



HT5 Summer 2022

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our first Core Value is 'We strive to be the best we can be'- this statement truly encompasses life at George Spencer Academy this half term.

After two years of no public examinations our Year 11 and Year 13 students shone in both their conduct and mindset for the summer exams they have sat so far. Watching these students enter their exams has been an emotional moment for all staff at George Spencer Academy as we feel so very proud of each of them for their resilience, hard work and attitudes towards learning.

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students are already rising to the expectations of becoming the 'role models' at the academy and their focus on their studies is evident across all classrooms.

Our Year 7, 8 and 9 students continue to flourish and mature following a year of being out of 'bubbles' especially now with extracurricular clubs and trips being available to them. Our recent Excellence Day was a snap shot moment for observing how far they have all come over the past year with their engagement creating a real buzz around the academy.

Our strive to be the best we can be is not limited to our students, our whole school community shares this goal, which drives us to continue to embed our Ethos of Excellence. We are excited to hear the results of our entry to be reaccredited as a World Class School this coming half term and I would like to publicly thank our World Class School student ambassadors for the hard work they have put in to preparing our bid.

Next half term will see the start of our drive to achieve the Rainbow Flag Award and to launch our LGBT+ Allies, we are proud to be one of the first schools in the country to be working towards this important accreditation. Our mental health student ambassadors have started some valuable work on how we can continue to develop our well-being culture and we look forward to this developing and embedding over the second part of the summer term.

This half term's bulletin gives you a flavour of the achievements being made this past half term and also an insight into what is to come. If you would like to know more and receive more regular updates please start following us on twitter by clicking on the link below;

https://twitter.com/George_Spencer

I wish you and your families a well-deserved, relaxing and peaceful break, hopefully with some more sunshine.

Kindest regards.



School Leadership:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

We would like to pass on our gratitude to Beth Wild and Tom Playford (pictured below) who have completed their tenures as Head Girl and Head Boy. They have both proved to be exceptional advocates and ambassadors for the school and undertaken their roles with outstanding hard work and commitment. The search to replace Beth and Tom has now begun with several Y13 students applying to become the next 'Student Presidents' (a title which will replace 'Head Girl and Head Boy'). Next half term there will be an election campaign where staff and students will vote on who they feel will be the most suitable candidates for the role.



Also, next half term, the school council and year councils will begin work on planning how to become a more eco-friendly school with the ultimate objective of achieving Eco-Schools Green Flag award over the next year.

Reading Update:

Miss Norris, Excellence Pioneer

Reading is not a skill which is limited to English lessons. Pupils are required to read, analyse and understand language in every school subject and also in their wider life. Increasing confidence and reading ability is at the heart of what we do at George Spencer Academy. However, there are many things that pupils and parents can do at home to cultivate strong reading skills.

We recommend that pupils use the "read, watch, visit" resources which are available for all subjects and can be found on the school website. However, we also encourage pupils to sit down with their parents and read and engage in a wide variety of media together. If pupils are resistant to fiction then you can also explore articles, short stories, audiobooks, slam poems and podcasts to improve their literary confidence. Spending time together looking at these resources and then discussing some key comprehension questions such as: "what was it about?", "what were the key themes, points and arguments?" and "how did that make you as a reader feel?" can really support the work that is ongoing in school.

Finally, we encourage pupils to spend time each night away from their devices and instead wind down with an audiobook (from the school's free e-platform) or with a text (borrowed from the school library).



Community and Charity: Miss Hembrow, Excellence Pioneer

Community and Charity

This half term some of our talented musicians and food technology students visited Rockwell Court to provide entertainment and afternoon tea to their guests. The guests enjoyed delicious scones and joined in a barn dance.

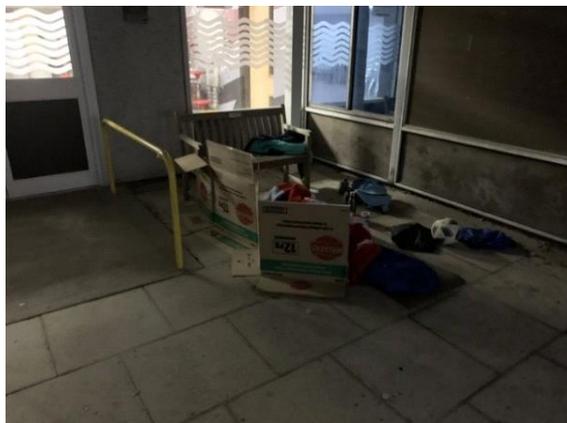
For National Children's Day students were rewarded for Random Acts of Kindness. Those spotted were included in a prize draw will receive a small prize to celebrate their kindness.

