

# THE SUMMIT

## GLOUCESTER ACADEMY



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Issue 2 / Spring 2026



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# HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

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Dear GA Families

Welcome to Newsletter four of the year and welcome to the summer term.

As we begin the final stretch of the school year our attention turns to what we need to do as a school to ensure our community of staff, students and parents continue to thrive and achieve. It is a time to reflect on what is going well and what things need further attention to ensure we are always doing our very best to meet the needs of everyone associated with the Academy. Today I had the privilege of visiting a school in Bristol to see what they were doing and what we could learn from them. The school is part of a different Trust and it was exciting to see how much aligned we are but how many incredible things they have put in place that I think we would definitely benefit from.

Inclusivity, belonging, and ensuring that every student can thrive are already central to who we are. They sit firmly within our values of working hard, being kind, and climbing together, underpinned by our shared commitment to ambition, excellence and pride. We already do a great deal to support our students, and I am proud of the culture we have built together.

At the same time, as a school that is always striving to grow, it is important that we continue to learn, refine, and strengthen what we offer. The school I visited demonstrated some thoughtful approaches to supporting students through alternative pathways, dedicated spaces, and specialist teams. It was particularly powerful to see how carefully designed environments and provision can further enhance students' sense of belonging and enable them to flourish.

This has prompted us to think about how we can build on our existing strengths. We will be working with colleagues from Greenshaw during the remainder of this year to help us design and shape an enhanced approach to SEND support. Our aim is clear, to ensure that all students continue to access a rich, ambitious curriculum, while benefiting from expert teaching, smaller group settings where appropriate, and the right support at the right time.

This is not about changing who we are, it is about becoming even better at what we already value deeply. It is about continuing our journey up the mountain together, making sure that every student feels that they belong, and that every student has the opportunity to succeed.

There is still work to do, and we will take this forward thoughtfully and carefully. I am excited about what this next stage of development can bring, and I look forward to working with you all as we continue to grow and thrive as a school community.

Thank you, as always, for your commitment to our students and to each other. I hope you enjoy reading about all the things we have been up to over the last term.

Phillipa Lewis  
Headteacher

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# A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADS AMBASSADORS

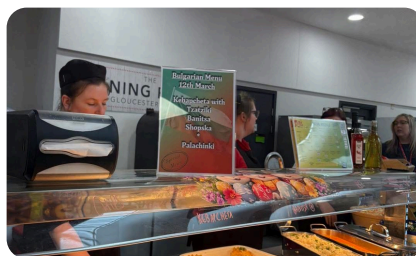
Being part of the leadership team, we've loved seeing the different changes being made around the school. A newer aspect includes the house recycling competition where the house that recycles the most gets extra budget for their end of year rewards. This will hopefully prove to make a great positive impact on our school environment that we take pride in.

Another big highlight of the last few weeks has been the Bulgarian culture week. Through Kevin A's assemblies we've learnt about Bulgarian food, culture and history. Now we're looking forward to our whole school culture day coming up in Unit 3. These events give us all the opportunity to contribute to our school's diverse scene.

Being a part of Gloucester Academy is making a difference in our community. Our character representatives have modelled this perfectly through their visit to Gloucester Cathedral where they gave their thoughts on how to improve our community. We're very proud of all the work they have put into our local environment.

Finally, We decided to organise a food drive after learning how many families struggle to access enough food to last even a week. Through school assemblies, we've worked to raise awareness among students about how many people across the country don't have the basic necessities that we often take for granted. Thanks to the generosity of students and staff, we've received donations from across the school. These are now being prepared to be sent to a charity as quickly as possible, helping to ensure that children and families have food to get them through each day.

Joshua and Keith



# SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

## Exploring Careers with the GROWS Team



The GROWS team visited Year 7 students to deliver an engaging session on career pathways. They provided tips on how to explore future opportunities and shared resources like SACU and Unifrog to help students research options and plan their next steps.

