



GUILDFORD  
HIGH SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

# Autumn Newsletter 2021





## IN THIS ISSUE...

### 03 WELCOME

Headmistress, Mrs Fiona Boulton, reflects on the first half of the Michaelmas Term.

### 04 GHS HIGHLIGHTS

Meet your new Senior Prefect Team for this year and how we did our bit for Car Free Day.

### 06 MUSIC

The return of cross year group concerts at GHS after a year of COVID bubbles.

### 08 DRAMA

Shakefest is back with a bang for Year 8 and 9 pupils.

### 12 VISITS AND TRIPS

Pupils are finally able to head out and about on trips including theatre visits and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

### 16 AROUND SCHOOL

An array of extracurricular activities this half of term including clubs and ASPIRE sessions.

### 18 COMMUNITY

Community projects from this half term.

### 19 SPORT

Sporting clubs and activities on offer this half of term for pupils to stay active.

FRONT COVER: House Pumpkin carving

## WELCOME FROM THE HEADMISTRESS



Our focus this year is on 'repair and recovery'. It is really important that our focus is on pulling our community back together after the disruption of Covid. We need to rebuild what it means to be part of a Form, a Year Group, a House and a School.

I was at Mr Cleaver's retirement party yesterday evening in the Churchill Room of the House of Commons. Mr Cleaver was Head of Politics at GHS for 19 years and his A Level Politics students over the years had assembled to celebrate his career. In conversation, so many of them told me that Mr Cleaver had shaped their love of Politics, that he had let them debate, and debated with them, and that he had ignited a flame within them and a passion for the subject. They had gone on to study Law or Politics or International Relations at university and they had careers within government, the judiciary, the Civil Service or law working on, for example, Brexit and supply chains, the Department of Health and the vaccination programmes, immigration and human rights issues. It was an inspiring evening and reminded us of the value of outstanding teaching, connections and community and how GHS friendships live long after school and university have finished.

Within the school, we have seen Drama begin to re-emerge through the Shakefest Festival in Years 8 and 9 and particular congratulations need to go to all involved in the production of The Merchant of Venice and Macbeth. Pupils have begun to sing and play music together, culminating in a wonderful Senior School Concert featuring the Senior Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra. D of E expeditions have stepped out and sports fixtures have filled the calendar as our teams in all sports re-establish and flourish. Our Equality Society has been proactive and reached out to all members of the School. Clubs have been busy and fizzing with activity from Art and Technology to Cooking and Crochet.

It is time to take a break, to relax and enjoy a half term holiday.

With very best wishes to you all

**Mrs Fiona Boulton**



PHOTO: Alumni and staff at Mr Cleaver's retirement party

## MEET YOUR NEW GHS SENIOR PREFECT TEAM

### Head Girls

Isabel Bull and Alannah Enskat

### Deputy Head Girls

Millie Cant  
Lydia Clarkson  
Jemima Freeman

### Charity Committee

Amelia Khalek  
Della Sakaria

### Heads of House

Jess Grigg (Amethyst)  
Lucy Brown (Emerald)  
Bea Hughes (Opal)  
Keya Mahavir (Ruby)  
Bei Reid (Sapphire)  
Ayeda Majid (Topaz)

### Year 7 Prefects

Hope Campbell  
Georgia Gardner  
Grace Ramsay  
Ella Reay  
Emily Walker

### School Council

Jasmeen Johal  
Pippa Szepietowski

### Management Committee

Celia Thompson

### Green Team

Issy Davey



## CAR FREE DAY

As proud holders of the Bronze Modeshift STARS award, GHS continues to work towards decreasing car travel and raising awareness of the benefits of active and sustainable travel this year. We actively encourage members of our community to reflect on their own environmental travel habits, considering how we can make more good journeys that connect with local areas and are healthy for ourselves and the wider community.

On Friday 24 September we went car free in support of Guildford's wider community initiative that made the town car free on Sunday 26 September. We were incredibly impressed by staff and pupils' commitment to sustainable travel.



