



GYEL NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 July 2026

WELCOME TO OUR JULY 2026 GYEL NEWSLETTER!

Our goal is to keep you updated on our program sessions, guest speakers, and showcase our students' global impact projects related to the UN's SDGs. We will also share helpful tips and insights to make your college application stand out, as recommended by some of the industry's most trusted professionals.

[Read more about our program](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR OF PROGRAMS

As we begin the Summer Term at GYEL, we are delighted to welcome an enthusiastic new cohort of students who joined us last week. The energy, curiosity, and ambition they have already brought to the program have made for an exciting start, and we look forward to supporting them as they embark on their leadership journeys.

Since the start of the term, students have already immersed themselves in a range of topics that are central to understanding and addressing today's global challenges. Through their exploration of global institutions, systems thinking, and policy analysis, they are developing a deeper appreciation of how complex issues are shaped by interconnected social, political, and economic forces. Alongside this, students have begun strengthening their research, writing, and communication skills through policy brief writing and academic research projects, learning how to transform evidence and ideas into clear, persuasive arguments and practical recommendations.

These foundations will play an important role as students begin developing their capstone projects in the months ahead. This year, students will focus on designing innovative social enterprises that

address challenges they are passionate about, combining rigorous research, creative problem-solving, and entrepreneurial thinking to create solutions with meaningful and lasting impact. We are excited to see how their ideas develop over the course of the program.

The start of a new cohort always serves as a reminder of the remarkable potential that emerges when motivated young people come together with a shared commitment to learning, leadership, and service. Already, we have seen students engaging thoughtfully with one another, contributing diverse perspectives, and building the collaborative spirit that is such an important part of the GYEL experience.

As always, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated instructors, mentors, and wider GYEL team for their continued commitment to creating a challenging, supportive, and inspiring learning environment. Their expertise, enthusiasm, and care play a vital role in helping our students grow as confident leaders and engage global citizens.

We look forward to a rewarding Summer Term filled with intellectual exploration, meaningful collaboration, and the development of ideas that have the potential to create lasting impact.

Sincerely,
Ms. Hannah Kidner, Lead Instructor of Programs

SUMMER TERM 2026 UPDATES

- Summer Term 2026 has officially begun! Our students kicked off classes on June 22–23, and we are thrilled to see them begin this new term with curiosity, enthusiasm, and a passion for learning.
- Applications for Fall Term 2026 are now open! The application deadline is August 31, and classes begin in September. With spots filling quickly, we encourage all interested students to apply early and secure their place.
- We are also excited to introduce our newest course, the Planetary Health & Climate Course, launching in Fall Term 2026. This interdisciplinary program is designed to develop leadership, critical thinking, and systems-level understanding while exploring the vital connections between human health and the health of our planet.
- As we look ahead, we hope Fall Term 2026 will be a season of inspiration, meaningful growth, and opportunities to build the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to become the next generation of global leaders.

[Start your application today!](#)



GLOBAL LENS

AI IN EDUCATION & LEARNING



What is happening?

Artificial intelligence is rapidly integrating into global education systems. From AI-driven lesson planners for teachers to real-time study assistants for students, the technology is moving from a novelty to a classroom standard. However, this sudden influx is happening without standardized rules or clear safety policies.

Why does it matter?

This matters because AI drastically alters educational equity and quality. When implemented correctly, it acts as a powerful equalizer that personalizes lessons for diverse learners. When left unguided, it risks automating bias, compromising student privacy, and widening the gap between well-funded and under-resourced schools.

Why should you care?

As a learner, parent, or educator, this directly shapes the future. The skills required to thrive in a digital economy are shifting overnight. Engaging with AI thoughtfully today ensures that the next generation develops the critical thinking and ethical framework needed to control technology, rather than be controlled by it.



