During Term 5 we celebrated the successes of our senior students at Prize Giving. Over 400 students, parents and guests were assembled in the School hall to see the students collect awards for subject performance, pillars of success and for the first time at Prize Giving, Colours for Sport, Music, Drama and Art as well as International and County representation. As students received their prizes, it reminded us all how special our students are and how determined they are in a huge range of disciplines.

During Prize Giving, Chair of the Trust, Mr Graham Ralph, gave an excellent valedictum to Peter Sanderson, former Headteacher at GGS between 1978 and 1985, who passed away in April. Graham spoke eloquently about how Mr Sanderson had supported and inspired him to be the best that he could be. Whilst this was a sad loss to the Gravesend Grammar School community, it was made worse by the passing of Mr Dharam Solanki on the very same day. Mr Solanki was a well respected Physics teacher in the mid-80s and as a school our thoughts are very much with the families of these two outstanding colleagues.

Year 11 and 13 are now well into taking their GCSE and A level exams. Students and teachers have been working exceptionally hard to prepare for these external examinations and I am sure that this work will pay off we get the results in August.

I have looked very closely at the School’s leadership structure and I have restructured it to give us more capacity in a number of areas. I have already announced that Mrs Tremain will be my Deputy Head from September and I am also pleased to announce that Mr Pallant will become the Head of Sixth Form, Mr Deamer Head of Key Stage 4, Mr Fotheringham Inclusion Lead. We will also have two new Assistant Heads of Key Stage.

As a very amateur golfer, I was absolutely delighted that our team of Oliver Perkins, Jack Dalley and Lucas Denison won the Kent Golf Team Championship. Their scores of 77, 79 and 64 were not only enough to lift the trophy but the 64 scored by Oliver broke the course record. I couldn’t be more proud of these students and wish them the very best in the National finals next term.

We continue to improve our buildings and we were pleased to have received confirmation that we have been awarded £500,000 to replace the roof on the south side of the school with new soffits and down-pipes around the whole of the building. Unfortunately our bid for the quad windows turned down but the feedback indicates that we should be successful next year. Over the summer holidays, we are refurbishing our student support facility, carpeting staircases and decorating the Sanderson building. Each year it is my intention to develop our buildings to ensure that they are fit for the next 50 years of occupancy.
OBITUARIES

Peter Sanderson, Headteacher 1978-85, and Dharam Solanki, teacher in the 1980s and 90s, both died on 16th April 2019 after long illnesses. Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

**PETER SANDERSON**

spent his whole teaching career at Gravesend Grammar School, initially as a PE teacher, rising through the ranks to become Headteacher in 1979 after the death of his predecessor. Uniquely, he was supported in securing the role by petition signed by the whole teaching staff after KCC initially ruled that a deputy head could not succeed to the position.

He was a man of strong Christian principle, very popular with his staff to whom he in return was extremely loyal. Peter was first and foremost a teacher, and had a very successful second career while Head, teaching English at A level. He strongly supported extra-curricular activity, most famously appearing on stage in every one of the School Reviews which ran for a week every summer term for 15 years.

**DHARAM SOLANKI**

Dharam taught at GGS for nine years as a teacher of Physics and left following ill-health. In his val-edictum, Ian Sapsford, then Head of Science said “His knowledge of Physics is immense ...he rarely criticises anybody and he uncomplainingly tolerates having to teach in the grottiest labs, Dharam is always good humoured. . .unfailingly cheerful. . .greets everyone with a courteous ‘good morning’. ...it takes a great talent to hold the entire sixth form spellbound in an assembly and rocking with laughter.”.

MATHS CHALLENGE—ODDS & EVENS

Find three even numbers and one odd one that satisfy this equation:

Even × Odd = Even

Even

Answers on back page

STAFF NEWS

This term we have said goodbye to Mr Jack Smith, our IT technician. He has our best wishes for the future and our grateful thanks for his patience (particularly with staff!) and help in all things IT related in School. We also say goodbye to Mr Milner who completes his gap year with us to go travelling before university in September and to Mr Lusty, who has been supporting students in the Maths Department.

We welcome Dr Garry Sturley to the staff as a Teacher of Science.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Deamer and his wife on the birth of their daughter.

CHARITY

The last non-uniform day raised £844 for the Wooden Spoon Society, a sports charity for disabled children.
HEAD STUDENT’S REPORT

With the cold winter nights behind us, we now move into the last few weeks of the academic year. The summer term at GGS has many opportunities to offer. With regards to sport, the switchover from rugby and hockey to cricket and athletics is well underway. Not only is it pleasing to see the levels of success so far of our summer sports teams, but the sheer number of boys participating should also be remarked upon. Every time I walk past the new TV noticeboards in the Sanderson, there is always someone different who ranks top of the leaderboard for most runs and wickets!

Moreover, the Head Student Team and I have already been handed many tasks to be done as part of the change over process - one of which was to interview and select new prefects to fill the vacancies that were left since the Head Student Team moved into office. Thus, congratulations to Max Charlwood, Pravi Sidhu, Joe Hinks, and Kieran Parrot as the new pastoral prefects, as well as Julius Siriekis, Owen Glazier and Ben Burtenshaw as the new charity prefects. We have full confidence that you will do those jobs very well.

In addition to this, lower down the School in Years 7 and 8, the students are still working hard towards getting their Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates through the 78+ merit system. It really is great to see that their efforts and success are continuing right to the end of the year.

