

Principal's Bulletin, Term 2 2019/2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As the long Autumn Term draws to a close, I know that we are looking forward to the Christmas period when hopefully the students and staff can take a well-deserved break.

As a school, we continue in our drive to 'transform life chances' and believe in a cognitive approach to education, so that every young person in our community has the best opportunity at life regardless of their individual circumstances. The vehicle to deliver this is through our BEST agenda and this Principal's bulletin is structured around these values.

Brilliance

At Goodwin Academy you will supported to be brilliant in everything you do.

Panto

We are just coming to the end of our Panto season which has seen students present their production of Dick Whittington to packed and appreciative audiences from the local community, primary schools, parents and friends. This season we have hosted 12 performances and I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Mrs Hayes-Watkins, the Performing Arts Team and our amazing performers who all gave it their 'BEST' at ShowTime.



A card from the children at Tree Tops Nursery

Rewards

We saw the launch of our BEST Rewards system, where students can collect stamps for being their best in lessons which can then be banked at the BEST Bank. The Junior Leadership Team are our bank clerks and will record each student's credits on to our tracking system, which they can spend at a later date in the Reward Shop. This is not only a strategy to encourage engagement but it also helps to support financial education, with students saving towards larger rewards and fees being deducted when a negative behaviour point is given

Enrichment

At Goodwin Academy, you will encounter a variety of educational opportunities outside of the classroom.

School Trips

Many of the school trips this term included a visit to Turner Gallery to see the acclaimed Turner Prize, all our year 7 students visited Dover Castle, some of our year 9 students treaded the boards at the Theatre Royal Margate with a performance of Macbeth, students visited Canterbury Crown Court and the Pfizer's Community Lab. Wow !. I am extremely proud that our school is able to enrich our student's educational experience, by giving them such unique opportunities.

Goodwin Academy Awarded Prestigious Art Award

Goodwin Academy is celebrating after being awarded the Artsmark Silver Award. The Award, given to schools that are “making the arts come alive”, recognises Goodwin Academy’s strong arts offering and is awarded by the Government-backed Arts Council England. Arts Council England praised the opportunities available to all Goodwin Academy students to engage in the arts and cultural experiences, provided through both the curriculum and a range of clubs and activities that go beyond formal teaching and noted the academy’s strong emphasis on cultural capital.

A huge well done to Cate Hayes-Watkins, Head of Performing Arts and the rest of the art department as this award is testament to the fantastic work that is being done across the Academy.



Society

At Goodwin Academy, you will be encouraged to develop as a responsible, active and informed world citizen, demonstrating mutual respect, empathy and community spirit.

Food Bank

A BIG thank you to the staff who brought in food donations to support the Deal Area Foodbank. This great campaign provides emergency food and support to people that really need it. It is so important we all take time especially at this time of year, to consider those less fortunate in our society.



Remembrance Day

I hope you have seen our wonderful poppy display with in the school grounds. Mrs Ward- Jones and our very talented year 9 DT students have meticulously created 75 poppies to represent the years of remembrance.



We are very proud of our staff, students and cadets that attended the Armistice Service at Hamilton Road Cemetery on 11th November along with Army Cadets from Deal Detachment A Coy KACF.

Headstart

HeadStart Kent is part of Kent County Council’s Early Help and Preventative Services and aims to help young people cope better when faced with difficult circumstances in their lives, preventing them from experiencing common mental health problems. As a Headstart school, we have received funding to establish a range of resources such as a safe space, mental health first aider training and student support sessions.

Teacher's Got Talent



In aid of Children in Need, some staff took to the stage to sing their hearts out and dance their socks off, in front of an audience of students and fellow colleagues. The pupils had to vote for their favourite performance and the teacher that stole the show was our very own singing sensation Mr Myers. A big thank you to everyone involved, who as well as having lots of fun, helped to raise an impressive £254.76 for this amazing charity.

