



Headteacher's Annual Report to Parents

Autumn term at The Gregg has arrived again with a burst of energy and the eager anticipation of another rewarding year, as well as the excitement of seeing initiatives that we have been planning come to fruition. Starting a school year also gives us the chance for deep reflection on our community journey over the last year and how to continue the successful development of our school.

The Gregg has long been recognised as a school where our strong values and unique learning environment serve to facilitate the very best, ambitious all-round education for our students. Over the last year, we have been galvanising our strong school community and enhancing the way in which we work together, to further nurture, challenge and encourage our students to achieve their personal best, in an environment that values every single member of our learning community.

The 'Respect' agenda is at the foundation of students' personal development, their work with others and our school community. Our students are reminded to really consider each other and think about personal and collective behaviours to focus the mind - and earn House Points at the same time!

In fact, our focus on celebrating learning habits – not just outcomes - has enabled their confidence and assurance with their academic work.

The tweak to our fortnightly timetable has given us two distinct advantages. Firstly, a host of new clubs and activities have been able to take place at lunchtime or after school. This has enabled our Key Stage 3 and 4 students to be able to work together and has benefitted Music, Drama and Sport. I know many have already noticed a considerable change and, I am sure as the year progresses these benefits will be increasingly apparent. Secondly, our passionate teaching team now have access to an extra training and meeting opportunity each fortnight to further hone their skills and development for the benefit of our young people.

After the period of disrupted primary and secondary education during and since the Pandemic, we understand that it is our spirit of togetherness, belonging, commitment and legacy that has served to support and fortify our community.

We aspire to 'unlock potential' for all: inspiring staff to challenge students' to achieve their personal best; enabling students deep understanding of values; enriching the experience at The Gregg by bringing new, exciting and varied co-curricular opportunities, that encourage students to sample something new.

Each year I burst with pride at all we've achieved: at the delighted faces of those receiving Mercuries and Valor awards at Achievement Evening in the Summer term and

the self-confident, mature, independent young people who return to us briefly in October to receive their Year 11 upper school awards. There is something beautiful in the simplicity of how belonging to a happy coherent community really does bring out the best in us all, year after year.

In September, I was delighted to welcome some new staff to The Gregg School:

Sarah Scales joins The Gregg Schools Trust Senior Team, from her position as Commander in The Royal Navy. As Bursar, she is looking after all the non-teaching functionality of our schools and is already ably leading her teams.

Our new academic staff include Mrs Brown, Mrs McCormick and Mr Morgan Vassaf who join Computing, MFL and English respectively and we welcome Mrs Pace as our new cover teacher.

We have three new Student Support Assistants; Miss Patel, Mrs Turnbull and Mrs Torres and we also welcome Mr Noyce as our Logistics Manager.

Finally, we have welcomed two new faces into our Administrative Team – Mrs Margereson and Mrs King.

It's heart-warming that two of these new faces are former pupils of the school - Mrs Turnbull and Mrs Margereson were even in the same class together!

We can see already that our new staff have settled in quickly and we hope that they enjoy working with us all.

At times, they struggled to understand themselves and their place in the world. Navigating tricky teenage years was largely completed in isolation and the impact on social and emotional development was marked.

I am therefore very proud of their commitment to their GCSE courses and their hard work in the final years at The Gregg School. 82% of this year group gained 5 or more higher grade passes at GCSE – which represented a slight variance on previous years but we appreciate the unusual challenges that they had faced. In spite of this, there were many results that were remarkable.

Many of our academic subjects enjoyed 100% higher grades passes which is quite an achievement for our small, mixed ability school. This year these included, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Drama, German, Maths Statistics, Music and Religions and Ethics.

Ten students gained a special award on the Year 11 Presentation Evening for their Outstanding GCSE Exam Achievements; the Burford Prize for Best Performance at GCSE was jointly won by Amber H and Hannah T. Together, these two ladies secured 23 higher grades GCSEs with 19 of those at grades 8 and 9!

Not only did the Class of 2023 academically achieve – they also thrived in pushing themselves forward in spite of the challenge.

Most importantly the Class of 2023 have grown into a group of capable, focussed adults. I am sure that the determination that they acquired in the last 5 years will remain with them for the remainder of their lives.

Public Examinations



The Class of 2023 have been recognised globally as the year group whose secondary education was disrupted the most by the Covid pandemic. These students spent most of Year 8 learning from home and then came back to school in a Year 9 bubble. Launching straight into GCSE study in Year 10 where they had to 'hit the ground running' in order to understand the academic leap, change in pace and workload.

Supporting Student Learning

Once again, students working with this department were rewarded with GCSE results above their initial benchmark predictions, the value-added results being a testament to the hard work and dedication of students and staff alike.

Over the course of the academic year, all student support staff based with year groups gained additional skills in supporting children's emotional wellbeing through completion of Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) training.

