

Welcome to my latest newsletter celebrating school life at Greenbank.

It has been a wonderful term with so many achievements celebrated. In this edition I am delighted to celebrate the 'giving school' with so much time given and funds raised by pupils and staff. Please give generously again on Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December through donating tins and packets of food for the Food Bank to help support those members of our community who will most need it. Pupils will be wearing their uniform but are allowed to replace their blazer with their Christmas jumper.

As we approach the end of term please note that we finish school on Tuesday 19th December at 1.15pm and will return on Thursday 4th January. All school buses will be available at the earlier time on 19th December.

This week has seen Year 11 completing their PPE (Pre-Public Examinations) and I have been very impressed with both their preparation and resilience shown in an often gruelling timetable. It has also been a pleasure to see Year 7 at the end of their first full term thriving at their new school and involved in so many lunch and after school activities.

I will be awarding achievement badges in the first full week back after the holidays and cannot help be impressed by the large amount of pupils who will receive at least a Bronze badge exemplifying their positive attitude and engagement with their school.

I hope everyone has a relaxing and peaceful Christmas break and thank you for supporting your daughter's education.

Mr Raikes
Headteacher

Headteacher's Breakfast



I was pleased to be accompanied by pupils nominated for a variety of reasons ranging from outstanding progress to a random act of kindness at the Headteacher's Breakfast on Friday 1st December. The pupils, who were nominated by their Head of Year, are exceptional role models.

Strictly Christmas Show



On Thursday 7th December we staged the spectacular Strictly Christmas Dance and Drama show with over 130 pupils involved. The show was an exceptional display of talent.

One parent wrote, "I wanted to say how blown away I was with the Strictly Christmas show on Thursday evening. The teachers who work so hard and show so much dedication to the pupils are a real credit to you. I'm so proud to be able to say I'm a parent of a daughter who attends Greenbank. The Bollywood dancing at the end showed every pupil coming together and gave a real sense of your school community coming together to inspire, care and achieve.

House Talent Show



On Thursday, the 30th of November, the Greenbank Talent Show, one of the most anticipated events of the year, took place. We had an impressive diversity in our acts, from a karate demonstration to Bollywood dancing in

traditional dress. The audience could agree that each act was fantastic. It was a tough decision for the judges, Mr Raikes, Mrs Palmer and Mrs Collins; however they eventually came to the top three winning acts.

In third place, Aarzo and Laiba Khursheed, with Bollywood dancing. In second place, Zena Cushing and Sophie Fielding, with a rendition of 'Rolling in the Deep,' sung by Zena and the guitar played by Sophie. In first place, Natasha Rashid Gardener and Caitlin Woodward, with their karate demonstration.

All of the acts were spectacular and the audience thoroughly enjoyed each performance. On behalf of the girls, we'd like to thank the House Leaders, Ms Almond, Ms Clift, Ms Moran, Ms Woods, Mr Whittle, and Ms Clarke; without their help and organisation, the talent show would not have been possible.

Sarah Powsey – Champion of the Arts Council

Celebration of Music Theory Exam success



Greenbank High School is very proud to share with you the news of recent exam success within the ABRSM Theory Grade scheme. 8 students from Music Theory Club, which is part of the Music More able, Gifted and Talented programme, were entered for Grades 1, 2 or 5 and we are pleased to announce that all passed with 'Merit' or 'Distinction' which is the highest achievable outcome. We congratulate Molly Allen, Freya Burton, Lydia Clegg, Rosie Hughes, Phoebe Jackson, Chloe Purcell, Ellie Watkins and Niamh Watkins and give special mention and thanks to their assistant teacher Katie Edward who provided invaluable support for Mrs Palmer in running the club and marking work as well as mock papers. Katie has been awarded the official red pen and both she and Mrs Palmer are looking forward to helping all involved to succeed in the upcoming exams in the spring term. Music Theory Club runs Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4pm in Room 11 and new members are welcome to start on January 10th, 2018.

Visit by Royal Navy Catering Presentation Team



On Tuesday 5th December 50 Year 10 Food Preparation GCSE students took part in a Navy cooking challenge. Divided into groups of 4 each team were given a mixed bag of ingredients and given 1hr 30mins to plan and prepare a main meal and dessert. The girls who took part were extremely enthusiastic about their challenge

and worked incredibly hard to produce some very exciting dishes. Miss Parry was very proud of all the pupils and the results they achieved.

Visit from the Department for Education



We were delighted to welcome Alice Chan from the Department for Education in Westminster on 27th and 28th November. Alice visited Greenbank as part of an immersion programme to increase awareness of the school working environment. Alice, who is on the Civil Service graduate programme, visited 6 lessons, met members of the Article 12 School Council, spoke to leaders about how we develop the curriculum and teaching and learning, looked at we use Pupil Premium Funding and how we tackle counter extremism.

