



Let's go Camping!



Last weekend, two groups of students 'de-camped', one to the Peak District and the other to the New Forest, to gain valuable skills and experience... but for very different reasons!

PEAK DISTRICT PRACTICE EXPEDITION: PREPARING FOR MALAWI

In preparation for an upcoming three-week expedition to Malawi this summer, a group of determined students embarked on a challenging practice expedition in the

Peak District. The experience tested their resilience, teamwork, and outdoor skills—key elements for their adventure ahead.



The expedition began with an ascent of Mam Tor, a well-known peak offering breath-taking views but also demanding endurance.



The group worked together to reach the summit, reinforcing the importance of communication and perseverance.

After the climb, the team set up camp and faced the challenge of cooking their own meals on portable stoves.

Battling unpredictable weather, they experimented with simple but nutritious meals that they will rely on in Malawi. From boiling pasta to preparing hearty breakfasts, the experience highlighted the necessity of self-sufficiency.



Beyond the physical challenges, the weekend provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen teamwork and problem-solving abilities.

Whether sharing equipment or supporting each other through moments of exhaustion, the students embraced the responsibility that comes with an expedition of this scale. With this practice run complete, the team is now even more motivated and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Their time in Malawi will involve further trekking, cultural engagement, and community projects—but thanks to the lessons learned in the Peak District, they are well on their way to a successful expedition. Mrs Wynn

D OF E BRONZE PRACTICE WEEKEND

Last weekend saw our largest group of Year 9 students taking part in their D of E practice weekend. It was a very chilly evening on Friday camping out on the school field, so students were quickly cooking meals and drinking hot chocolate in order to keep warm!

Tents were pitched well and, due to the dark evenings, most students had retired to their tents by 8pm. In fact, many had fallen asleep before the 10pm curfew!



With a 7am 'get up' call, students emerged bleary eyed from their slumber to greet the new day.

A few had come to realise that it can be quite cold camping at this time of year and had had to resort to wearing their coats inside their sleeping bags during the night (a few staff also had to do this!).



THANK YOU

Thank you to the staff who gave up their weekend to enable the students to practice their respective expeditions.



Mr Cooper demonstrating how to keep warm in a sleeping bag!





Now it was action stations to get everything packed up and squeezed into their rucksacks. This proved tricky for some as they realised that they may have brought too much stuff with them! A useful lesson learnt for next time, to only bring the essentials. Breakfast was cooked with some of the more ambitious students trying to make pancakes. Then it was off to the New Forest for a day's walking.



As part of the practice weekend, students had mapped their own 12km route through the New Forest and produced a route card detailing their journey. This is a requirement for their final assessed weekend which will take place on Saturday 17th May – Sunday 18th May.

The practice weekend gives the staff a chance to work on both map and navigational skills with the students. It is essential that students know how to use a compass in order to find their way along their route. It is also key that, should they get lost, they know how to get back on the right path.

The weather on Saturday was glorious, perfect for walking and all groups made good progress. Staff helped with navigational skills but as the day went by students became more confident to lead their group. By the end of the day there were a few tired feet (and the odd blister) but all groups arrived back safely.

Well done to all students for completing their practice weekend.

Mr Cooper



STEM CHALLENGE

The wonderful National Oceanography Centre was the venue for the regional heat of the Global Underwater Hub Stem Challenge hosted by the Smallpeice Trust last week.

The Smallpeice Trust is an educational charity that inspires young people to pursue careers in science and engineering through events and workshops.

A team of six eager Year 9 students competed against nine other teams from across the South.

They developed their teamworking skills and built their own Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) using Lego Spike kits.

They programmed their ROV using block-based code and then navigated a pre-set course culminating in a final presentation to representatives from The Royal Navy and Saab Seaeye.

It was great experience for our students and an event we hope to attend again in the future. Mrs Gibbs





CHARITY NEWS

Last week we handed over a cheque for over £9,000 to a representative from Naomi House and Jackspace. This amazing amount of money was raised for the charity by staff and students who took part in the challenging Clarendon Way Walk last year.



The students involved were:

Pippa W, Etty T, Charlotte W, Charlotte N, Fergus N, Sam K, Benji F, Finn A, Jana SA and Pollyanna I.

