

## Principal's Bulletin, Term 4 2021-2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's always been the case in schools that every new term brings a new set of challenges. Whether helping a new cohort of Year 7 students settle in to new surroundings, completing mocks and all-important coursework, or preparing young people for the public exams that will set them on their way to a bright and successful future, the challenges continue to come in all shapes and sizes.

This term, having navigated through the last few years with as little disruption as was humanly possible, we found ourselves having to adapt and adjust again. Despite the end of public restrictions, we were forced to show our resilience once more as high numbers of staff contracted COVID-19 and we were, reluctantly, forced to send year groups home. This was, obviously, far from how we envisaged the term when we returned in January.

In spite of all this, it's hard to imagine how I could have any more pride in leading this community. Every time I think I have a measure of our qualities, the ever-present challenges of school life reveal yet more of what we are capable of. The care, support and diligence of everyone involved throughout the community – students, staff, parents and carers – to ensure that we keep each other safe and supported, and continue to provide the education that will transform the life chances of our young people, will be the thing I reflect on most about this term. I have found it touching and inspiring to be involved with a community like ours, and it's when facing these challenges that these new reserves are revealed to us.

I hope that you and your families enjoy a peaceful and restful Easter break. We can guarantee that next term will present yet more challenges to us. But, as always, all we have achieved throughout these difficult moments leaves me absolutely convinced that we will meet them successfully.

I hope this edition of the Principal's Bulletin will give you some light reading and provide you with an insight into some of the outstanding opportunities and successes Goodwin has had since Christmas.

### Holocaust Memorial



The 27th January is a national commemoration day, dedicated to the remembrance of the millions of people who lost their lives in the Holocaust under Nazi persecution. A virtual assembly, delivered by Head of History, Mr Knott and school Principal, Mr Smith, was held, allowing the students of Goodwin Academy time to reflect on Holocaust Memorial Day and its significance.

Various museums and exhibitions across the world display piles of shoes to provide one of the few lasting signs of those who had lost their lives and suffered greatly during the time of Nazi rule. To many people, images of shoes represent the fragility of life during the Holocaust. To pay tribute and mark the occasion, students across Goodwin Academy each cut out a pair of paper shoes and inscribed a personal message on them. Over 850 pairs of shoes now hang together at the front of the school, creating a moving memorial piece. We will not forget.

### True Colours Event – LGBTQ+ Activities – Sixth Form Basketball Game

February marked the LGBTQIA+ History month, which was an opportunity for us to highlight the journey that this community has taken in order to combat both inequality and discrimination.

At Goodwin Academy, it is important for us to educate our students around understanding and acceptance of the fact that everyone is unique, this is after all what makes us human. Our society is a rich mix of cultures, beliefs and genders, a point that should be celebrated. However, at times people's differences may not be what we are used to, this can cause us to feel challenged and fearful.



Educating people around the differences between us aims to combat misunderstanding and potential prejudice, this is why Goodwin, as part of a TSAT wide initiative, marked LGBTQIA+ month with a range of educational activities. We encourage all students to engage, discuss and challenge themselves to understand and appreciate that LGBTQIA+ community is an integral part of what makes us a rich society. Our slogan for the month was #weareone, as we are one community of people who should be supporting each other regardless of our gender, sexuality or preference.

### Dover District Basketball Tour

Well done to our Under 13s and Under 15s basketball teams for your amazing efforts in the Dover District Tournament. The under 13s team was made up of seven students from both Years 7 and 8 and were supported by one of our talented Year 10 students as assistant coach. They delivered promising performances throughout the tournament and ultimately secured 4th place overall, including a win against the hosts, Sir Roger Manwood's School in Sandwich.



Our under 15s basketball team did equally well, securing joint 3rd place in the tournament. Their team consisted of seven students from Years 9 and 10 who took home a win against Sandwich Technology and a draw with Dover Grammar School. The team did extremely well to make it to the semi-finals, where, after a composed performance, they lost against the eventual winners.

We are so proud of your achievements and look forward to our next competition!

