



HT6 Summer 2021

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we conclude this academic year my final message is one of congratulation and well done to our excellent students who have continuously demonstrated characteristics for what it means to be part of a World Class School.

Our students have seen barriers placed in front of them this year by the disruptions to their learning from the global pandemic and the additional strains this has put on their developing minds. We are immensely proud of all our students for their confidence, determination and positive approach to breaking down these barriers and continuing to reach their potential at George Spencer Academy.

Our staff have worked extremely hard this year to ensure the school environment remains a safe place where all our students can flourish, with high quality experiences and a culture of life-long support from their friends and peers. Within this, we have had a focus on developing our site. We talk to the students about George Spencer Academy being their second home. With this in mind we want their second home to be a place where they are proud of their surroundings as this sets the tone for all other forms of excellence. Later in this bulletin you will see a flavour of the developments which have taken place this year.

On behalf of our staff we wish you and your families an enjoyable, relaxing and peaceful summer.

Kind regards.

Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) :

Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

For 3 weeks in June, year 10 had their first experience of PPEs at George Spencer Academy and they were exceptional in all aspects. The exams team and invigilators were particularly impressed with the politeness and respect the students displayed and how ready and prepared they were for each exam. Many students have been boosted by the grades they have received and we are incredibly proud of their achievements, particularly in such a difficult year. They are now taking on board the advice and feedback from their teachers to further develop and progress and we will continue to support them as they approach the start of Year 11 and the final part of their key stage 4 journey.



On-site testing centre:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

Last week we sent letters out to parents with information regarding the phased return for students and our on-site testing programme to support the safe return of students in September. This information can also be found on the school website. We have attached a document to this bulletin that provides more information about the testing centre.

Members of staff will be on hand to direct students when they come in for their first test.

If you have any questions, please contact us at school.

Well-Being: Mr Steane, Provision Co-ordinator

It has been a busy half-term, and I am extremely proud of all the students that have received support from the Well-Being Team.

So often we find that the students we are aiming to inspire are the ones that end up inspiring us; and I can certainly say that is the case with the students that work with us. It has been tremendous to observe the progress of those students and that they are able to build fantastic relationships with the members of the team.

There have been some real highlights this year, in particular this half term supporting Mental Health Awareness week and Pride awareness. The team are working hard to plan for more awareness days over the coming months.

There is a lot to look forward to as we move into the next academic year. I am excited to move to our new base on Upper Site, with Well-Being Hubs being located around school that students can use whilst being supported by the Well-Being Team. The Well-Being Team will continue to support students with anxiety, mental health and barriers linked to behaviours whilst also offering support to young carers and students that have suffered bereavement.

I hope that you and your families have a wonderful summer, good luck to those students moving on from Year 11 and 6th Form and I look forward to seeing everyone in September. Have a well-deserved break, take care of yourselves and your well-being.



Site Development 2020 – 21:



Site Development



New Classrooms



Lower site.

Originally a corridor and pastoral offices.





Site Development 2020 – 21:



New Classrooms



Upper site.
Originally offices.



Facilities for the new Well-Being Team



2 x 'Well-Being Hubs'
(Lower and upper site)



Well - being
outdoor session
base



Counselling room



Site Development 2020 – 21:



KS3 Eating Area



Reception





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

This year has seen the expansion of Futures work into regular Form Time Learning inputs covering a range of themes. These are organised to support students to explore a wide range of work related topics and potential pathways into the workplace. It has been a pleasure to witness student engagement with their Learning Managers as they discuss and debate in order to make more informed decisions. Hopefully these discussions will continue at home with family and friends as we are encouraging all students to use and build networks, therefore learning more about the working world. Here are some of the topics that have been covered:

Yr7 – Technology to support learning, Mental Health Awareness, beyond GCSEs

Yr8 – Skills for work/learning, STEM, Post-16 pathways

Yr9 – Supporting options choices, Making your best version, Post 16 & 18 pathways

Yr10 – Work life balance, CVs and selling yourself, Post 16/18 pathways

The George Spencer LinkedIn page is growing nicely and we now have nearly 600 alumni linked to the school. We hope that future events will allow many of these people the chance to contribute by supporting our students to be 'work ready'. At the same time we are keen to engage parents and local businesses, so if this is something that you would like to be involved with then please do get in touch (pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk).

Want to support your son/daughter over the summer break? Get them to log into their UNIFROG account and give you a tour through some of the resources to support career exploration. Visit the National Careers Service website (<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>) to learn more about a range of opportunities and routes. Alternatively a discussion around workplace opportunities is a great way to learn about your workplace and your role/responsibilities.

As we approach the end of the year our focus shifts to supporting our Year 13 and Year 11 students in the coming weeks when they receive their results. The staff will be on hand to assist on results days with transition plans; supporting all students into the most appropriate destination to fulfil their future learning and development.



