



The Greenfield Gazette

July 2025

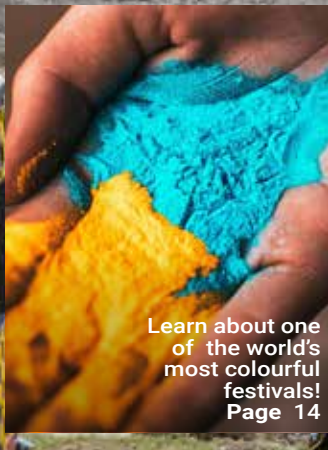
All the news you need to know - in Aycliffe and beyond

**Pupils splash
cash to sponge
the teachers!**

Full charity report on Page 7



It's all downhill for
school ski trip!
Page 8



Learn about one
of the world's
most colourful
festivals!
Page 14



Greenfield takes
to the stage!
Page 16



BREAKING NEW GROUND

The foundations of a bright future
are being laid at Greenfield Academy
as work begins on new facilities and
learning spaces.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3



Newspaper launched



by Dexter S and Finley D

GREENFIELD Academy has launched its very own newspaper - and you're reading it!

The Greenfield Gazette aims to become the go-to newspaper for the past, present and future of Greenfield and Aycliffe.

Our team is led by Miss Macbeth and composed of Eunice, Hadiya, Olivia, Mary, Finley, Jade, Jeslin, Eva, Sofija, Rob, Dexter and Oakley.

We asked Miss Macbeth why she thought of starting the Greenfield Gazette. She said: "The main reason we decided to make the Greenfield Gazette is so that parents and students get to know all the fun and interest-

ing things that have happened through going to this school.

"We plan to publish a Christmas edition and a Summer edition every year, and cover as much of what happens at Greenfield as possible.

"Whether it be the Year 8 Locomotion Trip, or the construction work on the new school build, we'll make sure to report it all."

This newspaper edition will report stories from September 2024 all the way through to the end of this year - from all over Greenfield, Aycliffe, and beyond.

We hope you enjoy reading!

Staff show-outs

by Hadiya A and Jade G

WE wanted to recognise some of this year's standout staff members – all staff have worked tirelessly for Greenfield students, but here are some that pupils nominated for special shout-outs.

Miss Middleton has taught Maths at Greenfield for more than 30 years, yet continues to demonstrate care and ambitions for her pupils.

Her constant encouragement motivated Year 11 in their GCSEs and Year 10 in their Mocks.

She embodies positivity with her bright coloured clothing which always raises smiles wherever she goes.

Mrs Witton has worked at Greenfield for eight years in different roles, but has always given her all.

She supports students in lessons and exams, as well as running phonics sessions for younger year groups.

She is a brilliant member of staff to have in our school and we are lucky to have her!

We would like to give a shout out to **Mr Barker**; he is the funniest Head of Year (oh that's going to cause some arguments in the staff room)

but also committed to his students.

He lights up any room with his terrible dad jokes - which are secretly quite funny.

Thank you Mr Barker for your engaging PE lessons!

Whenever you need anything in Science, **Mr Birchall** is the man to ask!

He always ensures that science practicals are set up

efficiently and whenever he is needed, he is always there!

Mrs Henry's kindness always shines through.

She is always happy and can make her lessons fun and engaging.

No matter what, she is always on hand with a smile and goes the extra mile to cheer people up and make people laugh.





New school build breaks ground

by Olivia B

BUILDERS have broken ground on an exciting and long-awaited new project at Greenfield Academy.

The start of construction at the school represents a new chapter for the next generation of staff and students, which will ensure top-notch learning for years to come.

For years, Greenfield Academy has been operating in a school that simply no longer meets the needs of its students.

The current school opened in

1974 and has struggled with narrow corridors, outdated facilities and an aging condition which has been noticed over the past years.

Ms Aspland, Head of School, said: "I'm incredibly happy of the progress so far as we work together with developers Esh Construction to provide a world class education for children at Greenfield Academy."

On the morning of Monday, June 2, diggers and construction workers from Esh, the largest North East construction company, queued

up to get an early start to this 18-month project.

Despite it being in the middle of exam season, the construction team and those at Esh worked hard to keep disruption to a minimum and keep the school day flowing normally.

The new building will feature 19 modern classrooms, plus subject hubs for IT, Art, Design & Technology, and Science, and a sports center expansion, which Greenfield can hire out to the community after school hours.

Four classrooms will be located on the ground floor, with a Design and Technology department, while the first floor will contain 12 classrooms, staff rooms and three meeting rooms for staff use.

On the second floor there will be the Academy's Science department, with two studios, three labs, a prep room and a Chemistry studio, which are at the side by a further three classrooms.

The toilets will be placed on all three levels.

A total of 100 parking spaces and 46 cycling spaces will be created.

Site Manager Steven Horner allowed access to the student news team to see the building site.

He explained the different stages of the new building, when it will be complete, and how the structure will be used to create an amazing future for students.

The building will have four layers of insulation including block work, cavity insulation, inside block work, and plaster board to seal the wall.

When the new building is constructed, a huge excavator which can carry 25 tons of brick and mortar will gradually rip through the school and demolish it in about three to four weeks.



Art at Greenfield

by Jade G

TALENTED students at Greenfield Academy have produced some amazing artwork in their lessons.

