



Message from Kate Heaton, Principal

Hello everyone,

Welcome to the Summer Term, the term when the magic truly happens. This is when all the hard work from September onwards comes together, revealing the growth, confidence, and achievements of every student and staff member. It is the moment when talents shine, resilience is evident, and academic success is realised. I look forward to seeing this reflected in every single student.



Now in my third year as Principal, I have taken time to reflect on what we are truly about here at WHGS. I am especially mindful of the strong foundations laid by previous leadership and the commitment and dedication that have shaped our school community over time. Building on this, we are now focused on how we continue to grow, evolve, and move confidently into the future together.

These reflections have led us to clearly articulate our shared purpose as a school. Our mission statement captures who we are, what we value, and what we strive for every day:

**Belonging first.
Ambition always.
Excellence everywhere.**

Belonging first

This is where everything begins. Before you can learn well, take risks, or push yourself, you need to feel that you belong, here, in this school, in your lessons, and in your friendships. “Belonging First” means we look after each other. We include people. We notice when someone might be feeling left out, and we take steps to bring them in. When you feel safe and valued, you can be yourself; and that’s when real learning starts.

Ambition always

Ambition isn’t just about grades; it’s about attitude. It’s the willingness to push yourself a little further today than you did yesterday. “Ambition always” means we don’t give up when things get difficult. We set goals, we try again, and we aim high; not because perfection is expected, but because growth is possible. It’s about believing in your potential and taking every opportunity to improve.

Excellence everywhere

Excellence doesn’t happen in just one classroom or one subject. It’s something we bring to every part of school life: how we behave, how we speak to each other, how we present ourselves and how we tackle challenges. “Excellence everywhere” means we take pride in what we do, whether it’s a piece of homework, a performance, a sports match or simply how we treat other people. Excellence is a habit, not a moment.

Together, these three principles form a promise:

We are a community that welcomes everyone, encourages every individual to aim high, and strives for the very best in all that we do.

I wish you all a wonderful and successful Summer Term.

Mrs K Heaton
Principal

Learning Habits – Perfect Uniform

At WHGS, Perfect Uniform is one of our key learning habits because it underpins high standards, pride in our school and readiness to learn. When students are correctly dressed, it sends a clear message: we are here to learn, we belong, and we take our responsibilities seriously.

Why Perfect Uniform Matters

Wearing uniform correctly promotes equality and consistency, helping students feel part of the WHGS community rather than focused on fashion or appearance. It supports positive behaviour, reduces distractions in lessons and prepares students for the professional expectations they will encounter beyond school.

What Perfect Uniform Looks Like

Perfect school uniform means:

- A **plain white button-up shirt**, tucked in at all times
- **WHGS logo tie** worn correctly
- **Black formal trousers** (not skinny fit) *or* a **black skirt** of knee length
- **Plain black tights** *or* **black or grey socks**
- **Plain black shoes** *or* **all leather flat soles trainers**, eg Nike Air Force (no fabric trainers, eg Nike P6000)
- A **black long-sleeved jumper** (optional)
- **Headscarves**, where worn for religious reasons, should be **plain navy blue** *or* **black**

Consistency matters, and students are expected to meet these standards every day.

Examples of Acceptable Footwear:



Examples of Unacceptable Footwear:



PE Kit Expectations

When students have PE, they may attend school in their PE kit, only if it meets WHGS expectations. The correct PE kit is:

- **APTUS navy blue T-shirt** with school crest *or* **WHGS navy zip-top** (unisex or fitted option)
- **APTUS navy blue training pants** *or* **WHGS navy blue leggings**
- **Navy sports socks** (short)
- **Non-marking trainers**

Please note that **hoodies of any kind are not permitted**, including branded hoodies. If a student does not have the correct branded PE kit, they should attend school in **full school uniform** and will be given time to change for their lesson.

How Parents Can Support

We are grateful for the continued support of parents and carers in helping students arrive at school ready to learn. You can support Perfect Uniform by:

- Checking uniform and PE kit the night before school
- Ensuring ties are worn correctly and shirts are tucked in
- Supporting conversations at home about pride, responsibility and high standards

If uniform is a concern at any point, please contact your child's pastoral team as early as possible.

Support Available in School

No student should feel disadvantaged due to uniform concerns. Students can access our **Uniform Swap Shop**, which provides good-quality pre-loved branded items. Students should speak to their pastoral team for support.

We also **welcome donations** of any **branded uniform items**, including blazers, jumpers, PE kit and **WHGS ties**, which help us continue to support families across our school community.

Clear and consistent uniform expectations help reinforce our shared values and ensure all students feel part of WHGS. Thank you for your ongoing support

Curriculum Focus - PE

There have been several recent successes and events happening in PE over the past term and as we move into the final term of the year.

