

Welcome to our latest newsletter celebrating school life at Greenbank over the last few months.

We were pleased to have awarded so many achievement badges on Friday 22nd March and cannot help be impressed by the large amount of pupils who received at least a Bronze badge exemplifying their positive attitude and engagement with their school. We have rolled out a new sanctions policy to ensure the highest possible standards are set for our pupils. The pupils have responded brilliantly ensuring very little learning time is wasted. Any pupil who does not receive a behaviour point over a week is now automatically credited with five achievement points to reward the vast majority of our pupils who are developing as outstanding citizens and lifelong learners. The revised [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#) can be found on our website.

To support pupils' online safety over the coming term all pupils will be completing the [Online Safety Alliance Certificate of Online Safety](#). The certificate covers units on online bullying, grooming (including radicalisation), sexting, safe use of smartphones, health impacts of technology use, digital footprints, social media management, the consequences of poor choices and reporting of concerns. To support parents we have also been regularly Parentmailing our 'Online Safety Newsletter'. Please take the time to read it carefully as it has lots of ideas for ensuring safe and healthy use of ICT and social media with your child.

We were recently notified that a bid we submitted to the Department for Education Condition Improvement Fund was successful and that we will receive funding for a brand new multi-purpose pitch, fencing around it and floodlighting. These will lead to our students having the very best surface for their PE and extra-curricular activities and the community will have access to a first class facility. We have also recently refurbished our fitness suite and we will be equipping it with the latest gym equipment for all pupils and staff to use. We are currently reviewing the PE uniform which has not been changed for many years with the help of Whittakers uniform shop and the potential new design should be in school this week for everyone to look at.

We are delighted to report that we are oversubscribed for September 2018. Over the past two months I have met with parents from Years 7, 8 and 11 at Parents' and Options Evening and I would like to thank you for the continued support you give Greenbank. We look forward to meeting Year 9 and 10 parents again this term.

We would like to thank the PTA for all their work recently in raising extra funds for school through serving at events such as the school production. They have recently funded two table tennis tables, enabled all home economics students to complete the Food Hygiene Certificate and bought yoga mats for pupils to use. Please support them whenever you can.

We were pleased to recently welcome our local MP, Damien Moore, to school to show him the school in action and discuss issues such as mental health, which he has a strong interest in, and school funding. Recently he has become concerned about the reduction of rail services to Manchester which could affect our local economy and the access our young people could have to opportunities outside Southport. Please support him in lobbying if you can.

We have included a page detailing important dates over the next term at the end of this newsletter. We hope you find it useful.

Thank you for supporting your child's education and I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter.

Mr Raikes
Headteacher

Seussical The Musical



Congratulations to all pupils and staff who worked so hard on our amazing production of 'Seussical The Musical.' The pupils exhibited outstanding professionalism from early rehearsals to the closing night, performing before sell out audiences every night. We hope that the memories of being involved will last forever and look forward to seeing pupils involved in productions both inside and outside school in the future.

Music Tour to Austria



On March 21st it was finally time to depart for Vienna – after a long and careful planning phase which involved hard work in rehearsals, on Playday and on ‘Folder factory’ morning by all students. After a smooth journey to the continent we were welcomed by a hearty Austrian meal at our hotel. Rest was important as the next day was action packed with a visit and performance at BG/BRG Neusiedl am See, a Roman Adventure Tour in Carnuntum and shopping at McArthur Glenn designer Outlet Centre Parndorf. Day 2 included sightseeing in Vienna and following the footsteps of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart before exploring music in connection with technology and science at “Haus der Musik”. Sunday, renamed the “Day of highlights”, was spent discovering the past in an Austrian village, eating tons of cake at Mrs Palmer’s parents’ house and collaborating in a concert with SJBO, the local symphonic wind orchestra. Before travelling back home Viennese waltzing was on the programme and the Wiener Prater amusement park with its iconic Ferris wheel. We thank all young musicians for their exceptional behaviour and excellent performances, and all accompanying staff for their hard work. With the next concert tour open to all committed musicians already in planning for 2020, please do send us suggestions or ideas in order to keep making our music tours unique.

Visit to Evergreen Blossom Academy in Ghana

An excited party of 18 people left Greenbank High School at 6.30am on Wednesday 7th February.



Sixteen hours later we arrived at The MacQueens Royal Hotel in Akropong.



