A NEW DAWN

As we welcome new Headteacher, Mr Malcolm Moaby, two Year 9 students, Jordan Giannasi and Chidi Ikediashi, quizzed him about his plans for the future at Gravesend Grammar School.

Why did you become a teacher?
I've wanted to become a teacher for as long as I can remember. I enjoy working with young people and seeing them grow and develop. Working with young people is a different challenge every day but that's a part of the enjoyment of the job and is definitely the most rewarding element of being a teacher.

Do you think that any of your teachers influenced you to become a teacher?
I think that the influence was probably more negative than positive! This helped me to realise what I didn't want to be like as a teacher and what a teacher should look like. I am very passionate that teaching is as much about relationships and creating a constructive working environment as it is to knowledge within a particular subject area.

Why did you choose Gravesend Grammar School?
I started to apply for jobs in April 1997 when I had received my Department for Education number. I had never been to Kent before and knew nothing about Gravesend. I filled out a number of job applications and Gravesend Grammar School happened to be one of them. It didn't really matter to me where it was - I just wanted to start my career as a teacher and even though the school was a long way away from my home in South Wales, it felt like home. I have been involved for 20 years with this school now and I'm proud to say it was one of the best decisions that I have ever made in my life.

We know that you left GGS briefly to become headteacher at Whitehill primary (another school in the GGSAT). What are the similarities and differences of being a primary school headteacher and a secondary school headteacher?
There are many differences and similarities between being a primary school headteacher and a secondary school headteacher. I went to Whitehill to lead them out of a period of turbulence. Whilst I lacked experience of the primary school curriculum I was very experienced leading teams from my time as Assistant Headteacher and Associate Headteacher. This gave me confidence to put in new systems and structures, recruit new staff, develop emergent leaders and new resources - this is something that is the same in both phases. The big difference is how much the children rely on you as a member of staff in a primary school. Primary school children need to be 'nurtured' and all of their emotional needs need to be met and developed. I absolutely loved being part of something very special at Whitehill and it has been difficult for me to say goodbye to the staff and the children. That said the welcome I have received from GGS staff, students and parents has been phenomenal and I am 100% confident that I have made the right decision.

There are a few rumours that have been floating around the school recently that we would like your opinion on.
Yes, there are always going to be rumours when a new headteacher comes in. Some will be true, some will be wide of the mark.

Firstly, do you have any plans to ban mobile phones?
This is a very contemporary issue and one that appears in the news on an almost daily basis. Through my first term at the school I have not been happy with the amount of time students are spending in front of their phones and the issues that it causes as a result. At present students are allowed to use their phones at break and lunchtime and I think that this may need to change.

Secondly, do you have any plans to abolish the early Fridays?
So far, I have no plans to scrap the early Fridays... cont...
The exam results this year were the best we’ve ever seen - can we make them even better?
I’m always up for the challenge. The results this year have been exceptional and huge congratulations to the Year 11s and 13s.

How do you plan to develop the school?
It’s not about total transformation. It’s much more about the marginal gains. I want to improve and grow our buildings. I definitely want to replace the Green Block because I feel that it has served its purpose. It was supposed to be temporary, but seven years later, we still have it on our school grounds. Site security is also an issue for me and I am keen to automate our gates and improve our fencing. My unrelenting focus, however, will be teaching and learning.

When do you think that we could see a replacement for the green building?
I would love to be able to replace it overnight, but that will not happen! As soon as the budget allows for a new building, I will get it built.

What subjects have you taught and what was your favourite?
I’ve taught Physical Education (GCSE and A-level), Psychology (A-level) and Biology (GCSE) and EPQ. Psychology was a wonderful subject to teach - it is such a personal subject and everything discussed will have been experienced.

Was it different coming back to this school after a few years at Whitehill?
The physical environment is the same but what’s interesting is that only Year 10 and above still know who I am. For the Year 9 and below, it’s a completely new relationship which I want to help nurture and grow. Overall, the whole school has welcomed me with open arms which is really good. I would hope now the young people will embrace my core values and become exceptional learners.

Do you have any hobbies?
Running a school of 1200 students and having three children of my own, hobbies are now a distant memory. That said I still follow and watch as much sport as I can.

For how long do you think you will be headteacher?
I will remain Headteacher for as long as I feel that I can make a difference. I have a thousand questions that I still need to work the answers out to and hopefully add value to this already outstanding school.

STAFF NEWS
We said goodbye to Mrs Langdale recently. After almost 15 years with GGS, latterly having responsibility for 6th form attendance, Mrs Langdale has retired and takes with her our very best wishes for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

We also say goodbye to Mrs Wheeler, one of our Science Technicians.

Mrs Shutt started her maternity leave at the end of September. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her again next year.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Burwood and his wife on the new addition to their family.

SARA LANGDALE
After 15 years of service to the school we bid a fond farewell to Mrs Langdale, and wish her a very happy retirement. Mrs Langdale has, most recently, been in the unenviable position of 6th form Administrator, dealing with attendance and supporting the 6th form team of tutors and Heads of School office. We are most grateful for her dedication and dogged persistence in her pursuit of chaising up students and helping us run a tight ship. Mrs Langdale’s support within the careers department has been invaluable; in particular, her skills supporting students writing their personal statements for University applications will be greatly missed.

Our loss is Gravesham Borough Council’s gain, where I am sure there will be no stone unturned as she turns her full attention to her continuing role as a local councillor.

SLT

125TH ANNIVERSARY
To mark our 125th anniversary, we have commissioned a tie which incorporates the colours for all Houses. This is available to all Old Gravesendians at a cost of £10 (or £11 if you would us to post it).

Please contact Hilary Humphreys (01474 331893 Ext 1205 or humphreysh@gravesendgrammar.com) if you would like to buy one. We are unfortunately unable to accept payment via Parent Pay for the ties but are happy to accept cheques or cash. Cheques should be made payable to Gravesend Grammar School.

An ideal Christmas present for the Old Gravesendian in your life!
PARKING—DROPPING OFF—PICKING UP

We have arranged with Old Gravesendians that you can drop off and pick up students from their car park. Please avoid Pine Avenue wherever possible if you wish to drop off or collect your son/daughter from school. We have received numerous complaints from residents about inconsiderate and dangerous parking and we are keen to maintain good relationships with our neighbours.

HEAD STUDENT’S REPORT

An early start to the term for many, with an unusual return in August - I think most will agree with me by saying that we’ve all earned that two week long half-term that is fast approaching. It’s certainly been a very busy term for the Head Student Team - the start of the year means helping the new Year 7s to settle in and find their way around, but it also means a fresh start - the perfect time to put new ideas into play.

A huge focus for us has been opening opportunities up to Year 12 in order to ‘expand their horizons’: October is the time to appoint a new team of both pastoral and charity Prefects, so we hope to see them step up to their roles very soon. Subject Mentoring is now back on the menu too, where students can volunteer to help as ‘mentors’ in Lower or Middle School lessons in order to assist the boys in their learning - this too will commence at the beginning of next term.

