

DATES TO LOOK OUT FOR

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Friday 26th – Saturday 27th April - Year 9 Bronze D of E Expedition
Tuesday 30th April - FROGS Meeting
Thursday 2nd May ISA Tennis (U15) all day
Monday 6th May – 2-5pm Gardens Open Day
Wednesday 8th May –Southampton City Swimming Gala
Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th May – Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening
Thursday 9th May – Year 7 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Trip to Mayflower
Friday 10th May –Year 9 Key Skills trip to Avon Tyrrell Activity Centre



TGS News

26th April 2024 Summer Term - Issue 15

Glorious Iceland



On Tuesday 16th April, 37 Year 10 Geography students left school for Iceland. As part of the IGCSE Geography syllabus, students covered a range of topics as revision including volcanoes, dramatic waterfalls and coastal landscapes.

Landing in Iceland, the sun was out with a glorious blue sky. There was a slight change of plan to the itinerary to be able to see the new lava fields from the recent eruptions was magical due to the steam rising and snow falling.

Wednesday morning began with a very relaxing dip in the pools at the Secret Lagoon in the small village of Fludir. This natural hot spring is heated to up to 40c with the steam adding to the magical feel. Once our muscles were relaxed and fingers shrivelled, we headed north to Gulfoss. Glacial waters flow along the Hvita (White) River before

plummeting 32 metres over two tiers down into the gorge. We were able to walk from the lower path up to the upper viewing platform which gave a spectacular view of the whole waterfall. Our next stop was Geysir in the Haukadalur Valley.



The Strokkur Geyser erupts about every 8 minutes, shooting water up to a height of 20 metres. Several of the students got a little too close and received a rather unexpected drenching whilst trying to film the eruption! Cathy, our tour guide and field study tutor, explained the physical processes that were taking place here and the problems caused by so many visitors coming to this popular 'honey pot' site.

Then we travelled to the Þingvellir area which is part of a fissure zone running through Iceland. Its wide rift valley separates the North American Plate and the Eurasian Plate. It was here, in 930 AD, that the world's oldest parliament was established. We were able to walk between the steep fissure walls out into the vast rift valley. Cold winds and icy conditions made it a challenging walk.



We stayed at the wonderful Hotel Ork in the small town of Hvergerdi, about 40km away from Reykavik. The food was plentiful and the rooms were comfortable, but the real attraction was the geothermally heated swimming pool, slides and hot tubs.



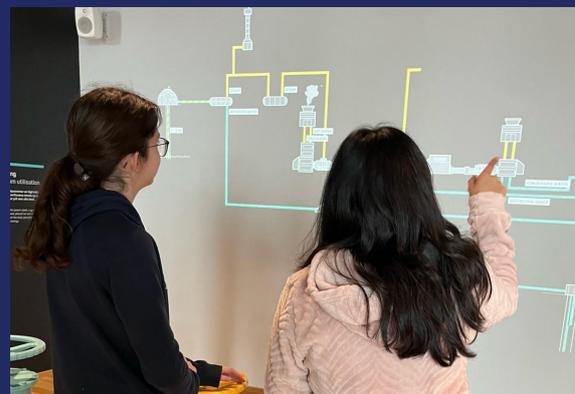
Thursday began with an early wakeup call and breakfast, then we set off on a drive along the southern coastline. First stop was Seljalandafoss waterfall. The glacial waters fall over 65 metres over old basalt sea cliffs. Gigantic icicles hung from the cliff face making it an even more impressive site. Sadly we were not able to walk behind the waterfall due to the ice.

We passed Eyjafjallajökull, which is the volcano case study for both the Year 10's. We stopped at the iconic farm and view point to discuss the impacts of the eruption of Eyjafjallajökull in 2010.



After a short stop at the Black Beach or Reynisfjara, a black basalt beach, where we had the chance to see the basalt columns created by the cooling of the lava which produces pipe-like columns, we went to the town of Vik for lunch and souvenir shopping.

