



Message from the Vice Principal (Quality of Education)

As we come towards the close of the autumn term, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and reflect on my first term at WHGS.

I joined the team as one of the new Vice Principals in September, my responsibility being Quality of Education. I couldn't be happier with my decision to join the team at WHGS and am incredibly proud to call myself a member of the school community. Upon joining the school, I was immediately struck by the sense of community that is clear in every aspect of school life at WHGS. The students are a credit to you all. They are respectful and demonstrate the values of our charters of Ambition, Respect and Compassion every day at school. I am in awe of the hard work and dedication of the staff body. It is a pleasure to see so many specialist teachers delivering lessons that motivate and challenge students; their dedication to ensure all students are successful shines out in all lessons. Despite some unexpected adversity this term, staff have taken on the challenge of live lessons again, without hesitation, to continue to deliver the curriculum.



Throughout the Autumn term we have been working on embedding routines within lessons to have a strong start in every lesson and to continue to enhance the positive learning environments at WHGS. I have been celebrating exemplary student work in assemblies this week to highlight the high levels of productivity students achieve because of strong routines. Next term will see further opportunities to spotlight outstanding practice where students are challenged to think harder and to know and remember more.

A particular highlight this past week has been the release of the DfE Performance Tables and the provisional publication of the KS4 outcomes from Summer 2024. The Progress 8 score - the key measure that recognises student progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 - is 0.4 for William Hulme's. This is a wonderful achievement and celebration of the hard work of our students and staff, acknowledging that on average, students at William Hulme's achieve half a grade higher than their peers in other schools. This excellent Progress 8 score, one of the highest in Manchester, would not be possible without the continued support of our parents and carers. I have been astonished by your commitment to the school and ensuring we work together to provide the best education possible for every single student.

The sense of community within WHGS really is something special - thank you for welcoming me into the WHGS family.

Mrs S E Simpson

Subject in the spotlight

Art

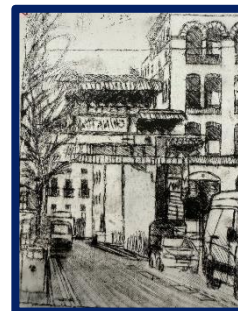
In the Art and Photography Department we teach art from Year 7 to Year 13. We are a popular choice as an option subject and always have full classrooms.

At KS3, Year 7 have been studying shape, looking at the work of artist Megan Monismith and designing monsters in her style! Year 8 have been studying 'Natural Form' and have looked at many techniques including Gradients and Extrapolation. Year 9 have been comparing two very different artists - Antino Gaudi and Ruth Allen. They have been practising watercolour techniques and continuous line and also showing they can incorporate collage into their work too.

At KS4 and 5 students are encouraged to produce their own work which links to the work of artists and craftspeople, giving students the opportunity to be original and creative in their personal responses. During the first term, Year 11 artists have been studying the work of David Hockney, a very important English painter who, at 87 years old, still sells work for millions of pounds.

Year 13 are continuing with their personal investigations. At A-Level they are allowed to choose what they want to study, so students can really get creative with something they are interested in. So far, we have work produced on natural form, photo-journalism and life stories! The work is progressing nicely, and Year 13 portfolios are starting to look very impressive.

In January and February 2025, all KS4 and KS5 students will receive their exam paper from AQA. The exam paper contains seven different starting points, and students choose one to study as their final exam project. In April and May, GCSE Art students will complete their 10-hour exam, whilst A-Level students will have 15 hours to complete their final pieces – I am sure you will join staff by wishing them good luck!