Learning Support Mentoring will be starting once again at the end of November, thanks to Sarah and Terry, our school counsellors who have kindly agreed to offer training to those Year 12s keen to get involved. Learning Support Mentoring is a scheme whereby students allocate some of their free time to help a younger student in Year 7 or 8 who may be experiencing social or mental obstacles, to encourage them to find their own solutions to their problems by talking to someone who isn’t necessarily a member of staff. After huge success last year we are keen to get this back up and running.

With thanks to Mr Fotheringham, the school finally has a Senior Basketball Team running again and after a successful relaunch and very high demand, we hope to plan some fixtures for the boys involved in the coming weeks. An exciting and nostalgic time for GGS indeed for those who remember or have heard of Mr Chris Morgan, a former Assistant Headteacher heavily involved in Basketball at school and on a national scale.

A note for Year 13: it sounds premature, but Leavers’ Hoodies will be going on sale from the end of term - costing no more than £23, you can order yours personalised with preferred colours and embroidered nicknames. Keep a watch on the Google Classroom for details on ordering.

Finally, I’d like to say a huge thank you but also farewell to a member of our Head Student family, Robert Dunne. Rob is one of our current Deputy Head Boys but sadly he is leaving us to continue his education through means of an Apprenticeship. On behalf of the team, I wish you the best of luck for your future, Rob, and hope to see you soon.

I expect that Term 2 will be just as busy so watch this space! I hope everyone has a safe and restful half term.

Mitchell Taylor
Head Student
HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME
School is in session for 190 out of 365 days. Taking students out of education during term time for family holidays is strongly discouraged. This is not a parental right and authorisation will be very limited. Requests must be made in writing to the Headteacher (not via email) at least a week beforehand. We ask that you follow this procedure as it is a more ‘secure’ method of communicating with the School for requests for absence. Your support for the School in this is welcomed. Please only use term dates notified on our website or in our newsletters. Dates on other ‘school holiday’ websites are generally incorrect and unreliable.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE
If you plan to take your son or daughter out of education for the purpose of religious observance, it is vital that you notify the School of your intention in advance of the event. Request for authorisation must be made in writing to the Headteacher (not via email).

MOBILE PHONES
Our mobile phone policy is under review.

A great deal of time is wasted by members of staff sorting out problems with mobile phones and other electronic items. Currently their use is allowed in form rooms only (not in corridors or on the field) during break and lunchtime, or if directed by a member of staff for educational purposes. They will be confiscated if they are used inappropriately. If they are confiscated from the same student more than once, they will not be returned until collected by a parent. The School will not be responsible for these items.

Any type of mobile device is absolutely forbidden in the examination room, both for public exams and internal exams, across all years. We are obliged to report any instances of finding mobile phones to the examining boards as malpractice (cheating). The School will enforce this rigorously. Spot checks will be carried out in examination rooms.

CARS AND PARKING
Access to and from School at both entrances is particularly hazardous at the beginning and end of the day when students are being dropped off and picked up.

Old Gravesendians have generously agreed that we can make use of their car park for dropping off and collecting students (please see page 3 for details). Please help us to avoid congestion by not coming into Church Walk to drop off or collect students. If you must drop off at school, please use the Turning Circle only and adhere to the road markings for the safety of all at the exit when turning into Church Walk.

We urge parents to consider our neighbours if using the Pine Avenue entrance. Please reduce your speed and do not block the roadway or entrances to private residences.

6th form students should drive through the Turning Circle and park to the left of the Sanderson Sports Centre in the overflow car park. They should not park in Pine Avenue, which can cause inconvenience for our neighbours. Parking permit application forms are available from the School Office.

EPIPENS
If your son or daughter carries an Epipen and the School has not yet been made aware of this, please contact the School Office as a matter of urgency. Please also ensure that where we hold students’ spare Epipens that they are regularly replaced before their expiry date.

MOVED? CHANGED YOUR MOBILE?
Easily forgotten in the throes of moving house but if you have changed your address, land line or mobile numbers, your place of work or any contact information, please do not forget to let the School Office know so that we can update our contact records.

SCHOOL FUND
Thank you to all parents who contribute to School Fund. Your donations are used to support a variety of student activities throughout the year to finance many of the school clubs and societies. Donations are currently £20 for the first student plus £15 for all siblings.

PAYMENT FOR TRIPS AND OTHER ITEMS
When making payments for trips and other items, the Finance Office would like to encourage parents to use ParentPay, a secure online payment scheme. It is quick and easy and you do not have to rely on your son or daughter to actually deliver the payment or reply slip. You will have been given login details when your child started at GGS but if you need to be reminded of these, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Foster or Mrs Osborne on the following emails:

fostert@gravesendgrammar.com
osbornej@gravesendgrammar.com

Cash payments (where necessary) must be brought to the Finance Office when they will need to be signed for.

INCLEMENT WEATHER/SCHOOL CLOSURE
As winter approaches, a timely reminder about school closure in the event of snow (or for any other reason).

- Firstly—please assume the School is OPEN.
- Secondly—please check Twitter and our website, www.gravesendgrammar.com for any announcements. Our website will be updated frequently in the event of any uncertainty.
- Thirdly—you can log on to www.kentclosures.co.uk for updates as to school closures across Kent.
- Finally—listen to local radio where announcements will be made if school closures are made.

PLEASE do not attempt to phone the School. As you will appreciate, the switchboard can become very busy during this time.

Where possible please contact the school via email on enquiries@gravesendgrammar.com.

We advise parents to discuss contingency arrangements with students if they need to get home earlier than usual.

Thank you to all parents who contribute to School Fund. Your donations are used to support a variety of student activities throughout the year to finance many of the school clubs and societies. Donations are currently £20 for the first student plus £15 for all siblings.
CAREERS NEWS

Early applications for university, for any courses at Oxford and Cambridge Universities, and all courses in Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Science, have been a priority this term. Having been the UCAS coordinator for over 10 years I can honestly say that this year has seen our highest number of applicants to these prestigious and competitive courses in a decade and rightly so as the quality of these applications has been correspondingly high. Applications to other courses are also well under way and we have had advice in the form of an insightful talk from Imperial College, London as well as a Personal Statement Surgery held in school by Royal Holloway, University of London. In addition, we have become a member of the Royal Holloway Schools Partnership Scheme, creating the opportunity for our students to access a wide range of advice and support in preparation for university.

I was delighted to hear of the great success of some of our sixth form students who undertook extended work experience at the Ellenor Hospice. This opportunity has been invaluable for our students who are aspiring to careers in Medicine and other Healthcare professions. The feedback regarding the students from the Hospice staff was highly complementary and the students have all commented on the fantastic insight and wide range of skills that they have gained. We look forward to building on this opportunity for future cohorts.

With the benefits of work experience in mind, I would like to highlight the forthcoming work experience launch evening for year 11 students and their parents. Work experience placements for year 11 are due to take place for one week in July 2019 and the launch evening will provide more details on the process and school requirements. It is never too early to be thinking about what area of work that you would like to try out and to start exploring potential contacts!

Jenny Douse
Careers
dousej@gravesendgrammar.eu

MATHS CHALLENGE

In a dim and dusty dungeon, the wizard L3mm0nsc8 the Infinite combs through his archive of books. He seeks insight about how to defeat a dark sorcerer bent on world domination. Floating up and down the narrow aisles between bookshelves and unsure of where to begin, he decides to narrow his search using the following procedure.

