

# The Greater Horseshoe School



2023-2026

July 2024: Issue 36

## Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Summer Holiday everyone!

The final newsletter of this academic year. It has been another great year with lots happening in school as you will have seen on seesaw and previous newsletters.

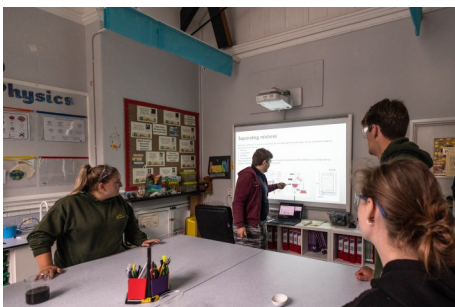
Recently, we have held our celebration event and our leavers are all ready to move on to their new colleges and employment. I am really impressed with their achievements this year, the outcomes at the Greater Horseshoe School are fantastic.

Thank you to everyone who came to our Summer Fair! I really enjoyed seeing so many of our families spending an afternoon together and enjoying the activities offered by our staff and students. We are raising funds for a defibrillator at Chipley, and your participation brings us closer to achieving that goal. On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to say thank you to Tarnia for her generous donation of a defibrillator, which will be placed at Musers.

Your child's yearly report will be sent home by Friday 2nd August.

Students return to school on Wednesday 4th September.

Lukasz and the Team



**ACORN EDUCATION  
AND CARE**

The Greater Horseshoe School

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The Greater  
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# The Greater Horseshoe School



## Sports Day

The sports day at The Greater Horseshoe School playing field was a resounding success, with over 20 children participating, including a good mix of boys and girls. It was particularly heartening to see many children from the Chipley Mill site joining in the fun, adding to the community spirit of the event. The event was filled with a variety of active and physical challenges, ensuring there was something for everyone. Events included a middle-distance run, where students tested their endurance, and javelin which focused on distance throwing, strength and technique. The football skills competition brought out the competitive spirit in many, while numerous other team and individual events kept everyone engaged and excited.

Throughout, the atmosphere was positive and inclusive. The sportsmanship and peer encouragement displayed by all participants was great to see. Teaching staff also got involved and the PE team were impressed by the enthusiasm and determination of all who took part. Although we ran out of time and couldn't finish with the planned big game of rounders, it gave us something to look forward to next year. The event concluded with everyone receiving a certificate and praise for getting involved. Our sports days are not just about being competitive, they're about community, effort, and the joy of participating in physical activities together. Well done to all!





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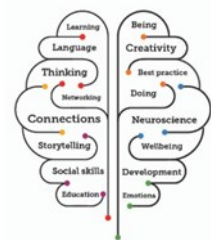
## Therapies Team

There have been several developments within the Therapies team this term!



Holly, our Family Thrive practitioner, delivered our first Family Thrive course designed to support families wishing to learn more about the Thrive Approach and its practical everyday application to family life. The course was enjoyed by those who attended and has assisted us in further supporting our young people at the school.

We will be offering more Family Thrive courses in the future. If you are interested in joining us please could you contact Holly ([holly.crossing@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk](mailto:holly.crossing@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk)).



We would like to welcome Mandy to the Thrive team. She has started her Thrive practitioner training and will be continuing with this next term.



Danny has completed his Thrive practitioner training and is looking forward to working with more of our young people in September.



We will no longer have Abi supporting Thrive sessions in school as she has been appointed to the new role of Therapies Assistant within the school. Abi, we are grateful for everything you have brought to the team and look forward to working with you in your new role!



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## Exciting Adventures on the France Residential Trip

This year's residential trip to France was a resounding success, offering our students a mix of adventure, learning, and cultural experiences. Our journey took us to the beautiful Ardèche region, renowned for its stunning landscapes and thrilling outdoor activities.

