



William Hulme's Grammar School

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Autumn Term

Snapshot

2024-25

...but first,
congratulations to all
our former Year 11 and
Year 13 students on
their exam results
2023-24

A-Level Results Day 2024

Students and staff are celebrating today after our Sixth Formers received an excellent set of A Level results.

Students at the school have been awarded a raft of the highest A* and A grades and, in doing so, have secured places at their universities of choice, including a host of Russell Group institutions such as Imperial College London and the University of Manchester. Students will be going on to study a wide range of high-quality, competitive courses, from Aerospace Engineering to Computing and Mathematics.

Among those celebrating this morning was 19-year-old Sijabuliso Sibanda who, having only arrived in the UK from Zimbabwe two years ago, achieved four A*s and gained a place to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Manchester.

Speaking of his success, Sijabuliso said:

"I'm happy but I'm definitely going to miss Sixth Form. WHGS was the first school I went to in the UK and it was really fun. I'll miss the teachers and the students."

Others marking particularly impressive achievements and university offers include:

- Andrii Kravets, who achieved three A*s and a B and gained a place to study Physics at the University of Manchester.
- Torin Hourston, who achieved two A*s and two As and gained a place to study Computing at Imperial College London.
- Jamal Zahid, who achieved two A*s and an A and gained a place to study Egyptology and Ancient History at the University of Liverpool.
- Bilal Shaikh, who achieved an A* and two As and gained a place to study Civil Engineering at the University of Manchester.



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A-Level Results Day 2024



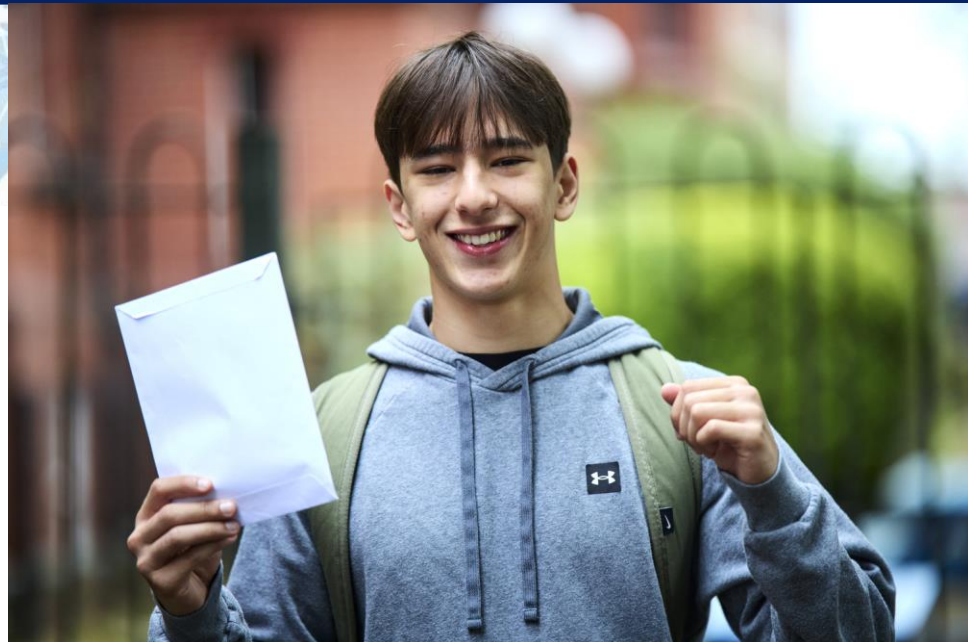
- Muhammad Taha Kashif, who achieved three As and gained a place to study Mathematics at Manchester Metropolitan University.
- Sara Alaloul, who has achieved two As and a B, and gained a place to study Computer Science at the University of Manchester.
- Sakinah Hussain, who has achieved two As and a B and is considering her next steps.