The staff were:

Mrs Hillyear, Mr Gillespie, Miss Carter, Mrs Butcher, Mrs Toward, Mr Wilford, Mr Cooper and Mr Lloyd.

Well done to you all!

ANIMAL WELFARE DONATIONS

We are requesting donations in support of St Francis Animal Welfare charity, a local Animal Rescue Centre in Fair Oak, Eastleigh.

They care for cats, dogs, rabbits, feathered friends and rodents whilst they wait to be rehomed and we would be grateful for any of the following donations for this worthwhile charity:

Animal food and treats, animal toys, animal beds, blankets and towels, other pet items e.g., brushes, cat litter, wood shavings, hay/flea/worm treatment.

The Items do not need to be brand new, you can donate old bedding/ blankets and towels as long as they are in good condition and clean.

Should you wish to support this worthwhile charity then please send the items you are donating into school with your child after the Easter break until Tuesday 6th May. Thank you for your support.



YEAR 7 NEWS OUTDOOR LEARNING

Year 7 have been busy planting saplings to form a new hedgerow in our Outdoor Learning sessions.

We have chatted about the seasons, including the best times to plant, and found all sorts of amazing insects and discoveries along the way.

Each student chose from a variety of hedgerow plants, including rowan, hawthorn, crab apple and oak and learnt and practiced, with the help of each other, how to best plant the seeds.

What a great bunch of budding gardeners!

Mrs Webb



GOVERNOR NEWS

We would like welcome Miss Ann Withers who has joined The Gregg School Trust Board of Governors. Below Miss Withers tells us a bit about herself:

I moved to Southampton in 2020 with my two children, who both began their Gregg School story at The Gregg Prep. Whilst my youngest daughter continues her journey there, my oldest daughter started Year 7 at The Gregg School in September 2024.

We have found the schools to be wonderfully nurturing environments, while providing an exciting and engaging curriculum. I am keen to play an active role as a Governor to support the continuation of The Gregg Schools' success.

Having 15 years of Project Management experience, much of my knowledge and skills are transferable to a Governor position.

I left university with my first degree in Advertising but I made a conscious decision to move into the construction industry, via a Graduate Programme with a Tier 1 Contractor. I also completed a master's degree in Project Management at the same time, within the Built Environment at Oxford Brookes University.

Over the past 15 years as a Project Manager, I have worked on some wonderful and challenging projects. I have experience of both client and contractor lead roles and have worked in permanent and freelance positions over the years.

I look forward to working with the other Governors and being part of the wonderful environment that my children enjoy daily, while contributing to the success of The Gregg Schools.



YEAR 8 NEWS

HARRY POTTER STUDIOS REVIEW

Last week Year 8 spent a wonderful wizardry day at the Harry Potter Studios. Student Alissa O has written about her experience of the day:

Walking into the studio, we entered a world of magic and adventure, the world of Harry Potter. As we listened, walked and looked, we saw all of the foundations for the amazing franchise that took the world by storm. For a single day, we were enveloped in the wonder of J.K Rowling's incredible story.

Aimed at an audience of all ages, the studio tour is suitable for anyone, with something to admire at every turn. With a touch of magic everywhere, everyone is guaranteed to be spellbound for the entire day!

An impressive example of the extreme effort Warner Bros. Studios put into this tour, is the life-sized dragon soaring overhead in the main hall; guarded underneath is the gift shop, where you are sure to spend even just a bit of money.





The walls are lined with pictures and props from behind-the-scenes, their intricate stories weaving into each other. On the day of our trip, the studio was promoting a 'Magical Mayhem' feature, with the Weasley twins being the stars of the show. We witnessed chaotic lights, exciting pyrotechnics and their gleeful laughter ringing through the halls. Their excitement was so contagious, so lively, we couldn't help but join in with them.

Throughout our tour, we were given plenty of opportunities for photos; we were able to have a good look around in each area before we moved on. Many of us made the most of this, taking photos everywhere we went. These magical memories will definitely remind us of the trip, and I would definitely recommend it to any Harry Potter fan, big or small!

HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES HISTORY PROJECT

Last week saw the submission of projects from our Year 8 History Project Group to the Hampshire Archives Trust. This very prestigious competition is for students from Year 7 to A Level across Hampshire, and has to involve the use of an archive.

This is our first time entering the competition and we decided to use The Gregg School archive as a basis for the projects. Submissions could be individual, as a pair or in a small group. The students have worked really hard over the past few months, on a Friday lunchtime, to carry out their research in the archive with help from Mrs Teri Mitchell whose help and knowledge of the archive was invaluable.



The projects ranged from the history of the gardens, to Mr Gregg who began The Gregg Schools in this country for shorthand purposes, to the history of the school when it moved to Townhill Park House and even a project about Mrs Sellers and her time here at The Gregg School. One pair even produced a mock-up of parts of Townhill Park House in a dolls house fashion with QR codes in the rooms to access the information. We are now keeping our fingers crossed and await the judging outcome!

Mrs Walker



YEAR 9 NEWS

SPRING TERM....SMASHED IT!

Well, here we are! Another term done and dusted! And as the Year 9 students and I prepare for a good rest (and maybe some Easter chocolate!), I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am, of how they have tackled the challenges this term has brought.

I was thrilled to receive so many applications for Student Leader from Year 9. In reading these, it has really reminded me of how wonderful your young people are. They are willing to put themselves forward to help and support others, and want to make a positive impact on The Gregg School community.

Like the surprise “Unstoppable” assembly, I also enjoyed reading about their exploits outside of school: from Scouting to volunteering in a library to helping in a care home, they continue to show what fabulous citizens they are turning into.

Myself and Mr Lerego will be speaking with the students further on this when we return from the Easter holiday. Please also continue to email me with any “out-of-school” achievements and news, as I love hearing these!

I have not been directly involved in the D of E scheme, but I have loved hearing about the exploits of the weekly meetings, preparations and of course, the recent practice expedition. Congratulations to all involved, and I look forward to hearing about your next adventures!

As you know, we also had our major school production of “Grease” a couple of weeks ago. Year 9 again showed their resilience and energy throughout the rehearsals and performances, but I was also delighted to see them stepping up and supporting the younger cast members.

They made everyone feel so welcome, and I know the younger cast will never forget the kindness shown to them.

I know the Year 9 boys’ football team will be mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter with their unbeaten record! But I needed to say here....WOW! Well done boys!!!!!!

Moving on, I have been impressed by the mature attitude Year 9 took towards choosing their GCSE Options courses. They were proactive in asking questions and finding out relevant information, and carefully considered the next steps on their Gregg journey.

More information will be shared in the new term, but please congratulate your child on taking this process seriously and with thought.

As we move into the summer term, please could I remind all Year 9 students and parents that the school uniform for girls states white unbranded socks.

Boys should wear unbranded black, grey or navy socks with trousers, or black, grey, navy or white ankle socks with shorts. With warmer weather already here, please also be reminded that jumpers are to be worn in addition to blazers, not instead of a blazer.



My final bit of news for now is that we ended this term with our celebration assembly, where different subject areas and staff name students who are their "Stars" for the term. I was overwhelmed by the amount of names sent my way! I handed out 131 individual rewards!!! INCREDIBLE!!!

This term's Year 9 Kindness Hero Award goes to Daisy Q in 9DC! Daisy's nominations mention her thoughtfulness and supportive and friendly nature. As her Head of Year, I have to say I see this in bucketloads! Well done Daisy, put your trophy pride of place somewhere at home!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the fantastic Year 9 tutor team for all their hard work and assistance throughout the term. And to all our wonderful Year 9 families, the biggest THANK YOU of them all, for your amazing children, and your continuing support.



Happy Easter!

Nicky Azor naz@thegreggschools.org



STUDENT LEADERS

We are thrilled to have received so many applications for Student Leader from our Year 9 and 10s. In reading these, it has really reminded us of what wonderful young people our students are. We love that they are willing to put themselves forward to help and support others, and want to make a positive impact on The Gregg School community.

