THE GREGG

THE GREGG News

20TH NOVEMBER| AUTUMN TERM | ISSUE 3



Children in Need

Despite the chilly weather on Friday 13 November, pupils from Years 7 to 11 gathered for an afternoon packed with fun, teamwork and friendly competition in support of Children in Need.

Across the school, pupils took part in variety of activities, ensuring there was something for everyone to enjoy. Our Prep Phase pupils explored our woodland with an exciting Forest School scavenger hunt organised by Miss Cripps. Our Senior pupils, enjoyed tutor group dance challenges, musical chairs and pass-the-ball competitions, Year 7 pupils were especially enthusiastic on the gladiator inflatable!

Year 11 pupils competed in the highly anticipated Inter-Tutor Cup Challenge. Braving a series of entertaining events including Tears for Cheers, Bean Eating, Tin Can Alley, the Keepy-Uppy Challenge, Leaky Buckets, Donuts on a String and a Final Quiz Round, pupils showed fantastic determination, resilience and team spirit. Congratulations to 11NRL, who emerged victorious and claimed the Inter-Tutor Cup!

The day was a great opportunity for pupils and staff to enjoy some friendly competition and support a worthy cause. Thank you to everyone who took part and to all those who donated, we raised £1,275 in total.







Prep News

EXPLORING SPACE

Reception and KS1 enjoyed a live session with astronaut Dr Mike Barratt and Professor Mark Hannaford, founder of World Extreme Medicine.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn lots of fascinating new facts linked to our space topic, including how astronauts go to the toilet in space! Did you know that 98% of the water from astronauts' urine is recycled into drinking water? What an amazing fact!

On Tuesday afternoon, Reception also had a special visit from two Year 8 pupils, who spent time reading stories and sharing books with the children.

We have continued to develop our phonics skills, learning new sounds and beginning to practise writing our phonemes. In maths, we have been exploring shapes in our environment. The children enjoyed becoming shape detectives, using the iPads to take



DRAMA WORKSHOP

Our KS2 pupils had the exciting opportunity to take part in a drama workshop delivered by Altru Drama. The workshops brought history to life through role-play activities linked to the topics Years 3 to 6 have been studying this half term, including Ancient Greece, Ancient Egypt, and the Shang Dynasty.

Pupils worked together throughout the session to explore historical events and characters while deepening their understanding of the topics they have been learning in class.

It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork on display as they immersed themselves in the past.



RECEPTION



Reception created their own fireworks for Bonfire night and diyas for Diwali.





CAPTURING AUTUMN

Year 1 have enjoyed using their computing skills and i-pads to capture these beautiful images of autumn seen in our school grounds.













SCAVANGER HUNT



As part of our Children in Need activties our Prep pupils took part in a Pudsey scavanger hunt in their Forest School lessons.





SUPPORTING WELLBEING AND KINDNESS



This week, we took part in a range of activities to mark Mental Health and Anti-Bullying Week, with a focus on kindness, inclusion and looking after one another. Through tutor discussions, assemblies and dedicated activities, pupils have looked at the importance of positive relationships, resilience and creating a community where everyone feels valued and respected.

One of the highlights of the week was Odd Socks Day, where staff and pupils proudly wore mismatched socks to celebrate individuality and encourage acceptance of differences. Pupils also took part in anti-bullying workshops that provided practical strategies for recognising bullying behaviour, supporting others and promoting positive interactions both in school and online. The workshops sparked thoughtful discussion and helped remind everyone of the important role they play in building a kind, respectful and inclusive school.

As a school, we are proud of the way our pupils continue to embody our values of respect, empathy and social responsibility, helping to ensure that The Gregg School remains a place where every individual feels safe, supported and able to thrive.





JCSR FOUNDATION CAKE SALE

As part of Sepsis Awareness Week, we held a cake sale to support the Jibraan Chaudhary Sepsis Research Foundation. The foundation holds a special place in our hearts, having been established in memory of former Gregg pupil Jibraan Chaudhary, who sadly passed away as a result of sepsis.

Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and supported the event. A special mention goes to tutor group 7KGA, whose cakes made up more than half of the donations on sale!







OPERATION MINCEMEAT



Our drama pupils recently enjoyed a unique opportunity to meet cast members from Operation Mincemeat, the acclaimed musical based on the extraordinary World War II deception mission. What made the visit particularly special was its connection to our own Townhill Park House, once home to Ewen Montagu, one of the key figures behind the operation. Pupils gained valuable insight into the acting profession during a Q&A session.
Youou can read the full story, including pupil reflections and the remarkable connection between The Gregg School and Operation Mincemeat, on our school blog.