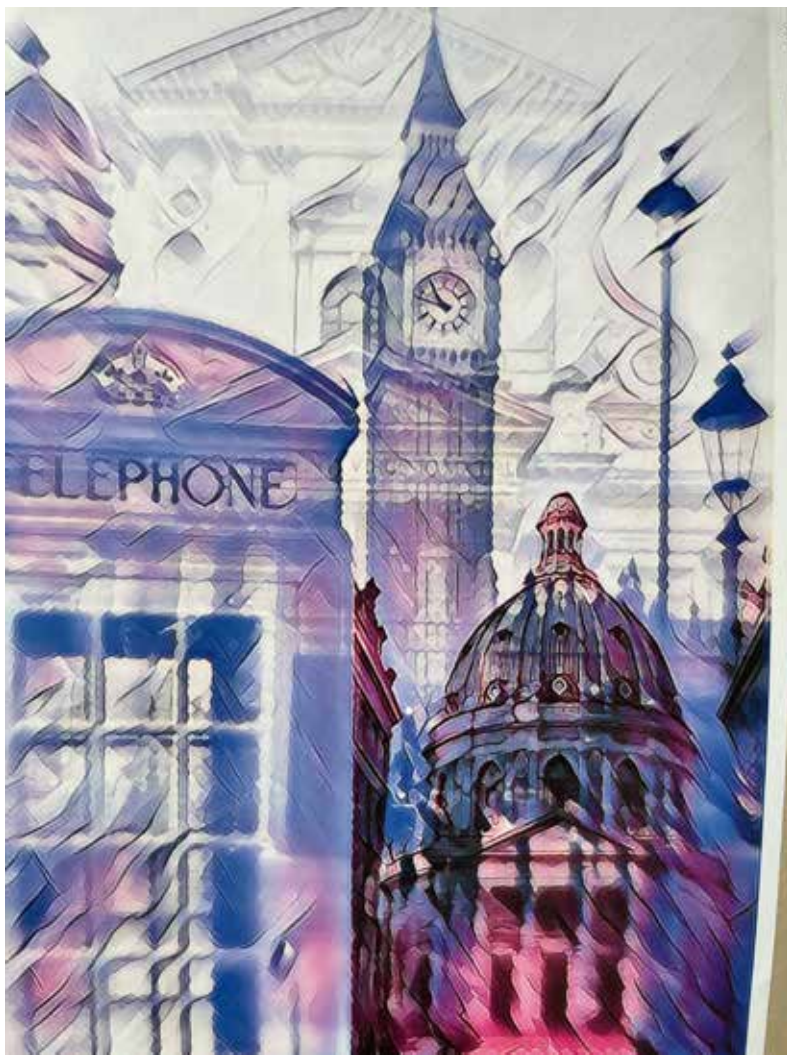
Thanks to the hard work of Miss Peaker and Miss Braithwaite, students have embraced their creative side and created some inspiring

and exciting work!

When asked about the standard of artwork at Greenfield, Ms Aspland proudly proclaimed that: "Greenfield has the best artwork I have ever seen!"

Here are just some of the remarkable artworks produced this year by Greenfield students.





Meet the former Greenfield pupil signed for Sunderland



by Jade-Marie G

A FORMER Greenfield Academy pupil is overjoyed to be signed for a Premier League football club.

We are so proud of the accomplishments of former student of Greenfield Academy Harrison Jones.

He has managed to achieve so much already in his football career despite only being 20 years old and coming from a small town in Durham.

Harrison has made a lot of sacrifices to make it to the

point he is at today.

He has been in the sports academy since the young age of six, and Harrison has been dedicated to his career as a professional footballer.

This dedication has led to him breaking into the first team at Sunderland AFC this season.

Harrison himself recently travelled to Wembley and enjoyed victory with his team and celebrated achieving promotion back to the Premier League!

Harrison came back to visit his old school, Greenfield Academy to talk about his career to students.

He also kindly donated his shirt, with the number 50 to Greenfield.

He held a question and answer session with Year 8 to dive into the life of a professional footballer.

This experience helped students to imagine what it would be like to be a professional athlete, and encourage them to embrace their sporty sides!

Bonjour, Paris!

by Sofija M

STUDENTS and teachers at Greenfield Academy are counting down the days to an unforgettable adventure. Greenfield pupils are preparing for an educational school trip to Paris, France, this summer. The four-day journey begins on July 14, and will immerse students in French culture, history, art, and language through a series of enriching experiences across the city. Organised by Mrs Edwards, this trip was open to any students in Year 8 to Year 10 who are interested in French culture. Mrs Edwards said: "A trip to France provides an opportunity for students to practice their French in real-life scenarios amongst native speakers. "We will experience a different culture first hand which broadens students' perspectives and understanding. "Visiting famous landmarks in Paris like the Eiffel Tower, Montmartre and take a bateau-mouche cruise on the river Seine creates lasting memories."

Don't worry if you missed out though, as there will still be chances to go next year too! A Year 10 student who went last year said: "I enjoyed the awesome Lille trip!" While we wait for students to report back on the upcoming trip, here is what they are planning on getting up to! The itinerary includes three-course meals at three different restaurants, a visit to Montmartre, Sacré Cœur, the Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, and the Louvre Museum. Students will also see the most famous painting in the world: Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece, The Mona Lisa. They will also enjoy a guided tour of the Quartier Latin, where they will explore high-lights of the French capital like Notre Dame cathedral, Sorbonne University, and the Panthéon. Bon voyage!

End of an era as teachers move on

by Eva L

Sadly, Greenfield is losing two valued members of staff at the end of the year.

Miss Cross, an English teacher and the current Head of Year 8, and Miss Needell, who teaches ICT and Creative iMedia.

