

## Principal's Bulletin, Term 4 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Term 5, I hope you and your families are all safe and well and had a restful Easter break. Over the past month we have all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the chance to say what an amazing job you are doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this difficult time.

It's definitely been a strange and challenging time, so it's understandable if you and your child feel anxious and frustrated at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together. Remember, if you have any concerns about helping your child learn or you need any other support from the school, please contact your child's Head of Year.

We miss having the students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe. So, we are carrying on with providing a provision in school for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers and continue with remote learning for all other students. Please do remind your child to take breaks away from screens as well, and also make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

While we cannot say yet when we will be able to return to normal business, please be rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to keep students learning and the school connected.

I hope this edition of the Principal's Bulletin will give you some light reading and give you an insight into some of the outstanding opportunities and successes Goodwin has had so far in 2020.

### Disneyland Paris

On Sunday 23rd February a group of performers along with 4 members of Goodwin Academy staff boarded a coach heading for Paris. The students took part in a Musical Theatre Workshop, working with Disney Performers from the show Aladdin. At the Videopolis Stage students had a Tech Rehearsal with Disney Staff and then went to get ready backstage for the show. As they waited in the wings, nerves began to kick in, along with an immense sense of pride as they heard the announcement - "Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome to the stage from England, Goodwin Academy".



The students danced their hearts out, and left the stage after their short show with a sense of achievement, pride and excitement. With time to look around Disneyland Paris the next day and an opportunity to see the fireworks in the evening the trip was a complete success. Students spoke French, went to places they had not been before, performed to an international audience, and came together like the true professionals that they are.

### Swattenden Trip

A group of Year 13 Public Services students along with Mr Barnes and Mrs Pitcher went to Swattenden Activity Centre to complete aspects of their outdoor adventurous coursework. The students undertook two days of activities including orienteering, rock climbing and zip lining.



The students thoroughly enjoyed their overnight stay in the Mansion and had fun using the games room. The students behaved impeccably and it was commented upon that they were the best group of older students that had visited in a long time.

### Cody Jennings

It was with great pleasure that last November we saw Cody Jennings, Year 13 student, be awarded the Tryangle Award for Personal Achievement in the Arts for the Dover and Deal Area. The Tryangle Awards were set up by Kent County Council Youth Team many years ago to recognise the achievement of young people. Cody Jennings was nominated by Mrs Hayes-Watkins for her commitment to the arts and the way she had used the arts to help her through a most difficult time in her life. It was also through the arts that Cody supported other young people in the Academy giving them her time and help when they needed it most. Winning in November made us all very proud, but what we didn't know was there was more to come, for in January Cody had been selected as the county winner as well! Another fantastic ceremony was attended by Cody and her family and another award collected - well-deserved, making all who know her very proud of her achievements and upholding our Academy motto - "Be Your Best"

### Deal Art Festival



In January, Goodwin Academy became host to the Deal Music and Arts Centre. An afterschool programme funded by Deal Festival that brings people together through regular weekly arts sessions. The centre began with a Music Night every Tuesday; 4.15pm-5pm for Year 5,6,7 & 8 students with little or no prior music knowledge. Led by Peter Cook the group start each session with introductions and music games before moving onto music development and rehearsals. It is an ideal opportunity for young people from all over Deal to meet together and develop their music talents. Later in the evening 6-7.30pm Peter Cook runs the inter-generational music group which has seen a range of musicians from a variety of backgrounds come together to play music. Although we have had to put the centre on hold due to the current situation you can rest assured that as soon as we are able to we will once again be meeting weekly and allowing children, students and adults, young, older, with or without experience to join us on a weekly basis to play music!

Through our ongoing partnership with Deal Festival we have many projects planned for the future including Let's Dance with Laban University, Sounds New Music and Arts Project along with performances to take part in and to watch. Please look out for future updates.

### #BE KIND

As part of the #BE KIND campaign that has been launched across the Trust, Goodwin Academy is developing a #BE KIND Student Charter, nominated students are deciding on what behaviours the community should be promoting and how to promote a culture of positivity. The students are working in conjunction with the Anti- Bullying Ambassadors and the final Student Charter will be displayed around the school, with future assemblies to be delivered to explain the thinking.

### STAND UP Project



The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors current project, which fits in with #BE Kind, is the STAND UP project. The project is to promote confidence in standing up for who you are and be proud of yourself, it also promotes the idea that we should stand up against negative language and behaviour and make kindness the norm not meanness.

### World Book Day

At Goodwin Academy we are building a momentum to promote a love of reading, World Book Day was an opportunity to share our favourite books and characters. Mrs Brookfield came up with a simple but effective idea of each student creating a paper gingerbread man of their favourite character from a book, each tutor group created a giant gingerbread man collage of their favourite characters.

### Science – Pfizer



We have continued to develop our relationship with Pfizer's over term 2 and 3. In term 2 two groups of year 9 students spent the day with teams from Pfizer's to study the process of drug development. The students had the opportunity to work with real life scientists and undertook a drugs trial using jelly beans. We also had a team from Pfizer's to talk to Sixth Form about apprenticeship opportunities during apprenticeship week.

The team were able to help our students with applications and interview techniques. One of our year 11s Hope Kennett also joined in the session and I am pleased to say that Hope applied for a Science Technician Apprenticeship at University of Kent and was successful at interview. We wish her all the best in her new adventure. In addition, one of our 6th form students has secured two interviews for lab based apprenticeships at Pfizer's.

In term 2 we also launched the bright sparks club with Rob Crook - lead for research and development at Pfizer sandwich. We have started some exciting projects including making biodegradable plastics, solar powered water distillation units and researching which plants are the best at taking in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. We look forward to continuing with these projects when we return!