Lukey Hunt
Head Student

MEET THE STAFF

Having recently interviewed our new Headteacher, Mr Moaby, on his appointment for the newsletter, I thought that for this edition, it would be interesting to interview someone who is just starting out on her career.

Name: Miss Katy Webb
Role: School Office Apprentice
Years at school: 1 (Started in September)

What do you daily duties entail?
I am learning all aspects of office life. On a daily basis, I help with the late books and registers (and liaise with teachers to ensure they are done) and deal with incoming and outgoing post. I greet visitors and parents, taking telephone calls and messages. Sometimes students need to be collected from lessons for appointments etc. I have also been trained in First Aid and help with boys in the medical room when required.

Why did you choose GGS?
I applied to GGS as I felt it would be a nice place to work and to start my working life. I felt that the school was welcoming and approachable from the image they create on their website.

What do you think about the school?
I think it is a good school with friendly staff and a happy pleasant atmosphere.

Would you make a good headteacher - why/why not?
I have no desire to become an teacher! I would prefer a secretarial/admin career.

Have you had any previous employment?
Yes, while I was at 6th form at Meopham School, I worked at TGI Fridays in Bluewater.

How do you want your career to progress?
Ultimately, I would like to become a PA.

What do you do in your free time?
I spend my free time with family and friends. In the evening I take my dog out for walks and go to the gym.

Jordan Giannasi 9D

CHILDREN LEAVING THE SCHOOL SITE DURING THE DAY

As a School, our primary objective is to keep your children safe so that they can be engaged in an education which will, hopefully, shape their life.

Whilst very many students make their own way to and from school, once school starts we endeavour to keep them as safe as possible. I therefore wish to take this opportunity to remind you that it has always been our policy that if children need to go out of school during the day, we will only permit them to do so if they are given into the care of a parent or another designated adult. If for any reason your son has to leave school during the day, you will need to make arrangements to collect him so that he can be signed out (and possibly back in) at Reception, unless there are mitigating circumstances that are made known to us at least 48 hours in advance and there is a safety plan in place.

If your son falls ill within the school day requiring him to go home he must be collected by a responsible adult and he will strictly not be permitted to leave the school site on his own.

MDM
CAREERS NEWS

This term we have been delivering small group career guidance session to the whole of Year 10. These sessions are designed to get all of the boys thinking about their next steps after GCSEs and include information on all of the options available to them. Working in small groups gives the opportunity for the students to discuss the pros and cons of each option and to ask questions about future career progressions. The final step is for them to identify which options they are actively considering and how they can move forward with relevant research. For parents of those in Year 10, I recommend that you ask about the experience and support them in their career exploration activities. One aspect of career exploration that we are encouraging them all to consider is that of the ever-changing labour market. Comparing current statistics for levels of employment in contrasting sectors can help bust myths and checking which sectors are in growth or decline can help to future-proof their career choices. I recommend using the Careerpilot website as a good starting point to access the data in a user-friendly way (www.careerpilot.org). Careerpilot has many other useful resources to explore options for Post-16 and future careers starting by subject or sector.

As many of our students will go on to university, part of the Year 10 group work encourages them to consider how their Post-16 options and in particular A-level subject choices will impact the degree courses available to them in the future. We have introduced them to the Russell Group “Informed Choices” resource which is very informative and can be accessed online. Even if a student is not ready to settle on a future career path at this stage, they can help to keep options open by studying one or more facilitating subjects which are more likely to be a requirement for entry onto a degree course. The key message is always that subject choices should be in line with your personal interests and abilities to give each student the best opportunity to excel and access a wide range of future career paths.

Jenny Douse
Careers
dousej@gravesendgrammar.com

TERM DATES 2019—2020

Some term dates for 2019—2020 have been amended to account for a return to a two week break at Easter. Please ensure you only use our website and this newsletter for reference when planning your family holidays—any other sites purporting to state our school term dates are notoriously inaccurate as they are not checked with any school and simply follow Local Authority dates.

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<th>Term</th>
<th>Start</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 1</td>
<td>Monday, 2nd September 2019</td>
<td>Thursday, 5th September 2019</td>
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<td>Monday, 9th September 2019</td>
<td>Staff INSET</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 3rd September 2019</td>
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<td>Monday, 17th February 2020</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 21st February 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 21st February 2020</td>
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<td>Monday, 24th February 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 2nd May 2020</td>
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<td>Monday, 20th April 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 23rd May 2020</td>
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<td>Monday, 20th April 2020</td>
<td>Monday, 23rd May 2020</td>
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<td>5 days</td>
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<td>Term 6</td>
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<td>Monday, 1st June 2020</td>
<td>Tuesday, 21st July 2020</td>
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<td>Summer Holiday: Wednesday, 22nd July 2020 – Monday, 31st August 2020</td>
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BERLIN 2019

During the February half term of this year, a number of Year 13 students travelled to Berlin on the annual trip organised by the school’s history department. The trip was action packed all the way through and every day had a different, varied schedule. Luckily we were blessed with some unusually amiable weather, a shock considering that last year the temperature dropped into the negatives. Many of the most important sights, both historical and cultural, were visited; by the end of the trip, almost every single tour guide was blown away by how much we had done. The students were able to appreciate the history and culture of the city, and the country as a whole, whilst also having time to experiment with the local cuisine and other such attractions. For any Year 12 students studying history, this experience is not to be missed.

