



HT4 Spring 2022

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end our spring term and begin our Easter break I would like to personally thank our students for being truly excellent. This spring term has seen the academy continue to navigate a 'new norm' to provide excellent opportunities for our students. We have increased our extra curricular timetable with a wide variety of activities and clubs available for students during unstructured time and at the end of the day. As a result we have over 300 students engaging weekly in our offer. The involvement of our students and staff in our wider curriculum has revitalised the buzz around the academy as we start to expand the ambitious opportunities we often talk about. Our first school production in 2 years, 'Back to the 80's' was an emotional reminder of the journey we have been on over the past 2 years and the resilience and positivity of our student and staff body. As I sat watching the show I felt truly proud of every student involved.

At the beginning of the year our students voiced that they wanted to 'give something back' to our local community and in turn each year group chose a charity that they would fundraise for throughout this academic year. This half term has seen their commitment for this shine with each year group participating in our Raise and Give week amongst other community events. We look forward to welcoming our 'excellent' students back in the summer term. Until then I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Easter.

Kindest regards.

Read, Watch and Visit: Mr Allen, Assistant Principal

We continue to be impressed by the response from parents and students to our suggested opportunities for study outside the classroom. Almost 250 activities have been logged since September, with the following among the most popular:

- Year 9 students have been watching *The Day After Tomorrow* to build their knowledge in Geography;
- Year 7 students have enjoyed reading *Young Sherlock Holmes* to extend their English studies;
- Year 8 students have been watching *Blue Planet II* to develop their interest in Science.

Students are rewarded for excellent participation of Read, Watch and Visit through our Celebration Assemblies. The lists of activities can be found in the Curriculum Booklets at <http://www.george-spencer.com/curriculum/>;

Activities can be logged at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDxOAEh5snHt1hihiJAJCRau-yG0WFJHQRKLhH82reIV28A/viewform?usp=sf_link



Extracurricular Update: Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

Clubs are continuing to expand at George Spencer Academy and there has been lots of interest in those on offer. One such club is a new and exciting opportunity to take part in a textiles community project organised by Yarn Bomb Stapleford. The aim is to produce a piece of community art, depicting key events in the history of Stapleford. Miss Jackson is running this on Tuesdays after school and it is open to anyone from Year 7-13.

As the warmer days and lighter nights arrive, more summer sports are being explored after Easter including Rounders, Cricket, Softball, Tennis, Athletics and a Running Club. We are encouraging all our students to attend at least one club a week, whether it be at lunchtime or after school and we are always happy to hear suggestions for more.

For the full timetable please go to the website <http://www.george-spencer.com/extra-curricular>

Year 10 Revision Focus: Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

In the Summer term, we begin preparing our Year 10 students for the second year of their GCSE and Btec courses by consolidating and retrieving the knowledge and skills acquired this year in their studies.

The Year 10 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) will run in the sports hall from Monday 20th June - Tuesday 5th July. A timetable will be given to the students and sent home to parents nearer the time. Parents can support at home by ensuring that attendance to school remains high, that students have the necessary equipment such as clear pencil cases, scientific calculators, maths sets, etc. If you need help with this, please contact Miss Johnson – Year 10 Director of Learning.

Ways to revise and resources can be found on the student hub and on our website - <http://www.george-spencer.com/exam-support/>



Year 11 and 13 Exam Support: Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

As we approach the final few weeks before the summer exam season begins, we will be continuing to support our Year 11 and 13 students in a variety of ways, both inside and outside the classroom. These are listed in more detail below. We also have a wide range of resources available on the student hub including links to our online learning platforms such as GCSEpod, Seneca and Hegarty Maths.

Ways you as parents can help, including our recent presentation slides from the 14th March event, can be found on the exam support page of our website - <http://www.george-spencer.com/exam-support/>

If you require any further advice or have any queries, please feel free to contact the Year 11 Director of Learning – Mr O’Toole, or Director of Sixth Form – Mrs Brown.

