



# Greatfields Gazette

*Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it.*

## Chicks Glorious Chicks!

Article by Saffah Haider

To our surprise, we received chicken eggs on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

On Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November the first egg began to hatch. In total 7 baby chicks have joined our world. (5 males and 2 females) They are incredibly cute! They have been chirping and full of energy since they have hatched. So far so good! Unfortunately, two eggs did not hatch but we are still very pleased to have 7 join our Greatfields community for two weeks.

Recently, STEM Club have been taking care of these chicks. They have been cleaning, feeding and playing with them. The main reason for having the chicks is so that Year 7 could learn about reproduction and the life cycle of chicks in Science.

### Who got them?

Miss Barry decided to get chicks as year 7 were learning about reproduction and life cycle of chickens/roosters. In one of our lessons we got to hold the chicks. This helped us all understand how the chicks were living in the egg before they hatched.

On behalf of the school we would like to thank Miss Barry for letting us have this wonderful experience. We are so grateful for it!

### School's reaction!

When we received our eggs the whole school were delighted! My form class were in the room where the chicks were kept so our class stood crowded over the frightened chicks! I could almost feel them shivering with nerves inside their shells.

### How are they kept?

Once the chicks have hatched, they are moved from the warm incubator to a transparent box with food, water and a light bulb. For the first few weeks of their lives they have to have light bulb switched on. After that they are turned off because they don't need it anymore.

### When the first egg hatched

When the first egg hatched, the news got around the school rapidly. Everyone in the school wanted to see them. Everyone was very happy. Altogether there are there are 7 chicks (5 boys and 2 girls.)

### What are STEM Club are doing

STEM Club (lead by Miss Barry on Mondays after school) are taking care of the 7 chicks. They are feeding, cleaning and giving them exercise by playing with them. Soon STEM Club are going to go on a trip to the National History Museum to

look at the things we have been looking at in the club

This has been a very interesting experience for the whole school, especially the year sevens as we have been learning about them! Today our little friends have departed us. We wish them the best of luck!

A chicken joke:

Q: How did the chicken wake up?

A: It had an alarm cluck.

An interesting chicken fact:

These birds are omnivores. They'll eat seeds and insects but also larger prey like small mice and lizards.



# The School Council

Article by Tiffany Alabede

The School Council has been working exceptionally well, as you may know, our famous Mr Taqi is in charge of School Council. The students and Mr Taqi are working together to make our school a better place!

## 1. How is the School Council?

*School council is doing ok, there are a lot of new suggestions and the school Councillors are very eager to help make the school a better place.*

## 2. Where and when do the school council meetings take place?

*Meetings take place on Wednesday at 1<sup>st</sup> break located in the History room.*

## 3. Have you made any changes to the buildings?

*No, we haven't made any changes yet but all of these new changes will happen in the new building that we will be shortly moving into.*

## 4. How many students are there in school council?

*In School Council there are two representatives that are chosen from each form, this is for both Year 7 and 8.*

## 5. Will you make all of these new changes happen?

*Hopefully, as these will make our school a better place. We are planning to make these changes as soon as we get into our new building.*

# Welcoming Our New Journalist...

## Ula Kvaraciejute

Article by Ula Kvaraciejute

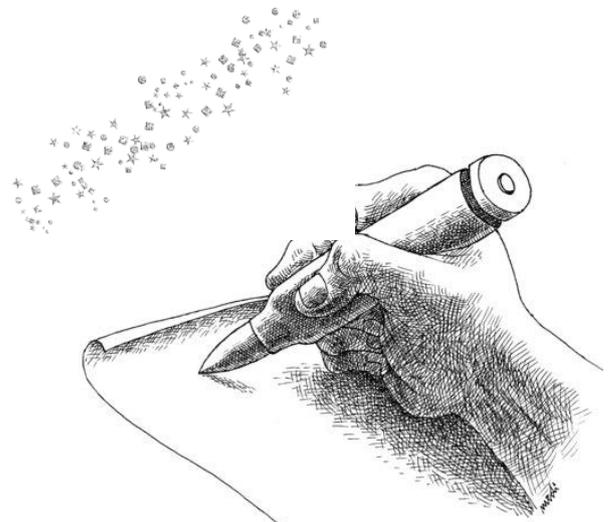
Hello, my name is Ula and I just joined newspaper club. I am in 7 Moore – one of the biggest forms in Year 7.