L3mm0nsc8 begins by moving all of his books to the first shelf of his enchanted bookcase. From the first shelf, he pulls five books at a time. He divines the most promising book and moves it to the second shelf, putting the other four on an enchanted cart for later reshelving. He continues this process until there are fewer than five books on the first shelf.

He then turns his attention to the second shelf of the bookcase. From here he takes books five at a time, putting the most promising book on the shelf and the other four on the cart. This continues until there are fewer than five books on the second shelf.

He then continues the process with the books on the third shelf, transferring one book out of five to the fourth shelf and putting the others on the cart. The whole enterprise continues from shelf to shelf until there are fewer than five books on the last shelf.

In the end, L3mm0nsc8 is left with nine books in the bookcase: two books on the first shelf, four on the second shelf, none on the third shelf, and three on the fourth shelf.

How many books are in L3mm0nsc8’s archive? (answer on back page)

WANTED

Never too young to enjoy Christmas, the Sixth Form are looking for donations of Christmas decorations so that we can decorate the Sixth Form Café over the festive period. If you have any decorations, including Christmas trees, lights, tinsel, bunting and baubles that you no longer need or would be willing to donate, any offers would be greatly appreciated and can be brought to the Café. Thank you!

NOTICE FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

Td/IPV and Men ACWY vaccinations for Year 9 students will take place on 12 and 13 February 2019. If you wish to know more, please contact Mrs Warner at the School.
ELLENOR HOSPICE

The Ellenor Hospice is truly an extraordinary place where the extraordinary can happen. With aspirations of going into a medical career, it offered me the opportunity of not just witnessing the treatment and progression of many different illnesses but also the progression of a patient and how medical treatment goes as far as it can in combining the two in order to help a patient throughout their illness.

The six month role involves four hours weekly on the Inpatient Unit, helping nurses and healthcare assistants manage the care of patients on the ward as well as learning how the ward is run. This was vital in my decision in a future career as it provided a taste of how healthcare professionals manage patients and that this process is a combination of both good communication and application of knowledge in a way that puts patients’ bodies and minds at ease, which was a key part of what the clinical staff were doing on the IPU.

The Hospice also extends to family, providing a chaplaincy service offering spiritual and/or emotional support to the families of those affected by terminal illness. Their focus on attending to the needs of the family truly made me realise that terminal illness doesn’t merely affect just a single person but also their family and friends, with supporting the family unit being just as important as supporting the patient through a long term illness.

Other departments in the Hospice offer Day Therapy, where patients attend recreational sessions which help in both mental and physical recovery either after or during a period of illness. One young man who I met on Day Therapy Ward inspired me with his positive and hopeful attitude, as he had lived many years with MS and yet still had managed to form many great relationships with many members of staff, including me. He is a real example of the fact that a disease does not define a patient: it really hits home the difference patient centered care can make to a patient’s clinical experience.

The six month placement has been awe-inspiring, as I merely scratched the surface of the enormous world of palliative medicine. I learned that it is genuinely a place not where people go to die, but to live.

I couldn’t have been more honoured to have been awarded my certificate for the six month placement, and I hope to help Ellenor Hospice and their cause in the future.

John Luxford, Daniel Page, Tobi Adeoye and Ievan Balcuinate also completed their placements successfully, and Ravi Patel completed a week long placement over the summer holiday.

Joe Robson 13UT2

YOUNG LEADERS

On the weekend of 7th - the 9th of September Luke Hughes (13UT2) and I travelled to Beckingham Training Camp near Lincoln. There we spent the time undergoing rigorous physical training and mental tests to see if we met the standards to take part in the Junior Leaders course.

The course is aimed at cadets of 17 and above; it is also open to Sea Cadets and Army Cadets and culminates in the award of a Level Three Diploma in Team Leadership from the Institute of Leadership and Management. This is the toughest but most rewarding of our leadership courses - make it through and we will have the makings successful leaders. We had to make a formal application to get on the course which was consolidated on this selection weekend. Out of upwards of 900 Squadrons in the ATC, Gravesend was one of the only ones to have two cadets pass this application process.

After travelling to the Camp by train, we were immediately rushed off to put on a PT kit (physical training) and had to undergo an RAF fitness test, which we both passed. From there we continued to the Saturday where we participated in a series of command tasks, interviews and group discussions hoping to shine out as individuals amongst 114 others like us. Of this 114, only 80 made it through the weekend and completed the brief for passing selection.

This is a great achievement for us: we have also become great friends since joining cadets.

Not for the faint-hearted, the Air Cadet Junior Leaders’ Course is physically demanding and requires real commitment as well as determination. The course, which runs from September to Easter, involves nine weekend training camps and an assessment week which will last for 11 days over Easter, followed by a debrief and graduation dinner in April next year, where we will celebrate with our peers and assessors and they will present us with certain awards such as Top Student and Best Lead.

Patrick Norman 13UT2
The Silver DofE: Term 1 Update – 1 October 2018

Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition, Ashdown Forest – 21-23 September 2018

Spending two nights and three days in the Ashdown Forest was a great way to finish our Silver DofE Expedition section. Though the weather may not have been on our side, all 17 of us passed our Qualifying Expedition even when we were faced with rain that left us soaked and wind that felt like it was going to make the tents blow away! On the second night, we stayed at Broadstone Warren, the campsite where our Year 7 Summer Camp is held, which brought back memories for us all. No matter how often one cooks on Trangia cookers and map reads, it always comes with new challenges but is always fun. An great weekend overall.

Special thanks to Mr Poon, Mr Newman, Mr Foster, Mr Townsend and Mrs McLean for their much-appreciated help and for giving up their time. The weekend was a great success with many of us wanting to carry on with the DofE to get our Gold Award!

Robert Hooker 11T

GGS Camping in Antarctica

Now that I have got your attention, let me say that this is not about any of the students leaving the UK and going camping in Antarctica, just to give you an idea of what the staff and students endured when the Silver DofE participants went to the Ashdown Forest for their Qualifying Expedition.

A few days before we were due to go, the weather forecast was increased to a Yellow Weather warning for the Thursday night. After some discussion and consideration, we decided to go ahead but with a few contingency plans. We set off after school and arrived without incident. The next phase was to implement our plan; we had decided to put the vehicles in a line in the middle of the campsite to form a windbreak.

The tents were pitched behind the vehicles so as to take advantage of their bulk. The normal distance between tents was discarded and the tents were pitched close together so that all gained some benefit from the windbreak. After the students had pitched their tents all were inspected by the staff to ensure that guy lines were properly rigged for the incoming storm. A few tents had some improvements and corrections made before we were confident that we had done all we could.

We then went into East Grinstead for a relaxing evening meal, returning in the dark to await Storm Bronagh and her wrath! In the early hours the wind started to increase rapidly, the tents were being buffeted relentlessly. At one stage I am sure my tent was being pushed to 45 degrees; thankfully the carbon fibre poles sprung back when the gust eased. This was happening to all the tents for nearly two hours. Then it all stopped, but only temporarily because the rain started. It got heavier and heavier until I was sure we would get washed away to the other side of the field. This seemed to last an hour or so before it passed through, then came peace and quiet for a time until the dawn chorus woke us up again. That night, snuggling up to Bronagh was like being on the set of the remake of Scott of the Antarctic!

