



GUILDFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

Autumn Newsletter 2020



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WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



After losing the walls to our school on 20 March this year, I was delighted to open our doors and welcome back pupils from all year groups in September. The school is alive again and you can feel the buzz, the energy and the excitement inside the classrooms as you walk about the school.

The introduction of new iPads and Apple Pencils for pupils has created a new paperless way of working both in the classroom and at home. In true GHS style, staff have managed to deliver lessons both in school and virtually for pupils isolating via the tried and tested Microsoft Teams platform.

Whilst this newsletter may lack the usual plethora of school summer trips, I have been impressed with the variety of activities our pupils have engaged in this summer. From academic papers, MOOCs and competitions to charitable work, marathons and walks, the intellectual curiosity of our pupils and eagerness to become responsible citizens never ceases to amaze.

A warm welcome to all our new pupils, parents and staff who have joined us this term and to our new Senior Prefect Team who this year are led by Head Girls, Jasmin Kelliher and Hattie Postance, and Deputy Head Girls, Mallory Beechey and Ella Styche-Patel. Our staff have been finding new ways to deliver the same rich, diverse timetable and extracurricular programme within the Covid-19 government guidance. Current restrictions mean musicians can only mix with their year groups, so each year group has string ensembles, wind bands and choirs. It has been a delight to hear rehearsals in our 2016 Hall once again.

The Drama department have also had to adapt and become agile with their subject. Rising to the challenge we have seen each Form produce their own radio plays for an inter-form competition. Rehearsals for the school pantomime, Little Red Riding Hood, and 'Pride and Prejudice' are in full swing.

Breaks and lunchtimes have seen all year groups take advantage of the variety of clubs on offer as they re-launch for the first time in six months; cricket, gymnastics, music, cookery and LAMDA, to name a few. Although fixtures have been postponed until after Christmas, our Sports department have been busy broadening our Aspiring Athletes Programme and developing the skills, tactical knowledge and fitness of all our pupils. Pupils have also resumed their individual DofE journeys with both Silver and Gold expeditions taking place this half of term.

Deputy Head, Mr Saunders, has been supporting pupils in the creation of an Equality Society in school and they have organised various activities to celebrate Black History Month at GHS. We were pleased to welcome back Chris Lubbe to deliver a virtual talk to pupils on his experience working as Nelson Mandela's bodyguard to complement the discussions and activities in form groups.

I wish you and your families a healthy, peaceful and relaxing October Half Term.

Mrs Fiona Boulton

SUMMER WAS CANCELLED - WHAT DID YOU DO?

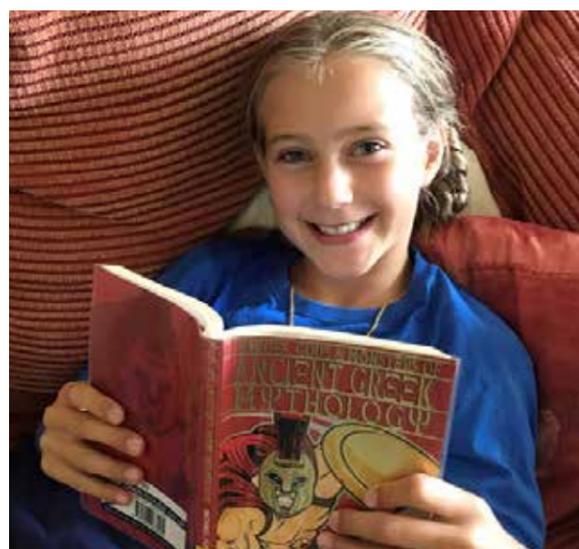
We have been impressed with the array of enrichment opportunities that our pupils pursued this summer.

Miss Channing launched a '30 Classics Challenges' competition for pupils who were keen to engage with the ancient world in their own time during lockdown. These dynamic opportunities opened a window into far-ranging topics such as myth, theatre, language, science, history, archaeology, and literature. The entries were outstanding and exceeded all expectations. We thoroughly enjoyed all the entries and, after much deliberation, decided that the winners were Charlotte Hampson, Elodie Lye, Eleni Malandrinou and Kimmie West. We would also like to highly commend Karina Oakley, Emmeline Orbell and Esme Thomas. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Alongside school set challenges and activities, pupils have also thrown themselves into external opportunities. Sasha Mehmet in Lower Sixth has, together with her two cousins, distributed £50,000 worth of hand sanitiser to food banks in the most vulnerable areas of the UK. As part of this, they created a strategy and marketing plan, organised publicity and contacted the food banks. It is estimated the project will help over 35,000 people as well as reducing the spread of Covid-19. The project has also gained the attention of Sarah Olney, MP for Richmond Park, who asked to meet Sasha earlier this half term. Not only has this project had a huge impact on more vulnerable populations, it has also been valuable work experience which could not otherwise have happened in lockdown.