On Friday morning, our first stop was to the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Plant. We had a talk from one of the employees to explain how the Geothermal Power Plant works and why it is essential in today's climate. The exhibition was presented in interactive multimedia installations, wall displays and presentations and enabled students to examine Iceland's geothermal energy utilisation.



The final two stops of the trip were to the Bridge between the plates (Eurasian plate and the North American plate) showing the strength of plate tectonics and the conservative plate boundary. Before heading to the natural hot springs and mud puddles.

The students were a credit to the school and hopefully they have had an experience that will stay in their memories for many years to come. My thanks to Miss Carter, Ms Rendall, Ms Webb and Mr Lloyd who gave up their own time to support the trip. Mrs Le Cornu

Getting your hands dirty

If you are free this Sunday 28th April 10am – 1pm our 'posse' (gardens volunteers) are meeting to tidy the grounds ready for the Gardens Open Day on Monday 6th May. Please be here by 10am as the front gate will close at 10:05am.

The 'posse' will be working on clearing some brambles covering an Olmeira shrub and weeding in Sunk garden. Please bring stout gloves, secateurs, shears and suitable clothing. Tea and cake will be provided (please bring your own mug/cup).

If you would like to find out about becoming a volunteer in the gardens please email Ted Waite on ted@thegreggschools.org who can give you more information.

Gardens Open Day

Come and see the blossom and the bluebells! Our next Gardens Open Day is on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2-5pm. Entry and parking are free. There will be refreshments, a classic car display and a fun inflatable gladiator game.



Open Day

We would like to invite you all to our Open Day on Saturday 22nd June 10am – 1 pm.

Bring your family and friends to wander around the school and gardens, take part in activities, listen to music, watch drama sketches and enjoy refreshments in our beautiful grounds, We look forwards to seeing you!



Charity News

Marathon Man

Science teacher Mr Cooper ran the famous London Marathon last Sunday for the school charity Naomi House and Jacksplace and has written all about this fantastic experience.



Finally, the day for the London Marathon arrived. After all the months of training, involving getting up at 5am on a Sunday morning to complete long runs in the cold and dark, it had come to this.... standing in my pen on a cold and windy morning, trying to keep warm, waiting to be released over the starting line.

The Wheelchair race and Men's and Women's elite runners had begun their epic journey of 26.2 miles past some of London's iconic landmarks



including the Cutty Sark and Tower Bridge. Then it was our turn! The first part of the route winds slightly downhill towards the Thames. With over 50,000 runners jostling for position all trying to get into their stride maintaining your pace is key as there is a long way to go and the temptation is to go off too fast with all the adrenaline pumping around your body.

Crowds line both sides of the course, cheering so loudly that you can hear nothing else. The atmosphere is electric, time to remember the basics, take on water, take on energy gels, smile! The first half passes fairly easily as you are used to running the distance of a half marathon from all the training. Now for the second, harder part that takes a novice marathon runner like me into the unknown. At 20 miles I can feel the pace starting to dip as the legs are beginning to feel the strain. Time to dig deep and keep going as best you can. A twinge of cramp sets in. Remember the water and the gels!



By the end the finish can't come soon enough. Your pace quickens as you approach the line. Try to smile as there is a camera somewhere taking your picture. A feeling of relief consumes you as you realise you are actually going to make it. There is no better feeling than finally crossing that line. A well-deserved medal is placed around your neck and you are wrapped in silver foil to keep you warm.

I crossed the finish line in a respectable 3 hours and 20 minutes. The second half had gone a little slower than the first half but this is only my second marathon. Will I run another one? If you had asked me that when I crossed the line it would have been a definite NO. A day later, and the pain has subsided a bit, then MAYBE. Perhaps a half marathon first!

Thank you to everyone who supported me and for your generous donations and encouraging comments on the just giving page. I believe there is still time if you wanted to contribute towards Naomi House and Jacksplace. <https://bit.ly/3WenV2D> Mr Cooper

Walking Boots Ready

We have a number of intrepid staff members and students (part of the crew are pictured below) who are taking on either the 'Classic Clarendon Way' or the 'Half Way Clarendon' on Sunday 2nd June to also raise money for Naomi House and Jacksplace.