Students benefited from a new dedicated social space in The Lodge, enabling them to relax, play board games and develop friendships with peers across all year groups in their free time.

High Potential Learners (HPL)



The HPL group of students had a busy year of meetings, projects, trips and speakers. In the autumn term, students attended a talk by the astronaut Tim Peake, in the spring term a talk by explorer Ranulph Fiennes and in the summer term the author Kate Mosse and the environmental academic Kate Rawles.

At school we had two visiting speakers, Professor Jim Smith from the University of Portsmouth explaining his research around Chernobyl and the impact on the environment and Annie East from Bournemouth University discussing opportunities in the film and television industry.

Year 9 students worked very hard on producing the first edition of 'Hart' magazine for the Shine Media competition. The magazine had high design and editorial standards and was produced both in print and as a digital 'flip' book.

Year 10 students worked on posters focusing on a research element for one of their GCSE subjects, whilst Year 7 and 8 students undertook individual projects on a subject of their choice. These were all presented at a fantastic afternoon which was shared with students from The Gregg Prep.

English

We were able to enjoy a far wider range of extra-curricular English and Drama activities this year, both in school and at external venues.

An impressive number of upper school students gave up their evening to attend a production of 'Macbeth' in Winchester. The intimate setting contributed to the atmosphere and enjoyment of The Scottish Play - a GCSE set text. Year 9 were treated to an amazing production of Willy Russell's 'Blood Brothers' at the Wyvern Theatre in Swindon. Having studied the work in class, the live performance brought the characters and tragic story to life. Year 8 had an exciting excursion to Harry Potter World, where they experienced life as a Scriptwriter, had

the opportunity to handle props and sample "Butterbeer" before embarking on a magical tour of the film sets, props and computer-generated imagery models.



Meanwhile, in school, the success of our Debating Club resulted in extending the membership across all year groups. Creative Writing continued to flourish, Year 11 students finding it particularly useful for their GCSE English Language examination, and judging the entries to our Original Writing House Competition was a challenging task! The department also played an active role in developing the creative writing skills of pupils at The Gregg Prep School, culminating in a cross-curricular script-writing morning combining with the Drama department, our Year 8 students helping the younger children to write and develop their own scripts.

As a department we continued to offer after school revision activities and lunchtime intervention sessions for Year 11 students. Whilst GCSE English grades across the country were lower than previous years, the hard work of both students and staff was reflected in our results.

Mathematics

IGCSE results in Mathematics were pleasing, with 84% of students gaining a grade 4 or above, 36% of whom achieved grade 7 or higher.

Selected Year 11 students had the opportunity to take their IGCSE Mathematics examinations in January, sitting the Further Mathematics examinations in the summer, the latter being a very popular choice for students wishing to take Mathematics or related courses at college. Again, their hard work was rewarded with very pleasing results, 77% of the cohort achieving grade 4 and above and 31% gaining grade 7 or higher.

This year, the number of students choosing the Edexcel

Statistics course increased sharply with ten Year 10 students sitting the examination. Students were required to complete all the work in their own time, with department staff offering advice and guidance as required. All passed with a grade 5 or higher and 40% achieved grade 7 or above, the results reflecting the students' resilience and effort.

Year 9 students had the opportunity to visit Bletchley Park, the former top-secret home of World War Two Codebreakers in Milton Keynes, where they toured the Manor House and outbuildings, retracing the steps of Mathematician Alan Turing.



Students took part in a codebreaking workshop, learnt about different ciphers and were able to use one of the few remaining Enigma machines. Students in Year 10 put their problem-solving skills to the test when they visited Exciting Escapes in Portsmouth, where they were tasked with finding clues, solving puzzles and completing challenges against the clock.

Enrichment and challenge continued to be core foci within the department, students taking part in both the Junior and Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenges. These challenges encourage students to use their mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency through a series of non-routine problems. In the Intermediate Challenge, our students achieved 15 Bronze, 9 Silver and 3 Gold certificates (the latter only being awarded to the top 8% nationally), two of whom secured invitations to the Pink Kangaroo Challenge follow-up round. In the Junior UKMT, our students were awarded 15 bronze, 9 silver and 3 gold certificates where again, two students were invited to take part in the next round.



Selected students in Years 7 to 10 participated in the University of Southampton Maths Challenge, where they were required to answer a series of mathematical questions devised by the University. We were delighted that one of our Year 8 students received an invitation to the award ceremony at the University in honour of his achievement.

We celebrated "Pi Day" in March with a wide range of Pi-themed challenges and activities, culminating in the "Pi Memory House Competition", with one Year 11 student recalling Pi to 211 digits!

House Points were also accrued via the Desmos Art Project, an annual contest where students showcase their graphing calculator skills, creativity and love of Mathematics.

