



Message from Sarah Simpson, Vice Principal

As we move through a positive and purposeful spring term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support. Your partnership plays a vital role in the success of our students, and we remain truly grateful for the encouragement, resilience and commitment you show every day. This period has been especially significant for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who have approached their mock examinations with maturity, determination and a strong work ethic. We are incredibly proud of the focus they have shown and the progress they are making. Their efforts provide a strong foundation as we look ahead to the forthcoming examination season, and we are confident they will continue to rise to the challenge.



Our Key Stage 3 students have made an impressive start to the spring term, showing real determination as they begin preparing for their end-of-year assessments. In our recent celebration assembly, we were delighted to highlight some truly excellent work, with KS3 learners leading the way. Across classrooms, students have been thinking deeply, engaging fully with challenging material, and producing strong, independent practice that reflects both their effort and growing confidence. It has been inspiring to see such commitment so early in the term, and we look forward to supporting them as they continue to build on this momentum.

We were also delighted to host our Sixth Form Iftar, a wonderful opportunity for students, families and staff to come together in a spirit of reflection, community and celebration. It was a privilege to share this important moment with so many of our families, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to making the evening so meaningful.

Our celebrations for World Book Day brought a welcome burst of creativity and excitement across the school. It served as a reminder of the power of reading to inspire curiosity, strengthen imagination and deepen learning. We continue to encourage all our families to nurture a love of reading at home, as it remains one of the most impactful ways to support children's development.

We are also pleased to celebrate the high standards of attendance across the school this term. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in ensuring students attend regularly and arrive punctually. We know that strong attendance is key to success, and your efforts make a significant difference to students' progress, confidence and long-term achievement.

As we look ahead to the remainder of the school year, we remain firmly committed to our core values of ambition, respect and compassion. These principles guide our daily work and create the conditions for every student to flourish. We look forward to continuing this journey together, ensuring all our young people feel supported, inspired and able to thrive.

Ms S E Simpson
Vice Principal (Quality of Education)

Learning Habits – On Task Behaviour

On-task behaviour means showing integrity, staying focused even when no one is watching, and contributing to an environment where every student can learn without disruption. It also ensures teachers can teach what they have planned so that learning time is used well and everyone can make progress.

Why On Task Behaviour Matters

On task behaviour builds habits that are essential in the real world. Self-discipline, responsibility, and the ability to manage one's own attention are key skills in further education, apprenticeships, and employment. Research consistently shows that self-regulation and metacognitive skills support long-term success because they help individuals plan, monitor, and adapt their behaviour in different situations. The On Task learning habits form the foundation of strong learning behaviours, enabling students to become lifelong learners who can continue developing new skills and knowledge throughout their lives.

What On Task Behaviour looks like in School

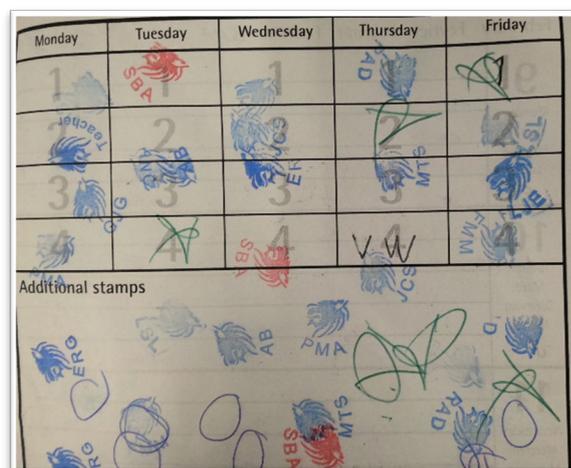
Students demonstrate focus and readiness by listening carefully, following instructions, and engaging fully with the learning taking place. This helps them make the most of every lesson and builds strong learning habits that support long-term success.

Students show respect for learning by avoiding distractions and helping to create a calm atmosphere where everyone can concentrate. When students stay on-task, the whole class benefits from a smoother, more productive learning experience. When students do this, they will receive a stamp from their teacher in their planner.

Students behave purposefully outside lessons by moving around school calmly and safely. This ensures transitions are smooth, the school environment remains positive, and everyone can get to where they need to be without disruption. For students going above and beyond they will receive extra stamps in their planner.

