



Message from Thom Copestake, Head of School

Many of us working in education live our lives according to the academic year, but the start of a new calendar year always brings a sense of optimism and joy, despite the cold weather and the continued dark nights. I always look forward to the point where the trees once again begin to sprout their green leaves but given the snap of cold frosts and winds that we have recently battled, I do fear this is still a long time off.

Our students, however, continue to grow and develop their knowledge and skills; we are after all, developing the young people who will shape the future of this country. Furthermore, whilst we have a very strong academic focus, we believe there is more to education than what goes on in the classroom. We have recently launched with students our updated Education with Character programme and our Student Pledges. Designed to develop leadership, organisation, teamwork and communication skills, as well as building in students' adaptability, self-esteem, confidence and resilience, our Education with Character programme is overflowing with opportunities for students to try something new; we want to support our students to achieve the very best of which they are capable, and to motivate and inspire a love of learning which lasts well beyond their years in formal education. Further details are available on our [website here](#) and all students have a copy of the student pledge in their planner. A copy of the Student Pledges can be found on the last page of the newsletter.



Reading and literacy continue to sit at the heart of our teaching and learning; we believe that all students should be able to read fluently and comprehend texts, providing them with the empowerment they will need to be successful in their future. Our universal reading support includes our form time reading programme, guided reading strategies, disciplinary literacy woven into the teaching in every subject, exposure to academic and scholarly texts and teaching students how to comprehend, summarise and take notes. Some students, we know, need a little more support and our intervention programmes – including Lexonik Advanced, Phonics (Read, Write, Inc) and Rapid

Reader, provide opportunities for those who might need additional guidance to ensure they can read and comprehend. At home, you can support students by encouraging them to read regularly, to read aloud and to read a range of texts, both fiction and non-fiction. Our library has a wealth of resources to encourage students to read for pleasure and empowerment so do encourage your child to take advantage of this.

Finally, those of you that drive to drop off and collect students will know how busy the local roads can be around school and the dangers this can pose to residents and our school community. Please be mindful of road safety in the areas surrounding school. Parking or stopping a vehicle is prohibited on any road marked with double yellow lines, within 10 metres of any junction and directly outside a school (indicated by the zig zag lines and the pavement markings). We ask that all parents/carers are equally cautious about not blocking driveways for our residents.

Mr T Copestake
Head of School (Secondary and Sixth Form)

Curriculum Focus

Geography Department.

Geography is an important subject throughout the key stages at WHGS. By studying Geography students learn the importance of understanding the world around them both from a physical (or natural) perspective and a human perspective. This also helps students to gain key skills such as data analysis, critical thinking, and evaluating topics through an enquiry-based process that is used in Geographical fieldwork as well as a range of other subjects. Geographical skills can be easily transferred to other areas of study as well as being essential skills in the world of work in the future.

Students who study GCSE Geography have a high success rate with over 70% of students typically gaining a pass grade or higher, and at A Level classes have a 100% pass rate, representing high quality teaching from the staff in the Geography department, and dedication from students to achieve their goals.



Mathematics Department:

Mathematics at A-level is one of our most popular subjects, boasting fantastic outcomes and successful alumni. One of our most remarkable success stories is Ali Alizadeh, whom we were so lucky to have join us in the Sixth Form. Ali came to the United Kingdom from Iran one year before his A-level study with little English. Ali was one of our Early Applicants who received support in his application. He received 3 A* grades in Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics. He also achieved an A grade in Chemistry. Ali went to read Engineering at Cambridge University in September 2021. Ali was one of the best Mathematics students the school had ever seen, and his favourite subject was Mathematics, so much so he wants to become a teacher of Mathematics. We have been very fortunate to have been joined by Ali this week as he came in to speak to our Year 11 students about taking Mathematics as an A-level. He was kind enough to offer his time and spoke about how much he enjoyed his time at Willaim Hulme's and was complimentary about the support he was offered as well as our class sizes. Ali said, *"I really enjoyed the subjects I was taking for A Levels, Year 13 was more difficult than Year 12 - it was a really different experience. The teachers were great, and they really supported me. Many teachers, Mr Harrison especially, really helped me."*



Sixth Form Focus

We are very proud of our Year 13 students who completed their mock examinations last term with some excellent results. They have a second round of examinations starting in February to ensure they are fully prepared for their final A level examinations in the summer. As usual, our outstanding students handled this with maturity and rigour. Year 12 have just completed their first round of assessments in all subjects, as well as embarked on their student leadership awards.