We also celebrated Science week in term 3 with a competition for best lab coat design. Students from year 7 and 8 took part and some of the entries were excellent, showing lots of imagination and artistic talent.

Lastly, two of our A level biology students Rhian Thompson and James pointer had the opportunity to speak of their experiences of community lab at the Community Lab Celebration Evening at Discovery

Park in January. Both were excellent spokespeople for stem subjects and their public speaking was exceptional. Many of our year 11 students who visited the community lab in December made the cut for the promotional video shown at the event and their written feedback was included in the leaflets to promote community lab. Some copies are available in the good news folder in reception.

### World Thinking Day



On the 14<sup>th</sup> February Goodwin Academy celebrated World Thinking Day. Students took part in and thoroughly enjoyed a series of “thinking” activities that took place throughout the day. These included students re-enacting the game show “The Cube” in PE, conducting a scientific investigation into removing oil from wildlife and saving Sammy the snake in science, solving a murder mystery in French, comparing original and covers of songs in music, using maps to describe the global distribution of coronavirus cases around the world in Geography, analysing Victorian life in English and conducting numerical challenges in Maths.

### SEN Football Tournament



Goodwin Academy took 7 students to compete in a football tournament at Polo Farm and competed against SEN specialist schools around the district. The students were nervous going into the competition as they had not played against each other before but started brilliantly by scoring 2 goals in their first game. In the end they finished the competition with 2 draws and 4 losses. Although results did not go their way all students showed our school off in a fantastic light, demonstrating brilliant teamwork and an excellent demonstration of resilience and never giving up. They should all be proud of themselves!

### House Competitions - Benchball

The Bench Ball competition was a massive success. It was so fantastic to see such a large group of our students putting in maximum effort to do their 'Best' and be totally engaged in achieving the best possible outcome for their house. The community culture across each house and year group was great to see and it was evident that the students were buzzing when they left the sports hall.

A number of postcards were sent home to celebrate individual achievements, however, this was such a tall order, having to pick out students when so many did themselves, their houses and the school proud.

A big thank to Mr Curling for organising the event and Mrs Cribben, Mr Towe and Miss Butcher who supported throughout the game.

### Purple Zone

Terms 3 and 4 saw the introduction of ‘Purple Zone’ across all year groups at Goodwin Academy, this is the most challenging part of the lesson. ‘Purple Zone’ is designed to build resilience in students through independent study; prepare students for linear examinations through the silent, sustained application of learning; allow students to demonstrate individual progress; ensure students take

responsibility for consolidating and extending their learning; and to promote the engagement of students.

'Purple Zone' proved successful in helping our year 11 and 13 students prepare for their mock examinations in March and we will continue to use this to prepare all year groups for future examinations.

### Nut Allergy

Please remember that we are a nut free school, the following items are prohibited:

- Packet nuts of any variety
- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- Chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- Sesame seeds (rolls, etc.)
- Cakes made with, or containing, nuts



Thank you for keeping our school safe!

### Think Ahead Teacher Training

Goodwin Academy are delighted to be playing a major role of TSAT Think Ahead Teacher training programme for 2020-2021. Over the past 5 years Goodwin has trained and developed outstanding mentors to support and guide new teachers into the profession in becoming successful qualified teachers. The teachers that have trained at Goodwin often stay in positions and thrive at Goodwin.

We believe that the best place for trainee teachers to learn how to become excellent classroom practitioners is in a school. TSAT's Teacher Training allows people to train to be a teacher by spending the majority of time in a school environment. They will receive high quality support and training from skilled teachers who are passionate about education. By being part of a school from the very first day of training, successful candidates have the opportunity to develop a long-term career pathway within education and Goodwin can now offer this outstanding training and support within its close community and wider community through Kent.

Goodwin have already offered placements for History, Dance, PE and Dance and are recruiting for positions in Science, English, Maths and MFL.

If you feel that you could contribute and become part of the teaching profession, please have a look at the Teacher Training information on the Goodwin Academy website.

### Staff Farewells

We said farewell to the following staff this 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. Mrs G Hamilton-Hopkins (Head of Destinations and Enrichment), Mr M Shenton (Wellbeing Manager), Mrs G Sparks (Child in Care Co-Ordinator), Mr A Woosey (Teaching Assistant) and Miss H Davies (Wellbeing Officer Apprentice).

### New Staff Welcomes

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

Mr J Harrison	Head of Art
Miss C Hellyar	Wellbeing Officer
Miss G Austin	SEN Learning Support Assistant
Miss M Skinner	SRBP Learning Support Assistant

### Pearson National Teaching Awards

I am delighted that Kirsty Gaythwaite has been nominated for a Silver Award in the Pearson National Teacher Awards in the category of Outstanding New Teacher of the Year.

Kirsty initially joined the school as a learning support assistant to help vulnerable pupils, but was quickly identified as having a talent for teaching mathematics. She continued to work at the school while studying in evenings and weekends for her diploma in education, and since qualifying as a teacher has continued to put in immense amounts of work to ensure her students succeed. She has organised lunchtime revision sessions, after school interventions, Easter and May holiday sessions and constant communication with parents, all to make sure her Year 11 students have the best possible chance when it comes to their exams.

Kirsty is in the running to be a Silver Award winner who will compete to win one of just 14 Gold Awards which will be announced at the televised UK ceremony later in the year, broadcast on the BBC as 'Britain's Classroom Heroes'.

Good luck Kirsty.



I hope you and your families continue to stay healthy and safe.



Mr S Smith  
**Principal**