



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your continued support in what has been another very successful term. There has been an impressive range of trips and events across the school. You can find an excellent snapshot of the Spring term here: <https://youtu.be/lmVc9lHaWE>

The spring term in the **Primary Phase** was bustling with sporting triumphs, with our Boccia team making waves by clinching a spot in the national finals. Their dedication and teamwork shone through as they represented our school on the national stage. Additionally, our Year 6 students successfully completed their Bikeability training, equipping them with essential cycling skills for life whilst also promoting road safety awareness. In the spirit of community engagement, our Pupil Leadership Group showcased their initiative and compassion by presenting a commendable food bank project to 15 schools in Oxford. Their commitment to making a positive difference to the lives of others was inspiring. Finally, our youngest learners, in EYFS, stole the show with their delightful Easter performance. Watching them perform spring songs and parade their colourful bonnets was a heartwarming testament to their growth and creativity.

The students in the **Secondary Phase** have once again been contributing to a huge number of events. Alongside sports fixtures and regular BMXing activities, students have taken part in MasterChef competitions, National Careers Week activities, our WOMArathoN challenge and of course our brilliant school production of 'Annie' which was staged last week. A group of our exceptionally talented Year 9 students also visited The University of Manchester to participate in their Gateways programme. All schools participating were entered into a competition, which consisted of a Q&A session and a creative session, where students were required to create their own society. Outperforming all other schools, our students convincingly attained first place - an incredible achievement.

In the **Sixth Form**, there has been a wide array of exciting activities and events. A group of Year 12 students travelled to Zambia to experience the culture of the country and to learn more about climate change initiatives. Students also had the opportunity to participate in various sports activities. There are a further two Sixth Form trips to Ecuador and Zanzibar taking place over the Easter break. We were delighted that the Sixth Form Centre was able to host an Iftar as part of the celebration of the holy month of Ramadan. It was fantastic to see our students lead and participate in prayer and break their fast with all the wonderful food that they brought in. This is the second time we have been able to celebrate this event with the wider WHGS community.

Academic Update

- **Year 6** are working hard in class to prepare for their external SATs. The standard assessment tests are administered in the final year of primary school to measure pupils' educational achievement. Individual progress updates were given during the recent parents' evenings. The tests themselves are timetabled from Monday 13 May to Thursday 16 May 2024. We wish them every success!
- **Year 11** and **Year 13** have completed the final round of mock examinations. Year 11 external examinations begin on Friday 3 May and Year 13 external examinations begin on Monday 13 May. There are comprehensive details on our school website www.whgs-academy.org/students/exams, including a reminder about the Year 11 after school programme and revision resources at www.whgs-academy.org/students/home-learning/secondary-phase-learning.

Respect - Ambition - Compassion

Principal: Mrs Kate Heaton BEd (Hons)

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There are Easter revision sessions for Year 11 students and we are using the National Tutoring Programme to provide specialist tuition for our students in Year 13.

William Hulme's Way update

Students are expected to behave to the highest standards both in school and in the wider community. We also expect everyone to follow the school's Ambition, Compassion and Respect Charters: www.whgs-academy.org/about-us/william-hulmes-way.

Attendance and Punctuality reminder

We believe that regular school attendance and punctuality is the key to enabling children to maximise the educational opportunities available to them. We expect every student to achieve a **minimum** of 96% attendance and strive for 100% during an academic year. Students who have an attendance of over 96% have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance.

Please be reminded that Primary Phase students should be in school by 8.40am. The gates open at 8.30am, allowing plenty of time to access the site. Registers close at 9.00am. If your child arrives at school after this time, they will receive an unauthorised mark.

Secondary Phase students should be in school before 8.30am for a prompt start to the school day at this time. Students arriving late will be placed in school detention after school on the following day.

Uniform - Update

William Hulme's Grammar School (WHGS) has a Uniform Policy, which aims to:

- foster a sense of belonging and self-esteem.
- have a positive impact on the community's perception of the school and its members.
- help maintain high standards and attitudes to learning as well as reducing social prejudices.

Therefore, we expect all students to follow our uniform expectations every single day. Please be reminded that all students are expected to be wearing our new blazer (purchased from Monkhouse) by September 2024.

I know many of our families will be continuing to observe the Holy month of Ramadan as we commence the Easter holidays and I wish you all Eid Mubarak when it arrives in April. I also wish you a Happy Easter or simply a wonderful family break.

The term ends at **2.00 pm on Wednesday 27 March** and we look forward to welcoming students back on **Monday 15 April** (Week 1).

Yours sincerely

K M Heaton
Principal

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