Science

It must be remembered that the Class of 2023 Scientists had endured two years of Science teaching without access to our laboratories due to the Covid restrictions whilst they were in Years 8 and 9. The subsequent impact this had on the cohort cannot be overstated. Despite this, it is very pleasing to note the exceptionally high performances of a number of students, one of whom achieved Grade 9 in all three separate Sciences. Overall, the number of grades at 7 and above was 29.

Co-curricular extension opportunities abound in Science, and the Department ensured that students took full advantage of these.

Year 8 had an informative morning at the Winchester Science Centre in February, with hands-on activities and an excellent talk on Astronomy which reinforced existing knowledge and extended students' understanding of our Solar system and beyond.

At the end of May, Year 7 visited Marwell Zoo to study adaptation, competition and evolution with a focus on endangered species, the visit included a talk from a member of the education staff, and interactive displays.



The theme for British Science Week for 2023 was "Connections", and a series of assemblies covered a broad range of themes, including the Earth's connection to outer space and environmental connections both local and globally.



Year 7 enjoyed a workshop delivered in school by EDT Industrial Cadets coding "Ozobots", Year 8 designed and tested a simulated landing device to drop cargoes of material and astronauts onto the Martian landscape, culminating in an "Egg Drop" challenge, whilst Year 9 took on our "Bridge Investigation", using only a single sheet of paper to design and construct a bridge to span 50 cm. A poster competition and "What am I?" picture quiz ended a fun-packed week.



For twelve weeks on Tuesdays after school, Year 8 and Year 9 STEM Industrial Cadet teams worked tirelessly on their separate STEM projects in co-operation with our STEM leads. The Year 9 team chose "Theme Park for the Future" while the Year 8s investigated how technology is used in healthcare, the team being nominated for the Teamwork Award. Both teams travelled to Bath in June to present their final projects and attend the STEM Industrial Cadets award ceremony.



Year 10 had a great finish to their Science studies this academic year, with a visit to The Summer Science Exhibition at the Royal Society, London. During the day they explored the comprehensive range of cutting-edge interactive Science exhibits and enjoyed a talk delivered by Helen Sharman, the British Chemist and Cosmonaut.

Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

The MFL department started the academic year celebrating European Day of Languages, hosting a "Euro Café" in our school hall, a European-themed cake bake and a range of activities giving students opportunities to practice their French, German or Spanish in order to win prizes.



At the end of the first term, our German linguists travelled to Cologne where they spent the day browsing the Christmas Market stalls, sampling German food and embracing the immersion into German culture and language.



Collaboration with the University of Southampton's MFL department was strengthened this year, our dual linguists being invited to write and record testimonials setting out their reasons for choosing to study languages at school. The University initiative was designed to showcase the importance of language learning for later life, and the testimonials were shared with schools and colleges both regionally and nationally. In the summer term, Linguists in Years 8 and 10 attended an Able Linguist Day at the University, where they participated in competitions against other schools.

Our Year 9 students completed their Language Leader Award in the summer term, the culmination of many hours spent learning how to teach languages as part of our Valor Award system. Students were required to prepare a suitably-resourced lesson, and teach pupils from Townhill Park Primary School. It is always fascinating to see how many strategies they adopt from their language teachers!



As part of Camp Week, Year 9 travelled to Paris in July, where those studying French had numerous opportunities to improve their language skills and enhance their cultural awareness and understanding. Travel is certainly a key part of the MFL curriculum and we look forward to cross-curricular visits to Berlin and Barcelona in the coming months.

History

The department celebrated Black History month in October, all year groups receiving assemblies on world-wide oppression. In the same month, Year 9 visited Bovington Tank Museum, extending their knowledge of World War I via workshops on 'Tommy in the Trenches', Western Front surgery and medicine.



As always, the Year 7 castle competition was very popular, enabling students to display their creative side, consolidate their learning of this particular aspect of the lower school History curriculum and gain valuable House Points. The Year 8 homework project also provided opportunities for students to accrue House Points in the competition to build an Industrial Revolution model.

In January, Year 9 students were fascinated by a talk from Mrs Ford, a lady who had lived in London during World War II, her detailed account of her experiences holding the audience's attention throughout. In March, we marked International Women's Day with assemblies and the compilation of a comprehensive display depicting 'Women in History'.



Geography

It has been a delight to enable our students to experience field work again this year. Taking students offsite where they can see geographical processes at work and the impacts of our actions on the environment embeds and enhances classroom learning.

An excited group of fifty-three Year 10 and 11 students accompanied by five members of staff enjoyed an action-packed Geography revision trip to Iceland. From waterfalls to geysers, basalt columns to glaciers and lava tunnels, students were able to see first-hand the geographical features they had studied in the classroom as well as have fun in the snow and geothermally-heated pool.



Year 7 showed great resilience when studying Coasts at Hengistbury Head on a very wet day in May. Investigating coastal processes and landscapes, they succeeded in accurately measuring the beach profile, sediment size and shape. The trip enabled students to familiarise themselves with different sampling techniques and geographical equipment in preparation for completing a mini coursework investigation. Year 8 have enjoyed utilising the school grounds in their study of Ecosystems, where they were able to practice their field sketching techniques and study local food chains and natural environments.