Students left the session inspired to think about their skills, interests, and the exciting career paths available to them, equipped with practical advice to take control of their futures.

### Helpful Links

SACU – Career Quiz & Guidance  
<https://sacu-student.com/>

Unifrog –  
<https://www.unifrog.org/> - .

Other Helpful Career Websites  
 CareerPilot –  
<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>



## From Classroom to Lab: Exploring the Periodic Table in Medicine

During the session titled “Drug Discovery Beyond Carbon: The Possibilities of the Periodic Table,” students explored how chemistry plays a crucial role in modern medicine. The masterclass introduced the idea that while many medicines are based on carbon-containing compounds, a range of metal elements from the periodic table are also essential in drug development and medical treatments.

Students learned that certain metals can be used to design medicines with unique properties, helping scientists target diseases in new ways. The session also highlighted how some elements are vital for life itself. For example, specific metals and other elements are required by the human body to carry out important biological functions, meaning there are certain elements we simply cannot live without.

The masterclass gave students an insight into current scientific research and demonstrated how chemists and medical scientists work together to develop innovative treatments. It was an excellent opportunity for students to experience university-level teaching and to see how the concepts they learn in school can be applied in real-world scientific research.

Overall, the visit was both engaging and inspiring, helping students broaden their understanding of chemistry, medicine, and potential future careers in STEM.

Miss Dermont

# SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

## Aim a Little Higher

Motivational speaker Kamal Hyman ran a special "Aim a Little Higher" workshop for select Year 7-9 groups. The session focused on ambition, self-confidence, and staying true to yourself. Students participated in interactive activities designed to help them dream big, embrace their strengths, and consider what they can achieve if they set their sights high.

Mrs Blick-Melaert



## Limited Edition

The Limited Edition Project is continuing with some exciting flavour creations! Strawberry Matcha, GA's take on Eton Mess, Hazelnut Caramel and Rose Raspberry Lemonade! Everyone is excited to see which flavour will be chosen for the shelves. It's a delicious way to be part of a real product launch – and who knows, maybe your favourite will make it!

Mrs Blick-Melaert



## Women in STEM Day

Twelve of our Year 9 girls recently had the fantastic opportunity to attend an inspiring event at AccXel Construction School, where they spent the day learning more about careers in construction and hearing directly from women working across the industry.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed listening to a range of guest speakers who shared honest and motivating insights into what it means to be a woman in construction today. They spoke about their career journeys, the challenges they have faced, and the exciting opportunities available within the sector. It was particularly valuable for the students to hear how diverse the industry is and how many different pathways exist, from design and engineering to site management and project planning.

One of the highlights of the day was the PPE Catwalk, where students had the chance to see and learn about the essential safety equipment worn on construction sites.

Another exciting part of the event was the design competition, where students were invited to showcase their creativity and problem-solving skills. We were delighted that Mursal was announced as the winner out of all the participating students. Her impressive design stood out to the judges, and we are incredibly proud of her achievement.

Overall, it was a fantastic experience that helped challenge stereotypes and encouraged the girls to consider careers they may not have previously thought about. The students returned inspired, with a greater understanding of the construction industry and the many opportunities available to them.

Miss Wintle

# SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

## Big Maths Quiz

Fifteen of our Year 10 students were selected to attend a Maths competition at the University of Birmingham, where they also experienced life on a university campus. It was fantastic to see them engage with challenging problems and get a taste of studying Mathematics at a higher level—an inspiring glimpse into what the future could hold. Miss Greenfield



## GLT Competition

### Success

Congratulations to Praise and Linda in Year 7 for achieving joint 3rd place in the GLT Belonging competition, standing out among hundreds of entries across the Trust. Their outstanding creativity and commitment to community are being celebrated with well-deserved Amazon vouchers.



## Young Voices Shape Gloucester's Future

A group of Year 7 and 8 character representatives recently teamed up with the Gloucester City Council to help shape redevelopment plans with young people in mind. The students went on a walking tour of Gloucester, spotting areas for improvement and sharing ideas about what the city could offer for young people.

