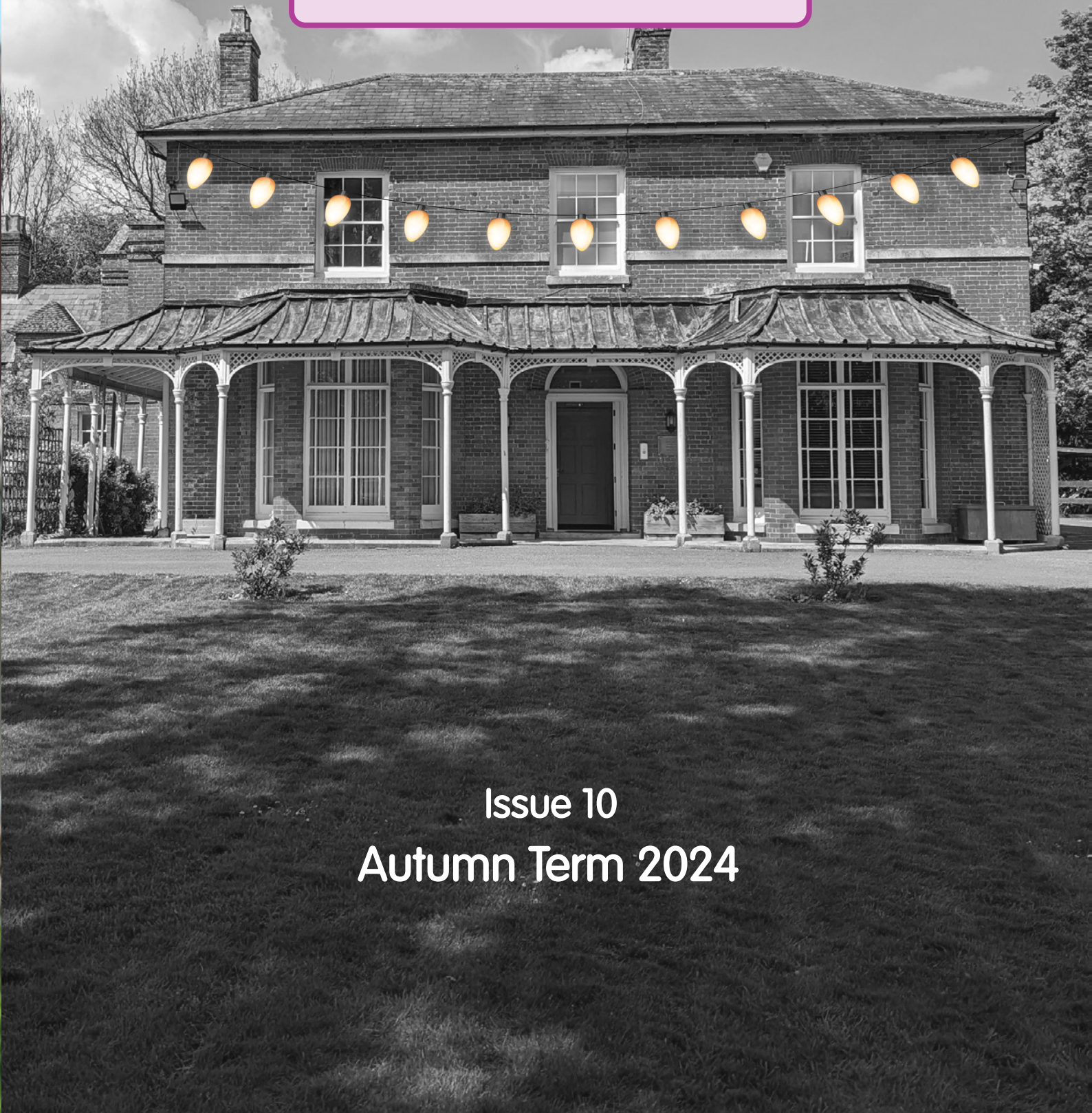


GRATELEY HOUSE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Be Kind, Be Brave, Be You



Issue 10
Autumn Term 2024

Principal's Welcome

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Welcome to the tenth edition of the GHS newsletter.