Miss Cross has worked at Greenfield Academy for five years. Pupils describe her as a brilliant, dedicated member of the English department, and say they will miss her when she moves to her new school

But not to worry, she isn't moving far and is staying within the Advance Learning

Partnership education trust!

She said: "Someone once said to me that if you cut me open, I'd bleed Greenfield, and they couldn't have been more correct.

"Teaching here has been an absolute privilege, and I cannot thank both staff and students enough for inspiring me every day.

"Continue being the wonderful people that you are. Believe in yourself - every single one of you has a bright future ahead."

Miss Needell has worked in our school for ten years and

is loved by many staff and students alike.

Her bubbly personality - which is just one of her amazing traits - will be missed around school.

She said: "Ten years of lessons, laughter, and learning - thank you for letting me be part of your journey.

"Be kind, work hard, stay curious and the rest will follow.

"I wish you all the success, joy, and fulfillment the future can bring.

"Thank you for the memories - I'll carry them with me always".

Charity madness



by Olivia B

At Greenfield Academy, the student council worked extremely hard to pull off some of the best days of the school term. So here are some highlights of the charity madness!

Hello Yellow Day

You know that feeling when life gets super stressful, and everything feels overwhelming?

Well, a lot of young people deal with that every day, and that's why Hello Yellow exists - to remind them they're not alone.

The student council put together a variety of different activities including a Pre-Loved Sale, to Name the Teddy Bear (dubbed Leah and Max by Head of School Ms Aspland).

Students were also allowed to wear a yellow t-shirt or accessory to show their support in exchange for a small donation.

Staff joined in too with their

own Best Dressed in Yellow competition.

Lots of staff took part and dressed for the occasion, with special shout-outs to Miss Middleton and Ms Aspland for their stellar efforts!

Some wore bright yellow dresses and others wore yellow ties, but no matter what they were dressed in, they looked the part.

This helped us raise an amazing £505.65 for Young-Minds at our first fundraising event of the year!

Sponge A Teacher

Imagine sponging your English teacher just because she set your homework.

Well, that's what we did



earlier this year for Children in Need!

Students and staff took part in what many are calling 'the best fundraising event that Greenfield Academy has ever seen'.

Students paid 50p to throw a cold, wet sponge right in their teacher's faces!

Many students sponged their Head of Year, Mr. Butterworth, Miss Cross and Mr. Barker getting a soaking.

Teachers attempted to create a 'barrier of protection' out of jackets and even shower hats in a vain effort to protect them from the cold water, as they placed their faces into the cutout of Pudsey bear - which was kindly decorated by the art department.

Some students missed the target, and it ended up in the mud - which made the next sponge double the trouble!

This raised £203.60 for Children in Need.

Red Nose Day

A day where you can be ridiculous and do something good - that's Red Nose Day! You get to laugh, make memories, and know that your actions are helping real people.

Games and challenges

included Stick the Red Nose on the Head of Year, another Pre-Loved Sale, and Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar.

Staff helped by donating a items the sale, and also contributing a Bake Sale.

A special shout-out to Catering Manager Bev and her amazing team for their delicious tray bakes!

Rewards were also handed out for the Best Dressed in Red, with Mr Barker, Ms Aspland, and Mrs Dixon earning a mini trophy and sweets.

We raised £334.98 for comic relief.

Remembrance Week

Staff and students paid their respects to fallen soldiers by holding a two-minute silence.

During the run up to the day we sold poppies for the Poppy Appeal, as well as different accessories and charms to raise money.

Staff and students were able to purchase these goods - the slap bands sold out fast!

We also sold a range of keyrings - from reflectors to coat zips - and sold the official 2024 poppy pin badge, which was a staff favorite.

Many took part in this event, and this helped us raise £128.50 for the Poppy Appeal.

Ski extravaganza



by Olivia B

STUDENTS of Greenfield Academy got the trip of a lifetime when they got to swap their school uniform for a snow suit.

Pupils spent a week skiing in Aosta, Italy, and enjoyed every minute.

In the early hours of a cold morning in January, students hopped on a coach and settled in for a long journey to the North Italian resort.

As the coach departed from school, excitement ran through the air for the upcoming journey.

While in Italy, students were sorted into groups ranging from complete beginner to experienced skiers, and were



let loose on the mountains.

They spent the week developing their skills, and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge.

At the end of the week they were presented with certificates to showcase the skills they learned.

Not only did students enjoy skiing, but they also enjoyed a pizza night, bowling, Italian ice cream, and some amazing weather.

A fantastic time was had by all and students who went on the trip said they would definitely recommend it.

Students vs staff: the plank-off



PUPILS at Greenfield recently took on the teachers in a viral physical fitness challenge over lunch time.

Students competed with each other and staff members to see who would hold the longest plank.

A plank is an exercise that involve holding yourself rigid on your elbows for as long as possible.

While no one managed to beat the world record - over nine hours - there were some pretty impressive scores.

In the end, Mr Butterworth was narrowly defeated by Jaxson in Year 8, who held his plank for an astounding nine minutes! Oskar D in Year 9, Ava H and Cienna-Mae J in Year 7 were victorious in their respective year groups.

The day was organised by the PE department.

Mr Butterworth said: "I was very proud to see students - and especially staff - getting up and being active during their lunch breaks."

Goodbye and good luck to the Year 11s!



by Finley D
and Jade G

THIS has been an incredible year for Greenfield Academy, and many fun things have happened for the Year 11s since they started their amazing journey here.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and the Year 11s have left us - but we did not just let them go without a celebration.

