



HT6 Summer 2022

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we conclude this academic year my final message is one of celebration and pride. This academic year has been a turbulent year for all those involved in education as we worked to create our 'new norm' and continued to navigate through the impact of the pandemic on our students.

Our students always have and always will continue to be at the centre of our decision making and my reflections of pride very much comes from their hard work, resilience and dedication to their studies.

My reflection of celebration is one of recognition to our:

- 'Back to the 80s' cast who delivered a fabulous performance for the first time since 2019;
- students' contributions for the Year group charities and the extensive community work they have engaged in this year.
- World Class School students' ambassadors for their hard work in evidencing the excellent things happening in the academy that led to our reaccreditation.
- students who have taken part on a trip or visit after they restarted this academic year.
- Year 11 and Year 13 students who sat their exams and currently await their results;

The list goes on and on... and so congratulations to all our students on truly demonstrating our Ethos of Excellence.

I would like to thank you for the support you have provided at home and the communications we have had with families this year that have helped steer our curriculum offer in ensuring we provide wrap around care for all students of George Spencer Academy.

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

Kindest regards.



School Leadership:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal



From Left to right Oliver Slinger (Student Vice-President), Thomas Deely (Student President)
Zain Al-Asadi (Student President), Katie Green (Student Vice-President)

Hello all. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new Student President team for George Spencer Academy. Following the recent election, each of us are delighted to have been chosen by staff and students to represent the student body.

We feel that each student at George Spencer deserves to have an enjoyable and rewarding education throughout their time at George Spencer Academy and are excited to support the school in achieving this. We are particularly keen to build on our Eco-Friendly projects which will be commencing this upcoming year to allow George Spencer Academy to stand out from the rest.

As 6th Formers we are extremely grateful for the excellent academic and enrichment opportunities which have been made available to us this year. For example, the trip to Tanzania and the Physics trip to Switzerland which have taken place recently are particular highlights. We are motivated for the upcoming year and are excited about representing the student body in helping to continue to develop our excellent school and community.

Many thanks, Student Presidents.

Oliver Slinger (Student Vice-President), Thomas Deely (Student President) Zain Al-Asadi (Student President),
Katie Green (Student Vice-President)



Community and Charity:

Miss Hembrow, Excellence Pioneer

Thank you for all your support towards our charity and community projects this academic year. We are proud to announce that we have raised £3,700 in total for the Year Group charities chosen by the students.

In our final half term students have continued to get involved in a range of community projects.

The School Council has started to work towards the Eco-Schools Award by completing an audit of the school and choosing three key topics the school will improve on next year: Energy, Healthy Lifestyle and School Grounds.

Each Year Group has also completed a community litter pick in Stapleford and Toton, helping to reduce litter in the local area.

Within our school community we have also had students completing our Mental Health Ambassador training. They will help to raise awareness of the schools' Well-Being services and be part of running the course next year.

We were also pleased to host the first Spencer Academy Primary School Showcase which brought together talented students from the trust's six primary schools. Thank you to our own students who helped support, present and performed at the event.

Music and Catering students had their final community afternoon tea visit to Gutersloh Court. Students enjoyed serving the afternoon teas as well as playing sing-along songs and barn dancing.

Some of our students took part in the Stapleford Jubilee Mosaic competition as part of our Principal's Challenge and many were winners or runners up. The Mayor of Stapleford, Jan Goold, came into school to present them with their certificates and mugs. Look out for their designs in Stapleford when the mosaics are completed.

Our final community project this year was taking part in the Broxtowe Community Project's Bring a Tin Campaign. This will help local food banks over the school holidays who are seeing an increasing demand due to the cost of living crisis.

Thank you again for all your donations and support, we are excited to continue our community and charity work next year.





World Class Opportunities: Miss Gordon, Vice Principal

We are delighted to have been awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM) for the third time this academic year. With this award comes a plethora of opportunities for our students including an Essay Competition and the use of the World Class School APP.

The Essay Competition

The Essay competition for 2022 is under the theme **friendship** and the deadline for submissions is 14th October 2022. Please email jgordon@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk for more details or to enter the competition. The infographic below additionally outlines more details.

The World Class School APP

The APP allows students to track their progress against the World Class characteristics and the APP download link is https://app.worldclass-schools.org/b/world_class_schools/10033/10052/home Once downloaded students can begin to upload any evidence as to how they meet the criteria.