## MUSIC SCHOLARS' CONCERT

The first of this year's lunchtime concerts took place at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford, where some of the Music Scholars from Years 9 and 10 took turns to perform a solo piece. This was a hugely impressive and enjoyable concert with outstanding musicianship and virtuosity on display, all underpinned by fantastic technique. It was an ambitious and varied programme that was very well-received by the audience. Congratulations to all performers.

**Grayson Jones**



**Performers:**

Rebecca Pugsley (violin)  
Olivia Lamble (violin)  
Sophie Pugsley (saxophone)  
Roni Xie (violin)  
Isabella Song (cello)  
Miriam Grant (violin)

## CHAMBER CONCERT

This was the first mixed-year ensemble concert for 18 months and the first concert at school with a live audience since before the pandemic began. It was therefore very good to mark the occasion with fantastic music, performed by outstanding young musicians. Both the Senior Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra only reformed about a month ago, so to put on a concert of this standard speaks volumes for the players and singers.

Highlights of the evening included the choir's *joie de vivre* in Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass', the sumptuous 4-part singing in 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square' and 'Try to Remember', and the rich tenderness of the choir and soloists in Esenvald's 'O Salutaris Hostia'. In this piece the soloists, Alannah Enskat and Chiara Falls, were on sparkling form as the choir accompanied in a chorale-like way. Instrumental solos were performed by three U6 Music Scholars: Kate Ryan (cello), Emma Stent (violin) and Eve Yates (bassoon) - all three giving sensational performances and demonstrating extraordinary levels of musicianship.

It was wonderful to hear the Chamber Orchestra perform, too, with lots of new players in this post-lockdown era. Clearly, this orchestra has already found a collective voice, performing a piece by Lachner with great cohesion, attention to detail and power from all the instruments, yet allowing the sweetness of the lyrical moments to provide perfect moments of contrast.

The concert ended with the Chamber Orchestra accompanying the Senior Chamber Choir in a performance of Rutter's 'A Gaelic Blessing'. The lush string accompaniment, including harp (expertly played by Emma Paterson), perfectly matched the serenity of the choir; it is not surprising that the piece is an enduring popular choice at weddings, christenings and funerals – not only for the deeply comforting words but for the equally tranquil and sensitive setting of the music. A retiring collection raised £290.70 for Great Ormond Street Hospital.

For the musicians, half term provides a welcome break from rehearsals before next term's Michaelmas Concert, Informal Concerts and the Carol Service.

**Grayson Jones**



## SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

As the first half of Michaelmas term ended, one pivotal event stood in the way between our pupils and half term - Shakefest, a two-day event involving every pupil from Year 8 and 9 as they perform an abridged version of a Shakespearean play in either their form or House.

Considered an incredibly important event in the school calendar, the pupils become playwrights, actors, musicians, prop, and costume designers. It is a fantastic opportunity that allows our younger pupils to see Shakespeare as a text to be performed and admired, developing one's skills in performing and discovering another's passion.

With stage lighting, curtains and sound to make each performance as professional as possible, the pupils work as a team to embrace the text. Every year we are amazed by the hard work and talent that goes into producing these performances. The pupils think creatively and collaboratively to utilise the world they live in now to draw parallels that brings new meaning to the plays.

Congratulations to all who took part this year.

**8G - The Merchant of Venice**



**8H - A Winter's Tale**



**8C - A Midsummer Night's Dream**



**8C - Romeo and Juliet**



Year 9, Emerald - The Tempest



Year 9, Amethyst - The Taming of the Shrew



Year 9, Sapphire - Macbeth



Year 9, Ruby - As You Like It



Year 9, Opal - Much Ado About Nothing



Year 9, Topaz - Twelfth Night



## AMELIE

*"If you know that you are always halfway there, I can meet you there halfway"*

On Wednesday 15 September, with seventy other Drama and Music pupils from Years 10 to Upper Sixth, we were excited to experience live theatre once more at The Criterion Theatre in Piccadilly. The critically acclaimed musical 'Amelie', set in Paris, reminds us that it is community and love that keep our hearts beating and our spirits lifted whenever we feel lost.

The musical combines live music, played on stage by the ensemble, with incredible acting. Puppetry and physical theatre captivated the audience and took us into the life and daydreams of a girl who avoids taking risks with her own heart by trying to mend everyone else's. This goosebump worthy combination was an inspiration to us all, especially as this was the first time many of us had seen live theatre in a long time. Being able to experience the magic of watching a musical was truly fantastic and we are so grateful!

