



Message from Sophie Galloway, Vice Principal

We are half-way through the new term, and I want to take a moment to thank our families for their continued support and to share some of the key areas we will be focusing on to help every student thrive.

This half term we are focusing on the second of our learning habits; perfect dress code and equipment. These habits, listed below, are designed to build independence, confidence, and strong learning behaviours that will support students throughout their school journey and beyond.

I also want to celebrate the excellent attendance we have seen from so many of our students. Being in school every day makes a huge difference: it strengthens learning, builds friendships, and supports emotional wellbeing. Research continues to show that even small amounts of missed time can have a significant impact, so we are committed to working closely with families to ensure every child has the best possible chance to succeed.

Alongside this, we are proud of the wealth of wellbeing support available in school. Our pastoral team, form tutors and safeguarding staff are all here to listen, guide, and support students with anything they may be finding difficult. Whether a child needs help with friendships, organisation, confidence, or something more personal, we want them to know that there is always someone they can talk to.

As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities it brings. Year groups will be taking part in friendly competitions this term, with each group working together to earn points for attendance, behaviour, and character. The aim is to celebrate teamwork, consistency, and the positive habits that help students thrive every day. Each week, scores will be added up, and at the end of the term the top-performing year group will win a mystery prize, recognising their commitment to our learning habits and demonstrating the values that make our school community strong.

With strong learning habits, excellent attendance, and a supportive school community around them, our students are well-placed to make fantastic progress. I want to thank you for your partnership again. Together, we can ensure every child feels safe, supported, and ready to achieve their very best.

Ms S E Galloway
Vice Principal (Ethos and Culture)



Learning Habits



Students who are successful always:



Learning Habit 1: Punctuality and Attendance

- Attend school and all lessons on time.



Learning Habit 2: Perfect Dress Code and Equipment

- Wear perfect uniform and have all their equipment ready to learn.



Learning Habit 3: On-Task Behaviour

- Behave on task in every lesson and around school, even when no one is watching.



Learning Habit 4: Positive Response

- Respond courteously and are obviously polite to all members of the school community.



Learning Habit 5: Homework and Deadlines

- Complete all homework to the best of their ability and hand it in on time.

Learning Habits – Perfect Dress Code and Equipment

A smooth start to the school day begins long before the first lesson. Research shows that when children arrive in the correct uniform and with the right equipment, they feel more settled, confident, and ready to learn. This is not about perfection – it is about giving every child the best chance to succeed.

Why Uniform Matters

A consistent school uniform helps children feel part of a community. Studies highlight that uniforms can strengthen a sense of belonging and reduce social pressures linked to clothing choices. When everyone looks broadly the same, children can focus more on friendships, learning, and enjoying school life.

Uniform also supports routines. Predictable morning habits reduce stress and help children transition into a “school mindset,” which research links to improved focus and behaviour. It is one less decision for them to make, and one more way to start the day calmly.

Uniform is not just a school expectation, it is early preparation for the real world. Most workplaces have clear dress codes, whether it is a full uniform, business wear, safety clothing, or professional standards for appearance. Learning to follow a dress code in school helps children build habits of responsibility, presentation, and understanding that different environments require different expectations.

Why Equipment Matters

Having the right equipment, pens, books, planners, PE kit, means children can take part fully in lessons. Missing items can lead to lost learning time, embarrassment, or feeling behind before the lesson has even begun. Being prepared boosts confidence and helps children feel capable and organised.

Having the right equipment in school helps prepare children for the expectations they will face later in life. Almost every workplace requires staff to bring or use the correct tools, whether that is protective gear, technology, paperwork, or specialist equipment. Learning to stay organised, arrive prepared, and take responsibility for what they need are habits that transfer directly into future jobs, training, and apprenticeships. It builds reliability, independence, and the understanding that being properly equipped is part of being ready to succeed.



How Parents and Carers Can Help

Small steps at home make a big difference:

- **Prepare the night before** by laying out uniform and packing bags. Please see the link here for correct uniform: <https://www.whgs-academy.org/parents/uniform>
- **Use a simple checklist** on the fridge or bedroom door for uniform and equipment.
- **Do a weekly equipment check**, especially after weekends. See picture above for the requirements for school.
- **Label everything** to avoid lost property.
- **Talk positively about uniform and equipment expectations**, helping your child feel proud and confident.