The trip offers a chance for students to see where so many important events within the Nazi A-Level course took place and adds a visceral element to what is studied, only compounding upon what is learnt.

Our exploration of Berlin began almost as soon as the plane touched down in Tegel airport. We hopped onto a couple of buses and headed directly to the hostel to drop our bags off. The hostel itself was located about a 5 to 10 minute walk away from the Hauptbahnhof, the central station in Berlin, which is one of the key logistical links within the city and a place that we visited daily to get on and off various trains. The station itself is very impressive with a unique style of architecture incorporating massive amounts of glass, natural lighting and it spans a number of levels. As for the hostel, I think I can speak for most people when I say that it was a pleasant surprise. It had recently undergone a renovation and felt new and welcoming. The rooms themselves were clean and pleasant and once again surprisingly fitted for a hostel. All of this combined with the perfect location meant that we were all more than satisfied. As soon as all of the bags had been dropped off we walked to the Holocaust Memorial, passing through the Hauptbahnhof and by the Bundestag, the building which the Reichstag occupies. The Holocaust Memorial is an impressive but disconcerting sight, an expanse of concrete slabs all of different shapes and heights demonstrating the number and diversity of the lives taken in that horrendous crime. After spending time looking at the Memorial on the surface, we then went underground where there is an exhibition centred around the Holocaust. It was highly informative but harrowing and shocking and emphasised the extent of the atrocity. This exhibition also had a unique and interesting layout and approach, containing different rooms all with their own unique aesthetic and message.

We then headed back to the hostel to settle into our rooms and for some food before heading out into the city again for some time to explore by ourselves, which involved many of us going to grab donuts from the Dunkin’ Donuts which appear to be on every street in Berlin.

Instead of explaining every single day in a monotonous fashion, I’ll run through some of the key events of the trip. However I can’t emphasise enough that every single place or activity visited is well worth it and unique and impressive in their own right. For me personally, one of the most harrowing experiences was the visiting of Sachsenhausen, one of the Nazi concentration camps. Being there and standing on the ground and seeing the exact place where so much suffering and evil took place was emotional and overwhelming and it really brought home the human element of the history that we study to a whole new level. On a more positive note being able to have dinner in the Berlin TV Tower was amazing. Having the opportunity to eat in a revolving restaurant 207m above the city provided an incredible view with the night lights stretching on for miles and the poignant landmarks of Berlin clearly identifiable. We also went to the Jewish Museum which was a museum unlike any other that I had been to before. It employs a very abstract and artistic approach to the contents and information which it provides. Even the architecture of the building correlates with the content of the museum and in this way to truly understand the museum an understanding of the architecture, artwork and symbolism must be achieved. Luckily I had a very informative (but also very eccentric) tour guide who explained everything that we could possibly want to know.

Overall this trip was a fantastic experience which I have been able to take so much from whilst enjoying it immensely and which I’m sure will be just as successful next year. None of it would have been possible without those that organised it and came along, putting up with all of us during their half term. Therefore I’d like to say a huge thank you to Mr Ward, Mr Clements and Miss Chapman, and hope for their sake that the next year group live up to the standards that we set!

Seán Joseph US2
WORLD CHALLENGE—TRAINING WEEKEND—12TH—14TH APRIL

On Friday 12th April, the 36 World Challenge participants and six staff leaders departed school for a training weekend in the Forest of Dean on the Welsh border. We loaded up our kit and headed off in our three teams. Two are visiting Zambia and Botswana and the third Zambia and Malawi this July. The Zambia and Malawi group arguably had the worst journey with six and a half hours of Mr Pallant’s questionable music choice.

As we arrived later than expected due to traffic, watching the sunset we knew we were immediately going to have a more awkward time pitching our tents for the night. At the campsite, we met our team leaders and got to work setting up tents. Some groups opted to cook and then go on a “night hike” in the forest; others had a quick meeting about the plans going forward and then headed off to bed. Morning brought with it a chilly frost, but quickly warmed up and we enjoyed some glorious sunshine with temperatures higher than that back home in Gravesend. The designated cooks learnt how to set up Trangia cookers and made porridge for the morning, with results ranging from cold and runny to a cement-like consistency, but the next day’s results were much improved. Next up was a talk about our group kit from our team leader, discussing items such as our safety rope, survival blankets and a group first aid kit. Dividing up the tools between the team members, each group set off on their own chosen route for a day of hiking with a nearly-complete set of kit for the first time, leaving only our tents behind. Fortunately, lunch was far easier than porridge, being cheese wraps there was little room to go wrong, and after a quick lunch stop, we headed off again.

After eight hours of walking, we arrived back at the campsite and it was there where everyone’s feet really began to feel the effects of the day’s exertions. As ever, food was quickly on everyone’s mind and the cooks were tasked with tomato pasta, simple enough at face value but difficult given the limited size of the Trangia cookers. The meals were, however, far more successful in all the groups than the morning’s offering. As night set in, it was decided that it was time for card games courtesy of Mr Gill, which continued for many an hour.

The final morning brought a more successful attempt at breakfast as we packed up our tents and got ready for a final, shorter hike, this time with our entire kit. Bags were noticeably heavier, but it was vital that we gained the experience of doing so, as much of the trip to Africa will be done in the same way. Arriving back at the campsite, we were given a parting gift of soup and a KitKat as we headed back to a surprisingly colder Gravesend. The Zambia and Malawi group elected to have Mr Gill drive on the way back in favour of a better taste in music. In all, the weekend served to both increase the excitement of the forthcoming trip to Africa and to hit home how much of a challenge World Challenge will really be.

Tom Runting UF1

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Every year at Gravesend Grammar School, we run a ‘Challenge of Management’ event over two days for our Year 12s. We hope to give them an idea and some experience of working in teams and of the sort of activities they may encounter at work/university selection days (group interview, in-tray exercise, building bridges etc plus some silly games). We rely entirely on the goodwill of our facilitators who work with groups of about 10-12 students and guide them through the activities. Our students respond really well to people who bring something a bit different to the table and who can let them know how their skills will be used when they leave education. Would you be interested in coming in to school and helping during those two days as a facilitator? It is on 10th and 11th July, roughly 8.15am-4pm. Please contact Miss Haggar on haggarr@gravesendgrammar.com to register your interest.
On April 29th, as part of our study of Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’, The Box Clever Theatre company visited the school to perform the famous tragedy for Year 9. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance, and I thought that the play’s success came down to three main factors.

Firstly, many students agree that Shakespeare is one of the most difficult topics in English due to the fact it is as if it is written in another language. Elizabethan English was very different from how we speak today, and so truly understanding some of Shakespeare’s work is a challenge. The Box Clever Company approached this in an interesting way, mixing both Shakespearean English and Modern English into the story so that students could see the scenes performed as they would have been in the 16th century as well as follow the moderately complicated story of the play easily. This made the performance generally more accessible and easier to follow than a play performed in full Shakespearean.

Secondly, the entire play was performed by three people, an actor who played Romeo, an actress who played Juliet and a third actor who played a Narrator-esque character who filled in for the plethora of missing side characters, like Benvolio, Tybalt and Friar Lawrence, who have a major part in moving the story along in the original play. I thought that having a limited amount of actors was an interesting and successful choice, as it allowed the audience to easily follow an already complicated story and form a stronger emotional connection to the actors, rather than having separate actors to play small parts, who would be on stage for a few scenes and then wouldn’t appear again.

Finally, the actors did well to keep the whole audience thoroughly engaged throughout the entire performance. The idea of giving small roles (e.g. single lines, or a simple nod of the head) to students in the front row (me included) was genius. It kept everyone interested in what was going on onstage and often had us in hysteric. Speaking of the stage, that too was interesting, it resembled an oversized park bench and was situated in the middle of the hall with the audience seated around it. I thought it was an interesting decision and in my opinion made the play more engaging than if we watched it in a traditional theatre. The actors would often do stunts or somersaults off the set and were always on the move. The performance was almost like a dance or ballet at times making it more entertaining and energetic.

In conclusion, I thought the performance was excellent. I thought it was very informative and entertaining considering it had to teach us about Shakespeare and do justice to one of literature’s greatest works, as well as keep 180 teenage boys engaged and entertained for an hour and half, perhaps the greatest challenge of all.

James Fisher-Kearns 9S

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

A taste of things to come—and dates for your diary! In CREX, our students in Year 7 always put on a performance as a class each year and this year they have chosen ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ by C S Lewis Students are building up to performances on 17th and 18th July.

We are really excited about this year as we are doing it in a way which is unlike anything else that has been done before—the boys will be performing immersive theatre—this means all the scenes from the play, bar the last one, will be performed at the same time, over and over for around 1.5hrs—enabling the audience to see the scenes they like in whatever order they wish. They’ll be able to watch the scenes whilst amongst the actors and even have tea with Mr Tumnus...we are planning to turn a whole section of the school into Narnia!

The last scene will be the battle between good and evil, with the crowning of the children at Cair Paravel - up to 90 students each night will be involved in this scene and the smaller scenes running around school. Some scenes will be filmed and shown in rooms, some will be live - we are using over 10 locations for the evenings!

PROPS NEEDED!

We need to borrow/keep any fake fur coats, or even pieces of fake fur, for our ‘Wardobe’. We also need branches from pruning trees that we can spray and use as set for our forest along with white sheeting of any kind, as we have a snowy forest to create. Please contact the Drama Department if you can help.

It's on 17th and 18th July, one half of the year group each night, starting at 5:00pm until 7:30pm. All Year 7 are involved in some capacity and all parents are welcome to come along. We will be taking donations on the night to support a local charity. Images attached are of the student art work, which will become part of the programme and map of the evening’s performance.

AJS
**9S ‘DO’ SHAKESPEARIAN SONNETS**

Students in 9S have been inspired by reading Romeo and Juliet to have a go at writing their own Shakespeare inspired sonnets using the parameters below for sonnets—here are their attempts.

**HOW TO WRITE A SONNET**

- When writing a Shakespearean-style sonnet, there are various rules you need to keep in mind. This form of poetry is required to follow a specific format including length, rhythm, and rhyme scheme. To write a sonnet properly, follow this process:
  - Select a subject to write the poem about (Shakespearean sonnets are traditionally grounded as love poems).
  - Write lines in iambic pentameter (duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH-duh-DUH).
  - Write in one of various standard rhyme schemes (ABAB CDCD EFEF GG).
  - Format the sonnet using 3 quatrains followed by 1 couplet.
  - Compose the sonnet as an argument that builds up as it moves from one metaphor to the next.
  - Ensure the poem is exactly 14 lines.

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**Gravesend Grammar School**

**Opportunity and Challenge in a Caring Environment**

**May 2019**

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Brown hazelnut eyes and red scarlet cheeks,
You smell like those nice tasty cinnamon whirls,
You keep me admiring you for weeks,
I admire your hair with those jet black twirls.

You can fly elegantly like a dove
You heart is innocent your mind is pure,
You can fly to the heavens above
You are a fire and you make me warm in the core.

If you left I wouldn’t know what to do.
It would be sad; my happiness would not return
I would be sick like if I had the flu.
For you to stay would be something to yearn.

As far as it goes, a door opens and closes
But you smell as lovely those beautiful roses.

**Zane Narh 9S**

---

When this innocent yet dangerous flower is born,
The humans feast their eyes on this red beauty,
With protection of the disorder of thorns,
It’s like soldiers ready to protect their queen on duty.

But when all’s gone this crimson red flower,
Represents the pain and struggle of these soldiers.
This taste of pain to the tongue is sour,
When all is gone the queen gets older.

**Lionel Ahorukomeye 9S**

---

When I started I knew my love was strong
Love the pride and passion in a team
I haven’t been playing it for too long
It is a lot harder than it may seem.

Playing sport requires a lot of drive
One of the hardest battles I have fought
The respect, the honour it’s all for pride
I had to be more brave than I had thought.

But one must always suffer pain and loss
The injury will no doubt cause some fear
And one will overcome it at a cost
The solution may not always be clear.

The road is all about your brotherhood
The path to glory is looking forward.

**Joel Cain 9S**

---

This flower stands out in the bright greenery,
The blood moon is complemented well,
And this is why humans watch so eagerly,
So, when you hear the word rose does it ring a bell?

When this innocent yet dangerous flower dies,
In greenery and at humans witness this rose lies.

**Lionel Ahorukomeye 9S**

---

My love for you is like a burning fire,
Your auburn hair like flames in the night wind,
Heart an inferno of lustful desire,
Knowing your beauty shall never rescind.

Yet your fair skin has a winter's coolness,
Scarlet cheeks like a warm hearth on cold nights,
Eyes like distant stars shining in darkness,
Distant glimmer of twinkling heavenly light.

But your beauty is eternal memory,
Once a blooming rose droops in the cold frost,
For your life was fleeting, breath was temporary
But my love is forever, it cannot be lost.

In the deep recess of dreams do you live,
Love for you I’m still willing to give.

**James Fisher-Kearns 9S**

---

Meadows are blooming, it’s nearly spring time
Dew drops like diamonds resting on the grass.
Noses are smelling herbs, honey and thyme.
Pebbles feel smooth, their texture like glass.

It’s now the season for fruits like mangoes,
The sounds of children enjoying the sun.
Delicious, refreshing fruits are being grown
During these times everyone has some fun.

For now nature’s fine but some humans think else,
The world is heating up due to climate change.
Cutting down trees, only thinking about self;
We need to learn things like conscience and shame.

Think about our future generations.
Please preserve nature and prevent extinctions.

**Aniketh Satisho 9S**

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Gravesend Grammar School

Opportunity and Challenge in a Caring Environment

May 2019
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On the first weekend in May, our Bronze DoE groups undertook their practice expedition. This involved navigation, tent-pitching, cooking, and sleeping. On the Saturday, groups were dropped off at either Jeskyns Country Park or Meopham Green and had the task of navigating themselves and their backpacks to Hope Hill Campsite. The groups had already planned their routes beforehand and marked it on maps - but many groups still found themselves lost in the countryside! For my group, we didn’t get lost, but we had to keep taking breaks at every checkpoint because our bags were so heavy. While you are on a DoE expedition, you have to complete purpose work. Purpose work is all about using your expedition to explore the countryside and the area you are in; after your final expedition you have to present what you have learned to the other groups. One group decided to document all of the pubs that they saw during their travels, my group decided to explore all the farms we saw and take some pictures of the animals!

After around 6 hours and 13 km walked on Saturday, groups arrived at Hopehill. After a brief rest, it was time to start putting the tents up - it was not a problem and we all soon started settling in to the tents. Once everything was done we were able to talk with the other groups, play card games, or just relax. That was only short-lived as we had to start making dinner. In my group we had pasta with sausages - it was amazing to have a hot meal in the evening. Soon after that most of the groups went to bed because they were tired from the first day. I woke up at 7am because a bird was making a lot of noise.

The rest of my group remained in bed but I got up to start making the porridge for breakfast. Straight after breakfast it was a rush to get everything put away, so that we could leave early to get home as quickly as possible. The walking started well but then everyone began to ache, especially in my group because the route we had chosen involved climbing many hills. In the end it became a run to the finish at Meopham Green! All in all it was a good practice at the real thing, which is in June, and groups made many mistakes which they will be able to learn from.

Jordan Giannasi 9D

CCF

All cadets have now gained promotion and hold the rank of Ordinary Cadet or above. Cadets have engaged in a range of activities from learning about ships of the Royal Navy by creating Top Trumps cards to battlefield survival techniques. Cadets will shortly be completing their Swim/ Water safety tests to ensure that they are all safe to go afloat in July, when they head off to Portsmouth again, with an overnight stay on HMS Bristol.

One cadet recently went on a course organised by the Royal Navy to earn his RYA Competent Crew status and other cadets are intending to take part in paddle sports and leadership courses in the coming months.

The highlight for this term has been to parade at the start of the Senior Prize giving, under the direction of Able Cadet (One Star) Jeffrey. Able Cadets (One Star) Jeffrey and Frewin have continued to impress with their leadership in running sessions for the younger cadets and should achieve their 2 Star rank shortly.

WO Gary Russell (part of the Cadet Expansion Team and pictured here with Mr Moaby) recently visited GGS to present a plaque to the school acknowledging our involvement with the Combined Cadet Force.

CNW
INTEGRATION PROJECT

At the start of this calendar year, the school staff and several sixth form students have come together to welcome a group of young unaccompanied minor refugees to our enrichment sessions every Wednesday afternoon. We all come together and participate in a variety of sports and activities, including football, basketball, frisbee and social activities including games of Uno and Pictionary. Recently, the sixth form students have started to plan these events and we are trying to implement our own ideas as to how we can improve this project.

The purpose of this project is to integrate these young refugees into society and make them feel like they belong here. These activities were chosen not only because they were enjoyable for all of us but because they involve a lot interaction which can only be beneficial for these young refugees.

Ray Coker, who was an integral part in making all of this come together, has had a few words to say about this project: “It has been tremendously rewarding to witness the whole-hearted and sympathetic manner in which the School staff and students have embraced this pilot programme; and to see the enjoyment on the faces of the young refugees when they are clearly having fun with young people of their own age, in a welcoming and relaxed environment.”.

For me personally, I believe this project has been thoroughly successful despite it only having been running for a few months. I have become friends with a few of the refugees and we have already discussed meeting up outside of school very soon.

Another sixth form student, George Miles, has said “I feel like the project is a great way to get a first hand exposure to cultures you are not familiar with, as well as making new friends and having a good time. I have really enjoyed it so far.”.

If this project is successful it is planned that this will act as a “Pilot” with potential for expansion into other schools in the area and for GGS to act as a “Hub”.

For further information: www.education4diversity

Dylan Mahli (UC2)

250 CLUB

The winners for March 2019 were:
1st - £199.37 - No 237 - Member since 2008, 3 previous wins.
2nd - £108.75 - No 55 - Member since 2012, 1 previous win.
3rd - £54.38 - No 316 - Member since 2018, no previous wins.

Contribution to the school - £362.50.

The winners for April 2019 were:
1st - £197.31 - No 4 - Member since 2012, 1 previous win.
2nd - £107.63 - No 214 - Member since 2014, 1 previous win.
3rd - £53.81 - No 165 - Member since 2016, no previous wins.

Contribution to the school - £358.75.

Another plea to anyone who may know the families of Hiskett or Suyathasan, our 1st and 2nd prize winners from November 2018. Despite myself and the School having tried to locate both families, I have still had no contact. Below is a reminder of Rule Number 10 for the 250 Club with regard to what happens if families cannot be located and what happens to their prize money. While it’s great that School receive the money, it would be disappointing for two families to miss out.

Rule No 10
Members who win will be contacted by email. Prizes are paid directly to the member’s bank account using the details supplied on their application form. If no response is received after a reasonable length of time the member may be contacted by post. If a member cannot be located, the winning amount will be placed back into the prize fund and given over entirely to the School minibus fund. This will usually be six months after the end of the month of their win.

Good news - I have found a replacement to take over running of the 250 Club. As the next couple of months progress you will be hearing from Barbara, rather than me. Although there should not be any big changes in the short term, I’m sure Barbara will find ways to upgrade and improve the Club.

Finally, for this month, if you are a member and have another child stating at GGS in September (year 7 or year 12) and wish to add further numbers to your membership please, please contact me directly rather than filling in the paperwork you will receive. It is a far simpler process!

Claire Holmes
250 Club Coordinator
GGS SPONSORED WALK—
VOLUNTEER WALKERS AND MARSHALLS NEEDED

If you are able to give a couple of hours of your time to either walk or marshal on our annual Sponsored Walk on Thursday, 20th June we would be delighted to hear from you.

This year’s charities are Scope (for helping disabled children), Choices and GGS School Fund.

Please contact Judith West on westj@gravesendgrammar.com for further details.

ABOUT THE CHOSEN CHARITIES

Scope is a strong community of disabled and non-disabled people with a shared vision of equality. They provide practical advice and emotional support whenever people need it most. If you want to know more go to www.scope.org.uk

Choices (formerly North Kent Women’s Aid) is working towards a world where domestic abuse is fully understood as unacceptable, where all members of society feel safe in their own homes, and are able to enjoy healthy relationships free from violence. For further information—www.choicesdaservice.org.uk. Free and confidential helpline 0800 917 9984.

GGS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS....
BAND & BBQ NIGHT!!

Friday, 14th June 2019
IN THE QUAD

A selection of all-time favourites from Bugsy Malone, Return to the Forbidden Planet, The Commitments, The Blues Brothers and more.

BBQ by Danslow Butchers of Gravesend included.
http://www.danslowbutchers.co.uk/
Please bring your own drinks and your own seats/blankets as this is an outdoor event.

Doors: 6:30pm Show: 7:00pm
Tickets: £7 in advance only, please bring payment to the school finance office.

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 3RD JUNE 2019
IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS PLEASE EMAIL ANNABLEG@GRAVESENDGRAMMAR.COM
Golf—They Did It Again!

Oliver Perkins, Jack Dalley and Lucas Dennison travelled to Chestfield Golf Course on 10th May to defend their title as Kent School Team Golf Champions. They did it and have retained their title. Their rounds were - Lucas 71 (+1), Jack 68 (-2) and Oliver 64 (-6). Oliver’s round of 64 is an all time course record and his score card will now be framed and displayed at the Club.

Jack said of the day: “Oliver Perkins and Lucas Dennison and I travelled to Chestfield Golf Club in Whitstable for the Kent Schools Team Championship. After winning last year we were ready to go out and win it again. Oliver went out first in the morning and shot an amazing score of gross 64, he also shot a new course record! Lucas then went out and came back in with a nett 71. Finally I came in with a nett 68. With an amazing score of –8 for the team, we retained the trophy for another year beating the school in 2nd place by 8 shots. We will be going all the way to Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire in July for the finals again”.

Cricket

Cricket has been in full swing during term 5. There have been a number of excellent individual and team performances across all of our teams. The U13s are through to the third round of the Kent Trophy competition after beating a strong Queen Elizabeth’s Grammar School. The U14s look forward to a tie with St Olave’s in their Kent Cup Competition after they beat Hurstmere in Round 1.

Best of luck to all of our teams as they continue in their Kent and District competitions in Term 6.

BPS

The U14 Cricket team have had a mixed start to the season, with a tough opening fixture against local rivals, Dartford, finishing in a 20 run loss. Daniel Hickford (9H) and Vikram Sahota (9S) bowled nicely, claiming a wicket each, with Eshar Heer (9H) and Olamide Sodeke (9T) hit quick fire 20s.

The 2nd Round of the Kent T20 Cup saw Hurstmere arrive at GGS, with the opposition winning the toss and electing to bat. Aniketh Satisha (9S) opened with some tight bowling restricting the opposition before Daniel Hickford (9H) got into his stride, picking up figures of 4-1-5-4 (O-M-R-W). Josh Chiswell (9D) and Rishi Rajput (9T) supported well alongside wicket keeper Keaton Gates (9S). With a total of 100 to chase down, Rajan Rama (9H) starred with the bat as Josh Kemp (9H), Harveer Nijjer (9S) and Caleb Rolfe (9F) ably supported getting the boys over the line with 2 overs to spare to set up an away fixture with St Olaves in Round 3.

A great start to the season for the U14 side as we build towards the last term of fixtures in June.

PJF

Due to the absence of Mr Bayliss-Brown, the Sports Section is much reduced this term. Hopefully Term 6 will see a catchup on events in Term 5 as well as all the latest from The Wyatt Cup and Sports Day.
CHESS

Congratulations to those who represented their club sides in the Kent Club Rugby Finals at the end of last term. Well done to Josh Barnes, Josh Saunders and Toby Emery pictured here on their U15 Kent Cup win with Blackheath RFC.

As you and your son/daughter may already be aware, a group of staff are looking to develop the House system to provide more of a community for students that belong to that House. This will involve a lot more House competitions and activities across all areas of the School including Sport, the Arts, Academics & Fundraising.

Each House has been assigned a staff Head of House, to lead the House in all competitions and activities as well as build a sense of pride and community within the House. The staff in charge are...

Cliff - Dr K Wilson
Downs - Mr P Clements
Fleet - Miss S Chapman
Hill - Mrs E Bouhamdi
School - Mr M Ward
Town - Mr P Foreman

The first House competition is the Sponsored Walk Fundraising competition. Our aim is to raise a record amount of money for this year’s charities Scope, Choices and the School Fund. Can you please encourage your child to find as many sponsors as possible.

The top ten health benefits of playing chess, as given by Health Fitness Revolution, to encourage you to start playing chess are:

1. Promotes brain growth
2. It exercises both sides of the brain
3. Raises your IQ
4. Helps prevent Alzheimer’s
5. Sparks your creativity
6. Increases problem-solving skills
7. Teaches planning and foresight
8. Improves reading skills
9. Optimises memory improvement
10. Improves recovery from stroke or disability

Currently in Chess Club, we have approximately 10-15 players attending every week. We have a mixture of all year groups; however Year 7 and 8 outnumber other year groups. We are currently in the process of ranking our players. Once the ranking is complete we will organise internal tournaments to select players who will complete with local schools in Gravesend and then beyond. There are some extremely talented players in our chess club and I have no doubt that they will be able to compete against any school.

You can donate Via our ‘Wonderful’ online fundraising link [www.wonderful.org/charity/ggsschoolfund](http://www.wonderful.org/charity/ggsschoolfund) and select with House you would like to sponsor.

Thank you for your support!

BPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Money raised so far……</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Fleet</td>
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RUGBY

Congratulations to those who represented their club sides in the Kent Club Rugby Finals at the end of last term. Well done to Josh Barnes, Josh Saunders and Toby Emery pictured here on their U15 Kent Cup win with Blackheath RFC.

SPONSORED WALK

PLEASE DON’T FORGET TO RETURN PERMISSION SLIPS FOR THE SPONSORED WALK ON THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE—DETAILS WERE SENT BY INTOUCH BUT IF YOU NEED A REMINDER PLEASE CONTACT WESTI@GRAVESENDGRAMMAR.COM
**UNDER 14 HOCKEY**

There have been a few new faces joining hockey practice that takes place on Wednesday evenings after school. Lots had moved through the ranks of Key Stage 3 and brought along the skills taught by Mr Stanley in Y7 & Y8. The first two terms were bringing the team together and looking at the increased speed of the ball and higher intensity that would be demanded from them. Some of those new pupils joined from the Duke of Edinburgh scheme running in school. This has proven a useful path for those who have continued and now play regularly for local clubs and even county level.

Our first competitive match was against Borden Grammar School on the 22nd January 2019 at home. We had a few substitutes and these were used to keep the intensity at a high level. That didn't mean we forgot about the defence who managed to distribute the ball cleanly out to the wings as required. Some short corners were won, but these were not translated in to goals which was a shame. However, the winning goal was scored by Harveer Nijjer who was also awarded man-of-the-match for his relentless energy. He chased any loose balls in his vicinity, turning their attacks over and made lots of calls regarding positioning and distribution.

The second game was a return fixture played at Borden Grammar on the 5th March 2019. They had recently installed a new pitch, so it would be interesting to see how we adapted to this surface. Time had been spent learning a few new routines for short corners and these did serve the purpose of confusing Borden’s defence, with their centre back saving many of the shots. It was more of an even game, especially as we loaned them a player (their substitutes had not arrived). Roan Chima scored from a short corner in the first half. Mantej Clare running the length of the pitch from defence to receive a crossed ball in the last play of the match meant a comfortable win 2-0 to GGS. Roan’s hard work in midfield earned him the man-of-the-match title.

Our third game was at home against Norton Knatchbull. This opposition was a more experienced side that had played all their league matches and knew their game plan very well. Their press on GGS free hits was well executed making life difficult, but Charles Agg did use his powerful sweep shots to distribute, switching the play and making some well timed tackles. Unfortunately, we lost this match 0-3 but the team did work well for each other.

The final away game was against Rochester Maths. The opposition fields teams in a few leagues and this was to be our last match. They made excellent use of accurate passes that split lines and were ruthless with short corners. Caleb Rolfe covered a lot of the pitch in midfield, trying to make things happen, but Rochester's team was very well organised. Mantej Clare grabbed a consolation goal but it was a loss.

Thanks must go to the Y12 pupils who have assisted in the training sessions, acting as a useful team to work Y9 that much harder. Billy Pepper deserves a special mention for volunteering to umpire the two home matches, allowing me to manage substitutions, etc., from the side lines.

We take a break for Term 6, but will return in the new academic year.

AS & RFB

**ATHLETICS**

On 23rd May, Oreofe Adepegba and Philip Odugbile competed at Lee Valley Athletics stadium. They competed at the South of England Combined Events Championships accompanied by Mr Turvey and Mr Ward. They competed in the events: Long Jump, Discus, Javelin, 100m Hurdles, 1500m. It was a very hot day at the track, temperatures reached 26 degrees and it was hard work. The facilities were some of the best in this part of the country and it was overseen by qualified officials which improved the atmosphere of serious competition.

Some of the best athletes across South East England were competing and they more than held their own in this company. Philip Odugbile finished 2nd in Kent and Oreofe finished 1st in Kent and was the overall intermediate boys champion. Oreofe’s score of 2376 of was a personal best for him, which came of no surprise because he set personal bests in all 5 events. Philip was in 3rd position leading up to the final event which was 1500m and he also managed to set personal bests in all five events and finished with 1908 points.

The school is extremely proud of the performance put in by both students and we look forward to hearing about their future successes on a regional and national scale.

MJW
ULTIMATE FRISBEE

On Saturday 11th May GGS played five fixtures against some local south-east teams. For our students it was their first time competing outdoors and they were up against strong opposition. Their first game was a loss to a Sussex team consisting of university players, but was a huge learning experience for them. Their following two games were sudden-death losses to Reigate Grammar School 2nds and Gildredge House, in which they implemented a lot of the things they learnt from the previous game and were very unlucky to come out on the wrong side. The fourth game was an emphatic win against Tonbridge 3rds where the team really came together. After two hours of gameplay, fatigue was starting to show and there was one more game to play: a rematch against the university players from Sussex. With a little help from Mr Newman and Mr Harris, they managed to clinch a second victory and end the tournament on a high.

The real highlight of the day, however, was coming home with the Spirit trophy, awarded to the team with the best sportsmanship, as voted for by their opponents! Also a big thank you to Mr Poon, Mr Newman, and Mr Jesson who came along to support.

Mr Jesson had this to say;
“\textit{I was most impressed with the enthusiasm of the team, and seeing them learn so much competing against some stronger opponents. They worked on their efficiency between offense and defence which had an immediate impact, and their communication and tactics developed through the experience also. A great, friendly atmosphere—where else do you get a mixed team of players ranging from Year 13-Year11 competing against university level opponents! I hope they go on to better things, perhaps we can aim for two teams competing next year?}”

Our picture shows seven out of eight of the team: Richard Peterson, Dominic Humphrey, Scott Collier, Sope Sayomokun, David Pordage, Alex Beavil and Chloe Earl (Mason Errington being the eighth member)
## TERM DATES FOR 2018-2019 and 2019—2020 ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE: www.gravesendgrammar.com

### 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, 18th 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

### MATHS CHALLENGE SOLUTION

**ODDS & EVENS**

An obvious solution is

\[ 4 \div 8 \times 2 = 1 \]

But a more interesting one is

\[ 62830 \div 628 \times 314 \]