



## VISITING AUTHOR Alan Bissett



### About the book:

"It's time to have a conversation, man to man, about some of the behaviours that men often believe to be normal."

"An antidote to aggressive online noise, this book will help your teen create positive change, giving them the confidence to call out bad behaviour and be their best selves."

### Topics covered in the book include:

- P\*rnography
- Locker room talk
- Flirting
- Incel culture
- The 'manosphere'

We were delighted that the popular author, Alan Bissett, came to speak to our Year 9 and 10 students this week about his new award-winning book 'LADS'.

He offered wisdom, wit and useful advice on navigating adolescence and the trials and tribulations of growing into a young adult in this current day and age.

It's essential reading for all (13 +) can be purchased from bookshops and online:

<http://bit.ly/4jaXzHI>

Many thanks to our wonderful students who were welcoming and inquisitive and enjoyed the experience.

Ms King



## GCSE MEDIA VISIT TO BBC SOUTH TODAY

Last week, GCSE Media students had the incredible opportunity to tour the BBC South Today Studios.

This included seeing the radio set up while it was in use, talking to producers and hosts of the morning, afternoon and sports broadcasts.

They also toured the BBC South Today studio and the main control room and had the opportunity to talk with producers and the chief editor for audio. Special thanks to Mr. Ian Ramsdale, Executive Editor for Audio Content.

Mr Vassaf





## STUDENT NEWS

### 'KARATE KID' BLACK BELT GRADING

Congratulations to Year 9 student George E who has achieved the Shodan grading (first black belt) on 6th December 2024.

George has been training in Shotokan Karate since he was eight with Porchester Karate Club - a well established club which was founded in 1982 by Sensei Merv O'Donnell 8th Dan. Sensei Merv, who started training in 1967, was trained by the students of Funakoshi Gichin, the creator of Shotokan Karate.

To pass his grading, George had to demonstrate Kihon (basics), Kata (choreographed form), Kumite (fighting), and Bunkai (application of Kata in self defence). He had to maintain technique and spirit for the duration of the grading, as well as demonstrating continual improvement and continued commitment, over the last six months when he was first selected to grade.



After being awarded his 1st Dan, George had to do his next lesson in his old brown belt, before the official presentation of the black belt. This is a club tradition known as the 'humility lesson' which teaches the students that the success is not in achieving the belt itself, but in how they conduct themselves.

In Shotokan Karate, a student must wait the duration of their next grade before they can be considered ready to try for that grade. George's next grade will be Nidan (2nd Dan), which means he will not be able to grade again for at least two years. So the journey starts here... Well done George!

### CYCLOCROSS

Elite Sports Programme sisters Eva (Year 9) and Isabelle M-M (Year 7) have been doing tremendously well with their cycling and have been chosen to represent their cycling club in Belgium this weekend in two cyclo-cross events.

Both girls have had success this season at a Regional and National Level. Eva is currently ranked 7th nationally and was chosen to represent the South Team at a two day inter-regional cyclocross event before Christmas and her team won. They are now inter-regional champions for cyclocross!

Racing this weekend in Belgium will be an incredible experience for both girls and we wish them luck.



### WANTED - EMPTY SWEET TUBS!



If you, your family or friends have large plastic tubs or sweet tins left over from Christmas please can you think of us in Food and Nutrition when wanting to recycle them?

When the tubs or tins are empty, please could students bring them to Food and Nutrition, and we will happily reuse them for students over the next year.

Miss Gibbs, Head of Food and Nutrition said, "More than 100 million tubs of chocolates, sweets and biscuits are sold in the UK each year with Christmas accounting for as much as 40 per cent of all sales. We would love to help recycle these containers at The Gregg School and would really appreciate all donations".

### PLAYERLAYER DISCOUNT

If you need to replace any sports kit PlayerLayer are offering a 25% discount using the code TGSJS25 until the end of January.

**JANUARY SALE**  
**25% OFF**  
Limited Time Only  
Discount Code: **TGSJS25**



## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Congratulations to some of our students, past and present, who performed in the incredible and fun "The Wind In The Willows: Toad's Big Musical Adventure!" at MAST Mayflower Studios last month.