### Kent School Award for Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing

We work hard to create a safe and positive environment for our students, providing them with guidance and advice, no matter their needs. Promoting wellbeing is very important to us, and we have a dedicated team of staff on hand to help our students cope better with the pressures of everyday life.

With this in mind, we are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the Kent School Award for Resilience and Emotional Wellbeing.

We implemented a whole-school approach to wellbeing, ensuring that all areas of our school community are nurtured, guided and have access to appropriate support if ever required. The Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT) praised us for our strong leadership and how supportive the ethos and environment running throughout the school is, supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of not only our students but our parents and staff as well. In addition, we were complimented on the sustained effort from our staff and

students to remain focused on improving resilience and emotional wellbeing for all of the Goodwin Academy community. We are so proud of our staff and students' efforts during this process and look forward to building on our awareness and resilience for wellbeing and mental health.



### Memorial Garden



Family and friends of ex-Headmaster came together to celebrate the installation of a bench in our Memorial Garden in his memory.

James 'Jim' Stacey was appointed Headmaster of Deal Secondary School in 1968 after merging Elizabeth Carter Girls School and Deal Boys School, which both stood on the same site. He served the school with strong leadership over 19 years before retiring in 1987. In 2021, Jim passed away at the respectful age of 93.

Marianne, Jim Stacey's wife thanks Goodwin Academy for allowing her family to place the bench there and was delighted to see the new school in all its splendour. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with all the former teachers and staff who worked closely with Jim over the years. She has been overwhelmed by all the messages she has received, which is testimony to how well respected he was.

### Inter-House Food Bank Competition

From 21st March – 1st April, we asked students to donate non-perishable food and toiletries. The collection will be sent to @dealfoodbank and used to help feed and support families struggling in the local area. Thank you for all the donations!



**Inter-house Foodbank Collection**

When: 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March

Where: The cafeteria – place your donations in the designated area for your house!

What: Non-perishable food and toiletries

Prizes to be awarded to the house who bring in the most donations!

BRUNEL CARTER CURIE FIGHTINGALE HAWKING

DEAL AREA FOODBANK  
**HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS**

Why? Over 2,000 people in the local area rely on the Foodbank to help them feed their families, with many living in abject poverty.

### 'Herstory' House Competition

**HERSTORY** Creative writing, art and performing arts competition  
House competition

For our 'Herstory' House Competition, students have been asked to submit either a piece of creative writing, a work of art, or a recorded performance that celebrates women's history. Thank you to all that have taken part, winners to be announced shortly!

### World Book Day



This year, World Book Day celebrates its 25th year, and all 17 schools in our Trust came together to run a number of fun activities for our students.

The students of Goodwin Academy participated in the World Book Day Book Exchange by bringing in a book of their choice to swap with their classmates during tutor time. In addition, a book trolley was available during the lunch break for our students to peruse any additional books donated. Book exchanges are a fantastic occasion to share and discuss literary favourites and encourage peers to discover and try something new.

The school took part in the Trust-wide World Book Day Bingo, where students had the chance to win a family ticket to see a show of their choice at a local theatre. Students were given a sheet of literary clues that they had to solve and complete to win a Golden Ticket.

Four students who completed the bingo sheet were randomly selected and entered into the Kent Hub draw to win the theatre trip.

Congratulations to Ivy, who took home the top prize and all our runners up, who were awarded book tokens!

What's more, staff tutors also read excerpts from their favourite books or recited their much-loved poems during the day.

World Book Day is a wonderful opportunity for people to share their love of reading and promote the pastime of reading for pleasure. The charity aims to ensure that every child and young person has the opportunity to have a book of their own. Their focus is to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

### Goodwin Try'athlon

Our very own Mrs Cribben has completed a virtual triathlon this month with her partner. This involved undertaking an impressive 1500m swim in the local pool, cycling 40km and then finishing the challenge with a 10km run.

This type of challenge is a first for them both. They started training earlier this year in preparation, having never competed in an Olympic length triathlon before. By stepping out of her comfort zone, it sparked an idea, and Mrs Cribben then went on to invite the staff and students of Goodwin Academy to try something new.