We are aware that there has been a long delay between the application and interview process, which was due to circumstances beyond our control. Now that the Easter holidays are upon us, it is important that we give an appropriate amount of time to interviewing each applicant, so this will take place in the first few weeks of the new term, after which we will announce the names of the successful applicants.

Mrs Azor and Mr Lerego

PSD NEWS



This term in PSD lessons our Year 9 students have been thinking about their plans for the future, exploring a range of different career opportunities, and the different pathways that are available to them after leaving The Gregg.

As part of our PSD and careers programme we have also had a number of people who have volunteered to come in and talk to our students about their careers.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents, and the family and friends of some of our staff who have given up their time to come and in speak to the students:

Amy Salmons - Analyst at the Defence, Science and Technology Laboratory, Ministry of Defence

Anthony Papageorgiou - Master Inventor at IBM

Jen Thomson - Air Traffic Controller at National Air Traffic Services

Brian Smith - Metropolitan Police

Pete Williamson- Local business owner

Heather Ross - Physiotherapist

Our students (and staff!) have found all these sessions really valuable and are very appreciative of the guidance and helpful advice.

We are looking forward to organising some more talks later in the summer term.

Mrs Upson-Dowie



LANGUAGE LEADERS

Yesterday as part of our Primary Partnership Programme our Year 9 Language Leaders welcomed Year 5 pupils from Townhil Junior School and excelled themselves teaching a fun interactive lesson of French, German and Spanish!

Budding Language Teachers of the future!



GREEN FINGERS



Yesterday was the launch of the new 'Heritage Gardening Club'. The Year 8 students pictured were extremely helpful (and competitive!) in ensuring our beautiful gardens are weed free!

This club is running every Thursday Week 1 until the end of the year.

All students are welcome to come along. Please see Mrs Rendall for details.

POKEMON CLUB



Pokemon Club finished the term with a 'Pokemon Hunt' around the ground to find Pikachu!

Congratulations to Max A who won the Easter Egg prize (all group members received treats though!)

FIRST AID WORKSHOP

Year 7 had a first aid workshop yesterday with Natalie from the British Red Cross. They learnt CPR and how to deal with different emergency situations including burns, head injuries, and seizures.





LRC NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Scholastic Book Fair we sold £335 of books.

This has enabled us to purchase £85 of books for the library!



50 WORD STORY WINNERS

Congratulations to the following students who won the 50 Word Story Competition.

Amber G and Lottie F (Year 7)

Books are our best friends; they never quarrel or fight.

They try to bring us education like the sunlight.

We find ourselves lost in a world of our own - in fantasy or fiction, like twilight.

They listen, they don't judge, and they don't hold a grudge. I love books.



Zara P (Year 7)

There was once a fly. This fly was special. In only one day it had been able to be so kind to the entire world and so can you! Giving a book was all it took for such a small being to spread the world with kindness, and so can you!

BOOK BESTIES

Book Besties met last week and are excited to be shadowing the shortlisted books for the Carnegie Awards. This will be announced in June, and we will be sharing thoughts of the eight books until then.

We have also multiple copies of Anne of Green Gables to share as our group read and will be enjoying that over the Easter break.

Ms King



SPORTS NEWS

JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL

The Gregg junior girls football team have put in a huge amount of effort this year and the PE department are so proud of them - they've improved, laughed and sung a lot on the minibus!

Unfortunately, we were knocked out the cup by Testwood this side of half term but well done to the players of the match: Sophie G and Lottie PL.

Mr Bayford



YEAR 9 BOYS

Our Year 9 boys have been VERY busy this week competing in three exciting football matches.

On Monday, it was another great win against a very strong Bitterne Park with two goals from James MG chasing down their keeper in the first half, to which they fired back a goal towards the end of the first half, so went into the break 2-1 up. A fantastic save from Archie L kept The Gregg in the game and a great headed goal from Elliot S mid-way through the second half sealed the victory and a path to the Southampton Schools Cup Final for the team.



They kept up their winning ways on Tuesday playing Oasis Sholing. A fantastic free kick from Archie L, a header from Declan S and a great goal from Euan (demonstrating his full knowledge of the rules), gave The Gregg a 3-0 win to put them at the top of the league.