Year 11 celebrated with photos and shirt-signing in the sunshine, and rounded the afternoon off with an original Mr Whippy ice-cream.

Those who didn't get a Mr Whippy got ice lollies, each changing their tongues to bright colours as they ate them.

A special leavers assembly was also held, showing photos of everyone's journey through Greenfield.

Mrs Randall, Head of Year 11, said: "What a journey you've had over the last five years here at Greenfield!

"These past few years have been like no other. But despite those obstacles, you persevered. You adapted. You learned to make the best of a difficult situation.

"I want to say how incredibly proud I am of everything

you've accomplished over your five years here at Greenfield.

"I have felt privileged to have been part of your journey. You've shown remarkable strength, perseverance, and adaptability.

"You've faced challenges head-on and proved to yourselves that no matter what life throws at you, you can overcome it.

"Good luck in all that you do, and remember to be kind to yourself and others.

"I want you to dream big and reach for the stars!"

Mrs Simpson, Pastoral Lead for Year 11, added: "Taking

you guys on in Year 8 was a challenge and a half - post-Covid, new pastoral leader, loads of change!

"We spent the next four years getting to know one another, and through all the tough times, there have been many times of great laughter which I will cherish.

"You have turned into an amazing set of young people, who I am very proud to say are a credit to yourselves and us, I wish you every success, you surely deserve it, good luck and never look back, look to your future and shine like I know you can."





GREENFIELD PROM 2025

YEAR 11 pupils donned elegant gowns and stylish suits to enjoy a lavish end-of-year prom at Redworth Hall Hotel, near Newton Aycliffe.

Ms Aspland, Head of School, said: "As we say goodbye to our Year 11 students, I'm struck by how mature and glamorous they look!

"They have shown such resilience, diligence, and an enviable work ethic, and we're incredibly proud of all their achievements so far. We wish them the best of luck in their next steps.

"We'll miss them – but we know they're going to do great things."





College visits inspire pupils



by Sofija M

YEAR 10 pupils of Greenfield Academy spent a whole day at Darlington College learning about different career paths.

These students had a variety of choices for Darlington College such as: Beauty, Business, Catering, Childcare, Criminology, engineering, Healthcare, travel & tourism, Uniformed public services and multiple more.

Each area offered hands on activities and real insight into what its like to work in those fields, with professionals on hand to answer questions and

share their experiences.

Many also had a chance to go to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College to try out a more academic route, giving them a taste of A-level study and the opportunities it can unlock.

Mrs Henry said: "I'm really proud of our Year 10s and the maturity they showed on the college trips.

"It's really given an insight on who they are going to be in the future."

Pupils returned from the day feeling inspired, informed, and more confident about their next steps.

For many, it was the first

experience after secondary school, and it sparked conversations around subject choices, apprenticeships, and long-term ambitions.

These enrichment days are a valuable part of the Greenfield Academy experience, helping students to see the real-world applications of their learning and opening their eyes to the many possibilities ahead.

One pupil said: "The college trip was very new to me but exciting and interesting."

With new motivation and direction, the Year 10s are now more excited than ever about what comes next.

Swap shop takes school by storm

by Eva L

GREENFIELD recently launched a brand-new Swap Shop to allow students to exchange house points for prizes.

The Swap Shop is run by Mrs Dixon and Mrs Randall, who worked exceptionally hard to order prizes and items for students to claim.

Mrs Dixon said: "We do this to encourage pupils to earn points, but to also reward them."

To earn award points, pupils need to demonstrate the school values of Pride, Ambition, and Kindness.

Students are awarded points for a variety of different things including being ready to learn, 'Emerald of the Week' awards, and proud, ambitious, and kind points.

Rewards vary from pens and highlighters, all the way to footballs, basketballs, and even gift cards.

So far this year, a staggering total of 202,540 points have been spent!

Start a new chapter with Creative Writing Club

by Finley D



WOULD you like to be able to create a story about whatever you want using high vocabulary and ambitious words?

Well, we have the perfect thing for you! Introducing Creative Writing Club, which was hosted this year by Miss Lindsay in English 6.

This club gives you a chance to unleash your creativity through writing, with unlimited opportunities on what you can write!

Mr Molyneux said: "I think what Creative Writing Club is all about is to inspire aspiring writers develop their co-operation and writing skills.

"This is the main reason why Creative Writing Club has been so successful."

In October last year, Miss Lindsay encouraged club members to take part in a competition called 'Fright Club', which required participants to write a horror story using less than 250 words.

Greenfield Academy won, and all of the submitted stories got published - making our writers all published authors!

So, if you're bored and looking for something fun to do after school, Creative Writing Club is the thing for you!

Inspiring ambition at Greenfield



by Jade G and Miss Macbeth

EARLIER in the year students in our school had a

break from their usual lessons and went to an inspiring ambition day.

The whole school was in-

involved. The day was designed to help students think more about what they want from their futures.

Deputy Headteacher Ms Forkin organised the day and had sessions for each year group that were all about encouraging students to aim high.

Year 7 students got to enjoy meeting local business leaders and be inspired by Peter Barron's life-changing work in journalism.

They also took part in sessions around writing and illustrating stories.

Year 8 went out to the Centre for Life, in Newcastle, and learned about all about scientific discoveries.

One student said: "The Centre for Life was amazing - it had a real brain! An actual brain, frozen!"

"My personal favourite bit was the robot class; we were able to use a robot hand to handle toxic waste.