One of the highlights of the trip was kayaking down the majestic Ardèche River. Our students showed incredible teamwork and perseverance as they navigated the river's twists and turns. For many, it was their first time kayaking, and their enthusiasm and determination were truly commendable. Despite a few splashes and some challenging currents, everyone had an amazing time and came away with new skills and unforgettable memories.

In addition to kayaking, the students faced their fears and tested their limits on the high ropes course. Suspended high above the ground, they tackled a series of obstacles that required balance, coordination, and a lot of courage. It was fantastic to see the students supporting each other, cheering on their peers, and celebrating each successful challenge together.

The adventure began the moment we boarded the flight. For many students, it was their first time flying, adding an extra layer of excitement to the trip. The flight experience was smooth and enjoyable, setting a positive tone for the days ahead. Exploring a new country, trying out a different language, and experiencing French culture first hand was an enriching experience for everyone.

Overall, the trip was not just about adventure but also about growth, both individually and as a group. The students returned home with a sense of accomplishment, stronger friendships, and a deeper appreciation for travel and new experiences.

We are incredibly proud of how well our students represented the school and how they embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and resilience. A big thank you to the staff who organized the trip and ensured everything ran smoothly. We look forward to more such enriching experiences in the future!





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## Music

It has been an exciting end to the year for our Band Club & RSL music students in which they have had an amazing opportunity to perform at a bespoke venue: The Jamming Station in Totnes. These students all prepared incredible sets with repertoire from rock, pop, punk & acoustic music. All of the bands performed with high energy and focus to share their hard work to an audience of friends and family. It's been delightful to have hosted this event with the Musers team and to see all of our students continue to improve their musical talents every term!





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## Art

Our recent graffiti workshop provided an opportunity for students to learn about different techniques of graffiti. Guided by a visiting artist, students explored a variety of styles and methods, experimenting with vibrant colours and dynamic designs. This hands-on experience helped them express their creativity and see urban art as a meaningful form of expression. The students created colourful and unique pieces, showing their understanding of art and growing confidence. It was fantastic to see students actively engage and experiment with a new art form!





# The Greater Horseshoe School



## Exams

A huge well done to students who have sat examinations this year. We have had a record number of entries this year with more students completing qualifications from Entry Levels, Functional Skills, GCSE, BTEC, City and Guilds and Level 3 maths in context.

**Results day** for all of our exams will be at the main school site, where students will be able to collect their exam results between 10am and 12pm on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024. Any results not collected will be posted to the student's home address on the same day. It would be great if students can come along and collect their results to celebrate the hard work they have put in.

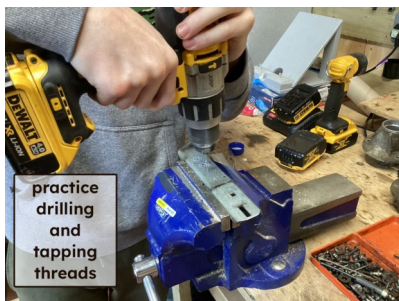
Functional Skills exam results will be released on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

GCSE and Entry Level results will be released on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024

Both can be collected on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

## Futures

This year we are sorry to say goodbye to some students who have been with us and are now moving on to the next stages in their lives. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of you and wish you the very best in the future! The school will support with transitions for students to make sure that the move to their next placements goes smoothly and supportive for them. This year we have students who have gained placements or working towards placements at Exeter College, South Devon College, LifeWorks at Dartington, Bicton College, employment and one student remaining for a supported internship at the school. Very well done!



practice drilling and tapping threads



some weeding at the football pitch



Moving feed bags



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## Food Tech

To celebrate the students' residential trip to Poland, I thought it would be a fun activity for the children to design and make their own "Pierogi". They had a selection of foods and flavourings to choose from.

Here are some photos of the day. We had judges to taste the dumplings, even one from Poland !!! Many thanks to all that helped and took part.





