



Achieving Excellence Together

# GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

**Congratulations to all current and former students  
for outstanding GCSE and A Level results**

Continued on page 3

## OPEN EVENINGS

**Brookvale High School**  
11-14

**30 September 2014**  
**6pm - 8pm**

**Groby Community College**  
14-19

**2 October 2014**  
**6pm - 8pm**

### **WHY CHOOSE THE BROOKVALE GROBY LEARNING CAMPUS?**

*"We have the proven track record to support your child  
towards academic success at both GCSE and A level.*

*Our campus is the most successful high and upper  
school combination in Leicestershire, as judged by Ofsted"*

*Katie Rush, Headteacher, Brookvale and Robert Coles, Principal, Groby Community College*

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## **STOP PRESS**

**Are you in our catchment area?**

**To all of the families and friends of the college  
with students living in the South Charnwood and  
Groby Community College catchment area; you are  
fully entitled to a place in Year 10 at the college  
from September 2014 onwards.**

Please see our website for details of our Open Evening,  
how to apply for a place at the college and contact  
details for our Admissions Coordinator Mrs Debbie Lee.

# GCSE CELEBRATIONS AT GROBY

The excellent GCSE results by the students reflect their hard work and the commitment of the families and staff who have supported them both at the college and at high school.

63% of students achieved the national benchmark of 5A\*- C including English and Mathematics, up 3% on 2013. Students at the college sit all their exams at the end of Year 11 and therefore these excellent results have been achieved under the Government's new standard where only the first entry counts.

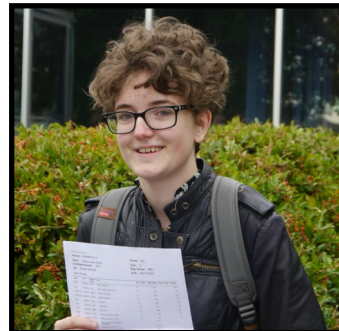
In recognition of all students, we are pleased to announce that 70% of students achieved at least 5A\*- C grade qualifications at GCSE and 96% 5A\*- G.

## High Achievers at GCSE

- Abbie Green – 7A\*, 2A and a B at AS French
- Oliver Lawrence-Overy – 7A\*, A and a B at AS French
- Connor Tebbatt – 7A\* and 3A
- Anna Hibbitt – 6A\*, 2A and a B at AS Creative Writing
- Rochelle Naismith – 7A\* and 3A

There are many more students who achieved a similar performance with a significant number of top grades. Overall 28% of students achieved at least 3A\* and A grades.

Thank you to all the parents and carers for their hard work and support for the students throughout their time at both high school and the college. These GCSE results reflect many years of hard work. A huge thanks must go to the staff at Brookvale High School, South Charnwood High School and the other feeder schools for the superb grounding that each student receives before they arrive at the college.



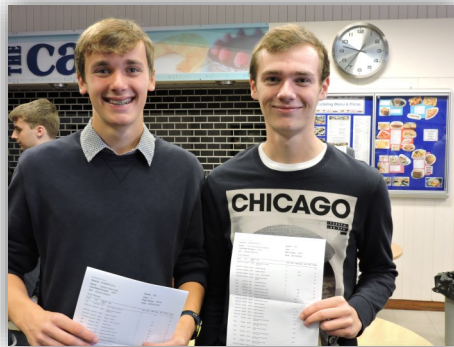
**Abbie Green**  
**Top performing Girl**  
**across all exams taken**  
**7A\*, 2A and a B at AS French**  
"I feel great! I want to be a doctor and will be staying on at Groby to study 5 A Levels; Maths, Sociology, Biology, Chemistry and French."



**Oliver Lawrence-Overy**  
**Top performing Boy**  
**across all exams taken**  
**7A\*, A and a B at AS French**  
"I'm in complete disbelief! All the months of hard work have finally paid off! I am staying on in Post 16 here at Groby to study 5 A Levels; Maths, Physics, Chemistry, French and Music."

The staff at the college were thrilled to be able to share in the success of the students on results day.  
The Governors would like to thank each and every member of staff for their hard work and dedication to the students.

## Well done to the class of 2014!



There are more quotes and photos from BOTH GCSE & A LEVEL results days on our website.

# OUTSTANDING A LEVEL STUDENTS

A Level students at Groby Community College were jumping for joy as they received their results after two years of hard work.

There were some exceptional outcomes in this year's set of results despite some significant changes to how the examinations have been organised. This cohort of students has faced the removal of modules in favour of end of year examination as well as tougher marking by the exam boards.



## High Achievers at A Level

- Alex Bennett – ABCC
- Alex Bradley – A\*A\*A
- Henry Bristowe – AAA
- Simran Chahal – AAB
- Joey Chung – ABC
- Rebecca Ford – A\*AA
- Frankie Jesson – ABB
- Jade Lewin – AAAA
- Alice Mallinder – A\*A\*A\*
- Satchin Mistry – AAAA
- Ellen Ormerod – AAB
- Katie Randle – ABB
- Joe Parr – AAA
- Emma Pye – AAB
- Meghan Shuttlewood – A\*A
- Olivia Taylor – A\*A\*A

A huge congratulations goes out to these and all of our students who have received their A Level and AS Level grades. As always we are extremely proud of every student's performance.

Overall the college's results have remained strong despite the changes by the government. **25%** of all A Level grades are A or A\* with **45%** A\*- B and **72%** A\*- C. **100%** of students passed at least one A Level qualification.

Well done to all of the students, parents and carers who have supported them over the last two years and to the staff who have worked tirelessly to support the young people.