We also saw the launch of our trust charity the Spencer Superstars which we will be continuing to support throughout the year.

Our Year 11 and Sixth Form students took part in a 'Sleep Out' on the school grounds to raise over £770 for Broxtowe Youth Homelessness. Despite the cold they braved the night outside from 8pm until 8am.

Next half term we will be hosting a variety of events to support the community including a talent show from the local primaries, a Tea Party in Sixth Form for the Helpful Bureau, and cooking classes for individuals using local foodbanks.

We will also be working towards the Eco-Schools Green Flag award by beginning litter picks in the local area around school.





Excellence Days 5 and 6:

Mr Furber, Assistant Principal

Last week saw Excellence Day 5 take place and a host of rich learning experiences for the students unfold. Y7 and Y8 were brilliantly behaved in the hall for their talk from award-winning children's author Darren Simpson, who enthused them about the creative writing process and the use of their imagination through readings from his book 'Furthermoor'.

Y9 gained an insight into the diverse world of work with talks from a range of local employers about their careers and personal routes into employment. Y10 searched for their 'Inner Winner' with a motivational workshop from an external speaker, as well as equipping themselves with active revision techniques that will help them prepare for their upcoming PPEs (see message from Miss Jenkinson).

Y12 had input about their future pathways and careers, including sessions from representatives from Nottingham Trent University that they found extremely valuable.

It was another brilliant day and it was a pleasure to host so many guests and speakers that students don't usually experience. Finally, Excellence Day 6, scheduled for Thursday 14th July, will see all year groups engaged in a range of trips and extra-curricular experiences that will be an exciting end to the year, further details will be communicated very soon.

Futures – Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG):

Mr Burrows, Director of Futures

The recent Excellence Day allowed us to invite local employers onto site to support our Y9's "learning from the world of work" day. The eight visitors interacted with the cohort to provide insight into a wide range of topics linked to their roles and learning to date. Employer feedback was very complimentary about the inquisitive nature of our students as they gained inspiration about future possibilities. Support is on hand for any Y11 or Y13 still needing support with securing an apprenticeship for the autumn (link below). Please encourage your son/daughter to utilise their UNIFROG accounts for independent research.

Resources to support parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

<https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in>

We are looking for individuals/businesses to provide student insights into different jobs/careers. Please contact pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk to see how you can become involved.



PARS points cash-in:

Mr Hartley, Assistant Principal

Throughout the year students are awarded positive PARS points for various reasons linked to classwork, preparation for learning, representing the school, etc. In addition, all students are automatically awarded points per day for 'Getting the basics right', they keep these points each day if they do not receive any negative incidents. As a result, students have amassed numerous points over the year so far, they are periodically given the opportunity to 'cash-in' their points for prizes including stationery, free food, amazon vouchers and a Prom ticket in Year 11.

The next opportunity to 'cash-in' points will be during the week beginning 6th June. They will be able to do this during Form Time via their Learning Manager, at the end of that week the prizes will be ordered and distributed to the students when they arrive.

Y10 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) :

Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

Monday 20th June - Friday 8th July

Y10 students have been busy preparing for their first round of PPEs which begin soon after the half term break and staff have been impressed with their attitude and determination to be the best they can be. Subject staff have given students plenty of revision materials and have been posting resources on the Google Classrooms to access at home to support their independent revision. We also encourage the use of online packages such as Hegarty maths, GCSEPOD and Seneca, all available via the Student Hub.

Students will need a clear pencil case with black ball point pens and all other necessary equipment. They will also need a scientific calculator for the maths exam and some other subjects. Please help them get stocked up over half term or let the Y10 pastoral team know if you need any financial support with this.