In the latter part of the summer term, students investigated the climate, focusing on The Gregg School's microclimates. Year 9 donned wellington boots for their visit to Fleming Park where they measured the width, depth, velocity and bedload shape/size in Monks Brook River and interviewed members of the public for their geographical questionnaire. Year 11 travelled to Botley to collect data for their coursework, analysing traffic patterns, land use, and conducting environmental quality surveys.

Religions and Ethics

Religions and Ethics had another successful year broadening horizons, challenging thinking and developing students' understanding of the world. Our Year 11 students once again performed exceptionally well in their GCSE examinations securing a 100% pass rate at grades 5-9.

Year 10 made a great start to their GCSE studies enquiring into the ethics behind relationships and families, their enquiry into the changing views and ideas on marriage and divorce within modern Britain leading to discussions on the value and place of religion, marriage and traditions. The year group also enjoyed the Hinduism topic, developing a strong understanding of the Hindu concepts of Maya and Illusion.



Lower school students studied a range of world views on religious teachings, beliefs and actions. Year 8 immersed themselves in the topic of 'sacred places and pilgrimage', the miracles of Lourdes with the importance of Israel for different religions being of particular interest, whilst Year 9 studied ethics in many different forms including Environmental Ethics which produced impressive discussions, respect and evaluative skills.

Drama

What a year we had in Drama! We began with the introduction of Year 7 and 8 Drama Club, where a group of enthusiastic students met regularly on Monday lunchtimes to create short sketches.

In October, Year 8 visited the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton for a performance of Disney's "The Lion King". The spectacular production enthralled our students with its impressive costumes, lighting, set design and puppetry, and their post-performance evaluation and conversation was certainly very animated!

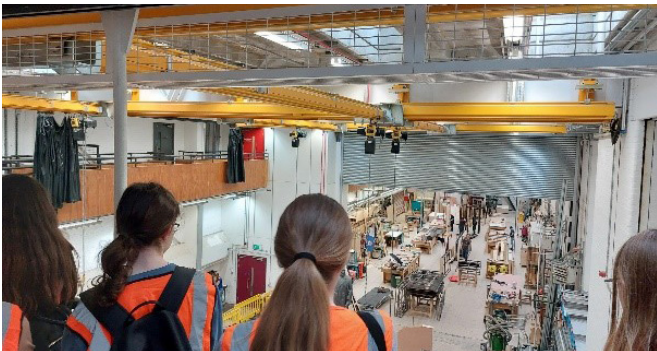
In December, Year 7 were treated to a Christmas pantomime at the Theatre Royal in Winchester. All the traditional elements of panto were in force during the performance of "The Wizard of Oz", providing the perfect start to the festive period.



Throughout the autumn term, students across all year groups worked on a variety of genres and styles, a

particular highlight being the Year 10 GCSE Drama class "Murder at Murder Mansion" comedy performance to our Year 7 students. The production benefited both performers and audience, the younger students gaining an appreciation of what can be achieved with hard work and dedication and the live audience spurring the Year 10s on to perform at their best.

GCSE Drama students were joined by competitors in our 'New Views' Scriptwriting competition on a visit to The National Theatre in London, where they enjoyed a backstage tour, learnt how a professional theatre works, and discovered the range of employment opportunities a large producing theatre might provide. The visit culminated in a viewing of "Standing at the Sky's Edge" on the Olivier Stage, a new British musical set in Sheffield which went on to achieve two Olivier awards.



In March, months of rehearsal finally came to fruition in performances of "Robin Hood". Students from all year groups performed to three sell-out audiences, who laughed, cheered and booed throughout the performances. I was so proud of all the students who took part – performers and backstage crew alike. It was also wonderful to have such a creative set design team in the Art Department, and I am grateful to the FROGS who ran the bar for the show, and the staff who gave up their time to supervise backstage, help with costumes, and sell raffle tickets and refreshments.



April saw the culmination of our participation in the "New Views" scriptwriting competition, run by the National Theatre. This prestigious competition requires entrants to

write their own half-hour plays, with the overall national winner having their play performed on a National Theatre stage. Seven Gregg students took part in the challenge from October through to April, during which they had a workshop and feedback from our professional playwright partner, Deborah Gearing.

Music

The Music department had a successful year, culminating in excellent GCSE results, Year 11 students attaining 100% passes at grade 5 and above, with 50% achieving grades 7 and 8.

The autumn term saw the relaunch of our co-curricular music offer - the Choir and Concert Band started rehearsals alongside a newly formed Jazz Band, Rock Band, and Ukulele group.



In December, several of our ensembles performed in the school's Carol Service at The Holy Saviour Church in Bitterne, the concert band bringing a Latin feel to the event, with a rendition of 'Feliz Navidad', whilst the rock band entertained us with 'I Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day'. We also had beautiful performances from the Choir and Flute Choir.