**Alice Mallinder**

**A\*A\*A\* (top performing girl)**

Alice will be going to Nottingham University to study Pharmacy

*"I had great fun at Groby with great teachers"*



**Alex Bradley**

**A\*A\*A (top performing boy)**

Alex will be going to Sheffield University to study Electrical Engineering (Masters)

*"It's 90% effort and 10% inspiration!"*

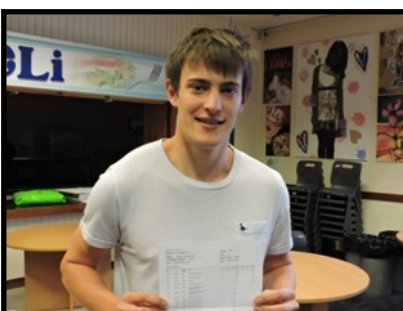


**Rebecca Ford**

**A\*AA**

Rebecca has got into Southampton University to study French & Portuguese

*"Groby has been brilliant with support for students at all levels"*



**Joe Parr**

**AAA**

Joe is heading off to Leeds University to study Chemistry

*"I had fantastic teacher support around the exam period and outside of lesson time too!"*



**Emma Pye**

**AAB (German Youth Ambassador)**

Emma has got into her chosen university in Sheffield to study Modern Languages

*Emma simply said; "AWESOME!"*

## NEW FACES

At this time of year, it is important to welcome all the new students joining the college this academic year. Many of the Post 16 students joining us in Year 12 have achieved outstanding results in their GCSE examinations and we would like to congratulate them for their success.

The majority of our new Year 10 intake comes from Brookvale High School, with many others coming from surrounding schools in Leicestershire. A huge Groby welcome goes out to all the families who are joining us for the first time. It is through the close partnership with parents and carers that our students will succeed, hence our motto 'Achieving Excellence Together'.

We also welcome several new staff to the college.

Those colleagues joining us from this September:

- Mrs Islam – Teacher (Maths)
- Miss Muman – Teacher (English)
- Miss Turner – Teacher (Maths)
- Miss Barson – P16 Admin Assistant
- Mr Crosby – Learning Support Assistant
- Miss Hunnybun – Learning Mentor
- Mr Williams – IT Technician

We would like to wish all our new students and staff the best of luck in their time with us at the college.

**Mr Coles, Principal.**

## EXAM & KEY ASSESSMENT CALENDAR 2014 - 15

The main exam period is mid May to the end of June 2014 but other exams in Maths and Science take place at other times of the college year as well. The timetable will change to accommodate preparation, revision and exam warm-up sessions. We have revision tips and sample revision timetables on our college website.

All the key assessments and exam dates can be found on the college website: [www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

## EXAMS INFORMATION

### Exam Certificates

Summer 2014 exam certificates will be available for collection from the Exams Office from 1 December 2014.

More Colleges and Employers are asking to see certificates prior to offering places/positions, therefore please don't forget to collect them.

Due to replacement costs we DO NOT post certificates – it is your responsibility to collect them from the college during reception opening hours of 8.15am – 4.15pm

Also, do you have any relatives who are ex Groby Students? We hold certificates dating back to 2007! To obtain certificates call or email allowing 48 hours for collection.

### Mrs Poulton

Exams Officer

E: [exams@grobycoll.com](mailto:exams@grobycoll.com)



## PARENTS/CARERS' FORUM

Each year Groby Community College hold discussion forums for parents/carers to support all parties through their child's time at the college.

The first session will take place at the college in the Learning Resource Centre on:

**Wednesday 8 October 2014 7pm - 8pm**

This session will cover areas of common interest e.g. the ethos of the college, pastoral support, the curriculum and GCSE examinations. There will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions and decide on future topics for discussion. More information and dates for future meetings can be found on the college calendar at the college website: [www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

If you would be interested in joining us, please contact Mrs Anderson: [canderson@grobycoll.com](mailto:canderson@grobycoll.com)

# YEAR 13 PROM

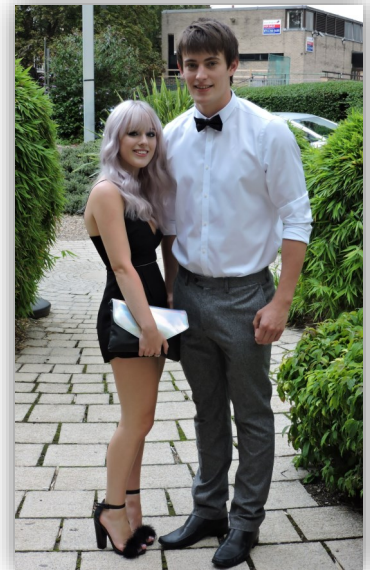
On 15 August we celebrated A Level results with our Year 13 prom at the Holiday Inn Leicester.  
**A great night was had by all!**



Rachel Burton was our 'Prom Queen' pictured in the centre of this picture.



Emilio Freire-Patino was our 'Prom King' pictured second from the left in this picture above.



Ellen Ormerod and Joe Parr pictured together at the Year 13 prom.



## POST 16 NEWS

Very pleasing A Level results this year with all of our students applying to university securing a place. A successful Year 13 prom was held the day after results day. As you can see from the pictures all students dressed to impress and celebrated a great end to their final year at Groby Community College.

Year 12 and 13 students have now settled into their new timetables. We welcome the largest Year 12 intake ever including many new students from the surrounding areas. As always our Post 16 students have given those new to the college a warm welcome and offered support in helping them to settle in. I wish all students a happy and successful time here at Groby Community College.

**Miss Wood, Head of Post 16.**



## COMMIT TO SUCCESS PROGRAMME



The highly successful and nationally renowned Commit to Success programme is to begin again this year with selected year 11 students.

The scheme is focused on ensuring as many students as possible exceed their target grades as well as achieve the key qualifications of 8 or more GCSEs graded at A\*- C including English and Maths. Last year this scheme ensured that many students who were not quite secure in achieving these key qualifications at the end of year 10 did achieve them by the end of year 11.

