House believes that Nelson's Column should be pulled down, as Nelson is an inappropriate figure to celebrate in 2017	Tallis: Gabriel Goonesena Tom Kinder	Edinburgh: Daisy Brucki Daisy Quick	Edinburgh
This House believes that it is better to be female than male in 2017	Woodlands: Christoph zur Muehlen Barney Gill	Howson's: Henry Alston Ross Tolliday	Howson's
This House believes that the USA is correct to have doubts about the Paris Climate Agreement (2015)	Queens': Amelia Doran Fidan Hajiyeva	Oakeley: Sam Horan Lora Naydenova	Queens'
100 years on, this House celebrates rather than condemns the Communist Russian Revolution of 1917	Farfield: Bill Carter Rupert Tancred	Wild card: Barney Gill Tom Kinder	Wild Card



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DEBATING (cont/d)

Semi-Finals:

Motion	Proposition	Opposition	Victors
This House believes that Theresa May should do the decent thing and resign as Prime Minister	Edinburgh: Daisy Quick Evie Wills	Howson's: Henry Alston Billy Buckingham	Howson's
This House believes Catalonia should be granted independence	Wild Card: Barney Gill Tom Kinder	Queens': Amelia Doran Fidan Hajiyeva	Queens'

Final:

Motion	Proposition	Opposition	Victors
This House believes that universities should be safe spaces	Howson's: Henry Alston Billy Buckingham	Queens': Amelia Doran Fidan Hajiyeva	Queens' – winners of The Marsham Cup for Senior House Debating (retained from 2016-17)

It was particularly pleasing to see competitors ranging from regular veterans who had worked their way up from junior teams to complete debutants. The debate in the UK Parliamentary style, on Catalonia, was a particular highlight and the final was a wonderful showcase of just how strong our Sixth Form debaters have become. Congratulations to Queens' on retaining the trophy for a second year.



Twelve debaters across Years 10-12 performed a series of show debates during Open Day in late September and made an extremely good impression.

Mr S Kinder, Head of Teaching & Learning



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Schools' Challenge Fixture versus Reepham, Wednesday 6 December

Two Gresham's teams locked horns with Gresham's in the East Anglian region match against Reepham on the evening of Wednesday 6 December. In a night of close matches and high drama, Reepham – last year's defeated national semi-finalists – squeaked home but not without much sweating.

Gresham's A team (Dally Armstrong, Hector Robb, Charlotte Moulton and Luke Nash) defeated Gresham's B (Sam Horan, Michael Haney, Joe Oxtoby & Archie Kenyon) but they went on to push Reepham all the way in a very exciting final match.

The following pupils also offered invaluable help on the day and will feature in future competitions: Oliver Thomas, Archie Thompson-Poole and Ben Harvey-Samuel.



STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Two members of our teaching staff have recently received approval for their Master of Education degrees from the University of Cambridge. Marc Gillingwater wrote his thesis on teachers' use of educational research literature to inform their practice, while Sophie Mullan received a Distinction for her thesis entitled "Assessing the barriers associated with secondary school completion in Southern Malawi: giving a voice to students." Both will graduate from Homerton College in April. These awards reflect the increasing engagement amongst teachers at Gresham's with research as means for professional development.



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DEVELOPMENT OFFICE & OG CLUB

We would like to wish all our OGs, friends and supporters a wonderful holiday season and express our sincere gratitude for your generous and continuing support!



IT IS BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS IN THE LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT!



SCHOOL SHOP

The schoolblazer sale runs from the 27 December 2017 until the 12 January 2018 with up to 1/3 off selected lines whilst stocks only. Online only.

The Benson Calendar 2018 is available for sale at Reception. Benson went blind last year and this has limited his opportunities to go on adventure activities and have photos taken for the calendar. This will be the tenth and final calendar featuring photos from previous years, it has been great fun and thank you for your support.



Mr C Scoles, School Staff Instructor & Owner of Benson