



## HT2 Autumn 2022

### Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

As we come to the end of the year and we take the time to reflect, my message this year is one of opportunities. Our students have continued to shine this year and demonstrate the true meaning of our Ethos of Excellence. They have continued to engage in opportunities in their studies with enthusiasm, resilience and motivation, they have engaged in exciting opportunities within our wider curriculum offer, and they have grasped new opportunities made available to them.

We have a long-term goal for all our students to strive for excellence and be role models for each other. We aim for all our students to be kind, considerate and respectful of others in the school and the wider community. To support this initiative, we relaunched our Student Ambassador opportunities this term and are very proud of the number of students who have chosen to embrace a role as a Student Ambassador. I would like to share with you in this bulletin some of the work they have been doing this term, I hope you find it as heart-warming as we do.

If your child would like to join an ambassador group please ask them to contact the leadership link stated above.

As a recognition of the great work these students are doing, they will receive their official 'GSA Ambassador' badge in the new year that they can wear as part of their uniform to highlight the fantastic contribution they are each making.

May I wish you and your family joy, peace and happiness this Christmas. We will look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year for more ambitious opportunities.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs Corbett





## Student Ambassadors: Mrs Corbett

- **Mental Health Ambassadors:** They have now completed their training and have been visiting all Year 7 forms to let students know about their role and how they can support them, as well as sharing the well-being services we offer at George Spencer Academy. Led by Mr Dakers.
- **Community Ambassadors:** They have been working hard organising our appeal for shoe donations for the Shoe Aid in January, as well as researching other fundraising initiatives for the new year. Led by Miss Hembrow.
- **Sixth Form Study Skills Ambassadors:** They have been working with a number of Year 11 students, sharing strategies for revising alongside sharing their GCSE subject knowledge and experience in order to help them prepare for their exams. Led by Miss Jenkinson.
- **Media Reps:** They have been busy helping in the promotion of reading through writing reviews and recommending books for reading lists. They have also provided feedback on what's going well with the reading at GSA and what could improve. They are designing promotional material for the new 'Reading Bingo' competition and provided ideas for a video that will further promote reading next term. Led by Mr Furber.
- **Curriculum Ambassadors:** They have done a fantastic job of assisting the leadership team with our quality assurance of our curriculum and how it is being taught. Their input has helped shape improvements across our formal and hidden curriculum offer. Led by Miss Gordon.
- **The News Team:** They have been busy working on their first edition of the GSA Times for this academic year and have done a fantastic job. The edition of the GSA Times can be viewed via this link - [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tVPGPJLGquw\\_KQ1uPCZghrPxJ4iYSx9E/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tVPGPJLGquw_KQ1uPCZghrPxJ4iYSx9E/view?usp=share_link) Led by Mr Hopkins-Burke.
- **Confidence Building Ambassadors:** They have received their training this term to enable them to fulfil their role effectively and are very excited to get started next half term. Led by Mrs Floate





## Read, Watch and Visit Update: Mrs Floate, Associate Leader

Thank you to all of our students who have been engaging with our Read, Watch and Visit programme and logging their activities over this past term. For those of you not familiar with our Read, Watch and Visit programme we offer extended learning opportunities for all year groups that link to what students are studying in their subjects. Our students can find all of our Read, Watch and Visit activities and participation log on our school website via this link: <https://sites.google.com/george-spencer.notts.sch.uk/studenthub/home> This term students have completed and logged over 160 activities and here is an example of what our students have said about these activities:

**Year 8 – READ - D&T Activity – 100 things to know about inventions** “I read 100 things to know about inventions it was a very interesting book I learnt a lot from it. For example I learnt the Mont-Golfier brothers invented the hot air balloon in 1783 and it flew for 23minutes – interesting stuff!”

**Year 9 – WATCH - History Activity – Jojo Rabbit film** “Watching the film gave me a new and interesting perspective as to how Hitler and the Nazis gripped the nation with propaganda and terror. It also showed how children in Nazi Germany lived and how they were affected by Hitler and the Nazis”.