These routines build independence and reduce morning stress for everyone.

Support Available in School

We know that life gets busy, things get lost, and unexpected challenges happen. No child should feel worried about uniform or equipment, and no family should feel alone. If students forget equipment or uniform, they can ask the staff on the gate for support or use the uniform swap shop. Any equipment that is forgotten can be given by your child's form tutor without receiving a detention.

If you are finding uniform or equipment difficult to manage, financially or otherwise, please reach out. We are here to help, and we will always work with families in a respectful, confidential way.

Curriculum Focus

The Food and Nutrition department has enjoyed a lively and productive half term, with students actively developing their practical skills both in the kitchen and through enrichment opportunities.

Across Key Stage 3, pupils have been building their understanding of food science through a range of practical cookery projects. Dishes prepared this half term included flatbreads and dip, pizza, macaroni cheese, spicy chicken wings, fruit filled croissants and custard. These practical lessons allowed students to explore scientific concepts

in an engaging and hands-on way while creating familiar and exciting foods.



Year 10 students have continued to extend their technical skills, with a focus on higher-level preparations such as choux pastry, puff pastry, crème pâtissière, gyozas and tortellini. Looking ahead to next half term, students will further enrich their learning through a visit from a professional fishmonger, who will demonstrate how to gut and fillet a fish, as well as a vegan cookery demonstration delivered by a representative from Animal Aid.

In addition to curriculum lessons, the department hosted a highly competitive KS4 and 5 MasterChef competition, where students impressed with their creativity and high-level practical skills, producing a range of ambitious and well-executed dishes. There was a real buzz in the air throughout the event, highlighting students' enthusiasm and passion for food. After half term, further opportunities will be available for students in other year groups to take part in similar enrichment activities.



Sixth Form Focus

Our Year 13 students have been busy applying for higher education, with the UCAS deadline fast approaching. We are delighted to have seen a number of students receiving offers from top Russell Group universities, reminding us that the end goal is clearly in sight. We also recently hosted our mini-interviews for Medicine and Dentistry applicants; staff commented that it was a pleasure to interview such well-prepared students who came across as incredibly professional. We wish all our Sixth Form students the very best with their upcoming university interviews. Year 13 also delivered an exceptional assembly on road safety, drawing on their Year 12 trip, *Safe Drive, Stay Alive*. While we continue to focus on improving attendance, we are pleased to see a positive improvement in Year 13 attendance and look forward to this increasing further. Remember, 98% attendance is key to achieving those top A-level grades of A*-A.

Our Year 12 students have been equally busy, volunteering and taking part in a wide range of events. We welcomed students from Manchester Academy last week, who commented that the highlight of their visit was speaking to our Year 12 students about different courses and future pathways. Our Year 12 cohort is now ready to take the reins in leading our Sixth Form, and we were proud to present our new Sixth Form Prefects this week. The next step will be

recruiting our Executive Leadership Team in the summer term. Year 12 delivered an amazing assembly on Inclusion with some of our Swiss exchange students also taking part in the assembly - well done!

We also hosted a Sixth Form Taster Day for Year 11 students, who commented on the excellent teaching and friendly staff. We look forward to meeting all Year 11 students during their course discussions, whether they are current students or new to the school. We have two exciting events coming up this term: firstly our Sixth Form ice skating trip, which serves as our half-termly social, and one of our favourite events of the year, the Sixth Form Community Iftar, taking place in March.

Careers

KS3 Careers Morning

Our KS3 Careers Drop Down Morning took place on Wednesday 10 December, giving students the opportunity to engage with a wide range of employers, professionals and education providers. Students explored different pathways and gained valuable insight into future options. The event supported our commitment to high quality careers education and was especially inspiring with alumni contributing on the day.



Personal Development

Parental Confidence and Information Session

Following feedback from our parent and carer listening exercise, we are pleased to be working in partnership with Trafford College to offer free parental courses at WHGS. Our first session took place on Friday 28 November and was well attended. We look forward to building on this successful start with further opportunities for families.