**Ally Ashton and Ammi Meertens**



**Lucy Forse**

They engaged in an interactive workshop where they learnt about the development of character through costume design and revelled over the most incredible and intricate prosthetics. It was an invaluable opportunity for pupils to learn about the different roles involved in the making of a film and the importance of collaboration. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils and staff alike!



## HARRY POTTER WORLD

This September the Year 10 Design and Technology (Fashion Design and Product Design) pupils visited the Warner Brothers studio, home to 'The Making of Harry Potter'! Located adjacent to the working film studios where all eight Harry Potter films were made, the Studio Tour gave pupils the unique opportunity to explore two sound-stages and a backlot filled with breath-taking sets, authentic props, original costumes, animatronic creatures and special and visual effects.

On Thursday 30 September, 58 Year 8 pupils were delighted to go and watch one of our own, Marikit Akiwumi, in the touring musical School of Rock. It was incredible to be able to witness her incredible performance as Katie, the class' bass guitarist, and look on in admiration as she played live to the audience throughout the show, singing, acting and dancing all the while. The energy in the theatre was electric, and the buzz from the GHS rows in the audience skyrocketed each time Marikit appeared on stage. It was a proud moment for us all!

**Sophie Oakes**



## SCHOOL OF ROCK

All in all, it was a wonderful evening, and we all had a great time. Thank you so much to the Drama Department for organising the trip!

**Ariana Fitzgerald**



## GROAN UPS

A few weeks into the start of the term, the Year 10 GCSE and A Level Drama students spent an evening enjoying a performance of 'Groan Ups' at the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre in Guildford. Written by the award winning Mischief Theatre (the creators of 'The Play That Goes Wrong'), 'Groan Ups' is a comedy play, which follows five school friends as they grow up, focusing on three key points in their lives: at primary school aged six, secondary school aged 14 and school reunion, aged 30.

The performances from the cast members throughout the play were terrific, and there was rarely a moment where we didn't laugh out loud. Even when there was no dialogue, the physical acting of stereotypical six year olds and the world-weariness of these characters as adults was very entertaining - the actors paid real attention to detail! A hot topic of conversation as we left the theatre, was the impressive set and costume design.

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD GOLD EXPEDITION

Despite taking place in August, we were met with extreme, wet conditions on our arrival in South Snowdonia. Having been unable to complete a practice expedition in wild country due to lockdown, our team of six had never had our first real Gold DofE experience. We were able to explore the Welsh mountains, hiking through rough terrain to reach striking viewpoints. Although thunder and lightning warnings meant we spent less time up in the mountains, we enjoyed navigating alternative routes to each campsite.

Having camped for four nights, we have gained valuable teamwork and camp craft skills, especially in packing up wet tents by day five! This expedition allowed us to discover new strengths, despite the physical challenges, and definitely proved to be a step up from the Silver award. As a team we will cherish all the memories and laughs that we've had during our time in Wales, and as Dr Lockett likes to say, Gold DofE is 'type 2 fun'!

