



Our Ref: KMH/jmc/EndofTerm_Dec2024
Date: 19 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move towards the Christmas break, many of us are thinking about having an opportunity to rest and relax with our families after what has been a very busy Autumn Term. I wanted, first of all, to thank you all once again for your patience and kindness during the recent closures in the Secondary Phase – it was a difficult time and was greatly appreciated.

The Primary Phase want to extend their gratitude for your continued engagement in our *Learn with Me* sessions, which have been invaluable in strengthening the partnership between home and school. This term, they also introduced new *Milestone Meetings* across each year group. These sessions focused on practical ways to support your child's learning journey, and your participation has been fantastic.

Primary pupils have enjoyed some wonderful learning experiences during the Autumn term as well. Year 1 had an exciting visit to Chester Zoo, sparking curiosity and conversations about the natural world. Year 2 explored the historical Elizabeth Gaskell's House, stepping back in time to learn about Victorian life. Meanwhile, our Forest School programme continues to thrive, with all year groups set to benefit from these outdoor learning sessions over the rest of the school year.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair, which raised an impressive £2467! These funds will directly support enriching activities and experiences for our students in the months ahead.

The festive spirit has truly been alive in our Primary Phase. Year 2, with fabulous support from Year 1, charmed us all with their delightful nativity performance. Additionally, the carol concert by Years 3 and 4 filled the air with joy and left us all in a festive mood.

It has been an excellent first term in the Secondary and Sixth Form phases also. Our students are working hard to develop their skills, knowledge and learning and set themselves high academic standards to ensure they make progress in their learning. Our students continue to demonstrate our school charters of Respect, Ambition and Compassion through the way they present themselves in school, with visitors and guests and when taking part in trips and events. I am always proud when guests comment on how polite, friendly, inquisitive and enthusiastic our students are.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have recently completed the first round of their mock examinations, and their outcomes reflect all the hard work and commitment they have shown to their studies.

The range of wonderful extra-curricular opportunities for our students has once again allowed them to flourish beyond the classroom. There have been Master Chef competitions, culture days, athletics, cricket and football tournaments, geography field expeditions, coffee mornings, concerts, book club discussions and so much more. Students have enjoyed trips to Manchester

Respect - Ambition - Compassion

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University, to UA92 for careers advice, to Manchester Museum of Science and Industry and most recently, singing Christmas carols at the Manchester Royal Children's Hospital. On top of this, our students have once again demonstrated their commitment to diversity and inclusion by wholeheartedly and with gusto being involved in celebrating national and local events such as Black History Month and our WHGS Culture days.

Through their incredible generosity, our students have raised an impressive £546.19 for Families Against Violence. This charity, chosen by our parents and carers in the last parental survey, is dedicated to reducing gang and gun culture in Greater Manchester and beyond through a preventive approach and early intervention. Their inspiring work brings young people together to promote social inclusion, build self-esteem and inspire positive life choices. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing cause! To learn more about the vital work of Families Against Violence, visit: www.fav-uk.org

This end of term video <https://youtu.be/UTfi1wpFSQg> shows a snapshot of some of these events/activities. This will be available on our website next week, along with a downloadable 'newsletter' version.

As we look forward to a spring term of new challenges and successes, we say a fond farewell to Mr Baylis, Director of Finance and Mrs Akhtar (Cleaner) who are both retiring after many years of dedicated service at WHGS. Also leaving us are Miss Ncube (Teacher of English), Mr Karami (Teacher of Maths) and Mr Woodrow (Music Tutor) who are moving on to pastures new. We wish them all well in their future ventures.

The Term Dates for 2025-26 have now been finalised and are available to view on the website by following this link <https://www.whgs-academy.org/parent-info/key-dates>. I know it's the time of year when many of you like to book your holidays!

Finally, I know we are all mindful of the traffic and parking concerns that we have in the immediate vicinity of the school so please [find attached some information for you to consider over the break](#). On behalf of all our staff and governors, we would like to thank you all for your invaluable support this term and I hope that you all have a safe and relaxing Christmas break or Winter holiday and very best wishes for 2025. **School closes at 2.00pm on Friday 20 December.**

School re-opens for pupils on **Tuesday 7 January 2025** (Week Two in the Secondary Phase).

Yours sincerely

K M Heaton
Principal

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