



HT5 Summer 2021

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear Parents and Carers,

We end this half term recognising how hard our students have worked and how motivated they have been during what has felt like a more 'normal' half term due to the decrease in disruptions to face to face learning.

There is a real buzz around the academy over the return to specialist classrooms after the break. Our students have listened intently during presentations this week on the updates to processes that will maximise their safety. Our teachers are energised to teach the practical elements of their curriculum and be back in their typical learning environments. It is definitely a half term that we are all looking forward to.

I would like to recognise the dedication and positive engagement our Year 11 and Year 13 students have demonstrated throughout the teacher assessed grade process – they truly are phenomenal young people who we are immensely proud of. Our Year 11 students, whether they are staying on in our 6th Form or not, begin their transition package to Post-16 after the half term break. We look forward to welcoming them back and supporting them through this important stage of their education.

Within this bulletin, you will read of the many positives and success stories that we are proud of as well as many other things that we are all looking forward to. This half term break is very much a short pause for George Spencer Academy before we return to our ambitious drive towards excellence.

During this short pause we wish you and your families a well-deserved, relaxing and peaceful break, hopefully with some sunshine.

Kind regards.

The GSA Times: Ms Stevens

The second issue of our student newspaper, The GSA Times, is now available to download from the website. The news team hope you will enjoy reading it and they would love to hear from you if you have any feedback on this issue or ideas for future features. The next issue will be published towards the end of the summer term.

<http://www.george-spencer.com/news/the-gsa-times/>



Year 10 Pre-Public Examination (PPE) preparation: Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

Year 10 students will be sitting their PPEs between 14th June and 1st July and subject teachers have started preparing them with lists of topics that will be covered and some pre-released materials to aid revision and help strive to reach their potential. We know many parents spoke with teachers at the Year 10 progress evening about ways to support at home. We encourage all our Year 10 students to make a revision timetable that will balance the need to prepare and revise, with the need to relax and enjoy the half term break. Students will find helpful tips and guidance on their Google Classrooms and there are links to online resources in the Student Hub to support revision. As always, students can contact Mr O'Toole (Director of Learning) and their Learning Manager if they are worried or anxious at any point. Our Inclusion and Well-Being teams are also available to offer support and advice. We have been incredibly proud of the way they have responded to the upcoming exams so far and the support they are showing each other.

Year 12 Pre-Public Examination (PPE) preparation: Miss Gordon, Vice Principal

The Year 12s are in the midst of revising for their PPEs which will take place between the 7th and 11th June. Excitement was demonstrated when exam timetables were issued earlier this week as they realised this year they could demonstrate their love of learning in person rather than centre assessed grades achieved in Year 11. We are aware this excitement may not be the case for all of our learners who may be struggling with the enormity of taking an examination in the gym or hall. Sixth Form teachers, Learning Managers and support staff are available to speak to any students who may be anxious during this time. Please reassure them we will help in any way we can and ensure your child continues to talk to us.

Requests from the Library: Ms Stevens

If you have a minute to spare, please nominate the school for a chance to win £5,000 for our library. You could also win £100 of National Book Tokens just for you - <https://nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

This half-term, please have a look at home for any school library books which may have been forgotten about. There are boxes in each year group office and in main school reception where any 'found' books can be returned after the holidays, no questions asked.



World Class Update: Miss Gordon, Vice Principal

Our students have shown over the past year they continue to epitomise the World Class Characteristics as they strive to be the best they can be and remain agile in response to changing needs and circumstances. As our Year 13s embark on pastures new for Post-18 education or training they have been invited to join the World Class Alumni Association. The WCSQM alumni association is run by, and for, students, and is open and free to join for all World Class students. If they would like to join, please ask them to click on this link and fill in the form at the end. <https://www.worldclass-schools.org/alumni-association/>

To demonstrate they are also dedicated to lifelong learning there is also a competition for students to enter whereby they create and submit a piece reacting to the question, ***'How can you make a change as a World Class student?'***

The submission can take ANY form. It could be: storytelling / stand-up / puppetry / self-penned monologue / mask work / soundscape / dance or movement piece / essay / article / leaflet / pamphlet / podcast / interview. Let your creative juices flow!

How to enter

1. Follow the WCSQM Alumni Association on social media (see details below) and send a photo to prove you have done this either via social media or by email with your submission
2. Email your submission to wcsqmalumni@gmail.com
3. Attend a Zoom night (date tbc) where the winner will be revealed

Futures – Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG): Mr Burrows, Director of Futures

During Mental Health Awareness Week each year group focused on the relationship to a happier 'working life', focusing on the skills we each have and the things that we value the most. Students in examination years have continued to finalise transition plans to successfully progress to the next stage in learning. Year 10 have been completing work around 'skills' and a successful CV whilst Year 9 have completed work linked to dealing with set-backs and accessing support to reach goals/targets. Year 8 have been looking at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and the range of opportunities that this field has to offer. Year 7 are beginning to look at opportunities beyond GCSE to raise awareness of future opportunities. Next half term our Year 11-13 students will have the opportunity to learn how to build a successful LinkedIn profile through the World Class Programme.