Lots of staff, students and families went to see the show, and agree that our performers are so talented, and the show was wonderful.

Mrs Azor was delighted to see the performance and catch up with the students after the show.

Congratulations to the Charlies!

Charlie I (Year 8)

Charlie L (Year 9)

Charlie C (Class of 2023)



## GREASE IS THE WORD!

Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your neighbours all about our superb production of Grease at The Theatre Royal in Winchester on Wednesday 19th and Thursday 20th March.

Tickets can be booked on the link below:  
<https://bit.ly/3BVyKih>



## MATHS ONLINE LEARNING LEADERBOARD

Well done to the following students who are this month's Independent Learner Leaders. Students will each receive 10 Resourcefulness Learning Habits.

Year	MathsWatch	DrFrost
7	Tam L Aaron Z	
8	Tobias D Sophie C	Allissa O Charlie I
9	Daisy Q Harry L	George T Darcey O'D
10	Max A Namrita B	Hein L Amelie B
11	Ed H Eva A	Neil S Zara S



## SCIENTISTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Key Stage 3 student Tam L and Key Stage 4 student Anna M who are our Scientists of the Month.

Both have been working extremely hard and producing work to a very high standard.



Look out for the upcoming Year 7 Challenger workshop and the GCSE Science Live trip in February!

## NEXT STEPS

The following Open Events might be of interest to our Year 10 and Year 11 students:



### SENIOR SCHOOL OPEN MORNING


SATURDAY 1 FEBRUARY  
10AM TO 12.30PM

 **RYDE SCHOOL**  
WITH UPPER CHINE

*An island school with a global outlook*

RYDESCHOOL.ORG.UK | ISLE OF WIGHT





## South Hampshire College Group

SHCG.AC.UK

### T Level Parents Information Evening

**CEMAST  
CETC**  
Wednesday 5 February  
17:30 - 18:30


**Fareham  
College**  
Thursday 6 February  
17:30 - 19:00

**Eastleigh  
College**  
Wednesday 12 February  
17:30 - 19:00


**Southampton  
College**  
Thursday 13 February  
17:30 - 19:00

# SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

**WITH T-LEVELS**  
↳ EQUAL TO 3 A-LEVELS



**REGISTER  
TO ATTEND**





## ALUMNI NEWS

A huge thank you to Class of 2017 student Patrick Dineen for coming in this week to give an HPL talk about his experiences at drama school and working in theatre and the diverse jobs available in the industry.



It was really fantastic to hear about Patrick's experiences and his old teachers were pleased to catch up with him too!



If you are an Alumni don't forget to sign up for the Alumni Newsletters here:  
<https://bit.ly/40FtVDq>



## FROGS NEWS

If you would like to join the FROGS for their Valentine themed quiz night on Friday 7th February please book here: [bit.ly/4jhlwfn](https://bit.ly/4jhlwfn)



## OPEN MORNINGS

Do you have a younger child about to start primary school or a Year 6 looking for a senior school? Or know someone who does? Why not come along to one of our Open Mornings, which run from 9:30-11:30am to see the schools in action?

Please book your place via the links:

The Gregg Prep **Thursday 27th February** <https://bit.ly/4dHiQoh>

The Gregg School **Thursday 6th March** <https://bit.ly/3BL6yhm>



## FOREST SCHOOL



What a wonderful start to the new year! The sun came out and with the hard frost and wintery trees, our outdoor learning area looked so beautiful.



We started 2025 learning about how lime trees are pollarded and how to use the thinner cuttings to weave into a traditional style fencing - currently being built around the new wildlife pond.

Despite the sparkly sunshine it was still bitterly cold but freeze tag and manhunt soon warmed everyone up this week! Please all remember warm layers, gloves and hats for our outdoor learning sessions.

Well done Year 7.

Mrs Webb

## IN CONVERSATION WITH... DAVID HAREWOOD

Actor, author and activist David Harewood will be at the MAST Mayflower Studios on 28th January.

Exploring the impact of being Black in Britain, this discussion will examine what it means to struggle, suffer, survive, and succeed, focusing on David Harewood's work in acting, writing, and production.