Student Leaders - Head Girl/Head Boy Elections: Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

Over the last half term, four Year 12 students have been involved in an application and election process in a bid to become the school's Head Girl and Head Boy for the next academic year. This process involved completing an application form outlining why they felt they were the most suitable candidate followed by an 'election campaign' including a video that was shown to every form in the school. Last week, all members of staff and each form were able to vote on who they wanted to become Head Girl and Head Boy. Once the votes were counted Beth Wild and Tom Playford were successful in becoming our Head Girl and Head Boy respectively. Holly Avington and Xavier Beechey will take on the Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy roles. The roles will be hugely important in leading our student leadership team and student led school based projects.

After being informed of the election results, the team made the following comment;

"Hello everyone! Thank you all for casting your votes, we really appreciate it. We hope you liked our videos and we look forward to helping to create change in George Spencer as your Student Leadership Team. As a team we're all very excited and grateful for the opportunity, we can't wait to get started!

We are here to listen to the opinions of students and to ensure that they're heard and appreciated. Our main role is to provide a channel for student voice, but next year we also plan to focus on: bridging the gap between staff and student communication, the environment, student safety, and well-being services.

We hope you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you again in September."



(From left to right: Xavier Beechey, Tom Playford, Beth Wild, Holly Avington)



Y6: Ms Wilkinson

I wish all of our new students a wonderful summer break, ready for a busy, exciting and productive year to come. We are really excited to be welcoming our newest members to the George Spencer community and I have really enjoyed visiting year six students at their primary schools. Students have been completing 'getting to know me' forms, telling us all about them. The year 7 learning managers have been enjoying reading them and getting to know their new form groups. It was particularly impressive on our transition day to see the students already demonstrating our core values by trying their best, being supportive and respectful and showing their enthusiasm towards all that they will learn in their time with us. Students participated in a variety of lessons, including: English, maths, history, geography, languages, PE, ICT, art and enjoyed some hands-on practical work in science.

As part of our continued transition in September, we will assist the students in settling in smoothly by giving them an extended session with their Learning Managers on Thursday 2nd September, including a tour of the school site. They will receive timetables and planners and begin their lessons in the afternoon session. Year 7 students will be the only ones on school site on this day and will be assisted by members of staff throughout the day.

Y7: Mr Smith

This has been a half term with a difference for students in Year 7 – as students have gained the experience of lessons delivered in specialist classrooms, they have also gained more independence, freedom and, most importantly, the responsibility of having to know (and remember) what lesson they have, where they need to be and when. Having lessons taught in specialist classrooms has also brought about opportunities and experiences that weren't previously possible; using Scratch to programme, plan and create a pong game in Computer Science, using sewing machines, drills, coping saws and files in Technology, making fruit salads, pasta salads and Anzac biscuits, using paints and oil pastels in Art, learning how to play the keyboard in Music, and finally, the long-awaited practicals in Science – including chemical analysis of food, Bunsen burner proficiency, dissecting part of a chicken and discovering Hooke's Law. It is real privilege to see a group of students who so well embody our school's ethos able to demonstrate their love of learning and I know I speak on behalf of the Year 7 Learning Managers and Miss Sipson when I say that we are hugely proud of the way students in Year 7 conduct themselves, rising to every challenge with positivity and resilience, and consistently showing politeness, fairness and honesty with their peers and their teachers. We wish you all a restful summer holiday, and look forward to welcoming them into Year 8 in September.



Y8: Mr Richardson

“Life isn’t a matter of milestones but of moments”. As we approach the end of Year 8 I want to reflect and praise the positives demonstrated by our students in this final half term. Their desire and determination to push forward to the very end is testament to their Ethos of Excellence. We were fortunate to have our annual Inter-form Sports Day and the students embraced the spirit of ‘healthy competition’ and partisan support to represent their forms in both track and field events. There has to be a victor and 8THE were worthy winners. I am hopeful this sporting prowess bodes well for Team GB, Olympics 2028! We were also privileged to be able to offer a select few students an insight into the requirements of Higher education called the Brilliant club. They had an opportunity to develop key university readiness skills, including critical thinking and meta-cognition and we were so proud that eleven students graduated from this programme. Our student leadership representatives once again embraced their responsibilities and raised awareness on topics such Mental Health and how we can develop Homework/Preparation for learning to the students. This half term we celebrated Pride Day and once again the Year 8 students were proud to wear their rainbow colours and demonstrate as a school and a community, their support for inclusion and acceptance. Notable Individual mentions saw Anya Bansal represent the Robin Hood Youth Orchestra playing the clarinet, live streamed from Nottingham Castle. I hope they enjoy the summer, recharge and relax and I look forward to welcoming them back as Year 9 students in September.