Through Commit to Success we take the view that all students can achieve their potential and that we will accept nothing less than this. We have specifically targeted year 11 students who have the capacity to achieve 8 A\*- C with English and Maths but may need some additional challenge

and support to reach this level of attainment. As staff at the college we place a relentless focus on students achieving their challenging target grades both in their portfolios, controlled assessments and in their exams.

This year's scheme will be launched with students, parents and carers on Thursday 25 September through a support and advice session for parents. All mentors have been trained in how to challenge and support their mentees to meet their target grades through a clear focus on hard work.

All mentors will meet with their mentees every 6 weeks for a formal business like meeting which focuses on what needs to be done and how it will be achieved. Short term targets are set at these meetings and the mentor

works in partnership with the student, teacher and family to ensure that results are achieved.

If you would like to know more about the scheme then contact myself directly at the college.

Alternatively, if your child's report is showing that they are predicted to attain lower than their target grade then PLEASE contact your child's teacher in that subject. Each teacher can then give targeted support to you and your child on what they need to do to improve. You can contact your child's teacher by phoning the college 0116 287 9921.

**Mrs Cornelius**  
Assistant Principal  
(Teaching and Learning)



## AUTUMN TERM REPORTS INFORMATION

As per the letter emailed to all Parents/Carers via ParentPay on 3 September, the following table informs you of when your will receive a report for your child for this Autumn term:

YEAR GROUP	DATE OF ISSUE	INTERIM or FULL report
Year 10	Monday 13 October 2014 Monday 8 December 2014	Short interim report Short interim report
Year 11	Monday 13 October 2014 Monday 1 December 2014	Short interim report Full annual report
Year 12	Monday 13 October 2014 Monday 8 December 2014	Short interim report Short interim report
Year 13	Monday 6 October 2014 Monday 8 December 2014	Full annual report Short interim report

The year 13 reports will be followed by a parents' afternoon/evening when you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's subject teachers. The date is as follows:

**YEAR 13 – SUBJECT REPORTS AFTERNOON & EVENING**  
Tuesday 18 November 4.00pm - 7.00pm

The college has introduced a new intuitive and easy to use online appointment booking system, more information will be sent nearer the time. This new system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Our aim is to meet with as many parents and students as possible to discuss your child's academic progress.

Information regarding parents' afternoon/evenings can also be found on our college website: [www.grobyscoll.com](http://www.grobyscoll.com)

**Mrs Hubbard**  
Deputy Principal

## NORMANDY TRIP JUNE 2014



The LBI department is eager to tell you all about our last college trip to Normandy. In June 2014, we left England at midnight for a country full of snails, smelly cheese and FRENCH PEOPLE! A group of 39 students spent 4 days in France with Miss Sanchez, Mrs Evans, Mr Maynard, Mr Miola and Mrs Coley.

It feels like yesterday; the smell of bread when we visited the bakery, the beautiful seaside, the visit to Caen with its amazing cathedral and the French market. It was such an enriching experience! The students were amazing and spoke lots of French.

Our accommodation was a few minutes walk from the beach and the students learnt a lot of things during this experience; how to make bread, how to make goats cheese, how to milk a goat (YES!! IT HAPPENED FOR REAL!) and how to use what they have learnt in class in real situations.

Pictures of this adventure are displayed in the MFL corridor, near room 31. Feel free to have a look.

**Miss Sanchez, Teacher of French**

## WHITBY TRIP JULY 2014

On Sunday 8 July, 19 students across all year groups together with 4 members of staff set out for our annual tour of Whitby primary schools performing a play devised by themselves as a T.I.E (Theatre in Education) Theatre company. The schedule was a mix of both fun and hard work, 5 shows in front of 1,200 Primary School children and 5 workshops with over 300 students. Excellent meals were cooked by Mrs Beeston! Our students worked extremely hard, with the passion and energy that a professional touring theatre company would be proud of! By the end of the tour, all the students were very tired but proud of what they had achieved. This year we said farewell to a handful of students who have been on the tour 4 years running (they will be missed!), however with the departures, new gaps have been created for new students to attend on the next tour in July 2015! We also said goodbye to Mr Morris who has been standing in for Miss Smith this year. It was sad to see him go, but he said that the tour was a wonderful thing to do with the



students and next will be taking the idea to his new school. A great time was had by all! If you would like to know more about the Whitby tour, please come and speak to Mr Rayner, Miss Smith or Mr Coltman. **Performing Arts Faculty.**



# CELEBRATING MULTICULTURAL LEICESTER

Our Year 9 induction programme has been a huge success this year with staff and students saying it has been the best one yet! Our theme was a celebration of Multicultural Leicester designed to increase our student's awareness of different cultures living in Leicester while also bringing the Year 10 and Year 9 together in their forms to allow them to get to know each.

In Leicester all the different cultures have come together to create a vibrant and exciting multicultural city where all are welcome! And we wanted to draw attention to this and celebrate it through our induction. We invited in 29 students and 3 staff from a school in Leicester called Crown Hills to perform a concert of Bangra, Gujarati dancing and Caribbean steel drums to all four Houses on Thursday 5 July. This gave students the opportunity to experience some of these other cultures music and dances. Students and staff clearly all really enjoyed the show giving the fantastic Crown Hills performers thunderous applause.



Students were given the task of designing a model which represented different aspects of Leicester including food and retail, sport, Religion, Historical landmarks and Culture. The competition was very intense with all of the tutor groups working well together to produce their models. The winner was Mrs Varney's tutor group from Broombriggs House pictured right.