The Manchester Schools Football leagues concluded just before the Easter break with WHGS playing over 40 matches in total including both boys' and girls' competitions. Practices have been well attended particularly at KS3 with over 25 students regularly attending each practice after school. There has been a notable improvement in the progress our teams have made, and we hope that this continues into next season.

Our Year 10 girls Netball team won the Manchester United Learning cluster competition and competed in the United Learning Schools finals competition at Platt Fields Sports Centre, competing against winners from clusters from all over the North of England. The squad showed great determination and resilience despite facing some well-established and experienced teams. Congratulations to them for their endeavour and commitment.

Several students competed in the United Learning virtual rowing competition. Organised by British Rowing, students across all year groups (7-11) attempted to row, as a team of 4, the greatest distance in 8 minutes on our Concept 2 rowing machines. As a school we came second overall securing the Silver medal position and narrowly missing out on Gold. Considering the number of students new to rowing and how well they performed we were amazed by their hard work, particularly as the competition occurred during Ramadan which understandably impacted the energy levels of our students. Despite this, they gave their all and should be very proud of the achievement.

Basketball has been overwhelmingly popular with our students and is growing steadily. There have been several fixtures across all age groups and students are making good progress, learning with every fixture, which stands them in good stead for future years. We hope that their enthusiasm for the sport continues to go from strength to strength and we would encourage them to keep improving in preparation for next season.

In addition to these games, we have welcomed Steph Jones from England Handball who has been delivering Handball sessions to our students. We have hosted 4 regional



competitions where other local schools have competed to represent Manchester in the National competition. Our Year 8 boys team achieved second place and were unlucky to miss out; finishing second on goal difference was an exceptional effort. These sessions were followed up with some additional extra-curricular sessions delivered by Trafford Handball Club with the aim of building some local links to community clubs.

As we move into our final term of the year, students can look forward to Cricket and Rounders fixtures with local schools, in addition to Sports Day later in July. Our Sport Studies students have been taking part in some BMXing as part of their academic studies and a group of Year 8 students is starting a water-based rowing session at Agecroft Rowing club which should be a fantastic opportunity to engage in sessions off site.

Sixth Form Focus

Year 12 and Year 13 students have returned from the Easter break with a highly positive and focused attitude, demonstrating real commitment to their studies. We are particularly pleased with how Year 13 are applying the strategies from recent study skills sessions as they prepare for the start of their exam season on Monday 11 May. Their growing confidence and independence are clear to see, and we look forward to celebrating their efforts over the coming weeks. Year 12 also have an exciting term ahead, as they prepare for their summer assessments beginning on 1 June, which will inform UCAS discussions and predicted grades. Alongside this, students are enthusiastically organising their work experience placements, providing valuable real-world opportunities to support their personal and academic development.

Parents and carers play an important role during this period by supporting students to maintain a balanced routine, including effective revision, regular breaks, good sleep habits and healthy nutrition. Encouraging students to use the study strategies shared in school, helping them to organise revision timetables, and providing a calm and positive environment can make a significant difference in building confidence and reducing stress. Continued attendance is also crucial at this time; every lesson provides valuable opportunities for final feedback, clarification of misconceptions and exam preparation, all of which are essential in helping students achieve their full potential.

Careers

KS3 Careers Drop Down Morning – Thursday 26 March 2026

On Thursday 26 March 2026, our KS3 Careers Drop Down Morning provided students with a valuable opportunity to explore future pathways and hear directly from a wide range of professionals and education providers.

We were delighted to welcome representatives from Pendleton College, The Manchester College and Manchester Metropolitan University, alongside members of our alumni network and professionals working across the legal, medical, charity and technology sectors. Experiences like this help students broaden their understanding of the world of work, raise aspirations and make informed choices about their futures.



Alumni Breakfast Morning – Friday 27 March 2026

On Friday 27 March 2026, we hosted our first Alumni Breakfast Morning, bringing former students back together with our school community.

The morning provided an opportunity to share future plans and explore ways our alumni can support current students through mentoring, speaking opportunities and partnerships. Staying connected with former students continues to inspire the next generation and strengthens the sense of community at the heart of our school.

If you know any former students of William Hulme's Grammar School, we encourage them to join our growing alumni network using the following link: <https://www.whgs-academy.org/students/whgs-alumni>

Personal Development

Great British Spring Clean – March 2026

As part of the Great British Spring Clean campaign which ran from 13 to 29 March 2026, our Year 8 Social Action Team were given the opportunity to work alongside Biffa, a leading waste management company, supporting communities to reduce waste and improve the environment.

All of Year 8 took part in an engaging assembly delivered by Biffa, followed by a practical workshop for members of the Social Action Team. Students then headed out into the local community and nearby park to take part in a litter pick, showing real pride in their surroundings. Experiences like this help students understand the importance of protecting the environment while developing responsibility, teamwork and a stronger sense of community awareness.



