

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025



Headteacher Mrs Sellers, Head of History Mrs Walker, Head Boy and Girl and Deputy Heads with the whole school poppy display created by our students in memory of the veterans buried at Hollybrook Cemetery.

REMEMBRANCE

This year, our Remembrance Assembly reflected on the Royal British Legion's theme for 2025: "Sacrifice, not self", where we explored the sacrifices made by those commemorated in the war graves section of Hollybrook Cemetery.

Finty and Zoe shared their experiences of working alongside the Army and Navy on the Commonwealth War Graves project, looking at the tragic sinking of the SS Mendi off the Isle of Wight, where 600 South African soldiers lost their lives en route to France during WWI.

Charlotte C gave a moving recital of John McCrae's iconic poem In Flanders Fields.

Mrs Walker spoke about her personal act of remembrance, visiting her great-great uncle's grave in Gallipoli—a poignant reminder as 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of this campaign.

The assembly concluded with the playing of The Last Post and a two-minute silence observed with great respect. Students then made their own acts of remembrance by adding poppies, inscribed with the names of veterans buried at Hollybrook Cemetery, to one giant poppy now displayed in reception—a powerful visual tribute to their sacrifice.

At 11:00 am, the entire school paused for one minute to join the nation in remembrance.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



On Sunday the 9th November our Head Girl and Boy joined Mrs H Crowther at West End Cenotaph to attend the Remembrance service and to lay a wreath on behalf of our school.



CHILDREN IN NEED



Today, our afternoon was filled with fun events to support Children in Need and gave our students the opportunity to celebrate two of our core values of legacy and belonging.

Years 7 to 10 got to enjoy Just Dance, Pass the Ball, Gladiator-style inflatables and some very competitive games of Musical Chairs!

Year 11 participated in the traditional 'I'm a Gregg School Student, Get Me Out of Here' competition, where they worked in groups to complete a series of gruesome challenges that tested their skills and senses to the very limit. Although they were nowhere near the Australian jungle Outback, the school grounds still posed challenges including water activities, balance tests, bean speed eating, and the very worst school dinner they could possibly imagine!



Well done to James F who braved the wet weather at lunchtime to complete a mix of 25 goal kicks and shots on goal to raise money for Children in Need.

He has raised £120 for the charity through his efforts today.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE HELPERS



Help Make The Gregg Big Christmas Magical!

We're looking for volunteers to help the FROGS bring The Gregg Big Christmas event to life.

This is a huge event and your support will make a big difference.

Full details can be found on the last page of the newsletter or contact Laura on ljw@thegreggschools.org

It's a wonderful way to help the school, meet other families and spread the festive cheer!



MUNICH & NUREMBURG TRIP



What a wonderful time we had in Germany!

After arriving at school at 2.30am, we sleepily made our way to Heathrow to catch our flight to Munich.

We started our first day with a walk around the historic city of Munich, where we explored the Beer Hall Putsch and Zweibrückenstrasse, which helped us understand events that led to Hitler's rise to power.

With a bit of free time on our hands, we stopped at Viktualienmarkt to explore the food market, practice ordering food in German and look at traditional souvenirs.

After lunch, we visited some more historic sites, including; Ludwigsbrücke, Torbräu, Sterneckerbräu, Marienplatz, Max-Josef Platz – The Residenz, Feldherrenhalle and Odeonsplatz, before returning to our accommodation for a delicious meal and some much needed rest.

On our second day we visited Dachau concentration camp. It is hard to put into words how haunting it feels to be inside the tall wired walls but the students were sensitive to the environment and extremely respectful and reflective during this visit.

The mood was lightened at dinner time in Hofbrauhaus Munich – which is one of the most famous beer halls in Munich, the students were treated to a range of Bratwurst to try and, some students took advantage of trying them all!

Day 3 was an early start for our day trip to Nuremberg. Arriving in Nuremberg city centre, we were all astonished by the beauty of this city and the Castle walls as we walked around.

Students enjoyed some free time shopping and having lunch, before visiting the Courtroom 600, which is the actual location where the Nazi party leaders were tried for international crimes of war.