Key questions will be addressed, including: to what extent do language and cultural differences shape conversations around race and mental health?

Themes of masculinity, colourism, and identity will be explored, including the experience of growing up as a black boy and the lasting impact on black men into adulthood.

The conversation aims to unpack the conflicting opinions surrounding racial identity in Britain and examine how open discussions can encourage a deeper understanding of these complex notions.

This will be followed by a conversation with Pascal Matthias, Vice President of Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Social Justice at University of Southampton and audience Q&A. This event is part of Pascal Matthias' Conflict, Communication and Compassion Conversations series of conversations with leading voices.



Presented by John Hansard Gallery in partnership with MAST Mayflower Studios, this event has been made possible through support from University of Southampton's Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise.

Please book here: <https://bit.ly/4jjPqAl>



## THEATRE VISIT

On the first week of term saw The Gregg School out and about and already back at the theatre!

This time it was to watch an amazing production of "Hairspray" at The Mayflower!

Such a fun show, yet with a really powerful message.





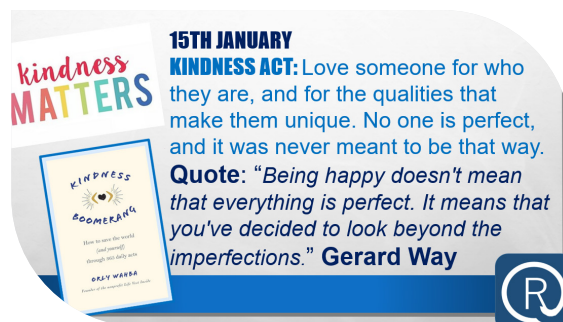
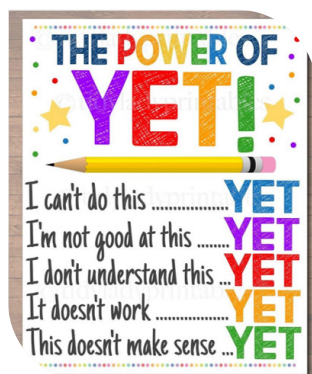
## NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES FOR YEAR 9!

Firstly, Happy New Year to all of our wonderful Year 9 students and their families! I hope that you all had a wonderful festive break and spent lots of quality time with your families. It certainly seems that Year 9 have come back with awesome attitudes, ready to embrace the challenges that this year brings. Their uniform overall is looking great, and I am pleased that the behaviour log is looking good at the moment too! As mentioned previously, on Monday, Year 9 and 10 were visited by Alan Bissett to talk about his book "Lads". I want to congratulate Year 9 on their mature attitudes and pertinent questions to Alan. They did themselves (and me) proud!



We revisited "Lads" during our year group assembly on Wednesday. In addition, we spoke about New Year's resolutions and how we may not necessarily want to make massive changes, but seeing January and the new term as a fresh start can have a super positive impact on our lives.

We also spoke about the power of "Yet", and as always in our Year 9 assemblies, we spoke about the importance of kindness towards others. As a side note, our Kindness Hero Award is back open for nominations again until 6th Feb. Who will win this time?!



I have been really impressed to see the students getting stuck straight back into school life, with the Yr 9 footballers doing well against Cantell, the Southampton Hospital School team planning some exciting events, and



the DofE group having a great first couple of sessions. Please give them a pat on the back from me!



Our Year 9 PE students and Year 10 GCSE PE students had the opportunity to try weightlifting at Lakeside Weightlifting with Head Coach Lizzie Havers.

Lakeside Weightlifting Club has been awarded National Lottery funding from Sport England and they're launching the epic Wild Weightlifting Warriors project, specifically designed for youths (aged 6-16) to Find their Strength!

They are offering all of our students the opportunity to join a 12-week free weightlifting trial. Whether you're a complete beginner or a curious explorer, Wild Weightlifting Warriors will:

Unleash Your Superpowers: Learn the secrets of Olympic Weightlifting, a sport that builds strength, confidence, and resilience.

Become a Lifting Legend: Master the basic skills and transform yourself into a weightlifting whiz!

Forge the Future: Discover if you have the potential to become a coach or support staff, shaping the next generation of weightlifters!