In the summer term, ensembles and soloists entertained a capacity audience in the Atrium with a summer concert, and the Jazz Band, Rock Band and soloists performed for guests at our Gardens Open Days.



The department has invested in a range of new equipment over the year, including Mac Mini computers with Logic Pro software, enabling students to explore composition in greater depth. In addition, aided by a donation from the FROGS, new guitars, bass guitars, amplifiers, microphones and an electric drum kit were purchased, students having the opportunity to use these in lessons and co-curricular activities.



Year 8 students had engaging talks from specialists who brought birds of prey into school, discussing habitats and feeding, before taking photographs to help create digital work and drawing/print outcomes in further lessons.



Art Scholarship students worked on a number of projects, culminating in creating a series of postcards exploring a theme of their choice. A large number of students submitted entries to the 'Online Art Club' with an impressive range of media used across the high-quality entries.

Art, Textiles and Photography

We returned to St Ives for our annual trip, where students benefitted from drawing, photography, print making and textiles workshops and visiting the Tate and Barbara Hepworth Museums. GCSE Photography students enjoyed a 'Light Photography' workshop at school, experimenting with slow shutter speeds and moving lights, with the Grounds staff helping by spinning bundles of lit wire wool to create some fantastic images.



The talents of our lower school artists were showcased in the set designs for the school play 'Robin Hood' with drawings of trees and animals scaled up for the back drop and props.



June finally saw the return of our annual GCSE Art and Design Exhibition and it was wonderful to see the students' work on display in the main hall reaching such a wide audience. GCSE results continued to be in line with previous years with a number of students achieving the very top grade – our textiles students performing particularly well. Year 11 student Hannah Toward also won first place in the regional ISA Art Competition for 'Best Sketchbook' and 'Best Textiles Piece'.



3D Design

3D Design goes from strength to strength at The Gregg, with numbers taking the new 3D Design GCSE steadily increasing. Its popularity has been spawned by the recommendations by Key Stage 4 students to younger students considering their options, and the more creative style of Key Stage 3 projects evolving over the last few years. One of the most significant developments is the increase in girls taking the subject at GCSE.

The Class of 2023's GCSE results were in line with previous years, a number of students achieving very high grades, in no small part due to the extremely high standard of coursework.

The department has strived to ensure the quality of teaching and student outcomes remains high, a key focus being providing students with as much time as possible in the workshop, with the guidance of 'shop quality' being a driving feature.

Last November, students in Year 10 studying 3D Design joined their Art and Photography peers in the visit to St. Ives, completing a variety of practical workshops, visiting the local Sculpture Park and touring the Tate Art Gallery to broaden their knowledge on a range of inspirational artists. From their experience we have seen a wide range of inspired ideas for the current Skateboards and Lamps and Lighting projects.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

The Department has had a very successful year, culminating in some excellent GCSE results, and the increasing number of students choosing the subject at GCSE is particularly pleasing.

Key Stage 3 students have thoroughly enjoyed using our excellent facilities to acquire a range of cooking skills, learning about healthy eating through the NHS Eatwell Guide, and looking at the science behind cooking. The department promoted Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight at the end of February, students making dishes with carefully considered Fairtrade ingredients. Students also learnt more about Chinese New Year in January, making a range of dishes to celebrate.

Upper school students visited local cafes including a branch of Mettricks (owned by former Gregg School Head Boy, Spencer Bowman) to conduct research on their controlled assessment theme which gave insight into café food and inspired students' own recipe choices.



The department has contributed to the school's co-curricular programme with the very popular Cookery Club, students creating mouth-watering sweet and savoury dishes. This year saw the return of the House Bake Off competition, which produced a host of professional-looking entries. We have also enjoyed working with our Trust Partner, The Gregg Preparatory School, their young pupils making frequent visits to develop their fledgling cookery skills in our Food Preparation classroom.



Computing

Students have developed their computational thinking skills and participated in the annual Bebras Challenge, with twenty making it through to the second round in March. They continued to develop their Python programming skills in a fun and engaging way, controlling Farmbot, an online agricultural robot, using Turinglab as well as learning about web and app development and exploring sensors and automated engineering.

The department has contributed to the school's programme of co-curricular activities with Code Club, where students have practised their Scratch and Python programming skills. Our Year 10 students participated in an in-house escape room challenge, enhancing their team-working skills and aiding revision.



Throughout the academic year, students explored career choices and honed their communication skills, whilst developing their digital, enterprise and employability skills through the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award, known as iDEA, an international award-winning programme. Key Stage 4 students worked on a range of modules, including job applications, health and safety in the workplace, managing personal finance and overcoming barriers to work.