Annabel Gray in Lower Sixth has achieved some amazing things in the last six months - not only performing on 'Britain's Got Talent' with the RAF Air Cadets Choir, but she has also successfully participated in several tech competitions including the Prospect 100 GlobalTech Competition. The competition was based around mitigating the impacts of Covid-19 and Annabel was in charge of the design of her team's product (an app called Musee). Her team did tremendously well and were named in the top 100 global youth talents in tech! Annabel has since applied and was accepted into The New York Academy of Sciences Junior Academy during lockdown. The academy is open to all across the globe but they only select 1000 elite students a year, dedicated to designing innovative solutions that benefit society. Nicola Yeung has also made use of her time over the summer, completing an independent research project that was published in Young Scientists Journal.

A huge number of pupils have also made use of the wonderful weather we had over summer. Isabel Bull and Lydia Clarkson completed the coast to coast challenge, Emily Cooper and family walked around the Isle of Wight and Celia Thompson walked the length of the River Wey. Jasmine Reid ran a marathon, to raise money for a charity called Campaign Zero, which aims to combat police brutality and racism from the police force in the US, and raised over £250. Finally, Lower Sixth students helped an ex-GHS family raise money in memory of their mum; they have almost reached their target of £250,000!



MEET YOUR NEW GHS SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

Head Girls

Jasmin Kelliher and Hattie Postance

Deputy Head Girls

Mallory Beechey and Ella Styche-Patel

Charity Committee

Emily Burch
Anna Kennedy

Heads of House

Helena Richardson (Amethyst)
Lucy Peer (Emerald)
Jess Hilton (Opal)
Emma Hurdle (Ruby)
Katie Hughes (Sapphire)
Katie Wright (Topaz)

Year 7 Prefects

Charlotte Apsden
Imogen Bulman
Issy Devine
Freya Ireland

School Council

Eloise Gregory
Ria Mann

Management Committee

Ellie Wee

Green Team

Camryn Gibbons



YEAR GROUP CHOIRS AND ORCHESTRAS APLENTY

It has been wonderful to welcome back pupils to school and equally thrilling to have been able to restart music ensembles. The current restrictions mean that musicians can only mix with others in their year group, so for each year we have created a String Ensemble, Wind Band (woodwind, brass and percussion) and Choir. For some year groups the interest has been so strong that several year choirs have been formed! Following government guidelines, safety is the highest priority. This means that the singers, brass and woodwind players must remain two metres from others when performing, but this all works out well and is perfectly achievable in the spacious 2016 Hall. Each of the 23 ensembles is enjoying playing in smaller numbers this term, able to explore a variety of repertoire including medleys from musicals and films, cover versions of pop songs, Latin-American Tangos, John Rutter's *A Magical Kingdom*, Bob Chilcott's *A Little Jazz Mass*, some of Mozart's *Divertimenti*, Handel's *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba*, highlights from Bizet's 'Carmen' and much more! We look forward to the time when we can put on concerts in front of a live audience but, for now, the joy of being able to perform with others is hugely gratifying. Bravo, GHS musicians!

Mr Grayson Jones



GHS DRAMA ENRICHMENT: INTER-FORM RADIO PLAYS COMPETITION

Pupils have been busy this half of term with a unique extracurricular Drama activity in these rather strange times. All year groups in the Senior School have been invited to produce and record a radio play within their form. The play must be chosen, planned, cast, recorded and submitted by a date towards the end of the Michaelmas Term. Within each form, pupils have had to choose form members to fulfil the roles of Director, cast members and a technical team – responsible for creating the necessary sound effects. Once submitted, the plays will then be listened to and judged by a panel of teachers. Staff will be listening out for fluency and creativity of the radio play as a whole, effective development of characters, helpful use of sound effects and the general effectiveness of the form's organisation of the whole project. Winners, from each year group, will be announced in the Lent Term. We wish our pupils the best of luck and look forward to hearing the final submissions!

Ms Ashley Fenton



REHEARSALS UNDERWAY FOR SENIOR PLAY ‘PRIDE AND PREJUDICE’

‘Pride and Prejudice’ (published 1813), began life in the 1790s as ‘First Impressions’. In the novel, Jane Austen is centrally concerned with personal happiness and the grounds on which it might be achieved. She writes about the fates and choices of marriageable daughters, about class and forms of identity. Pupils have been busy rehearsing Simon Reade’s adaptation of the novel behind closed doors for this year’s senior production of ‘Pride and Prejudice’ but with a twist! The production will be set in the time of Covid-19 and promises to be a performance not to miss. It is hoped the production will be staged in the Main Hall after half term to allow for socially-distanced audiences. Covid-19 protocols will be observed by all the inhabitants of Meryton, but dancing, laughter and singing will be the prescribed order of the day!