Y9: Miss Johnson

As the end of the year approaches, the students have been reflecting on their experiences and accomplishments throughout Year 9. We have had an exciting half term with a number of events taking place in the last seven weeks. Firstly, our Year 9 Sports Day where the ‘P Half’ of the year excelled with 9CML, 9MKL and 9WHL/TCH winning first, second and third place respectively. It was fantastic to see so many students taking part, cheering others on, stepping up to help earn points for their form and overall, a real sense of positive community spirit amongst the cohort. We’ve also experienced sporting success outside of school with students partaking in competitions and events for swimming, athletics, kayaking, football, BMX biking and gymnastics. In addition, we’ve also had a group of students partake in the ‘Carnegie Medal Awards’ facilitated by the library; this was a fantastic event and the students relished the opportunity to read and review these books together. Furthermore, in Form Time Learning sessions, we have developed our knowledge of the meaning and history of Pride and why we celebrate this. The Year 9 students displayed their solidarity with the LGBTQ community by taking part in the ‘wear a colourful item’ uniform day and promoting this to younger students in the lead up to the event. Well done to all students who have been involved in these events. The Year 9 students impress me daily with their positivity, enthusiasm and drive to succeed; it is clear that they are ready to ‘step up’ to the challenge of their GCSE studies and the next step of their education. Have a fantastic, fun and relaxing summer Year 9 - I am looking forward to welcoming you back as GCSE students in September.



Y10: Mr O'Toole

Firstly, I would like to say a massive well done to Year 10 for a hugely successful year as our cohort began their GCSE studies. I have been extremely proud to see such a positive and mature attitude from our students throughout the year, whilst supporting one another both inside and outside the classroom. Year 10 got their first taste of formal exams in our recent PPEs and it was great to see them demonstrate their resilience and determination to be the best they can be. Another highlight for myself this year was seeing our Student Representatives elected to lead the year group. It has been a privilege attending our Year 10 Student leadership meetings and seeing such enthusiasm amongst young people who are determined to make a real difference within our school community. For example, the Student Representatives have led on our summer term project on our Mental Health provision here at George Spencer Academy by planning and delivering sessions to their form groups. On a daily basis Year 10 have demonstrated their love of learning in the classroom and it has been a great source of pride that I have been able to visit lessons and see our school's values at the root of all that we do. Finally, I would like to say thank you to the parents and carers of Year 10 for your support throughout the year. Please, have a fantastic summer Year 10 and I look forward to seeing you all again in Year 11.

Y12: Mr Spears

Please pass on my Congratulations to your son/daughter in Year 12. What a busy term they have had in finishing off an incredible year.

When we look at the achievements of the year, they have achieved a staggering amount: Organising whole school charitable donations for RAG week before Christmas, commitment and drive from those who signed up for the Brilliant Club, outstanding grade predictions from their teachers, great PPE results, looking into post-18 options, deciding on post-18 options, writing the first draft of their personal statements for UCAS but all in all, consistently showing an attitude and commitment to their learning and futures.

On a personal note, I will always look back at this year with incredible fondness. To be their Director of Learning this year has been an honour. They have been a year group I have followed pastorally since arriving at GSA back in September 2016 (for most). It seems like yesterday they were coming up for the year six transition day...it is strange to see car keys in hands now.

For those who joined us from other schools last September, what an impact they have made, both in their own personal academic success but also the contribution they have made to the George Spencer community in such a small space of time. After quickly establishing themselves here at GSA in September, it was clear we had a driven group of young adults.

As they move over to Mrs Brown for Year 13, I know your son/daughter will go from strength to strength.



Y13: Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form

It is a time of change in the Sixth Form, and I would like to introduce myself as the new Director of Sixth Form. I am excited to be taking on the role, building on the supportive environment and high quality lessons that underpin our sixth form. I am very well established in the sixth form already, as I have taught A level Psychology for many years here and more recently introduced the Applied Diploma in Criminology. In addition, I also have a background in teacher training – both in training experienced teachers with regards to effective sixth form teaching practices and with coaching trainee and Early Career Teachers. I have always enjoyed supporting our students through the UCAS process of applying for university and helping prepare those taking the apprenticeship route to start their careers. This utilises my background of 5 years in business before moving to education, with 16 years at George Spencer Academy, and assisting with CVs, application forms and interview preparation is always very rewarding.

Our Year 12 and 13 students are at a really important milestone stage in their education, and I will lead the sixth form team in supporting them to achieve the very best they can. We will enable students to know what successful studying looks like, and develop the skills to be able to put it into practice. Speaking with students recently, they noted how supported they felt for both academic and pastoral matters. The caring and friendly atmosphere, together with the approachable staff, makes our sixth form a place in which they feel they can really succeed. I feel proud of their achievements, and we will continue to foster and grow a learning environment of excellence which develops their motivation and confidence.

I look forward to welcoming our new Year 12 students in September, and as our current Year 12 students transition into their final year with us, their George Spencer journey will set them up for success in their chosen careers.

OUR CORE VALUES



GEORGE
SPENCER
ACADEMY

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

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S SPENCER
ACADEMIES TRUST