How Parents Can Support

Parents can support strong learning habits by checking their child's planner each day to see whether they have received an on-task stamp for every lesson. If a student has been off-task, a VW (Verbal Warning) will be recorded. This is a useful prompt for a calm conversation at home about focus and expectations. Praising students when they have a full set of stamps helps strengthen positive behaviour and reinforces the value of staying engaged in learning. If a student is off-task around the school site they will receive a detention, and it is important that they attend so the learning habit is reinforced consistently. Talking with your child about why these routines matter helps them understand that being on-task is a skill that supports their progress now and prepares them for future success.



Support Available in School

- Staff guidance for students who need help staying focused or managing behaviour through our Inclusion Team.
- Pastoral support including mentoring and structured guidance.
- Clear expectations and consistent boundaries from teachers.
- Additional help for organisation, confidence, and emotional regulation.

School is committed to supporting every student to develop the learning habits that prepare them for future education, work, and life. By working closely with families, we help students build the self-discipline, focus, and responsibility they need to thrive now and carry confidently into adulthood. If you have any concerns or questions, please contact enquiries@whgs-academy.org so we can work together to support your child effectively.

Curriculum Focus - Drama

At KS3, Year 7 have been studying *Darkwood Manor*, focusing on how to build tension for an audience. Students have explored dramatic techniques such as pacing, use of voice, hot seating, and staging to create suspense and atmosphere in performance. Year 8 have been studying *Theatre in Education*. They have examined how drama can be used to educate and communicate important social messages to specific audiences. Students have developed their skills in role, narration, and structured performance while considering purpose and impact. Meanwhile, Year 9 have been studying 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly. They have explored the play's themes, characters, and dramatic structure, while developing their understanding of tension, staging, and the social and moral issues presented in the text.

At KS4, students are encouraged to develop their own creative ideas alongside the study of scripted texts and theatre practitioners. This gives students the opportunity to be original and inventive in both devised and scripted performance work. During this term, Year 10 students have been working on their OCR, Unit 1 Devising component. They are creating original performances from a stimulus, rehearsing, refining their ideas, and documenting their creative process. Year 11 students are currently in the middle of rehearsals for Unit 2: Presenting and Performing Texts. Alongside preparing their scripted performances for assessment, they are also revising for Unit 3, the written examination in May, which tests their knowledge of set texts and their understanding of theatre-making skills.

Our KS4 students also attended two exciting theatre trips at the end of last term. We went to see 'Blood Brothers' (one of the OCR set texts) and 'The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe' at the Lowry theatre. Students thoroughly enjoyed these trips, both of which provided them with invaluable experiences. Our 'Fame' rehearsals are well underway for our next school show. We have got a fantastic cast of Year 7 to 10 students and we are looking forward to bringing our production to life for you, our audience!

We wish all our KS4 Drama students the very best as they continue their practical work and prepare for their upcoming assessments.



Sixth Form Focus

Sixth Form Iftar

On Wednesday 4 March, our sixth form students organised a special Iftar for our school community. The evening brought students, staff and families together for activities, prayers and a shared meal at sunset. It was a powerful celebration of faith, reflection and togetherness, strengthening our culture of respect and inclusion while creating a warm and welcoming space for all who attended.



Year 12 Psychology: “Egg Attachment” Project

Year 12 Psychology students are taking part in a short project designed to introduce the topic of **attachment**, an important area of developmental psychology that explores how bonds form between caregivers and infants.

For two weeks, each student is responsible for caring for an egg as if it were a dependent infant. The aim is to encourage students to think about the responsibilities involved in caregiving and to reflect on how consistent care, protection, and attention contribute to forming attachments. Students must ensure their “egg baby” remains safe and intact while bringing it with them to school and looking after it at home.

The project is designed to be engaging and memorable while helping students connect real-world experiences to key psychological concepts they will explore in greater depth during the course. We are egg-cited to see how creatively they look after their egg babies. Good luck Year 12!

Y13 Mocks

Over the past few weeks, our Year 13 students have demonstrated real maturity and determination throughout their final mock examination season. From the outset, they approached each assessment with focus, resilience, and a genuine commitment to doing their best. Staff across all subjects have commented on the calm, purposeful atmosphere in exam rooms and the strong level of preparation students brought to each paper.