Then it was time for the boys to get up and prepare for their three days of walking through the glorious Ashdown Forest in autumn. Thankfully that horrendous night didn’t stop the boys successfully completing and passing the Expedition part of their Silver DofE.

Melvyn Foster
DofE Supervisor

46TH THAMES FISHERY RESEARCH EXPERIMENT

On Saturday 22nd September 2018, Samuel El-Henawy, Samuel Hiskett, Mr Newman and I were invited to the 46th Thames Fishery Experiment to compete against the City of London School for Girls to decide who is the better school at fishing. This year only 58 fish were caught because of the date and time of the competition. (46 years ago, on the first day this competition happened, 548 fish were caught and there were 500 teams.) This year, it was too hot for accurate results (and too early in the year) so Gravesend Grammar School caught only one fish, but it was a team effort! City of London School for Girls caught seven so we lost the Cup to them. This was a good experience for me as it was my first time fishing and probably (and hopefully) not my last.

Francis Olaleye 8S
A DAY IS A LONG TIME IN POLITICS.....

On Wednesday 10th October, Mr Townsend and Mrs MacMahon took 30 Year 12 politics students to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. We were dropped off at the London Eye and Mr Townsend took us on a guided tour across the Millennium Bridge and down Whitehall, past Downing Street to Parliament Square. We had a riveting talk about the Supreme Court and the statues lining the square. We walked to the Houses of Parliament, passing a pro-EU pressure group, relevant to current topics in class, so it was a valuable experience to see how they function. After lunch and security checks, we were taken on a very interesting tour, during which we saw the well-known politician, Jacob Rees-Mogg, as described by Kieran Everson as “Saw the Mogg, that was nice”. The other group had an impromptu talk from Gillingham MP, Rehman Chishti, who somehow knew Mr Townsend. In the main lobby, some of us made an appearance in the background of the BBC News at One with Norman Smith; again an interesting and relevant experience to our classwork and to see how the media functions with politics. By far the best part of the tour was the opportunity to sit in the public gallery of the House of Commons. Whilst the second reading of the agriculture bill may not sound that exciting, it was very engaging and to see Parliament function before your own eyes was an interesting experience, especially to see figures on TV from the cabinet in front of you, even though it was Michael Gove giving the speech.

After the tour we were treated to a fun and educational lesson with one of the education centre’s teachers. We learnt about electoral systems, and whilst we had covered these briefly in class, it was useful to be able to put these into context with what we’d just learned on the tour. Another part of the lesson was to form our own parties, come up with some policies under time and then present them to gain points. Again a very interesting element as it allowed us to see how policies conflict and how parties debate each other’s policies. Finally, we were visited by a member of Adam Holloway MPs office; it was great to hear from a representative of our own MP, as it was a great contrast from hearing Michael Gove’s speech on an agriculture bill affecting us far into the future, then hearing about local issues that affect us now.

Overall, the day out to London was a great experience as it helped many of us to gain a better understanding of what actually goes on in Parliament. We learnt some useless (but interesting) facts such as why the House of Lords have red seats and the House of Commons have green (traditionally green was a cheap colour which showed the Commons’ status, whereas red was an expensive colour), and we learned some not so useless information that will be beneficial for our politics A level.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of the staff in the education centre; the tour guides and the teacher, for such an engaging tour. I would also like to thank the office of Adam Holloway MP for making time to send a representative to us and tell us about Adam and our area but also for hearing our questions. Finally, a big thanks to the teachers who took us, Mrs MacMahon and especially Mr Townsend for organising and running such an interesting and enjoyable trip, it was much appreciated.

Dominic Bone & Kieran Luker Year 12
HISTORY IN THE MAKING?

The GGS History Department were extremely proud to welcome back one of their old boys who is currently in the second year of study for his PhD in History at Cambridge University. Lewis kindly agreed to come back and make use of our own lecture theatre to provide the Year 13 Historians a University style lecture of his own considering the ‘Causes of the French Revolution’ in preparation for their 4000 word coursework essay on this topic. Lewis consolidated a lot of what has already been taught alongside a different perspective to further challenge our Historians and provide a wider historiographical base to the work they are producing. He also answered questions from the audience as to further education, postgraduate studies and University life. We hope this is the start of further collaboration with Old Boys of the School who are excelling in their adult lives.

After my A-Levels, I went to Warwick to study History and eventually got a first. I was lucky enough to get full funding for my Master’s (partly as I was the first person in my family to go to university, partly because Gravesenham is still an under-represented region in higher education) and went to Durham to study Modern History. I received a distinction in my MA and won the Michie Prize for best dissertation in the department. I’m now in the second year of my PhD in History at Sidney Sussex, University of Cambridge, and am working on a thesis that looks at American travel to Britain and the ‘special relationship’ in the late nineteenth century. I have just returned from a month-long archival research trip to the US and am starting a two-month fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin in January. I recently had an edited version of my MA dissertation, titled “Five goals, no boots: an interrogation of the politics, play and racialized athleticism of late colonial football tours to England, 1949-1959”, accepted for publication by the journal Sport in History, and am looking forward to that being published soon! I’m co-convener of my university’s American History Workshop, co-convener of the University of Cambridge Nationalisms and Identities Research Group and have just started hosting an interview podcast for the Cambridge American History Seminar. I’m still, above all else, a Millwall fan. I look back very fondly at my time at GGS - it’s where my interest in history started (thanks largely to the excellent teaching), and I was really excited to be invited back to talk to the year 13’s about some of the causes of the French Revolution. If anyone wants any advice or has any questions about studying history or going to university in general, I’d be more than happy to help. Email me at ltd27@cam.ac.uk !

Lewis Defrates
GGS 2005—2012

At the end of Term 1, Year 13 History students were lucky enough to hear a presentation on ‘The Causes of The French Revolution’ given by former student of GGS, Lewis Defrates. This was not only an amazing opportunity for us because it is the topic of our A Level coursework, but Mr Defrates is now studying for a PhD in History at Cambridge, after having studied at also Warwick and Durham. This meant that he was able to provide us with new perspectives and helpful information on our complicated coursework topic. Not only that, but he was certainly able to provide us a well-rounded view on university life, which is something that many of us are interested in post-sixth form.

The football analogy that he used to explain the events leading up the Revolution went down well, and provided a new way of understanding the events we are studying. Most interesting to me was the new insights that he was able to provide on the Enlightenment of the 18th century in France, and the accessibility of reading materials to the masses, which I know is something that I will further explore in my own coursework essay. In addition, many of us (including myself) also found the further reading advice very useful for our essay-writing, as Mr Defrates provided us with a variety of useful sources.

Above all, to hear from a former student of GGS was a special experience for us all, as his success is definitely something to aspire to, shown through his hard work and dedication to his subject - something that we can all carry through when we leave GGS ourselves.

Isabelle Raby 13UF1

THAMES TEACHING ALLIANCE—
GET INTO TEACHING
INFORMATION MORNING

Tuesday 6th November 2018
9.00 am - 10.30 am
GGS will be holding an information morning for anybody who is interested in training to become a teacher.

Please email Sally Ashton on ashtons@gravesendgrammar.com for details.