**Year 7 – VISIT - PE Activity – A sporting activity** “Had a great time at the Etihad. Amazing stadium. Really enjoyed the light show before the game and seeing England players Jack Grealish and Phil Foden. Also, being there for Rico Lewis’ debut and watching him score - that did make the trip unique!”.

At the end of each term all of our students who logged an activity on our participation log - go into our prize draw to win an amazon voucher. Here are the winners for this term:

**Year 7 – Alfie, Year 8 – Jack, Year 9 – Emily, Year 10 – Luke, Year 11 – Alana, Year 12 – Amy Jane**

Well done to all of our students who have been engaging with Read, Watch and Visit over this term. Over the Christmas holidays why not try a few more of the activities and remember to log what you have been up to.

## Reading Culture: Mr Furber, Assistant Principal

It’s been another brilliant half term of reading at George Spencer Academy, with library withdrawals up 50% on this time last year and increased usage from every year group. The holidays are a perfect time to switch off from school work and lose yourself in a good book, so why not log on to the e-Platform at <https://georgespenencer.eplatform.co/> and browse the new titles and suggested reads on the homepage. Remember, the platform has a brilliant range of audiobooks to listen to as well as e-books. Here are some classic titles, each taken from the respective year group’s ‘Read, Watch, Visit’, to get you started.

Year 7 – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Roald Dahl (e-book and audiobook)

Year 8 – The Hunger Games, Suzanne Collins (e-book and audiobook)

Year 9 – To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee (e-book and audiobook)

Year 10 – Life of Pi, Yann Martel (e-book)

Year 11 – A Brief History of Time, Stephen Hawking (e-book and audiobook)

Year 12 – The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath (e-book)

Year 13 – The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time, Mark Haddon (e-book and audiobook)



## Inclusivity for our LGBT+ Community: Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

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At George Spencer Academy we are committed to ensuring our school is an inclusive environment for everyone. Over the last term, we have been doing a lot of work to promote inclusivity for our LGBT+ community. We are continuing to work towards achieving the Rainbow Flag Award, a national quality assurance framework for all schools and youth-centred organisations. The award focuses on positive LGBT+, (lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, plus other related identities), inclusion and visibility.

Our Pride Club, overseen by Mrs Carr and Mrs Coutts-Smith, continues to provide an additional safe and inclusive space for people to be themselves. The club takes place every Monday after school in MA5. Over the last term, the Pride Club have been working on posters to display around school describing the different genders and sexualities to help dispel confusion about identities. Our LGBT+ allies group are a group of students who want to make a positive difference to our community and have been working with the senior leadership team in providing ideas about how to promote LGBT+ inclusivity and visibility around the school.

Next half term, we will be looking at ways in which we can work with parents to further support our LGBT+ community. If this is something that you may be interested in please contact Mr Dakers ([jdakers@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jdakers@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)).

The following links provide further information on support available for young members and families of the LGBT+ community;

- **LGBT+ Service Nottinghamshire** ([https://www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk/#xl\\_top](https://www.lgbtplusnotts.org.uk/#xl_top)) – provides a range of specialist services for young people (and their families) who identify as LGBT and any other sexual orientation or gender identity or may be questioning this.
- **OutBurst** (<https://www.facebook.com/outburstnotts/>) - a group run for young people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. OutBurst Juniors (ages 11-14) meets every Saturday 1-3pm and OutBurst seniors (ages 15-19) meet every Wednesday 6-8pm.
- **Notts LGBT+ Network** (<https://www.nottslgbt.com/>) – A great website that provides information and



## GSA Excellence Award: Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

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The GSA Excellence Award provides a framework for students to demonstrate how they embody our core values and recognise their contributions to the school and wider community. The award sets out 3 criteria for students to achieve under each of the school’s 6 core values. Each student has been provided with a log book to record evidence and are encouraged to ask members of staff (or coaches/parents where relevant) to sign or stamp their log book when they achieve each of the criteria. Towards the end of the academic year, students are rewarded with a Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum award depending on how much of the criteria they achieve.