Personal and Social Development (PSD)

PSD schemes of work explored an array of issues from physical and mental health to the impact of bullying, prejudice and discrimination. Following Queen Elizabeth II's death in September, students reflected on the Queen's legacy and her contribution to the world, discussing the importance of her reign in British and Commonwealth history.



Year 11 spent their first term exploring the options that would be available to them on leaving The Gregg, developing valuable skills including writing application forms and answering interview questions. Students had the opportunity to meet with a careers specialist to discuss their options further, and Year 10 and 11 explored the topic of health and wellbeing which included a series of lessons on cancer awareness.

Year 9 started the year looking at friendships, peer influence and criminal exploitation. Their focus for term two was researching different careers and post-16 options in preparation for choosing their GCSEs, and were given the opportunity to attend a careers interview during which they were able to gain helpful advice about their future goals. Year 9 ended the year engaged in health topics including exercise, sleep and emotional wellbeing.

Year 8 explored the risks associated with drug and alcohol misuse before learning about different types of prejudice and discrimination. Students particularly valued learning about the fine line between banter and bullying – a theme which was further explored during Anti-Bullying Week and as part of The Gregg Respect programme. Year 8 finished the year looking at mental health and wellbeing, learning how to manage the physical and mental changes that occur during puberty.

Year 7 enjoyed a range of transition activities which helped them settle into The Gregg before moving on to explore the topic of bullying and how to manage conflicts between friends before ending the year learning about health, wellbeing and managing change.

Physical Education and Sport

The PE calendar has been very full this year, with all major sporting competitions and fixtures returning to normal following their cessation during the pandemic.

Cross Country

Our runners achieved great success in the Southampton Schools' League, winning both the Junior Boys and Girls team titles. A team of Gregg students represented the school at the Hampshire Team Cross Country Cup in the autumn, the perfect weather contributing to some extremely fast finish times from a strong field of runners. Twelve Gregg students from Years 7 and 8 travelled to Basingstoke in March to compete in the Hampshire Cross Country Championships, where the standard was incredibly high.



an impressive forty-six medals were won by our students across sprints, distance races, throws, jumps and relay races - 16 gold, 20 silver and 10 bronze medals.



Sports Day

After a day of fierce competition at Sports Day the winners for 2023 were Trojan House with 1220 points, Spartan came second with 1080 points and Roman third with 870 points. Victor and Victrix Ludorum winners in each age were as follows:

Year 7: Jana S-A and Harry L

Year 8: Hilary-Ann A-A / Lexie P and Oscar I

Year 9: Mika L / Jada T-M / Rosie W and Rhett W-M

Year 10/11: Jemma R and Beau B



Swimming

Our House Swimming Gala in April saw almost every student from Years 7, 8 and 9 take part in at least one race across the various disciplines (breaststroke, freestyle, backstroke and relays).

Our swimmers excelled at the Southampton Schools' Swimming Gala again this year, thirty-two students travelling to The Quays to compete. The Year 7 and 8 teams both finished in first place overall and the Year 9 and 10 teams both finished in second place, resulting in The Gregg gaining overall first place to continue our decade-long winning streak in this competition.

Athletics

We competed at the Independent Schools Association (ISA) London West Athletics Championships hosted at the Eton athletics track in the Summer. There was a high level of competition from schools and our students put in many outstanding performances, including first place in the Year 7 girls 800m and the Year 10 boys discus events. A number of second, third and fourth places were also recorded by Gregg students.

Our athletes performed exceptionally well at the Geoff Cunliffe Athletics Championships, with the boys and girls teams finishing in fourth and fifth place respectively. In total

Netball

Our Netball teams all had a very successful season competing in the Southampton Schools' Netball leagues. Both the Under 12 and Under 13 teams placed second overall after some impressive score lines and the Under 13 team were invited to the Hampshire Schools' Netball finals, which disappointingly had to be cancelled twice due to adverse weather conditions. The Under 14 netball team finished their league in third place, receiving a bronze medal, with the Under 16 team finishing mid-table.



Football

We entered four teams into the Southampton Schools' Football Association leagues this year. Our Under 15 boys won the Southampton Schools' football league with some impressive score lines, whilst the U15 football team entered The English Schools' Football Association (ESFA) Boys Under 15 PlayStation Small Schools' Trophy where they made it through to the third round after two impressive wins. The Junior boys also represented us well in the Southampton Schools' Football Association league, losing out in a tough final.

The girls football teams have also experienced many successes this season. Four year groups travelled to LVS School in Ascot to compete in a 6-a-side tournament, both teams sailing through the group stages undefeated with the junior team winning three out of four games. They then won their quarter final 2-0 before being narrowly defeated in the semi-final. The senior team were also defeated in the semi-final by a single goal. The Under 15 girls placed fourth in the Southampton Schools' league and made it through to the final of the Southampton City Cup.

Our junior girls football teams in particular have had a very successful season, the Year 8 girls winning the Southampton Schools' 5-a-side tournament, whilst the Under 13 team travelled to Lingfield College in Surrey to take part in a 7-a-side competition, bringing home a silver medal.