From suggesting new spaces like theatres to giving feedback on public areas, these representatives made sure the voices of secondary school students across Gloucester were heard. Their insights are helping the council make the city more inclusive, fun, and inspiring for young people.

Miss Brazil

# SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS

## Ten Tors Continues

The Ten Tors team continued their training in Dartmoor, building teamwork, resilience, and navigation skills.

They covered 17 km a day carrying heavy bags, showing incredible dedication and determination.

Miss Walker



## Enrichment Fayres

This term, students in Years 7–10 explored new opportunities at our Enrichment Fairs. From Stitch & Sip to gardening and more, everyone had the chance to try something new and develop their skills.

Miss Brazil



## Year 10 Take University

We had the pleasure of taking our Year 10 Media students to the University of Gloucestershire in Cheltenham in March. Students had a variety of opportunities to learn more about the Media industry which directly links to their current course. They also learnt about a variety of career pathways they could take in the sector.

Throughout the day, we had talks from an experienced editor of the BBC, a Sports Journalist who has a great career interviewing athletes such as David Beckham, and a great tutorial from an experienced animator.

Students had a brilliant time taking on the role of the newsreader and delivering a segment. We all realised pretty soon that Kashe is a budding journalist that is destined for the screen! We had a brilliant tour of the campus which included TV and radio sets with high-tech equipment. Students had a fun game of 'how much does this cost' amongst themselves. When

At the end of the day, lots of questions were asked of a current student about the experience of university, choosing a course that suits your career aspirations and general student life (even what the best takeaways in the area are!).

Mr Jones

# FIXTURES



## Year 7 Boys

It has been a difficult term this year, as the team has been extremely busy playing 7 games against different schools in Gloucester. That being said, I have been extremely impressed with the team's resilience, determination and teamwork to keep playing and showing pride in their GA kit. Each player who has been selected should be very proud of themselves, as they have done themselves and GA proud!

Standout performers have been Liam, Theo, Sonny and some great performances in goal by our 3 goalkeepers Mason, Joseph and Hayden.



## Year 8 Boys

It's been an up-and-down season for the team, beginning in emphatic style with an 8-0 victory before facing two tough losses and an eventful fixture marked by off-field challenges. This led to a must-win final group game, where the boys delivered with a composed 2-0 win to secure a place in the Gloucestershire Schools semi-finals. Although we ultimately fell short at that stage, the growth shown across the season has been exceptional, and reaching the semi-finals was beyond expectations at the start of the school year.

Special mentions go to Archie, who earned Player of the Match in two fixtures and consistently performed above and beyond, and Jake, who in his first year representing the school established himself as a reliable starting centre-back and a key part of the defence.



## Year 8 Girls

The Year 8 girls had a fantastic netball season, showing steady improvement with every game. They learned from their mistakes and successfully applied the skills and strategies we focused on during lessons to enhance their performance.

In the district tournament, they faced some tough opposition but never gave up, consistently giving 100% in every match. Throughout the season, the team demonstrated excellent teamwork and continued to develop as supportive and effective teammates, ensuring they played to the best of their ability.

The girls are already looking ahead to the rounders season, eager to defend their Greenshaw title and build on the success of their netball campaign.

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# FIXTURES

## Year 9 Boys

The football team have thoroughly excelled themselves this season, both in training and in competitive matches, consistently demonstrating a high level of commitment, discipline, and determination. Their attitude and work rate have been outstanding, and it is clear that they are evolving into a highly competitive and resilient side capable of challenging strong opposition. What has been particularly impressive is the significant development of the squad as a whole. The players have built strong cohesion and understanding, which is reflected in their ability to function effectively as a unit. In defence, they show organisation, communication, and a willingness to work hard for one another, making them difficult to break down. In attack, they display creativity, movement, and confidence on the ball, allowing them to create and convert chances with increasing consistency. Beyond their technical and tactical growth, the team's mentality has also progressed notably. They approach games with a positive mindset, show resilience in challenging moments, and maintain a strong team spirit throughout.