Junior Leadership Team

This term the Junior Leadership Team have been focusing on 'Being an Upstander and not a Bystander, this is part of our anti-bullying campaign that is on going. During Anti-Bullying week they set up a stall in the canteen where students could come and write a positive comment on a piece of bunting about their friend, they were then given a cake to give to their chosen friend. The JLT lead on organising the Children in Need events, the headline for the day being Goodwin's Got Talent.

MOvember

Some of our staff at the school grew moustaches throughout November to raise money for MOvember, the leading charity raising awareness and changing the face of men's health. Our Hairy Heroes raised an impressive £483.00. Well done to you all!



Thinking

At Goodwin Academy, you will join a global community of thinkers.

Community of Thinkers

The use of thinking tools have been embedded in all lessons across the academy. Students are using thinking keys, maps and hats to develop their independence as learners. We are now starting our journey to becoming thinking accredited through Exeter University. The school aims to gain accreditation by July 2020.

Some of the benefits of attending a Thinking School include:

- Develops skilled, independent, reflective learners
- Improves motivation
- Creates a vibrant, collaborative learning environment
- Improves discipline and attendance
- Arms learners with the skills to be able to succeed in an ever-changing future
- Improves attitudes, behaviours and coping strategies
- Prepares students with the communication and thought processes required for university and job interviews

Mock Results Day

I would like to congratulate all Year 11 and 13 students who have completed their mock exams. This is a very important experience for all students and teachers, to ensure they are all prepared for the final exams and any gaps in students' knowledge can be addressed before the summer.

General Notices

Term Dates

Please find below a reminder of the term dates until the end of the Academic Year.

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| Term 3 | Tuesday 7 th January – Friday 14 th February 2020 |
| Term 4 | Monday 24 th February – Friday 3 rd April 2020 |
| Term 5 | Monday 20 th April – Friday 22 nd May 2020 |
| Term 6 | Monday 1 st June – Friday 17 th July 2020 |

Upcoming Events

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| Year 10 Parents Evening | Thursday 16 th January 2020 – 3:30pm |
| Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening | Thursday 30 th January 2020 – 3:30pm |
| Year 8 Options Evening | Thursday 6 th February 2020 – 5:00pm |
| Year 9 Parents Evening | Thursday 27 th February 2020 – 3:30pm |
| Year 8 Parents Evening | Thursday 5 th March 2020 – 3:30pm |
| Red Nose Day | Friday 13 th March 2020 – All Day |



Staff Farewells

We say farewell to a small number of staff at the end of Term and I would like to wish them all the very best for their future careers and thank them for their hard work and commitment to Goodwin Academy. Mr Chris Stanley (Key Stage 5 Leader), Mrs Emma Dovovan-Bayley, (Head of Art) Mr Gus Ndolvu (Teacher of English) and Mr Gordon Fox (DT Technician) we wish you all well.

New Staff Welcomes

We are pleased to announce the appointments of Mr Richard Kipling (Business and ICT), Mrs Svetlana Kurganskaya (Art and Design) and Mrs Rachel Lake (English) who will pick up the timetables of the staff above. There will also be some changes to the timetable of Mr Louis Visagie who will now be teaching some Computing and Engineering lessons. Mr Neil Barnes and Mrs Daisy Bradford will be responsible for the Art department and Sixth Form respectively.

We also welcome Miss Daniele Washington (Science Technician), Miss Charlotte Riseley (Office Admin Apprentice) and Miss Hayleigh Davies (Behaviour Support Apprentice) to the support staff team and we are very excited to be working in collaboration with the Kent County Council Apprenticeship scheme.

On behalf of the governors, Thinking School Academy Trust and the staff at Goodwin Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. The success of any school is a team effort, with students, parents and staff all working together to ensure the best outcomes for our young people.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Smith
Principal



Gone From My Sight

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone."

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her destined port.

Her diminished size is in me -- not in her.