World Class Schools Quality Mark

Essay Writing Competition 2022

- Theme: Friendship
- Open to students of all year groups - primary / secondary
- Shortlisting carried out by St Albans Girls' School
- Deadline for submissions 14th Oct 2022
- Theme set & winners chosen by Professor Robert Douglas-Fairhurst

Find out more: www.worldclass-schools.org/news-events/essay-writing-competition/



Excellence Day 6 – 14th July: Mr Furber, Assistant Principal

After the disruption of the pandemic and periodic restrictions to trips and large-scale events it was wonderful for all year groups to have an enriching, extra-curricular experience to further build their year group ethos and round off the year in style. Year 7 ventured off to Warwick Castle where they soaked up the history of the site and some of the historical shows on offer. Year 8 went to Drayton Manor and had a great day of thrilling rides and exploring the park and zoo. Year 9 harnessed their inner competitive spirit with ten pin bowling and ultra-cool (literally!) activities at the Tamworth Snowdome. The behaviour, conduct and attitude of all students was excellent, and to see a stream of happy, fulfilled faces alight the coaches at the end of the day was an absolute pleasure and a reminder of how crucial experiences like these are to their experience at George Spencer. Year 12 got a flavour of life at University with a well-co-ordinated and informative visit to Nottingham Trent University which gave them an invaluable insight into potential future pathways.

The Year 10 cohort remained in school for 'Tenfest' a fete/festival event on the field incorporating music, ice-cream, BBQ food and a host of inflatable challenges, sports and tomahawk axe throwing. Again, the students were a credit to themselves, exhibiting an enthusiastic and positive spirit which created a real atmosphere of enjoyment and community; they all seemed to have a blast.

These trips and events were a real success and will become a permanent fixture on the Excellence Day calendar for the summer term in the years ahead.





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

Mr Burrows, Director of Futures

To end the year, we ran our final 'Futures Focus Week' of the academic year. These are termly opportunities to showcase aspects of career learning to support and link education and the world of work. Our focus was on the **essential skills** that support successful transitions into the workplace. Each faculty provided a skill focus within their teaching to link back to the school curriculum. The first link below (Skills Builder) takes you to the 'homezone' where you can attempt some of the family challenges over the summer break. The second link provides some support linked to options beyond results day.

We are already planning towards the next academic year with preparations already underway to support a mock interview day for Y11 and external visitors to showcase the range of opportunities available beyond GCSEs.

Resources to support parents:

<https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone>

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>

Thanks to those who made contact after the May bulletin, we look forward to working with you. We are always looking for individuals/businesses expertise to provide student insights into the working world. Please contact pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk

Y11 – Welcome to Sixth Form:

Miss Gordon, Vice Principal

Joining the Sixth Form community is an exciting time as our students move on from school life to becoming more independent and self-motivated learners. After a busy applicant day in June, prospective students should be well versed as to all the Sixth Form has to offer and what the transition programme entails. This includes the transition tasks which must be completed in order for them to begin studying their chosen subject/s.

On GCSE results day, Thursday 25th August, the Sixth Form Team is looking forward to enrolling our future Year 12 students. Once GCSE grades have been received, students should enrol at one of the Sixth Form desks and then celebrations can begin as they embark on their next stage of education. Even if things don't go to plan, please have a conversation with us as we can always direct students to other courses or careers. Please get in touch if you have any questions - GSA_sixthform@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk



Uniform expectations:

Mr Hartley, Assistant Principal

We would like to draw your attention to our uniform expectations. When purchasing uniform please check it conforms with the uniform expectations for George Spencer Academy. Some retailers have a 'school' section, it does not mean the items are in line with the expectations of the Academy.

To ensure all students have a positive start to the new term please check the section relating to shoes, hair, piercings, false nails, eyelashes and make-up. Students contravening these expectations will be asked to rectify the issue(s) before they can return to their lessons.

If you require further information about the uniform expectations for 2022-2023 please see the attached information or visit the Academy website (<http://www.george-spencer.com/uniform>).

If you require any support with purchasing uniform please contact our Pupil Support Centre.

Personal Development:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

This half-term, students have been learning about media literacy during their Personal Development lessons. It has been pleasing to see students discussing and engaging with topics such as digital footprints, image rights and online safety.

When we return in September, students in Year 7 to 11 will be learning about Health and Wellbeing during their Personal Development lessons. Year 7 lessons will focus on the transition to secondary school and personal safety; Year 8 will learn about alcohol and drug misuse and pressures relating to their use; Year 9 will focus on healthy and unhealthy friendships, assertiveness, substance misuse, and gang exploitation; Year 10 will be learning about mental health and ill health, stigma, and how to safeguard their health; whilst Year 11 will be focusing on self-efficacy and stress management to support them with their examinations.



Summer Concert:

Miss Kell, Curriculum Leader

This term saw the opportunity to showcase the musical talents of our wonderful George Spencer students. After a period of time where it hasn't been possible to gather people together and have groups of students performing, it was an evening that the school and we in the Creative Arts Faculty had been really looking forward to. There was a varied range of performances, from Year 7 to 12, including; solo singers, group singers, band ensembles, flute players, trumpet players and piano players. All of the students involved did an amazing job and should be incredibly proud of themselves.

Thank you to everyone that was involved, but particularly our performers who made it such a memorable evening.





Y7: Ms Wilkinson, Director of Learning

We have come to the end of the students' first year at George Spencer and I am so proud of the transition they have made and the mark they have already made in the academy community. We have celebrated the successes of many students who have embodied our Core Values and recognised the endeavours of students in our 'Read, Watch Visit' initiative. It is pleasing to see so many students engaging in all of the opportunities on offer.