On Friday 6 July forms were tasked with designing an App for a tablet or phone that showed off different aspects of Leicester including food and retail, sport, Religion, Historical landmarks and Culture. Students had to solve some pretty hard puzzles to find where information had been hidden around the college that could help. Tutors divided forms up and gave everyone a role. Forms had to work well as teams if they were to have a chance of winning. During this everyone had the chance to try some great free samosa's that the school canteen had cooked specially for the occasions. Ms Massingham the Principals PA admitted to having as many as four! They were that good. Students worked really well and the new students made a great impression on the college. The winner was Miss Ivin's form for Bardon House (see picture right). This made for a close House competition with Mrs Varney's tutor group claiming the overall winner prize, so Broombriggs just won it, setting themselves up as the leading House going into the new academic year.



Induction finished with an assembly for the Year 9 students where certificates were given out to all the different winners and Mr Coles; Principal, addressed the new students thanking them for their hard efforts during induction and leaving them thinking about what they need to do to be successful in the next school year. **Mr Kimber – Assistant Principal**

## SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Our college feels it is of the utmost importance to have good systems for protecting children and safeguarding their welfare throughout all the activities which the college undertakes. This means that staff and volunteers must be alert to possible concerns about every student, and to report these in a proper fashion. The college has a safeguarding and child protection policy which parents/carers can view on our website under the 'About Us' section 'Documents/Policies'

### It is important for parents to be aware that:

- Staff and volunteers in the college have a duty to report concerns about a child, whether this means the child may be in need of additional support or help of some kind or whether it is thought that a child may have been abused or be at risk of abuse.
- There are four categories of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, neglect.
- In some cases the college is obliged to refer children to children's social care staff, for children to be assessed for their needs or if an investigation into possible child abuse is required. In many cases there will already have been discussions between college staff and the parents of the child, and the situation and concerns will not be a surprise to the parents. However, parents may not be told that the college has referred their child to children's social care if it is thought that this might put the child at risk.
- Children's social care tries to carry out its enquiries in a sensitive fashion. It has to gather information and generally it can be open with parents about the steps being taken.
- If you think your child may have been abused you should contact the children's social care office. If you think the abuse may have happened in college, contact the Principal or the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection, who is Mrs Evans, Assistant Principal. If you think your child has been hurt, arrange to visit your doctor. Comfort and reassure your child.
- If college staff need to express concerns about a child or refer a child to children's social care, it is understood that this can cause distress or anger for the child's parents.

For parents' enquiries please contact: **Mrs Evans, Assistant Principal**



# UK-German Connection

Deutsch-Britische Schul- und Jugendbegegnungen  
bringing young people together

As part of my year as a UK-German youth ambassador, I was fortunate enough to take part in a conference in Berlin over the summer. The conference, with the other 49 youth ambassadors - both German and British, allowed us to share our experiences from throughout the year and evaluate our projects and achievements. The accommodation for the conference was just 20 minutes outside of Berlin and consisted of loads of amazing buildings and gardens! Over the two days we self and group assessed the year we had taken part in as ambassadors and even made videos including tips for next year's ambassadors. We not only worked hard but also had a bit of spare time, meaning we were able to explore a bit of Berlin for an afternoon which was brilliant. As well as doing the obvious tourist bits (the Brandenburg gate and the Reichstag building), the German ambassadors knew some of the quieter areas which were great to explore!



Emma Pye - German Youth Ambassador



Throughout my year as an ambassador I organised a 'Great German Bake Off', helped out at a German Christmas workshop at Elizabeth Woodville Primary School and managed to set up a pen pal scheme for the year 10 (now 11) class. All the projects were really successful and I hope the pen pals will stay in contact! I've enjoyed every aspect of being an ambassador (even the few stressful bits!) and it's been great being able to promote something that I love, in terms of both the German culture and the language. I wish that I had another year to continue my ambassador role, but I definitely hope others from college will consider applying this year as I can thoroughly recommend the experience!

Emma Pye

## FIRST CLASS DEGREE SUCCESSES

We have received letters from two universities to inform us of two former students successes.

They are as follows:

**KIRSTY GRANT gained a FIRST CLASS HONOURS DEGREE**  
in MChem. Chemistry course at The University of Leicester this summer

**SAMUEL WILSON-WHITFORD gained a FIRST CLASS DEGREE**  
he has now completed his Undergraduate Master of Chemistry Variants Degree  
at The University of Warwick

# CAMP TANZANIA 2014



## The Groby Community College team at the Ngorongoro crater

From left to right:

Becky Pogson, Hannah Mugglestone, Lizzie Pye, James Dawswell, Jaina Patel, Dan George, Jaina Mistry, Ross Dixey, Corey Carroll, Adam Flavell, Jordan Waite, Jake Fenn, Kieran Oldershaw, Jonny Lloyd, Ellis Kube, Melissa Murray, James Wynne, Jess McGee, Adam Kissai, Alison Hall, Matt Richardson, Alfie Poulton, Ashley Nathwani, Harry Wallace, Owen Mitchell and Oliver Dudman

On 14 July 2014, 23 students and 2 staff set off for Tanzania after two years of planning, fundraising and numerous injections. Guided by our expedition leader Jonny, it took two days of travelling to get to our first camp in Moshi, at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro and acquaint ourselves with our first tent of the month.

After all the sitting around, the group were desperate to get going on the first bit of project work and enthusiastically mixed concrete, laid blocks and joined pieces of metal for three days at the local primary school. It was the first stage of a new classroom to be built over the summer. Even with all the work there was still time for a football match with the children, a dance lesson at a local house and Swahili lessons in the evening.

The time at Moshi flew by and soon we were back on a bus headed for Tanga. The long journey was well worth it as Camp Tanga was

absolutely beautiful – perched on a small cliff overlooking the incredibly blue Indian ocean with a dining area built around a large baobab tree. Whilst there we worked on building another classroom, a tree nursery, repairing school desks, seaweed farming, flip flop carving and weaving mats from palm leaves. It wasn't all work though as this is where we did our four day PADI scuba diving qualification including two days diving a reef in the Indian ocean.