The Autumn term has seen us welcome eight new students into the school. This has been really positive as we continue to steadily grow our school population. We feel extremely privileged that they have become part of our school community and we hope to be able to support them to develop, flourish and reach their full potential during their time with us.

We have also welcomed Baxter, our four legged, furry recruit, who has settled into school life exceptionally well and is a firm favourite with many students and staff alike.

At the beginning of the Autumn Term The 9th Annual CareTech Care Awards took place. This is a national event where Cambian / CareTech staff are recognised by their peers for going above and beyond every day.

I am really proud to share with you that there were a number the Grateley House School staff who received nominations:

Alvaro Lopez – Outstanding Achievement of the Year

Jo Donald – Senior Support Worker of the Year

Core Team – Support Team of the Year

John Earle – Senior Support Worker of the Year

Josh Hand – Registered Manager of the Year

Eva Pereira – Principal of the Year

Admin Team – Support Team of the Year

There were 550 nominations received across 13 Children's Services award categories, which was fantastic.

Alvaro Lopez and I were invited along to the Custard Factory in Birmingham as we had both been delighted to discover that we were Regional Winners in our categories which was amazing!

The staff team at GHS are all dedicated to making a positive difference no matter what their role and I am very grateful for their hard work.

I hope you all enjoy reading about some of the fantastic learning opportunities and enriching experiences that have been available to the students during the Autumn term detailed within this newsletter.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 7th January 2025.

Eva Pereira

Principal



Amport News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The start of the school year was a lot more settled compared to last September and there were very few changes to Amport, both in terms of people or the environment.

Terri has returned to GHS bringing her number of years of experience and key working skills. Recently, Terri took over from the good work of Caroline and is now Francesca's key worker.

As the Autumn Term reflects it is a new school year and Courtnall is now in Year 11 working towards his GCSE exams in the Summer Term. Francesca is now Year 8 and has had a change of class Tutor. Fran is positive about the change, as her Tutor is the Art teacher which is one of her favourite subjects.

The students are still making use of the new rooms that we created last year. Courtnall occasionally uses the gaming room and also the arts/crafts room as he returned from the Summer holidays with a new interest in Warhammer models. We are grateful to Mr Machanick as he signposted us to a site where we could claim free models for the school and activities that students could join in to support them to build their model painting skills. Francesca regularly uses the arts/ crafts room and has completed numerous projects and relaxation activities in there.

This year we challenged our friends in Monxton house base again to a Halloween competition. The challenge was to grow the largest pumpkin. Preparation obviously took place earlier in the year as we grew our plants from seed and then planted them in our gardens in the hope of some monster pumpkins. Unfortunately, we soon learnt that our shady little corner was no match to Monxton's sunlit plot and we were beaten again...next year will be our year, I'm sure!

As he did last year, Courtnall regularly plays football for a local team. This has encouraged Fran to also consider joining a team. She has had some trials playing football before she commits to signing up for the remainder of the season. Courtnall also regularly runs and completes 5K runs most weeks. As well as improving his personal best times, he is also attending the gym on a weekly basis to further improve his fitness.

Courtnall attended a local Careers Fair this term to look at College provisions for next year. He also attended an Open Day at Andover College to get a feel for the campus environment and to look at the various departments and possible options for him. He recently had an interview at Andover College as well, as part of the transition work that is being carried out for September 2025.



Monxton News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

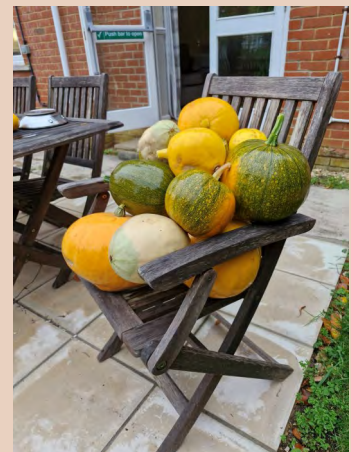
This term has been a busy one for Monxton house base. Following on from Stratford Lodge temporarily closing its doors, Lucas (student) and Sarah, John and Amber (staff) have all joined Monxton and have settled in well. We are pleased to have a busier house and have some new people in the mix to keep things interesting and exciting.

We are now a post-16 house with all our students accessing various college courses, education onsite at GHS and plenty of Work Experience added in for good measure. We have students completing an Esports course and Welding Course as well as work experience at The Watercross Line and onsite with the kitchen and maintenance team – a very wide variety on offer!