Here, I expect to write long articles about the school or what the teachers, students or the whole school have accomplished. I hope that it is going to be very fun, as I love to write.

I am looking forward to improve my writing skills and grammar. I hope that I can use a range of powerful vocabulary. I also wish to develop my writing.

I would like to write about some interesting things that happen outside of the school that affect the students and staff, and not just inside because there are already plenty of articles about it by my peers.

I will be co-writing with Tiffany for my first article. She has joined newspaper club a while ago, so she already has a lot of knowledge about it. I am full of excitement!



# Trip to the Natural History Museum!

Article by Tiffany Alabede and Ula Kvaraciejute

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017, STEM club went to an amazing trip to the Natural History Museum in Kensington. This half term in STEM club we have been learning about Palaeontology and Classification in Science. Kindly, Miss Barry organised the entire trip and we would like to thank her on behalf of STEM Club! We were also fortunate to be joined by Miss Shaikh and Miss Khatun. We had a fantastically enjoyable and interesting day. It wasn't *just* a fun day; we also got to learn some new things.

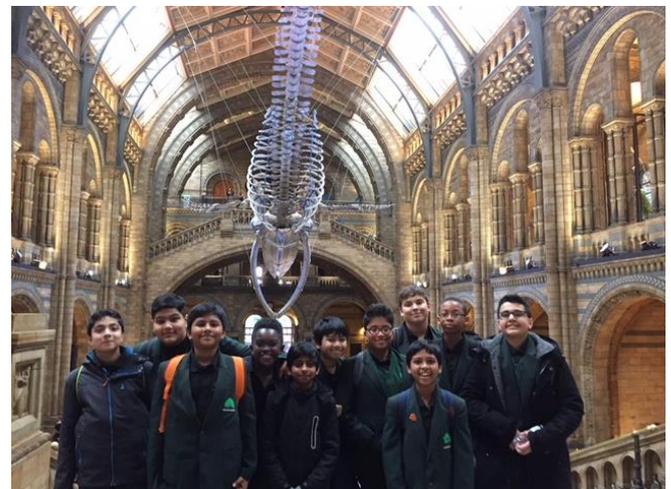
The museum was huge! There were so many sections to visit. Some of these section were Dinosaurs, Humans, Mammals, Cold-blooded Animals and Insects. We also experienced a real life earthquake which had us all trembling with fear and excitement. For a moment you almost forgot that you were in a museum!

We were really fortunate to see the new blue whale skeleton on display in the main hall which is the largest creature ever to have lived on planet Earth!

We were able to use exciting scientific equipment including professional light and computer microscopes in a special workshop about classification led by the museum educators. They even showed us a giant African anaconda snake skin. Some of us even had a chance to hold this!

The two of us, along with our peers, were also very impressed with the Museum's collection of gems and minerals.

The most important part of the trip was when we had to go into a lab. In the lab we had to take objects or insects that were once alive and were walking on the Earth's surface. Some examples of these objects are sea shells (that you could actually hear blood rushing through), tarantulas, rocks, snakeskin and flowers. At the end of the experiment, we got some colourful pens to draw with. It was awesome!



