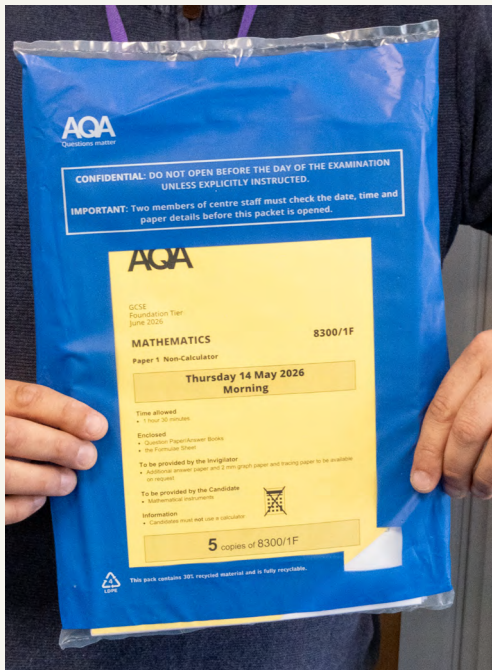


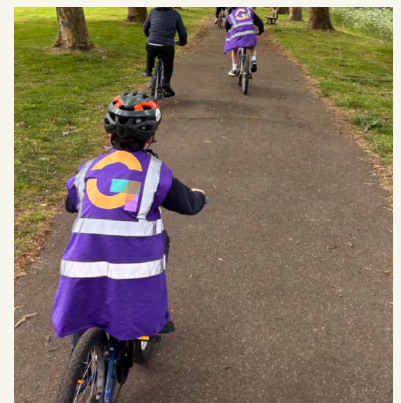
First Exams at Gesher



It has been 9 years since we opened our doors at Gesher and our first year 11 cohort have made history at Gesher this year. As a result of their dedication and commitment to their studies, we have started our first GCSE cycle, have completed our first round of Functional Skills examinations levels 1 and 2, have received our first certificates for finishing Unit Awards; are submitting coursework for our first set of Entry Level certificates (ELC's), and are awaiting moderation for our first band of Foundation Project Qualifications (FPQ's). We are extremely proud of every student who took part in these inaugural qualifications and the manner in which they have approached their first set of exams. We are also very proud of the maturity of their peers throughout secondary who have supported them throughout the examination periods and the manner in which their attitudes and effort to their own learning has improved as a result. What an amazing achievement and well done to all involved.

Bikeability

We had a brilliant week last week delivering our annual Bikeability cycle training with Cycle Confident, supported by Harrow Council. Across the week, students built their core cycling skills, from balance and pedalling through to stopping, turning, and controlling speed with growing confidence and control. It has been especially rewarding to see these skills transferred beyond the Gesher environment, with some students enjoying a visit to the park and cycling along quiet roads, beginning to develop road awareness and confidence in navigating their surroundings. The students loved their week of cycling, developing valuable life skills, perseverance, and growing confidence in themselves and their cycling abilities with many students already asking about Bikeability next year!



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21st May 2026

Student Voice: VE Day



On Thursday 8th May, our school came together to acknowledge and commemorate VE Day. Students enjoyed a street party-inspired picnic lunch featuring sandwiches, veggie sticks, and jam tarts, while the hall was decorated with British flags to mark the occasion.

As part of the day, students listened to a special voice recording from Miss Tash's Grandparents, who shared their memories and experiences of the war, including rationing and the mixed emotions felt across Europe as people celebrated the end of the war, whilst also grieving and remembering the devastating losses suffered.

Secondary students explored the history of the period through creative activities, designing propaganda posters and newspaper front covers reflecting on the war and its ending. The day provided a meaningful opportunity for students to learn, reflect, and remember the importance of peace and resilience. Frankie: 'It was interesting learning about how excited people were about eating bananas! Rafi: 'We made British flags and watched a video with Prime Minister Mr Winston Churchill Zephania: 'Colouring in the flag and our picnic lunch were both my favourite things!'

Student Voice: Secondary uniform

Bea, one of our Year 11 students, identified a need for an update to the uniform and approached Miss Tammy to discuss ways to make the secondary uniform more accessible. This included considerations for the colour palette, materials, and overall comfort. Bea gathered feedback from several primary and secondary students regarding the uniforms. After careful consideration and two meetings with our supplier, Karolos (Lana Catone), the new range of secondary uniforms has been launched and is now open for purchase. Miss Tammy hopes that these changes will make more secondary students feel comfortable in their uniforms, as they now have further options to choose from based on their preferences.

'I hope that these changes will help more students to wear the uniform and get to represent Geshher proudly. It is so cool that I have gotten the chance to leave this at Geshher' - Bea



Kodesh Corner:

Wishing Mazal Tov to Coby, Susie and Ross Petar on their recent Bar-mitzvah at Geshher. It was wonderful for us to share this simcha (celebration) with you all. We wish Coby tremendous Bracha (blessing), Simcha (happiness), and Hatzlacha (luck) in his Jewish adult life and may he continue to go from strength to strength.