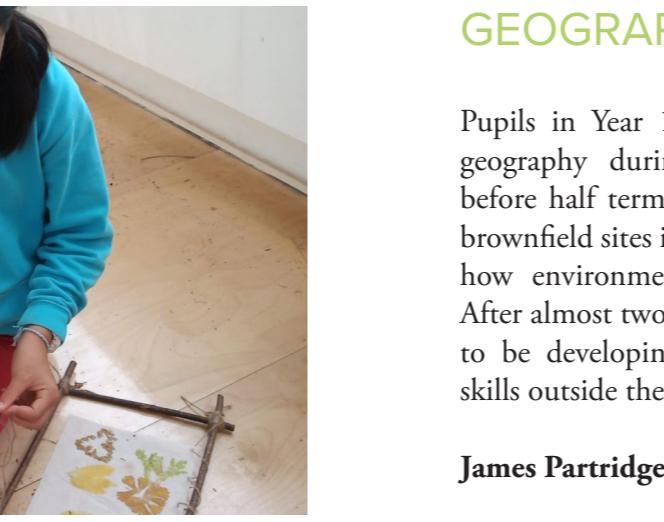
**Natalie O'Hara**



## CREATIVE CRAFTS

Year 7 had the opportunity to learn some outdoor creative crafts during the Summer holidays at GHS. We got to make a pendant from larch, construct Japanese Hapa Zone art, carve a whistle, butter knife and mushroom keyrings from hazel, and weave a basket from brambles. It was so much fun with friends and we learnt so much. We are now inspired to join Bear Grylls! Thank you to Learn Outdoors, Dr Lockett and other staff for making this event happen.

**Keira Oxley**



## GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO GUILDFORD

Pupils in Year 10 extended their knowledge of urban geography during a visit to central Guildford just before half term. They explored plans to regenerate the brownfield sites in and around North Street, investigating how environmental quality varied between locations. After almost two years without a field trip, it was exciting to be developing our geographical understanding and skills outside the classroom once again.

**James Partridge**



## WALES WOODLAND CRAFTS AND COOKING TRIP

On the 19 July, we set off on our journey to Wales! We enjoyed tasty meals, cooked freshly on the campfire, and we all loved waking up to the panoramic views of the surrounding area. After two days packed with walking, exploring and crafting, we left the campsite for the bunkhouse. At the bunkhouse, we were amazed by the huge garden, full of flowers, swings, a huge pond and even farm animals! Our favourite day was the hill climb, despite the heat. We hiked up the hill, and when we got to the top, we sat and had our packed lunch, surrounded by sheep in the woods! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and it was definitely one to remember.

**Emilia Moffat**



## SINGER SYMPOSIUM

There was a wide range of topics and themes discussed in this year's essay submissions to the Singer Independent Research Prize, and the standard was outstanding. Students chose to write essays on topics as diverse as threats to crop production, Cicero and his enemies, overuse of antipsychotic medication to treat dementia and, land reclamation projects. This year's winners were Alex, Claudia, Jemima and Marina, and there were highly commended entries from Azelie, Emily and Jessica. The winners presented their research to members of the Sixth Form and Year 11 in front of Mrs Sue Singer (Headmistress 1991-2002); a highly informative symposium!

**Andrew Hadfield**

## CLASSICS TALKS AND LECTURES

Traditionally in October, GHS hosts a Classics talk aimed at students in Years 7-9 to which other local schools are also invited. The pandemic has brought about a boom in online talks, lectures, and courses, as experts have sought new ways of reaching out to young audiences. There are more opportunities than ever before for us to interact with the ancient world.

On Tuesday 21 September, Dr. Emily Hauser from the University of Exeter gave a thought-provoking talk about the presentation of women in ancient Greek myth. During a question-and-answer session after the talk, Karina Oakley (Year 11) asked an excellent question. On Tuesday 12 October, Professor Esther Eidinow from the University of Bristol gave an equally brilliant talk entitled 'Ancient Greek Spell-Writing for Beginners'. Esther invited plenty of audience participation during her session, encouraging those dialling in to write their own spells in creative ways. Both Laura Wakelin (Year 9) and Mary Burnett (Year 7) were actively involved in making insightful suggestions and asking intriguing questions at the end.

Well done to those of you who have attended these talks; embracing these opportunities will greatly enrich your study of Classics.

**Andy James**



## ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

We are delighted to announce that two of our Lower Sixth students, Milly Kanagasabay and Alexis O'Hara, have been awarded Arkwright Scholarships.

The Scholarship is the most esteemed of its type in the UK and is designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world as a future leader in engineering.

This is the first time that GHS has had two scholarships in a year group, and we are incredibly proud of Milly and Alexis for their achievement.



## ASPIRE

ASPIRE lessons have been a blend of familiar activities, with return speakers delivering talks as well as new initiatives, including our Cyber-wisdom scheme in Year 9 and the 'Future Leader's' course in Year 11. It has been wonderful to launch both the ASPIRE and wellbeing programmes with our new Year 7 pupils who have enjoyed their booklets as well as their 'hot choc, chat and chill' time this half term. Year 7 were also set a competition to design a new ASPIRE poster; congratulations to Mahi Patel for her winning design.

