



Greenvale School Newsletter: January - April 2025



HEADTEACHERS UPDATE

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we are, two thirds through the school year, at the end of the Spring Term already. This has been an action-packed term and together we have achieved so much. We are very proud of all our students and how much they bring to every learning opportunity, whether new or familiar to them, they really give their all.

This term has seen our first residential educational visit since before covid over 5 years ago. We had set this as a goal on our list of school improvement priorities for this year and were very excited to find a suitable venue to host our group in Macaroni Woods, Gloucestershire. We have once again performed in the Shakespeare School's Festival at The Albany Theatre in Deptford, alongside 2 mainstream schools, to great acclaim! You can read our performance review in the newsletter. We have also been showcasing our talents elsewhere and entered the 'Lewisham's Got Talent' event at The Civic Suite hosted by Lewisham's Young Mayor and Champions of Inclusion Team. A group of 'Greenvale Groovers' went along to sing and sign. We have had our living eggs in school again this term and on this occasion, it was the hatching of 5 duckling chicks that really brought the excitement, interest, care and joy to the students and staff alike.

We have celebrated World Book Day and National Careers Week across the school with lots of fun and interactive events and experiences you will see and read more about in the newsletter.

As always it has been wonderful to see so many of you in school for our parent workshops, arranged by Carol. Look out for our transition event we will be running again in the summer term with all the different health and social care services. We are also looking to set up a Friends Of Association so please get in touch with Carol if you have any experience or if you are interested in being involved, more to come on this after the break.

I would like to close my message on a real high for Greenvale School. We have been shortlisted as the regional finalist of the TfL Travel for Life Top Schools awards. We will be attending the award ceremony on Monday 19th May at the Kia Oval where the overall winner for London will be announced, fingers crossed.

Finally just to say, thanks as ever for all of your support. I wish you all a restful break and hope the weather is kind to us all.

Warm wishes

Katie

K. Denton

National Careers Week

Greenvale Waters Road have had an exciting and busy National Careers Week. We have had a range of visitors come to the school to meet us and talk about their jobs including Jacky, a local librarian and Mustafa and Naz our local police officer. In addition, we have had a range of work experience activities. We have helped arrange food parcels with Lewisham Food Bank; we have completed a range of administrative tasks as they would in Greenvale office; we have completed litter picking with Equans!



During the month of March, students participated in National Careers Week whose theme was: **You can set your goals high!**

Students had an exciting assembly with two ex-students who enthusiastically shared their past experiences during their work experience time in Greenvale School and their routine in college this year. Additionally, students had the opportunity to meet with external providers who delivered exciting sessions for orchard, forest and woodland pathways such as dancing, publishing and advertising, pottery and drama. Furthermore, Glade and orchard pathways students participated in internal work experience with Lewisham Foodbank. Lastly, all the students engaged in exciting activities in class, dressing up for real jobs in the market, such as doctors, dentists, mechanics and police officers. Well done to everyone who participated and contributed to the National Careers Week 2025!!



The students from the Spanish club made Tapas for the whole school. The students tried food from Spain and Mexico.



Last Friday, we were lucky enough to be part of Lewisham's Got Talent, an event hosted by The Champions of Inclusion Team and The Young Mayor. We brought along an amazing group of KS3 and KS4 students, and wow - they were incredible! We performed "What a Wonderful World" and "Need Somebody," and totally rocked the house! Our young stars not only showed off their vocal and signing talents, but also enjoyed watching students from other schools sing, dance, and perform magic. Afterward, we enjoyed a delicious lunch together. The Lewisham community is definitely going to be talking about the talented students from Greenvale for years to come!



Hazel class enjoyed a busy term, with a visit from the London Ambulance service among other fun learning. Students learned about how to contact the ambulance service in case of an emergency, different vehicles that are used including an Ambulance bicycle and how a person who uses British Sign Language has access to an emergency signer video relay on 999BSL. The class also made Spring and Easter cards to sell at Mayow Road reception as part of a Preparation for Adulthood enterprise unit of work - come and buy one if you are passing by.