It was followed by another fabulous dinner at a Bavarian restaurant to soak up more culture!

Our final day was filled with more sight seeing in Munich, followed by a visit to the Residenz Museum; the former home to the rulers of Bavaria. Complete with its decorated rooms, tapestries and treasures.

After a glorious autumnal walk through the English Garden, it was time to head to the airport for the flight home.

We would like to say a massive thank you to the students who were a pleasure to spend time with and were very respectful during this poignant trip, and to Mrs Walker, Mrs Hillyear, Mrs Crowther and Mrs Lay for guiding and looking after everyone.

All of the photos from this trip can be found on Firefly in Parents Information.



MAMMA MIA



An AWESOME night was had by students and staff at The Mayflower on their visit to see "Mamma Mia!"

We were treated to amazing vocals singing those classic and catchy Abba tracks, and we were mesmerised by the costumes and choreography!

For anyone who hasn't seen the stage version of "Mamma Mia", try to get a ticket. You are guaranteed to leave with a grin on your face, humming a tune!

Thank you for a FAB evening everyone, you were all stars!

Mrs Azor



ST IVES ART TRIP



The St Ives trip was full of creativity and inspiration for our students GCSE work. They took part in a full rotation of workshops, including printing, ceramics, photography, and soap carving.

Chris Weber, a professional photographer, who has been part of our programme for over nine years, led a walking photography workshop around the harbour, town, and beaches, as well as a dawn photoshoot on Porthgwidden Beach. Impressively, thirty-four out of forty-four students rose at 5:30 a.m. to capture the sunrise. Although the sun hid behind a few clouds, it was still wonderful to soak up the atmosphere and watch the crashing waves at high tide—a few students even returned with wet socks and shoes!

The Barbara Hepworth Museum was as tranquil and fascinating as ever. Each student created a miniature soap-carved sculpture inspired by Hepworth's work. At Porthmeor Print Studio, students printed a selection of collagraphs using their historic facilities and beautiful old presses. A particular highlight was the collaborative group prints, where students inked their own plates and combined them to create large, shared artworks.



At Leach Pottery, students enjoyed a hands-on workshop, each crafting a pinch pot of their own design. These will be glazed, fired, and posted back to us soon! The Tate Gallery offered a great introduction to the work of St Ives artists, and we enjoyed seeing some incredible pieces by Turkish artist Ahmet Dogu Ipek.

The evenings were just as memorable, with a poetry workshop at the hostel and a film night at the local cinema. While most agreed the film was one of the worst they'd seen, everyone had fun and shared a truly unforgettable experience!

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who made this trip so enriching and enjoyable. It was a fantastic celebration of creativity and community. All of the photos from this trip can be found on Firefly in Parents Information.

Mrs Toward



FIREWORKS NIGHT

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 spectacular display.



ENGLISH

Curriculum Highlights – Autumn Term

Looking back at the first half of the term, here's a peek at what our students have been learning across the year groups in English:

Year 7

Non-Fiction Travel Writing

Students have explored how writers describe places and experiences, developing their own travel-inspired pieces.

Myths and Legends

They've delved into traditional stories, examining heroes, mythical creatures, and the moral lessons behind the tales.

Year 8

Non-Fiction – Adrenaline

This unit focused on high-energy writing, with students analysing how language creates excitement and suspense.

Science Fiction

Students have engaged with futuristic and imaginative texts, discussing themes such as technology, ethics, and society.

Year 9

Blood Brothers

A study of Willy Russell's powerful play, exploring themes of class, fate, and family relationships.

Poetry: Male and Female Voices

Students have compared poems that explore gender perspectives, identity, and voice.

Year 10

An Inspector Calls

Students have been analysing Priestley's classic play, focusing on social responsibility and dramatic techniques.

Language Paper 1

They've developed skills in fiction analysis and creative writing, including structure, inference, and descriptive language.

Year 11

A Christmas Carol

A close study of Dickens' novella, examining themes of redemption, social inequality, and character transformation.

Language Paper 2

Students have practised analysing non-fiction texts and writing persuasively, comparing viewpoints and rhetorical devices.