Oppportunity and Challenge in a Caring Environment
October 2018
The date is 13th September 2018, and I find myself in the lavish lobby of the Intercontinental Hotel at Park Lane, London. I am surrounded by an array of different cultures, all of whom are accepting one another for their unique races, religions, disabilities, sexual orientations and gender identities. Why, you may be asking? Why mention such categories? These are the categories that come under Hate Crime, and I am here representing the H4U (Here For You) Committee at the National Hate Crime Awards.

H4U (Here For You) Committee at the National Hate Crime Awards.

The H4U Committee (located at The Grand, Gravesend) was set up in 2013. It’s overarching goal has been to provide a platform for young people to feel confident in talking about their mental wellbeing, which will pave the way to breaking the stigma surrounding this ‘sensitive’ topic.

For the past eighteen months, I have been fortunate enough to have had the role as chairman of this committee, leading a group of thirty young people on a weekly basis. In the late months of 2017, we were approached by Kent Police to create a poster, its purpose to encourage young people to report hate crimes in the Gravesham area. As a committee, we collectively declined this offer, as we didn’t trust that the police would actually take such matters seriously. Subsequently, a meeting was held between the committee and the police, and we mutually agreed to work in cohesion with them on what was later named the Say No To Hate Crime project.

However, as representatives of the youth in Gravesham, we wanted to know whether the young people actually knew what hate crimes were and whether they felt confident in reporting them to the police. As a result, we created hate crime surveys, which were distributed across all secondary schools in Gravesham. We received an impressive 5,000 surveys with some startling statistics. 50% of the young people claimed to have known what a hate crime was, yet when asked to name the five different types of hate crime, only 1% could answer correctly. Coupled with this, 27% of those questioned did not feel confident in reporting hate crimes to the police. Our survey indicated two key issues: firstly, young people were not aware of the different types of hate crime; and secondly, a large proportion of the youth did not trust the police.

What we did with this information had to be valuable and captivating for the young people. Consequently, on 13th July 2018 we held a one night ‘Say No To Hate Crime’ music event at Fort Gardens in Gravesend. The evening was championed by DJ Culture from Wireless 2018, who has been a close advocate for mental well-being in recent years. Over 500 young people attended, and we raised £800 for our Active Listening Service - a free counselling service for young people at The Grand. What was most impressive, though, was the cohesion between the police and the young people that evening. They were dancing, singing and mingling with one another, which built the foundations of trust between the youth and our local police - a brilliant sight to see.

Despite the immense success that evening, we had further plans for our project. Throughout the night, camera crews captured the integration of different cultures within the youth. This footage has now been used to create a video, showcasing the music event. In the background of the video, we have embedded the different types of hate crime, alongside emergency contact details for those who witness or are victimised by a hate crime. We hope for this video to be distributed across all schools in Gravesham, to help educate young people and promote our brilliant cause.

The work we do at H4U is rewarding in itself, let alone the honour of being shortlisted for such a prestigious award. Because of the H4U Committee, I have had the priceless opportunity to make a difference in my community. I thoroughly encourage anybody who has an interest in helping others to come along to one of our sessions, held every Thursday (4pm-6pm) at The Grand, Gravesend.

Mason Rickard 12US2
GRAVESEND GRAMMAR SCHOOL TERM DATES - 2019 - 2020

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
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<th>Finish</th>
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<td>Term 1</td>
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<td>Summer Holiday: Monday, 20th July 2020 – Monday, 31st August 2020 (NB provisional)</td>
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Quiz Night
A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.....
FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2018
MAIN HALL - GGS

TICKETS will be available in Term 2 from:
Finance Office, Mr Ward, Miss Lewis or Henry Cross UH2

Doors 7pm for 7:30pm start.
Raffle

Adult £5
Student (under 16) £3
Teams of 8 max.
GGS SPORT STARTS WITH A BANG!!!

REGULAR FEATURES
Headlines: GGS Sporting Success
The Interviews: Student & staff athlete profiles
Match Reports: Already this year, Gravesend Grammar School has had great success across several sports.

BADMINTON—Sam Pannell (8S—Right) won the U14 boys singles and doubles at the Junior Kent Badminton Championships on Sunday 16th September.

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY—Top Ten athletes compete at Nationals.

FOOTBALL—Our 1st XI Football team are 2nd in the North Kent Premier League and our U16 team are still going strong in the National and County Cups.

GOLF—Ollie Perkins (UF3) led the Kent Schools team to victory at Royal Ascot Golf Club.

RUGBY—The U15 Rugby team (Middle) beat Judd 27-34 in the National Vase 1st Round/Kent Cup 1st Round—Judd are one of the top sporting Schools in Kent/South East.

SWIMMING—Great performances at Kent Secondary Schools Swimming Relays.

TAEKWONDO—Denis Piralic (11F—Left) made it through to the 2nd round of selection for Team GB in ITF taekwondo.

Congratulations to all who took part in contributing to these fantastic results!
STUDENT ATHLETE INTERVIEW

Name: Andrew Cooke
Age: 17
Form: UF2
Sport: Rugby
Position: Centre/Utility back & 1st XV Captain
Years in current sport: 3 years

How got you started?
My dad used to play so I grew up around it. Ned Warren, in my form, encouraged me to come down to the Gravesend Rugby Club.

How often do you train?
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the School and Club, Games on Saturday and Sunday then preseason three times a week.

How far do you want to go?
As far as I can go and hopefully professionally

How would someone get involved?
Start at school, it’s a friendly environment and if you want to you can play for your club as well.

What was the best advice you were ever given?
Be confident when you are playing, in yourself and your team.

Do you have a role model?
Frank Lampard has always been my idol, he was smart, sensible and a good pundit, a great attitude towards sport.

TEACHER ATHLETE INTERVIEW

Name: Mr P Foreman
Professional Role: Teacher of Physical Education/Head of Rugby GGS
Education: GGS 2005—2002
BSc Sport & Physical Education (Hons)/PGCE Secondary Physical Education

What is your earliest sporting memory?
Two very fond early sporting memories, firstly playing cricket with my Grandad in the back garden. Secondly, playing rugby with my brothers and family friends - my Dad took us down for a run around together and we all still love the game.

Who were your sporting heroes growing up?
Gary Lineker was my absolute idol. I once got to meet him on a Walkers Crisp tour at the local Happy Shopper - amazing!

Can you recall a memorable sporting teacher?
As a GGS Old Boy I was fortunate to have had some quality and inspiring teachers, my first being Mr David Laventure who helped grow my love of playing rugby and latterly Mr Moaby, (our new Headteacher) who inspired me to continue playing rugby at University and beyond.

What is your biggest accomplishment in your sport?
I’ve been fortunate enough to have had some success as a rugby player, representing Wales Universities vs England and Scotland, playing in the British University Final at Twickenham in 2007 with UWIC (now Cardiff Met) and being able to play professionally overseas for a number of seasons in Hong Kong, winning the HK Premiership and Grand Championships - I’ve been very lucky to have so many, but it’s difficult to pick just one. Playing sport opens up so many doors and helps you to meet and make lifelong friends, which are the memories that I hold most dear.