Commenting on students' achievements, Thom Copestake, Head of Secondary School at WHGS, said:

"We are delighted that our students have achieved such excellent outcomes after their years of diligent study. These results are a fitting reward for all the hard work, determination and resilience our students have shown and we are so pleased with all they have achieved."

Kate Heaton, Principal at WHGS, said:

"I am so very proud of the entire WHGS community. Our students have yet again achieved fantastic results, with unwavering support from our staff and families. I would like to thank everyone who has played a part in helping our students to achieve their goals – these results are testament to everyone's efforts."



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GCSE Results Day 2024

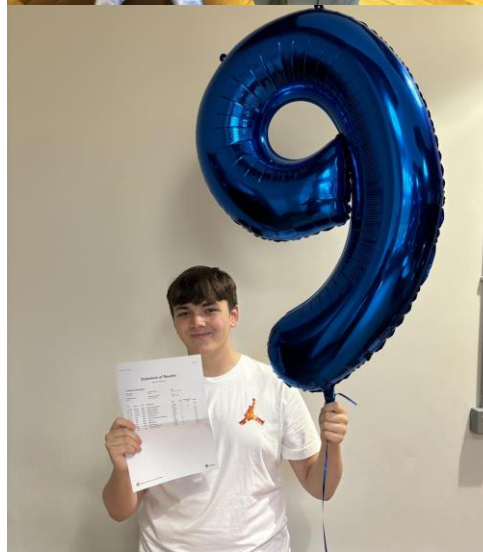
This year, 80% of students achieved a grade 4 or above in English and 73% in maths, with just over half of students (52%) achieving a grade 5 or above in both subjects.

Among those students celebrating some particularly impressive individual performances are:

- Audrey Lai, who achieved ten grade 9s;
- Declan Garrett, who achieved six grade 9s, three grade 8s and two grade 7s;
- Aban Al-Hussain, who achieved five grade 9s, three grade 7s and three grade 6s;
- Monika Blazyte, who achieved two grade 9s, seven grade 8s and one grade 7;
- Sufeyah Talukdar, who achieved two grade 9s, seven grade 8s and two grade 7s;
- Peter Ademosu, who achieved two grade 9s, three grade 8s, two grade 7s and four grades 6s;
- Edris Najibi, who achieved two grade 9s, three grade 8, three grade 7s and three grade 6s;
- Izma Ali, who achieved one grade 9, six grade 8s, three grade 7s and one grade 6;
- Ahmed Ahmed, who achieved one grade 9, seven grade 8s, two grade 7s and 1 grade 6.

Reminiscing about her time at WHGS, Audrey Lai, 17, said: *“To everyone who supported me along the way, especially my parents, teachers, and friends, thank you so much. I couldn’t have done it without you guys. Thank you so much for filling my years at William Hulme’s with laughter and joy. I love you all. All the best and good luck.”*

Edris Najibi is now going on to WHGS Sixth Form to study Chemistry, Biology and Maths, with aspirations to become a surgeon. He added: *“I’d like to thank all my teachers, especially my Maths teacher, for helping me throughout the year. I’m proud of myself for all the hard work and dedication that I had put into revising and preparing for my GCSEs.”*



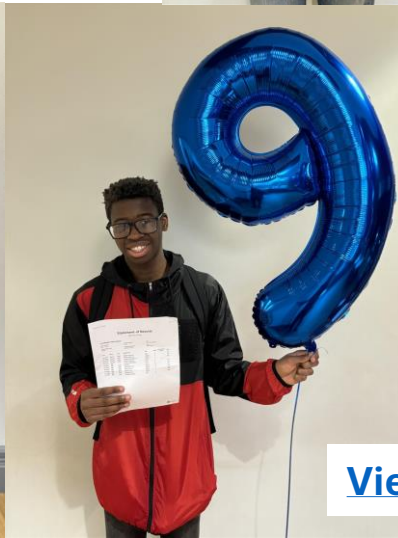
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GCSE Results Day 2024

Students' GCSE success today follows on from last week's A Level results day which saw Sixth Formers secure places at a host of top Russell Group institutions. One student, Sijabuliso Sibanda, achieved four A*'s and gained a place to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Manchester.