# Greatfields School Opens the Doors of the New School Building!

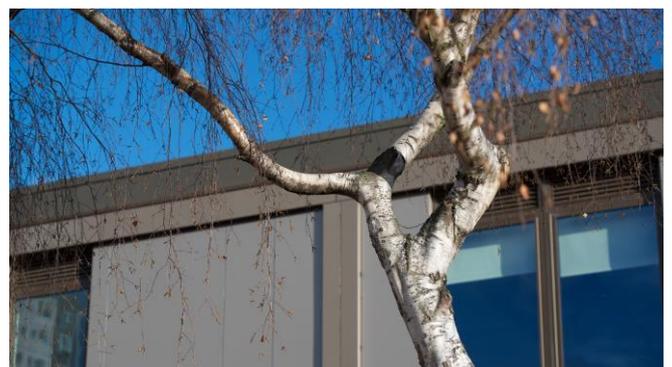
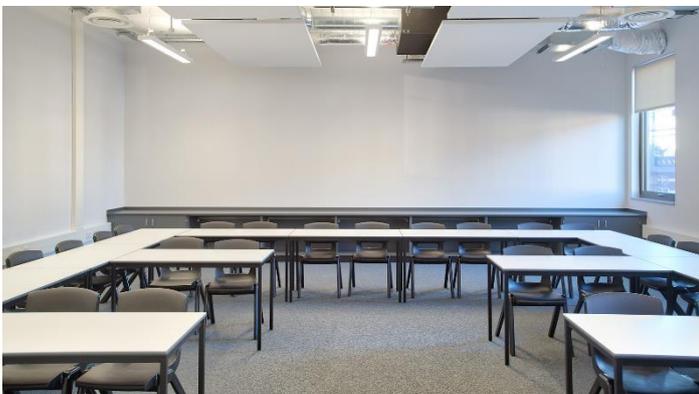
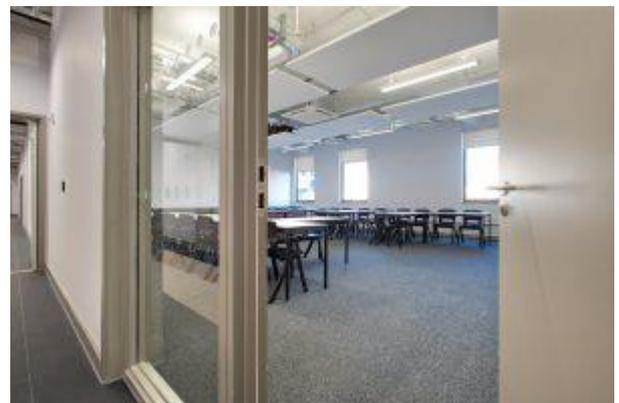


As many of you know, over the recent weeks both staff and students from the School Council have taken a trip to visit Greatfields new school building.

It is a very exciting time for our school as we open our doors officially, for the first time, on Monday 8th January 2017. With the start of the New Year, we all get to enjoy the new, modern and spectacular school building.

It feels very spacious! The classrooms are much bigger than our classrooms at the moment. All that awaits... our eager students and staff. We all cannot wait to get our classrooms looking vibrant and a ideal environment ready for learning!

Here are just a few pictures you can share with your families. Remember, this is only just the first building... two more to join!



# Stop and Search Assembly

Article by Arsida

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November, two lovely visitors gave up their time to come to Greatfields School and present information about Stop and Search and Stop and Account. They very kindly explained to us what those terms mean.

They taught us what Stop and Search is; this is when a Police Officer stops you and removes as many items of clothing as necessary (they must be the same gender and have to bring you to a private area to remove more than a jacket), and Stop and Account which is when a Police Officer stops you and enquires what you are doing, where you are going and what your name is. Our special guests also informed us of the effect drugs have on our brains.

Many people found that this was very helpful and found out a lot more than they already knew. Aida Rundle-Shahzad, a fellow student, quoted, 'I thought this was very educational and it's good for young children to know what happens when you are stopped by a Police Officer'. I was in total agreement with her and had no doubt that many other pupils and teachers were too. It's important for us to be aware of the procedures that affect us and our community. The more we know, the better!



# And This is *THRILLER!*

Article by Arsida

This half term, Dance Club (made of up many Year 7 and 8 students) had their very first public performance during assembly!

The students performed to Michael Jackson's famous hit - Thriller! And it sure was a thrilling performance. The students took the stage in full costume; there were ripped, blooded t-shirts everywhere! It felt as though the school had in fact been taken over by zombies.

Despite the nerves, the students performed an exhilarating dance staying true to the original Michael Jackson moves. The students showed incredible skill working together as group and some students even had solo parts such as Toby in Year 8.

The audience were hooked entirely and in awe of the incredible dance skills. It definitely seemed to inspire students to get dancing!

Have a look at some of the fantastic shots we managed to take during their first performance to Year 7.