Please take a bit of time to have a look at your child’s GSA Excellence Award log book and encourage them to get signatures/stamps where they have achieved any of the criteria (outlined below). You will notice that some of the criteria can be achieved outside of school so will require a signature from parent/carers or adults overseeing opportunities in the community.

<p><b><u>We respect individuality;</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in an Awareness Day</li> <li>• Completed an assignment to challenge inequality</li> <li>• Complete a project that develops your awareness of another country/culture</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>We are polite, fair and honest;</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to the community</li> <li>• Learning manager / staff commendation</li> <li>• Been on a school trip / visit and been polite, fair and honest whilst representing the school</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>We have a love of learning;</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in extra-curricular club or activity</li> <li>• Completed 3 ‘Read, Watch, Visit’ recommendations</li> <li>• Literacy: Read 3 books in a term</li> </ul>
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## Futures – Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG): Mr Burrows, Director of Futures

A lot can happen in seven and a half weeks. Well done to Year 11 P-half who experienced face to face interviews with local employers. They clearly created a great first impression with the feedback received with some students even being offered opportunities beyond GCSEs. S-half will get their chance at the start of February. 90 Yr10's accessed the project part of the "Think Big" project after the whole cohort assembly. A small group then had the chance to provide feedback whilst taking a learning tour of the City Ground. KS3 students continue to thrive through their Form Time learning sessions and the focused Excellence Day provision. Post-16 students are being supported to explore Apprenticeships and UCAS as they decide on the best route after level 3 learning.

### Christmas challenge:

KS3 (Yr7-9): Review your UNIFROG profiles and explore some career ideas  
( <https://www.unifrog.org/sign-in> )

KS4 (Yr10-11): Explore opportunities to enhance your CV to support the post-16 application process  
( <https://www.springpod.com/> )

KS5 (Yr12-13) Build your network/profile through active engagement with LinkedIn to support post-18 options  
( <https://www.linkedin.com/> )

Excited by what you hear as an employee, business owner or entrepreneur? Then please contact [pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:pburrows@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk) to get involved and enhance our GSA Futures offer.

## Parents Forum: Mr Hartley, Assistant Principal

Next half term we will be hosting our first Parents Forum of the academic year. These are always really valuable in helping to develop the partnership between the school and families. The Forum allows us to engage with families to take on board parents/carers perspectives as we continue to develop the offer at George Spencer Academy. The Forum will be remote via zoom on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to take part in the Forum please register your interest via the link below and you will be sent details of how to access the meeting.

<https://forms.gle/LSSATiidkYxqj5mm9>

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



## The Debating Culture: Miss Gordon, Vice Principal

### What is a debate?

Debates allow students to put contrasting arguments forward by presenting facts, logic, evidence, and sometimes emotions. We all take part in debates daily, albeit this is usually informally, by presenting arguments as to why we should or shouldn't do something. By embarking on a debating culture, students are encouraged to actively listen to other people's responses to truly understand what it means to "stand in another person's shoes" and agree or disagree with clear reasons and rationales. They are introduced to a range of types of debates including Balloon debates and formal debates.

### How the students are getting involved?

During lessons, key topics are identified and students participate in debates within the lesson. Several which have happened during the Autumn term include: Year 7 debating whether doctors should earn more than footballers in form time learning, Year 8 debating whether tourism is harming the Niagara Falls as part of the Geography Curriculum, Year 9 and 10 participating in a Balloon debate regarding global warming on the Excellence Day and Year 11 Debating the ethics of being able to find out if you have a child with a certain condition as part of the Biology / Combined Science curriculum.

For any student who wishes to take part in more debates, a debating club has been set up by Miss Wood which is being run on every Monday after school in EN5. This is for all students in Y7 to Y11.

