



TGS News

13th December 2024 Autumn Term - Issue 8

Christmas Cheer at The Gregg!

We have been truly getting into the spirit of Christmas over the last few weeks with the Christmas Fayre, ice skating, pantomimes, Winter Concert, Carol Concert as well as raising money for Naomi House and Jacksplace through our Festive Wear Day and Santa Run and of course not forgetting a delicious Christmas lunch!

Winter Concert

On the 5th December, 50 students from all year groups took part in a spectacular Winter Concert to a packed hall.



The concert consisted of some festive favourites with performances from our orchestra, flute choir, choir, jazz band, rock band, string ensemble and guitar ensemble.



We also enjoyed outstanding solo performances from Finty BT, Harriet F, Eddie H, Hien L, Charlie L, Louise M, Alex P, Lucia SM, Charlotte W.



Well done to all students involved and thank you to the staff who made it possible.

Mrs Parrott

Christmas Tree Festival

On the 6th December, the choir performed at St James' Church Christmas Tree Festival.



They entertained the audience with traditional carols and Christmas songs and the students enjoyed walking around the church afterwards looking at all the trees that had been beautifully decorated by local community groups.

Mrs Parrott

Christmas Carol Concert



On Wednesday, we celebrated our annual Christmas Carol Service at St James' Church West End. It was a magical afternoon celebrating this wonderful time of year with students, staff, parents and governors.

This year's theme was 'Belonging' which has been the core of The Gregg School for many years, in particular through our Respect Programme. Sitting in the church, surrounded by our school community, was the epitome of belonging: a feeling of security

and support, with a sense of identity, inclusion and acceptance.

Belonging is more than just acceptance at The Gregg, it is about us feeling like we can be who we are and that those around us don't just accept who we are, they celebrate our differences.



The service was a mixture of the talented musical performers, poems written and read by our students and of course the wonderful carols sung together as a community. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us to celebrate the end of a wonderful school term.

Thank you also for your kind donations during the service, we raised £270 for Save the Children.

Mrs Crowther





It's behind you! Year 7 & 8 Panto Trip!

On Thursday, the Year 7 and 8 students visited the Theatre Royal Winchester for the annual Panto Trip!

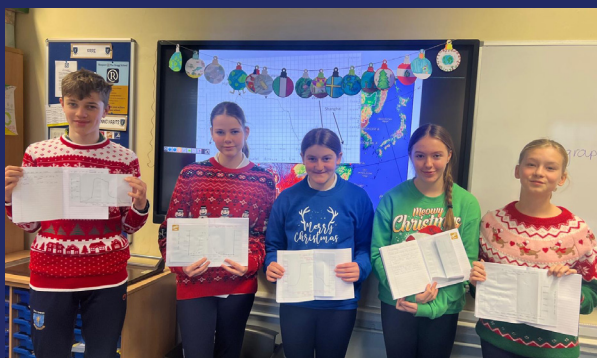


This time, the tale was 'Mother Goose', and the show enthralled us with lots of audience participation ("Oh yes it did!"), an over-the-top dame, and of course, lots of singing and dancing!

The Theatre Royal always make us feel so welcome and this year we had the whole balcony to ourselves! Following the Carol Service on Wednesday, this was the perfect start to the festive season and I want to say well done to all of the students for their great behaviour. Merry Christmas!

Mrs Azor

Festive Wear Day



Thank you to everyone who supported our Festive Wear Day yesterday in support of Naomi House and Jacks Place. There were some lovely jumpers around and we raised £580.

Christmas Lunch



Who doesn't like a Christmas Dinner? Our new caterers, Thomas Franks, produced a delicious Christmas spread yesterday. There were definitely full tummies in the afternoon!

Swooshing around on the Ice

Last Friday, we had two school ice-skating expeditions to West Quay Ice Rink!

Firstly, 24 Year 10's went with the Student Support Team for a lovely festive day. They had lots of fun skating and were also lucky enough to visit the Christmas Market.