Mock exam results were shared with Year 13 students during assembly on **Tuesday 10 March**. This allows them to reflect on their performance, celebrate successes, and identify areas for further improvement. As teachers begin follow-up conversations, it has been encouraging to see students already responding thoughtfully to advice, taking ownership of their next steps, and showing a commitment to refining their strategies ahead of the summer examinations.

We would also like to extend our thanks to families for the support you continue to offer at home. Your encouragement, routines, and reassurance play a crucial role in helping students feel prepared and confident. We were pleased to welcome Year 13 parents and carers to **Parents’ Evening on Thursday 12 March**, where staff were able to discuss mock results in detail and outline final strategies to help students approach their A Level examinations - beginning in May - with clarity, confidence, and a strong sense of direction.

We are incredibly proud of Year 13 for the dedication and maturity they have shown so far and look forward to supporting them through this final stage of their journey.

Year 10 JD Up Convention – Thursday 24th February 2026

Our Year 10 students had an inspiring day at the JD Up Convention. This year's programme placed an even greater focus on artificial intelligence and technology, with JD partnering with Raspberry Pi Foundation to provide accessible technology for educational purposes, alongside BBC Children in Need and the foundations of Manchester's two football giants, Manchester United Foundation and Manchester City Foundation.

Students gained valuable insight into how starting a career in retail can open the door to a wide range of opportunities and support long term skills development. The event highlighted pathways into careers linked to technology, innovation, sport, business and community impact. Experiences such as these are vital in supporting our commitment to the Gatsby Benchmarks, particularly Benchmark 5 by connecting students with employers and employees, and Benchmark 6 through meaningful encounters with further education and training providers.

It was fantastic to see our students so engaged, inspired and thinking ambitiously about their futures.



We would like to make you aware of the upcoming parent / carer sessions that Greater Manchester Higher have available – Click the links to sign up:

[A Guide to Student Finance and Disabled Students' Allowance \(parent/carer session\)](#)

Tuesday 31 March, 6.00 - 7.00 pm online

Suitable for parents/carers of learners who are in Y10-13

This session covers student finance, including loans, bursaries, scholarships, and repayment. They'll also explain Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) and guide you through the forms to ensure support is in place before starting Higher Education.

[Accessing Support In Higher Education \(parent/carer event\)](#)

Tuesday 12 May, 6.00 – 7.00 pm online

Suitable for parents/carers of learners who are in Y10-13

We'll look at the support available within Higher Education and outline the ways to access this. It's an opportunity to receive up to date information around support services to enable your young person to fulfil their potential.

To find out more about Greater Manchester Higher, visit their website here: [Parents & Carers - Greater Manchester Higher](#)

Personal Development

Executive Council – Community and Character

Our Executive Council delivered thoughtful and impactful assemblies to each year group, highlighting the wide range of youth provision available to support our students and families in the evenings and during school holidays. They spoke confidently about how accessing positive activities outside of school can strengthen wellbeing, build networks and create a sense of belonging. Alongside this, they explored the importance of character, encouraging students to reflect on values such as integrity, resilience and service to others. It was a proud moment to see our student leaders modelling these qualities while empowering others with practical information and inspiration.

Year 9 Youth Travel Ambassador Programme

Our Year 9 Youth Travel Ambassadors have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Bee Network programme. On Friday 27 February 2026, they confidently delivered their presentation at the conference and we are incredibly proud to share that they secured £600 from Transport for Greater Manchester to bring their plans into fruition.

The Youth Travel Ambassador programme is a Transport for Greater Manchester initiative delivered in partnership with Modeshift. It empowers students aged 11 to 19 to tackle local transport issues in their communities. Working in teams, students design campaigns that promote active travel, improve air quality and reduce congestion as part of the Bee Network. A huge well done to our students for representing the school so positively and turning their ideas into meaningful action.



Court Orders and Carer Arrangements

We would like to kindly remind all parents and carers to keep the school updated about any legal arrangements relating to your child, such as court orders, care orders, special guardianship orders, or private fostering agreements.