Mock Exams

Year 11s have been preparing for their GCSEs with practice papers and revision strategies.

Competitions and Enrichment

This term, students have also taken part in five exciting writing competitions:

Young Writers – I Have a Dream

A national competition encouraging students to express their hopes for the future through powerful persuasive writing.

Young Writers – Stranger Sagas

Another national competition in which students crafted imaginative short stories with unexpected twists, showcasing creativity and originality - all in just 100 words!

Ghost Story Competition

A spooky seasonal challenge where students competed to write atmospheric ghost stories. Well done to Ryan J For winning this competition with his truly spine chilling story 'The Ninth Step' and to Evie R, Ava D and Kate M for finishing 2,3, and 4th.



GCSE MEDIA

Our Media Studies students have had a dynamic and creative start to the academic year, engaging with key concepts, practical skills, and close study products (CSPs) as part of the AQA GCSE specification.

Year 10

Advertising and Marketing

Students have explored how media language and representation are used in advertising campaigns.

They've examined audience targeting, stereotypes, and the impact of media on social values.

Film Production

Students have begun developing practical skills in planning and producing media texts.

Year 11

Music Videos and Radio

Students have studied how music videos communicate meaning and appeal to audiences. They've analysed representation, genre conventions, and the evolution of radio in the digital age.

NEA Production (Non-Exam Assessment)

Students have started their NEA projects, which involve:

Researching target audiences and media products

Storyboarding and planning their own media texts

Producing and editing content

Receiving peer and teacher feedback to refine their work.

MATHS INSPIRATION

A group of budding mathematicians recently had the opportunity to attend Maths Inspiration, a national programme of interactive lectures designed to demonstrate the relevance of mathematics beyond the classroom. The event featured a selection of speakers who presented engaging talks on the practical applications of mathematical concepts in diverse fields.



The lectures looked at the vital role Mathematical modelling plays in crowd control and safety at large events; the role of Mathematics in earthquake engineering and how mathematical analysis is used when designing structures capable of withstanding seismic activity. Students were invited to consider the mathematical reasoning behind the hypothetical question: Would you rather face 100 duck-sized horses or one horse-sized duck? This exercise illustrated how scale, forces and modelling can be applied even in unconventional contexts.

The Maths Inspiration lectures provided students with an opportunity to explore how mathematics is used practically in the real world and how it can be used to solve complex challenges

HISTORY

In Mrs Walker's class our Year 8s undertook a dramatic re-enacted of the trial and execution of Charles 1st. Some great directing and acting skills were demonstrated in this enaging way to bring History to life!



SCIENTIST OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Sophia A and Caitlin V.

Who are our Scientists of the Month for their outstanding attitude and exceptional work ethic, which truly shone through in their recent studies.



GEOGRAPHY



This half term, Year 7 are learning about map skills in their geography classes. Their first lesson, on scale and distance, students applied their knowledge using large Ordnance Survey maps to calculate the distance between their home and the school.



AUTHOR VISIT - EMMA SWAN

Our year 7 students were treated to a brilliant talk by the award-winning author of Cruise Ship Kid Emma Swan.

She shared her story about growing up on a ship, just like the main character in her book, and the lessons that she learnt along the way about self - confidence, perseverance and following her passion for writing and acting. Her talk was fantastic and included lots of singing and games which our students took part in with great enthusiasm!



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DONATIONS

It is that time of year again where we are asking very kindly for any donations that you could possibly spare for the Christmas raffle that will be held at our Christmas Fayre on November 29th. Parents did so well last year that it was such a tremendous success and we are hoping to build on this at this year's event. We would particularly welcome any alcohol of any type, vouchers from any businesses, boxes of chocolates which are always very popular, any individual luxury food items to put into a Christmas hamper that can be made up. Any unused toiletries etc. that can also be made into pamper baskets. anything at all really 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!



MRS KING'S BOOK CORNER



Fly Me Home by Polly Ho-Yen

A moving portrait of a family's struggle to adjust to life in a new country. Full of friendship, family and magic.