At our final camp near Lake Manyara we made mud bricks for a house for a local man. Basically, if you need a wall building from any material – ask one of these guys. From here we visited a Maasai village and did our safari days into the spectacular Ngorongoro crater where we saw almost all the “big five” and had a much disputed cheetah sighting.

Suddenly our four weeks was almost over and after a long bus journey back to Nairobi we just had time for a bit of reflection on what we had seen and achieved (see the student quotes on the next page). It was an incredibly experience living out of our comfort zones and working on projects to help others and by the end some people were already thinking about their next trip.

It was a privilege to work with such a committed group of young people who represented the college impeccably. We were constantly praised for their work ethic when the leader saw how much they achieved at each project. Seeing each person develop and the self confidence in some increase dramatically was incredibly rewarding for us and added an extra dimension to an already amazing trip.



Dancing in the Maasai village!

Miss Pogson and Mr Dixey

## OUR BEST MOMENTS OF THE TRIP!

“Getting a letter from a little girl from the school in Moshi”  
- **Jaina Patel**

“The last day of project work in Manyara—making bricks, having a mud fight and seeing how happy Mr Samson was when he received the clothes Jake donated” - **Lizzie Pye**

“Learning how to do local arts and crafts with an artist using flip flops” - **Alison Hall**

“Meeting all of the kids and seeing their faces and how happy they were over something as small as a pencil case with pencils”  
- **Corey Carroll**



“Star gazing with Jess on the edge of the cliff in Tanga” - **Mel Murray**

“When the village children ran up to us and I gave them a ride in the wheel barrow we were using to move mud for the mud house” - **Adam Kissai**

“Playing football with the kids at Moshi”  
- **Harry Wallace**

“Ellis and James letting flies in the tent, then gassing themselves out with DEET”

- **Oliver Dudman**

“Engaging in the culture and spending time with people when you know you have changed their lives” - **Owen Mitchell**

“Football match against the local team in Tanga” - **Ellis Kube**

“Giving some pencils away at the school and seeing how happy they were” - **Ashley Nathwani**

“The last project day in Manyara building Mr Samson’s house and having a mud fight” - **Hannah Mugglestone**



“Seeing the lion cubs and all the other animals on safari” - **James Dawswell**

“The first open water scuba dive” - **James Wynne**

“Views from the top of the Ngorongoro crater”  
- **Jordan Waite**

“Giving Mr Samson some gifts” - **Jake Fenn**

“Going to the school at Moshi and seeing the happy faces of the children when we went into the classroom” - **Matt Richardson**



## 2016 Expedition is to ECUADOR GALAPAGOS

Find out more about this amazing opportunity by speaking to Mr Dixey in the Science area



**Starting Monday 8 September 2014**

**8:00 - 8:35 EVERY DAY  
IN THE DINING ROOM**

**Give your brain a head start!**

The most important meal of the day is often forgotten – you would rather stay in bed for an extra 10 minutes than get up and have your Shreddies!

**Don't worry** – you can still fill up here! Every morning you can come and enjoy a selection of healthy foods to help you get your day off to a great start.

**Fruit, Toast, Cereals, Bacon Butties on Fridays!  
Table Tennis, Wii available and Homework help available**

**If you are interested, come along and have a look...  
No pressure..... just good food and somewhere to eat it!**

## **ACTION RESEARCH PROJECTS AT GROBY**



For the third year running staff will be participating in Action Research projects with the aim of improving your child's experience here at Groby.

As teachers, we need to know what is actually happening in our classrooms, what learners are thinking, why learners are reacting in the ways they do and what aspects of the classroom we should focus on to enable students to reach their potential. The 8 different Action Research projects will enable us to find the answers to some of these questions.

For example the Maths Faculty are looking at how students use feedback from teachers and in Science they are researching how practical science lessons affect the way students learn.

The projects will start in September and will run throughout the year culminating in an Action Research conference in June 2015.

If you would like to know more about the Action Research work we are doing please contact me.

**Mrs Bearne, Assistant Principal  
mbearne@grobycoll.com**



## **KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR CHILD'S HOMEWORK AND DEADLINES**



This service provides parents with an insight into the type of homework your child receives and how often it is set. More importantly, we hope it benefits your child by displaying all their homework and deadlines on one page, helping them to use their time more effectively and become more organised.

For parents who wish to take a more active role in their children's home learning, they can by having their own Show My Homework account. This allows parents/carers access to an overview of the homework set for their son/daughter in all their subject areas. We've given 'power' back to parents, they can now take a more proactive role in driving homework prioritisation, keeping tabs on homework without being intrusive. **Benefits for parents/carers:**

- No login required – to view the college homework calendar <https://groby.showmyhomework.co.uk>
- Easy to use - It only take a couple of clicks to see the homework timetable for your child.
- View anytime - You don't have to wait until they arrive home, find out if they have homework the moment a teacher sets it.

Please note that the college is only authorised to reset student passwords. Follow the link provided to reset parent/carer password.

If you require assistance using this service or would like to provide feedback, please do not hesitate to contact

**Mrs Cornelius via email [ccornelius@grobycoll.com](mailto:ccornelius@grobycoll.com)**

# READING, WRITING, COMMUNICATION & MATHEMATICS

Miss Johal, Numeracy Co-ordinator  
tjohal@grobycoll.com

Mrs Samantha Auger, Literacy Co-ordinator  
sauger@grobycoll.com

## Why are reading, writing, communication and mathematics important?

We all know the importance of reading, writing, communication and mathematics (RWCM) skills in school life. However, industry have always valued these skills highly and through consultation the government have also put RWCM at the forefront of education. These four pillars of learning are an integral part of the curriculum in order to prepare our learners for life beyond Groby.

lessons have made some provision to develop Mathematics skills. We want our students to be well equipped in using RWCM skills by the time they leave Groby and understand they form an important part of everyday life in the 21st century.