Red Nose Day – 20 March 2026

Our Year 7 Social Action Team showed fantastic leadership by delivering assemblies focused on Red Nose Day and the important work of Comic Relief. To show support, students and staff were invited to wear a splash of red alongside their uniform, creating a brilliant sense of unity across the school while raising money for an important cause. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, compassion and leadership our students demonstrated throughout the event.



Personal Development Inner Spark Workshops – Tuesday 24 March 2026

A huge thank you to Inner Spark for arranging for Alain Fusion Clapham to deliver inspiring workshops to our Key Stage 3 students. The sessions focused on harnessing the power of personal stories to build confidence, resilience and self-belief. Opportunities like these are an important part of our Education with Character offer, giving students the chance to reflect on who they are, to find their voice and develop the mindset needed to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.



School Street Closure with TfGM – Thursday 26 March 2026

This academic year, our Year 9 Social Action Team have been working as Youth Travel Ambassadors in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester.

On Thursday 26 March 2026, students led a successful school street closure event within the local community, encouraging safer travel to school, reducing congestion around the school site and promoting healthier and more sustainable journeys.

Thanks to funding secured by the students, adults attending the event were also able to enjoy complimentary refreshments from a breakfast van.

Projects like this empower young people to lead positive change, improve community safety and strengthen local connections.



Star Student Spring Term Reward Celebration – Wednesday 1 April 2026

On Wednesday 1 April 2026, our secondary students enjoyed a well-deserved celebration as we recognised our Star Students for the Spring Term.

Students were gifted Easter eggs in recognition of their hard work, dedication and positive attitude throughout the term. It was a lovely way to celebrate their achievements and remind students that their efforts never go unnoticed.



The Real Life Workshops – Friday 1 May 2026

On Friday 1 May 2026, students in Year 9 and Year 10 took part in an engaging and thought-provoking workshop delivered by Milk Education, titled “The Real Cost: Knife Crime, Peer Pressure and Making Choices”.

The interactive sessions encouraged students to reflect on the pressures young people can face, the impact of their choices and the serious consequences linked to knife crime. Workshops like these are a vital part of our Personal Development curriculum, helping students make informed decisions, stay safe and build resilience.

Final Culture Day for this Academic Year – Friday 1 May 2026

Our final Culture Day of the academic year, held on Friday 1 May 2026, was a vibrant celebration of the cultures, identities and experiences that make our school community so special.

From the moment our travelling samba band welcomed students and families through the gates, there was a real sense of joy, pride and togetherness across the school. It was wonderful to see so many students confidently embracing cultural dress and celebrating who they are.

We would also like to thank our families for their generosity in supporting fundraising efforts for Manchester Young Lives, chosen by our families. Our Krispy Kreme sale proved extremely popular and added to the fantastic atmosphere throughout the day.

Events like this highlight the importance of celebrating diversity, creating a strong sense of belonging and strengthening the relationships within our wider community. We are incredibly proud of every student and member of staff who helped make the day such a memorable success.



PARENT WORKSHOP
AI Awareness

Delivered by **Trafford College**

Would you like to better understand artificial intelligence and how it is shaping the world your child is growing up in? Join us for this informative session designed to support parents and carers in navigating AI safely and confidently.

Friday 22 May 2026
1.30pm (arrival) / 3.00pm (finish)
at
William Hulme's Grammar School
(PAC2 - follow the signage)

Light Refreshments
Free to Attend - Places are Limited
Please bring photo ID with you.

Register by Friday 15 May 2026 (3.00pm) - Places are limited

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/NXJBcqeDMm>



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Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event
04/05/2026	Bank Holiday (School Closed)
05/05/2026	Y10 BMXing
05/05/2026	Henshaws
05/05/2026	Y8 Rowing
06/05/2026	Y7 Girls Football
07/05/2026	GCSE Exams Commence (until 17/06/2026)
07/05/2026	Y12 Discover Trial Assessment
07/05/2026	Y12 RSC Schools' Analyst Competition
07/05/2026	Y8 Cricket
07/05/2026	Y9 Cricket
07/05/2026	Y10 Parents' Evening
08/05/2026	Y12 Discover Trial Assessment
08/05/2026	Y13 Leavers' Event
11/05/2026	A-Level Exams Commence (until 18/06/2026)
11/05/2026-15/05/2026	Y10 Work Experience Week
12/05/2026	Y8 Rowing
12/05/2026	Y7 Cricket
18/05/2026-22/05/2026	KS3 Summer Assessments
19/05/2026	Y10 BMXing
19/05/2026	Y8 Rowing
19/05/2026	Y7-Y10 Rounders
21/05/2026	Y12 HE+Session
21/05/2026	Y10 / Y12 UoM Science Lecture
22/05/2026	Parent Event (AI Awareness)
22/05/2026	Term Ends (3.10pm)
25/05/2026-29/05/2026	School Holidays
01/06/2026	Start of Term