Sixth Form Learning Agreement 2026/2027

Purpose

The Sixth Form at William Hulme's Grammar School provides students with the opportunity to study in a challenging, supportive and ambitious environment. This Learning Agreement applies to all students enrolled in the WHGS Sixth Form during the 2026/27 academic year.

Enrolment into the Sixth Form is conditional upon students meeting the expectations outlined in this agreement.

By signing this agreement, students and parents/carers acknowledge that continued participation in the Sixth Form is dependent upon satisfactory attendance, academic progress, conduct and engagement with learning. Progression into Year 13 is not automatic and will be considered alongside the measures set out below.

Attendance Commitment

At WHGS Sixth Form, students are expected to maintain excellent attendance and punctuality.
Students agree to:

- Maintain attendance of at least **96%**.
- Attend all timetabled lessons, study sessions, assemblies, assessments, examinations, enrichment activities and intervention sessions.
- Arrive punctually to all lessons and school commitments.
- Follow all absence reporting procedures.
- Avoid taking holidays during term time.
- Provide evidence for authorised absences where requested.

Attendance Monitoring and Intervention

Attendance is monitored regularly throughout the academic year. Students whose attendance causes concern will be supported through the procedures outlined in the WHGS Sixth Form Attendance Policy. These may include:

- Tutor meetings.
- Attendance monitoring.
- Report Cards.
- Student Support Programme (SSP) Contracts.
- Parent/carer meetings.
- Attendance reviews with the Sixth Form Team.

Attendance and Progression

Students and parents/carers understand and accept that:

- Attendance below the school's expected standard may jeopardise a student's suitability for progression into Year 13.
- Failure to engage positively with attendance interventions and support programmes may be considered by Senior Leaders.
- Under the WHGS Sixth Form Attendance Policy, Year 12 students who continue to fail to meet attendance expectations following intervention may have their place in Year 13 withdrawn.

- Students absent for 20 consecutive school days may be withdrawn from their programme of study in accordance with Education and Skills Funding Agency requirements.

Academic Progress Commitment

Students are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to their studies and make progress that indicates a realistic likelihood of successfully completing their programme of study.

Students agree to:

- Attend all assessments and examinations.
- Complete all classwork, homework, coursework and independent study.
- Meet assessment and coursework deadlines.
- Act on feedback provided by staff.
- Attend compulsory intervention and support sessions where required.
- Engage positively with their learning and personal development.

Progress Indicators

Students are expected to make progress that demonstrates a realistic likelihood of successfully completing their programme of study and progressing to their intended next destination.

As part of the review for progression into Year 13, students will normally be expected to demonstrate: Attendance of at least 96%.

- Progress indicating a realistic likelihood of achieving at least a **Pass** in vocational qualifications.
- Progress indicating a realistic likelihood of achieving at least a **Grade D** in A Level subjects.
- Positive engagement with learning, intervention programmes and independent study.
- Good conduct and adherence to Sixth Form expectations.

These indicators will inform the professional judgement of Senior Leaders but will not be applied in isolation. Each student's individual circumstances, overall profile, rate of improvement, engagement with support, and likelihood of successful completion of their programme will be considered before progression decisions are made.

Conduct and Behaviour Commitment

Students are expected to demonstrate the maturity, professionalism and leadership expected of Sixth Form students.

Students agree to:

- Treat all members of the school community with respect and courtesy.
- Follow all school and Sixth Form policies.
- Act as positive role models within the wider school community.
- Attend compulsory interventions and support programmes when required.
- Use social media responsibly and in a manner that does not bring the school into disrepute.
- Maintain high standards of behaviour, attitude and conduct.

Serious or repeated breaches of school expectations may result in a review of a student's place in the Sixth Form.

Independent Learning Commitment

Students recognise that Sixth Form study requires substantial independent learning.

Students agree to:

- Use study periods productively.
- Complete independent research and wider reading.
- Prepare thoroughly for lessons.
- Submit work of an appropriate standard.
- Seek support when difficulties arise.

Failure to engage with independent study expectations may be considered by Senior Leaders.

Progression Board

Year 12 Progression Review

All Year 12 students will be reviewed by the **WHGS Sixth Form Team and Senior Leaders** during the summer term.

Staff will consider a wide range of evidence, including:

- Attendance and punctuality.
- Academic progress and predicted outcomes.
- Performance in internal examinations and assessments.
- Completion of coursework requirements.
- Engagement with learning and independent study.
- Participation in interventions and support programmes.
- Conduct, behaviour and attitude to learning.
- Compliance with this Learning Agreement and relevant school policies.

Students will normally be expected to demonstrate:

- Attendance of at least 96%.
- Academic progress indicating a realistic likelihood of achieving at least a Pass in vocational qualifications and/or a Grade D in A Level subjects.
- Good engagement with lessons, independent study and intervention programmes.
- Conduct and behaviour consistent with Sixth Form expectations.

These indicators will be considered alongside all other available evidence. Senior Leaders will not base its decision on any single factor but will consider the student's overall suitability to continue successfully into Year 13.

The purpose of the review is to ensure that students are enrolled on programmes that provide a realistic opportunity for success. Decisions regarding progression are based on professional judgement informed by attendance, attainment, progress, engagement, conduct and any relevant mitigating circumstances.

No student will be refused progression solely based on one assessment, one examination result, one grade or one measure of academic attainment.

Senior Leaders will determine whether a student:

1. Progresses unconditionally into Year 13.
2. Progresses into Year 13 subject to agreed conditions and a support plan.
3. Is required to amend their programme of study.
4. Is not permitted to progress into Year 13 at William Hulme's Grammar School.