Miss Johal (Numeracy Co-ordinator) and

Mrs Auger (Literacy Co-ordinator) work collaboratively to ensure that these skills are developed so that all learners have access to them no matter which subjects they have chosen to study at the college. Should you wish to get further information about RWCM at Groby please contact them at the email addresses given above.



### How will this benefit my child at Groby?

At Groby we feel these core skills need to be developed and well taught in all lessons. For example in Mathematics lessons we are developing reading and writing skills and English

## RWCM projects at Groby this year

These are some of the projects that your child could get involved in at Groby:

- Peer mentoring - helping those students who could benefit from additional support
- Tutor Time interventions
- House competitions including 'Groby does Countdown'
- RWCM assemblies
- World Book Day collaborative event with other colleges
- World Maths Day
- Working with primary schools
- RWCM transition group
- Literacy and football joint initiative with LCFC



### Some reasons why Groby is taking a proactive approach:

- Across the UK roughly **4 in 5** adults have a low level of numeracy

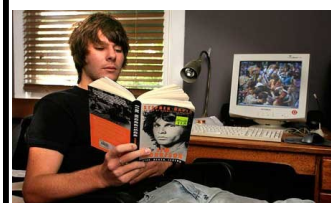


- **5.2 million people** in the UK are functionally illiterate

- There is a **wage premium** associated with having better numeracy skills.



- Students who read at home are more likely to achieve **5 A\*- C at GCSE**



- **58% of women** with low literacy levels live in a non-working household

# KEY EXAM DATES

**NOVEMBER 2014 EXAMS:** Resit GCSE Maths and English only

**DECEMBER 2014 MOCK EXAMS:** Year 11 Mock Exams start Monday 8 December

## ELIGIBILITY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

**Please note:**

**Children who receive qualifying benefit in their own right are also eligible to receive free school meals.**

Schools receive additional funding for every child that is eligible for free school meals.

Groby Community College only receives the funding if you apply for the free school meals. Applying does not mean that your child has to have the free meal.

**Please see the criteria for receiving free school meals. If you think you might be eligible please contact the main reception for an application form.**

Children whose parents receive the following support payments are entitled to receive free school meals: (see list opposite)

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- An income-related employment and support allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of 6th April 2010 does not exceed £16,190
- The guarantee element of State Pension Credit

## TRAFFIC SAFETY ON CAMPUS

Dear Parents and Carers

For safety reasons please be aware that visitors are not permitted to drive onto campus to collect students at the end of the day until **3.25pm** when the buses have departed.

**As a campus we want to encourage all parents and carers to consider the alternative for transport to and from Brookvale or Groby. Could your son or daughter walk, cycle or travel by bus?**

If you do need to collect your son or daughter by car before 3.25pm please arrange to pick them up off site. If you are picking up offsite then please have consideration for residents, pedestrians and other road users.

Please contact the relevant school/college in advance if there is a particular reason why your son or daughter needs to be picked up on site, such as disability or special needs.

Please be assured that we are doing all we can to make this campus as safe as possible for everyone. Restricting traffic movement on and off the campus during the busy end of the day is essential for us to secure the health and safety of every student.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Yours sincerely

**Robert Coles**  
Principal  
Groby Community College

**Katie Rush**  
Headteacher  
Brookvale High School



# FLEXIBLE LEARNING TEAMBUILDING DAY AT BEAMANOR HALL

Fourteen Year 10 Prince's Trust xl club students spent Monday 1 September teambuilding as part of their induction. Developing interpersonal and team skills is central to the qualification that the students are working towards so as well as being enjoyable the day provided plenty of opportunities for reflecting on their individual strengths and areas for further development.



In the first session the challenges were:

- Plank walking
- Bomb disposal
- Conflict
- Codebreaker



The afternoon session was spent on building a bridge out of wooden poles and rope that had to be strong enough to get the whole team across some **very wet and really muddy water!**

## THINK BIG AWARDS EVENING

Congratulations to Leoni Martin, Becky Fletcher, Emily Jackson & Kaylee Cooper (year 10) who won 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at the Think Big Awards Evening in June. The evening commenced with Loughborough University students displaying their innovative ideas and products, followed by dinner and key speakers. Our students were accompanied by their parents, Business teachers Mr Bugh and Mrs Bryan and Mr Coles. We were extremely proud as Leoni and Becky took to the stage to collect their award; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize. They also collected the award on behalf of Emily and Kaylee as they were unable to attend as they were on the Normandy trip. The groups were complimented on their innovative and creative business idea. **Well done!**

**Mrs Bryan, Lead Teacher for Business**



## GROBY BAKE OFF FOR RAINBOWS

Last term saw the introduction of a new staff baking competition where all staff were invited to bake an indulgent cake of their choice. We had over ten entries and raised an amazing £58.81 which has been donated to Rainbows. Mrs Woolhouse (pictured left) won the competition with her 'Baking Bad Lemon Drizzle Cake' with Mrs Bearne and Miss Sherriff coming second and third. Thank you to all staff that donated a cake to the competition or purchased a slice. Here are some of the photos taken during the competition.



Mrs Woolhouse and Miss Johal pictured above  
Mr Bugh with his plate full of cake pictured right



## GROBY YOUTH THEATRE

Starts on Wednesday 10 September 2014

**When:** Every Wednesday in term time 3.20pm - 5.00pm

**Where:** Brookvale Drama Studio

**Who:** Anyone that enjoys drama from Year 7 to Year 11

Come along and join in the fun of Groby Youth Theatre. You will develop your performance skills and we will work on devised pieces, script work and theatre in education. There are opportunities to perform and many opportunities for fun and laughter.