On Wednesday they finished off their season with a hard fought 3-2 win against St Marks. Fantastic team management from Sam H, a goal from Declan S and two goals from Euan H sealed a 100% win record in the league this season.

Excellent results from Year 9 and we wish them good luck in the Southampton Schools cup final due to be played on Tuesday 29th April. Mr Bartlett



HOUSE NEWS

The house table tennis competition concluded last Thursday in thrilling fashion, with the quarter-finals, semi-finals, and final all taking place in a single intense session.

The final saw a closely fought match between Brian (Spartan) and Joe (Roman), with Brian ultimately emerging victorious after an impressive performance.

Points were awarded to Houses for placements and participation, and with Spartan dominating the knockout stages and securing multiple entries, they emerged as the overall winning house.

Roman followed closely behind with Trojan third place. With their sheer presence and strong performances, Spartan secured the title of overall house table tennis champions.



OPEN EVENTS

ROOAAARR – FREE DINOSAUR EXHIBITION!

Dr Neil Gostling who researches the diversity of dinosaurs in southern England (amongst other things) has an amazing FREE exhibition opening on 4th April at God's House Tower in Southampton. The exhibition is called Hidden in Stone and runs until 1st June.

From Dorset to Sussex, under the busy pavements and natural spaces of Britain's South Coast, is a near unbroken sequence of rocks that span 200 million years of Earth's history. Hidden in Stone is an exhibition about shifting continents, changing climates, and evolutionary radiation.

Did you know that 160 million years ago the South Coast was under water and terrifying sea monsters, ichthyosaurs and pliosaurus, hunted in the ocean as ammonites jetted through the water? Or, that 125 million years ago forest fires ripped through the landscape as dinosaurs roamed across the scene?

Further information can be found here:

<https://godshousetower.org.uk/.../exhib.../edate/2025-04-04/>



GARDENS
OPEN DAY
BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY 5TH
MAY 2-5pm

If you, or someone you knows,
are interested in having a stall
please email:

events@thegreggschools.org



TOWNHILL PARK
HOUSE



Open Gardens
Bank Holiday 5th May
2pm-5pm



Tel: 02380 014802
events@thegreggschools.org
www.townhillparkhouse.co.uk
The Gregg School
Cutbush Lane, Southampton SO18 3RR





EXPERIENCE SPARSHOLT

The next Sparsholt College Open Event is on Wednesday 30th April 2025 (5pm – 7pm). If you would like to attend, please book your time slot using the following link:

www.sparsholt.ac.uk/opendays/

Also, it is not too late for Year 11s to apply for September 2025. Please use the following link if you would like to apply:

www.sparsholt.ac.uk/information/apply

WE'RE LIVE ON AIR!

Thank you to our senior students and prep pupils who volunteered to make a radio advert this week. Station Manager, Kelly, from Unity 101 came to The Prep School to record their voices. Listen out during April to hear our joint Gregg Schools advert promoting our Open Days!



KEY DATES AT SCHOOL

Friday 4th April – Monday 21st April - Easter Holidays

Saturday 12th April – Lino Cut Workshop

Tuesday 22nd April – INSET Day

Wednesday 23rd April – Friday 25th April – Year 10 Mock Exams

Wednesday 23rd April – Class and Year 11 Photos (Full uniform)

Thursday 24th April – Open Morning, 9.30am-11.30am

Thursday 24th April – Year 6 Connections Evening

Thursday 24th – Wednesday 30th April – Year 11 MFL Speaking Exams

Friday 25th – Saturday 26th April – Silver D of E Expedition Practice

Tuesday 29th April – Year 11 Photography Exam

Thursday 1st May – Junior UKMT

ABIDE Week - Week beginning 19th May - 23rd May

Friday 23rd May - The Gregg High Tea Frogs social event (more details to follow)



OPEN MORNINGS AT THE GREGG SCHOOLS

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?

Then come along to one of our Open Mornings, which run from 9:30-11:30am for a tour by our students and to see the schools in action.

Please book your place via the links:

The Gregg Prep Thursday 1st May <https://bit.ly/47Ue4Ta>

The Gregg School Thursday 24th April <https://bit.ly/3zOWvay>



We wish you a wonderful Easter break!