Physics (Sixth Form)

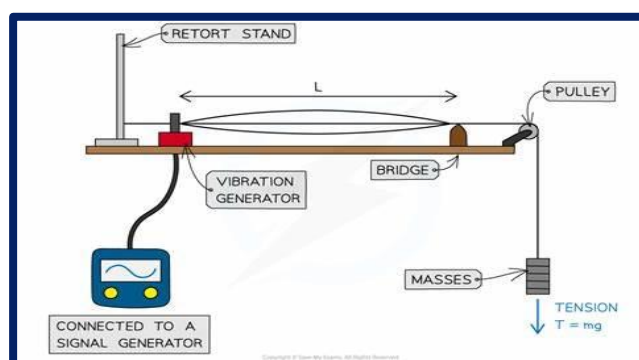
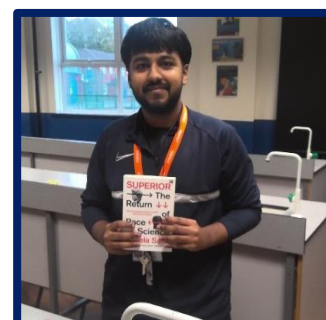
Physicists at WHGS have made a fantastic start to the year.

Year 13 physicists have commenced with their study of Astrophysics, where they will learn about everything within our universe: from the density of a black hole to the creation of our universe and the Big Bang theory. They have completed several required practicals since the beginning of term. They have approximated the coldest temperature in the universe (absolute zero, -273°C) through experimental methods in a WHGS lab.

Year 12 physicists have begun studies on particle physics and wave behaviour, completing their first required practical on Standing Waves. Their study of particles has seen them looking at the fundamental building blocks of the universe, and learning how protons and neutrons can be broken down further.

The WHGS physics department is a partner with the Ogden Trust and we have been lucky to host a high quality library of physics books. Year 13 students have had the opportunity to select books to read, from topics such as quantum mechanics, to the importance of equality in science (race and gender).

Students have been engaging with and enjoying Uplearn, our amazing learning platform which is offered to them. Students have been seeing the benefit of this in their recent assessments.



Sixth Form Focus

It has been a very busy term in the Sixth Form which has seen our Year 13 students have had their mock examinations. We have been incredibly impressed by their level of maturity and dedication both in preparation for the mocks and in how they conducted themselves during the assessment process. We continue to be very proud of them and look forward to sharing their results on Thursday 12 December.

Outside the classroom students have been experiencing our unique offer as a Sixth Form to provide key events to celebrate Education with Character. We have hosted our first House competition - a very exciting game of dodgeball! We are looking forward to being back on the court for the next House competition . . . House Basketball.

Year 12 have continued with their strong start and have impressed teachers with their continued dedication to their studies. They are fully embracing life in the Sixth Form and are preparing well for their January exams.

Year 12 Safe Drive Stay Alive event

Year 12 travelled to Middleton Arena to join sixth form students from across Greater Manchester to take part in the Safe Drive Stay Alive event.

The event is a road safety initiative that aims to empower young drivers to make safe driving choices. It was created in response to evidence that suggests that young people aged between 16 and 25 years of age are more likely to die or suffer serious injury from a road traffic collision.

The show included first-hand accounts from victims, family members and 999 responders personally affected by devastating road crashes. The Year 12 students were moved by these accounts and by the emotional film footage from other teenagers whose car journeys had unfortunately ended in tragedy.

The Year 12s all agreed that the Safe Drive Stay Alive event would stay with them for a long time to come and that they now felt more informed of the potential dangers and catastrophic effects of poor driving choices.



Personal Development

Pupil Voice

At William Hulme's Grammar School, we deeply value pupil voice as it fosters a culture of inclusivity, empowering our students to share their perspectives and influence change. This academic year, we have been surveying students to gather their thoughts on key topics such as racism, disability, misogyny, gender, homophobia, and out-of-school activities. Once the surveys are complete, our senior leadership team reviews the findings and develops actionable plans to address any concerns raised, ensuring that every voice is heard and valued.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is a national campaign designed to raise awareness of the impact of bullying and promote a culture of kindness and respect. During this week, our students participated in assemblies and engaging form-time activities. We also celebrated *Odd Socks Day*, where students and staff wore mismatched socks or tights to school. This fun event serves as a reminder that we are all unique, and these differences should be celebrated as part of our anti-bullying message.