Year 11

- After school and lunchtime Strive sessions available every day in various subjects – timetable available on the website.
- Easter and May coursework and revision sessions available – students have been given a copy of the timetable to take home.
- Dedicated computer room open everyday in the second lunch for any students wanting to revise and study.
- Lower site resource centre open Monday and Thursdays 3:20-4:20 for additional independent study space.
- Form time learning sessions on various revision techniques and advice, and guidance on creating revision timetables.
- Continued support from the Futures team through interviews and careers advice for their next stage of education.

Year 13

- Registration sessions on subjects the Year 13 Learning Manager team specialise in will continue to run until the exams are completed.
- Period 1 is dedicated Year 13 only time in the Sixth Form Resource Centre so that they have a quiet area to focus.
- Specific intervention sessions for targeted students identified as needing bespoke support to help them succeed.
- Focused area available in the Resource Centre to support students using effective revision strategies.
- Afternoon lessons will continue to run during the PPEs so students will benefit from revision.
- Well-being lunchtime check-ins are available each day.



Raise and Give (RAG) Week: Miss Hembrow, Excellence Pioneer

Throughout this term each Year Group has been preparing their fundraising activities for RAG Week. This has been a great success.

Year 7 have been hosting a bake sale every break and lunch time for Young Lives versus Cancer.

Year 8 have been sponsored to run or walk their own Race for Life, designing their own back signs to run in memory of someone, and have raised over £250 so far -

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/george-spencer-academy-1>

Year 9 have designed their own bird boxes which are being sponsored to raise money for Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. These will be put up around the site to make our school more wildlife friendly -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgespenceryear9>

Year 10 have been sponsored to 'Row the Trent' – a distance of 298km. They have done a brilliant job raising over £450 already. They are well on the way to completing their challenge -

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/georgespenceryear10>

Year 11 have been collecting toiletries and food to contribute to the Broxtowe Youth Homelessness' parcel scheme. The Sixth Formers have also hosted Staff Versus Student Netball Matches and a Quiz to raise more money for this charity.

Final fundraising totals will be published on our school website and twitter.

Next term Year 11 will also be holding a 'Sleep Out' to raise awareness and money for Broxtowe Youth Homelessness. This will be held at school and whilst it does not replicate what it is like to sleep rough, it will give students an idea of the situation some young people may find themselves in.

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

At the start of March we supported National Careers Week with information shared via Google classroom. This provided an opportunity and insight for students to learn more about the working world and different careers. The fantastic virtual careers fair is still available to access via the link below. A small group of Year 10 students have successfully started a virtual work experience with Boots and already enjoyed two informative sessions on the business.

Next half term we are looking to introduce some informative lunchtime talks where students can learn directly from employers/employees (live or virtually) and gain an insight into different jobs/careers. We are looking for individuals/businesses to provide student insights. Please contact pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk if you are interested in being involved.

Resources to support parents: <https://ncw2022.co.uk/> <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>



'Back to the 80's' school production is a smash hit: Mr Furber, Assistant Principal

Love, life, breakups and makeups were the order of the day as George Spencer Academy went 'Back to the 80's' for the first school production in 2 years and there were heavy doses of mullets, spandex, neon and classic pop thrown in for good measure.

The students worked tirelessly in preparing for the two sold out nights, overcoming significant disruption from the pandemic to deliver energetic, memorable performances. With help from the live band (who were on fire) classic hits like 'Dancing on the Ceiling', 'Video Killed the Radio Star' and 'Footloose' provided the fun, while emotional performances from Lucy Treadway and Thomas Deeley provided the drama. All of the cast did themselves and the school proud and they were special nights to be part of.





Excellence Programme: Miss Hembrow, Excellence Pioneer

This term our Excellence Programme students have been involved in a range of different activities. Members of the Y11 and Y12 Excellence Programme competed in the Young Citizens Mock Trial Competition. They had been preparing since October and competed virtually against six other schools in the East Midlands. After debating cases all day, they came out the winners. This is a fantastic achievement for the school's first time of entering the competition.

Meanwhile, Y10 Excellence Programme students visited the University of Nottingham for a Campus Visit. As well as a tour of the fantastic facilities, students had bespoke sessions on how best to plan their future pathways once they finish school.