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## Animals

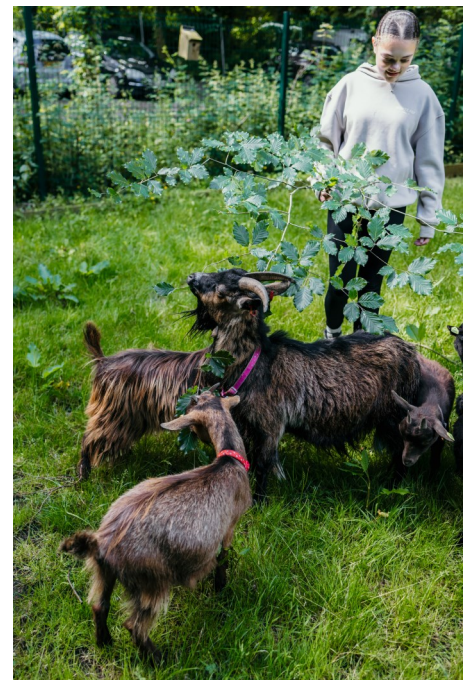
This term we have increased the number of Guinea Pigs we have on site. One of the activities at the summer fair was to name the four new male guinea pigs. I am delighted to share with you their new names – Biscoff, Almond, Mandalorian and Brownie.

The pigs have enjoyed having students visit them, where Dotty has continued to enjoy tummy tickle time. They have enjoyed having the variety of the large outdoor enclosures to roam around in the trees for shade, or sunbathe in the mud on the few days where we have had dry weather.

The older students have continued with their City and Guilds qualification where we attend Pennywell Farm. They have worked with a wide range of animals including hedgehogs, mice, tortoises, chickens, ferrets, giant rabbits, guinea pigs, goats and sheep.

This term students have been assisting with looking after the animals, making sure their needs are met and health is checked daily. They have learnt about domestic pet welfare, farm animal care, caring for rabbits and guinea pigs or working independently in animal care.

In September students will be looking at farm, handling goats, rabbits, paring goats' toenails or looking at maintaining the safety of self and others in the workplace.





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## Slapton Residential Trip 2024

In the second week of July we set off on our residential trip to Slapton with 14 intrepid explorers and eight staff. The group consisted of 14 KS3 students who have been studying Geography or Environmental subjects, nine who came last year and five first timers.

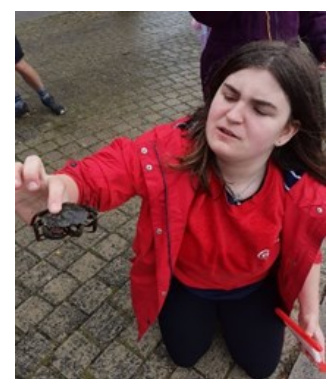
We were staying in the Start Bay Centre, run by the Field Studies Council, for two nights. The centre used to be the old village school but is now a lovely residential centre, where we were the only group so we had full run of the buildings, garden and low ropes course, and had some great food cooked by the centre staff.

All the students participated in a wide range of activities. The first day we stopped in Dartmouth for some crabbing followed by lunch in the park, where those brave enough tasted some local crab, mussels and cockles. The afternoon was a stop at Slapton Sands for some beach fun and ice cream before settling into the centre and their rooms. In the evening we went for a very soggy walk in the woods, and despite the rain there were lots of smiling and happy faces.

The second day plan was to head to Start Point, but due to the weather and a blocked road, we made a quick detour to the beach at Beesands. The students then went on a clifftop walk to Hallsands, where some students did scavenger hunts and others tried their hand at fishing. In the afternoon some of the students decided to brave the chilly water and go for a swim in the sea.

The last day was a walk through the nature reserve to Slapton Ley for some pond dipping, lunch on the beach before one final ice cream and the trip back to school.

Despite the less than ideal weather conditions all the students gave everything a go with smiles on their faces and did themselves and the school proud. A good time was had by all – students and staff. Thanks to everyone involved in a great trip.