Please also encourage students to employ the revision strategies and organisational principles that they have learnt about during Excellence Days. There are links below should you wish to find out a little more about each approach, but each one is designed to make revision more active, purposeful and effective:

- Flash cards and the 'Leitner System' – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C20EvKtdJwQ>
- 'Foldable' revision resources – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdggLmRAYjY>
- The 'Pomodoro Principle' – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnt2ITdcn8g>
- 'Spaced' revision - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uMMRjrzPmE>

Students should try to focus on self and paired quizzing that makes them think hard and avoid passively reading or highlighting notes.



Uniform and phone expectations:

Mr Hartley, Assistant Principal

As we enter the summer term we would like to remind parents/carers that all students should be wearing their uniform correctly and in full (including shoes and blazers) whilst on Academy site. If students do not comply with wearing their uniform correctly, then they will receive a warning from staff. If they receive two warnings in a week they will have a detention on a Friday lunchtime, if they receive three or more in a week then they will receive an SLT detention on a Friday evening. Please remind your child of the expectations so they do not receive a sanction.

We'd like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the section of the uniform expectations linked to jewellery / accessories. We are seeing an increase in jewellery being worn and as a result confiscated by staff. Please note that only one flat stud is permitted and students should not be wearing bracelets.

Students should also not be wearing false nails, fake eyelashes or make-up, students contravening this will be asked to remove them.

The students are aware they should not have their phones out on site, including at the end of the day as they walk to the school gate. If students are seen on their phones walking around site their phone will be confiscated and passed to the Pupil Support Centre. If they are seen using their phone at the end of the day their name will be recorded by staff and the phone confiscated the following day.

Please see below the process for the return / collection of confiscated items:

- **1st incident** – the item(s) can be collected by the student at the end of the school day from the Pupil Support Centre;
- **2nd incident** – the item(s) can be collected by a parent / guardian at the end of the school day from the Pupil Support Centre;
- **3rd incident** – the item(s) can be collected by a parent / guardian at the end of the following school day from the Pupil Support Centre.



Y7: Ms Wilkinson, Director of Learning

Y7 have completed another successful half term, with students in 7RTT scoring the highest number of positive PARS points in our year group. We had a fantastic sporting achievement from the Y7 boys football team who won the South Notts Cup on penalties. We have also had a Y7 student's art work selected by the Royal Academy as part of the Young Artist's exhibition.

Our recent Excellence Day focused on creativity and imagination and students worked hard creating adventure stories. The Y7 Student Council have met to discuss a future visit to Billy's House to support our nominated charity, as well as discussing rewards for students completing their 'Excellence' Awards. We currently have 66 students on Bronze, 18 students on Silver and 2 students who have met criteria from each of our Core Values to achieve the Gold Award. I have been really impressed with how students are approaching assessments and focusing in lessons.

I wish you all some lovely family time over the half term break.

Y8: Miss Skitt, Director of Learning

Hasn't half term 5 flown by? This term we celebrate a number of our cohort who have been selected to participate in County, Regional and National teams for various sports - well done. The academic lives of our Y8 community has been full and varied. They have explored topics and themes including The Titanic in history, light and sound in physics and exploring spreadsheet modelling in ICT.

Once we return from the half term break we head straight into more amazing learning and wider opportunities. We look forward to a new series of events to our calendar, building to Pride Day on 28th June.

On 14th July Excellence Day 6 will provide us with the chance to go on a year group trip to Drayton Manor Park (information to follow shortly after the half term break). We look forward to Sports Day in July (final date to be confirmed) and our final assessment point of Y8 will be published towards the end of July.

Enjoy the festivities for the historic Jubilee events over the break. It would be great to see some pictures of how our community celebrated, do feel free to email us any exciting shots.



Y9: Mr Richardson, Director of Learning

As we approach the end of another busy half term I would like to reflect on the superb attitude and dedication to their studies displayed by the Y9 students. We saw the Y9 Maths assessment delivered this half term. It can present as a bit of a logistical headache but the students conducted themselves superbly and the feedback from Maths was most complimentary. I look forward to seeing the fruits of their labours.

Stepping away from the academic arena, we saw the footballers depart to Skegness for the annual inter-schools trophy. Facing stiff opposition, they managed to secure the runners up spot. Our new Excellence Awards were collated this half term and I look forward to sharing with the students the achievements they so thoroughly deserved.