Ms Love



In the evening a group of FROGS and Gregg school families joined in the Christmas cheer and had a delightful evening ice skating with lots of hot chocolate to warm up afterwards!





A message from the Southampton Hospital School

Further to our involvement with the Southampton Hospital School (as mentioned in the last newsletter), we have a message from Mrs Nell Giles the Headteacher of the school:



We are looking for skilled and enthusiastic individuals to join our established and experienced team of local governors to lead and support our education journey at Southampton Hospital School.

It is an exciting opportunity to become involved in our unique school community and improve the outcomes of our children and their families.

Southampton Hospital School is an alternative provision academy that provides hospital education to pupils in Southampton General Hospital and Outreach teaching to pupils within the city of Southampton. We are experts at educating children with medical needs and enabling pupils to reintegrate back into their usual school. Our governors, school leaders and staff take a collective responsibility for academic outcomes and the wellbeing of all our students.

We meet once a half term at the Bursledon House site. There is no requirement to attend any additional panels, although we do encourage governors to become as involved in the daily work of the school as much as possible through a series of planned visits and meetings with staff,

parents and young people. This can be flexible and designed to fit in with your availability and commitments.

No previous experience as a governor, or working in a school is required, we will support successful applicants to carry out their duties and will provide appropriate training.

If you are interested in contributing to your local community within a supportive and highly unique education setting, we would love to hear from you.

For further information please email info@southamptonhospitalschool.co.uk.

Nell Giles

Computing Bytes.....

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Bebras Competition which was run as a house competition this year.

Over 460,000 students competed nationally in the annual computational thinking competition run by Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford.

The following students achieved GOLD which means they are in the top 10% nationally and sees them through to the next round in March, more details to come in January 2025.



Students who achieved Gold are:

Juniors (Year 7)

Izzy M, Charlotte C, Sophie G, Bayar S, Sophie H, Jenson S, Daniel R, Darcey A and India N-J.

Intermediates (Year 7 and 8)

Alissa O, Tom C, Phoebe W, Zoe B, Elise B, Khosi R-V

Seniors (Year 10)

Hien L

Izzy M, Alissa O and Hien L also achieved best in school (for their group).

Well done all.

Mrs Gibbs

School Council News



I am writing to inform you of the advancements the school council has made over the past term.

The school council is a system that allows everyone in the school to have a voice and through it we have

received some valuable suggestions and we have made some exciting changes.

The council is run by a group of Year 11 student leaders including myself as Head Girl and the Head Boy.

Firstly, some of the lower school students mentioned it was hard to find the correct science classrooms when they were new to the school and so signs have been put up outside of the doors to make it easier to navigate.

Another change that has been made is the students will now be able to wear their PE kit on days when they have swimming lessons as this will hopefully make it easier and quicker for them to change in and out of their uniform.

Furthermore, it was also suggested that the students would like more access to the Sunken Garden during breaktime and lunchtime.

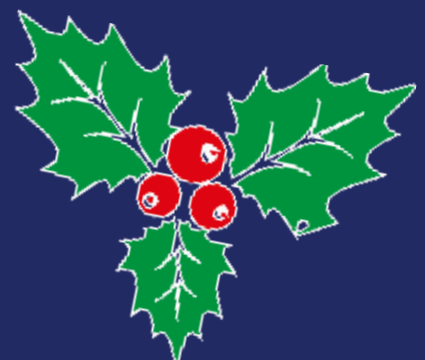
Therefore, the school council is currently looking into how this can be arranged, including the addition of some more seating to the area.

Finally, we have worked with the Senior Leadership Team to introduce a trial period for Year 11 girls to wear their hair down. Many people felt that their hair was a way to express their identity, and this gives people greater freedom with their appearance.