Thank you PTA for the Christmas Market



Thank you to everyone who contributed and attended our Christmas Market on Thursday 23rd November. It was a great success and got everyone into the Christmas spirit. £1115.31 was raised. The PTA will now use the funding to pay for items requested by teachers that are not funded through the school budget.



It was fantastic to see so many of our pupils giving their time and talents to support Children in Need last week. Pupils hosted a talent show, made cakes and dressed in Pudsey outfits to raise money. A total of £401.59 was raised. Well done to all who contributed.

Annual Leavers Awards Evening



On Thursday 16th November we hosted our annual Leavers Awards' Ceremony. We were delighted to welcome back so many of Year 11 of 2016/17 and their parents to celebrate their success. Awards ranged from Special Progress Prizes for those pupils who made the most progress according to their ability on entry and Benstead Prizes for those girls with 8 or more A/A*/7-9 grades. There were also prizes for areas such as Cheerfulness and the governors 'Inspire Care and Achieve Award.'

National English Schools Swimming Championships



Over the weekend 17th – 18th November we travelled to London to take part in the National Schools Swimming Relay Finals. Greenbank had an Inter girls' team (Year 9 & 10) in both the Medley relay and Freestyle relay and a junior team in the Medley relay. The Inter girls' team made up of Jess Law; Kate Forster; Lily Wallwork and Alyssa McIlory qualified for both finals. In the medley relay they finished 6th in the final and first state school in the country. In the freestyle they finished 10th and second state school in the country. The junior team made up of Avian Dennis, Meg Smith, Shauna Thoburn and Jess Penniford finished 28th in the country. Many of the pupils achieved personal best swims over the weekend. We are all very proud of their fantastic achievements. Well done to all the pupils involved

Year 7 & 8 hockey matches

Over the past few weeks the Year 7 & 8 hockey teams have taken part in some friendly hockey fixtures at Greenbank. Training is on a Monday night for Year 7 & 8 and all pupils are welcome to attend. We would welcome new members to practice, especially in Year 7, as we would like to be able to put out two teams.

Monday 6th November

Year 7 Greenbank won against Range

Year 8 Greenbank won against Range

Monday 13th November

Greenbank hosted a mini hockey festival with teams from Maricourt and Scarisbrick Hall attending.

Year 7 won both their games against Maricourt and Scarisbrick Hall.

Year 8 had two teams in the festival.

Team 1 – won all their games

Team 2 – beat Maricourt; draw with Scarisbrick and were beaten by Team 1 Greenbank.

Well done to all the girls involved.

U13 Football League Girls Cup hosted by Blackburn Rovers

Our U13 team made up of Year 7 & 8 pupils took part in the First Round of the League Cup Tournament on Tuesday 14th November where they won three of their games and drew one making them winners of their tournament. They later took part in the Blackburn finals on Tuesday 21st November and were incredible as they were runners up. Congratulations girls!

Team: Sophie Hanlon; Anna Klaassen; Martha Steel; Aaliyah Turner; Erin Day; Harvee Hindley; Brianna Hanlon; and Cassie Brennan.



Congratulations to Jasmine Greenwood



Congratulations to Jasmine Greenwood who became overall Gold Senior Champion at the English National Championships recently. She won individual golds on the bars, beam, floor and vault.

Congratulations to Brooke Cairns



Congratulations to Brooke Cairns who represented England's Women's Under 15 Team against Scotland. We are grateful to Brooke and her family for donating her jersey to the school to inspire others.

Spanish Club

On Friday 24th November Year 7 pupils discovered the Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dalí. Known mainly for his paintings of melting clocks and his pointy moustache the girls were surprised to find out Dalí designed the logo for Chupa Chups lollipops! The girls also listened to Spanish pop music. On 1st December the girls enjoyed dancing and singing to some of their favourite Spanish pop songs. They were also delighted to try "churros con chocolate" and have learnt about the Spanish festival "La Tomatina". All year 7s are welcome.



Language Leaders

Our Year 9 Language leaders were fabulous ambassadors when they visited Ainsdale CoE Primary School recently. They taught animals to Year 6 and they taught the Year 5 pupils 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes in Spanish'.



Mufti Day 1st December 2017 - £832.26 raised for Evergreen Blossom Academy, Ghana

Thank you to everyone who donated kindly to raising £832.26 for our sister school in Ghana. Greenbank High school has developed strong links with Evergreen Blossom Academy in Akropong, in the Eastern region of Ghana, since 2009. It is now a thriving and successful school with around 250 pupils aged from 2 to 11 years.

The Headteacher, Francis Ato Acquah, is committed to providing an outstanding education for disadvantaged children from poor backgrounds. Greenbank High School has been involved in the establishment and running of this school since 2010. Through fundraising we have helped to pay for classrooms and a kitchen, furniture, blackboards and classroom resources. Each year, new classrooms have been built to house children as they move up the school.

Pupils and staff from Greenbank High school together with 2 staff members from Farnborough Rd Junior School will visit Ghana in February 2018. They will spend time in the school and be involved with lessons, activities and excursions.