This Thursday night until Saturday evening is Shavuot (Receiving the Torah festival), one of the main chagim (festivals) 'mentioned' in the Torah. A time to celebrate with dairy food, flowers and all-night learning. Interestingly, Shavuot does not actually translate to 'Receiving the Torah', but means 'weeks' referring to the culmination of the 7 weeks (49 days) of counting from when the Jewish people left Egypt as slaves to the stage that they had grown and were ready to receive the Torah. An idea given for this is that, although the receiving of the Torah was a supernatural and historic event that is one of the key focal points of the Jewish year, it is not the destination that matters, rather it is the journey of how we get there and who we become as a result. Furthermore, the Torah is not something we should celebrate once a year but actually imbue into our daily way of life so that each year it is a celebration of the growth and development of our actions, behaviour and character according to the Torah values and Mitzvot. Therefore, may Hashem give us the ability to appreciate and value the journey we are on in life and the people within the journey rather than focusing on a certain goal or destination. Chag Sameach (Happy Shavuot), Shabbat Shalom and have a great half term.

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21st May 2026

Announcements:

Staff News:

We are saying goodbye to Miss Vanessa, who has been working in the school office, and Miss Zahra, who supported the media team, as they leave us to take up new positions. We wish them all the best in their new roles and thank them for their support of our school community.

Family Support Worker

Parent Support Group - Thursday 4th June

We are pleased to invite parents and carers to a Parent Support Group held at the school on Thursday 4th June at 9:30am - 11.00am facilitated by Alison Riffkin, Norwood Family Support Worker. This group will address some of the issues you may be experiencing around parenting support, implementing routines and structure at home, toileting, eating and sleeping. Alison can share the benefit of her experience but also welcomes parents to share ideas and strategies with each other.

Please let us know who will be attending by emailing: admin@gesherschool.com

Family Support Worker - Survey

To help us shape this provision we would be very grateful if you could complete a short survey to help us understand which topics and session formats would be most useful for our families.

Please complete the survey here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccQNOOgRS-gK-UPLDaP16Akz0k8XI3D8P4OtsVYdD2rCUBw/viewform?usp=header>

The survey will take just a few minutes to complete. Thank you for your time and support.

A Message from the Children's Commissioner, Rachel de Souza

Hi, my name is Rachel and my job is to hear from all children and young people in England.

As the Children's Commissioner I've launched this survey so you can have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today. I will take your views to the Government, to help them make life better for children.

Everything you tell me will be kept private. You don't have to answer any question if you don't want to. There are no right or wrong answers. Just answer honestly!

To find out more, visit my [website](#)

If your child would like to complete the survey, please use this link or there is a QR code on the website. <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

Conversation Corner:

The suggestions of Primary and Secondary conversation starters are for a guideline only, please do feel free to use both suggestions with your families. If you have any great ideas for conversation starters please do send them in to Miss Victoria

victoria.rutter@gesherschool.com

Primary:

Ask me what made me laugh today.

Ask me about something new I learned.

Ask me who I was kind to today.

Ask me about something tricky I did by myself.

Ask me what made me feel proud today.

Secondary:

Ask me about something that made me laugh this week.

Ask me about something I have learned that surprised me.

Ask me who I helped this week.

Ask me about a challenge I overcame this week.

Ask me what I'm most proud of this week.

External Professional Support Services

Norwood

Norwood provides a range of early intervention groups and services and specialist help and advice to neurodiverse children and their families.

They provide a range of group and individual support to provide parents and grandparents with the skills and resilience to manage difficult circumstances and meet the needs of their children. They also have a range of groups and courses for families. <https://norwood.org.uk/our-services/children-and-family-services/>

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21st May 2026

Mencap Funday - Haberdashers' Boys' School (in Hertfordshire).

Dear Gesh School,

We hope this email finds you well.

We are contacting you today to extend an invitation to your community for our annual Mencap Funday taking place on Sunday 21st June 2026 from 11:00am - 15:00pm at Haberdashers' Boys' School (in Hertfordshire).

This is a free event made specifically for children with learning disabilities that has been running for the past 10 years at our school. We are contacting you for the purpose of wondering whether you could distribute this throughout your community as we are looking for more children to sign up - we have a maximum of 100 in mind and are currently at around 70. The event is a free, 4-hour event where children will be taken around by HABS students and supported by external carers, while they can enjoy many activities. All that is required is a sign-up from parents/carers.

The Mencap Funday this year will involve (but is not limited to):

Bouncy castle/inflatable assault course
Pony riding
Balloon animals
Face painters
Magicians
Petting zoo
Ice cream & candy floss
Sensory rooms
& more..!

To register for a child to attend and to find out more information (such as the address, logistical information, etc) please click the link below:

CHILD REGISTRATION & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Habs Mencap Funday - Attendee Sign-up - Fill in form

This is a local event to your school, and we would be very grateful if you could spread the word throughout your community!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reply to this email to contact us directly. We look forward to seeing your community at our event!

Best Wishes,
The Mencap Committee @ HABS Elstree