# Greatfields School: The Governors

Article by Alan Lazell

## What do they do?

I would like to thank you – the students and parents of Greatfields School, for your important contributions in making our school a calm, polite and purposeful place in which to learn, and to Mr Paul and his staff for their outstanding professionalism and commitment to ensure that every young person at Greatfields School will achieve their very best. The view that Greatfields is a very good school indeed is not just the view of the governors, but also of all its many visitors.

And so who are the governors? Currently we are small group of people who willingly give our time freely to the school to work with Mr Paul to discuss and agree ways in which the school might be improved even further. We do this largely through meetings held on average once a term.

We meet as a single group known as the Local Governing Board, and also split into two smaller groups known as sub-committees, which support the work of the main Board. One of these sub-committees (known as Standards and Curriculum) looks the attainment and progress made by all students in the school by each subject area, and also at wider aspects such as the range of the out-of-school activities, or trips made by students.

The other sub-committee named Finance and Resources, is self-explanatory in that it monitors the way that money is spent at the school, ensuring that this represents best value for money.

There are currently 10 governors although this number will increase as the school grows.

Whilst we are a small group, governors have been appointed carefully to ensure we have the best possible range and mix of essential skills and expertise. Two governors work in businesses and have particular expertise in financial matters. Two more governors work in the Education sector, and understand the interest and motivations of young people in the Borough extremely well. We have two parent governors, a governor representing the staff at the school, and one of the Councillors from the Gascoigne ward. The two remaining governors worked in Children's Services for the council. We hope to appoint a governor from a university in the very near future.

You can also expect to see governors around the school regularly – some of you may have already have met a governor!

I hope this a helpful introduction to the governing body of the school. If you would more information then please look at the school's website, or contact me in person please.

**Alan Lazell**  
**Chair of Greatfields School Local Governing Board**

# History in the Making: Christmas Cracker!

Article by Yash Soni

On 14<sup>th</sup> December Greatfields School had its first ever annual Christmas Cracker talent show. This was Greatfields largest ever talent show or in fact any type of show ever.

This show included the most wonderful and extravagant acts and performances Greatfields has to offer. Talent from this very school was showcased by its very own students. These entertaining performances included dance, drama, and even acts such as karate!

Our very own students created and preformed on the night. However, all productions put on by the dance, drama and singing club were all put interval, including iced cookies! In the end the whole show came together to be the largest performance Greatfields had ever put together! Over 100 guests, ranging from parents, students and siblings, came to enjoy the show and all of them were blown away! It was a massive success.

Thank you to Miss White; without you we would not have been able to have such an incredible platform to showcase our talents, personalities and bring the community at Greatfields together



together and organised by Miss White. Miss White organised this entire show by herself and with the help of some fellow teachers.

Mr Taqi did the music and Miss Barry provided all the delicious food that was served during the

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*‘An incredible evening showcasing the best of Greatfields School!’*

*‘Miss White has done a terrific job organising this superb show; well done to all the students who participated - we had an incredible night.’*

*‘The highlight of the term! This will be one evening for all of Greatfields School to remember.’*

*‘The highlight of the term! This will be one evening for all of Greatfields School to remember.’*

*‘It was lovely to see the children at their best and enjoying their time in school.’*

*‘I loved watching my child on stage looking so happy. I enjoyed the Christmas Cracker.’*



A final message from Newspaper Club...

From the journalists at Newspaper Club, we wish you all, staff and students, a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Enjoy your holiday and stay safe.

Congratulations to Year 7 on their very first term at Greatfields School and a well done to the Year 8 for being good role models. Thank you to all the teachers and members of staff who work with us. You all work very hard and keep us motivated.

We look forward to returning in January 2018!