Rugby

In March this year, the Year 7 Rugby team competed in a Rugby Festival held at Boundary Oak School, winning the Shield Competition. A few weeks later, it was the turn of the Year 9s to compete in the same Rugby Festival, winning the Bowl Competition. The Year 8 team had a few nasty injuries in their respective tournament (also at Boundary Oak), losing in the final of the Plate Competition.

Cricket

The cricket teams once again achieved some excellent victories this year, the Under 15 team particularly deserving of mention, ending the season as undefeated league champions.

Tennis

During the summer term, twelve of our students competed in the ISA Tennis Competition at Rugby School, playing both singles and doubles matches. Mika (Year 9) gained third place in the Cup Competition Zach (Year 7) achieved second place in the Plate Competition.

Residential Camps and Activities Week

Year 7 spent the week deep in the forest in Oxfordshire with outdoor experts 'Woodland Ways', learning a range of bushcraft and life skills including shelter building, cordage, food preparation and foraging. Students showed real resilience, many finding themselves well outside their comfort zones as they prepared pigeons for dinner in the torrential rain! The absence of technology brought out their creative sides making their own entertainment.



Year 8 students travelled to Argoed Lwyd in the Brecon Beacons, showing great determination and team work. Activities included rock climbing, caving and canoeing during the day whilst evenings comprised walks, orienteering and problem-solving.

Year 9 journeyed to France, where they stayed at the Chateau de Grande Romaine on the outskirts of Paris. Trips into the capital included visits to the Sacré-Coeur, Montmartre, the Eiffel Tower and a boat ride along the river Seine. The highlight for most students, however, was the day's visit to Disneyland Paris, where adrenaline levels soared as they rode the rides.

Students in school had a packed itinerary, learning new skills to recycle bicycles to send to Africa, perfecting their trampolining jumps at Flip Out, paddleboarding, sailing and raft building at Southampton Water Activities Centre and learning about water conservation at Testwood Lakes.



To commemorate Remembrance Day, we supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal with sales of poppies in school. Assemblies focused on the sacrifices made by soldiers and the impact of war on communities past and present whilst our Head Boy and Head Girl were privileged to represent The Gregg at the annual Remembrance Service in West End, laying a wreath at the village cenotaph.



Students filled 50 boxes with toys, stationery and toiletries for the Annual Shoebox Appeal organised by the Rotary Club, the boxes being distributed to disadvantaged children in Eastern Europe and the Philippines.

In November, we participated in the BBC Children In Need Appeal with a range of sponsored events, a non-uniform day and a cake bake which raised £1700.



Work Experience

Whilst our lower school students were on Camp and Activities Week, Year 10 entered the world of work. Having secured placements themselves or through our Careers Service providers Education Business Partnership (EBP), they showed maturity and commitment as they spent their time in a range of settings including schools, building and landscaping industries, engineering, law, radio broadcasting and animal care.

Charity and Community Involvement

We have supported a range of worthy causes during the year providing donations to local, national and international charities and not-for-profit community enterprises.

Our first event was the Euro Café and Cake Bake which coincided with MacMillan Cancer Research's Coffee Morning in September, raising over £300. In the same week, we also supported Jeans for Genes, the national charity which assists and raises awareness of those living with genetic conditions, the non-uniform day raising £620.

In December we supported a number of charities in our local community – Christmas Jumper Day saw students donating pet food for the Second Chance Animal Shelter in Mansbridge, together with food and toiletries for The Society of St. James – a charity which provides assistance to homeless people across Southampton. In addition, the collection during our Christmas Carol Service provided a further £260 towards the Society's costs in providing Christmas lunches for the homeless.

In February, we held a Mental Health Awareness Day, students taking part in activities which raised £325 for No Limits Southampton and £740 for the Red Cross Turkey Appeal. March saw the return of Comic Relief, where we raised £780 by sponsored events, non-uniform day and cake bake. In May we marked the coronation of King Charles III with a "Red, White and Blue" day, collecting over £300 for The Prince's Trust.

Our final charity event of the academic year was the Summer Colour Run, in aid of Southampton-based Abby's Heroes. The charity, which provides support to children and young people with cancer in Southampton General Hospital, is particularly close to our hearts at The Gregg, Abby's mother being a former student at our school.



Throughout the year, as part of our co-curricular activities, a group of students made regular visits to a local care home for the elderly, offering companionship and entertainment to the residents. It was clear that both young and old enjoyed their time together.

I should like to thank everyone who contributed to our charity and community programme during the year – your support, enthusiasm and generosity is much appreciated.