If this of interest to your son or daughter, please visit [lakesideweightlifting.com](http://lakesideweightlifting.com) or email [wanderingweightlifter@gmail.com](mailto:wanderingweightlifter@gmail.com)

## YEAR 9 CONTINUED...

A brief note about GCSE Options. The Year 9s have been brilliant at asking lots of questions and starting to think about their futures.

During assembly I explained to them that the process will launch properly in a few weeks with an assembly from Mr Gillespie, so they don't need to worry yet!

In addition, they will have a number of weeks to gather information and consider their choices, before submitting them. Please be reassured that they do not need to do anything at the moment, other than continuing to work hard in all subjects and attending their careers interview on time when given by Mrs Gerathy.

I look forward to seeing what this term brings for your lovely children!

Mrs Azor

Head of Year 9

naz@thegreggschools.org

## YEAR 7 NETBALL

The Year 7's attended their first Netball competition on Tuesday at Southampton Outdoor Sports Centre. The girls have been training hard and were keen to get started. They played six games against other Southampton city schools and started with a strong win against Oasis Academy Mayfield. They then faced a strong St Annes team, but we held our nerve and managed to limit the damage to a draw.

They continued to show grit and determination to win the rest of our games which resulted in us coming first in the city, this puts us in a great position to be selected to represent Southampton City in the upcoming tournament in March!

A big thank you to Charlotte in Year 9 who came and ran the team, keeping motivation high and ensuring all players got time on the court. The team: India, Sophie, Kaelin, Connie, Poppy, Isabelle, Imogen, Amelie, Elizabeth and Cerys. The next tournament is Tuesday 11th February, if any girls would like to be considered for selection they must attend the netball training sessions Monday's afterschool.

Mrs Wynn



## YEAR 7/8 FOOTBALL

The Year 7/8 junior girls football - lost 5-0 to a strong St Anne's team.

After a flustered start (conceding 3 goals in the first 3 minutes) our girls persevered on and did us proud.

There were stand out performances from Sophie G, Bethany R and Freya P for an unlimited supply of enthusiasm.

We also had Amelia P play through an injury to be there for us! Mr Bayford



## YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

The Year 9 squad took part in a hard fought football game against a very strong Cantell this week. The game started at a very fast pace and did not let up until the final whistle. The Gregg School conceded a goal in the first half when Cantell took a corner very quickly and caught the Gregg School team off-guard.

With a change in formation in the second half, The Gregg School team pressed and pressed and finally got an equaliser courtesy of Sam H, scoring with the outside of his right boot while running 20 yards from goal on the right wing. There were plenty of chances for The Gregg School after this point and the momentum was with them but unfortunately they could not convert any of their chances and they ended the game 1:1.

It was a great start to their season of fixtures and I am sure they will go from strength to strength. Mr Bartlett

## BIRDWATCHING

Our school will be taking part in the annual 'Great British Birdwatch' run by the RSPB.

Any students who would like to get involved are welcome to join the Outdoor Learning & Eco Group next Thursday lunchtime, from 1.15pm in the Outdoor Learning area.

We will then be sending back the results of what we see to join part of a Nationwide survey.





## DIARY DATES

**Tues 21st January**  
Music Scholarship Day

**Wed 22nd January**  
Art Scholarship Day

**Thurs 23rd January**  
Y9 Dear Evan Hansen Theatre Trip

**Sat 25th January**  
Y6 Entrance Assessment

**Mon 27th January**  
Y9 Entrance Assessment

**Wed 29th January**  
Intermediate UKMT

**Fri 31st January**  
ISA Cross Country

**Fri 31st January**  
Teen Booster Vaccine

**Wed 5th February**  
Y7 Parent Consultation Evening

**Thurs 6th February**  
Y7 Parent Consultation Evening

**Thurs 6th February**  
Year 9 Sports Careers Talk

♥ **Fri 7th February** ♥  
PTFA Quiz Night

**Thurs 27th February**  
The Gregg Prep Open Morning

**Thurs 6th March**  
The Gregg School Open Morning

**Sat 15th March**  
The Gregg Prep KS2 Activities  
Morning

*Wishing you a happy weekend!*