An important element of our Sixth Form is the opportunity we provide for students to take on student leadership roles. We now have a new team of student prefects who will act as role models to other students including students across all phases whilst supporting staff to promote a positive culture and building high expectations about future pathways.

Life in the Sixth Form is more than just about academic success, although we take this very seriously. We want students to fully immerse themselves in the social side and forge lifelong friendships. We make sure our Sixth Form

events and socials are part of everything we do here; we believe this is what has built the strong sense of community we promote. At the end of the autumn term, we celebrated with a bowling trip to strengthen our sense of belonging. A number of students also took part in Sixth Form basketball as one of our House Competitions. It all became very competitive allowing students to also embrace the social side of the Sixth Form. We are looking forward to our next competition which will be badminton and we are excitedly making plans for our upcoming Culture Day and Sixth Form Iftar.



Revision and Study Skills

This week, students have attended assemblies on how to study effectively. The purpose is to empower all our students to be able to remember their learning by making regular, independent study a habit. Students were introduced to the acronym **FAST**: is revision Focused, Active, Sustained and Transformed?



- **Focused:** ensure revision is distraction-free, in a quiet and calm environment.
- **Active:** the most effective revision involves thinking hard. We can do this through trying to recall knowledge from memory.
- **Sustained:** the best revision is 'little and often' to ensure that we remember learning in the long-term. We should avoid cramming and spread our study out over several shorter sessions.
- **Transformed:** in order to demonstrate understanding of our learning, we should practise transforming it into different formats such as flashcards, mind maps, quizzes, brain dumps etc.

Year 11 students now have revision timetables which they should complete, bearing the above principles in mind. If any student is unsure about how best to revise, they are welcome to speak to class teachers and form tutors, who will give them further guidance. Good Luck!

Personal Development

On Wednesday, 18 December 2024, William Hulme's Grammar School hosted its highly anticipated Winter Showcase, a heartwarming celebration of talent, unity, and community spirit. With over 250 guests in attendance, the evening featured spectacular performances from our Year 5 Voices and Brass, the All-Stars Cuban Band, Steel Bands, Vocal Groups, Guitar Ensemble, and gifted Year 10-12 musicians and soloists. Attendees were treated to complimentary food and drinks prepared by our Food and Nutrition students, and Father Christmas brought festive cheer by providing a gift for every young guest. Supported by the United Learning Ignite Fund, the event was designed to strengthen community ties, reduce social isolation, and provide a platform for our students to shine, leaving everyone with lasting memories of joy and pride. Thank you to all who helped make this evening such a resounding success!



Peerscroller PSHE App

We would like to remind you about Peerscroller – A PSHE app created and launched by Yipiyap (<https://www.yipiyap.co.uk/>). We have incorporated the app into our form time structure, assemblies and PSHE lesson delivery.

Peerscroller is in a Tik Tok style, covering topics such as: Careers and Options, Exams and Revision, Culture and Free Time, Digital and Wellbeing, Health and Wellbeing, Life Skills, Make your voice heard, Money Matters, Relationships, Rights and Responsibilities, School and College Life & Who are you.

As our membership has kindly been sponsored by Entire FS financial planning company (<https://www.entirefs.co.uk/about-us/>). It is totally free of charge for our students, parents, carers and staff to use.

Students, parents / carers are able to create their own account to use the app. Student login instructions have been shared via year groups teams. To find out more information, please click this link: <https://www.peerscroller.com/> - To register for your account, once downloaded from App Store or Google Play, please scan the QR code below or input the accurate code to be able to set up your account:



Student

785137



Parent

800065

Rugby Trip:



A group of our rugby players from Years 7 to 10 visited Twickenham to watch England v Japan in the Autumn International Series. This trip was kindly provided by Lancashire RFU, and our students witnessed a fantastic, high-scoring match, with England defeating the Brave Blossoms 59 - 14.