The whole school received bath bombs again and had lessons to understand the importance of sleep and strategies to promote a good night. I hope half term allows all students to make time for their Mind, Body and Soul; time to sleep, to rest and to recharge ahead of what will surely be another busy half term!

**Amanda Whybro**



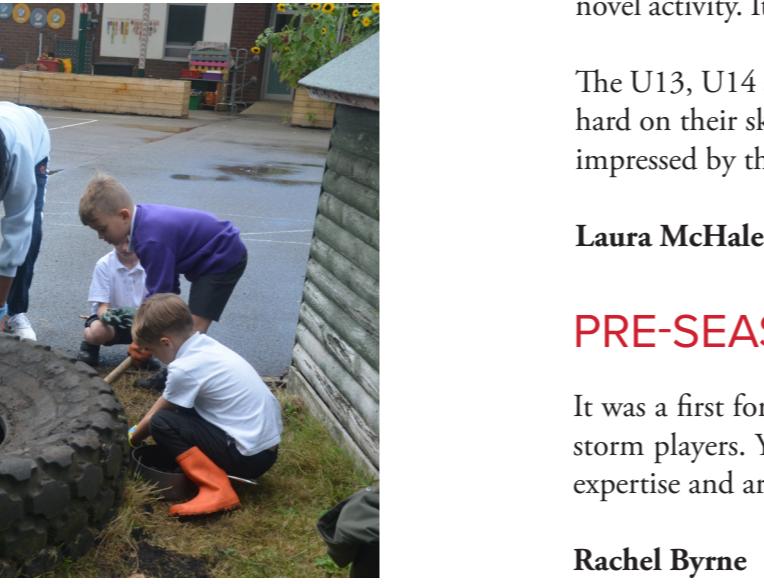
## COMMUNITY

The new academic year has seen old relationships rekindled and new projects embarked upon. It has been a real joy to be able to be out again in our local community.

In General Studies, a group of Sixth Formers are working closely with Loseley Field's Gardening Club, Flourish, to makeover their Key Stage One garden. The garden is fairly large, has buildings that need painting, tires that need digging up and moved, and is an area that, with hardwork and thought, will be much used. The project will take most of the year and one group of General Studies students will handover to the next until, hopefully in the summer, we can have a grand opening!

Our new Year 12 have returned to Holy Trinity as Maths Mentors to some of the girls in Year 5 & 6. We are delighted to be able restart this project, mathematicians on both sides enjoy it greatly. This term's focus is support and confidence building.

**Jenni Hall**



## BERKHAMSTED FESTIVAL

It was a delight to take two senior lacrosse teams to the Berkhamsted Festival on Sunday 12 September. This tournament was a superb opportunity to play a large number of matches in a friendly environment at the start of the season, with no results taken and awards only for MVPs in each team. This was a great way to kick start the season for our senior teams.

**Keely Harper**

## PRE-SEASON LACROSSE

The 2021 Lacrosse season got underway at the end of August with a two-day senior preseason camp. We were very excited to welcome players from across the Senior year groups to come and play. The aim of these days was to get back into the swing of things whilst also giving the girls a fantastic opportunity to integrate across the year groups and build team cohesion. The inclusion of an inflatable assault course on the first day provided the girls with the chance to work together on a new and novel activity. It was wonderful to see them enjoying something different with their new teammates. This was followed by stickwork drills as well as plenty of match play.

The U13, U14 and U15 lacrosse players participated in preseason camps over the following days. The girls showed great enthusiasm to be back on the pitch and worked hard on their skills and game awareness. This came together in the match play at the end of each day with some competitive scenarios and close games. We were hugely impressed by the quality of the lacrosse and so pleased to have the girls back playing lacrosse, smiling and having fun in the sun!

**Laura McHale**

## PRE-SEASON NETBALL

It was a first for GHS senior netball teams – a pre season course to whip them into shape. The girls were put through their paces by three either present or past Surrey Storm players. Yazz Parsons led the attacking masterclass, Karyn Bailey the shooting clinic and Katie Hughes the defensive workshop. The girls were inspired by their expertise and are now looking forward to a successful season ahead.