The students continue to do well and develop their independence skills. All our students are now able to go offsite around the village independently and have all enjoyed the odd trip to the pub for some light refreshment, even inviting staff members to join them even though they didn't need to! All students are also now using the train line on a regular basis and continue to develop their skills with this – using it to go and socialise with friends or to commute to/from college and home. It is very handy indeed that the train station is right on our doorstep!

Monxton took part in a challenge with Amport on who could grow the biggest pumpkins for Halloween. Monxton took this seriously, starting with a pumpkin 'nursery' in one of the spare rooms at Easter, planting them outside in July. The pumpkins grew fantastically and at the time of picking, we had a total weight of 28.5KG, which equated to a garden chair that was full of pumpkins! We used some of the pumpkins to make a cake, which had mixed reviews from everyone that tried it – It was a bit like marmite, you loved it or hated it! We also donated some pumpkins to Food Tech as well as some students and staff

taking some home so they wouldn't be wasted. We now need to think of something else to grow in our 'veg patch'.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

This year we were really keen to try a new experience of taking one of our very popular Bake Sales out into the community. It was agreed that hosting a coffee morning and bake sale in aid of Macmillan was the perfect opportunity for the school to do this.

On Friday 27th September students and staff went along to Grateley village hall and set out the most amazing spread of scrumptious looking cakes, biscuits and savoury twists.

Our students had helped to make some of the items in their Food Technology lessons and there were other culinary delights brought in by students and staff, made by talented members of their families.

The Macmillan Bake Sale and Coffee Morning ran from 09:30 – 1pm. We had Josh, Alex and Henry supporting the bake sale from GHS. Josh was in charge of making and serving the tea and coffee, Alex was helping to serve the customers cake and savoury snacks and Henry worked hard doing the washing up. They all did exceptionally well and we were very proud of their efforts.

In total we managed to raise an impressive **£152.55** for Macmillan Cancer Research.

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported this well deserving and worthwhile cause.



Jeans for Genes Day

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The school year's fundraising began with our annual Jeans for Genes event in September.

On Wednesday 18th September assembly set the scene, explaining science facts and the importance of how just a tiny mutation in an individual's genetic make-up can cause a genetic disorder.

Details of the effects of cystic fibrosis were then presented by Elliott (Year 10), and Oscar (Year 7) read details of how the money raised is used to help medical research as well as supporting children and their families. Both these participating students were brilliant in their confident delivery. The assembly concluded by informing all students how they could support and help to raise funds.

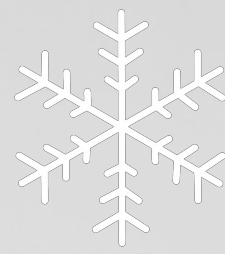
We had the popular non-uniform day on Friday 20th September together with the first of the Grateley bake sales, which sold tasty treats prepared by students in Food Technology lessons, (with thanks to Mrs Wilson and team), supplemented by offerings from staff and families. Orderly queues were formed at break time as students spent their money on the good range of offerings, with prices to suit every pocket.

This year in addition to the non-uniform day and bake sale, we used the Just Giving site for those who wished to contribute online and our final total exceeded all previous years, reaching **£220** – absolutely amazing for such a small school (obviously, a school with a big appetite for sweet treats!)

So, a big THANK YOU to all who contributed.



Baxter



Be Kind Be Brave Be You

We are really pleased to be able to formally introduce Baxter, a working Cocker Spaniel, who joined GHS on Tuesday 19th November when he was 11 weeks old.

Baxter has settled into school life really well and has thoroughly enjoyed spending time with the students and staff who love to make a fuss of him, especially at break and lunchtimes when he is often out and about within the school grounds. Being on the parkland hunting for sticks is one of his favourite activities!

He enjoys joining 10MW for their morning walk during Tutor time and he also joins some Pastoral Support sessions.

Baxter has been enrolled to work towards becoming a PAWS Therapy Dog. There will also be three staff training to be PAWS Therapy Dog Practitioners which will be really positive for the school.