"It was much harder than I expected, but fun".

Another highlight was the Careers Fair that was hosted in the school gym.

Students from Year 9 and up were invited to meet a dozen different local businesses, colleges, or workers to see what future jobs could be on offer.

They even spent some time learning life-saving skills from the local District Nursing team.

The day certainly gave them lots of food for thought.

Lunchtime - a student's perspective



by Jeslin J

GREENFIELD Academy offers students a varied and tasty menu for lunch.

Mains dishes change on a weekly basis, but some popular items are always available - like chicken wraps and burgers.

Ms Aspland, Head of School, said: "The children receive top class food provided by Bev and her team - and staff quite like it too!"

Many pupils have favourites, like Isaac Proctor, in Year 10, who said: "The chicken wraps are amazing!"

"They have a very nice crunch on the chicken, and the bit of sweet and sour

sauce it's served with it makes it lovely."

Finley Davison, Year 8, added: "I like chocolate cookies, and a spicy chicken burger is quite nice."

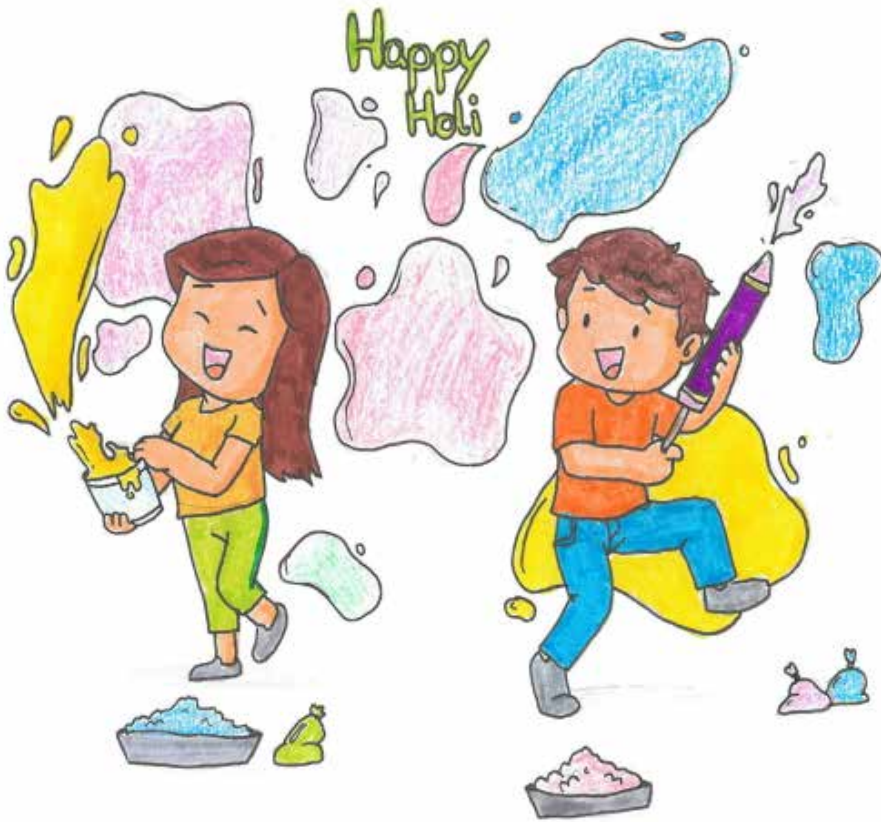
His classmate Eva Lumley said: "I like the chicken wraps because they have so much flavour!"

Sofija Matevica said: "When the temperature increases, they hand out ice-lollies to students and teachers.

"It makes the heat more enjoyable, and it shows how caring the catering staff are."

All thanks to the catering team, we are getting such top-quality food; their dedication truly shines through in every meal!

Holi: A Festival of Colours



by Jeslin J

HOLI is a Hindu festival which is celebrated when the winter ends, on the last full moon day of the Hindi Luni-solar calendar.

This day is celebrated as the festival of colours and love, where everyone gathers together and plays with coloured powder and shares

sweets.

This is done to celebrate the eternal and divine love of Krishna and Radha. The playful interactions between them are often reenacted during Holi celebrations.

One of the most important part of Holi is sharing sweets with your loved ones, so today I am going to tell you how to

make this special sweet called gujiya so that you can share with your families.

Gujiya is a sweet dumpling that's a staple during the Holi festival in India; it is a delightful treat that combines a flaky pastry with a rich filling.

The key to a perfect gujiya lies in the texture of the dough and the quality of the filling.

1 The first step is to prepare the dough, which typically consists of all-purpose flour, ghee (clarified butter), and water.

2 The dough should be kneaded until it's smooth and pliable, then allowed to rest for at least 30 minutes. While the dough is resting, you can prepare the filling.

3 A classic Gujiya filling includes khoya (reduced milk solids), dried fruits, nuts, and sugar. The khoya (milk solids) is crumbled and roasted lightly to enhance its flavour, then mixed with the other ingredients.

4 Once the dough and filling are ready, it's time to assemble the gujyas. Small portions of the dough are rolled out into thin circles, and a spoonful of the filling is placed in the centre.

5 The edges of the circle are then brushed with water and folded over to form a half-moon shape. The edges are sealed tightly, often with a decorative twist or crimp.

6 The Gujyas are then deep-fried in ghee or oil until they're golden brown and crispy (make sure you get help with this - hot oil can be dangerous!)

Once cooled, they can be stored and enjoyed for days, making them a perfect festive treat. Enjoy!

