



## Message from the Vice Principal, Ethos and Culture

As we reach the midpoint of the year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on my first six months as Vice Principal of Ethos and Culture.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff, students, and families of William Hulme's for their warm welcome and support since I joined. I am both honoured and proud to be part of this vibrant school community. There is a strong sense of belonging from staff and students. This theme is especially true of our staff in the pastoral team, who work tirelessly to support us all. The community outreach, wellbeing and behavioural support are outstanding. Some elements of this I will further sign post to you in this newsletter.



Throughout this academic year the pastoral team have focused on bringing together the great work completed by colleagues working across wellbeing, safeguarding, SEND, community, personal development, behaviour and attendance to create a comprehensive offer to ensure all students feel safe in school. We have also focused on ensuring all students are prepared for life after William Hulme's. This starts with the basics; being on time, in the correct uniform and with the correct equipment. So, when students commence university or their first job, they are going to be successful as they will be in the habit of punctuality and preparedness.

We had an exciting last half term; Culture Day was a real highlight. Students attended school representing a variety of cultures. Donations from this as well as the highly popular donut sale raised £558.71 for Human Appeal. Human Appeal provides vulnerable families with emergency relief, and they work to strengthen local communities by promoting child welfare and supporting sustainable livelihoods: [www.humanappeal.org.uk](http://www.humanappeal.org.uk). A worthy cause and excellent effort by all.

Academically, Year 13 demonstrated our value of ambition by working extremely hard in their mocks. Many students showed great improvements on their first exams. We have seen students peer teaching each other revision techniques, working in collaboration and giving 100% effort. It has no doubt been a challenging term for our students, but they have risen to the challenge, and we have no doubt they will achieve fantastic A-level success in the summer, just as 90% of our previous cohorts of Year 13 students have, going on to employment or university after school. The next half term is also busy in academia with Year 9 choosing their GCSE options and Year 11 sitting their final mocks before their real exams in the summer. We thank you for your continued support in preparing the students for their external exams.

The run-up to exams can often feel stressful, but it is important to remember that there is plenty of support available to help your child through this time. From extra revision sessions to wellbeing support from school and other agencies, we are here to ensure your child feels prepared and confident. Please reach out, using the enquiries email ([enquiries@whgs-academy.org](mailto:enquiries@whgs-academy.org)) if you or your child need any assistance. Whether it is managing workload or coping with exam stress. We are here to support you every step of the way!

Thank you for your part in creating such a strong community at WHGS. I look forward to seeing this go from strength to strength.

Finally, Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim families. May you enjoy a month full of blessings, peace and spiritual fulfilment.

**Ms S E Galloway**  
**Vice Principal (Ethos and Culture)**

# Curriculum Focus

This month's curriculum focus is on the Food and Nutrition Department.

The Food and Nutrition Department has been bustling with activity this term, offering students a hands-on experience in the kitchen and beyond.

Students in Key Stage 3 have been exploring the wonders of food science by preparing a variety of dishes, including: pizza, Finnish fruit plaits, macaroni cheese, sweet and sour chicken and fruit custard galettes. These activities have provided a fun and educational way for students to understand the science behind their favourite foods.

Year 10 students have been honing their culinary skills with a focus on advanced techniques such as: choux pastry, puff pastry and crème pâtissier. The highlight of the term for Year 10 was a visit from a fishmonger, who demonstrated the art of gutting and filleting a fish, giving students a unique insight into seafood preparation. We also had a visit from a member of Animal Aid who gave a vegan cookery demonstration.

The department has also hosted several successful extra-curricular events:

- Year 8/9 MasterChef competition where students showcased their cooking talents in a thrilling competition.
- Year 9 Options Information Evening was an interactive event featuring food science activities, a Q&A session about the course, and a live pasta-making demonstration by Year 10 students.

This half term, the focus will shift to careers in the food and nutrition industry. Planned activities include a visit to the catering department at Tameside College and a visit from a dietitian from Chester Hospital. These initiatives aim to inspire students and provide them with valuable insights into potential food-related career paths.



# Sixth Form

## The History Department

In January, a group of sixth-form students from History, Politics, Law and English attended a study day at the University of Manchester. This event runs annually, with Dr Andrew Fearnley (Programme Director of American Studies at the University of Manchester), leading a tailored and unique study day for William Hulme's students about US Civil Rights.

Students first had a walk around the main university campus on Oxford Road, particularly in the famous Samuel Alexander Building, home to the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures. Dr Fearnley, who has published various works on the history, politics and culture of the US, started the day by allowing students to study the inaugural speech of returning President Donald Trump.