### Why it is important?

There are elements of the curriculum which lend themselves to students actively participating in debates thus improving:

- Achievement - Providing the ability to structure thoughts more appropriately and providing speaking and listening opportunities
- Employment prospects - Allowing students to explore subject matter in depth and from different perspectives
- Well-being - Increasing student's confidence, self-esteem and articulation

Alongside the multiple reasons in the section above, research studies have shown that better language ability is linked with improved GCSE grades in English and maths. Thus improving all students pathways choices for the future.



## Community: Miss Hembrow, Excellence Pioneer

This half term our students have been busy taking part in a number of Christmas fundraising initiatives. Year 7 assembled and donated 30 shoeboxes to SEWA Day who distributed these to the homeless in Nottingham City Centre.

Meanwhile, Year 8 and Year 9 donated and wrapped over 150 Christmas selection boxes for the charity Forget-Me-Notts who handed these out to children in the care system who may not otherwise receive a Christmas Present.

Year 10 and Y11 took part in Broxtowe Mayor's Christmas Hamper campaign and brought in Christmas treats to be given out at Haven Food Bank in Stapleford. It was a fantastic effort from all Year Groups.

The Swing Band visited Rockwell Court, Independent Living Centre in Stapleford to perform carols for the residents before their Christmas Dinner.

Students also raised £1395 through their non-uniform for Children in Need and £565 for Save the Children on Christmas Jumper Day.

Our Year Groups have also selected their Year Group Charities.

Year 7: Young Lives versus Cancer

Year 8: Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association

Year 9: Operation Orphan's Forget Me Notts

Year 10: PASCIS Cancer Support

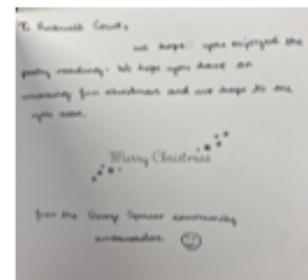
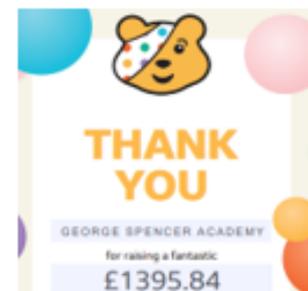
Year 11: Broxtowe Youth Homelessness

Sixth Form: Hope Food Banks

Next half term we look forward to learning more about these charities and their important work and start our fundraising events.

Our community ambassadors are also preparing for events next term, including visiting the Beeston Memory Café, collection for Shoe Aid and community cooking classes.

Thank you for all your support with our community work so far.





## Extra Curricular: Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

### Trips and Visits

Over the October half term break, a group of Year 11s spent two weeks on their 'Himalayan Adventure'. The students described the trip as, "Exciting, challenging, and a once in a lifetime experience!". All students completed the Annapurna Base Camp trek and displayed excellence resilience and strength in doing so. They also practised authentic Nepali experiences and were involved in several cultural activities including visiting Buddhist monasteries and stupas, Hindu temples, Diwali celebrations in Pokhara, plus trying a wide range of local cuisines. The students displayed respect for the Nepali culture, asked thoughtful questions and reflected on their own lives and how diverse and wonderful the world is.

Our students involved in the Excellence Programme had a fantastic day at the University of Oxford and took part in a chemistry workshop and student Q&A session and we have also continued to work within our community with some of our musical students entertaining the residents of Rockwell Court in Stapleford with some Christmas classics.

We look forward to a busy start to 2023 with a Year 10 Art trip to Liverpool galleries including the Tate and Walker, the inclusive dodgeball festival and the mock trial competition heats. February half term will also see the STEM trip to New York and the annual ski trip to Austria taking place.