Celebrating Ramadan

by Hadiya A



MUSLIMS in Greenfield Academy and all over the world have been celebrating Ramadan.

Ramadan is a very important month for Muslims all over the world. It is a time where they fast for 29-30 days, depending on the first and last sighting of the crescent moon that month.

The fasting begins from sunrise to sunset - they will no longer eat until it sets again.

This year, Ramadan began in February and concluded in March.

There are some who are exempt from fasting, including the sick, the young and elderly, and women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or menstruating, among others.

The end of Ramadan is celebrated with Eid-al-Fitr to celebrate the end of fasting where sweets and gifts are exchanged.

When breaking their fast, Muslims first drink water and eat a date, mimicking the sunnah of the Prophet Mohammed (Sallallahu Alayhi Wa Sallam - this is an Arabic phrase which

translates as "Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him", and Muslims always say this whenever his name is mentioned as a form of respect).

Then they accompany this with performing Maghrib (the sunset prayer), and eating delicious food, like Harira in Morocco, Kibbeh in Syria, and Samosas in South-East Asia.

My Syrian heritage lets me enjoy Kibbeh almost every Ramadan. We enjoy it with Shish Barak, a yogurt dumpling soup.

Rail safety is key



by Dexter S

A CLASS from Greenfield Academy visited Locomotion museum to learn how to stay safe on the rails.

They got to learn more about everything from careers, to rail safety posters, to simulations in virtual reality showing what may happen on the rails.

The class split into two groups to learn more about the causes of many rail accidents, and why it may happen.

Pupil Kye O'Brien said: "I liked the VR because it was a fun experience. There was

also an acting part of the day that I participated in."

Another student said: "I liked learning about the trains, as I got invested in what they were teaching me about.

"I also liked seeing what the future of the train industry was going to become."

As this was a careers event, many colleges and rail industries also offered advice on jobs in the rail industry, and jobs that are now advancing and will be at their best in the near future.

Colleges like Darlington and Bishop Auckland attended

with samples and treats.

Fun fact: hundreds of jobs are related to the railway! For example, you could be a civil engineer or a mechanical engineer.

Quiz Time!

Can you get 5 out of 5 in this mini quiz about rail safety.

1. What should you do if you see a train crossing the gate?
2. What should you do if something falls on the tracks?
3. True or false? Is there electrical work inside the

tracks of a railway?

4. What distance does it take to get a train to stop at its stop?
5. Is the only job in the rail industry a conductor?

Answers

1. Stop and wait until the gate will open.
2. Wait for a staff member to collect the items.
3. True
4. 1km away from station
5. No! There are hundreds of jobs to do in the rail industry.



A night at the musicals



by Mary C

ONCE a year Greenfield Academy puts together a magical show for all ages to enjoy.

The cast is made up of different students from different year groups, and students can also sign up to work back-stage - for example: doing the lights, controlling the curtains, and just keeping everything in order and on track.

This year, the brilliant cast put on a production of The Night At The Musical, which was filled with different musical pop songs and some groovy dance moves - like 'Mamma Mia' - that will kept audience's feet tapping to the beat.

Director Miss Thurley said: "When we found out about how the new build happening to the school was going to restrict our access to the stage, we decided we would have to figure something - because the show must go on!

"And then a genius idea came into my head: if we would be able to put something together by March, we would still be able to go through with the show!

"That's how I thought of The

Night at The Musical, which would mean combining musical songs into one big show!

"It was a huge hit and everybody loved it!

"The cast was amazing, as always, and it went better than we could of ever planned!"

The show was a roaring success and was enjoyed by staff, students, and members of the public over three hectic - yet fun - nights.

Mr Gomez said: "This year's school show was one of the best because of the opportunities to give people who would usually be in the ensemble to have their shining star moment.

"They got to perform dialogue and a dance numbers.

"The format we have put on this year is very different from what we have ever done before. It forced the cast members out of their comfort zone and scramble to make the show what it was in the short time period we were given due to the new build.

"They are just a wonderful cast!"



One school, many stories

by Eunice A

WALK down the halls of our school and you'll mostly hear familiar British voices, with accents and expressions that feel like home.

But listen a little closer, and you'll hear other stories too - names from different languages, packed lunches with spices you've never tasted, and holidays being celebrated that follow different traditions.

We may not be the most diverse school in the country, but slowly, something beautiful is happening: we're growing. And with that growth comes a chance to recognise and celebrate the cultures that are quietly shaping our school community - from Nigerian and Indian, to Polish, Chinese, Ukrainian, and more.

Traditions That Speak

In every culture, there are unique ways people celebrate life.

For many British families, weddings are about white dresses, speeches, and maybe even a first dance to Ed Sheeran. But for some of our classmates, weddings look a little different.

In Indian weddings, the bride might wear red, and the celebrations can last for days - filled with dancing, henna, and rich traditions like the Sapta-padi (the Seven Vows).

In Nigerian weddings, bright colours, head-wraps called gele, and traditional drumming turn the event into a day-long festival.

Meanwhile, Polish weddings often include a special bread and salt ceremony.

These customs aren't just different - they're deeply meaningful, and learning about them helps us see how love and family are honoured around the world.

Faith and Festivities

In a mainly Christian country, it's easy to assume everyone celebrates Christmas and Easter - but for some of our classmates, different festivals light up the calendar.

Muslim students may fast during Ramadan and celebrate Eid with prayer, new

clothes, and sweet treats.

Hindu students might celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights, with fireworks and family gatherings.