Maths Trip:

Our Axiom Maths Club, a group of talented and aspiring mathematicians, recently enjoyed an exciting trip packed with problem-solving and hands-on learning. The day began at an escape room, where all the students worked together brilliantly to solve puzzles and successfully escape — a testament to their teamwork and critical thinking skills. We then visited the Science Museum, where the students participated in an interactive workshop filled with engaging activities and live experiments. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young mathematicians to apply their curiosity and skills beyond the classroom. Well done to everyone involved!



This term, our students have had the pleasure of attending assemblies delivered on:

- Effective Revision Strategies
- University of Law – Year 9
- Diversity, Equality & Inclusion – World Religion Day & Holocaust Memorial Day
- Safeguarding – Prevent

New Shelter

After many years of planning, we are finally able to provide students with a covered area outside that they will benefit from during unpleasant weather. In the next few months, we will be adding furniture to the space so that students have an alternative area to eat and drink from the more traditional dining room. Our students have already shown their excitement and gratitude for the investment in their outdoor spaces.



Careers

Our United Learning Careers Strategic Lead visited William Hulme's Grammar school on Thursday 9 January 2025 to learn how our school supports students with their Careers, Destinations and Aspirations. The day consisted of a visit across all three phases to see the amazing work carried out by our teachers to ensure our students are guided and equipped through their careers and destinations. Students across KS2, KS3 and KS4 who supported the day, were positive about their support and education at William Hulme's Grammar School. Students stated: *'Teachers know their subject and it's clear they care and enjoy teaching it'*, and *'They give clarity to ensure I am prepared and ready to leave school once my GCSEs have ended – there's no extra stress'*. The Careers visit showcased that our careers provision is embedded across the culture of the school. The feedback was positive - that William Hulme's Grammar School offers a 'rigorous provision.' Thank you to all the staff and students that supported us to make this day a success!

Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event	Time(s)
03-05/02/2025	Y11 Spanish Mock Speaking Exams	9.00am-3.10pm
03/02/2025	Y8 Football	2.45pm-5.30pm
03/02/2025	Y7 Netball	3.15pm-5.00pm
04/02/2025	Y11 Football v Kind David	3.00m-5.30pm
04/02/2025	Y9 Food & Nutrition Options Workshop	3.15pm-4.45pm
04-14/02/2025	Y13 Mock Examinations	9.00am-3.10pm
05/02/2025	KS4 Girls' Football	3.15pm-6.15pm
06/02/2025	Y10 GCSE German Study Morning	8.45am-2.00pm
06/02/2025	UL U15 Netball Competition	3.15pm-5.30pm
07/02/2025	U13 Girls' Indoor Cricket Event	9.00am-3.00pm
10/02/2025	Y7 Netball	3.15pm-5.00pm
12/02/2025	Y7-Y9 History Contest	10.35am-3.10pm
12/02/2025	Y11 Football v Burnage Academy	3.00pm-5.30pm
13/02/2025	Culture Day (Whole School)	All Day
13/02/2025	Y12 Parents' Evening	4.00pm-6.30pm
14/02/2025	HALF TERM ENDS	3.10pm

The William Hulme's Way

Student Pledges



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

Each year I will have:



Committed to at least one co-curricular club within school or outside of school.



Had a chance to share my views about school via the pupil leadership structure.



Represented my school or house by taking part in a cultural, artistic, charitable or sporting event.



Reflected on my aspirational goals to make informed decisions about my future goals and how to get there.



Heard from an inspirational speaker.



Celebrated my culture and embraced other cultures.

During my time in Key Stage 3, I will have:



Worked as part of a team and taken on a leadership role.



Delivered a presentation to an audience.



Helped others by participating in a social action campaign or by volunteering my time.



Watched a theatre performance.



Attended an outdoor education or adventurous activity trip.



Had the chance to perform in a production to an audience.

During my time in Key Stage 4, I will have:



Applied for a Senior Leadership position.



Applied for a Senior Leadership position.



Helped others by participating in a social action campaign or by volunteering my time.



Helped others by participating in a social action campaign or by volunteering my time.



Experienced a professional workplace.



Experienced a professional workplace.



Had a chance to visit a university.



Had a chance to visit a university.



Watched a theatre performance.



Delivered a presentation to an audience.

During my time in Sixth Form, I will have: