GEORGE SPENCER ACADEMY

Bulletin

HT5 Summer 2026

Message from the Principal: Mrs Corbett

Dear parents and carers,

This half term has flown by, and with this has come many amazing experiences for our students. We always aim to capture the full breath of experiences in this bulletin whilst also providing you with useful information of what is to come.

As we head into half term 6, this summer period becomes one of our busiest at George Spencer Academy, with exams continuing for our Year 11 and Year 13 cohorts and their subsequent Proms concluding the important milestone at the end of June. As we enter July we will see many more experiences available to students, including our annual trip day for Years 7- 10 on Friday 10th July for those who have achieved their bronze accreditation for the GSA Excellence Award; our annual sports day with the year groups coming together to support each other with sporting achievements; plus many more trips, visits, activities and in-school opportunities. For you as parents we warmly invite you to the events hosted by the Creative Arts Studio, including our very popular annual art exhibition and summer concert.

One of our most exciting events in July is when we welcome our new Year 6 to 7 cohort in for their 2 taster days at the start of July. This will very much mark the realisation that our current Year 7s are no longer the youngest in the school, and instead become role models for the new year group settling in. We are sure they will rise to this responsibility.

We hope you enjoy reading our latest bulletin and that your child can identify experiences they have been part of as we continue to aim for every child to feel a sense of belonging to the school.

Wishing you all a peaceful and enjoyable half term break. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 1st June with our final Back to Basics check of the academic year.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs H Corbett

Personal Development:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

Over the final half term of the academic year, our students will continue to cover topics in their Personal Development lessons which are applicable to their lives both inside and outside of school.

Year 7 will be learning about finances and financial decision making. Year 8 will look at online privacy. Year 9 are going to participate in lessons focused around employability skills and monitoring their online presence. Year 10 lessons cover how to prepare for the world of work. Our Year 12 cohort will be considering their choices after leaving Sixth Form

Parent Voice:

Mr Dakers, Assistant Principal

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete our survey at the Year 7 Progress Evenings just before the Easter break. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us understand what is working well and where we can continue to improve.

We were pleased that the survey responses included a great deal of positive feedback. 96% of parents stated that their child is happy at George Spencer Academy which reflects our work and planning to ensure students experience a positive transition from their primary schools. This year, we have delivered several assemblies focused on how young people can support one another to feel safe both in school and in the wider community. It was therefore particularly encouraging to see that 100% of parents agreed that their child feels safe at school.

Our SEND provision continues to be a key priority, and this was also reflected positively in the responses. Of parents who have a child with special educational needs, 99% agreed that the school provides the support their child needs to succeed. In addition, 99% of parents said they would recommend George Spencer Academy to another parent, which we are delighted to know.

The feedback has also highlighted areas where we can continue to improve. While 65% of parents agreed with the statement 'the school supports my child's wider personal development', 19% stated that they didn't know and 6% disagreed. Next half term I will write to Year 7 parents, outlining our Personal Development offer to demonstrate how we support our student's wider personal development.

Uniform:

Mr Hartley, Assistant Principal

As part of our uniform expectations, we would like to remind parents students should not be wearing shorts, joggers, or tracksuit bottoms underneath their school trousers. This has been addressed with students during the past week to ensure clarity and consistency.

From the week beginning 1st June, any student not meeting this expectation will be required to remove the non-uniform items in order to attend lessons. Thank you for your continued support.

Sports Update: Mr Clark, Curriculum Leader

Well done for another excellent half term of sporting success for GSA students! Our Year 11 Boys Football team have reached the South Notts Cup Final, taking place on Friday 22nd May. The Under 15 Girls finished as County Cup runners-up after an excellent campaign and have progressed to the South Notts cup final after a 6-1 victory in the semi-finals. In the recent Broxtowe School Athletics Competition at Harvey Hadden, Broxtowe Juniors placed 3rd and Intermediates finished 2nd, with an impressive 13 GSA students qualifying for the County Championships. In addition to this, our Year 8/9 Boys Tennis team made a brilliant start with a 12–0 victory over West Bridgford after receiving the LTA School of The Year Award for their successes last year. Congratulations to the Year 7 Netball team, who are through to the County Finals after an unbeaten campaign in their group round fixtures. Finally, please look on our website for the updated summer extracurricular PE timetable with clubs starting in rounders, cricket and athletics after school.

Excellence Day 5 - Exciting opportunities to enhance our curriculum: Mr Kitson, Assistant Principal

Half-term 6 is a time to celebrate the success of our students and the community which they are a part of. The GSA Excellence Award is a fundamental way that we reward students who demonstrate their personal growth alongside our six core values.

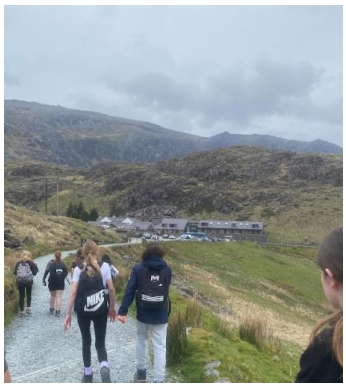
By completing the bronze accreditation, students will get access to our exciting trips on the final 'Excellence Day' of the year. Excellence Day 5 takes place on Friday 10th July with all year groups being offered the opportunity for experiences as a reward for their hard work and to support the continued building of year group friendships. Destinations for each trip are outlined below, with letters having gone to all families this week. Payments are to be made through ArborPay, alongside permission, on this link, by 26th June.

- Year 7 - Animal encounters at the Dudley Zoo.
- Year 8 - Thrilling rides and zoo at Drayton Manor.
- Year 9 - Snowsports at the Snowdome & Bowling* **payment deadline is Friday 5th June**.
- Year 10 - Exhilarating rides and experiences at Alton Towers

Trips and Visits:

Miss Jenkinson, Vice Principal

At the start of half term 5, a group of Year 11 students embarked on a weekend of preparation for their upcoming exams. They were schooled in maths, English and how to create revision timetables, as well as enjoying kayaking, team building and tasting marshmallows by a campfire. More resilience was on show when 39 of our Year 8 students summited Snowdon over the bank holiday weekend- an amazing achievement!









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

Following on from last half term's reminder about UNIFROG, we'd like to raise your awareness to the wealth of information shared via Google Classroom. This includes a weekly 'Work Related Wednesday' post highlighting a particular job profile. As students move into KS4, we also raise awareness to virtual opportunities, as many workplaces now offer Experience of the workplace in a digital format. All information can be found in the cohort classrooms under the topic 'Futures - Careers & Employability'

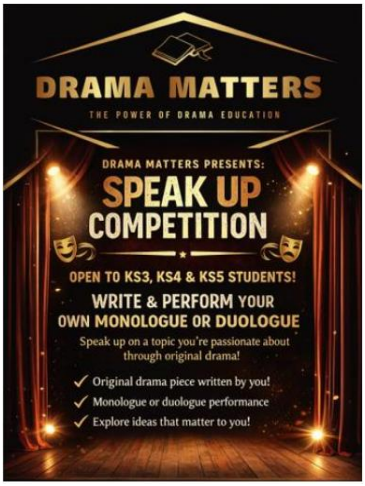
The Creative Studios at George Spencer Academy: Miss Kell, Curriculum Leader for Creative Arts

This half term has seen lots of activities across the Creative Studios. In drama the Actors Studio have been working on Monologues to enter into the 'Speak Up' competition which could see them chosen to perform at a National Conference.

Live Theatre Friday, have just finished watching the production of Peter Pan by the National Theatre. Next up they will be watching *Wind in the Willows* by Downton Abbey creator Julian Fellowe.

Coming up next half term in music is our Annual Summer Concert which showcases the talents of our students from year 7 up to 6th form. A really special evening especially for those students involved who are at the end of their George Spencer journey.

In art we have been running art clubs with a special session focusing on mental health awareness month. Coming up next half term we have National Children's Art weeks which will see events taking place across the school culminating in our whole school art exhibition. The exhibition showcases all our amazing GCSE and A-level artwork plus specially selected work from KS3 students who have been nominated by their Art teacher.





Reading Culture at GSA: Mr Furber, Assistant Principal

As we reach the end of May where the focus for students was to 'Get Caught Reading' around school (and win rewards for doing so), we look forward to the final half term where competitions and events will focus on the World Cup of Books and a return of last year's hugely successful Reading Relay. Furthermore, June's 'Genre in the Spotlight' is one of our most popular, Crime and Mystery, so here are some crime capers that will get you sleuthing over half term:

Year 7 – 'The Case of the Lighthouse Intruder' by Kereen Getten. Fayson's dream of becoming a detective finally comes true when her cousins recruit her to their top-secret gang. But the Greatest Gang of All Time isn't exactly living up to their name.

Year 8 – 'Watch Your Back: Not Even Your Closest Friends' by Sue Wallman. Kara finds herself drawn to a friendship with Romilly, a girl from her year with no friends. The trouble is, the more Kara hangs around with Romilly, the more unsettling things start to happen. There's the break in to her locker... the silent cold calls...and more.

Year 9 – 'The Murder Hypothesis' by Sarah Wishart. Science-obsessed Grace's fresh start with her dad in Devon is derailed when the smart speaker in their new house comes alive at midnight and says: I'm going to murder you.