The final decision regarding progression rests with the Head of Sixth Form and Senior Leadership Team.

If Progression to Year 13 is Refused

Where Senior Leaders determine that a student has not demonstrated sufficient evidence that they are likely to successfully complete their programme of study, the student and their parent/carer will be invited to a progression meeting at which the decision and supporting evidence will be shared.

The school may determine that progression into Year 13 is not appropriate for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Attendance below the required standard and/or failure to meet attendance targets following intervention and support.
- Academic progress indicating that the student is unlikely to successfully complete their programme of study despite support and intervention.
- Persistent failure to engage with lessons, independent study requirements, coursework or assessments.
- Failure to engage with intervention programmes or agreed improvement targets.
- Serious or persistent concerns regarding behaviour, conduct or attitude to learning.
- A determination that an alternative educational, training or employment pathway would provide a more suitable route to future success.

Where progression is refused:

- The student's place at WHGS Sixth Form will end at the conclusion of Year 12.
- The student will not be enrolled onto Year 13 courses at WHGS.
- The school will provide impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG).
- The student will be supported in identifying and applying for an appropriate next destination.
- The school may recommend alternative providers, courses, apprenticeships or training opportunities better suited to the student's interests, attainment and future aspirations.

The school is committed to ensuring that every student progresses to a destination where they have the greatest likelihood of success. Therefore, a decision not to allow progression into Year 13 should not be viewed as a disciplinary sanction but as a professional judgement regarding the most appropriate pathway for the student's future success.

Appeals Process

William Hulme's Grammar School is committed to ensuring that progression decisions are fair, evidence-based and reasonable.

Where a student or parent/carer believes that relevant information has not been fully considered, they may submit an appeal.

Grounds for Appeal

Appeals will normally only be considered where:

- Relevant information was unavailable to staff and Senior Leaders at the time the decision was made.
- School procedures were not followed correctly.
- Significant mitigating circumstances were not fully considered.
- New evidence has become available that may reasonably affect the outcome.

Disagreement with the professional judgement of Senior Leaders alone will not normally constitute sufficient grounds for appeal.

Submitting an Appeal

Appeals must:

- Be submitted in writing.
- Clearly outline the grounds for appeal.
- Include any supporting evidence.
- Be submitted within **five school days** of the progression decision being communicated.

Appeals should be addressed to:

Mr Thom Copestake
Head of School
William Hulme's Grammar School

Appeal Review

The Head of School will review:

- The evidence considered by Senior Leaders.
- Any additional evidence submitted.
- Whether correct procedures were followed.
- Whether the decision was reasonable and proportionate.

The Head of School may:

1. Uphold the original decision.
2. Refer the matter back to Senior Leaders for reconsideration.
3. Overturn the original decision and permit progression into Year 13, with or without conditions.

The decision of the Head of School will be final and will be communicated in writing.

Student Interests and Alternative Pathways

WHGS is committed to ensuring that every student progresses to an education, employment or training destination that offers the greatest likelihood of success.

Where Senior Leaders determine that progression into Year 13 at WHGS is not appropriate, the school will work with the student and their parent/carer to identify and support progression to a suitable alternative destination. This may include:

- A further education college.
- An alternative sixth form provider.
- An apprenticeship programme.
- Employment with accredited training.
- A vocational or technical programme.

Any decision not to progress a student into Year 13 will be taken only after careful consideration of all relevant evidence and the school's responsibility to support the student's future educational success.

WHGS Reservation of Rights

William Hulme's Grammar School reserves the right to review a student's Sixth Form place at any time where concerns arise regarding:

- Attendance.
- Punctuality.
- Academic progress.
- Attitude to learning.
- Conduct and behaviour.

- Engagement with support and intervention.

Following appropriate support and intervention, the school may:

- Withdraw a student's place in the Sixth Form where permitted by law and school policy.
- Determine that progression into Year 13 is not appropriate where the available evidence indicates that a student is unlikely to complete their programme successfully or would be better supported through an alternative pathway.
- Require a student to amend their programme of study.
- Support movement to an alternative educational or training provider.

Student Declaration

I have read and understood the WHGS Sixth Form Learning Agreement for the 2026/27 academic year.

I understand that:

- I am expected to maintain attendance of at least 96%.
- I am expected to make progress indicating a realistic likelihood of achieving at least a Pass in vocational qualifications and/or a Grade D in A Level subjects.
- Progression into Year 13 is not automatic.
- My attendance, progress, conduct and engagement will be reviewed by Senior Leaders.
- Failure to meet Sixth Form expectations may result in progression into Year 13 being refused.
- I may be supported to pursue an alternative pathway if this is considered more appropriate for my future success.
- I have the right to appeal any decision not to allow progression in accordance with this agreement.

Student Name: .....

Signature: ..... **Date:** .....

Parent/Carer Declaration

I have read and understood the WHGS Sixth Form Learning Agreement for the 2026/27 academic year and will support my child in meeting these expectations.

I understand that:

- Progression into Year 13 is not automatic.
- Attendance, academic progress, engagement and conduct will be reviewed through the progression review process.
- Failure to meet the expectations outlined in this agreement may result in progression into Year 13 being refused.
- WHGS may recommend an alternative pathway where it is considered to be in the student's best educational interests.
- I have the right to submit an appeal to the Head of School in accordance with the appeals process outlined in this agreement.

Parent Name: .....

Signature: ..... **Date:** .....

This agreement applies to all students enrolled in the WHGS Sixth Form during the 2026/27 academic year and should be read alongside the WHGS Sixth Form Attendance Policy, Academic Misconduct Policy, Sixth Form Handbook and other relevant school policies.