World Kindness Day – Wednesday 13th November

To celebrate #WorldKindnessDay, our amazing Year 11 students hosted a Kindness Activity Stall during lunchtime! Students wrote heartfelt postcards to express appreciation for someone who has shown them kindness. As an extra touch of positivity, participants received kindness badges to spread joy throughout the school community.

Road Safety Week

For #RoadSafetyWeek, our Year 13 Student Leaders supported front gate duties each morning, while our Year 11 House Leaders assisted at the end of the day. Students engaged in thought-provoking form-time activities designed by the Executive Council and participated in a creative poster challenge to promote road safety awareness. Together, we reinforced the importance of staying safe on and around our roads.

Smashed Live – Year 7

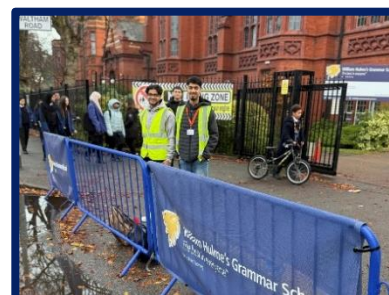
We are always excited to host external organisations that provide meaningful and interactive learning experiences! *Smashed Live* visited our Year 7 students, delivering their impactful interactive play as part of the PSHE curriculum. This session combined entertainment with education, equipping students with vital life lessons in an engaging format.

First Aid Training

Last year, we offered a first aid course to all our secondary students as well as parents/carers throughout the school. We have offered this opportunity to our new Year 7 students and their parents, plus Nursery parents, this academic year. A huge thank you to *Cookson First Aid* for partnering with us on this initiative, allowing our community to learn vital first aid skills.

Mission Christmas

We are delighted to announce that our school was successful in securing support from *Cash for Kids* as part of their *Mission Christmas* initiative. Through their generosity, some of our families were gifted tickets to *Skate Manchester*, and our year teams carefully selected students to receive Christmas gifts. This initiative brings extra joy to families in our community during the festive season.



Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event	Time(s)
Monday 9 December 2024	Y11 A Level Taster Day	9.30am-3.10pm
Monday 9 December 2024	Y9 UL Girls X-Elle Day	9.30am-2.00pm
Monday 9 December 2024	Y7 Netball v St Paul's	3.15pm-4.30pm
Wednesday 11 December 2024	KS3 Girls' Football	3.15pm-6.30pm
Thursday 12 December 2024	Y11 / Y13 Mock Results Day	9.45am -10.45
Thursday 12 December 2024	KS4 Girls' Football	3.15pm-5.45pm
Monday 16 December 2024	KS3 Live Performance	10.30am-2.30pm
Wednesday 18 December 2024	Winter Showcase Concert	5.45pm-8.00pm
Friday 20 December 2024	END OF TERM	From 2.00pm
Monday 6 January 2025	INSET Day (School Closed for Students)	
Tuesday 7-Friday 17 January 2025	Y12 In Class Assessments	9.00am-3.10pm
Wednesday 15 January 2025	Y8 HPV/MMR Immunisations	9.00am-2.00pm
Wednesday 15 January 2025	Y11 Boys Football v Our Lady's HS	2.30pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 15 January 2025	Y8/Y9 Netball v St Paul's HS	3.15pm-5.00pm
Thursday 16 January 2025	Y7 Parents' Evening	4.30pm-7.00pm
Friday 17 January 2025	Y7 Indoor Athletics	12.00pm-4.30pm
Monday 20-Friday 31 2025	KS3 Mid-Year Assessments	9.00am-3.10pm
Tuesday 21 January 2025	Y11 Internal Course Discussions	9.00am-3.10pm
Tuesday 28 January 2025	Y8/Y9 Master Chef Competition	3.15pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 29 Jan 2025	Y11 and Y13 Group Photographs	9.00am-11.50am
Wednesday 29 January 2025	Intermediate Maths Challenge	11.50am-3.10pm