After a good sleep and a healthy breakfast we were guests of honour at the Evergreen Blossom Academy PTA meeting. Presentations were made and gifts given. The afternoon was spent with the children in classes and our pupils were practising their dance routine for the forthcoming wedding of our hosts Francis and Spendylove. Francis is the Headteacher at Evergreen and our friendship with him goes back to 2009 when we were introduced through The British Council Connecting Classrooms scheme.

Francis was able to show us the site for the new school which will enable them to enrol more pupils. It's a work in progress.



Whilst there we attended a Domestic Violence Conference presented by the Police Chief of the Area. A local primary school also attended. It was very interesting because we heard how the children are educated about different forms of abuse.



The highlight of the visit was the traditional engagement and wedding of Francis and Spendy. The whole day was one of sheer joy, music and dancing. The ladies had prepared enough delicious food for the whole village. The Greenbank pupils together with Mr and Mrs Palmer performed Amazing Grace on their instruments. The pupils then performed their dance routine which received rapturous applause from the wedding guests. Spendy had been sewing all the wedding costumes for her and her family plus she somehow found the time to make all 18 of us dresses or shirts to wear at Church the next day. They all fitted perfectly and will be treasured as a memento of the visit.



We also visit a medical centre, and did some work experience. We attended Church on Sunday morning and were embraced by the congregation. We took an excursion to a leisure centre with the whole school, where the children played games and used the swimming pool. For some of the primary pupils it was their first ever experience of a swimming pool.



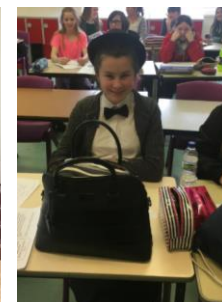
The group then took a trip to Cape Coast; this was the day we had to rise by 3am. Whilst there we visited the Cape Coast Castle which included the Slavery Museum. Notable former visitors were Michelle and Barack Obama. We then went to the rain forest and did the canopy walk which was very thrilling.



Our last day included time spent visiting Koforidua a small market town. The pupils did some shopping. A last lunch and goodbyes were said.

Francis and Spendylove looked after us as family, the Greenbank pupils were amazing and a real credit to school and their parents

World Book Day



On Thursday 1st March, we celebrated World Book Day 2018. Staff and students alike participated as you can see from the photos and the excitement was evident as we also incorporated quizzes and creative activities within English lessons and PDT. After asking Personal Tutors to select a winner from each form, we then selected a winner

per year group and then an overall winner – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. A £10 book voucher was presented to our winning student and we cannot wait to start planning again for next year. A book swap also took place within the library at break/ lunch time which year after year, is a massive success. Getting the pupils to talk about and discuss literature was our main aim and this was certainly evident throughout the day: not just in English but across the curriculum. The two World Book Day displays within school will be updated and there was a winner of our selfie competition announced. A wonderful celebration of literature for staff and pupils alike!

International Women's Day 2018



As part of International Women's Day we #PressforProgress through publicizing the campaign throughout school. Please visit the website for [International Women's Day](#) for ideas on how to make a difference.

Sefton Super Readers



Congratulations to all pupils who attended the Sefton Super Readers ceremony on 16th March. Their book reviews were amazing!

Rotary Technology Tournament



As part of a now extensive extra-curricular programme in Design Technology, girls from years 8 and 9 have attended an Engineering club in preparation for this year's Rotary Technology Tournament. Following their success from last year winning the basic level award, the girls have been very keen to further develop their skills and compete again this year, only this time in the next level up. Based on last year's competition, the girls knew that this would require higher level skills in order to achieve success.

During the after school clubs, the girls have studied different engineering concepts by looking at challenges using structures, mechanisms, gear ratios and electronics. The girls have also been encouraged to develop their problem solving skills, think 'outside the box', but most importantly have fun and enjoy the challenges.

This year's competition saw even more pupil entries from our neighbouring schools and most definitely a tougher challenge than the previous year! The girls had to design and make a space capsule that could be fired from a launch pad, reach a height of at least three meters, pass through a loop on the way up and then deploy a parachute on the way down, landing as close to the original launch pad as possible.

After much designing, developing and deliberating, our girls once again came up with a winning design and took home the trophy! Even more impressive this year, not only did they compete in the next level up, they were competing against pupils in years 10 and 11 from the other schools, who are studying Design Technology or Engineering at GCSE level. Also, although the girls have looked at a number of different engineering concepts in the after school club, they haven't yet studied trajectories or flight. This goes to show how well the girls have done using their problem solving skills and working as a team to produce yet another winning concept!

As always, the girls were an absolute credit to our school and once again lead the way in producing another outstanding piece of engineering! Well done to all who took part.