Congratulating students on their achievements today, Mr Copestake, Head of the Secondary Phase at WHGS said: "The pandemic brought many challenges for this cohort who had only just begun their secondary school journey when it struck. The students however showed impressive resilience and put in a great deal of hard work – they fully deserve these excellent results."

Mrs Heaton, Principal at WHGS, added: "I am incredibly proud of this group of young people who should be very pleased with their success today. Many thanks to our wonderful team of staff who have supported these students, giving them the guidance and encouragement they needed to achieve such strong results. I know staff are looking forward to welcoming many of our outgoing Year 11s into our Sixth Form and continuing to provide them with the very best educational experiences."



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Y10/Y11 Indoor Athletics Championships



On Friday 4 October, we had a fantastic team performance by our Year 10/11 Boys team at the Indoor Athletics Championships at Sports City.

The most notable performance had to go to Eesa, who stepped in to cover Mohammed in shot putt and walked away with a Bronze medal; after getting a Silver in the 800m. Although we did not win any of the events, we achieved Silver or Bronze in six out of ten events:

- 2nd - 200m Relay 1 min 42 sec
- 2nd - Eesa - 800m 2min 25 sec
- 3rd - Eesa - Shot Putt 10.15m
- 2nd - Samad - Long Jump 5.20m
- 3rd - Amar - Long Jump 5.10M
- 2nd - Yaqoub 400m 60.4 sec
- 5th - Marwan - High Jump 1.50m (carrying an Injury/ PB 1.65m)
- 4th - Oliver - 400m 25.58 sec
- 4th - Alhussein 60m (A race) 7.78 sec
- 4th - Samad 60m (B race) 7.85 sec

Well done to them all.

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Henshaws Visit



On Tuesday 8 October, we welcomed our friends from Henshaws, who were serenaded by Year 7 Djembe Drummers, our Year 9 band performing 'Billy Jean', as well as our Year 10 band performing 'You Give Love A Bad Name'.

In addition, Shalom performed a beautiful vocal solo 'Hallelujah', which everyone sang along with in the chorus. For an encore, both rock bands got on stage to sing and perform 'American Boy', which was met by a huge round of applause.

Always a brilliant community event and we are looking forward to welcoming Henshaws back into school in December for some festive treats.

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Primary Foodbank Donations

Our Primary Phase Rights Respecting Ambassadors recently organised and led a successful foodbank donation initiative to support those in need within our community. Thanks to the generosity of our school families, we were able to donate enough food to provide 350 meals!

Throughout the project, our Ambassadors worked hard to raise awareness of the importance of supporting local foodbanks. After the donations came in, the children had the opportunity to visit the foodbank where they helped weigh, sort and date the items, preparing them for distribution to families in need.

Thank you to Manchester South Central Foodbank for having us and explaining why food banks are so important.

A huge thank you to all of our parents for their incredible support and contributions. Together, we are making a real difference in the community.

Don't forget that families can access our school foodbank by visiting the Secondary Phase reception, where the team will provide you with a bag of groceries. We are here to help.



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Year 2 Science – Plant Growth



This half term, Year 2 have been exploring Plant Growth in Science. We explored what a seed is and the different parts of a seed.

To support our understanding of seeds, we dissected a presoaked broad bean. Pupils peeled off the seed coat, carefully split the bean in half and identified the root, shoot, leaves and food store.

Then we learned about the germination process and what seeds need to grow. We carried out an experiment to see what conditions were necessary for seeds to germinate. In our investigation we changed the variables; water, light and soil, and we made predictions about whether the seeds would germinate. We found out that seeds do not need light or soil to germinate. What a lightbulb moment! We realised that germination is actually the growth of the root and the shoot and not the emergence of leaves.