[Learn more](#)

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TIPS

- Do your research early and choose colleges based on fit, interests, and long-term goals, not just rankings or popularity.
- Be authentic in your application. Your essays and activities should reflect who you truly are.
- Start the process early to give yourself time to refine essays, avoid stress, and submit stronger applications.
- Consider all options, including “likely” schools and Early Action opportunities, to keep your choices open and informed.
- Understand your strengths and trust the process. There’s no perfect formula, and the best outcome comes from genuine fit.

Source: Princeton Review, "What (Not) to Do on College Applications: 8 Tips From Seniors"

GYEL FALL 2026

Enrollment Open for Fall Term until August 31st
Generous Financial Assistance Available (see website for more info)
Fall Term set to begin in the second or third week of September

[Apply today](#)

[Hear from our students](#)

SMART READS FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Explore articles that empower students and families to make informed choices about their academic and leadership journey.



WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING BETWEEN COLLEGES IN 2026

For high school seniors, the weeks between receiving acceptance letters and the May 1st Decision Day deadline are some of the most important in their academic lives. The pressure to make the right choice can feel incredibly overwhelming, particularly for students who have been accepted to multiple prestigious colleges. With job market concerns and economic pressures surging, the range of important factors that students should consider have only increased.

Choosing a college is one of the most meaningful decisions a young person will make. As such, it should be made thoughtfully, with clear eyes about what a student values and what they envision for the next phase of their lives.

Here are the most important factors students should weigh as they choose where to spend the next four years:

[Read More](#)

Student Spotlight

From Technology to Transformation – Adhitya Sundar's Journey

This month, we are proud to highlight Adhitya Sundar, a GYEL rising senior whose passion for technology, innovation, and social equity exemplifies the GYEL mission in action.

ADHITYA'S SOCIAL IMPACT JOURNEY

- Developed GreenPath Education as his GYEL final project, creating solar-powered digital learning kits designed to expand educational access for students in off-grid and underserved communities.
- Designed a solution that combines solar charging technology, lightweight tablets and an offline LMS, enabling students to learn without reliable internet access.
- Applies enterprise software and data analytics strategies from his internship experience to develop scalable funding and distribution models for GreenPath, helping connect technology grants and corporate partnerships to educational needs.
- Integrates cybersecurity research into the project to help ensure secure and sustainable digital learning environments.
- Serves as a published researcher in the American Journal of Student Research, authoring work focused on helping startups and small businesses strengthen cybersecurity preparedness.
- Demonstrates leadership as a Cadet Second Lieutenant in the Civil Air Patrol, supporting aerospace education, cybersecurity initiatives, and emergency service readiness programs.



Through GYEL, Adhitya has refined his ability to connect innovation with purpose, using research and technology to tackle real-world issues. His journey embodies the GYEL mission of developing thoughtful leaders who drive meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

Social Enterprise Prospectus: Greenpath Education Initiative

Executive Summary

Mission Statement: Using solar energy, GreenPath Education is a new non-profit organization that aims to close the digital education gap in underprivileged rural communities worldwide by providing students with solar-powered digital learning kits. These kits are intended for rural students in places with little to no internet connectivity and electricity, and they feature, among other things, solar charging stations, ultralight preloaded tablets, and locally relevant offline instructional materials.

Problem Statement: In the year 2022, according to UNESCO more than 244 million youngsters were out of school with a disproportionate number from underprivileged rural communities. While finding the cause it has been observed that it is due to various factors such as lack of infrastructure like access to electricity, internet and educational resources that acted as a barrier to receive a quality education to this young generations. In addition to this, the COVID pandemic also widened this gap making digital education a major challenge for this population (UNESCO, 2022)

GREENPATH EDUCATION

GreenPath Education expands access to learning by providing solar-powered digital education tools for underserved communities, helping bridge the digital divide and create more equitable opportunities for students regardless of location or infrastructure barriers.

WANT TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT STUDENT SPOTLIGHT?

We love celebrating the incredible impact our GYEL students are making around the world. If you'd like to share your journey, achievements, or community project, send us your details at inquiry@un.gyel.org and you could be our next feature!

