



Message from the Principal

We are now well into the second half term of the year and I wanted to update you with all our news in the Secondary Phase so far this academic year.

Students in the Secondary Phase had an exceptional start to this half term, demonstrating ambition, compassion and respect both inside and outside the classroom. Year 7 students settled extremely well, and Year 11 students have approached their GCSE preparation with great maturity. I continue to feel immensely proud to be leading the WHGS community forwards.

For students to progress as well as they deserve, they must attend school conscientiously. I want to take this opportunity to highlight the crucial role that attendance plays in your child's academic success. Research shows that regular school attendance is closely linked to increased academic achievement. Missing even a few days can disrupt learning, making it harder for pupils to stay on track and keep up with their peers. Each day in school is an opportunity for pupils to engage with new material, ask questions, and build upon previous knowledge.



Between now and the end of January, your child will take some form of assessment. Regular attendance will play an important part in your child's ability to perform to the best of their ability. Nationally the picture is clear - where pupils are regularly present in school, their health and well-being are elevated, their school experience is more enriched, and they are more successful. Research by the Department for Education clearly demonstrates that pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A-level results. Additionally, excellent attendance and attainment will be key to allowing pupils to secure the post-16 place in a pathway of their choice.

At school level, analysis of Year 11 results from Summer 2024 confirms what we have always thought. At WHGS, those who attend for at least 96% of the time achieve significantly higher results than those who do not.

Attendance Reminders

- Pupils need to be on site by 8.30am, ready for registration to take place at this time.
- If your child is going to be absent, please refer to our policy and details here [Attendance | Parents | William Hulme's Grammar School](#)
- Leave of absence during term time will not be authorised. Holidays taken during term time will impact on your child's attendance and progress and you may receive a fixed penalty notice.
- Please make every effort to book any appointments out of school hours.
- Please refer to the NHS guidance on illness in school if you are unsure about whether or not your child is well enough to attend: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If there are any barriers or challenges affecting your child's ability to attend school, please do not hesitate to contact the Attendance Team via phone or email, using enquires@whgs-academy.org. We are here to help and work together with you to provide the necessary support and resources to ensure your child can attend school regularly and thrive.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you to make this year one of great progress and success.

Mrs K M Heaton

Subject in the spotlight

Business Studies

Business Studies is an extremely popular subject choice at both GCSE and A Level and we are always thrilled to see so many of our students engaging with concepts relating to business structures, stakeholders and market growth. The team is always exploring new ways to engage students and we are really hoping to co-ordinate a trip for our GCSE students to consolidate learning.

Students who choose to take Business at A level continue to develop their knowledge and skills and our current Y12 and Y13 students are highly motivated individuals who are really challenging themselves to meet our high expectations. As a department we are focused on extended learning beyond the classroom to inspire and motivate our students. This term we have had two inspirational entrepreneurs from 1st Portal Network Limited come into school to talk to our students about their business which turns over millions of pounds each year and Beauty Bay the online cosmetics retailer is also pencilled in for later this term.



We hope that many of our Year 9 and Year 11 students choose to study business in the next stage of their educational career.

Law



Year 12 have settled in well and have started to gain a strong understanding of the English Legal System and Law-Making processes. We are working hard to develop evaluation and analysis skills to formulate critical responses to essays. Also, our budding lawyers are preparing for their first court trip to see the justice system in action when they visit the Manchester Courts. In Year 13, students have been learning Property Offences as they come to the end of the crime content. They are preparing well for their November mocks where they will face both Paper 1 and Paper 2 to give them an excellent grounding for revision needed for the summer exam season.

We were excited to see so many Year 11 students visit us on the Sixth Form Open Evening and are looking forward to welcoming students to experience life as Law students in our Sixth Form.

Road Safety and Traffic

We fully understand that parking around the school is challenging, and while we sympathise with the difficulties this creates, it is unlikely that the situation will change in the near future. However, by working together and taking small steps, we can alleviate the problem. Encouraging your secondary-aged children to walk to school or arranging a sensible and safe drop-off a short distance from the school, are both excellent ways to reduce congestion. If driving really is necessary, please park considerately and safely, even if it means walking a little further. We are very fortunate in that there is always plenty of stopping and dropping off space on the side roads around the school and we encourage you please to use these spaces, of course being mindful not to block the driveways of the local residents. In the new year, we will be conducting a travel survey as part of our on-going work around traffic and road safety. Please look out for this and we do urge you to complete it.

Sixth Form Focus

We have seen a strong start from students in our Sixth Form this year and they are all settling in well and developing excellent routines and working habits. We have particularly enjoyed welcoming students to Y12, especially those who are new to WHGS, having joined us from other schools. We find that our community benefits from the personalised approach in the Sixth Form and many are taking advantage of the superb study facilities and the on-site café!

Our recruitment to Sixth Form never stops and this term we hosted our Open Evening where many of our current students were able to speak confidently and passionately with Year 11 students. It was wonderful to see so many of our students excited about the next stage of their education and hear from our subject teachers about the options available to them.



We are also working hard in Sixth Form to ensure all students feel they are welcomed and celebrated as part of the WHGS community; our social events, random acts of kindness and our engaging assemblies and guest speakers continue to inspire, motivate and shape our incredible students who will be the leaders of tomorrow!

Bar Mock Trial Competition Day - Saturday 9 November

Students have been busy preparing cases to compete in the North West heat of the competition. They attended Manchester Crown Court to present their cases and competed against other local schools/colleges.

Year 12 and 13 students met every Monday after school to prepare for the competition. They have scrutinised two criminal cases and picked out evidence to prepare their cases. Roles were then allocated. Students were given the opportunity to perform as prosecution barristers, defence barristers, witnesses, the court clerk or an usher. All students got to experience what it is like to be part of a jury and decide based on the evidence presented in the case.