Y10 Excellence Programme students have also completed their HPQ Projects. This is a result of months of hard work on independent projects of their choosing. They have produced high quality final products as well as presented their findings in an assessed presentation. Dr Laing and their mentors have commented on the hard work and dedication of all the students.

Next term the University of Nottingham will be visiting to deliver another session to our Y10 students on memory techniques. Y12 will also be participating in a virtual Meet the Russell Group event to gain an insight into how to successfully apply to some of the top universities in the country.

Y7: Ms Wilkinson, Director of Learning

We have once again had a very busy half term in Year 7. Learning and progress has been a key focus, as students work through their curriculum maps in all subjects, building knowledge and securing understanding. Alongside this, we are focusing on our behaviours fitting with our Core Values and ensuring that we speak and act respectfully at all times. Our manners and conduct towards others are important to ensure that our community ethos is upheld and all students feel happy and safe at school.

Our RAG week fundraising for Young Lives Vs Cancer has seen amazing cakes and biscuits being made and sold in school. The charity has recently sent us a huge thank you for the efforts of the Year 7 students so far. It is great to see so many students participating in clubs and activities at school and representing us in shows and fixtures. A fantastic achievement.

We have been studying relationship and sex education in personal development lessons, learning about positive and healthy relationships, staying safe online and will be moving on to puberty and sexual health after Easter. Students have been mature and engaged with these important topics.

I wish the students and their families a very happy Easter and restful break.



Y8: Miss Skitt, Director of Learning

It has been another busy half term for Year 8, having collected our Dementia Friend badges, our Year 8 group have focused on our nominated charity 'Cancer Research UK' by completing a 'Race For Life' event, walking/running 1, 3 or 5k in their PE lesson time. There is still time to sponsor them on our Just Giving page. It has been a privilege to see such a large number of our Year 8 group involved in the school production, (as Actors, Musicians, Technicians and Crew), creating the most incredible memories for themselves.

In lessons, there has been some amazing learning taking place. In English, students have been exploring their creative linguistic skills, working with poems. In Music, the creativity has been somewhat louder, as students have explored Indian inspired music, with the Bhangra drums proving most popular. In Technology, students have made pizza cutters and have cooked some incredible smelling curries and beautiful spring rolls. I do hope you were able to enjoy these at home.

We look forward to the summer term, not just because of the improved weather, but for more academic challenges across our curriculum. Students can look forward to learning about Graphs and 'reflection and rotation' in Maths lessons. In Computing, students will explore forming spreadsheets and in Modern Foreign Languages, students will explore Holidays/Food or Sport and Leisure. There are lots of exciting things to come. Have a great Easter Break.

Y9: Mr Richardson, Director of Learning

There has been lots going on at George Spencer Academy this term. First and foremost, the students formally submitted their subject option choices for Year 10. We have also seen further developments with our chosen charity, Attenborough Nature Reserve. I met with a representative from Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and we have launched a bird box challenge with each form asked to come up with a design to be placed upon 10 bird boxes. A Just Giving page has been set up to allow people to sponsor the bird boxes as they are placed around our community. Not just focussing on our nominated charity, we have continued to support other worthwhile causes such as Red Nose Day and Autism Acceptance.

Once again, the Principal's Challenge was met with some inspiring designs raising awareness and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community. The school production, 'Back to the 80's' was a fantastic success and served to remind us of a certain age, all that was cool about leg warmers, mullets and a certain DeLorean car.

We have continued with our Personal Development curriculum discussing varied topics ensuring our students become well rounded individuals. The Year 9 trip to Club Correze is moving forward as we look to organise groups and that all too familiar contest, who gets the biggest dormitories. The school initiative to get students to 'Read, Watch and Visit' saw two Year 9 students walk away with Amazon vouchers to spend at their leisure. As we approach the end of another term I want to say thank you once again for your support and I wish you all a happy Easter.