Chinese students celebrate Lunar New Year with food, red envelopes, and traditions that go back thousands of years.

And even among British students, traditions can vary widely - from Sunday roasts and carol services to bonfire nights and bank holiday barbecues.

These differences don't divide us - they remind us that joy, faith, and family are universal, even if they look a bit different across cultures.



Flavours That Tell a Story

If you've ever opened your packed lunch and smelled jollof rice, dumplings, or samosas in the air, you know food is one of the easiest - and tastiest! - ways to learn about other cultures.

In British culture, we're proud of our Sunday dinners, fish and chips, and Yorkshire puddings.

But students from Nigeria might bring rice dishes full of spice and heat.

Chinese families share dim sum and stir fries that balance flavour and texture.

Indian students might enjoy biryani or roti.

Polish food includes dumplings called pierogi and hearty soups like zurek.

Even just seeing what someone eats can open up a conversation that leads to

connection.

Dressing with Pride

Most days at school, we all wear the same uniform, but cultural dress days and special occasions show us something else: clothes can carry history.

A Nigerian girl might wear a bold Ankara print dress to a wedding, while a Chinese boy might own a silk changshan for family celebrations.

Indian girls may wear lehengas or saris to weddings or festivals.

These clothes aren't costumes - they're a link to family, culture, and heritage.

History, Resilience, and Identity

Some of our classmates or their families came here from places with difficult pasts.

Ukrainian families might be facing the realities of war and displacement.

Others may have migrated for work, education, or safety. Even if it's not always visible, there are real stories of courage, change, and hope behind the lives of students we sit next to every day.

It's easy to take life here for granted, but knowing someone's background can help us be more kind, more open, and more understanding.

Different, But Not Alone

Despite our differences, we're all just people trying to find our place.

Some of us bring packed lunches; others queue for

chicken wraps.

Some speak more than one language at home, while others have never left the UK.

Some wear braids, hijabs, or crosses - some don't follow any religion at all.

But at Greenfield, we share something important: the chance to learn from each other, to respect each other, and to create a space where everyone - no matter where they're from - feels seen.

Being an immigrant in this school has had its challenges. At first, things felt unfamiliar - the way people spoke, the inside jokes, even lunchtime routines!

I didn't always see people who looked like me or shared the same traditions. Sometimes I felt out of place, like I was quietly standing on the outside looking in.

But over time, I realised that being different didn't mean I didn't belong, it just meant I had a different story to tell.

As the days passed, I met people who were kind, curious, and open-minded. Some asked about my culture, others shared theirs, and bit by bit, those conversations built a sense of connection.

I began to feel more confident being myself, and less like I had to blend in to be accepted.

Now, I see my background as something to be proud of. It's not always easy, but knowing that I can be myself here - and be understood - means more than I can explain.

Everyone has a story, and sharing mine helped me feel seen.

So let's keep asking questions. Let's listen more. Let's be curious, not just comfortable.

Because every time we take a moment to understand someone's story, we make our school a better place for everyone.

After all, it's through celebrating every background and every voice that we truly live up to our school's motto:

Every child, every opportunity, every future.

A peek behind the curtain



by Dexter S

WE have at Greenfield a dedicated team of staff who support students to put on an annual stage show, with our very own Miss Thurley choosing from a range of musicals each time.

But this year, due to our exciting new building, we had to cut the deadline short and produce a wonderful show in March. The show was called

a *Night at the Musicals*, which was a compilation of lots of different musicals - and you can read all about it elsewhere in this issue!

People who participated in the show, whether they were part of the tech team, lighting, or acting were rewarded with a visit to a production of historical blockbuster *Hamilton*.

They went to the Empire Theatre in Sunderland, and for nearly three hours they

were showered with music and dancing.

The cast had a unique lineup, with Marley Fenton as Alexander Hamilton, Billy Nevers as Aaron Burr, Casey Al Shaqsy as Eliza Schuyler/Hamilton, and finally Chasity Crisp as Angelica Schuyler.

Many people had opinions about this show, such as one anonymous student who said: "It was a fun and enjoyable experience and *Hamilton* was

a pleasant show to watch.

"I would recommend watching this show whilst it's on. I also enjoyed the cast, as they acted in a unique way."

Another student said: "It was just amazing to get out of classroom and experience a musical for myself."

Although the *Hamilton* trip has been and gone, do not worry as there are many other opportunities, all for different years.

Miss Thurley said: "We go to see *Blood Brothers* every year because it is the core play we cover at GCSE-level."

"From next year, we are planning watch plays like *2:22* - a ghost story - and a play called *The Woman In Black*."

"We also have an opportunity for Year 7s to watch the Christmas pantomime."

Some Year 10 pupils who attended the *Blood Brothers* performance this year said they loved the show and they thought the actors were particularly emotive and lively throughout the whole play. They also reported that the trip was 100 percent worthwhile for any budding drama students - or just anyone who loves musicals and live theatre!

Shildon and Aycliffe: a local history

by Mary C

SHILDON is a town built upon the history of the first ever passenger train, built by Timothy Hackworth.

This is the place where the world's first steam-powered public railway sprang to life.

The town's history is deeply intertwined with the rise of coal mining and the subsequent railway industry.

Shildon has a long history, with the first people living here about 6,000 years ago.

These early settlers were hunter-gatherers. They found food by collecting wild plants and hunting animals. A small stone tool found in the Brus-selton area might be from this time.

Shildon's growth accelerated with the opening of the railway

in 1825, making it a key location for locomotive building and repair.