There are areas in the school where hair must be tied back, such as in the canteen and in certain lessons, for health and safety and so the trial period gives the Year 11 girls the opportunity to abide by the rules and therefore keep their hair down for the rest of the year. If the trial period is successful, Year 10 girls will also be allowed to wear their hair down after February half term. This trial period will begin after the Christmas holidays.

Kind regards,

Etty T (Head Girl) and The School Council



Congratulations Year 8

Year 8 had a very successful praise assembly on Wednesday. This term the year group have accumulated over 7,600 achievement points and over 100 Senior Teacher Commendations and Mercuries were handed out to students. Well done Year 8! Mr Bartlett



Year 9 Work Together, Win Together!

Dear Families,

How is it Christmas already? As we bring our first term as Year 9 to a close, I want to say a massive WELL DONE to the students for stepping up to the challenges that this term has brought.

Over the past couple of weeks, I have seen many successes, from Netball, to the Winter Concert, to BEBRAS to the Southampton Hospital School garden project and that's not even mentioning their wonderful classroom work! I am very proud of them, and very lucky to be their Head of Year!



Two weeks ago, a group of Year 9 students gave up their Saturday for the Christmas Fayre: Lois B, Khile M, Tilly C, Emilia H, Khosi R.V, Zac E and Aurora S. These students and their tutor groups came up with an idea to raise money at the fayre, with all proceeds going to our Southampton Hospital School Garden Project. Well done team!

I sure that you have also seen some of the recent successes of the year group on Social Media, such as 9EHA winning our inter-tutor 'Shoot The Hoop' competition and the netball team coming second in a large tournament on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, we had our end of term assembly to celebrate success across various areas of the school. In total, I gave out 97 individual awards (nominated by different staff), and four whole tutor group awards! This just goes to show what an awesome term they have had.





first week of January, so please keep your eye on our social media sites for news on this.

My final thanks for the year must go to you, our wonderful Year 9 families. I have had the pleasure with talking with lots of you over the past couple of days at our parental consultation evenings, and discussing your amazing children.

Thank you for supporting me in everything from homework, to uniform and ensuring your young people are happy and thriving at The Gregg. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, and see you all in 2025!

Mrs Azor naz@thegreggschools.org



During our assembly, we also presented this half term's 'Kindness Hero Award'. This half term, I received 32 nominations, which really does represent how kind and thoughtful the year group are. Some students received multiple nominations, so maybe they will win next term!

However, this time, the trophy was presented to the lovely Lois B. Lois exemplifies kindness, with her nominations making reference to her supportive, positive and helpful nature. Well done Lois!



As you know, our school musical rehearsals are well underway. Our tickets are due to go on sale on the Theatre Royal Winchester website in the

Year 10 Work Experience

Just a gentle reminder that all Year 10 students will need to have their EBP own-placement forms signed and handed in by Friday 31st January.

If you are having any issues with organising work experience, please do not hesitate to contact me at mdo@thegreggschools.org.

If, for whatever reason, your young person will not be participating in work experience during activities week next year (7th-11th July) please contact me as soon as possible. Thank you.

Mrs M. Upson-Dowie



Sports News

Year 9 Netball



The Year 9 girls had their second Southampton Schools netball tournament this week and out of nine schools, they managed to win six games so they did amazingly well and came away with silver medals!

After Christmas it will be the Year 7 and 8s who will have tournaments to play. Miss Hadfield

Year 11 Rugby



Starting a new tradition! Yesterday saw the inaugural match (and now annual Christmas cup!) of Year 11 boys Gregg vs Gregg.

The score was 28-12 and Jack G was the winning captain and able to lift the much loved Christmas cup. Mr Bayford

House News

Year 9 House Netball

There were some close matches in the Year 9 house netball yesterday with great play and teamwork. Spartan nudged ahead and were victorious with Trojan 2nd and Roman 3rd. Well done Spartan!



Rowathon

The Gregg School's 'Christmas House Rowathon' took place on Thursday 12th December. The rowers competed in house relay teams, rowing on static Concept 2 rowing machines. Students pushed themselves to row as far as they could in two minute intervals before passing to their team mate.