My standout performers this season have been Luca M, David R, and Harvey T. Each of these players has made a significant contribution to the team's success, whether through consistent performances, key moments in matches, or their overall influence on the squad. Their efforts have not only elevated their own performances but have also helped drive the team forward as a whole.



## Year 10 Boys

The Year 10 football team brought their season to a memorable close with an outstanding performance against Henley Bank. Played in excellent conditions, the match had a special atmosphere, as everyone knew this would be their final game representing the school. That sense of occasion was reflected in the effort, determination, and quality shown throughout. The game was a true testament to the hard work, commitment, and development the team has demonstrated over the past four years. Every player rose to the moment, showcasing their skill and teamwork, much to the appreciation of the many supportive parents who have followed their journey from the very beginning.

A special mention must go to Charlie B for his exceptional leadership as captain this season. He has been instrumental in guiding the team through one of their most successful years, highlighted by dramatic victories against strong opposition and a number of superbly taken goals. This final match was a fitting end to a remarkable chapter, and a season that will be remembered by all involved.



# TOGETHER ON THE TRAIL

## Careers Week at GA!

Careers Week was a great success, with each year group taking part in a dedicated session led by a different guest speaker.

We were delighted to welcome a Rotary Club member, Manolo, former student Victoria Irobenese—now running the non-profit Let's Advocate—as well as a local aviation company, representatives from YoungMinds, and the Head of School-Aged Immunisations for the NHS.

These sessions gave students valuable insight into a range of career pathways, helping to broaden their horizons and inspire future ambitions.

Miss Blick

## Co-Curricular Spotlight



Year 8 Football  
Reaching the Semi Finals of the Cup.



GA prep each morning with sporting stars like Deyzi!



In Cooking Club students have made Chow Mein, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Pork and Cranberry Sausage Plaits and much much more.



Our Crafty Loop star Mirabel with her headband! Such a fantastic enrichment that Miss Exton will carry on in Unit 3!



## Matson Library Visits

Gloucester Academy students visit our local public library at Matson each week as part of the school enrichment programme.

Whilst there the students enjoy a variety of pursuits from the many games, colouring activities, research using the computers and of course reading books!

Many of our students join the public library enabling them access to all the libraries resources in Gloucestershire. Students can even borrow up to 20 books at a time!

Recently students entered 'The January Challenge 2026' held in Matson Library by writing some words conveying their thoughts of 'Hope in the Dark'. Encouraging people in our community to see positive aspects of our world today.

Mrs Oliver

## Get Involved!

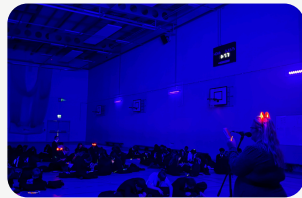
Interested in joining a club or starting something new? Check out the full list of clubs on our website or speak to Ms. Brazil !

# AT THE SUMMIT

## Rewards

We've loved celebrating our students with a range of rewards this unit. From zorbing on the field and glow-in-the-dark bingo with prizes including giant unicorns, to egg hunts, trips to AirHop and cake decorating masterclasses – it has been fantastic to see children enjoying and celebrating their achievements.

Unit 3 rewards will be happening soon, so we encourage parents, families and carers to support and encourage children to keep earning their points.



## Character Spotlight



Winter, Archie and Amir have been attending the Unit 3 drama enrichment sessions where they have been developing their acting skills through monologues, duologues and group scenes.

Throughout the sessions they have worked hard to explore character, understand scripts and bring performances to life rather than simply reading lines.