The town's respected place in the history of the railway industry is beautifully showcased at its train museum, *Locomotion*.

Timothy Hackworth was born on December 22 1786, and died on the July 7 1850.

He was the first locomotive superintendent of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

He is buried at St John's Church in Shildon's only church.

Newton Aycliffe was founded in 1946, and was supposed to be a "Paradise for Housewives" with houses grouped around greens, so children could play safely away from

the roads.

The land in Newton Aycliffe was extremely marshy and had many areas of bare fields.

When WW2 started, it was time for the town of Newton Aycliffe to rise up to the job of artillery and ammunition.

A factory called the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) was built on a 867-acre site off Heighington Lane.

The marshy location was perfect, as the site was foggy and misty for much of the year, which provided cover against German bombing.

It operated 24 hours a day, employed around 17,000 workers, and was operational for just over four years until the end of the war,

By then, the site had pro-

duced 700 million bullets.

The factory was designated as a 'Top Secret' installation and surrounded by high fences with barbed wire.

Most of the workers were women who were nicknamed the 'Aycliffe Angels' for their efforts to support the war.

Well-known people have also visited the factory including Winston Churchill and members of the Royal family.

After it became unused, it was turned into an industrial estate.

More than 50 businesses set up there.

As the workers and their families needed somewhere to live, it was proposed that a new town be created, which formed Aycliffe as we know it.

TOP 5

Top 5 LEGO sets under £20



by Olivia B

1. Dumbo Brick Head: £9.99. This set is cute and easy to make. A nice pocket money finds to put on your bedroom shelf.

2. The Illager Desert Control: £12.99. Love the set and the Minecraft characters that come with it; the set looks cool on its own or with other Minecraft sets.

3. Cherry Blossom: £12.99. This set is a nice decoration for reading

corners or shelving units and is easy to make. This kept me entertained for ages so is suitable for ages 11+

4. Red Sports Car: £8.99. Very nice when constructed! One of my personal favorite pocket money finds.

5. F1 McLaren Car: £10.99. A nice set to put together and put on your shelf once done.

The only F1 car that also comes with a driver!

Our Top 5 dog breeds of 2025



by Jade G

1. No surprise here but the number one spot goes to that most lovable dog: the Labrador.

This family dog is simple enough to train, making it a suitable choice for new dog owners - though you might want to watch out because this puppy loves to munch on delicious food.

2. It may be tiny but it sure is mighty in its looks - the French Bulldog is an incredible dog because of its loyalty to its owner.

Its laid-back personality makes it an adorable addition to any home.

3. If you like going on long walks in nature then this dog is suitable for you: the Cocker Spaniel is a high energy per-

sonality that makes it amazing for someone who loves a very playful dog. I would watch out though they might bring back a bird or two!

4. This dog is perfect for a more experienced dog owner who wants a trustworthy dog: the German Shepherd is a highly intelligent dog, making it a loyal partner.

5. It may be ranked last in the top five, but this is my personal favorite: the Border Collie is an incredible working dog.

If you work on a farm, they can be big enough to herd cows. This means they are highly energetic, making it a perfect partner for walks and runs.

Top 5 affordable make-up brands



by Eva L

1. The Nars foundation is great for coverage to the skin. Nars foundations also have a sun protection factor (SPF), which helps your face not burn in the sun, the price for a Nars foundation (which lasts long) is about £40.

2. The Plouise blush has 8 different shades, which are so cute! It lasts long and is worth the price - on average, around £25.

3. M.A.C. lipstick has beautiful shades and lasts long. The lipstick looks nice and

won't come off straight away. The average price for M.A.C lipstick is £25.

4. Elf concealer covers up under-eye issues and adds a "pop" to your makeup look.

They blend in well with all skin colours and come with many shades, and the average price is £7 to £10.

5. MBM Blursh is popular on TikTok shop. They are animal cruelty-free and last long. The average price for MBM Blursh ranges from £7 to £14.



Students splash into action

by Olivia B

PUPILS at Greenfield Academy enjoy a variety of different school trips.

One example of a spectacular school trip at Greenfield Academy is our Outward bound trip to Ullswater, in the Lake District.

Students spent five days away from home, school, and family exploring the different world of the Lakes and seeing what Ullswater offers.

This visit teaches students the power of teamwork and that there is no 'I' in team.

The activities seem endless, and you are always seen doing something you couldn't

do in school.

Activities include swimming in lakes, hiking, canoing, crawling through tunnels, cliff jumping, gorge walking, marshmallow toasting, camping, tent building, and more.

These team-building activities helped students to get to know their Greenfield classmates.

Students also received a hoody as an added extra!

These are just a couple of very popular activities that Ullswater provides.

Cliff Jumping

Cliff jumping is a very popular activity in the Lake

District.

You ride a speed boat to the cliffs of the lake and swim to the side of the cliff. Then - obviously - you jump off.

There are four levels to the cliff: from one metre up to a dizzying four metres!

Grace P said: "It could be scary as it gets slippery at times, but it was fun when you were not scared and jumped in."

"You could get water up your nose like I did!"

Jog and Dip

This is the main reason why people go to Ullswater: for the iconic jog and dip!

Jog and dip is a series of running, jumping, and dodging rocks and obstacles to then jump off a boat at the end.

You run round a part of the island which is led by your instructor.

Kye O'B said: "It was amazing, apart from the water being absolutely freezing!"

"I really enjoyed jumping off the boat - I loved it so much I did it twice!"

All the students who went enjoyed the trip and would highly recommend our new Year 7s to sign up!