Post 16 News

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

The Autumn Term often brings change for all of the students in post-16. There is always an anxious feel in the Autumn Term as many are navigating new courses and qualifications in a different environment with a view to this being what will set them up for life, employment and general independence. For others, it is about resetting their goals for the next phase (s) of their education including the possibility of re-sits or completing the second year of their GCSE studies. We have a blended post-16 group this year and this has led to a varied approach to education across the board.

We have had a successful college cohort this term with 3 students working towards the qualifications they set out to achieve at the start of the academic year. These will be qualifications in disciplines such as Level 3 Art & Design, A-Level Fine Art, A-Level Animation, Psychology and a Digital T-Level in ICT. Students have worked exceptionally hard when at college and have been able to navigate a different and often new environment this year and to that end should be congratulated. On the Grateley school site this year, Post-16 students working towards qualifications in English, Maths, Geography, History, Science and Occupational Studies.

Additionally, the students are not only working towards formal qualifications but are also gaining the skills that will serve them well in the workplace or at a further education establishment in the future. This has been embodied with multiple work experience placements being undertaken with the school maintenance, kitchen and PE teams. Students have assisted within these sessions as part of their working week and are learning invaluable work skills in the process. We also have a student who is gaining work experience externally at the Watercress Line in the Engineering and Maintenance department. Ha has become one of the team there and was recently given a pass to travel on the Watercress Line whenever he wants, such is the impact that he has made in a relatively short time. We are very proud of this achievement.

We wish all the post-16 learners a restful winter break and hope that they can all return with motivation and strength to carry on in their learning journey next term.



Subject News - Maths

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Since September, we have welcomed in a new cohort of Year 7s. These guys have just begun to explore the world of algebra, and dare we say, they are enjoying it.

The Year 8s have been focusing on multiplicative change, including ratios and scale maps.

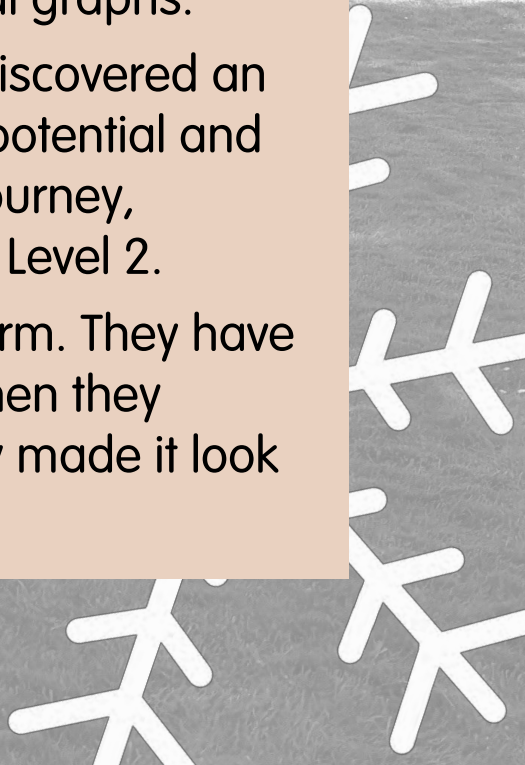
Year 9 have investigated conversions. This includes weight, capacity and length. Providing them with the opportunity to recap and strengthen their knowledge of multiplication and ratios.

Some of our Year 10s have done a deep dive into the world of Pythagoras and Trigonometry. They've been working so hard with all tasks, including changing the subject when working with the Sine, Cosine and Tangent Ratio.

Our Year 11s are approaching the end of their graphs unit. This has included topics that include speed/time graphs, piece-wise graphs and reciprocal graphs.

Some students from KS4 and KS5 have discovered an alternate pathway to unlocking their full potential and have begun their NCFE Functional Skills journey, allowing them to work towards Level 1 or Level 2.

Everyone has worked so hard this half-term. They have challenged themselves, even at times when they thought they couldn't do it. But they really made it look as easy as π .



Bath Photography Trip

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On the 16th October 2024, the Year 11 and Year 12 Creative iMedia students went on a photography trip to Bath. The trip involved students perfecting their photography skills in preparation for their final coursework. The coursework involves students working for a fictional client where they have to plan, create and reflect. For the final project students have to use 8 photos for an exhibition and create a 20 to 30 second promotional video.