What Happens Online by Nathiel Lessore

A brilliant teen comedy about figuring out who you are online and offline-this is a big-hearted tale of one awkward teenager's split life between reality and the internet. The kind of book you wish the boy from Adolescence had read. Engaging, positive, and poignant.



The Game I will Never Forget by Onjali Rauf

A wonderful, sensitive and creative story with a poignant message at its heart. This is an incredible story told with humour and heart, which highlights the challenges of living with a relative experiencing dementia alongside the unbreakable bond between child and grandparent.



Skating Wilder by Dumas and Dungo

Out very soon is a wonderful choice of non-fiction all about skateboarding. Flying through its weird history, meeting its superstars and learning about a sport that is more about community than competition. There is even a chance to learn some tricks via the wild graphic additions.

NATIONAL ALL STARS

Congratulations to Seren who, on the 23rd October made her debut for the National JPL Allstars team—a squad that brings together the very best U12 football talent from across the UK.

Not only did Seren play brilliantly, she marked the occasion with an incredible hat-trick on her first appearance!

The team has an exciting year ahead, including matches against some of the world's top sides and a visit to Real Madrid in May 2026.

What an amazing achievement and proof that dreams really do come true!



WORLD BALLROOM CHAMPION



Last week, our talented Year 8 student Luca competed in the World Championships in Holland alongside his dance partner, Pebble R—and what an incredible trip it was!

The pair returned home with an impressive set of titles:

World Under-14 Ballroom Champions
4th place in the World Under-14 Latin category
2nd place in the Dutch Open Championship

A huge congratulations to Luca and Pebble on these outstanding results. We can't wait to see what 2026 brings for them on the dance floor!



UK FEMINISTA ART

We are delighted to announce that Eva M from Year 10 has won the UK Feminista poster competition. The theme was 'What Feminism Means To You' and her entry was chosen as the winning design and will now feature on their merchandise to celebrate the 15 years the charity has campaigned to end sexism and promote equal rights in schools.



WE HEAR YOU

Following feedback from parents about the school uniform, we have met with our suppliers School Colours and are pleased that we have made the following changes -

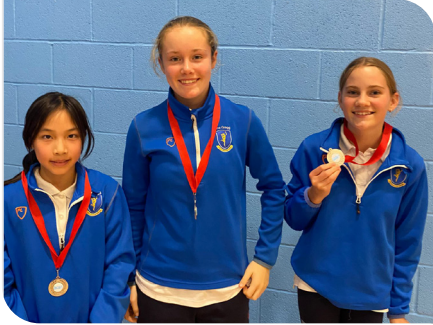
- Tartan Skirts will be available in additional sizes
- Senior Boy's Trousers will be available in longer leg lengths.

We welcome all comments and suggestions. Please feel free to contact the school with any issues that you would like us to look at.
office@thegreggschools.org

SPORTS

KS3 DISTRICT BADMINTON

Congratulations to our KS3 Badminton Teams! Our girls team finished in an impressive 2nd place, and our boys team in 4th out of 10 schools. Both teams showed great teamwork, sportsmanship and determination throughout all of their matches. A special mention to Jonathon M for winning all four of his single matches and Tam L for her leadership skills and guiding her teammates with tactics and support.



YEAR 9 FOOTBALL

Our Year 9 football team secured a 5-2 win in a friendly match at Woodland School. It provided a great opportunity for our students to play with local friends before the start of the 2026 League. Charlie M's hat trick earned him Player of The Match



GYM CLUB

Students have been enjoying our new KS4 Gym and Weights club which runs on a Friday lunchtime. They have been mentored by experienced coaches to lift weights and have been doing strength training workouts in a circuit format. We have been impressed with how they have pushed themselves- building strength and increasing their fitness. Please see Ms Turnbull if you are interested in joining this club.



AUTUMN PE CLUBS



Lunch Clubs 1.10-1.50pm

Tuesday - KS3 Rugby

Friday - KS3 Rugby

Friday - Gym and Weights

After Schools/Fixtures

Monday - Yr7/8 Netball

Monday - KS3 Girls Football

Tuesday - KS3 Boys Football

Wednesday - Weightlifting Club

Thursday - GCSE PE

Thursday - KS4 Netball

Friday - Table Tennis





Open Morning

Wednesday 19th November

9.30am-11.30am

Join us from 9.30am for refreshments followed by a talk by our Headteacher, Mrs Sellers and our Head Boy and Girl. This will be followed by tours of the school by our students, with the chance to visit our classrooms and talk to our teachers.