Students then looked at primary source material, particularly surrounding the Black Power movement in the late 1960s. Students were able to discuss their work and produce some written answers to university-level questions, with exclusive academic resources. After lunch provided by the university at the Whitworth Art Gallery Café, students returned to the main campus to research primary material using the university's subscriptions to various American historical journals and archives.

History is a fantastic A-level to study at William Hulme's and boasts a wealth of subject areas. One of the most enjoyable parts is the coursework where students can pick their own topic - as our students are so passionate they enjoy really delving deeper into their specialist time periods. All our historians go on to fantastic destinations.



## Sixth Form Events

Last half term we ran some fantastic events in the Sixth Form. Our Year 12s took part in a University of Manchester Study Day. In addition, Model United Nations has become a popular enrichment activity with our students preparing to be the future leaders of the world. Our Year 12 Religious Studies students practised their presentation skills, with all boasting impressive oracy skills and confidence. We have had a fantastic Badminton House Competition and watched students enjoy playing Basketball as an extra-curricular activity. We are very proud of our school community.

This half term is always exciting as our Y13 students begin to receive their university offers. We have had great success with students being offered places at prestigious universities including Cambridge, Manchester, Leeds, UCL and Sheffield. We know that our students will be working extremely hard to ensure they achieve the outcomes they need to secure their place in August.



# Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a positive state experienced by individuals and societies. It encompasses quality of life and the ability to contribute to the world with a sense of meaning and purpose. At Williams Hulme's Grammar School we know that positive wellbeing helps students to learn effectively, cope with day-to-day challenges, and develop into resilient young adults.

## Here are some of the things WHGSs is doing to support the wellbeing of your child:

- Talks and assemblies are delivered by staff and experts on social, emotional and mental health. These have included topics such as: Black History Month, Anti-bullying, Careers, LGBTQ+ History Month.
- 'Early Help' is a service that we can offer which works with a range of professionals to support children and their families who are struggling with a variety of different issues.
- Peer mentoring between Year 7 and Year 10 students.
- Mentoring through an organisation called 'City in the Community'.
- William Hulme's Young Carers Support Group.
- Odd Arts workshops which use Theatre to engage young people on relevant issues.
- Kids of Colour Boys and Love Project - self-love, solidarity, inter-sectionality, challenging toxic masculinity, advocating for feminism, celebrating cultural identity.
- Working with our school counsellor for talking therapy.
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapy with an Education Mental Health Practitioner.
- Support from external services such as CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services).
- Accessing the organisations listed on our **Mental Health Support Poster** which offer a range of services such as:
  - Face-to-face counselling
  - 1-to-1 chat service
  - 1-to-1 text service
  - Helplines
  - Group counselling
  - Help and Advice Resources
  - Drug and alcohol abuse support

Our Mental Health Support Poster is a fantastic resource which can be found in our reception area with an electronic version available on our website.

# Online Safety

## Safer Internet Day – 11 February 2025

The theme for Safer Internet Day, the UK's biggest celebration of online safety, was 'Too good to be true?' this year. This focussed on assessing the real scale of scams online and allowed our young people to share their experiences and ideas on how to tackle the problem. We also built on the important work being done to raise awareness of issues such as online financial sextortion.



## Tips for Parents and Carers: Keeping you and your loved ones safe online



- Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives.
- Take online security measures seriously.
- Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam.
- Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted.
- Know where to get help if something goes wrong.

[Online Safety | Safeguarding | Parents | William Hulme's Grammar School](#)

# Co-curricular timetables

Please find our co-curricular timetables for this half term. They are always published on our website for you to peruse.

 <b>William Hulme's Grammar School</b> The best in everyone™ Part of United Learning									
<b>Co-curricular Timetable Spring 2025</b>									
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
<b>Before School</b>									
Homework Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Homework Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Cuban All Stars All Welcome M2 (Music)	Upper school vocal group Years 10 to 13 M1	Boys Football Year 8 Squad Astro (AKL)					
<b>Lunch time</b>									
Lunch Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Lunch Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Lunch Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Lunch Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Lunch Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)					
Vocal Group (Week B only) Year 7 to 9 M2 (GJG)	Guitar Group All Welcome M2 (IH/GJG)	DJ Group Years 7 to 11 M1 (AC)	Maths Problem Solving Sixth Form M13 (ATR)	Steel Band All Welcome M2 (GJG)					
Table Tennis All Welcome Activity Studio (GLO)	Table Tennis All Welcome Activity Studio (AJR)	Vocal Group (Week A only) Year 7 to 9 M2 (GJG)	MEDSOC (Week B) Sixth Form (SLH)	Friday Prayers All Welcome Sports Hall					
Girls Indoor Cricket Year 7 to 8 Sports Hall (PMA)	Film Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z5 (FZK)	Art Club Year 7 to 9 D30 (SG)							
	Chess Club Sixth Form M6 (CJR)								