If you and/or your business/company would like to be more involved to support student aspirations then please do get in touch (pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk).



PE Kit September 2021 onwards: Mr Powell

Please see below an outline of the expectations for PE kit from September 2021, this will be updated on the website at the end of this academic year.

Outdoor Kit:

GSA rugby shirt, GSA ¼ zip top or red sweatshirt
 GSA black shorts or plain black unbranded shorts
 GSA tracksuit bottoms or plain black unbranded tracksuit bottoms
 GSA sports leggings or plain black unbranded sports leggings
 Plain black football socks
 White sports socks
 Boots (for Rugby & Football)
 Shin pads (for Football & Hockey)
 Gum shield

Indoor Kit:

GSA White t-shirt or plain white unbranded t-shirt.
 GSA black shorts or plain black unbranded shorts
 GSA tracksuit bottoms or plain black unbranded tracksuit bottoms
 GSA sports leggings or plain black unbranded sports leggings
 Plain black football socks or white sports socks
 Trainers

Not accepted:

Hooded tops, non-GSA ¼ zip top
 Other t-shirts
 Jogging bottoms
 Shorts that are not black
 Branded items
 Items with visible logo
 PE kit underneath school uniform

The school recognises that for some students leggings have removed barriers to participation and allowed them to take an active part in PE lessons, which is something we encourage. In recognition of this and despite them not currently being part of our PE kit, they will be added as an optional item from September 2021. The varying differences in quality and material of leggings has led to some being noticeably see through during physical activity. Therefore, we request if your child does wish to wear leggings for PE they are 'sports leggings' in plain black, made of polyester/lycra material, not cotton. There are examples of the suggested type available via the uniform provider. You may wish to purchase items that meet these requirements from other providers, which is completely understandable. The option of plain black shorts or plain black tracksuit bottoms still remains for all students.

In addition, you will see available via the uniform provider the option of a ¼ zip top as an alternative to the rugby shirt or red jumper. You are not expected to buy this item, if your child has an existing rugby shirt or red sweatshirt, these continue to be fine to wear. The reason for providing as much choice as possible is to maximise participation and allow all students to feel comfortable whilst taking part.

If you have any questions or require support purchasing PE kit please contact Mr Powell (mpowell@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk).



Y7: Mr Smith

This half term students in Year 7 have been awarded almost 26,000 positive PARS points for demonstrating excellent classwork, getting the basics right, active listening, teamwork and striving to be the best we can be. They 7 have also been awarded over 530 points in the first Excellence Week of the half term, during which students could earn double points for demonstrating one of our Core Values; "We are Supportive", and in this final week have another opportunity for double points for "Being polite, fair and honest." Students in Year 7 were also given an opportunity to demonstrate our Ethos of Excellence in their first Principal's Challenge – Mrs Corbett set Year 7 the challenge to create a piece of work that showcased our Core Values and Ethos of Excellence and there were some incredible entries including poems, individual and collaborative posters, a rap song, a Core Values jigsaw and an exceptional example of graphic design. Students have been making the most of the extra opportunities on offer and there has been excellent engagement with the after-school extra-curricular sports activities of cricket, tennis and rounders. The Year 7 Form Reps have been involved in filming some promotional materials for the school, and have taken the lead on student voice this half term, promoting the whole-school Mental Health & Well-Being Provision survey across the year group. The Year 7 team would like to wish you all a restful holiday, and we look forward to welcoming students in Year 7 back after the half term break.

Y8: Mr Richardson

As we approach the end of another half term, I just wanted to, once again, reiterate the fantastic efforts demonstrated by the Year 8 cohort. Their attitude and resolve continue to flourish and my pride as their Director of Learning continues to rise.

During this half term we have begun to deliver the first of our Personal Development sessions. The students have listened intently and contributed to some thought-provoking discussions on topics such as Positive Relationships and the portrayal of relationships in the media. The Student Leadership representatives have been given their first task, overseeing a student voice on the school's provision for Mental Health and Well-Being. We also have had our Excellence Weeks this half term where we celebrated our core values such as being supportive and being polite, fair and honest. In the first of these, the Year 8 topped the school with 626 positive PARs points. Absolutely amazing. "It's coming home", saw the return of football to break and lunchtimes. A welcome release, you would agree.

The Government's easing of restrictions has made it possible for the school to offer residential trips again with some of our Year 8 gaining places on the ski trip next year.

As always, please take this time to be with your families and friends and we are looking forward to seeing the students return to subject specific classrooms for the final time as Year 8 students.



Y9: Miss Johnson

Well done to all Year 9 students on a positive, calm and focused end to half term five. This month, there have been two opportunities for students to earn double PARS points by displaying our core values in lessons and around the school site. In total an additional 600 points have been awarded to the Year 9 students and they will have the opportunity to cash these in after the half term break.