Please see Miss Smith for more details, contact Groby Community College  
Tel: 0116 287 9921 ext 253 or Email: [rsmith@grobyscoll.com](mailto:rsmith@grobyscoll.com)

## CROSS CAMPUS ORCHESTRA

Wednesday 3.15pm - 4.30pm in Groby Drama Studio,  
starting 10 September 2014

Our campus orchestra began last year and we gave our first concert at the end of last term. This group is available to any Brookvale or Groby Community College student who plays an orchestral instrument (Brass, Woodwind, String or Percussion) and doesn't matter too much about the standard that they currently are. However, if you are a beginner please let Miss White know. This term we will be continuing to develop as an ensemble, working on some new music for the Christmas concert. The orchestra does meet every week but there can be some flexibility if you are involved in other clubs.





# ATTENDANCE AT GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

If you have any queries or concerns about your child's attendance please get in touch with us: Tel: 0116 287 9921

**Mrs Lovell** : Attendance Support Officer - ext 231 (see information below and picture insert)

**Mrs Lee**: Student Services Manager - ext 286

**Mrs Howard**: Admin Assistant - ext 275

Mrs Lovell has worked in the Attendance Team for more than 15 years. Her role has expanded to include attendance improvement, previously covered by the Attendance Service for Leicestershire County Council. As well as monitoring attendance, Mrs Lovell will be liaising with parents directly and meeting with you and students to support improvement in attendance and resolve issues. Occasionally she may arrange home visits to deal with non-attendance or may refer cases for prosecution. Please support the college by contacting Mrs Lovell to discuss any aspects of your child's attendance that is a concern.



Mrs Lovell is here to help you. [alovell@grobycoll.com](mailto:alovell@grobycoll.com) or [absences@grobycoll.com](mailto:absences@grobycoll.com)

## ALL STUDENTS SHOULD AIM FOR ATTENDANCE OF 100%

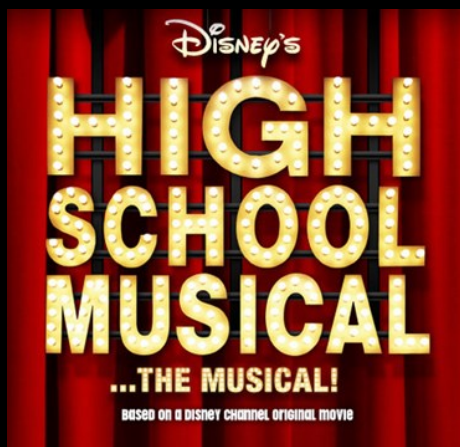
Children are at school for 190 days each year! That leaves 175 days left for other things!

- There is a clear link between attendance and achievement. Whenever a young person misses college through illness, holidays or truancy they miss out on important learning.
- Please telephone us if your son/daughter is ill and leave a message on the absence line. Please also phone on any subsequent days of illness, and for medical appointments. Where possible, please make medical appointments out of school hours.
- We will do our best to contact you on the first day of absence by text message - please telephone us in response to the message.
- We will also contact you if we have not been given a reason for an absence.

## GUIDELINES RE HOLIDAY TAKEN IN TERM TIME

New government guidelines, which came into effect on 1 September 2013, prevent Headteachers from granting any leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. A family holiday during term-time does not fall under the category of 'exceptional circumstances' and we are therefore unable to grant leave of absence for a family holiday request.

**Should parents disregard this decision and the student has absences recorded as a result of an unauthorised family holiday, Leicestershire County Council will be advised of this matter and will be requested to issue Penalty Notices in line with their policy.**



Performance dates: 10 - 13 December

## CHRISTMAS SHOW

Groby will perform the popular High School Musical as their Christmas show. This high energy production, set in an American High School will be a popular production and for the first time is open to students in Year 9-13. Rehearsals will initially run on a Monday from 3.30pm – 5.30pm with additional rehearsal during lunchtimes. All students involved will be provided with a rehearsal schedule.

Any Year 9 students wishing to be part of the production must also be part of the Brookvale show. This is not offered as an alternative.

Auditions begin with a 3 week workshop with acting and singing audition for those wishing to go for a main role.

**8 September, 3.30pm – 5.30pm Audition Workshop**

Students wishing to take on a performing role will be required to attend the above audition.

# SPORTS DAY 2014

Sports Day was held on Wednesday 25 June 2014 in beautiful sunshine. Athletics events were held in the morning, with an afternoon full of sports events for all students. The students were fantastic and participated in all the events with commitment and enthusiasm. It was a fantastic day, with all houses superbly represented and all staff helping to run and organise activities.

RESULTS	U16 Boys	U16 Girls	U18 Boys
100m	12.17 secs	14.89 secs	13.05 secs
	Harry Johnson (BE)	Leonie Martin (BI)	Harry Turner (BI)
200m	24.45 secs	30.32 secs	26.72 secs
	Dan Simandi-Curtis (BE)	Lucy Copp (BI)	Tom Mathews (BI)
400m	1:00.67 mins		1:06.52 mins
	Dan Simandi-Curtis (BE)	Megan Carter (BI)	Harry Turner (BI)
800m	2:31.81 mins	3:27.64 mins	2:23.91 mins
	Isaac Berryman (BI)	Leonie Martin (BI)	Alex Percy (BR)
4x100m	51.42 secs	1:03.55 mins	56.69 secs
	Beacon	Beacon	Birch
Shot	10.44m	5.86m	11.14m
	Harry Johnson (BE)	Taylor Gilbert (BE)	Ellis Kube (BR)
Discus	20.70m	12.46m	19.35m
	Connor Liquorish (BR)	Megan Carter (BI)	Ellis Kube (BR)
Javelin	32.18m	13.24m	
	Storm Duggan (BA)	Meg Little (BE)	
Triple Jump	10.69m	6.35m	
	Charley Morton (BI)	Megan Carter (BI)	
Long Jump	5.25m	4.25m	
	Reece Drewery-White (BR)	Lucy Copp (BI)	



Beacon won the boys and girls tug-of-war competitions, but Birch house took the overall victory for the second successive year.