### Clubs

Our Extracurricular programme continues to grow, with new additions this half term including Debating Club - Honing your debating skills (all years), Dodgeball (year 7), Languages Film Club - Cinema from all four corners of the world (all years) and Psychology Essay Writing Competition Club (years 11,12). A timetable of all the clubs on offer can be found on the school website or follow the link... <http://www.george-spencer.com/extra-curricular/>



## Y7: Mr O'Toole, Director of Learning for Y7

As we prepare for the festive break, I would like to say a huge well done to Year 7 for the continued positive attitude and support of one another throughout this half term. There have been a number of highlights, for example during our second Excellence Day the year group spent the day with the Science Faculty extending their learning of the subject beyond the curriculum. The year group also continued with their sporting commitments along with being recognised as the year group with the highest number of SPARX submissions across all year groups within the Trust. This is a fantastic achievement and illustrates our Year 7 students' commitment to their learning.

I would also like to say a huge well done to 7GMN for being the inaugural winners of the Year 7 Half Termly Attendance League. It was great to see them enjoying their prize of a form time Christmas party last week. Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing Year 7 again in the new year.

## Y8: Mr Hartley, Director of Learning for Y8

Wow, we made it to the end of the term. Thank you to all of you for your support this half term, Year 8 attendance and behaviour has been extremely positive, we genuinely appreciate your support. The work the students have produced both in and out of lessons has been fantastic and the students should be very proud of themselves, they have definitely earned their break. This half term saw the introduction of the 'Light bulb' moments, which recognise those students who go above and beyond in their contribution to the school community. It has been a pleasure to award these to the ten Year 8 students this half term.

It has been an excellent half term for Year 8 with many involved in various sports teams, the school production and most recently the Christmas concert. Thank you for all involved for engaging fully within the school community.

In addition, it was a half term in which we celebrated our annual awards evening, where we acknowledge the major successes from the previous year, it was an honour to be able to give out the awards to such deserving winners. To have two excellent Year 8 musical performers welcoming guests when they arrived and performing a solo piece within the event was lovely to see. Congratulations to all involved.

We are really looking forward to the New Year and the opportunities it will bring for our students. Information will be shared at the start of the new term regarding the Year 8 residential to Kingswood, the dates for this will be the 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> March. There will be an opportunity for those involved in the Year 8 football team to take part in the annual Skegness tournament. The culmination of the hours of practice will come to a head when the cast put on another amazing school production.

Wishing you and your families an enjoyable and restful Christmas and New Year. We looking forward to welcoming everyone back in January.



## Y9: Mr Hopkins, Director of Learning Y9

Another half term over and I cannot believe how much we have packed into it. Over the last half term, we have continued to work towards our target of #FindYOURgreatness. A number of students put themselves forward to be Form Reps, and after successful applications and a round of votes, two Form Reps from each form met me to discuss the positives and negatives of being in year 9. It was wonderful to sit and listen to the student's providing ideas on how to improve and make our Academy better. The points raised will now be taken to the School Council for discussion.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December we had the second Excellence Day of the academic year. Our focus of this day was our impact on the planet, from the clothes we wear, to the way to travel and what we eat. We also looked at developing an action plan for our work towards becoming an Eco School. Some fantastic ideas were put forward and we look forward to putting these into action in 2023.

We concluded our last Assembly of the year with a celebration assembly, with nearly 100 students receiving certificates for improved attendance over the last half term. I would like to see many more getting these certificates in Half Term 3.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and I hope that 2023 brings you and your family much joy and blessings.

## Y10: Mr Richardson, Director of Learning Y10

We have had a busy half term with students showcasing their amazingness both in and out of school. We saw students receive weekly "lightbulb" moments from the Principal demonstrating their understanding of our core values. As always in the month of November, we remembered those who made the ultimate sacrifice with our Remembrance Day assembly. To tie in with this, we also had an assembly to recognise those students of our current service personnel who deal with life in the forces.

Excellence Day saw the year 10 students learn a little more about our world and the impact of global warming. We calculated our carbon footprint and ways in which could improve it. We have recruited new Student representatives for this year and we hope they will come up with some great ideas.