**Rachel Byrne**



## ALUMNI V 1ST AND 2ND TEAM LACROSSE

Guildford High School took huge joy in welcoming back alumni lacrosse players to the pitch this half term. The alumni team (consisting of some alumni players now on the teaching staff), gave both the 1st and 2nd teams competitive matches ahead of their Surrey Tournament. The matches were contested in great spirits, and it was amazing to see some fantastic players back on the school pitch. Well done to all who played!

**Keely Harper**



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country season has started with a vengeance. Friendly races at Prior's Field resulted in wins for both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams and individual successes too. Kings Wimbledon hosted a rigorous 7.5km race for any runners brave enough, and GHS fielded 4 runners with the team placing 2nd and individual success for Katie Pye who came 2nd. Three runners, Tilly Robertson, Robin Simons and Katie Pye, entered the mini marathon representing different South East and London boroughs. All ran superbly with Katie placing 6th in U15 and winning the London Borough Challenge.

**Tara Oxley**



## SURREY RELAYS

It was amazing to be competing in the pool again and as always the GHS swimmers performed strongly at the Surrey Schools Relays. We have a strong Junior and Intermediate age group so GHS was represented by both an A&B team. The Junior 'A' team won the Medley relay and came 2nd in the Freestyle. The 'B' team came 7th and 5th. The Intermediate Team dominated in their races, winning both relays. The 'B' team finished 5th and 6th.

The Senior Team swam well finishing 4th in the Freestyle and 8th in the Medley. The swimmers now wait to see whether their times are good enough for the National Finals held in November.



## YEAR 7 NETBALL COURSE 2021

It was wonderful to be able to welcome our new Year 7 pupils to the netball course in the week before term started. It always proves a most valuable three days of netball and, it is a fun way for the pupils to make friends and begin to get to know others in their tutor and year group. There was a tournament on the last day, which always proves particularly competitive between the GHS alumni and the Sixth Form students who had been helping with the course. It was a fantastic way to return to competitive match play; thank you to all pupils who attended for their enthusiasm and hard work!

**Amanda Whybro**



## SKIING



The ski teams have been busy competing in three major races – The Ladies Club dry races in Milton Keynes, the English Schools regional qualifying round in Aldershot, and the National Schools snow open in Hemel Hempstead. It was great to get back to competitive racing after so long, and the pupils skied really well against extremely strong competition.

In the Ladies club, we entered 17 skiers who all skied brilliantly despite numbers being depleted by COVID. Congratulations to Ella Weeks who won the U19 category. At ESSKia regionals, we entered a team in all 3 age groups. They were brilliant, skiing 2 clean runs to all qualify for the National finals in October. At the National schools ski race, we took 20 skiers to enjoy some snow racing. In U19, Saskia Kemkers came 3rd, Alicia Langley came 4th and Katie Hart 5th. Excellent results and exciting for the future.

**Tara Oxley**

## EQUESTRIAN

Riders have conquered scary indoor schools for the dressage, spooky show jumps and huge cross country fences in equestrian events this term.

Over the Summer, Olivia Brown competed in the National Schools Championships festival at Hickstead where she came joint first in the prelim silver and 2nd in the novice bronze to qualify for the Petplan national finals. She has also ridden lovely tests to win more school dressage to qualify for National Schools Finals.

Sophie and Lucy Worthington and Edie Brown competed in the Eventers challenge over a challenging course at 80cm and 90cm. Sofia Paul competed in the 60cm, 70cm and 80cm show jumping event at Parwood placing 2nd, 3rd and 1st respectively. A fantastic start to the season, and an exciting future for the GHS equestrian team.

**Laura McHale**

## AQUATHLON

Friday 24 September saw GHS host a schools aquathlon comprising of swim, transition, run competition, with 210 competitors across years 3-9. Girls could choose from 3 different distances but GHS all chose the Gold (150m swim, 1.5km run) or Platinum (200m swim, 2km run). The girls were extremely successful, podiuming in both distances across all age groups.

It was lovely to be back hosting a competitive event after so long and GHS saw 32 determined senior athletes competing.

**Tara Oxley**





*Inspiring Girls*

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