Plant growth is when plants get bigger. Their roots and stem get longer and wider, and more leaves develop. We understood that plants do need light and soil in order to grow healthy. We were blown away with our findings and we have thoroughly enjoyed our Science learning this half term.

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Year 3 Forest School



As part of the Primary Phase's Forest School programme, Year 3 travelled to Delamere Forest to implement the skills they developed with Miss Doherty during this half term.

Whilst at Delamere Forest, the children explored the forest and took part in two activities. The children enjoyed building dens and small shelters using tree branches to make a frame. The second activity started with a hike to an area in the woods, where the children discovered the life cycle of a tree.



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Year 5 Bread Making



As part of our Design Technology unit on Food Technology, Year 5 became bakers for the half term.

They planned and designed what their bread would look like, as well as studying how a recipe can ensure consistent and controlled results. They then made the dough in small groups before splitting it into their own piece. Using their plan, they shaped their dough and then added different ingredients, such as chocolate and raisins, to enhance the flavour of their final product.

Finally, after enjoying the taste of their freshly baked bread, they evaluated the successes and areas for improvement.

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Year 4 Hindu Temple Visit



Our Year 4 pupils enjoyed an educational visit to the Gita Bhavan Hindu Temple in Manchester, as part of their Religious Education learning about the Hindu faith. The children showed incredible respect throughout the trip, engaging enthusiastically with the temple's serene atmosphere and beautiful, ornate decorations.

The children explored the temple and discovered various religious items through a 'scavenger hunt' activity. At the end of the visit, the children were kindly allowed to take a piece of fruit home as a gesture from the temple.

A big thank you to the Gita Bhavan Temple for allowing us to visit, and to the parent helpers who made the trip possible. It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to experience first-hand what they have been learning in the classroom.

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Year 4 Science, Sewing and Marvelous Medicines!

Year 4 has been busy this half term with a range of exciting, hands-on learning experiences across several subjects!

In Science, pupils have been learning all about classification. As part of this, they ventured out into the school grounds to hunt for fallen leaves, using a dichotomous key to classify their finds. In a follow-up lesson, they had great fun creating their own dichotomous keys—this time to classify biscuits!

In Design Technology, our pupils have been honing their sewing skills. Their hard work paid off, as they each designed and created their very own pencil cases, showcasing their creativity and precision.

In English, the children explored instructional writing by composing detailed instructions on how to create a "marvellous medicine" inspired by Roald Dahl's book. They particularly enjoyed following a fun recipe to make their own medicine, just like George, though we are not too sure it would have tasted very nice!

Well done to Year 4 for working so hard this half term—we are excited to see what more fantastic learning awaits next term!



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Celebrating Culture Day

We recently celebrated our first Culture Day of the year, with students from all Phases embracing their heritage by wearing clothing that represented them or their culture. The event linked to the UNCRC's Right to Identity and British Values, encouraging students to take pride in their diverse backgrounds. We are proud of our diverse community!

Throughout the day there were many different events taking place. In the Primary Phase, Years 4-6 enjoyed exciting drumming workshops with Drum Roots, while the younger pupils in Years 1-3 explored rhythm using 'boomwhackers' in their lessons. In the Secondary Phase, students were welcomed with a DJ set, University Academy 92 and Rekindle hosted stalls at lunchtime, at which they were handing out information about opportunities within the community and complimentary merchandise, and the special day ended with performances by our secondary band.

The whole school community also enjoyed a special Arabic menu at lunchtime (chosen by our Executive Council) - reflecting different cultural tastes.

A big thank you to everyone who donated at the gates and purchased doughnuts throughout the day. £546.19 was raised and will be donated to Families Against Violence: 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 (chosen by our parents / carers).

What a fantastic day of celebration and unity!



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Y11 Black History Month Lecture by David Olusoga

On Monday 4 November, thirty of our Year 11 History students were rewarded for outstanding effort, with a trip to the University of Manchester (UoM).