WHGS Alumni Reunion

On Friday 28 November 2025, we welcomed back more than 200 alumni from the years 2007 to 2020 for a memorable reunion evening. Ninety former students took part in a tour of the school, reconnecting with familiar spaces and seeing how the buildings and facilities have developed. The evening also marked the official launch of the WHGS Alumni Network, helping us strengthen long term links with our former students.



Royal Manchester Children's Hospital



On Wednesday 3 December, students from Harmonix Vocal Group and the Senior Choir performed at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Their festive performance was warmly received by staff and patients, while also raising £274.81 for the Medicinema Appeal, supporting therapeutic cinema experiences for young patients.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

We proudly marked International Day of Persons with Disabilities with a week of focused activity. Our Year 12 students led assemblies for each year group, raising awareness and promoting inclusion. Their leadership helped strengthen our shared understanding of how we can all contribute to a more inclusive society.



Christmas Tree Decorating



Our young carers worked together to decorate Christmas trees across the school, creating a warm and festive atmosphere. This was a special opportunity to celebrate their contribution and mark the start of the festive season. Students also received Christmas gifts through our successful Mission Christmas application.

National Christmas Jumper Day

Students and staff took part in National Christmas Jumper Day, helping us raise £42.53 for Cash for Kids Greater Manchester.



This charity supports children and young people affected by poverty, illness or additional needs, particularly during the winter period.



Supporting Your Child to Eat Well and Be Active for Less

We are pleased to be hosting a parent workshop delivered by Manchester Healthy Schools on Friday 30 January 2026, from 9.00 am to 10.00 am in the Great Hall.

The session will explore affordable ways to support healthy eating and physical activity at home. Light refreshments will be provided, and parents and carers are warmly encouraged to attend.





SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

At William Hulme's Grammar School, we are committed to working in partnership with our parents and carers to support the wellbeing of our whole community.

We have created a Parent & Carer Support Padlet which brings together a wide range of trusted information, advice and local support services in one easy-to-access place.

Scan the QR code to find support and guidance on:

- **Upcoming training and courses**
- **Child mental health and wellbeing**
- **Finance, housing and cost-of-living support**
- **Community organisations and services**
- **Domestic abuse support**
- **Drugs, alcohol and personal safety**
- **SEND support and guidance**
- **Bereavement support**
- **Online safety**
- **Parenting support**
- **LGBTQ+ support and resources**



Whether you are looking for advice, practical support, or simply want to know what help is available, this padlet is here to support you and your family.



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

**WORKING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT
EVERY CHILD AND EVERY FAMILY.**

Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event
26/01/2026-28/01/2026	Y11 German Mock Speaking Exams
26/01/2026	Y11 History Trip (Jodrell Bank)
26/01/2026	Y11 NEA Food & Nutrition Practical Trial
27/01/2026	Y11 / Y13 Group Photographs
28/01/2026	Y9/Y10 Maths Challenge
28/01/2026	Y11 NEA Food & Nutrition Practical Trial
29/01/2026	Y12/Y13 Social Event
29/01/2026	Y9 Options Evening
30/01/2026	Parental Information Session
04/02/2026-13/02/2026	Y13 Mock Examinations
04/02/2026	Y7 SEND Trip (Chester Zoo)
05/02/2026	Cultural Day
10/02/2026	Y11 German GCSE Study Morning
12/02/2026	Y9 Parents' Evening
13/02/2026	End of Term
16/02/2026-20/02/2026	School Holidays
23/02/2026	Start of Term
24/02/2026	Y10 Careers Trip (JD Up)
25/02/2026-06/03/2026	Y11 Mock Examinations
25/02/2026	Y8/Y9 Maths Challenge
27/02/2026	Y9 Immunisations
04/03/2026	Y12/Y13 Iftar
10/03/2026	Y10 Apprenticeship Fair
10/03/2026	Henshaws
10/03/2026	Y8/Y9 MasterChef Competition
12/03/2026	Y13 Parents' Evening
13/03/2026	Road Closure Event
16/03/2026+18/03/2026	Y11 GCSE Food & Nutrition NEA2 Practical Exam
20/03/2026	Planning Day (School Closed for Students)