The Try'athlon ran as a House competition in a relay format. Each house completed 30 lengths in Dover Swimming Pool, 20km Cycling and a 5km run. The event was a huge success and all students who took part showed great resilience, challenged themselves and performed at their BEST. Over £600 has been raised for MacMillian Cancer Support which is a great achievement for both Mrs Cribben and our students.

Thank you to the staff who provided the support for this event and cheered on our students and Mrs Cribben!

### Books for Change

Books for Change is an organisation that started during lockdown 2020. They raise money to buy schools new diverse books that include black protagonists, children and families of colour, families with two mums or two dads, books that help to explain gender identity, what LGBTQI means, people who have disabilities and on black history, books about mighty Iranian girls and boys who dare to be different.



This week Books for Change visited Goodwin Academy to donate books for our Library.

### Eggcellent Easter Challenge



Students were invited to join in on our 'Eggcellent Easter Challenge'. Each day, students had the chance to find the Golden Egg to win an Easter prize. An impressive 431 students had 100% attendance during the challenge, a huge well done to you all!

### Kent Police Schools Officer

Kent Police are investing Police Officers into schools across Kent and from Term 5 we will have a Kent Police Schools Officer based at Goodwin Academy. School Officers are a dedicated Policing resource designed to support students, teachers, parents and communities. By investing officers within educational settings, Kent Police aims to ensure young people feel safer in their environments and, through positive dealings with them, prevent them from becoming victims of crime or exploitation.

What they will do:

- They will support in delivering diversion and intervention schemes for vulnerable children.
- They will act as a point of contact for teachers, parents and children in need.
- They will actively safeguard children at risk of criminality or exploitation.
- They will be there for our children and young people to talk to and seek advice from.

### Free School Meals

Details have been sent to all families who are eligible, a voucher for £30.00 will be issued in the usual manor for the Easter Break.

### Upcoming events

Year 11 – 13 Exam Info Evening	Thursday 21st April 2022	5.00-7.00pm
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 28th April 2022	3.30-6.30pm
Early May Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd May 2022	All Day
End of Year Exams	Monday 13th June – Friday 1st July 2022	
Queens Platinum Jubilee	Friday 22nd July 2022	All Day

### 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!

### Term Dates

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

Term 5: Tuesday 19th April – Friday 27th May 2022

**May Bank Holiday – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022**

Term 6: Monday 6th June – Thursday 21st July 2022

Queens Platinum Jubilee – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022

### Stationary

To ensure your child can fully participate in lessons we recommend they have the 'essential' items on the poster below. To reduce shared resources between students, we also encourage students to own their own 'desirable' items.

Essential Items	Desirable Items
Black or blue ball point pen 	Pencil Sharpener 
Pencil 	Protractor 
Rubber 	Colouring Pencils 
Ruler 	Purple Pen 
Scientific Calculator 	
Your Student Planner is to be with you at all times and must be on the desk in all lessons. 	

### Staff Farewells

We say goodbye 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:

Miss A Butler (Teacher of Health and Social Care/PE), Miss K Lott (Teacher of Geography), Miss K Stewart (Senior Admin Assistant), Mr Gary Dodd (Learning Support Assistant) and Mrs J Mercer (Attendance and Admissions Officer).

### New Staff Welcomes

We are pleased to announce the following appointments:

- Mrs D Smith Learning Support Assistant
- Miss S Taylor Learning Support Assistant
- Mr J Keeley Behaviour Standards Manager
- Miss EJ Packman Admissions and Attendance Officer
- Miss C Fraser Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs S Davidson Science Technician
- Miss D Farmer Teacher of PE (Temporary)
- Mrs N Evans Senior Admin Officer
- Miss C Hinkins Behaviour Standards Officer
- Miss S Kearns Behaviour Standards Officer
- Miss Z Cureton Student Resilience Officer
- Mrs A Leach Receptionist

Head of Year 9 – From Term 5, Miss B Morgan and Miss L Hirst will be our joint Head of Year 9. We would like to thank Miss Butterfield for her dedication to the Pastoral Team and all her hard work.

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.

Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to welcoming you back in Term 5.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Smith  
**Principal**