They attended a lecture on Black History Month, given by renowned historian and journalist Professor David Olusoga. The lecture allowed students to visit the beautiful university campus on Oxford Road, meet current UoM students and listen to both Olusoga and other key History staff from UoM.

All students loved the experience and even got the chance to ask questions and chat with Professor Olusoga at the end of the lecture.



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Year 4's Spooky Surprise

On Tuesday 5 November, Year 4 arrived to find a mysterious note in their classroom and some very important items missing! We set off to the Great Hall to investigate with nerves of steel and unreliable torches.

When we arrived, we found a very unsettling scene - a pitch-black hall with trails of cobwebs hanging from every surface, withered flowers atop a dusty grand piano and skeletons lurking around every corner. We had been warned that someone would be watching - did the letter writer mean the unsettling portraits of old headmasters that lined the walls and seemed to be watching our every move?

Eventually, we discovered our missing items - but not before we had noticed the creepy footprints and scattered chairs that surrounded them. Perhaps we had disturbed someone in the act of doing something even more sinister? With our mission accomplished, we headed back to the Primary Phase breathing a sigh of relief at having survived our spooky encounter!



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Sixth Form Bar Mock Trial



Our Sixth Form students have been preparing for the Young Citizen's Bar Mock Trial since the beginning of this academic year.

Students have been meeting every Monday after school to prepare their cases, practice their questioning skills and prepare to undergo questioning as witnesses. Students also attended after school sessions to develop their skills and seek advice from members of the legal profession. We were very privileged to be supported by Judge, Leona Harrison. Judge Harrison gave student valuable advice on how to present their arguments and question witnesses. Judge Harrison observed our students' role play the criminal cases and gave students advice on how they could improve their opening/closing statements. Students taking on the role of Barristers were committed to improving their advocacy skills and reflected on the advice given by Judge Harrison. All students taking part worked very hard to prepare for their roles, they worked

collaboratively and supported each other throughout.

On Saturday 9 November, our students took part in the Bar Mock Trial at Manchester Crown Court. This is the first time in the last ten years that the court has opened its doors to the Bar Mock Trial competition. This was an amazing opportunity for the students. They got to walk the corridors of the court and perform their cases in several different court rooms. Our students competed in the North West heat, they were up against other Sixth Form colleges from around the North West.

Prosecution Barristers Cyrus and Pebbles were first to perform. They did great job presenting their cases, questioning witnesses and cross examining the defence witnesses. The Judge commented on the confidence of both barristers and Pebbles was highlighted for the strength of her closing statement.

In the second round, Defence Barristers Fikayo and Hamaad did an amazing job in defending their case. Their opening and closing speeches outlining the law and burden of proof to the jury was a key strength. They won their case and outperformed the other school competing in their questioning of witnesses.

Defence Barristers Ali and Safa did a superb job in defending their case in the third round of the competition. Both students thoroughly questioned and cross-examined witnesses to highlight the evidence for their case. Their opening and closing statements were a key strength that blew away the competition. Their confidence in delivering their statements was a joy to witness.

Cont'd...

Sixth Form Bar Mock Trial



Hamza (round 2) and Abdullah (round 3) played the roles of the defendant. Both students did stand out performances, they knew their statements and were able to confidently respond to tough questioning. Their performances played a vital role in the barristers winning their cases. Hamza diligently learned his witness statement and prepared for questioning. He was nervous before the trial started but this did not come across when he took the stand. He answered every question confidently and clearly. He didn't falter under cross examination and did a fantastic job. Abdullah was calm and collected on the witness stand. He did an excellent performance as the witness for the defence team in round 3. He made it very difficult for the competing team to cross examine him. He made sure he didn't give the prosecution anything.

Nael, Mustafa, Fatimah and Habeeb played the role of key witnesses for our teams. They all knew their statements; they worked well with their

teams to make sure they presented the points the prosecution/defence team wanted them to highlight. They performed very well responding to questioning from other school teams. It was impressive to see the students cope with the questions, particularly under cross examination as they didn't know what they would be asked. They had to listen carefully, respond to the questions and remember their original statement. They didn't falter under the pressure.