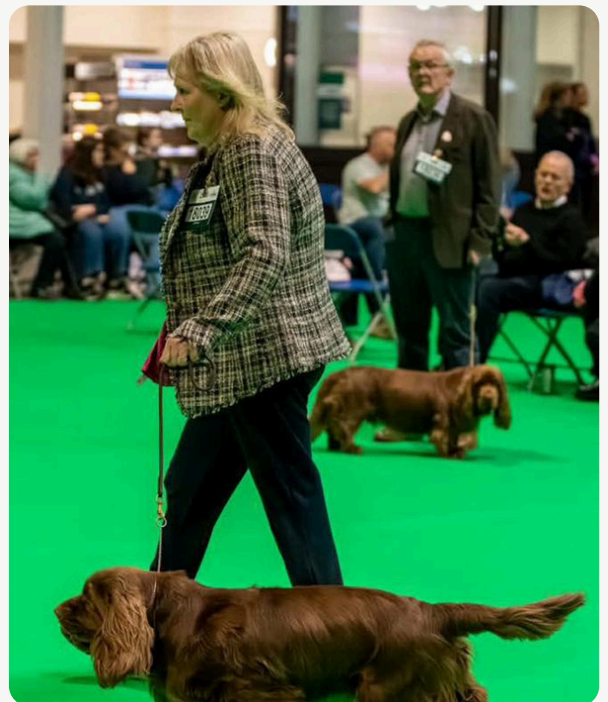
## Alumni Updates

We've loved welcoming alumni back for work experience this unit. It was fantastic to have Edwyna, a Headteacher's Award winner, Latasha and Owen with us.

All three are now studying for their A Levels at Denmark Road, and it has been great to see them supporting students in Geography, Maths and Sport.



## Staff Recognition



A huge congratulations to Mrs Gasher and her wonderful dogs, Treacle and Chester, for their amazing achievements at Crufts! Treacle wowed the judges and took First in Class, while Chester impressed with a fantastic performance to earn Reserve. Their dedication, training, and teamwork truly paid off, making everyone proud.

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# YEAR GROUP REPORTS



**Year 7 Newsletter**



**Year 8 Newsletter**



**Year 9 Newsletter**



**Year 10 Newsletter**



**Year 11 Newsletter**

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# YOU SAID, WE DID

Each term, I hold open drop-in sessions where students from all year groups are invited to come and speak with me. These meetings give me the opportunity to hear their positive feedback, learn what they would like to see improved, and understand what matters most to them. Everything shared helps shape our decisions and ensures the school continues to grow in the right direction for all our young people.

Mrs Lewis

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## Year 7

**I met with Igor, Ayan, Hollie-Rose, Annabelle, Elizabeth, Isla, Etta and David they explained to me that they liked:**

- The food is amazing, there is always something good to eat
- We love PE and all the sports on offer
- Morning line up is great for meeting friends and listening to your Director of Year share good news
- Lots of staff available to speak to if you are struggling with your mental health
- Love the disruption free learning - you can really do brilliantly at Gloucester Academy

**They would like to suggest the following:**

- Magnetic locks to keep the double doors open
- To use the field for play time
- To be involved with the book choices for reading in the morning we have some great suggestions

**From their comments and suggestions, I have:**

- Talked to the site team and we are looking into how we can put magnetic locks to keep doors open - it is a great idea and one we will pursue
  - The field is opening for all of us a week after we get back. We are going to trail it and if all goes well, we can have it open all the time.
  - I love this idea we will look into doing that as we move forward
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## Year 8

**I met with Sury, Ana, Charlie, Jasper, Jahmar, Kaiyan, Georgia and Fenn they explained to me that they liked:**

- We love the teachers that make learning more enjoyable, you can tell when our teachers really love their subject and bring lessons to life.
- Teachers help you all the time, it is OK to ask questions.
- We like that we have a voice in the school and can drive it forward
- We like not lining up at break time, we are glad we could show we could do it.
- Enrichment is excellent and we love the societies

**They would like to suggest the following:**

- We should get some other rewards for trying hard in Sparx, perfect attendance awards in assembly,
- School to start later and finish at the same time
- Consistency in the morning as some teachers give 25 points for attendance others give 100 and that is not fair!
- Celebrate more days like International Woman's Day