The 'Classic Clarendon' walk is a beautiful 26 mile walk from Winchester to Salisbury which will take them off the beaten track through some of Hampshire's and Wiltshire's most beautiful countryside and wonderful scenery.

The 'Half Way Clarendon' is a 12 mile walk from Broughton to Salisbury which has outstanding views across open countryside and farmland.

They have started their training and are looking forward to taking part in this famous and enjoyable event. If you would like to support them and are able to donate please do so on the link below:

<https://bit.ly/3xMxLhR>

FROGS News

FROGS LOTTO

The FROGS Lotto April draw has taken place and the lucky winners have been notified.

For a monthly subscription of £5, you could be in with a chance of winning one of three prizes (£50, £25 and £10) each month. If you would like to join the FROGS monthly lottery please email the FROGS Secretary at frogs.secretary@thegreggschools.org and a standard order mandate will be sent to you.

Easyfundraising

Please remember to use Easyfundraising every time you shop online and help raise money for the FROGS.

Over 8,100 businesses and sites including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, eBay and Apple will donate to The Friends of Gregg School for FREE when you use Easyfundraising to shop with them, so you can support us no matter what you're buying!

If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. Please sign up and help us raise more at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/.../thefriendsofgreggs...>

Thank you for your support.

Save the Date

The next FROGS event will be the ever popular 'Pizza, Pop and Prosecco' on Friday 7th June. More details to follow soon!

Student News

ABP Southampton Running Event

Congratulations to Camilla W Year 8 who came 17th in the ABP Southampton 5km race with a personal best of 20.56 minutes. A fantastic result well done!



Karate Kid

Congratulations to Year 9 student Oscar I who passed over a three hour grading for his black belt martial arts last weekend. Oscar trains once a week at Matt Fiddes at Townhill Hall and also helps to teach the younger groups (4-7 and 7-12 years old). His class is an hour long of mixed martial arts, they do hand drills, kickboxing, sparring and self defence.



Representing the Region!



Following recent regional races, Year 11 rowers, Jaz A and Hannah G, were delighted to represent Wessex last weekend at the Junior Inter-Regional Regatta in Nottingham. The best J16 rowers from 13 regions around Great Britain raced in time

trials in the morning, followed by a long afternoon of final races. Re-energising after long intervals was a challenging part of this 12 hour day.

Jaz put in a fantastic performance in her J16 single scull event, only just pipped to first in the last few seconds of her race. Having only recently started to train in a coxless quad, Jaz, Hannah and their crew put up a strong fight in their J16 race.



The experience of racing at The National Watersports Centre, on one of Britain's elite rowing waterways, was a real privilege, although rowing in a dead straight line was an altogether different challenge to the familiar twists and turns of the Itchen!

Well done to Jaz and Hannah for giving it your all for Wessex!

ABIDE Week

We will be supporting ABIDE week which is 20th - 24th May.

This is a week to celebrate diversity and inclusion and there will be lots of activities to celebrate this in KS3 lessons.

There will also be a non-uniform day on 21st May and students will be asked to bring in some form of snack to sell that reflects their culture/heritage.



This will be to raise money for Naomi House and The Southampton Hospital School Trust. More information to follow soon! Mrs Clifton

Drama News



Well, we've been back for two weeks, and already it's been a busy time in Drama! Year 7 are working on "Alice in Wonderland", and Zoe and Finn impressed me so much with their physical theatre last week that they were awarded the "Oscar of the Week". Congratulations girls!

Year 8 have been exploring "War Horse" and I have been really pleased with how they have shown respect and maturity in dealing with the sensitive topic. The work we are doing is based on both the original book by Michael Morpurgo, but also the internationally acclaimed National Theatre play which was first performed in 2007.