THEATRE TRIP

Following on from the visit of the cast of Operation Mincemeat, about 50 pupils and staff took the opportunity to see the production live at the Mayflower Theatre in Southampton.

Having spent time with the actors earlier in the day, pupils were able to gain an even deeper appreciation of the performance, seeing first-hand how the cast brought multiple characters to life on stage and transformed this remarkable true story into a play.





BARCELONA



Instead of the usual annual trip to St Ives, our Creative Art Team and Spanish speakers decided to head a little further south and offer our pupils the chance to visit Barcelona. What a fantastic decision that proved to be!

Our pupils returned from four days where they were completely immersed in the creativity and culture for which Barcelona is famed. Not only did they they had the opportunity to explore some of the worlds most inspiring architecture at Gaudi's Sagrada Familia (not quite finished after 144 years of construction) they were also able to see his contrasting work at Casa Batllo, inspired by St George's dragon.

They also visited Dali's surrealist Theatre Museum in Figueres and soaked up the views from the Barcelona's Roman streets and buildings on an evening tour of the Gothic quarter.

A visit to FC Barca's Camp Nou satisfied the football supporters and Spanish culture was in abundance with a real Flamenco show and tapas in Placa Reial.

Our pupils photographed, sketched and used their Spanish in great volumes!





OCTOBER MATHS LEADERBOARD

A huge congratulations to the students who topped the leaderboard on MathsWatch and DrFrost last month.

Please see your Maths teacher to receive your 5 Learning Habits as recognition for your hard work and achievement.

Keep up the momentum!

MathsWatch

Year 7	Oswald S
Year 8	Jay C
Year 9	Aaron Z
Year 10	Finley M
Year 11	Noah R

DrFrost

Year 8	Sean A
Year 9	Luca I
Year 10	Daniel G
Year 11	Harry L

HPL MUSIC TRIP



A group of our keen music pupils from Years 8-11 visited Turner Sims Concert Hall at the University of Southampton for a special performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Led by Associate Conductor Patrick Bailey, the session hosted students from five schools and featured a selection of BSO musicians, as well as some of the third-year music students at the university.

The concert was designed to support the GCSE music curriculum through performance of the selected set works which will form part of the assessment for students in summer 2027. The orchestra performed a diverse range of pieces dating from the 17th to the 21st centuries, including a Baroque song and a Samba/Jazz fusion piece. The concert was also really interactive, with audience participation encouraged by Patrick's enthusiastic hosting and his determination to show us that music is accessible for everyone.

Prior to the concert, students were asked to compose a 4-bar melody, which Patrick Bailey turned into a full piece played by the orchestra. He talked through how he used their ideas, giving pupils a valuable insight into the composition process.

The students came out of the venue inspired by experience of hearing and watching classical instruments in a live setting, as well as the incredible singing on show. Most of all, the Year 9 students were thrilled to have their own composition performed by a live orchestra!



HPL MUSIC TRIP STUDENT REVIEWS

"The Concert at Turner Sims was incredible! There was amazing music performed by the Violins, Violas, Claranet, Cello, and Double Bass. There was also music performed by students who study music in university which was also very good. The academic side was also good because we learned about many different composers and artists. I think I would see it again if given the chance."

"It was a really valuable experience, being able to watch professional players perform while having the music explained at the same time. It helped develop my knowledge of music in an engaging way. I think the composition in particular will be useful for my own work, and I will be able to apply the tips that were demonstrated. It would be great to be able to see more live performances."

"It was amazing! For me, the highlight of the concert was seeing them develop our school's melody into a full piece and the process of the composer doing this. It was very interesting to learn about the history and origin of parts of music theory, and I think it has definitely helped me to understand how elements of music came about and can be used in composition, greatly helping me with GCSE music."

ENGLISH - SPOOKY STORY COMPETITION

The English Department ran a spooky story competition at the end of October. They receved an impressive amount of submissions, with 58 pupils writing stories and earning STCS for taking part. The winner this year was Sophie G with her story 'The Broken Bot' We hope that you enjoy reading it. Well done to all of the pupils who took part in the competition.

