



Greenfields School



Christmas Show
Lower School News
Building Expansion

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Introduction from the Head

by Head Teacher, Grant Hudson



By survey, parents have been content with what we produce as a school and have been content for years. If you have ever attended Graduation

during our end-of-year Gala Weekend, you will know that our graduates are normally outstanding and very thankful for having had the Greenfields Experience to launch their lives. Visiting parents are usually overjoyed with what their children and others have accomplished. I also receive many letters and words of thanks throughout the year for what we do.

But, in today's world, it is both our job and our moral duty to always strive to do better for all our students.

With this in mind, a major new initiative in the school was launched last year to raise our academic and social standards. This was the Cambridge Curriculum, overseen by the prestigious Cambridge University and embracing the whole school from Year 1 in Infants all the way up to the A Levels taught in the Sixth Form in Years 12 and 13. The main advantage for Greenfields is that the way this curriculum is put together opens the door for greater application of Study Technology™*. We will aim, through this, to achieve ongoing and steady improvement in the standard of our products: better educated children.

There will be a concentration on the quantity and quality of what is being taught in every subject. This obviously begins in the Lower School where teachers have been working on upgrades all round.

Our services will be more closely monitored and directed to ensure that students who really need help are getting it.

You will begin to hear more about this from class tutors, teachers, other staff, and myself as the Head.



Raising our standards across all subjects and through every week of the school year will present a more challenging environment for students - but they will receive any assistance that they need. There is really no limit to what they will be able to achieve, for themselves, for each other - and for the world.

In this magazine, you will see the work of the Lower School in particular reflected in the activities and adventures that they have throughout the year, while the above work of academic achievement continues.

You're always welcome to give me whatever feedback you wish!

*The methodology employed by the school to ensure children assimilate and retain what they have learned for life and not just to pass examinations.

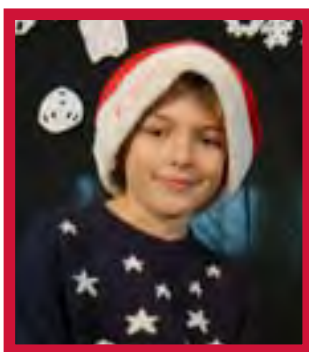
"A major new initiative in the school was launched last year to raise our academic and social standards."





Lower School Christmas Show

This year's Christmas show was a compilation of acts that included singing, dancing, playing musical instruments and more. The material, the backing tracks, scenery and their parts were all devised and put together in a wonderful creative splurge that children do so well. Head Girl of the Lower School, Tilly Cavanagh was the Master of Ceremonies and was ably assisted by her Deputy, Aston Todd (pictured below).



NATIVITY

Also in December, the Preschool and Reception classes performed their annual Nativity. Due to the increased sizes of these classes, they took over the main school hall and performed on stage to all the parents. The hall was packed and the parents were enchanted by their performances.



Parent Success Story

"After years of postulating Greenfields as the ideal school for my nine year old daughter, she finally arrived. Within her first week she told me that Greenfields is "not a school – it's Disneyland!"

The second miracle occurred during her third week when she expressed her desire for reading as a chosen activity. She purchased a set of books from her own money and read one every night.

Having come from a suppressive school regime and an idea that reading was 'boring' and some form of punishment, my daughter is now, in contrast, happy, optimistic, has a desire to learn and is winning!

Thank you to everyone at this magical school." -- L.B.

Exciting Times Ahead!

by Beryl Garside, Head of Lower School



You will have heard from the Head of the school earlier in the magazine about the new Cambridge curriculum throughout the school in the main subjects and the plan to work on achieving more and more and better and better results with all our students.

As you probably know, the school uses the educational methodology developed by L. Ron Hubbard which at its core consists of spotting and remedying a range of barriers which can get in the way of real learning. These include having a proper balance between the significance of what is being studied and its mass or reality; proceeding with each student along a proper gradient that is neither too steep nor too shallow for that student; and making sure that each and every student understands what he or she is studying so that they can think with it and apply it.

We accomplish the above regularly in the Lower School by a clever and ongoing use of particular skills: observing when a young child needs to see or touch or hear what he or she is learning about, incorporating lots of outings and activities in early learning, watching a child's development carefully so that the individual progresses at his or her own pace, and ensuring that new words and terms are clarified in ways that young children can easily grasp.

Our first requirement in applying this methodology has to be a curriculum, or outline of work, which is both academically sound and yet open to the sensible use of all of the above. In the Cambridge curriculum, as we carefully implement each part of it, step-by-step, we can see that our use of Study Technology is both enhanced and encouraged.

Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage thrive when introduced to appropriate tools and activities, and this continues in Reception and the Infants, where much depends on the class teacher's dedicated observation of each person as they grow and change. In the Juniors, children gradually become ready to take a piece-by-piece approach to learning, fully grasping something and seeing how it fits into the whole before moving on to the next thing, which evolves in the later Junior years into scrupulously structured checksheets and class-based lessons to ensure that educational value is added to each child.



“By the time a child is ready to enter the Upper School, he or she is prepared, excited and competent.”