And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is gone,"
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

In memory of our student Liam Evans, Year 10



Director's 'WE ARE ONE' update

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is made up of 4 hubs of schools in Portsmouth, Chatham, Strood and Kent. Goodwin Academy in Deal is part of the Kent hub, along with The Rochester Grammar School (RGS) in Medway and our staff work very closely with each other to ensure that all students receive the very best learning opportunities. This term, for example, teachers across both schools have been working very closely to shape the grammar stream in years 7 and 8 at Goodwin Academy. As Director of the hub, I want to be able to share with you some of our stories so that you can see what connects us and what makes us #ProudtobeKent_TSAT.

This term saw RGS receiving Advanced Thinking School reaccreditation from the University of Exeter; its research into cognitive education is shared not only within school, but with the wider community, and has a significant impact on the outcomes of students. Goodwin Academy is on a journey to becoming a Thinking School this year and students are already becoming very adept at using the thinking maps, thinkers' keys and six hats. Goodwin also received the prestigious Artsmark Silver Award this term for its rich arts offering and for the cultural experiences it provides for its students. Congratulations to both schools for these impressive achievements.

Nearly £600 was raised across the hub for Children in Need this year with Goodwin Academy bravely showcasing the talents of its staff in its 'Teacher's Got Talent' competition. Teachers demonstrated their singing, dancing and even their rapid apple breaking abilities, with none of the acts being 'buzzered' out! RGS held a lunch time Pudsey Party where there was a 'Battle of the Bands' contest and various staff members, disguised as the famous bear, popped up in various locations around the school throughout the day. It is wonderful to see so much creativity being put into this event to make it such an enjoyable fundraiser to support a charity which aims to change the lives of children and young people across the UK. Goodwin's charity work continued with the Deal Area Foodbank and the impressive £483 that was raised for Movember (the men's health charity). The charitable work across the hub has raised well over £1000 this term to make a positive difference to people's lives.

In the creative arts, RGS students created and performed a song at an exhibition to celebrate the tremendous contributions of the Windrush generation. This was a joint venture between the Medway African and Caribbean Society (MACA) and the Historic Dockyard, Chatham. Students wrote a song called 'We Should Make a Change' with the help of the musician Alexander D'Great and they made the ITV and BBC South East 6 O clock news. At Goodwin Academy, Panto season is in full swing ('oh yes it is') and with three casts and over 12 performances, students are reaching out to their entire community with their version of Dick Whittington. Well done to all staff and students involved in these inspirational, memory-making projects.

Numerous trips have taken place to enrich the learning experiences this term. At Goodwin, students have visited the Turner Gallery, Dover Castle, the Theatre Royal, Margate (to see Macbeth), Canterbury Crown Court and Pfizer's community laboratory. RGS students have been on their very moving bi-annual trip to Poland, where they visited Krakow and Auschwitz. Some

RGS students went on a Japanese exchange where they visited Tokyo and Kobe. Whether local, regional or global, any trip is an enriching opportunity for students to learn about culture and the arts outside of the classroom and to build their 'cultural passport'.

Teaching is one of the most rewarding and enriching professions as you are transforming the life chances of children and young people and helping them to carve out their pathways and future successes. Making a difference to so many pupils on a day to day basis and over the years is truly special. If you are interested in a career in teaching or know of anyone who would be, we are running a recruitment event at The Victory Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, ME4 5JB on Tuesday 21st January 2020 from 5-7pm. For more information, please contact our HR team on 0333 360 2050 or recruitment@tsatrust.org.uk. At this event, we will be able to share with you any employment opportunities in our schools and talk to you about our new, exciting venture, our very own School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) branch of our Trust which we will be launching in September 2020. Our SCITT provides aspiring teachers with an exciting opportunity to train directly in our schools and there are various government bursaries available to support graduates through the training year. We are currently recruiting for our SCITT and have had much interest already from undergraduates in their final year of their degrees.

I am very proud of all of the achievements of the pupils across the Kent hub and wish to thank staff, parents and governors for all of the support they provide to their schools. I wish you all a happy Christmas with your friends and loved ones and I look forward to providing you with another update at Easter time.