Please share with your friends and family!

Book online here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4wxudknc>

Entrance Assessments

Year 9

For students currently in Year 9 who wish to join The Gregg School, our Year 9 Assessment takes place on
Friday 9th January 2026

Year 6

Our senior school transitional entrance assessment for current Year 6 wishing to join The Gregg School in Year 7 in September 2026 takes place on
Saturday 24th January 2026

If you have friends or family who are interested in joining either our lower or upper school, please ask them to contact our Registrar, Mrs Sam Sharp, for more details
registrar@thegreggschools.org



COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS

CEMAST College
19th November



Richard Taunton College
19th November



Southampton College
20th November



Eastleigh College
25th November



TOWNHILL PARK EVENTS



The Gregg School

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

29th November 2025

11am-5pm

Plenty of free, level parking with disabled access.

Handmade gifts and treats for the whole family!

Creative crafts, food, mulled wine, afternoon teas, raffle, games, story time with Santa, and loads more! Come for a browse!



The Gregg School, Townhill Park House, Cutbush Lane,
Southampton SO18 3RR Tel: 02380 472133
www.townhillparkhouse.co.uk events@thegreggschools.org



Mr & Mrs Middleton
of Townhill Park House, Cutbush Lane, Southampton SO18 3RR

Invite you to help them celebrate the birthday of

Jane Austen

at her 250th Anniversary

Regency Ball

Saturday 13th December
6.30pm - carriages 11pm

Tickets £95

Invitation includes:

- Regency ball called by Dr Helen Davidge of Georgettes of Oxford*
- Live music on period instruments*
- Canapes with tasting bowls & sumptuous desserts*
- Cards and entertainment with Miss Austen and friends*
- Complimentary pre-ball dance workshop*
- Licensed Bar - all set in beautiful, historic Townhill Park House*

Ticket Sales: <https://www.townhillparkhouse.co.uk/box-office>
Information: events@thegreggschools.org
Dress Code: Regency



THE GREGG



Winter Concert

4th December 2025, 6pm

Join us in the school hall at 5:30pm for festive refreshments followed by performances from our fabulous school ensembles and soloists!



FUTURE FROGS DATES

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
CHRISTMAS FAYRE

WEDNESDAY 28TH JANUARY
PTA MEETING 16.00-17.00

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY
VALENTINES SOCIAL 18:00-20:00

THURSDAY 21ST MAY
AFTERNOON TEA PICNIC 16:00- 17.30

CHRISTMAS FAYRE HELPERS



Help Make The Gregg Big Christmas Magical!

We're looking for volunteers to help the FROGS bring The Gregg Big Christmas event to life! If you're able to lend a hand—whether it's setting up, helping during the event, or packing down—we'd love to have you on board. We are also collecting raffle prize donations - anything festive or fun is welcome!

If you can help, please take a moment to fill out the volunteer form so we can get everything organised:

volunteersignup.org/E4WBL

Your support makes all the difference. Thank you for being part of something special this Christmas!

To sign up, just follow the instructions on the page. It only takes a few seconds to do.

Thank you for volunteering!

Head of FROGS

Laura Wilson

KEY DATES AT SCHOOL

Thursday 19th November
Open Morning

 **Saturday 29th November**
Christmas Fayre 11-5pm

Thursday 4th December
Winter Concert

Thursday 11th December
Year 7-8 Panto Trip

Friday 12th December
Festive Wear Day
Rowing Challenge

Monday 15th December
Carol Service

Tuesday 16th December
End of term - 12.55 finish

Tuesday 6th January 2026
Start of term

Friday 9th January
Year 9 Entrance Assessment

Saturday 24th January
Year 6 Entrance Assessment

Wednesday 28th January,
FROGS PTA Meeting 4-5pm

Have a nice weekend!