Our Excellence Day trip to Warwick Castle was a great day and the students enjoyed exploring the attraction, representing the school in a positive way.

Students have been busy supporting our year group charity – Young Lives Vs Cancer – preparing care packages which have been delivered to Billy's House in Wollaton by representatives of our student leadership team. We plan to continue to build links with this charity next year.

It has been great to see so many students taking on roles in sports day, representing their form group and supporting the competitors. We have also taken part in our LGBTQ+ Awareness Day, and have elected Allies to represent the year group and work towards the Rainbow Award, acknowledging and championing diversity. I am immensely proud of the year group, and I am sad not to continue the journey with them at George Spencer. However, I know they will continue to be the excellent year group that they have already proven themselves to be. I wish them all the very best and thank you, their families and carers, for the support you have given over the past year. Have a lovely summer.

Y8: Miss Skitt, Director of Learning

Start your engines, the summer break is upon us. What an end to Year 8 it has been.

We have continued to see members of our community recognised both regionally and nationally for their sporting, creative and academic activities. Through playing sports, being published, performing and graduating from the Brilliant Club – the Year 8 cohort continue to inspire us all. In school, we have seen students continue to engage in a wide range of curriculum topics with gusto; I am regularly stopped to be told how brilliant Year 8 are. We had a fantastic day at Drayton Manor, where the students were exceptionally behaved. We have also experienced our first off site Sports Day, which was amazing.

We now firmly set our eyes ahead to Year 9 and the fresh challenges it will bring. I am saddened that I will not be continuing as Director of Learning to this amazing community of young people. I would like to thank them for their positivity and engagement within our community and to you for your engagement and support of me. I know our community will remain in safe hands with the new Year 9 team. Good luck to you all. Have a fantastic and restful summer.



Y9: Mr Richardson, Director of Learning

We have achieved and experienced so much as a Year 9 cohort and are ready to start our GCSEs. You should be extremely proud of your children, they have completed their first unbroken year of secondary education. Their resilience and dedication has seen them rise above the disruption of previous years, to be in a prime position to make their mark next year. We have seen trips both abroad and closer to home. The Trip to Club Correze pushed many out of their comfort zone from the activities we undertook to being away from home for the first time. The trip to the Snowdome and bowling was a massive thank you and a reward for the efforts undertaken this year.

We saw our links to our charity continue to bloom and I look forward to what we can achieve next year. The students were able to cash in their Positive points, receiving prizes ranging from stationary to vouchers. We also had students away on Duke of Edinburgh working towards their Bronze Award. I hope they continue to push themselves next year with the Silver Award. It just leaves me to once again reiterate my immense pride in the Year 9 cohort. They never cease to amaze me with their dedication, warmth, smiles and resilience, attributes we would all agree, are to be cherished. Have a fantastic summer and I look forward to continuing this journey with you all in September.

Y10: Miss Johnson, Director of Learning

As the end of the academic year approaches, the Year 10 cohort and our pastoral team have been reflecting on the 'highlights' of the year and celebrating their many achievements. I am extremely proud of how the cohort approached their PPEs in June; it was clear that every student was committed to doing their very best and they showed fantastic resilience throughout this period. The students have received their PPE results in lessons and these are also available for parents to view on INSIGHT. If you have any questions about your child's results, please do not hesitate to contact their subject teachers, Learning Manager, or me, for a further conversation. When the Year 10 students return in September, we will be using their results to set focused targets for the next round of PPEs in November.

Students had the opportunity to celebrate their achievements and have fun with their peers on the final 'Excellence Day' of the year when Tenfest took place. The students' conduct on the day was exceptional and it was fantastic to see them taking part in all of the different activities. In addition to this, we have also had students complete their Silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, the Geographers have undertaken fieldwork in Withernsea, our Warhammer Club have had a fantastic day at the Games Workshop and a small group of students have completed a work experience programme with Boots. Well done to all students who have been involved in these events. It is clear that the Year 10 students are 'striving to be the best they can be' and we are ending the year on a high due to their many positive accomplishments.

Have a fantastic, fun and relaxing summer. I am looking forward to welcoming you back as Year 11 students in September.



Y12: Mr Spears, Director of Learning

This half term has been a very challenging and exciting one for Year 12 students, they have had their PPEs (Pre-Public Examinations), been on work experience, visited a university and had some time working on their personal statements.

Huge congratulations to 4 members of the year group on their successful applications to become George Spencer's next Student Presidents. We were really impressed with all the applications we received in the year group, it led to a really close race between them. All of these students are true advocates for themselves, the school and their families. We are really excited to see the direction that the student leaders take, and improve the George Spencer experience for all.

Our students have also been great ambassadors for the school and the local community, from assisting with the re-accreditation of our World Class Schools status, taking part in high profile sporting events and organising an afternoon tea event with some of our most vulnerable members of our local community. I look forward to seeing each and every student in the year group flourish in Year 13 as I hand over to Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form who oversees the Year 13 cohort.

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