# Cooking Club:

## Recipes for Christmas!

### Orange & ginger stained glass biscuits



**Makes 14**

### Ingredients

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sunflower oil, for greasing

175g plain flour, plus extra

1 tsp ground ginger

zest 1 orange

100g butter, cold, cut into chunks

50g golden caster sugar

1 tbsp milk

12 fruit-flavoured boiled sweets

icing sugar, to dust

### Method

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1. Heat the oven to 180C/ fan 160/ gas mark 4. Grease 2 large baking sheets with oil. Mix the flour, ginger, orange zest and butter with 1/2 teaspoon of salt to fine crumbs in a processor. Or you can mix with your fingers - mix the ingredients until they look like crumbs.
2. Mix in the sugar and milk, turn out the mix and knead on a floured surface until it is smooth. Wrap the mixture in cling film and chill in the fridge for 15 minutes.
3. Roll out the dough on a surface to the thickness of a £1 coin. Use the large heart cutters to cut out heart shapes. Then use small heart shape cutters to cut out the middles. Re-roll leftover pieces and cut out more heart biscuits. Place these carefully on the baking sheets.
4. Crush the sweets in their wrappers with a rolling pin, then put the pieces into the middle of the biscuits - the sweets should be level with the top of the dough.
5. Bake the biscuits for 15- 20 minutes or until the biscuits are golden brown and the middles have hardened.

These biscuits should keep for up to one month if kept in an air tight container.

# Cheese stars



**Makes 10**

## Ingredients

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160g puff pastry sheet

mugful of grated cheddar cheese

Flour for dusting

1 tablespoon of milk

Dried oregano for topping

## Method

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1. Unroll the pastry sheet and sprinkle lots of the cheese over one half of the sheet. Now fold the pastry sheet in half to cover the cheese and seal it.
2. Dust your rolling pin and work surface with a little flour and lay your pastry sheet on it. Roll out the pastry sheet so it is double in size.
3. Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/ gas mark 6 and line 2 baking sheets with baking parchment.
4. Use cookie star cutters, cut the pastry into shapes and put them on them on the baking sheets. Fold the left over trimmings over back on themselves and re-roll to cut more shapes.
5. Brush the shapes with a little milk, add a pinch of cheese and sprinkle on the oregano.
6. Bake pastry in the oven for 10 minutes or until golden and have risen.

These will keep for up to 3 days.



# Christmas Poems



Thin spiral cobwebs layer on top of the chimney.  
Blocking all entrances to passers-by,  
Except for that odd fly.  
Is everything okay?

The sweet touch of clementine  
dusted over the place.  
Three mince pies for Santa  
or for liars.

Crisp wood burning  
heads are turning.  
Peering over covers  
Elves are playing.

Knock Knock Knock  
Who's that? Children whisper  
Could be Santa or a sly stranger  
Whoever it is, it is late.

Come on Santa, when are you coming,  
But there will be disappointment among the crowd.

By Mary  
8 Moore

A mug of hot cocoa,  
Sitting on the table so snug.  
I'm feeling a little loco,  
Oops! It spilt on the rug!

My cat beside me,  
Name's Lee...  
Carter from Eastenders.  
He's such a pretender,  
Acting all like Santa!

Though, I don't believe in him.  
By Kamile  
8 Moore

Streets lined with strings of light  
Brightening up this joyous night  
Fireworks dominate the sky  
Above all the horses they fly  
It's Christmas time, it's Christmas time!

Present lying under the tree  
They come from a wild shopping spree  
Decorations hung on the wall  
Christmas bunting across the halls  
It's Christmas time, it's Christmas time!

By Nameera  
8 Moore

There's time for cookies, and there's time for Fanta

But now it's time to give it to Santa

His long eared friends help him on the way

Throwing out PS4s out of his sleigh

White light particles, falling from the sky

Giving us hope as he flies by

Cherry robins, chirping up high

Santa's slurping and eating on your mince pie

He goes down the chimney with a big loud thump!

And blurting out Christmas speeches better than Donald Trump!

By Anonymous

8 Moore

The Christmas Tree:

One tiny star on the  
top of the tree,

Two little presents underneath  
for me,

Three silver ropes twisted  
around the tree,

Four coloured lights shining  
prettily,

Five shining balls flowing  
silvery,

Six floating ducks dancing  
gracefully,

Seven spotty ducks licking  
a shiny Christmas tree.

Oh what a sight for you and me!

By Syed

8 Moore



A man in his red suit sitting  
on his sleigh.

He gives you presents but  
but don't have to pay.

Delivers the presents on the time  
there's no delay.

Toys'R'Us is gassing, swimming in money

It's cold outside

My nose is running

I don't like the cold because

it's not sunny.

By Yash

8 Moore