They hope to be able to take with them some gifts which will make a massive difference to the learning experience of the children, and help their teachers to produce stimulating and exciting lessons. On this occasion, Greenbank would like to provide laptops and projectors for some of the classrooms as well as other teaching resources. Obviously these are expensive items so there will be a variety of fundraising activities going on in the next few months in addition to this mufti day.

We hope that parents, staff and pupils will support the appeal. The photographs below show our last visit in 2016 and the difference our partnership can make.

If anyone wishes to donate an unwanted laptop which is in good working order, we can have it cleaned of all data before taking it to Ghana to be used in the classroom.



Public Speaking Intermediate and Senior Competition 2017

Each year, Southport Meols Rotary runs the Youth Speaks Competition, something which we always ensure we are involved within. This year, our intermediate team consisted of three year 9 pupils: Izzy Austin (main speaker), Yasmin Billingsley (chairperson) and Olivia Logan (vote of thanks). The girls explored the topic of education and how they felt the education system hadn't progressed a great deal in comparison to what it was 150 years ago. The marks were extremely tight with only one point between them but Greenbank won Stanley on the night which the girls were delighted with. They will now enter the next stage of the competition later this year!

In addition, the senior team consisting of Lois Balshaw (chairperson), Lydia Harrison (main speaker) and Sarah George (vote of thanks) performed their speech at the Ramada Hotel on Tuesday last week. The girls were well prepped on their topic of whether the education system was putting too much pressure on the youths of today. The girls were phenomenal on the night and a massive congratulation goes to Christ the King School who won first place.

The level of speaking on the night really promoted the youth of Southport in a wonderful way and made us incredibly proud to be involved in such a positive event. The girls will be performing their speeches in assemblies.

Rehearsals are well underway for 'Seussical the Musical'!



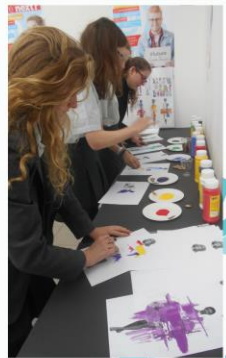
More Able Gifted and Talented Events

We've had a few days recently working with one of our partner colleges, Runshaw College, taking part in their Gifted and Talented programme.



Above Year 10 pupils had a masterclass lesson from Ballet Rambert.

TEXTILE CREATIONS



RUNSHAW
COLLEGE

GIFTED & TALENTED 2017/18

Year 10 pupils also got the chance to try out A Level Textiles with the help of former Greenbank pupil Abigail Merchant.



A Year 10 team took part in a Business Challenge.

Thank you very much to Runshaw for supporting our More Able, Gifted and Talented Programme.

English Top Tip of the Week!

When to Use a Comma

Purpose	Example
Use a comma after an expression.	Most certainly, you can borrow my pencil.
Add a comma when a participle phrase is used.	Walking slowly, I could see the beautiful flowers.
Include a comma when an adverb clause is used.	After we eat, we should leave for our trip.
Use a comma to separate parts of a date.	Tuesday, May 2, 2012 was when I graduated.
Add a comma when two separate sentences are combined.	We purchased some cheese, and we purchased some fruit.
Use a comma to set off quoted words.	"I think it is a great idea," said Clark.

Year 11 Geography Field Study



On Monday 13th November 100 Year 11 Geographers spent the day in Liverpool collecting primary data on sphere of influences, in order to prepare for both the upcoming PPE exams and the summer exams. The pupils were exceptionally well behaved and a credit to the school. They engaged many members of the public, asking them to answer questionnaires they had helped write.

Remembrance



On the 11th of November past, present, and future Greenbank pupils performed in a concert at the Salvation Army church organised by Mr Dempsey and Mrs Anderson. It was a Remembrance concert to remember the soldiers who died in the war and was supporting a charity called Revitalise which is a national charity that provides respite care in a holiday setting for disabled people and carers. We all sang either solos or duets, and also performed together with other singers as part of a choir. A joint item between the Brass Band and the choir, Pie Jesu, finished the concert.

Lois Edge

Year 11 hard at work creating fantastic garments in Textiles



Year 9 hand embroidery samples for skills section of their sketchbooks. The pupils are working towards WJEC Creative and Media Level 2.



House Matters

Following on from the successful cake sale, Year 7 girls in Hepburn House have taken part in a sponsored skip. Skipping on the spot for 2 minutes while the house captains count the jumps seems easy, but is harder than you think. The girls all tried really hard and great fun was had. Sponsor money is already being paid in to the finance office and prizes will be awarded in the next house assembly to the girl who completed the most jumps and also to whoever brings in the most money. All monies raised will go to UNICEF.

Mrs Moran - Hepburn House Leader

Seacole House cake sale for NDCS (National Deaf Children's Society) raises £49.70



Bronte House Tombola raises £202.55



Christmas Gift Tag Club raising funds for The Leonard Cheshire Home.