Duke of Edinburgh Award



2023 saw the start of our long-standing vision to deliver both Bronze and Silver Awards at The Gregg, which meant

the ambitious and successful coordinating of two Bronze Award groups. In Year 9, thirty-eight students completed the expedition section in June, with a qualifying hike and camp, of which five have completed the whole Bronze Award already, with several more very close. These students will be able to start the Silver Award next year. In Year 10, twenty-seven students completed a practice expedition in May and will be undertaking their final expedition in September. Well done to all those involved and my sincere thanks to the adult volunteers who so kindly give of their free time to enable our students to benefit from these opportunities.

Friends of The Gregg School (FROGS)

Our PTFA, The FROGS, have had the opportunity to work more collaboratively with our students and parents than they have in recent memory. Recovering from limited activities during the pandemic, it was a pleasure to be able to welcome our parents and supporters back into our school and grounds with some social and fundraising opportunities.

FROGS have supported our events with refreshments, hosted Pizza and Prosecco on the lawn, a very busy Spring Quiz, Ice Skating, Sports Day and the meet and greet at our whole school 'Robin Hood' Drama production.



Their fundraising serves to enhance students' experiences whilst at The Gregg. Their recent purchases have included instruments and technical equipment for the Music Department, a contribution towards the production of Gregg School honey (over 250 jars were produced), financial support for the whole school Drama production, free ice cream treats for the students at both Sports Day and refreshments for 'Greggs Got Talent' evening.

They hosted a successful Cocktails and Canapes evening in September and the forthcoming Christmas Fayre promises to be another great success!

Friends of Townhill Park House and Gardens

Last September sadly saw the last-minute cancellation of Heritage Day due to the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. As a result, we were unable to open the House and Gardens to the public on this occasion. However, the three Garden Open Days attracted large numbers of visitors who enjoyed discovering the many different aspects of our Grade II Listed Gardens throughout the seasons. In March, the daffodils gave us a delightful springtime display, bluebells and blossoms provided the backdrop in May, and in July we were treated to a vibrant display of colours in the herbaceous borders and formal gardens. My thanks to our student musicians, Meridian Winds and The Duke of Wellington Dancers for entertaining our visitors on these occasions.

Our Grounds team has been augmented by the appointment of Ben Young, a former Gregg student currently studying at Sparsholt College, with Ben undertaking the practical side of his apprenticeship alongside experienced members of staff.



The volunteer 'Posse' have again given freely of their time to undertake pruning, clearing, planting and repairs to the pond and paving – their efforts are much appreciated.

Conclusion

Once again, I marvel at the amount we manage to 'pack in' to our academic school year! We are more confident than ever about our extensive range of school events and opportunities and I am enjoying watching our staff buzzing around and students engaging in so many activities.

As a passionate advocate of experiential learning, I believe the biggest gain has been the ability to add in all the 'extras' as far as trips, visits and clubs are concerned. It fills me with great pleasure to see our students venture near and far in their educational experiences – creating unforgettable

moments and life-long memories. The new clubs and activities generated by our staff have been very well received and The House Team events are overwhelmingly supported. We have the largest numbers of students participating in Musical ensembles and given the buzz around the auditions for 'Sister Act', our drama production in the new year, the excitement levels have gone up another notch!



At this time last year, I felt that there was more we could do to strengthen our students' personal development and was eager to move this forward. I am now utterly reassured that the hard work that we have completed in whole school development and increasing our enrichment offer, means that we are wholeheartedly providing holistic development for our students at school.

In our most recent Open Events, our best asset – our students – have been praised time and again for their maturity and excellent communication whilst conducting tours. Many new parents have been keen to point this out to me personally – which never surprises me as I witness it daily but what an honour to hear it from visitors!

Our Student Leaders support our students and are becoming an ever stronger driving force for change and example in our school. I look forward to every meeting with them to build our understanding of what education and development looks like from their perspective, and where that can take us.

I'm not shy in saying that my teaching staff are exceptional. I should like to thank them for their work in lessons where they engage our students so creatively in their academic work. It extends so much further than the classroom walls at The Gregg. I appreciate all of our staff who involve themselves outside of their normal remit by giving up their time to support events as well as running clubs and activities based on their interests and additional skills. This 'richness' of opportunity is what we are all about – alongside being good role models for those around us.

This year our stakeholder teams have also been very much part of this. Catering staff supporting events, Governor involvement, Gardens Volunteers supporting learning...the list is endless! Our FROGS (PTFA) team went all-out to bring back the fun and sociable side to our community that was lost during the pandemic. They have certainly brought joy to our community as well as additional, much appreciated, funds to our school for those 'added extras'.



I cannot conclude without thanking our ancillary staff too. They are the reliable, consistent cornerstones of our operation who keep us safe, transported, well fed and organised –our day to day heroes.



Finally, I should like to thank our parents and families for continuing to support our fantastic school. It has been wonderful to be able to see more of you this year and I look forward to seeing you at a school event soon. Thank you for making 2022-2023 such a successful year.

2023-2024 – we're ready for you!

Best wishes,

Mrs Sheri Sellers

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