# ANNUAL SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENING

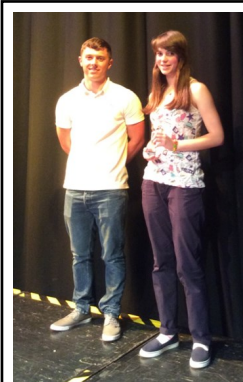
The annual Sports Presentation Evening, in recognition of the commitment and sporting success of our students, was held in the Drama Studio on Friday 20 June. George Lovell, former student and elite level gymnast, (pictured right), kindly agreed to present the awards and delivered an inspirational closing speech. Every student that has taken part in extra-curricular sport at Groby received a medal and we also awarded an 'Outstanding Contribution Award' in each sport.



'Sportswoman of the Year' was presented to **Hannah Cox (BESF)** after another successful season on many fronts. Hannah has again represented Leicestershire at the English Schools Cross-Country Championships and ran the London mini-marathon. She is British Schools Score and Championship orienteering champion and has been selected to represent Great Britain at the 2014 Youth Orienteering Championship in Macedonia and tour Stockholm with the Great Britain talent squad.



'Sportsman of the Year' went to **Sam Preston (BRNO)** for his success in football this season. Sam has captained the U18 football team at Groby leading them to a relatively successful season, featuring a prolonged run in the ESFA National Cup. He was also part of the St. Andrews FC side that was one game from Wembley after a FA Vase semi-final loss to West Auckland Town.



This year we also presented a special 'Outstanding Achievement Award' to **Lucy Whitfield (BABY/BE)** to celebrate her status as a World Champion in karate. Lucy won Gold in the Kata at the WIKF World Championships in September last year.



The 'Winter Cup' was won by **Alex Percy (BRNO)** due to the fantastic commitment he has shown towards cross-country during his 3 years at Groby. He has run every race in the Leicestershire Schools Cross Country League, achieving some good results. Next year he will be at the top end of the Senior age group and we look forward to following his progress.



The 'John Hodgess Sporting Achievement Trophy', which was presented by John's sister Rebecca, was awarded to **Ellie Turner (BEFD)**. Ellie has made a huge contribution to sport while at Groby, representing the college in rugby and netball. She has also played football and basketball within the extra-curricular programme and refereed numerous football games for our feeder schools.

The 'Daryl Rimington Commemorative Award' was awarded to **Jack Allen (BESF)** in recognition of the fact that he has participated in an array of different activities this year. He has represented the school in both football and badminton this year. Jack has also been involved in extra-curricular basketball and refereed football games for our feeder primary schools.



## GEORGE BATES - EUROPEAN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL CHAMPION

Former student George Bates represented Great Britain in the U22 Wheelchair Basketball in Zaragoza and the team WON and are European champions!

**Congratulations George!**

## AUTUMN TERM KEY DIARY DATES

- Tuesday & Wednesday 26 & 27 August ● Teacher Days - no students in college
- Thursday 28 August ● Years 10 and 11 start
- Monday 1 September ● Year 13 start
- Wednesday 3 September ● Year 12 start
- Wednesday 3 September ● Photos Year 10 and Year 12
- Tuesday 9 September ● Year 10 Parent Induction meeting 6.30pm - 7.30pm
- Thursday 11 September ● Year 12 Parent Induction meeting 6pm - 8pm
- Tuesday 16 September ● Ecuador Galapagos 2016 Expedition 6.30pm in the Drama Studio
- Wednesday 17 September ● Presentation to Year 9 parents and students Brookvale 6.30pm
- Thursday 18 September ● Annual Awards Evening 7 - 8pm (ex Y11 & Y13 students)
- Thursday 25 September ● Commit to Success parents meeting 7pm - 8pm
- Thursday 2 October ● Open Evening for Year 9 parents and students 6pm - 8pm
- Monday 6 October ● Year 13 annual full reports issued
- Wednesday 8 October ● Parents/Carers' Forum 7pm - 8pm
- Thursday 9 October ● Year 11 Careers' Evening 6pm - 8pm
- Monday 13 October ● Year 10, 11 & 12 interim reports issued
- Friday 17 October ● COLLEGE CLOSED to students for Teacher Day 3

### MONDAY 20 - FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER ● MID TERM BREAK

- Thursday 6 November ● Post 16 Open Evening 6pm - 8pm
- Tuesday 18 November ● Year 13 Subject and Tutor afternoon/evening 4pm - 7pm
- Monday 1 December ● Year 11 annual full reports issued
- Monday 8 December ● Year 10 & 13 interim reports issued via students
- Wednesday 10 - Saturday 13 December ● Christmas Show
- Friday 19 December ● College closes at 1.20pm in line with Brookvale High School

### MONDAY 22 - FRIDAY 2 JANUARY ● CHRISTMAS BREAK

## SPRING TERM DATES 2014 - 15

Open	Monday 5 January 2015 (This is <b>NOT</b> a teacher day)
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16 to Friday 20 February 2015
Close	Friday 27 March 2015 (3.10pm finish)

## REPROGRAPHICS SERVICE

Reprographic service available here at Groby Community College include:

- Design work undertaken at very competitive rates
- Booklet maker
- Laminating (up to A3)
- Comb binding
- Large format colour printing up to A1

For more information contact:

**Mrs Jarvis Tel 0116 281 7002 or reprographics@grobyscoll.com**



**GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
Achieving Excellence Together