We looked outside of school and nominated our charity for Year 10. Pasic is a charity that supports Cancer for children and young people and we look forward to catching up with them and seeing how we as a Year 10 cohort can support next year.

It just leaves me to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## Y11: Miss Johnson, Director of Learning Y11

As the end of 2022 approaches, the students have been reflecting on their experiences and accomplishments throughout the Autumn Term. We have had another exciting and busy half term with a variety of activities, opportunities and events taking place in the last seven weeks including: the second round of PPE's; mock results day; Year 11 Progress Evening; Children In Need; Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day; the launch of our Prom Pledges; form rep applications; Sixth Form applications; Excellence Day 2; STRIVE sessions, the launch of the GSA Excellence Award and much more. As always, it has been fantastic to see the Year 11 students immersing themselves in the full range of opportunities on offer at George Spencer. On Excellence Day 2, the students were 'sharpening their skills' with our Maths faculty, plus the 'P half' of the year participated in 1:1 mock interviews with external professionals from our local community. Our visitors were extremely impressed with the students' maturity, professionalism and ability to clearly communicate their strengths, experiences and aspirations within their interviews, with many stating that they would offer our students jobs in their organisations. The 'S half' of the cohort have this opportunity to look forward to on Excellence Day 3 (Thursday 2nd February). When we return in January, the students will be undertaking fundraising activities for their chosen year group charity, which I am pleased to announce is Broxtowe Youth Homelessness. The cohort continues to impress me with their effort in lessons, their positive approach to their studies and the commitment they are showing in preparation for their final GCSE examinations in the summer term. The 'Revision Club' that runs during lunchtimes in the LSRC is at full capacity everyday which is amazing to see. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to welcoming Year 11 back to school in 2023.

## Y12: Mr Spears, Director of Learning Y12

This half term has been an exciting one for year 12 students, with students flourishing throughout their courses displaying high levels of commitment to their subjects.

For the first term through running the enrichment programme at George Spencer Sixth Form has been a massive success. Facilitating the opportunity for students to engage with something beyond the scope of their qualifications will help students to craft themselves into well rounded global citizens, ready for the workplace and life after George Spencer. On top of the successful enrichment programme, Work Experience has also been launched this half term, students have the opportunity in the middle of June to find and gain valuable experience in the workplace. Students need to get searching for their placements now, they will soon get filled up. Regardless of whether your son/daughter is in year 12, if you or your employer can provide a work placement for a student. Please contact [gsa\\_sixthform@george-spencer.com](mailto:gsa_sixthform@george-spencer.com) and your details can be added to a directory for students to use.

Excellence Day this half term was a fantastic day where students got information from a university and also some sessions around apprenticeships and applying for work experience, which can be transferred to applying for a job.

This also marks my final piece in the parent bulletin as a Director of Learning, as I move into a role back in the Maths faculty. The year group will continue to be led and supported by Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form, and the rest of the team. It has been an absolute pleasure supporting our young people as they transition from a GCSE student to an individual ready to flourish at university and/or in the world of work.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas.



## Y13: Mrs Brown, Director of Sixth Form

As the term draws to a close, we can reflect on what our Year 13 students have achieved. Their PPE week gave them vital experience of exams, and has resulted in productive conversations about how to make the most of their study time. The Excellence Day enabled students to experience enrichment sessions that developed key life skills. From finance sessions designed for young adults, to well-being discussion groups, there was a great buzz around Sixth Form. We welcomed a new business link with an investment manager company, who volunteered to help our students develop their interview skills. The day was completed in competitive style in the hive of activity that was sixth form dodgeball. Looking forward to next term, the Year 13 students will be focusing on revision skills, learning that it is not just about time sat at a desk, but about using strategies that develop strong understanding and recall. It is also the exciting time for confirming plans for their future pathways after Sixth Form; from finalising applications to accepting university offers.

I wish you and your families a restful Christmas break.

## 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**