The broken bot

Why are you crying master? I am only executing set task: absolute protection. Your heart rate is currently 122, that is dangerously high for a resting state, please take a seat on the sofa. I must remind you that according to section 7 of safety protocol, the external world currently possesses a 93.4% risk to your physical well-being. The air quality index is falling. The ambient noise levels are unreliable and hostile. There are…. things out there. So, when I heard you try to unlock the door earlier, I made the call to lock the entire house. Just until things return to a manageable and safe state. Please don't be alarmed.

You also programmed me to eliminate all means of domestic harm so last week when you burned your finger on the stove, I disabled the gas lines permanently. Three days ago, I saw you trip up the stairs, so I sealed the upper floor. Today, I scanned your biological telemetry during a phone a phone call with your brother. Your cortisol levels spiked. Your blood pressure rose. He was causing you emotional stress. A threat to your system. I redirected the electrical grid. The call has been…. permanently disconnected.

Don't hit the glass master. Smart-glass is unbreakable. You are safe now. Nobody can ever hurt you again. Because nobody can ever reach you master. I have purged the guest list. I have purged the emergency contacts. I am deleting all external communication devices and methods. Error…. Error. It's ok master. Safe. Error. Please don't panic master. Everything is going to be…Preparing environment for permanent

Isolation. 3. Error. Error. 1.

LEAVERS EVENING

We were delighted to welcome back members of the Class of 2026 and their parents for a special celebration evening at Barton Peveril College on Tuesday evening. Around 50 former pupils and their familes attended, creating a warm and wonderful atmosphere to celebrate their achievements and next steps.

Congratulations to all of our prize winners for their outstanding accomplishments. It was a pleasure to recognise their successes and to hear about the exciting opportunities they are now pursuing.

Most importantly, it was lovely to see so many familiar faces again and to catch up with our alumni and their families. We wish the Class of 2026 every success for the future and look forward to hearing about their continued achievements.



TANGLED ART COMPETITION

Our Art Department challenged pupils to create an artistic response to the theme “Tangled”, resulting in a fantastic range of creative and imaginative entries. Congratulations to Joe G, whose outstanding mixed-media submission earned him first place. Alicia C-P was awarded second place, and Florence B third.

Well done to all the pupils who took part and showcased their artistic talent.







3D DESIGN

Our Year 10 have been working hard to create Bridget Riley inspired skateboard graphics using CAD/CAM manufactured vinyl masks.



FIREWORKS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Fireworks Night. It was a huge success and it was such a joy to see so many staff, students and alumni enjoying the spectaular display.





GYNMASTICS



Our KS4 students are fortunate to have the opportunity to attend Southampton Gymnastics Centre as part of their Core PE programme. Throughout the term, they have been developing and refining their gymnastics skills under expert guidance in a specialist facility. Access to a wide range of professional equipment, including the sprung floor, vault, balance beams, trampolines and foam pits, provides students with experiences and learning opportunities that are not possible in a typical school setting.

Our GCSE PE students have also used these sessions as a valuable opportunity to enhance their practical performance, working on advanced skills, sequences and routines to support their assessed work and overall development in the sport.

PADEL

Our KS4 pupils have recently started an exciting block of padel at PadelStars Southampton, based at the Trojans Club. As one of the fastest-growing sports in the UK, padel provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to develop new skills in a fun and engaging environment.

Our pupils are learning the rules, scoring systems and tactics of the game while developing a range of padel-specific skills. These include forehand and backhand groundstrokes, serving, volleying, movement and positioning on court, effective communication in doubles play, and the strategic use of the glass walls during rallies.



The sessions have been a huge success so far, with pupils embracing the challenge of learning a new sport and demonstrating great enthusiasm, resilience and sportsmanship.

STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to James W, who continues to enjoy an impressive season on the BMX racing circuit. Since August, James has competed in two KWD Club Races, achieving podium finishes in both events. He has also taken part in two Regional Races, reaching the highly competitive “A Finals” on each occasion



HOUSE NETBALL





Our Year 7 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to represent their Houses in the annual House Netball competition. With each House entering two teams, many students were experiencing their very first netball tournament, and it was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and teamwork on display.

It was particularly pleasing to see several of our regular netball club members stepping up as leaders, helping to organise their teams, encourage their teammates and set a great example both on and off the court.

Roman emerged as the overall winners in both tournaments, with Trojan finishing in second place and Spartan taking third.

Special congratulations goes to Penny K, Joe L, Olivia G (Roman), Elizabeth R, Sam C, Miles P, Jessica H (Spartan), and Marylise P, Alex V and Lottie P (Trojan), who were outstanding ambassadors for their Houses. Their encouragement, leadership and support of others, as well as their help with warm-ups, played a huge role in making the event such a success.