What other sports did you participate in and to what standard?
I played cricket and football at a County level whilst at school, but will put my hand to any sport going; tennis, athletics, golf, basketball, volleyball, whatever is available I’ll give it a go - probably another reason I love teaching PE.

What teams are you involved with these days?
Now I have joined GGS as Head of Rugby my focus is on getting to know the history of rugby here at GGS. I have close links to players here and at Old Gravesendians as my boyhood club. Lots of old friends have played or still play at Gravesend, but I look forward to forming even closer links with our local clubs and the County.
As Head of PE, I have been delighted with sport at GGS! There is a fantastic positivity throughout all sports in the School. This atmosphere has led to an increase in numbers and success across the board.

Our U15 rugby team reached the Kent Cup Quarter-Finals, narrowly losing to a very strong King’s School, Canterbury. On route to the Quarter-Finals they disposed of Judd convincingly!

Our U14 rugby team go from strength to strength and had a fantastic Cup match against Eltham College. Our U14s did not win a match as U13s but pushed one of the top Independent Schools in the country all the way to the final whistle, only succumbing 19 – 12.

Football continues to thrive in our senior years, with our 1st XI currently sitting in 2nd place in the North Kent Premier League, through goal difference alone. Our U16 team have acquitted themselves well and at the time of writing remain in both the National and County Cups.

Success has also come outside of the School setting with notable achievements from Sam Pannell (8S) winning the U14 Kent Badminton Competition as an U13 and Denis Piralic (11F) made it through to the 2nd round of selection for Team GB in ITF Taekwondo.

Students continue to have the opportunity to take part in 11 different extracurricular activities with the chance to represent the School in most of these options.

I am eternally grateful for the support of the School PTA in helping with extra equipment and providing playing shirts for a number of our School teams. It is hoped that we will soon have the additions of Chess and Darts starting in the near future.

As a department we take great pride in our provision and I am so pleased to see so many students taking up the opportunity to be active.

The continuing lack of respect that professional sportspeople have for officials - fortunately rugby players don’t have such a bad name and respect for all is one of the values that rugby continues to hold on to.

As a department we take great pride in our provision and I am so pleased to see so many students taking up the opportunity to be active.

What is your biggest sporting bugbear?

What is your favourite sporting memory?

When was the last time you cried at a sporting event?

Which three sports people would you like to have around for dinner?

What was the best sporting advice you were ever given?

How would someone get involved in your sport?

WBB

CELEBRATION STATION FOR GGS SPORT

The introduction of the new ‘GGS Sports’ website has been a huge success, with greater information available to both students and parents. You can find the website by following this link: https://sites.google.com/gravesendgrammar.com/ggssport. We will also, very soon, be introducing an online Kit Shop where you will be able to purchase playing and training kit. Current items available are:

- Training/Warm Up T-Shirt (all years)
- Black rugby shorts (years 7 – 10)
- Black rugby socks (years 7 – 10)
- White rugby shorts (years 11- 13)
- Training top/smock (all years)
- Hoodie (all years)
- Holdall Kit Bag (all years)
- Rucksack Kit Bag (all years)

All kit will be Navy Blue/Sky Blue in colour, unless otherwise stated and come with the School badge and have the option to personalise with initials.

We are running this website in conjunction with ‘VX3 - Teamwear and Custom Sports Apparel’ and hope to add other items in the future. There will be communication when this website is live and you will be able to follow a link on the ‘GGS Sports’ website.

School Colours will once again be awarded during this academic year. The decision has been taken to award the Colours during Key Stage Prize Giving. Colours are awarded to those students who display excellence in their chosen sport and excellent commitment to that sport in School.

I am very proud to lead my department and of all achievements by students in our School. I look forward to the year ahead and I hope to see many of you playing or supporting on the touchline this year.

Mr S Burton
Head of PE
SPORTS RESULTS

CROSS COUNTRY

Nationals

On 2nd October I had the opportunity of running for my school at the Nationals. It was an amazing experience and I thank everyone who put the event together at Yardley Court.

In the competition I came 42nd but it was a really hard track as there were lots of ditches and a hill that was practically vertical! I would like to thank Mr Bayliss-Brown and Mr Burton for helping me get there and the rest of the Cross Country squad who took part for all their great effort.

Jack Douse 9C

FOOTBALL

1st XI

The football first team have made a really positive start to the season and have some good results. More importantly they have conducted themselves in an exemplary manner on and off the pitch at matches and in training. The hard work is paying off so far as we are joint top of the league.

The season got off to a good start with a 3-2 win at home against Ravensbourne with Ben Walker (13UD1) being the Man of the Match. The next fixture lead out boys to play Wilmington Grammar where we were unlucky to lose 2-1 in a closely contested game in blustery conditions. MOM Tom Monk (13UH3).

Beths Grammar school then visited us in our third league game of the season where, despite some injuries and a penalty, controlled the game and won comfortably 2-1. An excellent long range goal from Luke Pollard (13UH1), being the highlight of the game. MOM Tom Monk.

It was now time for the first Cup game of the season where the deadlock was broken by an excellent long range effort from Dane Court. An equaliser looked possible with Robbie Keen (D) narrowly missing a half volley attempt from the edge of the 18 yard box. The game finished with Dane Court victorious 1-0. MOM Matthew Payne (12US1).

Following the defeat in the Cup, attention returned to the League where our boys played for the first time on a Monday afternoon against Bexley Grammar away. This proved to be our best game so far with a convincing performance and a 3-0 win, with two goals from Joe Simmons (13UT3), keeping us joint top of the table on points, with Beths Grammar school.

Hopefully we will continue our positive attitude and work ethic throughout the season and as a result of this we should continue to achieve well in the League and have a chance of proceeding in the National Schools Cup.

Keep it up GGS Football First Team Squad.

DGN

U16

The U16 football season kicked off with a very tough encounter against Fulston Manor in the first round of the French Cup. In a game that ebbed and flowed George Nkazi (11F), Riley Goatham (11T) and Jed Thilthorpe (11T) were to the fore in all of the good football played by the home side. Oliver Fox De Klerk (11D) pulled off some great saves to keep Gravesend in the game and commanded his area and defenders well.

Eventually the game ended 3-3. Goals for Gravesend were scored by Harry Warwick (11S), Siddiqui Jalloh (11T) and Jed-Thilthorpe. The game then went to a penalty shoot-out and I was very impressed by the number of players willing to take one. Gravesend won the shoot-out and went into the hat for the next round, drawing Simon Langton at home.

The National Cup began with a fixture away to Valley Park in Maidstone. On a 3G surface that took a bit of getting used to the players acquitted themselves brilliantly.

George Nkazi Captain for the game, drove the team forward at every possible opportunity. Oliver Fox De Klerk again was solid as goalkeeper and was ably assisted by a well organised and hard-working defence.

Gravesend went 1-0 down via a good finish from the Valley Park number nine after some good build up play. Gravesend continually threatened the Valley Park goal and with 5 minutes left Harry Warwick laid the ball off to Daniel Iluebbey (11S) who rattled the post with a fierce drive from 10 yards. It seemed that things weren’t going to fall for Gravesend in the game and this was confirmed two minutes from full time with a penalty given against the away side.