“Children in the Early Years Foundation Stage thrive when introduced to appropriate tools and activities, and this continues in Reception and the Infants.”

By the time a child is ready to enter the Upper School, he or she is prepared, excited and competent*. We have learned that young children can be taught the basics of how to study at an early age. As they grow older, this truly makes the world a playground of ideas and accomplishments for them.



Competence

Competence is the underlying principle of our teaching philosophy with the Lower School. L. Ron Hubbard, Educator and Humanitarian describes the subject of competence in the book *The Way to Happiness* quoted here:

“Encourage the attainment of competence in any worthwhile pursuit. Compliment it and reward it whenever you find it.

Demand high performance standards. The test of a society is whether or not you, your family and friends can live in it safely.

The ingredients of competence include observation, study and practice.”



Lower School Expansion

Visitors to the Lower School over the last few months could hardly fail to notice the incredible work which has been done there. The school's expansion in student numbers has been fully taken on board by the Trust Management of Greenfields School and is being reflected in a massive new extension, the body of which has now been built.

This fantastic new facility will contain several large and modern new classroom spaces for the Juniors. Its windows directly overlook the edge of the beautiful Ashdown Forest.

A new verandah was constructed over Easter to act as an entranceway to the new building and also provides a spacious new sheltered playing area for the children, which has been greeted with astonishment and joy.



New veranda as seen from the playground, inside and from above

The overall effect has been to totally transform the Lower School as a whole. It's exciting to watch it develop and to imagine what tremendous adventures the children will have in these new spaces.

Further work to extend classrooms and incorporate computer facilities is continuing -and even more plans are being made for further expansion as you read this! Stay tuned for more updates!

Recent News and Events From The Lower School

Harvest Tea

In the autumn term, the Reception class learned about harvesting and helped to organise a harvest tea for their parents.



Bonfire Night

On November 5th the children met on the playing field and celebrated bonfire night with sparklers, fireworks and hot food and drink.



Visiting Santa

In December, a group of younger children went on an outing to a Llama Park based on the edge of the Ashdown Forest. As well as meeting llamas and some of his reindeer, they also got to meet Santa himself!



General Elections

On May 7th, The British General Election was held. On the same day in the Lower School, the 'Monitor General Elections' were held. Candidates ran their own election campaigns, there was a ballot and the three winners were elected! Well done to Laila Chester - Juniors 1, Kiyan Pirnazari - Juniors 2 and Joelina Wies - Juniors 4 pictured below.



Sleeping Beauty

Also in December a party of children went to the Hawth Theatre in Crawley to see the pantomime "Sleeping Beauty" which they found totally enchanting.



Lower School Special Events

Godstone Farm Outing

In January the lower school children were treated to an outing to Godstone Farm where they enjoyed tractor rides, indoor and outdoor adventure playgrounds, the petting zoo, animal education talks and more.



Valentine's Day

In February on Valentine's Day the children celebrated by making cards and going to a party dressed in their best clothes. There was hair gel in abundance and plenty of lessons on how to knot a tie and how to not drag dresses through mud.



Red Nose Day

On March 13 the children came to school wearing their red noses to show support for the Red Nose Charity Event. Over £100 was raised towards the cause.



World Book Day

In celebration of World Book Day on 5th March, many Greenfields children and their teachers came to school dressed as book characters. Along with Batman, The Gruffalo and Darth Vader we were privileged to be in the presence of characters from Alice in Wonderland, Star Wars, Red Riding Hood, Peter Pan and Princesses galore!



Easter Egg Hunt

In March the school grounds became a treasure trove of Easter eggs which were eagerly hunted by the children with the help of some subtle clues delivered by parents.



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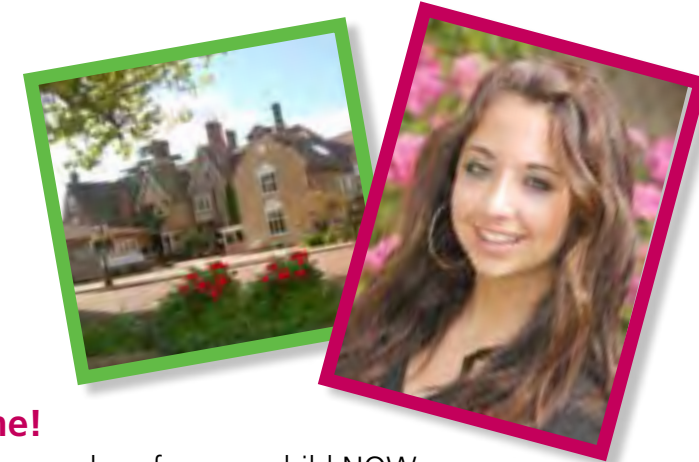
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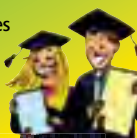
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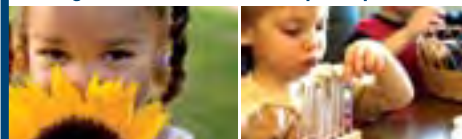


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