Y10: Miss Johnson, Director of Learning

Well done to all of the Year 10 students for a positive, productive and enthusiastic end to the Spring Term. As always, we have packed a lot of exciting opportunities into the last six weeks and it has been wonderful to see so many of our students getting involved in these. This week, the year group has been 'Rowing the Trent' to collectively raise money for PASIC during their break and lunchtimes. The enthusiasm, teamwork and empathy that the students have displayed during this challenge have made the Year 10 pastoral team incredibly proud. In addition to this, in the last fortnight alone, a number of students have completed their HPQ qualification, a group have taken part in the 'Back to the 80's' school production, and 42 students have embarked on a practice expedition as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Alongside our charity fundraising, the students have also taken part in Comic Relief and Autism Acceptance Month activities to demonstrate our core value 'we are supportive' and broaden their knowledge of these important topics. In Personal Development sessions, students have immersed themselves in the 'Relationships' topic and contributed to these sensitive topics with mature attitudes. When we return from the Easter holiday, students will begin a topic on Finance in Personal Development that covers managing a budget, financial decisions and gambling.

The Year 10 Progress Evening will take place on Thursday 19th May where families will have the opportunity to discuss achievements and targets that have arisen from the first year of GCSE study with their son/daughter's subject teachers.

Well done on a fantastic term Year 10 and enjoy the Easter break.

Y11: Mr O'Toole, Director of Learning

Firstly, I would like to begin by saying a huge well done to Year 11 for all their hard work this half term as we continue our preparation for the upcoming exams. The year group's focus and conduct during our final round of PPEs was superb and we are immensely proud of how the students have progressed from the very first round of PPEs back in Year 10. As we continue our exam preparation, there will be opportunities for revision sessions in school over the Easter break in order to support our students and I would ask that you encourage your child to attend these where possible.

This half term we have continued our community focus. During RAG week we have been donating items for the Broxtowe Youth Homelessness charity, which Year 11 students have delivered. After Easter we will be taking part in a sponsored sleep out at school to raise money and demonstrate our support for Broxtowe Youth Homelessness. Year 11 have also taken part in a non-uniform day to raise money for Comic Relief as well as showing support for Autism Acceptance Month by wearing a blue item of clothing. It's always pleasing to see our young people engaging with and contributing to such worthwhile causes, particularly at such a busy time for them.

Have a restful Easter break Year 11 and we look forward to welcoming you back in a couple of weeks.



Y12: Mr Spears, Director of Learning

This has been a very exciting half term for students in Year 12, with many opportunities and experiences for students to be involved in.

Firstly, huge congratulations to the students on the Excellence Programme who competed in the regional competition of the Young Citizens Mock Trial. This is the first year that George Spencer Academy has taken part in this competition and we are so proud of what this talented group of students managed to achieve. Our Geographers went away to Devon for a week and those staff involved were complimentary about their attitudes to their learning during the excursion.

A number of Year 12 students helped out at the Sixth Forms first Spring Open Evening, thank you to all those students.

As we move forward into the next half term, students will be acutely aware of the up and coming PPEs. Over the next half term, teachers will be helping to prepare students for these examinations as they get themselves into strong positions for Year 13.

At the end of the year, Year 12 will be undertaking work experience, this was launched in their remote assembly this week. Please help support your son/daughter in securing placements by - watching the loom video with them which is on their form group Google classroom, helping them structure emails and phone calls when contacting companies/organisations and helping to direct them towards individuals who could be in a position to help, maybe a family member or family friend.

Y13: Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form

Speaking with the Year 13 students, it is clear that many are keen for their examinations to finally arrive, as the build up to them can be so daunting. So it was a lovely distraction to talk about organising their Leavers Prom, which is all the more special as they didn't have the opportunity in Year 11 due to the first lockdown. An informative session was delivered this term by Sheffield University on Student Finance, which was appreciated by many. It is a time of decision making, with offers of university places being received and the best choices considered. Students have also been supported with their apprenticeship applications and have been practising interview skills to make the most of those all-important opportunities.

We appreciated the support we received from students during our recent Spring Sixth Form Open Evening. It was lovely to hear our student leadership team talk about how they have enjoyed studying in the Sixth Form and have relished all the opportunities they have taken part in along the way. They certainly gave a lovely welcome to the Sixth Form.

As we look forward to next term, students are busy preparing for their PPEs which are straight after the Easter break. These provide a focused start to this busy time, together with a useful opportunity for feedback. Revision support will of course be a focal point and we will also organise some activities to help the students take some time for themselves.



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