A big well done to all the staff and the students that went on the residential trip to Macaroni Wood in Gloucestershire. Everyone loved exploring the woods, making a fire, melting marshmallows and visiting the wildlife park. We saw giraffes, zebras, rhinos and more! There were also animals to care for at Macaroni Wood and we spent time looking after chickens, pigs and the dogs!



This term, Greenvale School celebrated World Book Day with a variety of exciting activities! The theme this year was "Read your Way" and at Greenvale School we all read in so many different ways. On the day some students and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and shared why they chose their costumes. Throughout the day, they enjoyed making bookmarks, participating in a book scavenger hunt, and exploring audio stories. Some classes joined a live lesson on BBC iPlayer! It was a wonderful day filled with creativity, reading, and a love for books!



Key stage five students have been creating Lino prints as part of their option enterprise lessons. On Wednesday, the 19th of March Shantanek, Alfie, Jonathan, and Ryan travelled to Greenwich market to take part in a Young Enterprise trade fair and sell their prints. They worked very hard on their stall promoting the Greenvale Growers company and managed to sell lots of prints raising £67 for the garden at Greenvale School.



The Greenvale Growers have been very busy this term planting seeds in the garden and watering the plants. We have also planted three apple trees which should fruit next year. We are hoping for a bumper crop of vegetables and fruits this summer which will include strawberries, blueberries, carrots, beetroot, onions, potatoes, radish and various other herbs and vegetables.





Greenvale had ducklings, the eggs hatched, and we looked after 5 ducklings for 2 weeks. Students enjoyed seeing them grow. The ducklings have now joined their friends at the farm.



Top Schools 2025

Monday, 19 May 2025 at Kia Oval, SE11 5SS
10:00 - 14:15

Dear first Greenvale School,

Congratulations! Your school is the regional finalist of the TfL Travel for Life Top Schools awards.

Well done Greenvale Community!

Parent Coffee Mornings/Workshops



This term, there has been a variety of parent coffee mornings, including an 'art workshop' (as shown in photo) There are plenty more coming up, hopefully see you then.

On the 3rd of April, parents and carers attended the Trauma Informed Workshop with Caoimhe, our Educational Psychologist. We explored Trauma and its impact, trauma informed strategies to support emotional wellbeing and we also discussed how to build resilience and self-care practices.



"OUR PLAY IS PREFERRED"

**A Midsummer Night's Dream
by Greenvale School
at The Albany, 27th February 2025
appraised by Jess Aquilina**

It is my great pleasure to congratulate you, Greenvale School, on your brilliant performance of midsummer Nights dream as part of Shakespeare Schools Festival this spring. It was a joy to watch you shine on your performance night, and I'd like to spend some time now highlighting all the aspects of your production that I loved the most.

You took this beloved comedy and truly made it your own, seamlessly blending Shakespeare's original script with your own words to make the story feel even more relevant today. I particularly enjoyed the modern cultural references, like the nod to Love Island, which had the audience laughing out loud. You did a fantastic job of finding the humor in the script and you played off the audience reactions brilliantly during your final performance.

I really enjoyed your commitment to the characters who you made bold and memorable. From Oberon's commanding presence to Bottom's delightful silliness, Helen's exaggerated tears, and Titania's unyielding strength, you all captured the essence of these well-known characters perfectly and brought them to life in such a dynamic way.

A Midsummer Night's Dream can sometimes be a confusing play: who loves who, who has the potion in their eyes, and who doesn't. It was a brilliant choice to use physical storytelling to clarify the chaos caused by the love potion. Your animated actions and big facial expressions made it so easy for the audience to follow, and it brought an added layer of clarity to the story. I also loved how the ensemble reacted to the scenes throughout the play, particularly when the lovers were fighting. The group's collective "oooohs" and "ahhhhs" really enhanced the comedy of those moments and helped to land the famous Shakespearean insults.

You all followed direction so well, from the tech rehearsal to the dress rehearsal, and it was amazing to see how much your confidence grew by the final performance. You were all fantastic!

This was a beautiful, magical and mystical adaptation of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Wow!



GREENVALE SCHOOL





Circo Rum Baba visited us on 3rd and 4th April. They performed their new show 'Over the Moon'. It was a real spectacle for the senses and all the students (and staff) were mesmerised by the set, costumes, props and performers!