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## Summer Fair and Aspirations event

On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July the Summer Fair took place and had a special focus on future aspirations. The aim was to have lots of fun whilst prompting discussions about aspirations, dream jobs and hopes for the future. Each of our curriculum subjects had activities to link them with future careers to start pupils thinking about their strengths and preferences.

Here is a selection of the activities on offer;

Mark from Lifeworks which is a provider for SEN pupils ages 16-24 years offering an innovative programme of personal, social and vocational education.



John from the RNLI, talking about the service they provide and about volunteering opportunities. There was a race to see who could put on the Lifeboat outfit on the quickest!



Our own Sarah South giving invaluable family support information



Annabel from the ASK Programme which is funded by the Department for Education and aims to support schools and colleges in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels amongst students, parents, carers, teachers and careers advisers.

John, a Police Community Support Officer, telling pupils about the police service as a career and making fingerprint keyrings for them.





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## Family Support

I can't believe we are at the end of another school year! Our students (and staff) have had a busy term with residential, trips, the summer fair, sharings and end of year events, as well as all the learning and achievements they have completed! I am sure they are all ready for a well-earned break! We will, of course, be sad to see some of our students (and families) leaving us, as they embark on their next exciting adventure, but wish them well and hope that they continue to flourish and achieve their ambitions and goals for their future. For those who are remaining with us, we look forward to seeing them return in September and for another exciting school year. ☺

The holidays, for some of our young people, can be particularly tricky as they struggle with a lack of routine and changes so here are some tips to help:

Try to keep to a routine where possible e.g. bedtimes, mealtimes etc

Have a visual calendar so they are able to see and prepare for events e.g. the return to school/days out

Use a social story to aid preparation for changes, transitions, rewards.

Try to organise some activities throughout the holidays..

Please keep looking out for emails on upcoming events, support services, courses and funding as during the I will continue to send out information about what is available for families but, should you have any specific worries or issues that you would like to discuss, then please get in touch. You can contact me directly by email on [SarahS@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk](mailto:SarahS@enhancedlearningservices.co.uk) and I am also available to contact on 07435 815755, from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Tuesday to Friday, during term time.

## Support Services during the holidays

During the holidays, there are several services which you will be able to contact for support and advice, should you need it:

The Devon Information and Advice (DIAS) service is a really helpful resource to look at. DIAS provide specific advice, links and guidance to families for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability. <https://devonias.org.uk>

[Devon Connect](#) lists events, services, and volunteering opportunities provided by not-for-profit organisations across Devon.

[Give Food](#) enables you to find the nearest foodbank.

[Devon Services](#) lists public and community service providers.

[Buy with Confidence](#) provides a register of businesses that have been thoroughly vetted and approved by Trading Standards.

[Devon Communities Together](#) provide a range of information, including a list of village halls across Devon.



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For services in Torbay, please visit the Torbay Council website [www.torbay.gov.uk](http://www.torbay.gov.uk) .

For services in Plymouth, please visit the Plymouth Online Directory [Plymouth Online Directory - Plymouth Online Directory](#) .

If a child or young person (under 18) is experiencing a mental health crisis, you can now access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) 24/7. Please contact 03300 245 321 during normal hours (8am-5pm, Mon to Fri) or 0300 555 5000 outside these hours. You can now also ring 111 to access mental ill health support. There are also services such as Shout, Kooth and Young Devon, who are able to support young people with mental health needs.

<https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/> for parents of children aged 0 – 19 to get in touch to ask questions and talk 1-1 about any parenting questions.

The NSPCC also have lots of information and advice on how to support children in young people, particularly if you have a concern about them. Please visit their website on [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) .

If you are concerned about the safety of a child in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child worried about your own safety, contact the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0345 155 1071 or email [mashsecure@devon.gov.uk](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) and give as much information as you can.

If your child is at immediate risk [ring 999](#)

## Online issues and cyberbullying

During the holidays, many young people spend more time online. Although the internet is a wonderful tool, it does come with some issues and risks.