UK Maths Challenge



Congratulations to our team who competed at the UKMT Maths Team Challenge regional finals at St Edward's College Liverpool on 13th March. Our team worked really well together, and were placed 6th out of 24 schools. All the pupils really enjoyed competing and were a real credit to Greenbank.

Rotary Youth Speaks Regional Public Speaking Competition



On Friday 9th March, we were invited to take part in the Youth Speaks District competition in Wrexham. Our team of three consisted of Yasmin Billingsley (Chairperson), Izzy Austin (Main speaker) and Olivia Logan (Vote of Thanks) who earlier in the year won the local heat.

The girls decided on the topic of the speech by thinking about what meant something to them: something they felt passionate about. The speech was named 'The School System – Past and Present' and detailed how they felt that the current education system was putting too much pressure on teenagers and how there wasn't enough time to study skills such as saving someone's life and how to make informed decisions like using their votes correctly.

The teams were of an incredibly high standard and our girls did us very proud. After winning the local heats, the girls were incredibly excited about competing at a District level and they thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. Whilst the girls didn't win on this occasion, they came away discussing potential topics for when they enter the senior competition later this year.

We had a wonderful evening celebrating the talent of young teenagers and exploring thought provoking issues from Mental Health to Human Rights.

Congratulations to our girls and all teams involved in the evening!

UNICEF Rights Respecting School



As part of our commitment to becoming a Gold Award UNICEF Rights Respecting School our pupil committee and link governor have been meeting to raise awareness of the rights of the child and how we protect them at Greenbank. Assemblies have been held and we have a growing team of UNICEF Ambassadors around school raising awareness. There are displays being started on the 5 most popular rights at the beginning of this term.

Headteacher's Breakfast



I was pleased to be accompanied by pupils nominated for a variety of reasons ranging from outstanding attendance, progress to a random act of kindness at the Headteacher's Breakfast on 9th February and 23rd March. The pupils, who were nominated by their Head of Year, are exceptional role models.

Brain Charity

Thank you to all for their contribution towards the [Brain Charity](#) which raised £760.

Wacky Hair Day



Well done to all girls who contributed to Wacky Hair Day which raised £256 in aid of [Alzheimer's Society](#).

Afternoon Tea



Home Economics students organised their own afternoon tea and invited guests. The food was incredible!

Bake Off



Congratulations to Niamh and Olivia who recently took part in a Bake off at Southport College.

Theatre Director Visit



We were very lucky to have a visit from professional theatre director David Siebert last week. David has worked on theatre all over the UK, in the West End and most recently with the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford Upon Avon. He spoke to GCSE Drama students in Year 9, 10 and 11 about his love of theatre as a child, his educational journey and what it's like to have a career in the theatre. His talk was frank, interesting and humorous and our pupils were all thoroughly engaged and hopefully learned a lot about the profession.

Above is a picture of some of our Year 9 actresses with David in front of a collage showing posters from some of his theatre work.

Spanish Club – 'Club Cultura'



At a very busy Spanish club on 13th April, the girls tried 'torrijas' the delicious Spanish Easter treat made from bread, honey, cinnamon and milk.



At Spanish club on 16th March the girls were amazed how fast the footwork is for Columbian salsa, they did very well when they tried out the steps. The girls also enjoyed some spicy tortillas and salsa dip! Lots of fun was had by all!



On 9th March at ClubCultura the girls learnt about Pablo Picasso's diverse artworks. They were interested in facts about Picasso's life and were intrigued to learn that Picasso was suspected of stealing the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911.



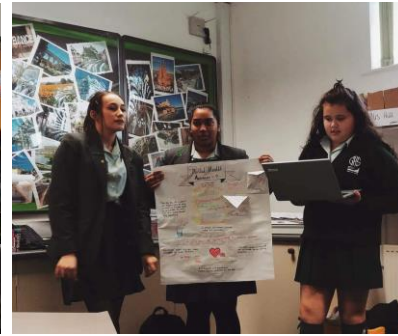
On 2nd March the girls learnt about Mancho, the delicious Spanish cheese that is exclusively produced in the La Mancha region of central Spain. Our pupils all enjoyed the authentic Mancho tasting session.

LEPRA



Well done to Year 7 who have raised over £1500 for [LEPRA](#).