Miss Fiona Mackay and Mr George Hogg



YEAR 7 START REHEARSALS FOR SCHOOL PANTOMIME

In the Michaelmas Term of each school year, all Year 7 pupils take part in the GHS Pantomime. The play is written, directed and organised by students in the Lower Sixth and it always proves to be great fun and entertaining. Despite Covid-19, pupils have been busy auditioning and rehearsing for the 2020 performance of ‘Little Red Riding Hood’.

The GHS Pantomime is always a highlight at the end of term and we cannot wait to watch the performance, which we hope will be able to take place on Friday 11 December.

Mr Will Forse



LEADING THE WAY WITH APPLE PENCILS IN THE CLASSROOM

All pupils from Years 5-11 and students in Sixth Form received a new iPad and Apple Pencil at the start of term. This follows a year-long trial in 2019 with Sixth Formers and staff, during which Pencils were provided to us by Apple.

We are one of the first schools in the UK to give Apple Pencils to all pupils, enabling paperless working whilst maintaining a high standard of class notes. For our teachers, the Apple Pencil will allow more effective use of the iPads for teaching and marking. This technology is also able to accommodate pupils learning at home, as they can work in real-time and receive instant feedback on classwork. We are very excited to be introducing these new ways of working and are already seeing staff and pupils using the Pencils in lessons.

Mr Jack Laphorn



GHS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH THIS OCTOBER

October marked the start of Black History Month at GHS and we have been holding a number of events for pupils. The new Equality Society planned talks, produced an exhibition in the History corridor, with the help of the Marketing department, and pupils have been taking part in movie nights and book club sessions. It has been good to see so many pupils making the effort to find out about this important aspect of British history.

Mr Will Saunders



EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS RE-LAUNCH

We are pleased to see so many of our pupils taking part in the various clubs we have managed to put on this half of term. Despite the challenges our new school timetable provides, pupils have been flower arranging, baking and cooking various foods in the Food Technology rooms and making jewellery, amongst a variety of other clubs including Sport and Music.

Mr Will Saunders



SUMMER CRAFTS FOR YEARS 8 AND 9

Years 8 and 9 enjoyed two creative craft events over the summer holidays, making various crafted objects and art using natural materials. The activities included Japanese Hapa Zome art, carving mushroom keyrings, and making whistles, larch pendants, thread bracelets, twisted cord, and baskets. All the activities were unique, but the mushroom carving was particularly popular. It was a lovely reunion after lockdown, and we are glad pupils had so much fun!

Dr Cindi Lockett



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITIONS

On a wet October weekend the Year 11 pupils of GHS braved the rain and winds of Storm Alex, and completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition. It was a superb weekend, the pupils kept their spirits high, and were a delight to see at various points of the expedition! They all performed extremely well and should be proud of their achievement! Two teams of excited Year 13 students were also able to step out and complete their Gold DofE Practice Expedition earlier in this half of term. They completed a non-camping, local, and socially distanced so-called 'DofE with a difference', and embraced it with full GHS enthusiasm, completing the challenges set with relish and in record time. Along the way they were able to take in some beautiful Surrey hills, including St Martha's and Leith Hill, where they were amazed to see both the South Downs and The Shard in different directions.

Mr Rod Laughton and Dr Cindi Lockett



CHRIS LUBBE GIVES VIRTUAL ASPIRE LECTURE TO PUPILS

In their ASPIRE lessons, pupils watched an inspiring and powerful talk recorded for GHS by Chris Lubbe, a previous bodyguard to Nelson Mandela during his time as President of South Africa. Chris spoke about his experience and the lessons he learnt from Mandela himself about resilience, tolerance and reconciliation. These topics were then discussed and formed class activities which build on raising awareness of apartheid.

Mrs Amanda Whybro



PASTORAL CARE IN THE TIME OF COVID

It has been wonderful to welcome our pupils back to GHS! The school is alive again with friendship, fun and learning. Covid-19 times have put our personal and collective approaches to pastoral care very much in the spotlight and presented a number of challenges which we have all risen to. Pupils themselves are having to be more adaptable, responsible and they are having to draw on resources that we have been equipping them with at GHS since they first stepped foot here – resilience, collaboration, support, kindness and digital citizenship. As a team we have embraced keeping in touch with parents through the virtual world of Reception Evenings and Chat to the Tutor. We have launched our Aspiring Girls website with cookies to provide another platform of advice and safe information. Assemblies have continued in year groups to provide a sense of community and normality. Breaks and lunchtimes have seen all year groups running around in the garden space and enjoying themselves at a social distance, alongside a plethora of clubs that pupils can take part in. Year 7 and Lower Sixth are bonding with the GHS ‘bubble’ pantomime rehearsals now in full swing. Pupils have adapted to the new timetable; for the Sixth Form this has allowed a later start which they have taken to like a duck to water! All this is underpinned by a pastoral team of Heads of Year, Nurses, Counsellors and the Head of ASPIRE that go the extra mile to ensure that your daughters are safe, supported, happy and therefore thriving.