The students have been really interested in the play, which will be performed at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton in October 2024. This is a great production to see, if you are able to. Please note that GCSE Drama students will be going on a trip to see this, but I have not organised a trip for the younger year groups.

If you are interested, please find more info and a trailer here: <https://www.mayflower.org.uk/whats-on/war-horse-2024/#media-video>

Year 9 are exploring structure in performance, and are currently developing their own creative pieces.

Year 10 are about to begin devising their GCSE component two pieces and Year 11 are revising hard for their upcoming final exam on the 9th May! A big pat on the back to all the students for working so hard in this first fortnight back after Easter. Mrs Azor

Year 8 Update

Year 8 have had a great return after Easter, and it has been lovely to see them so engaged in their learning and getting involved in so many clubs. As Year 8 parents will know, I have now taken over the role of Head of Year for this year group, and it has been lovely to start working with the students from this new perspective. Having taught all of the year group Drama for the past 18 months, I know that we are going to enjoy some new ventures together, under our new year group motto, "Work Together, Win Together".



Firstly, I would like to draw parents' attention to a new opportunity for the Year 8 students to become part of a volunteer group, that I am calling

the "Task Force". Once formed, this group will assist staff with various projects and tasks around school, and these could cover anything from feedback about a trip, to gardening, to planning or reorganising a school space. I am also hoping to do some charity work with them. I am really pleased with the response so far, with a number of students signing up already!

The deadline is the 3rd of May, and further details are on a Firefly task. Please encourage your child to consider getting involved. This volunteering could look great on future applications for prefects or student leadership, and perhaps even further into the future.

The second initiative stems from some Respect work we did in Year 7 with Mrs Clifton and the

"Boomerang of Kindness" project, which you may remember. This term, I have launched the new half-termly "Kindness Hero" award. On the Firefly task set by me, students can nominate someone in the year group as being a "Kindness Hero", and tell me why they are nominating them. The deadline for this is the 17th of May. It has been lovely to read all the nominations so far, and I am looking forward to presenting the first award at the end of this half term. Please encourage your child to get involved!



Finally, I am very aware that some of our Year 8 students are involved in many different activities outside of school. In some cases, they are really excelling in them, or making a difference in their community and are also taking part in many of the excellent co-curricular clubs we run here.



As their Head of Year, I would like to be able to share and celebrate achievements with tutors and the year group, so if you feel that your child has achieved something a bit special, please do email me at the address below.

I look forward to working with Year 8 students and their parents further this year! Mrs Azor naz@thegreggschools.org

Mr Wilford's Football Round Up

Year 8 Boys

The junior boys team have had their best ever season this year (well, in the time that Mr W has been here) in finishing top of the league!

They won Division 2 thanks to big wins against Weston and Oasis Sholing, as well as a last-gasp victory away to St Marks. The best display was a hard-fought 0-0 draw against their title rivals, with Archie Lindsay saving a penalty.

Well done to all boys involved; it was hard picking a team with so many keen boys displaying quality in lessons and in games.

They were all brilliant all year but the stars of the team include Harry L, Sam H, Harry G, Euan H and Elliot S.

Year 7/8 Girls

The junior girls team were promoted to the top division after a league win last year. We were slightly worried as some of the star players were now in Year 9.



However, the Year 8 girls stepped up and showed we had nothing to worry about as they beat Bitterne Park, Oasis Mayfield and Hamble (the first time Mr W had ever taken a team to Hamble and won!) in the first half of the season.

A frustrating defeat against Deer Park followed by some difficult defeats against much bigger schools than The Gregg (St George's and Wildern) meant that we were off the pace in the league but still finished in a credible 2nd place.

We were most proud and pleased to see a massive increase in interest this year (one training session had 18 girls!) and hope this continues to see girls' football go from strength to strength at The Gregg.

Senior Girls

A frustrating league season for the senior girls team as three of the teams in the league dropped out so we only played 2 fixtures.

The first was an impressive 6-0 victory at Upper Shirley High (USH) in September, with a half time thunderstorm threatening to abandon the match.