It may be that you, or your child, come across something upsetting or concerning online. It is important that you feel confident about what to do if you do see something inappropriate online, or if your child tells you they've seen something. There are several agencies that can support you including the NSPCC, UK Internet Safety Centre and CEOP.

If you're worried about something a child or young person may have experienced online, you can contact the NSPCC Helpline, for free support and advice, by calling [0808 800 5000](tel:08088005000) or emailing [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk). Due to an increase in demand across the service, **the voice Helpline is currently available 10am–2pm Monday to Friday**. You can still email [help@NSPCC.org.uk](mailto:help@NSPCC.org.uk) at any time for free, and you don't have to say who you are. If your child needs more support, they can contact [Childline](#) on 0800 1111 or visiting the website to get advice on other ways to get support.

You can also contact the police if you have a concern. CEOP works to keep children safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. You can make a report if you are concerned that a child is being sexually abused or groomed online. This might be from someone they know or someone they have only ever met online. They also have lots of useful information on their website [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) . Things you can report to CEOP are:

- I am worried a child is being groomed online
- A child has shared a nude picture online and is now being threatened
- A child is meeting up with someone they met online
- A child has been asked to live-stream by people they do not know
- I've noticed changes in a child's behaviour which I think may be due to someone they met online
- A child has learning difficulties and I am worried about the people they are talking to online



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## Know when to report

If you or your child has seen something online that is illegal, upsetting or harmful, then it is always best to report it. Remember, illegal content includes sexual images of under 18s and unlawful terrorist content. You can also report something that may be legal but is still considered harmful such as content that includes bullying, self-harm or suicide, impersonation, online abuse, threats, violence, unwanted sexual advances or pornographic content.

## Report to the correct place

Depending on the content, reports need to go to specific places for the correct support. If you want to report child sexual abuse material, go to the [Internet Watch Foundation](#). If it is terrorist content, visit [ACT \(Action Counters Terrorism\)](#). Many online platforms also have reporting functions available to users. Make sure you utilize these when experiencing harmful online content. You can go to [Report Harmful Content](#) to find out how to report across some of the most well-known social media sites and other popular online platforms.

## Understand community guidelines

Many online platforms will have their own [community guidelines](#) when it comes to harmful online content. If you are looking to report a piece of content, it must violate the platforms community guidelines in order to be taken down. Familiarise yourself with each platform's expectations towards behaviours and understand why certain reports will be actioned and others may not. If you have made an unsuccessful report but still feel it violates community standards, you can then visit [Report Harmful Content](#) for further escalation and review.

## Encourage reporting

Reporting is a practice that can work towards making the internet a safer place for all. Ignoring a piece of harmful online content can lead towards others experiencing this type of harm. Encourage discussion around the importance of children and young people reporting upsetting content to a parent, carer, or trusted adult. This can add to further awareness and critical thought around what is harmful online content and ways we can all tackle it.

## Sextortion

Sexually coerced extortion (or 'sextortion') is a type of blackmail where someone tries to use intimate, naked or sexual photos or videos of you to make you do things you don't want to do. Sometimes, these photos or videos are taken without your knowledge, and the person blackmailing you uses them to force you to pay money or do something against your will.

Criminals often target people who use dating apps, social media platforms, webcam/live streaming sites or websites related to pornography. They might pretend to be someone else online and become friends with you. Later, they might threaten to share pictures or videos with your family and friends.

Remember, if you ever find yourself in a situation like this, it's important to know that the victims of 'sextortion' are never to blame. The criminals who try to extort money or make victims do things they don't want to do are the ones at fault.

## What to do if you, your child or a friend are a victim of sextortion

It may be a very distressing and anxious time for you.

Don't blame yourself or your child – these schemes are very convincing and sophisticated, and sadly are becoming more and more common. You are not alone in experiencing this.

For more advice and guidance on what to do, please visit the Internet Warch Foundation [Help if you're worried about 'sextortion' or online blackmail \(iwf.org.uk\)](#) .