Barristers worked hard to prepare their opening and closing statements and questions for the witnesses. Witnesses learned their scripts and practised answering questions from both the prosecution and defence barristers.

A full-dress rehearsal of one case took place. Students also performed a dress rehearsal in front of Judge Leona Harrison. The judge offered support and advised students on presenting their cases. Students were also given the opportunity to speak to Judge Harrison about her role and the legal profession in general.

The competition was a fantastic opportunity for students to gain experience of the courtroom and have the chance to meet and speak to solicitors, barristers and judges. The competition also helped students develop their communication skills and confidence in public speaking. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience of presenting their cases at the crown court.



Personal Development

Culture Day

Our recent all-through school Culture Day was a tremendous success. Students and staff attended school in cultural dress/clothing that represented their individual backgrounds, fostering a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere throughout the day. Upon arrival, students were greeted by a DJ, setting a lively tone for the celebrations.

During breaktime, we held a successful doughnut sale, and our Executive Council selected an Arabic-themed lunch menu, which was a hit among students and staff. University Academy 92 and Rekindle set up informative stalls, advertising opportunities at their establishments while distributing merchandise. The day concluded with an uplifting performance from our school band, leaving everyone on a high note.

We are pleased to report that the event raised an impressive £546.19 for the charity, Families Against Violence (voted first choice in our recent parental survey). FAV is a charity dedicated to reducing gang and gun culture in Greater Manchester and other parts of England through a preventive approach and early intervention. They aim to bring young people together to promote social inclusion, build self-esteem, and inspire positive life choices: <https://fav-uk.org/>

Assemblies

Last term, each year group had the pleasure of attending assemblies delivered on:

- Safeguarding.
- Social Emotional Mental Health (Delivered by 42nd Street - A charity that supports young people aged 11-25 with their mental health and emotional well-being, offering counselling, therapy, and creative projects).
- Teaching and Learning.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Delivered by our Year 11 House Leaders).
- Recycling (Delivered by Biffa - A leading UK waste management company, providing collection, recycling, and disposal services to help businesses and communities manage their waste sustainably).
- PSHE (Delivered by Yipiyap - An organisation that provides peer tutoring by placing high-achieving school leavers in schools as tutors, helping to support students with their learning and development).
- Exam Stress (Delivered by Kooth - A digital mental health platform offering free, confidential support through counselling, self-help resources, and peer communities for young people and adults).



Key Dates:

Date	Activity / Event	Time(s)
Mon 18 Nov 2024 - Fri 22 Nov 2024	Y11 Mock Examinations	9.00am-3.10pm
Mon 18 Nov 2024	ESU Debating Competition	4.00pm-7.00pm
Wed 20 Nov 2024	Y7 Smashed Live Assembly	1.55pm-3.10pm
Wed 20 Nov 2024	Y11 Football v King David High School	3.10pm-5.00pm
Fri 22 Nov 2024	Y8/Y9 Indoor Athletics	12.00pm-4.30pm
Tue 26 Nov 2024	Y10-Y13 Masterchef	3.15pm-5.30pm
Wed 27 Nov 2024	GCSE Art Mock Exam	9.00am-3.10pm
Thu 28 Nov 2024	GCSE Photography Mock Exam	9.00am-11.50am
Thu 28 Nov 2024	Come and Chat (Parents/Carers)	2.00pm-3.00pm
Fri 29 Nov 2024	Y8 HPV/MMR Immunisations	9.00am-2.00pm
Fri 29 Nov 2024	KS4/KS5 Anwar Akhtar Visit (History Talk)	1.15pm-1.55pm
Mon 2 Dec 2024 - Wed 4 Dec 2024	Y11 Spanish Mock Speaking Exams	9.00am-3.10pm
Mon 2 Dec 2024	Y9 UL Girls X-Elle Day	9.30am-2.00pm
Mon 2 Dec 2024	Executive Council Meeting	1.05pm-1.35pm
Mon 2 Dec 2024	First Aid Course (Parents/Carers)	3.15pm-4.15pm
Tue 3 Dec 2024	First Aid Course (Parents/Carers)	4.00pm-5.00pm
Wed 4 Dec 2024	Y8 TfGM Assembly	10.35am-11.35am
Wed 4 Dec 2024	Y9 Netball	3.15pm-5.00pm
Thu 5 Dec 2024	ASSESSMENT DAY – School Closed for Students	
Fri 6 Dec 2024	PLANNING DAY – School Closed for Students	
Mon 9 Dec 2024	Y11 A Level Taster Days	9.30am-3.10pm
Mon 9 Dec 2024	Y9 UL Girls X-Elle Day	9.30am-2.00pm
Mon 9 Dec 2024	Y7 Netball v St Paul's	3.15pm-4.30pm
Tue 10 Dec 2024	Henshaws	1.05pm-1.55pm
Wed 11 Dec 2024	KS3 Girls' Football	3.15pm-6.30pm
Thu 12 Dec 2024	Y11 / Y13 Mock Results Day	TBC
Thu 12 Dec 2024	Y7-Y11 Christmas Performance	9.30am-12.15pm
Thu 12 Dec 2024	KS4 Girls' Football	3.15pm-5.45pm
Mon 16 Dec 2024	KS3 Live Performance	10.30am-2.30pm
Wed 18 Dec 2024	Winter Showcase Concert	6.30pm-8.00pm
Thu 19 Dec 2024	End of Term Rewards Event	1.55pm-3.10pm
Fri 20 Dec 2024	End of Term Assemblies	TBC
Fri 20 Dec 2024	END OF TERM	From 2.00pm