Year 10 – 'Tag You're Dead' by Kathryn Foxfield. When teen reality star Anton Frazer unveils his latest stunt - a live-streamed, citywide game of Tag in which the prize is to be one of his live-in acolytes - his fans go wild. The whole world is watching.

Year 11 – 'Running Girl' by Simon Mason. Meet Garvie Smith. Highest IQ ever recorded at Marsh Academy. Lowest ever grades. What's the point? Life sucks. Nothing surprising ever happens. Until Chloe Dow's body is pulled from a pond. His ex-girlfriend.

Year 12 – 'Murder on the Orient Express' by Hercule Poirot. Just after midnight, a snowdrift stops the Orient Express in its tracks. The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer.

Year 13 – 'The Pelican Brief' by John Grisham. Two Supreme Court Justices are dead, their murders unsolved. But one woman might have found the answer - if she can live to tell it.



Y7 Reflections:

Miss Hembrow, Director of Learning Y7

Year 7 have demonstrated they are striving to be the best they can be with over 8,000 positive points being rewarded, 60 students achieving their platinum awards and 123 students having 100% attendance this half term.

In our assemblies we have focused on getting involved and representing the school, so it was great to see the sporting success of our football and netball team and students raising over £500 for Young Lives versus Cancer. We are looking forward to seeing what they can achieve in our final half-term.

Y8 Reflections:

Mr Ratcliffe, Director of Learning Y8

Year 8 have had another strong half term with them now earning over 47,271 positive points this academic year. This is a testament to the positive attitude the students continue to show in lessons and around the school each day.

They have also continued to engage well with their personal development curriculum during form time. I would like to wish all students and families a relaxing half term break, and we look forward to welcoming Year 8 back refreshed and ready for the final half term of the academic year.

Y9 Reflections:

Mr Parker, Director of Learning Y9

As we reach the end of the half-term, Year 9 have earned almost 50,000 positive points, 216 pupils have already earned their bronze Excellence Awards and over 100 students just completed their DofE expedition – a school record! Alongside these incredible achievements, we planted trees for Eco Week, promoted mental health awareness throughout May and we've been learning about healthy lifestyles and habits. Next half-term we've got the incredible French residential, the Excellence Day trip to the Snowdome, plus further rewards for the great year the cohort had. Have a great break!

Y10 Reflections:

Mr O'Toole, Director of Learning Y10

It has been another busy half term for Yr. 10 as we begin our preparation for the Yr. 10 PPEs which take place in June. We have been impressed with the students' continued proactive attitude and focus, with staff awarding the year group over 34,000 positive points so far this year. Each student now has a revision timetable which they have produced with the support of their Learning Manager during Form Time Learning, and it has been great to see the students' enthusiasm as we 'prepare to succeed'. Next half term we will visit Alton Towers for our cohort trip and there will be both Geography and History trips taking place. Have a great half term.

Y11 Reflections:

Mr Richardson, Director of Learning Y11

Well, here we are. After nearly two years as their Director of Learning, we reach our last year group message to you. Although I did not start the journey with them, I am so proud to have been able to join them at the end and see them mature into amazing individuals who I hope will take on the next step of their journey with fond memories.

Throughout our two years together, a common theme prevailed. The students wishing to Step up. This notion of them striving to be the best they could be, made the strap line for Year 11 of, "Stepping up", such an easy and obvious choice to make. As always, my thanks to you for your support given to me over this time. Next half term sees the Prom and the Celebration Assembly, both on the 18th of June.

Y12 Reflections:

Miss Crouch, Director of Learning Y12

This half term students have begun the process of their next steps after Sixth Form, with students beginning to write their personal statements for those applying to university and those who are applying for degree apprenticeships have enjoyed a bespoke form time intervention delivered by Mr Burrows. This half term has been filled with celebrations and success as students have graduated from the SPIRES programme and the SCHOLARS programmes as well as receiving their EPQ results. Next half term, students will complete a week of work experience as part of our careers programme and sit their first A Level PPEs. We will also select our student presidents for which the candidates will prepare and run their own campaigns.

Y13 Reflections:

Mrs Crawford, Director of Learning Y13

Over the last half term, Year 13 students have shown excellent resilience as they prepared for and began their A Level examinations. It has been wonderful to see such a positive atmosphere across the Sixth Form, with students supporting and encouraging one another. A highlight was the Good Luck briefing, where students reflected on their time at George Spencer, celebrated their achievements, and recognised the strong sense of community they have been part of. Thank you for your continued support throughout this important time, and I wish you a lovely half term break.

OUR CORE VALUES

GEORGE SPENCER ACADEMY

We strive to be the best we can be.

We show resilience.

We are supportive.

We respect individuality.

We are polite, fair and honest.

We have a love of learning.

ETHOS OF EXCELLENCE