 <b>William Hulme's Grammar School</b> The best in everyone™ Part of United Learning									
<b>Co-curricular Timetable Spring 2025</b>									
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday					
<b>After School – 3.10 pm to 4.15 pm</b>									
Homework Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Homework Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Cuban All Stars All Welcome M2 (Music)	Homework Club <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (Learning Support)	Boys Football Year 8 Squad Astro (AKL)					
All Stars Cuban Band All Welcome M2 (GJG)	History Club All Welcome (JCS)	Kick Boxing All Welcome Activity Studio (DEE)	United Lions <i>(Invite Only)</i> Z1 (RD/NDH)	Badminton All Welcome Sports Hall (AJR)					
AXIOM <i>(Invite Only)</i> D27 (NAS)	Garden Club All Welcome Fields (TSG)		Boys Football Year 7 Squad Astro (PMA)	Sixth Form Gym Sixth Form Sports Hall (AJR & PMA)					
Girls Netball All Welcome Netball Courts (MSB)	Drama Club All Welcome PAC 1 (OCS)		Sixth Form Football Sixth Form Astro (LJS)	Sixth Form House Competitions (AJR)					
Boys Football Year 9 Squad Astro (GLO & AJR)	Girls Football All Welcome Astro (MS)		Rugby Club Years 9 Fields (SAN)	Sixth Form Chemistry All Sixth Form (AFL)					
Boys Football Year 11 Astro (MRH)	Boys Open Football All Welcome Astro (GLO & AJR)		WHGS Pride Team All Welcome (Week 1) M22 (DTE)						
Art & Photography <i>(Year 11 Invite Only)</i> D30 (RD)	Basketball Year 7 to 9 Sports Hall (GLO)		Maths Clubs Years 7 to 9 D22 (TSG) Sixth Form M13 (ATR)						
Science club Years 7 and 8 S1 (Science Department)			Book Club Years 7 to 9 Z5 (FZK)						
Bar Mock Sixth Form (AGI)			United Nations 6th Form M6 (FMM)						

## Attendance

Attendance continues to be at the forefront of everything we do at William Hulmes' Grammar School.

We are extremely proud of our strong attendance record, winning national awards in each of the past 3 years. We rank as one of the highest attending schools within United Learning and continue to be significantly above the average for schools in Manchester. We believe that this is due to WHGS being a place where students want to be, offering a calm, orderly, safe and supportive environment in which pupils are keen and ready to learn.

However, we can still improve further! Every day in school matters – research shows that pupils with higher attainment at the end of KS2 and KS4 have higher rates of attendance over those with lower attainment.

Also, punctuality to school really matters - arriving at school and lessons on time is of paramount importance, and we want to continue to ensure students use every minute of the day in order to achieve their maximum potential. Please can you ensure your child is arriving at school before 8:30 am. Any student arriving after registers close (9.00 am) will receive a U for their morning mark. Ten U codes may result in a fine.

If there are any barriers to your child attending school and/or arriving on time, please contact us and we will support you in every way we can.

## Travel Survey

Finally, we are asking all families to complete a travel survey as part of our wider Carbon Neutral work. It enables us to establish an idea of commuting-related emissions and provides data which can help us to identify barriers and solutions to more active and sustainable travel. This is important for reducing our carbon footprint and contributing to a healthier planet and population. Please [complete the Student Travel Survey](#) with your child.

## Key Dates and Events

Date	Activity / Event	Time(s)
27/02/2025	Y9 Options/Parents' Evening	5.00pm-7.00pm
04/03/2025	KS3 Careers Drop Down Morning	9.00am-1.05pm
07/03/2025	KS3 Author Visit	9.00am-1.05pm
11/03/2025	Y10/Y11 PISA 2025 Study	8.45am-10.45am
11/03/2025	Y12/Y13 Iftar	5.00pm-7.30pm
12/03/2025	Y9 Internal Course Discussions	School Day
13/03/2025	Y13 Mock Results Day	11.50am-1.05pm
13/03/2025	Y10 Parents' Evening	4.00pm-6.00pm
14/03/2025	Y8 HPV / MMR Immunisations	9.00am-2.00pm
14/03/2025	Y12 Historian Talk/Visit	11.50am-1.05pm
17/03/2025	Y11 Internal Course Discussions	9.00am-3.10pm
20/03/2025	Y13 Parents' Evening	4.00pm-6.30pm
27/03/2025	Y11 Mock Results Day	9.00am-10.15am
<b>31/03/2025</b>	<b>Planning Day (School Closed for All Students)</b>	
03/04/2025	Rhetoric By Heart Competition	9.00am-1.05pm
03/04/2025	End of Term Rewards Event	1.55pm-3.10pm
<b>04/04/2025</b>	<b>End of Term</b>	<b>2.00pm</b>