A brilliant hat trick from Grace K and a 25 yard curler from Annabel P with the last kick of the game sealed the win.

We hosted Oasis Sholing in March and managed to lose 3-2 despite having most of the ball and most of the shots, especially in the first half.

In a strange twist USH beat Sholing so the girls are playing a 3-way playoff next week to judge the winner of the league medals! Good luck!

Mr Wilford

Key Stage 3 Basketball

Congratulations to Roman who won the Key Stage 3 Girls House Basketball today. Trojan, 2nd and Spartan 3rd.



Scores below:

Spartan 0 Roman 1
Trojan 4 Spartan 2
Roman 4 Trojan 2

House Update

Another busy term for the House Competition. After the 25 House events of the Spring term the current standings are

Trojan 1st
Roman 2nd
Spartan 3rd

With House competitions across the school there has been much for students of all years to enter; student participation has been recorded at over 970 entries in the spring term and as a result a lot of House Stars to be collected in the House assembly Friday 26th April!

House Star Awards

Below were the House Star achievements for the Spring Term.

Trojan

Noah H 2 stars, Wakhile M 1 star, Jonathan M 1 star, Sophia A 2 stars, Elise B 1 star, Henry R 1 star, Sebastian R 2 stars, Avani S 1 star, Marty S 1 star, Yasin A 1 star, Molly H 1 star, Max T 1 star, Noah R 1 star, Henry P 1 star, Sam W 1 star, Namrita B 1 star, James R 1 star, Charles D 1 star, Benjamin F 1 star, Eleanore D 1 star, Harry G 1 star, Harry L 1 star, Aurora S 1 star, Samuel K 1 star, Benjamin P 1 star, Boudica W 1 star, James L 1 star, Jamie A 1 star, Zachary E 1 star, Jemma R 1 star, Daniel G 1 star, George E 1 star, Emily B 1 star, Jessica H-C 1 star, Joe M 1 star, Rosie W 1 star, Daisy W 1 star, Izabelle E 1 star, Lewis T 1 star, Emily B 1 star and Nicole G 1 star

Roman

Natasha S 3 stars, Albert M 2 stars, Harriet F 1 star, Jessica L 3 stars, Charlotte N 1 star, Emilia H 2 stars, Klara D 2 stars, Layla K 1 star, Emilia T 1 star, Eva M 1 star, Caitlin V 1 star and Helena R 1 star

Spartan

Charlie Zijue Li 4 stars, Myles O 2 stars, Zoe L 1 star, Samuel H 3 stars, Aedan H 1 star, Zoe S 1 star, Harry R 2 stars, Alissa O 1 star, Benjamin F 1 star, Tobias C 2 stars, Evelyn D 1 star, Charlie I 1 star, Betsy J 2 stars, James M 1 star, Flo P 1 star, Euan H 2 stars, Jasper P 1 star, George T 1 star, Thomas C 2 stars, Lexie P 1 star, Jack G 1 star, Annabel H 2 stars, Poppy D 1 star, Juliette S 1 star, Charlotte C 2 stars, Amelie B 1 star, Alyssa B 1 star, Rosie S 2 stars, Arshiya B 1 star, Constance J 1 star, Amelia T 2 stars, Ethan R 1 star, Cordelia B 1 star, Ava D 2 stars, Olivia S 1 star, Felina F 1 star, Oliver G 1 star, Oscar I 1 star, Hasan K 1 star, Phoebe W 1 star and Jack B 1 star.

Students who have recently joined The Gregg school please note that for every 5 house events completed students are awarded a House Star by their Head of House and a Mercury from their form tutor.

Please see the Firefly page with instructions on how to iron on the star patches. Ironing instructions <https://gregg.fireflycloud.net/house-events/house-star-ironing-instructions>

NEW HOUSE TOPS! A reminder for the link to the new house tops.

House tops <https://playerlayer.com/teams/gregg-school/coming-soon.html>