Having the most up-to-date information and paperwork helps us support your child's safety and wellbeing. All documents shared with us are handled with care and are kept confidential.

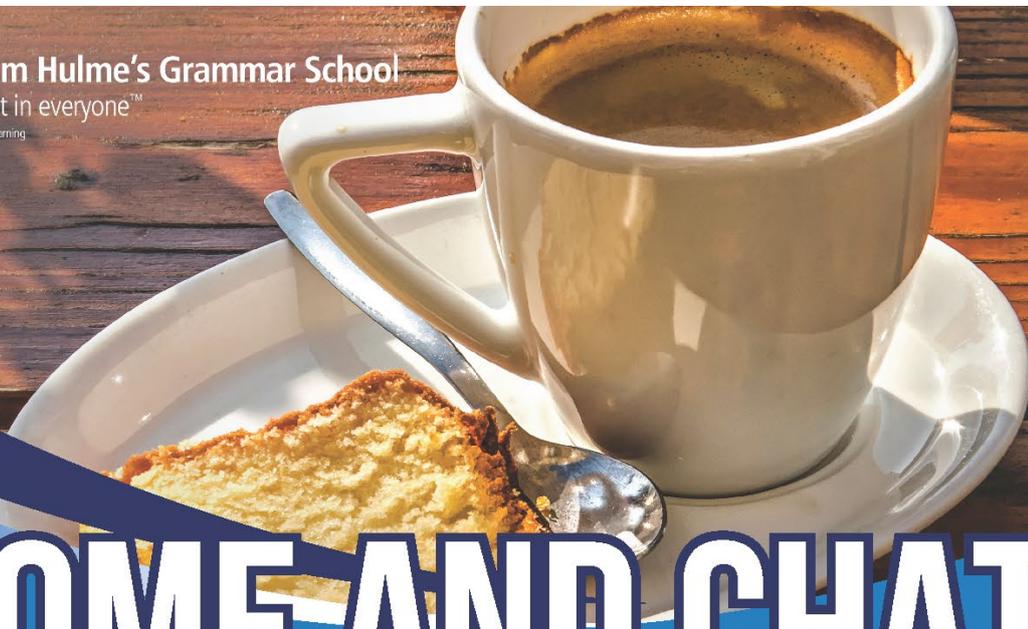
If we have not been given official documentation, we must assume that all adults with parental responsibility have equal rights to access their child and receive information.

If anything changes in your circumstances or legal arrangements, please let us know as soon as possible and provide any updated documents so we can act in line with current agreements.

If you have any questions or would like to talk things through, please feel free to get in touch.



William Hulme's Grammar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



COME AND CHAT

Wednesday 25 March 2026

2.15pm-3.00pm

in the Great Hall

Come along to this community event and have a coffee and a chat with the Senior Leadership Team or simply to meet with friends.

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED FREE DROP-IN

We're thrilled to welcome some amazing external partners who'll be here to support our community.

Rekindle:

evening and school holiday provision for young people

Job Centre:

employment opportunities for families

Yipiyap (Peerscroller):

free support programme for families

Thrive in Education:

emotional wellbeing and mental health support for young people

The Growth Company:

education and employment opportunities for families

Here to share expertise and offer help where it's needed most.

www.whgs-academy.org

Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event
20/03/2026	Planning Day (School Closed for Students)
22/03/2026	Y12 DofE Silver Training Day
24/03/2026	Y12 UK Universities Fair
24/03/2026	Y7 / Y8 / Y9 Inner Spark Workshops
25/03/2026	GCSE Drama Exams
25/03/2026	Y8 Litter Picking
25/03/2026	Come and Chat – Free Parent Drop-in
26/03/2026	School Road Closure Event
26/03/2026	KS3 Careers Drop Down Day
26/03/2026	Y10/Y12 UoM Science Lecture
26/03/2026	Y11 External Course Discussions
27/03/2026	Alumni Morning / Breakfast
28/03/2026-30/03/2026	Y12 DofE Silver Practice Expedition
30/03/2026	Y8 Rhetoric by Heart Competition
31/03/2026	Y10 Economics of Football Visit
02/04/2026	Term Ends for Students (From 2.00pm)
03/04/2026-17/04/2026	School Holidays