Often the unsung heroes of the court are the Court Clerk and the Usher, anyone who works within the court knows how important their roles are. Kolsoom played the role of the Court Clerk in round one. Nimra and Aisha played the role of the Usher in round 2 and 3. All three did stand out performances. They spoke clearly and confidently and took charge of the courtroom by giving instructions to those in the court room, swearing in witnesses and the jury and reading statements.

All students took part being jurors for other schools competing in the competition. They listened diligently to all the evidence presented and came to a verdict of guilty/ not guilty for each case. All students also had a Q&A session with all the Judges and Barristers supporting the day.

Every student thoroughly enjoyed the day and thrived during the competition. Miss Ingham is very proud of how all the students performed and presented themselves during the day in Manchester's Crown Court. They were great representatives of the WHGS community and Sixth Form.

Well done to all of you!

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Year 13 Geography Residential

On Monday 11 November, our five Year 13 A-Level Geographers headed to Rhyd-y-Creuau in Wales' Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park. The purpose of their five-day residential was to practise data collection methods in physical and human geography in order to collect data to use in their Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) to contribute to their final A-Level grades.

On Monday and Tuesday, Zahra, Nala, Marvelous, Josh and Alysha used their knowledge of the Water and Carbon Cycles to calculate the carbon content of trees in the Conwy catchment, and measure differences in infiltration rates around the FSC site we were staying at. They also re-capped GCSE-level knowledge of coastal defences at Criccieth to measure changes to the beach profile and evaluate the quality of the hard engineering used to protect the coastline along Cardigan Bay.

We spent Wednesday in the seaside town on Llandudno investigating different perspectives of place, taking account of the high streets shops to apply to the 'Clone Town' theory which they had looked at in their Changing Places lessons.

Thursday and Friday were spent working more independently in the peatlands and forests of the Conwy catchment and in Llandudno town centre to collect primary data to be used in their NEAs on themes relating to infiltration rates, changes to retail opportunities and influence of a place's history.

All students really enjoyed their time away, whether it was the late-night films, double portions for breakfast and tea, or completing a variety of practical applications of knowledge and skills that they had looked at in class, and are looking forward to spending time presenting and analysing their data, and finishing their NEAs over the coming months.



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England v Japan Rugby Match

On Sunday 24 November, a group of our rugby players from Year 7 to Year 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.

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Year 1 Chester Zoo Trip



Year 1 visited Chester Zoo on Wednesday 27 November. During the trip, children were immersed in their writing unit of 'Handa's Surprise'.

They came face to face with the animals that Handa saw on her journey through the Kenyan savannah.

Our Year 1 children then wrote a postcard to Miss Dalton about the various animals they met.

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Senior Masterchef Competition



On Tuesday 10 December, the Food & Nutrition Department held the Senior interhouse MasterChef Competition. We had entries from Years 10, 11 and 12, making for a very busy and exciting atmosphere in the food room.

The standard was very high with students making a great mix of high-skilled, tasty, savoury and sweet dishes. As ever, the judges had a very satisfying time tasting all the delicious dishes; they found it very difficult to choose the best in each category.

After much deliberation the winners were announced:

- **Savoury:** Fathia (10H) - Katsu Chicken Curry (Turing)
- **Sweet:** Declan (12W) - Chocolate Fudge Cake decorated with Raspberries (Johnson)
- **Technical Award:** Attifah (11R) - Crispy Creme Salted Caramel Puffs (Pankhurst)

House Order:

- Turing 1st
- Bell 2nd
- Pankhurst Joint 3rd
- Johnson Joint 3rd

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Year 2 Trip to Elizabeth Gaskell House



Year 2 enjoyed a fascinating class trip to Elizabeth Gaskell House, where they stepped back in time to explore the Victorian era.