Oliver Fox De Klerk saved the initial penalty but the rebound was tuned away from a Valley Park player to make it 2-0. Gravesend fought right to the end but just couldn’t find the break through. This brought our National Cup campaign to an end.

Opportunity and Challenge in a Caring Environment

October 2018
Baran Ramsubhag went on to score a further two times to complete his hat trick on to score a further two times to complete his hat trick and round off a hugely impressive individual display. Riley Goatham, who was Captain, also deserves a special mention for his continued work rate up and down the right flank and delivering some excellent crosses for our strikers. Despite the seesaw nature of the game, it ended 3-3.

Extra time beckoned and the effort the Gravesend players put into the game started to tell in extra time. Simon Langton scored quickly in the first period of extra time and from that moment Gravesend were always chasing the game. Goatham struck a spectacular shot from the edge of the area with the outside of his right boot but the Simon Langton goalkeeper was equal to it with a breath taking save, diving full stretch to his right hand post.

As Gravesend went in search of the equaliser, it was almost inevitable that the opposition would start to find and exploit the spaces left by a more attacking formation. They scored twice more from set pieces to run out 6-3 winners, a score that does not reflect the close nature of the game.

In all it has been a very rewarding experience for me to work with this set of players. They must be congratulated for their hard work, dedication and performances. We await confirmation of the next fixture in our final competition, the Invicta Cup.

MJW

RUGBY

U12

This year has seen the most year 7 students at training and matches in a decade. We have regularly had more than 60 students at training and have been in a position to put out four teams every weekend. A superb start to the season!

Our season began with two Inter-School Tournaments which saw some very fierce rivalries. Next came games against Kent College, St Olave’s School and Chatham House. All three were very competitive games and a very impressive win over St Olave’s being the highlight. The players have made great progress and are combining physicality with skill to produce some great performances. We have seen a lot of players, who are new to the sport, flourish and come to the fore. George Cranham (7T), Florian Nurcja (7T), Callum Fooks (7H), Samuel Bob-

er (7C) and Cyrus Garnett (7F) are all players who have started their careers here at GGS and have made some very impressive performances. There have also been more experienced players who have shown great leadership qualities, Harry Lewis (7F) and Harrison Dean (7H) being notable mentions.

Deciding who the Ironman and Man of the Match Awards go to each week has been very difficult, as the commitment level has been superb. I am sure that all of the players are looking forward to House Rugby, but to whom will the spoils go?

EJR

U13

The U13 squad have had a very positive and promising start to the season. There have been good numbers at training and as a result some excellent personal and team performances against Maidstone and Kent College as mixed ability teams.

St Olave’s were our next opponents and we saw an excellent game of rugby in the A team. Perfect conditions allowed for some brilliant running rugby, and a game that was neck and neck right to the end, with St Olave’s coming out 4-3 winner right at the death. For their performances Ryan Keenan (8C) was awarded Man of the Match and Max Turner (8S) was Ironman. In the same fixture the B team came away with a win 6-3 with Shemen Omoraka (8C) earning Man of the Match and Max Sullivan (8C) Ironman for his stellar performance playing a new position as fly half.

House Rugby was also a huge success with Cliff house winning the Year 8 tournament. If you played in House Rugby and enjoyed it, you are welcome to join the squad. Come along on training on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school 3.15pm – 4.45pm.

BPS & WBB

U14

The U14 squad has grown from strength to strength this year. Stronger in terms of ability by focusing and spending time wanting to get better at training; stronger in terms of finding new players and creating a buzz around the team and stronger in terms of winning games (something that did not happen last year). Nearly beating Eltham College in the Kent cup was a highlight.

Seeing the players show desire and intensity right to the end was testament to a team that wants to get better and win against the best in Kent. They were watched by many of the squad, who were not playing but who had their opportunity in the next game against Chatham House and won a hard game by two tries. This proves that we need a large squad and even when we rest players we can play good rugby and win. There is still a way to go but with continued dedication and commitment they will reach their potential and win a lot more games.

SET
U15
GGS travelled away to The Judd School on Thursday 27th September in the 1st Round of the National and Kent Cup competitions. Playing into the sun in first half the Gs opened up a 12-5 lead with tries from Wonderful Ajayi (10D) and Josh Barnes (10C), with some great work at the breakdown from Toby Emery (10F) and Josh Saunders (10F). Daniel Adenuga (10D) and Daniel Ogunbambo (10T) showed great pace out wide, as the Gs stretched out to a half time lead of 17-5.

The Judd School are never a team to give up, and well known for being one of the strongest rugby schools in the region, came back into the game in the second half, 17-10 before some quick break away tries from Beathan Wilson (10S) and Josh Barnes (10C) up the middle, supported by the control of scrum half Josh Harris (10H) and the support of Kelvin Akighbe (10T) helped the Gs pull 34-17 ahead with 15 minutes remaining.

Again, Judd came back into the game, and brave defending from Matt Cambridge (10C), Sonny Williams (10T), Arron Carver (10F) and Kwame Agyeman (10D) helped to keep just enough advantage on the scoreboard for the boys in blue, who finished the game winning 34-27 and on to the next round of both County and National competitions.

Congratulations to all boys involved as we refocus attentions to our next fixture and a huge thank you to Judd for a highly competitive game.

The U15 rugby side have been taking great strides forwards since our first pre-season training session on 3rd September. Four wins, including an excellent away win 34-27 vs Judd School and a 53-24 win vs St Olave’s have seen the boys play some expansive and attractive rugby, scoring 40 tries so far this season.

Most impressive has been the continuing increase in the number of players in the squad, with togetherness, friendship and teamwork at the core of everything we do at training (Tuesday and Thursday) and during fixtures.

It is very difficult to single out any individual from the pack, which shows the progress that the team are making and as we are excited as we look forward to the National Vase 2nd Round fixture vs Chis & Sid.

1st XV RUGBY
Senior rugby so far this year has been a challenging yet rewarding season. A number of the matches so far this year have offered great opportunity for development and growth as a group. With a new coaching set up and some new patterns and ideas we have been striving to develop and implement these into matches. Sometimes this has proven to be particularly challenging.

However within this there have been some exceptional moments of success. Additionally, a pleasing part of our season so far has been the performances of a number of the younger players in the senior squad. Harry Tasker 11T, Thani Vitakaran 11C and Arjun Johal 11D along with some of the older students, such as Harvey Emery UF3 and Oren Fackrell US2, have demonstrated so far that not only are they and the team ready for senior rugby, but actually that senior rugby at GGS is developing and growing in a positive direction.

Moving forward as a group we are looking forward to growing and developing further into the season as a unit, concentrating on the traditional big fixtures that are approaching in the latter half of the season, Dartford GS and Kings Rochester under lights to name but a few.

CC
SWIMMING
Kent Secondary Schools Swimming Relays—September 2018
It’s been several years since the School entered this gala due to the fact that past experience has taught us that just to be able to hold your own, you need four very good swimmers. However, this year we decided to have another go and, after a lot of hard work from Daniel Oliver (8F) rounding up new swimmers (thank you), in July we entered 6 teams. Unfortunately, by the time we got to 22nd September, we were down to 4 teams as 2 members of the junior team had broken wrists!