As their teacher, I was very proud of every single student on the trip; all students were

fantastic ambassadors for Grateley House School. Their behaviour

was exemplary throughout the day despite being greeted in Bath with heavy rain. All students demonstrated fantastic team work and took pride in their photography.



Watercress Line - Work Experience

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Lucas, a sixth form student at Grateley House, has been successful in securing himself work experience at The Watercress Line - Heritage Steam Railway.

Prior to this work experience placement, this young man had spent two years at college studying Vehicle Mechanics and has always had an interest in trains.

Lucas attended their annual 'Steam Gala Day' in October and spent the day assisting customers and organising for them to experience rides on the engines.

He has now started working one day a week in the workshops assisting with the day to day repairs on the many engines they have onsite. This has also included helping with larger projects including replacing the boiler on one of the engines.

Lucas was also given the opportunity to drive one of the trains which he thoroughly enjoyed. Having the opportunity to undertake this enriching work experience at The Watercress Line has sparked a new interest in welding for Lucas and he has now started studying this at college and he has already impressed his Tutors who are keen for him to progress onto the next level of the welding course.



Student Work - Food Tech

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

Students have been working towards the SMSC aspect of the Food curriculum, which this term has included planning, making and selling food to raise money for different charities, including J4G and Macmillan Cancer Research.

In the lead up to Christmas students made a variety of baked goods including gingerbread houses and decorated biscuits. This involved some collaboration and group work.



Student Work - DT

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

In the last few weeks, we have been concentrating on Christmas decorations and gifts. The reindeer have been very popular this year with students from all year groups making them to order for family and friends. Popular too has been the Christmas figures and table centrepieces in painted wood. Santa is of course always a favourite – where would we be without him? Along with these cool little projects, students have been designing and making their own Christmas ideas, mostly in wood but also in expanded foam and paint in the colours of Christmas. An excellent term's work form all students.



Barefoot Barn Visit

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On Friday 4th October we welcomed Barefoot Barn back to school and they joined us for our Personal Development session.

Roy and Emma, the owners of Barefoot Barn brought along a selection of pygmy goats and alpacas that the students were able to walk around the parkland or spend time petting.

There were a large number of students (and staff) who were keen to walk the alpacas and really enjoyed the experience of doing so.



Christmas Jumper Day

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On 12th December Grateley House School enjoyed that fantastic festive feeling by celebrating Christmas Jumper Day. This was not just to spread Christmas cheer but also with the focus of 'Making the world better with a sweater'.

Our plans for the day were launched in a whole school assembly on the 4th of December, where the students were informed we would be raising money for Save the Children. Mr Hand shared some background information on the good work the charity has been undertaking throughout the year. This did of course include watching a well-received video on Shaun the Sheep, the Christmas Jumper Day mascot!

We combined initiatives this year, working with our amazing Student Council on the schools 'One Planet Living Sustainably Plan' incorporating this into Christmas Jumper Day. Everyone was encouraged to reuse, borrow, shop in charity shops or online using websites such as Vinted and Ebay or even to get creative and turn an ugly old jumper into something festive and magical for the occasion!

Staff and students were asked to donate old Christmas Jumpers they no longer wanted and in doing so provided an opportunity for everyone to get involved. This was fully embraced with a fine array of Christmas jumpers being donated. All day, a stall was set up outside the main building for people to pick a jumper of their choice! It was really great to see the students taking such pleasure in picking a Christmas Jumper and donning it with festive pride!

We are pleased that we managed to raise £60.24 for Save the Children and in the process had a lot of laughs and worked in an eco-friendly way. One of our Sixth Form students, Alex, even turned themselves a unique walking and talking 'Live Christmas Raffle', giving everyone the opportunity to win a prize!

It would be fair to share that there was absolutely no sign of any Grinch on this day!



Christmas Jumper donations

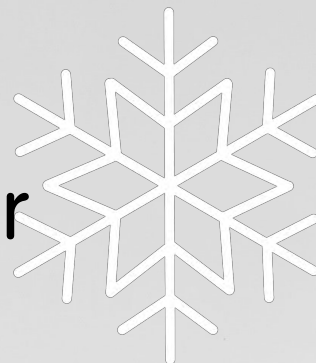


Alex and his 'Live Human Raffle' jumper



Christmas Dinner

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



On Wednesday 18th December we sat down for our whole school Christmas dinner and what a fantastically scrumptious feast had been planned, prepped and cooked to perfection by Nick, Head Cook and Claire, Assistant Cook.