Looking to next half term we will see the students embark on the Club Correze trip, the trip to Brittany and at the end of the term, we are off to the Snowdome in Tamworth. Fantastic opportunities and in many ways, rewards for the hard work and positive attitude demonstrated by the students. We will also see our annual sports day return to Harvey Hadden Stadium and those budding Mo Farrah and Jessica Ennis' show their worth.

Thank you and once again, enjoy your half term holidays.

Y10: Miss Johnson, Director of Learning

Well done to all of the Y10 students for a positive start to the Summer Term and a thank you to all families for your continued support. It was wonderful to speak with so many families at last week's Y10 Progress Evening about your son/daughter's progress in their first year of GCSE study. If you have any further questions, or need any additional feedback, please do not hesitate to get in touch with teaching staff who will be happy to assist.

Our assembly this week was focused upon recognising and 'Celebrating Excellence' in the year group; this included rewarding students who have achieved high positive PARS points, achieved rewards as part of our 'Excellence Award' programme, had fantastic punctuality to school and lessons, taken part in extracurricular activities and been involved in our sporting successes. A huge well done to our Y10 boys football team who are now the county champions, plus our Broxtowe Athletics Champions.

All students have their final opportunity to cash in their positive PARS points during the first week back after half term; the rewards booklet is available on Google Classroom for students to choose from. It is clear that the cohort are working hard to prepare themselves for Y11 and are striving to put themselves in the best possible position by the end of this academic year. A key focus for the next half term is the Y10 Pre Public Examinations (PPE's) that take place from 20th June - 1st July. The cohort will have an assembly during the first week back that will provide further information on these and Form Time Learning sessions will support the students in preparing for these. Well done for a fantastic six weeks Y10 and enjoy your May half term.



Y11: Mr O'Toole, Director of Learning

Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to Y11 for the way in which they returned to school following the Easter break. This, without doubt, has been a time of pressure for the students as they made their final preparations and began their GCSEs. We've been really proud to see how our students have risen to the challenge and supported one another along the way. Attendance to STRIVE revision sessions has continued to be high and I know the students are immensely grateful for all guidance and encouragement they have received from their teachers and support staff. Over the half term break there will be STRIVE sessions taking place for Maths, French and Spanish and we would encourage as many students as possible to attend these in order to receive further support with their revision.

When we return after the break we will make our final push in Y11 and if we continue with the positivity and determination demonstrated so far, I'm confident our year group can achieve fantastic outcomes. With the Leavers Assembly and the Prom to look forward to in half term 6, this is an exciting time for Y11 and myself and Miss French are immensely proud to be part of their journey. Have a restful break Y11 and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.

Y12: Mr Spears, Director of Learning

This half term we have been focussing on our futures in Y12. Students have been busy preparing for the Pre Public Examinations (PPEs) which take place next month - this is a perfect opportunity for the students to showcase how hard they have worked this year. PPEs are an important part of their learning journey throughout their A-Levels, the more students put in the more they will get out.

On the Excellence Day this half term, students have been focussing on their plans after George Spencer - they got the opportunity to make a start on their important UCAS applications, with sessions around what university can offer them and what to include in their personal statement.

Students have been busy finding work experience placements this half term, ready to go on their work experience the week after their PPEs. This will be a fantastic opportunity for students to experience an industry or a workplace that they are interested in.

The next Excellence Day, in July, will be focussing further on students' plans post Sixth Form.



Y13: Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form

Exam season is well and truly upon us, and I know that this comes as a relief to some students. The nervous anticipation of the impending exams was difficult for many, however our students have had a clear focus on what they needed to do and used the Easter PPEs as a useful springboard.

We are now at the culmination of all those months of studying and we are very proud of them all. Their journey from GCSEs through to now has been far from ordinary, and they can leave us knowing that they can overcome whatever obstacles are faced.

We recently enjoyed the respite of the Celebration Breakfast, with the buzz of chatting and reflecting on their time in Sixth Form. The Prom will be the time to mark the end of their time at George Spencer Academy and we wholeheartedly wish them every success as they embark on their individual futures.

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