

GCA END OF YEAR NEWS

As the end of the school year draws near, we wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been a full, vibrant and very successful year at Godmanchester Community Academy. The final weeks of term are always a time of mixed emotions – pride in how far our pupils have come, excitement for the celebrations ahead, and a touch of sadness as we prepare to say farewell to members of our school community who are moving on.

None of the achievements of this year would have been possible without the steadfast support of you – our parents and carers. Your encouragement, involvement and trust mean a great deal to all of us, and we are sincerely grateful.

Year 6 – Pride, Progress and Performances

We must begin by giving a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with admirable maturity, determination and a real sense of calm. We are incredibly proud of how they conducted themselves and supported one another through a challenging period.

As we head into their final few weeks at primary school, there is much to look forward to – their residential trip, the much-anticipated end-of-year production, and of course, the Leavers' Assembly. These events are sure to be a celebration of everything they have achieved, and we look forward to marking this important milestone with them.

Fond Farewells

We have a number of staff members who will be leaving us at the end of term. Each has made a significant and lasting contribution to our school community, and it is with both sadness and immense gratitude that we say goodbye.

- Miss Desmond, our much-loved Deputy Head, will be relocating to be closer to her family. After nine years of dedicated service to GCA, she leaves behind a truly remarkable legacy. Her care, commitment and tireless focus on the needs of children have made a profound impact on pupils, staff and families alike. She will be greatly missed, but we wish her every happiness in this new chapter.
- Mrs Vajzovic, our wonderful Year 1 teacher, will also be moving on. Over the years, she has played a vital role in shaping our RE curriculum and more recently has led the school council with passion and creativity. Previously a familiar face in lower Key Stage 2, she brought her experience and warmth into Key Stage 1 with great success. Her cheerfulness, diligence and unwavering support of both school and wider community will be fondly remembered.
- Mrs Hamilton, Year 6 teacher and computing lead, has had a transformative effect on our computing curriculum and provision. She has also been instrumental in the running of the PTA, helping to raise tens of thousands of pounds for the school over the years. Her humour, generosity and absolute commitment to giving children the best possible experience at school have left a lasting impression.
- Miss Bullman, currently teaching in Year 2, is relocating at the end of term. Since joining GCA, she has been calm, thoughtful and consistently kind. Her positive outlook, cheery smile and dedication to pupil wellbeing have all made a great difference in her time with us.
- Mrs Sotrines, HLTA, is retiring after more than 20 years of service to the school. She has supported children across all age groups, brightened our corridors with her artwork, and shown incredible flexibility and loyalty. We know she'll be kept busy by her grandchildren, and we wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.
- Mr Johnston, TA and former HLTA, has brought a quiet and gentle approach to supporting pupils and has been a valued member of the team. He has been adaptable, humorous, and wholly committed – and will be very much missed.
- Mrs Baker, SEND administrator, has been a fantastic support to Miss Pauley in her first year as SENDCo. Her wealth of knowledge and organisational flair have helped to streamline systems and improve processes. We are so grateful for her contribution and wish her every success in her next role.
- We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Warrior, who has supported pupils at GCA for well over a decade as a volunteer, particularly in reading and small group work. Her generosity of time and spirit has made a difference to so many children.

To each of these individuals – thank you. Your commitment, care and contributions have helped make GCA the school it is today. We hope you take with you fond memories and a strong connection to our values of kindness and hard work.

New Faces, New Beginnings

As we say farewell to much-loved members of staff, we also look forward to welcoming some wonderful new colleagues to the team in September.

- Mr Chris Dorey will be joining us as our new Deputy Headteacher. Chris comes to us from Crosshall Junior School, where he has had a significant impact on teaching and learning across Key Stage 2. He brings with him a great deal of experience, a sharp eye for curriculum development, and a genuine passion for working with pupils, families and staff alike. Chris is known for his energy, warmth and positivity, and is particularly interested in pupil voice and creating a vibrant learning environment. We are thrilled that he is joining the team and know he will be an excellent addition to GCA. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet Chris early in the autumn term.

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- Mrs Chelland will be joining the Year 6 team. She is a highly experienced teacher who has taught across the primary age range and brings a fresh perspective to our upper Key Stage 2 curriculum.
- Miss Spencer, our new Year 2 teacher, joins us as an Early Career Teacher following a very successful teacher training year, with a particular focus on Key Stage 1. She brings with her a calm, thoughtful approach and a genuine passion for supporting all learners.
- Mrs Lunn, who many of you may remember, returns to GCA as a Teaching Assistant after time working for the NHS. We're so pleased to welcome her back – she brings a wealth of experience and a great deal of warmth and compassion.
- Mrs Mourton, also joining as a TA, brings a strong background in supporting children with a range of additional needs, and has worked with pupils across the primary age range.
- Miss King will begin her first TA role with us in September – and as a former GCA pupil, we're especially proud to welcome her back to the school where it all began. Her kindness and enthusiasm were evident from the outset.

End-of-Term Celebration – Whole School Farewell Picnic

We are very much looking forward to our end-of-year celebration on Monday 21st July in the afternoon. All pupils are invited to bring a packed lunch (or pre-order a school cold lunch) to enjoy a whole-school picnic outside with their class. During the picnic, each year group will perform a short showcase of their learning – from songs to dances, stories to poems – and we'll take the opportunity to say a fond farewell to our leavers, both pupils and staff. We'll also announce the winner of the Tester Cup and hold the final of the much-anticipated Year 6 Tug of War. More details will be shared next week, including how to order a cold school lunch, and we'll be keeping a close eye on the weather forecast just in case a change of plan is needed.

Looking Ahead to 2025/26

There are many exciting developments on the horizon for the next academic year, including:

- Forest School – We are thrilled to share that Mrs Hill will be taking on the role of Forest School Leader. Pupils in Reception and Year 1 will now benefit from year-round Forest School sessions, while Year 2 will enjoy a term of sessions. It will also continue to run as an intervention or alternative provision for identified pupils across the school. Further communications will follow for parents and carers of Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils with more information about what to expect and how to prepare.
- Apple Tree Class – Our current Hub provision will move into a more central location within the main school building and be renamed 'Apple Tree Class'. This space will continue to offer a bespoke curriculum for a small number of pupils, as well as targeted interventions and support.
- Toilet Renovations – We're very pleased to confirm that two long-overdue toilet blocks (Year 2 and Lower KS2) will be refurbished. This will make a real difference to our learning environment and the comfort of our children.
- ... and much, much more to look forward to!

Thank You

As always, we end the year full of gratitude. Thank you for being such a vital part of the GCA community. Your support makes everything we do possible, and we are so proud of the strong partnerships we have with our families. A final communication with practical information for September will be sent out before the end of term. With warmest wishes,

Tess Fielden and Emma Smith