Emotional Well-Being



Approximately 30 year 9 students took part in a positive health and well-being day lead by TEAMreb, an organisation who tackle various different mental health issues. The girls volunteered for the day and looked at different ways to manage stress levels, plan time for activities to release anxiety and then to create a campaign to assist other students within their year group. All girls demonstrated great commitment to the day and felt it was worthwhile. As part of a Year 10 project entitled 'Big Sista Love' a group of pupils created outstanding artwork that has been displayed recently in the Liverpool 'Lush' store. These are just two of many projects which have been delivered this year as part of Greenbank tackling and supporting our students with their emotional well-being . Should parents want any more information on projects running please contact Mrs Gent Jones, Designated Lead for Mental Health at school.

Medical Marvels



Well done to the Greenbank teams who won the annual Medical Marvels competition at Runshaw College on 21st March. It was brilliant day with all teams getting the opportunity to sample some of the colleges Medical Society activities.

Sophie Scholl Awards



Well done to Grace Holt (winner) and Erin Waggett (highly commended) in the recent Sophie Scholl Awards run by Runshaw College.

Sporting Success

Netball



Congratulations to Year 7A netball team who were runners up and 7B, 8A and B teams who were champions in the recent Southport and Formby District Netball Tournament.



Congratulations to the Key Stage 4 Badminton team who became Merseyside Champions



Congratulations to the KS3 Badminton Teams on representing the school in the Southport & Formby Schools Competition. The A Team were runners up and the B Team were 3rd place.



Congratulations to the Year 8 hockey Teams. The A team were Merseyside Runners Up and the B team were 6th placed and the first Merseyside B team.



Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Football Team on becoming champions at the Sefton football festival.



Congratulations to the Year 11 Hockey Team on becoming Merseyside Champions



Congratulations to the Year 11 Netball Team on 3rd place in the Liverpool Schools Netball competition and qualifying for Merseyside Championships.



Congratulations to the Year 7 Indoor Athletics Team on being Southport and Formby Champions.



Congratulations to the Year 8 Indoor Athletics Team on being Southport and Formby Champions.



Congratulations to Olivia Logan who came 9th out of over 300 girls in the English National Schools Cross Country Championship. She is now first reserve for the English national Team.



Congratulations to Amie Hill who has recently represented Northern Ireland U15 football team in a tournament on 23rd March.

Congratulations to Melissa Bailey who has just attended her first England Football Association National Performance Camp of the 2017-18 season. Melissa was one of 40 players on the camp from across the country from 23rd March through to the 25th March. During the camp not only were the girls involved in 4 high level football training sessions but they also attended tactical, confidence building, education session.

Congratulation to Brooke Cairns who has been representing England, Women's U15 at a Training Camp, St George's Park over the past week.



Congratulations to Jaz Greenwood who won the Junior Performance Achievement Award for 2018 at the Preston Sports Awards Evening on 24th March.

Dates for your diary – Summer Term

25 th April	PE PGL Shropshire visit Parents Meeting – 6.00pm in the Hall
26 th April	Madrid Visit Parents Meeting - 6.30pm in the Hall
27 th – 28 th April	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Final Expedition for Group 1
11 th – 14 th May	PGL Shropshire Visit
14 th May	GCSE Examinations start
16 th May	Year 7 Boulogne Visit Parents Meeting – 6.30pm in the Hall
17 th May	Year 10 Parents Evening
19 th -20 th May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Practice Expedition for Group 2
25 th May	INSET day (Year 11 in school for examinations. Year 7 -10 at home)
4 th June	Term starts for all
12 th June	Year 9 Parents Evening
13 th – 15 th June	Year 7 Boulogne Visit 1
20 th June	PE PGL Spain Parents Meeting – 6.00pm in the Hall
21 st June	Year 11 Prom at Formby Hall
22 nd – 23 rd June	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Final Expedition for Group 2
25 th – 27 th June	Year 7 Boulogne Visit 2
27 th – 29 th June	CERN, Geneva, Switzerland Year 10 Science Visit
27 th June	New Year 7 Intake Transition Day
27 th June	Greenbank PTA Fashion Show
28 th June	Year 7 Drama Show – 7.00pm in the Hall
29 th June – 1 st July	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Final Expedition for Group 1
3 rd July	Maths London Visit Parents Meeting – 6.00pm in the Hall
5 th July	Dance Show – 7.00pm in the Hall
9 th July	Sports Day
9 th July	New Year 7 Intake Evening – 6.30pm in the Hall
10 th July	Summer Music Concert – 7.00pm in the Hall
6 th – 8 th July	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Practice Expedition for Group 2
12 th – 14 th July	Year 9 Maths London Visit
15 th – 23 rd July	PE PGL Spain Visit
16 th – 20 th July	Year 10 Work Experience
20 th July	Term ends at 12.30pm for Summer Holidays