Spartan Year 9 took the initial lead and by the end of the first two lessons Trojan had nudged themselves into the lead by 450m.

The afternoon session was led by Trojan with a valiant effort from Spartan who narrowed the gap on the leaders. The most noteworthy performance of the day came from Year 7 Roman's who won their category gaining metres on the leaders. In three hours students covered a total distance of 19000km between them!



Thank you to all those students who took part and to the House Captains for their superb organisation and motivating spirit. The successful day raised a total of £250 for Naomi House.

For those students who enjoyed the rowathon and would like to do more, don't forget to attend the Wednesday, after school, indoor rowing club in the pavilion.

The club focuses on improving technique, for a more efficient and more powerful stroke, through drills, races and games. This Spring term we will also be preparing for the National Indoor Virtual Rowing Championships <https://www.njirc.co.uk/>.

Miss Carter



Calling all Almuni



THE GREGGONIAN

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Welcome

FROM MRS SHERI SELLERS

their school years with much affection.

Secondly, at The Gregg School, we are invigorating our sense of Belonging this year and are encouraging our current students to think this way.

We belong to the school in many ways: as the 'Class of', the cast of a musical, as a student leader, as a member of a sports team, as a certain tutor group or friendship group.

We build connections during our time at school with staff and make friendships that will be remembered, and, for many, maintained forever.

Former students enjoy driving through the gates, walking through the front doors and re-engaging with memories of days gone past. In fact, three former classmates from Class of 1994 are experiencing this with regularity as they are now working at the school!

Our experience at school connects us for ever. **Once a Greggian, always a Greggian!**

We welcome our youngest members – the Class of 2024! They knocked our socks off with their GCSE results! In spite of spending the first two years of their Gregg senior school education learning remotely from their homes, or restricted to the upper floor of the main house, they picked themselves up impressively in Year 9 and gave it all they'd got for their GCSE years. We are so impressed with them achieving a 97% pass rate (as well as a significant amount of seriously high grades) and wish them every success in their ongoing education. Please stay in touch!

We hope that all of our alumni enjoy reading this newsletter and very much encourage you to send through stories, life updates and favourite photos to alumni@thegreggschools.org so that we can share them via the newsletter and social media, add to our physical and digital school archives and ultimately reconnect friendships and happy memories.

Wishing you a very happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year!

CLASS OF 2024

We are delighted to welcome the Class of 2024 to The Gregg School Alumni Association and look forward to following your progress!



Email address for correspondence: alumni@thegreggschools.org

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The relaunched Greggonian Newsletter is now out and was mailed out to all our Greggians on our database yesterday. Link below:

<https://bit.ly/3Dob9H6>

If you are an old Greggian and have not yet signed up to receive newsletters please do so using the link below:

<https://www.thegreggschool.org/alumni>



Outdoor Learning Update



Our Outdoor Learning Adventure with Year 7s this term finished off with fire lighting skills using a flint and steel, cooking marshmallows and making 's'mores (of course!) and creating wooden Christmas decorations.



What a great end to a great term, well done everyone!

We're looking forward to more adventures in the New Year and remember to wrap up warm.

Mrs Webb

January 2025 Dates to Look Out For

Monday 6th - Return to school

Thursday 9th - Year 9 theatre trip to 'Hairspray'

Friday 10th - Year 7 Sep 25 entry application deadline

Monday 13th - Year 9 & 10 visiting author Alan Bissett

Monday 20th - Tuesday 21st Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening

Tuesday 21st - Music Scholarship Day

Thursday 23rd - Year 9 Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

Saturday 25th - Year 7 Entrance Assessment

Tuesday 28th - Year 9 Drama performance and workshops

Tuesday 28th - Intermediate UKMT

Merry Christmas from The Gregg School

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and an enjoyable, festive break and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