**From their comments and suggestions, I have:**

- Spoken to Ms Blick- Melaert who would be glad to expand our rewards and ensure people are being recognised more often
  - No shift on the school day - sorry!
  - This is a very good point and something I will absolutely look into; we want celebration to be fair
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# YOU SAID, WE DID

## Year 9

### **I met with Freya, Success and Clayton they explained to me that they liked:**

- The amount of enrichment choices we have now
- We really like we were listened to as part of enrichment it is one of our favourite days
- We really like the shelters and we are glad we are getting one in the Easter holidays

### **They would like to suggest the following:**

- We need a new bagel shed as our one is wobbly and moves in the wind
- We need more lockers so we can keep our equipment in there
- We would like to have a consistent approach to make up so it is clear what we can and cannot wear
- Can we study triple science?

### **From their comments and suggestions, I have:**

- The new bagel shed is being ordered in a couple of weeks and should be far superior to the one we have now
  - There are new lockers coming all with combination locks so more people can have one
  - We have sent a letter out and put it on the message board so there is clarity over make up.
  - Triple science is hard to put in as students tend to do a lot better at combined science. We have some Year 10s who are studying it but on their own. We will discuss it again in the future as it would be good, I agree.
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## Year 10

### **I met with Ameya, Sonia, Chim, Kieren, Ella, Emma, Erika, Josh, Esther and Jhodie they explained to me that they liked:**

- The canteen is great and loving the culture days, there is always amazing food available and plenty of it
- The new subject guides are really useful, you always know what you are studying and where to find more information
- The diverse cultures in the school and how we celebrate them
- We would like science in a period 6
- We like the new recycling push

### **They would like to suggest the following:**

- Badminton and Tennis in the playground in the summer
- Homework should only be set on Google classroom so we can keep track
- Easy access to sanitary products when we need them
- Change the PE socks

### **From their comments and suggestions, I have decided the following:**

- Badminton and Tennis would be good we will have to think about that - maybe on the field
  - I will ask Mr Davies to work on the homework situation so it is easier to track
  - We are looking at token machines in the toilets, you can collect a token from reception to access products you need
  - I will talk to PE about the long red socks but I don't think that is a thing we will change!
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# LOOKING AHEAD

## Upcoming Events

### ● Year 9 Academic Review Evening and Options Evening

16th April 2026

Meet your children's teachers and find out about their next steps up the mountain!

### ● Culture Day and Celebration Evening

18th June 2026

Come and celebrate all of our students hard work with us in an evening showcase!

### ● Year 10 Academic Review Evening

16th July 2026

Meet your children's teachers and find out about their most recent mocks!



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## Key Contacts

The Safeguarding Team can be contacted via the main school switchboard or at [gasafeguarding@gloucesteracademy.co.uk](mailto:gasafeguarding@gloucesteracademy.co.uk).

During holidays, you can still contact the team via email. We may not respond immediately but will get back to you within 3 working days.

For immediate concerns about a child's welfare, contact Gloucestershire Children's Social Care at 01452 426565 or the Emergency Duty Team outside office hours on 01452 614194. In urgent situations, call 999.

**Click here** for important information about Gloucestershire's Children & Young People's Services (CYPS)

**On Your Mind Glos** - A place for Children and Young People to turn to when they need help and support with their mental health but aren't sure how to access support.

**YMM Chat** (07480635723) - Mental health professionals who are available to chat via text message Monday - Friday between 9am until 4:30pm (except bank holidays) - please note this is not a crisis service

**TIC+ Chat** - Mental health professionals who are available to chat via the [live messaging service](#) or via phone (03003038080) Sunday - Thursday between 5pm until 8:30pm - please note this is not a crisis service

**Happy Maps** - A one-stop hub of information on young people's mental health for parents, young people and professionals - [click here](#)

**Anna Freud** - Wellbeing resources for young people and their families - [click here](#)

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