It would be fair to say the Christmas dinner was enjoyed by all!

A HUGE thank you to Nick and Claire from some VERY satisfied customers!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

- Roast Turkey
- Pigs in Blankets
- Stuffing Balls
- Yorkshire Puddings
- Cranberry Sauce
- Roast Potatoes
- Baton Carrots
- Brussel Sprouts
- Garden Peas
- Roast Gravy

VEGETARIAN OPTION

- Roasted Stuffed Portobello Mushroom

Assorted Gateau
Mince Pies
After Eight Mints



Trussell Trust Food Bank

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



This term we have continued to actively support our local community by asking students and staff to bring in an item of food or toiletries to donate to Andover Food Bank, run by the Trussell Trust.

The generosity of students, their families and the staff was amazing.

On the 18th of December, two of our Student Council representatives, Elliott and Alfie accompanied staff to deliver the donations in person to the Andover Food Bank. We were met by staff and volunteers who were working tirelessly during what is the food banks busiest time of the year.

The team at the Food Bank were extremely grateful for our donation. They were also kind enough to provide us with a full tour of the operation explaining how they run this well needed support mechanism for the local community. We were also able to ask questions and better build an understanding on how our kind donations will directly impact the lives of those less fortunate within our local community.



Student Work - Science

Be Kind Be Brave Be You



Bethle-'chem'
made using
lab equipment
and solutions
by Post 16
students

'Chemis'-tree
made by one of
the Year 8
students –
Dimitrios, using
lab equipment,
solutions and
different metals
for the star



A trip to St Mary's Stadium – Carabao Cup Quarter Final

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

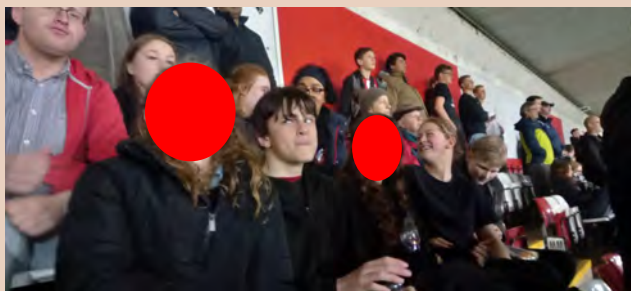
On Wednesday 18th December a group of excited students and staff made their way to St Mary's Stadium in Southampton to watch Saints v's Liverpool in the Carabao Cup Quarter Final - What better way to end the term for any football lover!

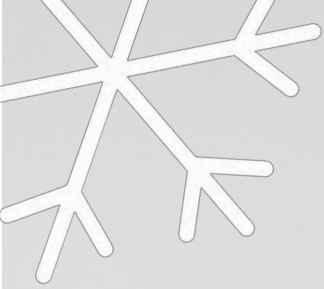
All of those who signed up for this activity were really keen to be part of it and they certainly did not let the inclement weather dampen their spirits. Everyone remained positive and upbeat throughout.

There were over 26,000 spectators who attended the match and we were able to enjoy the thrilling atmosphere first hand, especially as we were sat in close proximity to the Liverpool fans.

It would be fair to say that the first half of the match could be described as disappointing for any Saints fan; however, during the second half Saints levelled the school to 1 – 1 and the excitement evidently started to build around the whole stadium due to there being the potential for a penalty shoot-out at the end of the match. Sadly, this was not to be, as Liverpool scored again ending up the lucky victors with a final score of 1-2.

This was a truly memorable experience for all those who went, they were excellent role models for the school and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.





Friday 20th December 2024

Be Kind Be Brave Be You

On the final day of term staff, students and family gathered at the local church for our annual GHS Christmas Carol Service. The congregation joined the choir in singing Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Away in a Manger, O Come All Ye Faithful and We Wish you a Merry Christmas.

A huge thank you to the school choir, the readers and our organist, Tom Coldwell.

After the service all were welcomed back at GHS to browse the Christmas Fayre and to have a hot chocolate and a mince pie.