Mrs Karen Laurie



EXTRACURRICULAR SPORT CONTINUES TO THRIVE AT GHS

The PE department have been excited all summer to welcome the GHS pupils back to Sport this term. Whilst there have been many Covid-19 adaptations in line with governing body guidance, the excitement and enthusiasm with the return to Sport has reverberated through the Sports Centre. The extracurricular sports programme has enabled pupils across the school to continue being active before and after school, as well as Saturday mornings. Although the decision has been made to hold off fixtures until after Christmas, pupils are able to continue developing their skills, tactical knowledge and fitness in the build up to game play. Even though competitions may take some time to get into a rhythm, GHS values the importance of Sport for our pupils and we endeavour to keep clubs running, in a safe and fun environment.

Mrs Keely Harper



DRESSAGE SUCCESS FOR OLIVIA

Congratulations to Olivia Brown on her dressage success. Olivia competed earlier this term in NSEA dressage and won the Novice class. She has qualified for National finals later in November. A great achievement considering she only got her second pony a few days before!

Mrs Tara Oxley



GHS STAFF ANNOUNCED IN LACROSSE WORLD CUP TRAINING SQUAD

Whilst many of our pupils are competing at the highest levels for their sport, GHS staff are also at the top of their game. Mrs McHale (PE), Miss Foster (PE) and Miss Featherstone (Biology) have recently been selected for the England Lacrosse World Cup Training Squad, ahead of the 2021 World Cup in the USA. Along with GHS staff, there are also four GHS alumni who have made the squad (Emma Adams, Emma Brown, Lucy Grant and Freya Savage). We wish them luck in their build up to World Cup Selection.

Mrs Keely Harper



WELCOME TO MR COLLINS, OUR CRICKET SPECIALIST

We are thrilled to introduce a new member of the department, Mr Ben Collins, who is our Cricket Specialist and has already started running extracurricular cricket with Years 8-10. Mr Collins was an U18 England cricketer, with experience leading girls cricket at club level. Mr Collins can also be found teaching in the Junior School. Welcome Mr Collins!!!

Mrs Keely Harper



ASPIRING ATHLETE PROGRAMME BROADENS AT GUILDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Inclusivity is at the heart of all sporting opportunities at GHS. The pursuit of excellence sits comfortably alongside a broad and well balanced 'sport for all' programme. Guildford High School has a well-deserved reputation for outstanding attainment and two years ago we introduced the Aspiring Athlete Programme for talented pupils and those already representing their country in their chosen sport. As part of the programme, pupils receive monitoring from me, the Head of Sport Performance, and we provide tailored, individual support for each athlete with guidance in nutrition, mental strength and wellbeing, physical fitness and specific body conditioning. We also invite external speakers from the sporting industry into GHS to give talks and advice to pupils.

This term we are excited to announce some changes to the programme's structure. Alongside supporting our 'Inspiring Athletes' who represent their county and are competing at the highest level for their sport, we will also be supporting 'Aspiring Athletes' who have been nominated by their coaches (in and outside school). They might be on a talent pathway for their chosen sport or may be competing at a high level in a number of different sports. Each invitation or application is treated individually, with several factors involved, including contribution to school sport, high level performance in one or multiple sports and the hours of training that an athlete undergoes each week.

Ella Weeks, Lower Sixth, has been named as the Aspiring Athlete Ambassador. She has stepped into the role with enthusiasm and motivation to support and celebrate her peers' sporting achievements. Ella has an impressive background in GB ski racing. Over the last nine years she has raced in both the British and French ski racing circuits and has been selected to race for Team GB at three international races. In Year 10 she spent a season living in France, attending the APEX 2100 Race Academy. Ella had to plan her time carefully to balance her academics with a large amount of training and it is these skills and experiences that she is excited to help others with. Ella has already been working behind the scenes with me to make an impact on the Aspiring Athlete Programme.

Through these tough times, sports and physical activity are such an important tool to remain physically and mentally healthy. We are looking forward to supporting and motivating our GHS athletes to reach their potential in their chosen sports.

Mrs Laura McHale





Inspiring Girls

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