I’m pleased to say that the drive to Margate was totally worth it as we came away with one 2nd place, two 3rd places and one 4th! Not bad when you consider that we were up against schools who have their own pools to train in and some who have sufficient swimmers to be able to enter 5 teams in one event!

The Senior team (years 11, 12 & 13) - James Angel (12C), Rhys Bonnell (12F), Ben Cooper (11D) and Tom Runting (13F) got silver in the 200m Freestyle relay and bronze in the 200m Medley relay. Special thanks to James for swimming the breaststroke leg which no-one wanted to do. Unfortunately, he swam it so well, he might have trouble getting anyone else to take it on in the future!

The Intermediate team (years 9 & 10) - consisted of 5 swimmers - David Allen (9D), Thomas Angel (9C), Rhys Jones (9T), Anthony Morgan (9S) and George Wise (10H).

David, Anthony, Thomas and George came 4th in the 200m
Freestyle and George, Rhys, Thomas and David got bronze in the 200m Medley relay.

Needless to say, they were all a credit to the School which is something I have to admit I now take for granted but is nevertheless always welcome.

We now look forward to the Kent Secondary Individual events in January when we will hopefully be back to full strength.

JW

TAEKWONDO

Trials for Great Britain

Due to my World Championships achievements and my year’s experience in ITF taekwondo, I was invited to participate in a development programme for the next Olympics. But I first had to trial for these in order to show how good I actually am. So, towards the end of July, I trained harder than I ever have before. Getting up at 5 am for cardio runs, working a part time job so that I could pay for personal-professional training and also eating nothing but fish, chicken and vegetables for a month. It was hard work!

Finally, when the time came, I went all the way up to Manchester, for a trial exam, which ended up being just more than just a sparring session. I was competing against a rival for the same spot on the team which was recorded and assessed. This was a test of the strength of my will to fight. Honestly, that match was one of the greatest contests I think I will ever be a part of. Not only because of my performance, but because my opponent was also equally motivated and showing great spirit. After the fight, they said that we would get an email saying whether we were to move onto the next phase of the trials - bootcamp.

For the next 20 or so days I was constantly checking my emails, anxious to see a message from them. On the 17th August it finally came, stating that I had got through to the next round. When I read this, I did a backflip off my sofa and celebrated with my friends and family.

On 1st September, I went back up to Manchester at 4 am to take part in a whole weekend of training with Team GB. This was a chance for them to assess my strength and how good I really was.

I remember some of it, but unfortunately, I received a concussion by the end of the first day (due to accumulating so many hits to the head) and lost memory of most of my experience; at one point I was doing really well, fighting my heart out, and the next I was eating lunch, not knowing what my name was or where I was.

Since then I have made a full recovery and even though my time with Team GB was short, it was a brilliant experience and something I will never forget. This is one of my greatest successes so far and I will aim to keep improving so I will one day compete for Great Britain.

Denis Piralic 11F

250 CLUB

The winners for June 2018 were:

1st - £196.62 - No 342 - Member since 2015, no previous wins, holds 2 numbers.
2nd - £107.25 - No 300 - Member since 2014, no previous wins, holds 2 numbers.
3rd - £53.63 - No 336 - Member since 2017, no previous wins. Contribution to the school - £357.50

The winners for July 2018 were:

1st - £188.37 - No 216 - Member pre 2005, 2 previous wins.
2nd - £102.75 - No 194 - Member since 2005, 1 previous win.
3rd - £53.63 - No 60 - Member since 2011, 3 previous wins. Contribution to the school - £342.50

The winners for August 2018 were:

1st - £187.00 - No 350 - Member pre 2010, 1 previous wins.
2nd - £102.00 - No 139 - Member since 2014, no previous wins.
3rd - £51.00 - No 343 - Member since 2016, no previous wins. Contribution to the school - £340.00

It might be worth explaining what happens if a member cannot be traced, which is rare in recent years. Firstly I will enlist the PTA and School’s help, via PTA members or Mr Rees (staff representative). They do not give me contact details but will often email a parent directly to ask to share contact details. If the member does not have a child at the school and the contact details I hold do not lead me to the winner I have, on occasions, used my stalking skills, otherwise know as Google or Facebook! If all this fails the entirety of the winnings are paid over to the school.

I hope sometime in the next term to be able to confirm some details with you regarding your information held by me and how that is kept securely. Rest assured, as far as I am aware at this point in time, they do comply with the new GDPR and the PTA/250 club fall under the school.

Claire Holmes
PTA 250 club Co-ordinator

The next PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, 6th November at 7:00pm. Please get in touch if you are interested in coming along. New members are always welcome.
Each term there will be a different sport in which each house will compete. This term's Cross Country results are below. The Top Ten athletes from each year are as follows and each forms results have been collated in order show the fastest form.

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<th>Top Form Y9</th>
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**OVERALL WINNERS**

**SCHOOL HOUSE**
## HOUSE RUGBY
### FINAL STANDINGS 2019

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#### YEAR 9, 10 + 11 OVERALL

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#### OVERALL WINNERS

**CLIFF HOUSE**
DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FRIDAY, 19TH OCTOBER
Saturday, 20th October—Friday, 26th October

MONDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER
Tuesday, 13th November
Thursday, 22nd November
Thursday, 29th November
Monday, 3rd December
Thursday, 6th December
Tuesday, 11th December

TUESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER
TUESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER
MONDAY, 7TH JANUARY 2019
Wednesday, 9th January
Tuesday, 15th January
Thursday, 17th January
Friday, 18th January
Tuesday, 22nd January
Thursday, 24th January
Thursday, 7th February
Tuesday, 12th and Wednesday, 13th February
Wednesday, 13th and Thursday, 14th February
Thursday, 14th—Wednesday, 20th February
THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY
Friday, 15th February—Tuesday, 19th February
Saturday, 16th February—Sunday, 24th February

MONDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY

LAST DAY OF TERM 1
Yorkshire Dales Walking Trip

START OF TERM TWO (WEEK 1)
Year 7 Consultation Evening (15:30—18:00)
Year 11 Work Experience Evening 19:00
Chances and Choices (11C and 11D) 18:30—19:30
Chances and Choices (11F and 11H) 18:30—19:30
Year 13 Consultation Evening 15:30—18:00
Chances and Choices (11S and 11T) 18:30—19:30
Carol Service, St George’s Church 19:00—21:30

LAST DAY OF TERM 2
START OF TERM 3 (WEEK 2)

TERM DATES FOR 2018-2019 and 2019—2020 ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.gravesendgrammar.eu

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2018—2019

TERM 1: Wednesday, 29th August 2018  Staff INSET day, new Year 7 Induction
Starts: All students return Thursday, 30th August 2018
Finishes: Friday, 19th October

TERM 2: Starts: Monday, 5th November 2018
Finishes: Tuesday, 18 December 2018

TERM 3: Starts: Monday, 7th January 2019
Finishes: Thursday, 14th February 2019

TERM 4: Starts: Monday, 25th February 2019
Finishes: Friday, 12th April 2019

TERM 5: Starts: Wednesday, 24th April 2019
Finishes: Friday, 24th May 2019

TERM 6: Starts: Monday, 3rd June 2019
Finishes: Friday, 19th July 2019

Solution to Maths Challenge:
((((3x5)+0)x5)+4)x5+2 = 397