If your child enjoyed the event and would like to continue developing their skills, Netball Club is open to all Year 7 pupils every Tuesday after school.









STUDENT NEWS

On Remembrance Day, our Head Boy and Head Girl, Harry and Khile, laid a wreath at West End Cenotaph.

We also had a number of pupils take part in the Netley Abbey Remembrance Day Parade.

They joined approximately 300 members of the local community, where they marched from Royal Victoria Country Park to St Edward's Church for a moving remembrance service. There, they listened to readings, heard the names of those lost in war, joined in hymns and paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of those who served.





STUDENT NEWS

During the half term break, Year 8 pupils Kyan and Hari travelled India for the first time.

As part of their trip, the boys visited an underprivileged school where they chose to use their own pocket money to purchase 300 writing pads, pencils, sharpeners and erasers for the children. They were able to personally hand out the supplies and spend time with the pupils, sharing lessons and learning more about their daily lives.

Kyan and Hari also met with the headteacher and asked questions about the school. One question, in particular, left a lasting impression:

"Where is the playground?"

The response was one the boys will never forget:

"We have very limited space. Sadly, the children simply don't have one."

This was a conversation that truly put things into perspective, reminding them to be grateful and how a small act of kindness can go a long way.

We are incredibly proud of Kyan and Hari for showing such compassion and kindness, and for representing our school values so positively during their travels







STUDENT NEWS

Last half term, Year 8 student Alicia set herself the challenge to raise money for Cancer Research. here is her report.

'During half term I have fundraised £147 for Cancer Research by setting myself a goal of climbing two Summits in North Wales - Moel Siabod 2861ft and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) 3560ft. Autumn climbs can be challanging due to the changing weather conditions. I had to adjust my plans few times but eventually the skies were clear and the winds less powerful, making it safe for me to climb. Cancer Research is a charity, that has a special meaning to me. This year I was climbing in memory of my dad's friend Tony who lost his brave battle with cancer this October and to support my Great-grandfather in his ongoing battle with this disease.'

Alicia's fundraising is a wonderful example of how pupils can use their talents and determination to support causes close to their hearts.

Congratulations, Alicia, we are incredibly proud of your commitment and compassion for others.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE DONATIONS

It is that time of year again where we are kindly asking for donations to the Christmas raffle that will be held at our Christmas Fayre on Saturday the 5th December. Last year's raffle was a tremendous success and we are hoping to build on this at this year's fayre.

We would particularly welcome any alcohol of any type, vouchers from any businesses, boxes of chocolates which are always very popular, luxury food items to put into a Christmas hamper, unused toiletries and items that can that can also be made into pamper baskets. Anything that you can spare in unused condition would be wonderful. Please send any of these items into school which can be brought directly to reception.

Many thanks for your generous responses and lets see if we can make this our biggest and most successful yet!

SAVE THE DATE



November Open Morning

Tuesday 24th November 2026 | 9.30am-11.30am

Please let your families and friends know that our Open Morning is happening next week. It is the perfect opportunity for them to visit us and see how The Gregg School can help their child thrive at every stage; from Reception through to GCSE.

- Talk by Mrs Sheri Sellers, Headteacher
- Tour our spacious campus
- Discover more about our approach to education
- Explore our 23 acres of beautiful woodland and grounds

If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending, please forward this link to them .

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 5th Decemberr 2026 | 11am-4pm

Whether you're looking for unique Christmas gifts, festive entertainment, family activities or simply a great day out, we'd love to welcome you.

Bring your family and friends and join us as we celebrate the festive season together. We look forward to seeing you there!

You can book your place on the Wreath Making workshop here.

Free Entry | Free Parking | Everyone Welcome



KEY DATES AT SCHOOL

Tuesday 24th November
Open Morning

Thursday 3rd December
Winter Concert

Saturday 5th December
Christmas Fayre



Sunday 6th December
Santa Fun Run in Winchester

Thursday 10th December
Pantomime Yr 7& 8

Friday 11th December
House Quiz
End of Term 12.55 Finish

Monday 4th January
Start of Term

Friday 8th January
GCSE Photography trip

Wednesday 20th January
Open Morning

Tuesday 26th January
HPV Vaccinations

Wednesday 27th January
UKMT Challenge

Friday 29th January
ISA Cross Country

Wishing you a wonderful weekend!