Also, this half term the Year 9 Form Representatives have launched their 'Summer Project' and have been busy gathering student views on the current mental health and well-being provision at GSA; I am looking forward to discussing student responses with the Form Reps and seeing the team of students lead the next stage of the project with their tutor groups. As part of our pastoral curriculum, students have completed form time learning sessions on: healthy relationships; gender stereotypes; portrayal of relationships in the media; future opportunities; overcoming challenges and career aspirations. The Year 9 Pastoral Team continue to be impressed by students enthusiastic, thoughtful and mature contributions during these sessions. When we return, the Year 9 students will continue to engage in a variety of sessions during form time learning. This includes the continuation of our 'Relationships' module in Personal Development and exploring career pathways, future aspirations and preparing for GCSE study in 'Futures' sessions.

Well done Year 9 and enjoy the half term break.

Y10: Mr O'Toole

It has been another very busy half term for Year 10 and it has been fantastic to see the year group return after the Easter break with such a positive attitude. Over the past few weeks we have had a couple of Excellence Weeks, which has given our students the opportunity to collect double PARS points. This week double PARS were awarded for behaviour that links to our school's core value of being 'polite fair and honest'. We have also now begun to prepare for Year 10 PPE's which will begin next half term. Our Year 10 Student Leaders also launched their Summer Project canvassing student voice on our Mental Health provision and our Year 10 scholars enjoyed their graduation celebration.

The end of this half term is one also tinged with some sadness as we say goodbye to Mr Kerry as he moves on to take on a promotion as a Head of Year. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mr Kerry well for the future and saying a huge thank you to him for all his efforts with our year group.

Have a lovely break Year 10 and I look forward to seeing you again soon.



Y11: Ms Wilkinson

Today marks the final day of daily attendance for Year 11 students and once again, I would like to reiterate how incredibly proud I am of all of the students in the 2021 cohort for reaching this point so successfully with the resilience and determination that has been apparent all year. Students have been supported by an amazing team of Learning Managers and we look forward to celebrating the students' successes together at the Celebration Assembly and Prom next half term. Miss O'Donnell, the Learning Managers and I continue to be impressed by the kindness and gratitude of the students and we have thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow into confident and independent young adults, always guided by our core values and now ready for the next stages of their lives. The way the year group have come together and supported each other - in very challenging times - is something I will always remember and I have thoroughly enjoyed being their Director of Learning this year. I would like to extend my thanks to you as parents and carers, for the support you always offer and also to thank you for giving us your children for the last five years to be part of the George Spencer community and to leave their legacy. We will see students for their final day at the Celebration Assembly on Monday 28th June. My final wish for the students is to take positive memories with them and to make the most of all opportunities presented to them in the next stages of their lives.

Y12: Mr Spears

This half term has been a productive one in Year 12, the students have continued to support one another in their academic endeavours. Students have been working towards their **VESPA** elements in full force since Easter. Students have actively been researching and looking at what they want to do in the future when they leave the gates of George Spencer next year. They have made progress towards understanding their **Vision** of what the future may hold. In week 3 of the next half term, they will have further opportunity to develop this and get them to explore in more depth the opportunities open to them after George Spencer. In the uniqueness of this year group, for those who came from George Spencer, the last time that they sat in a room set up for examinations was just before the first lockdown for their year 11 PPEs for some of our students in Year 12, longer than that. This brings its challenge, establishing those **Systems** for revision, has been key for the year group. Exploring their relationship with revision to ensure that their **Practice** in their subject is at the best possible standard. The week after the May half-term break will see the year group sit their Year 12 PPE's in their subject. If their **Effort** and **Attitude** is anything to go by, the PPE's coming up after the half term will be of great value to them and their learning journey before they leave the gates of George Spencer for the final time as a student next year. We wish all our Year 12 students good luck with these. It will be a great learning experience and will enable them to iron out any creases and start Year 13 in September on a solid footing, ready to make sure their A-Game is switched on for their Year 13 studies. Well done Year 12 and good luck.



Y13: Mrs Fawcett, Head of Sixth Form

Reflecting back on this half term I am proud of every student in Year 13 and how they have approached the 'in-class assessments' which has been the main focus of this half term. Their determination, attitude and willingness to act on the advice of their teachers and the support that they have shown one another during this time has been amazing. Even though our students will not be with us next half term we will continue to offer support and guidance through our Pastoral team.

I am so pleased that this year we are able to finish in style; starting with the Year 13 Celebration Assembly a new tradition, this will be followed by the ever-popular Year 13 Celebration Prom in July.

I feel truly humbled to have been part of their journey and wish everyone the best for the future.

OUR CORE VALUES



We strive to be the best we can be.

We show resilience.

We are supportive.

We respect individuality.

We are polite, fair and honest.

We have a love of learning.

ETHOS OF EXCELLENCE