The trip to Elizabeth Gaskell House links directly to Manchester's rich local history. Elizabeth Gaskell lived in Manchester during a time of significant industrial growth and social change. By visiting her home, pupils learned about her contributions to literature and how she highlighted issues such as poverty and inequality, which were central to Manchester's development.

The children toured the beautifully restored rooms, learning about Elizabeth Gaskell's life and her famous works. They participated in engaging activities, such as writing with quills and discovering how people lived during the 19th century.

The trip was both educational and inspiring, sparking curiosity about history and literature.

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Choir Performance at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

On Thursday 12 December, members of the school choir were fortunate to have the opportunity to perform at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH).

Performing in the main atrium, our students entertained both staff and patients, receiving a very warm welcome. The morning events included singing a whole host of Christmas themed songs, as well as raising money for the hospital charity. We also took part in the Manchester Foundation Trust Video Medley of the '12 days of Christmas' and are excited to see the final result.

A big thanks to all staff involved and we enjoy working closely with RMCH every year.



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Year 5/Year 6 First Aid Session

As part of our Careers Day, based around jobs in the NHS, Year 5 and Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed their visit from Cookson First Aid this week.

During the practical session, they learnt some basic life-saving skills and had CPR training.

The children were so enthused by the session and have enjoyed sharing what they learnt since!



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Live Music Performance

On Monday 16 December, the Music Department welcomed 'Hacienda Live', a fifteen-piece professional band, to play in assemblies to Years 3-13.

Over 750 students had the opportunity to access a 'professional style gig' in the Great Hall and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and the superb live music.

'Hacienda Live' have recently performed at the MTV awards, Co-op Live, so for students to experience this level of musicianship, was like no other. This has been made possible by 'Good 2 Great' project work, funded by United Learning Music.

We are looking forward to working with some of the band members in a musical workshop in term 2. A big thank you for everyone's efforts in making this live event come together.



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Y3/Y4 Carol Concert

On Tuesday 17 December, Year 3 and 4 wowed an audience of parents and staff with a beautiful retelling of the Christmas story through a series of readings and songs.

Particular favourites included Hosanna Rock, Oh and Love Shone Down, It Was on a Starry Night and Feliz Navidad.

The Year 4 JSax group also treated us to a performance of Jingle Bells, after just a term of learning the saxophone!

Miss Dalton commended all of the children on their slick performance and everyone left with a warm, fuzzy feeling inside – Christmas is definitely almost here!



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Year 1 St Edmund's Church Visit



On Wednesday 18 December, we visited a local church where we had the opportunity to listen to the reverend share the Christmas story and explain its meaning.

The reverend spoke about the birth of Jesus and the significance of Christmas in the Christian faith. Afterwards, we had the chance to listen to the community sing Christmas hymns. We also learned about the tradition of the Christingle. The reverend explained that the Christingle is made up of an orange representing the world, a red ribbon symbolising the love of Christ, a candle representing Jesus as the light of the world, and dried fruits or sweets representing the gifts of God.

Our teachers read out some prayers and we each lit our Christingles. As the candles flickered we thought about the light representing hope, faith and the spirit of Christmas.

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Christmas Festivities in Early Years

Nursery and Reception children have been enjoying a host of Christmas activities this week, including a special visit from Santa.

They will be singing Christmas Carols to their parents on the last day of term (Friday 20 December at 1.30pm).



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Christmas Showcase Concert



On Wednesday 18 December, the Music Department hosted a wonderful concert in the Great Hall to a very supportive audience of parents, carers, students, friends and staff.

The evening began with a community food and drinks reception, which was catered for by our very own students in the Food and Nutrition Department. After this wonderful socialising opportunity, an array of acts including the Lower School and Senior Steel Bands, Rocks Groups, Massed choir, Primary Phase singers and Good 2 Great Brass helped to introduce an entertaining evening of music.

After many of our lower school groups had taken centre stage, musicians from KS4 and KS5 had the opportunity to showcase their talent. The guitar ensemble rocked, with their own version of 'Run Rudolph Run' and 'Hysteria', whilst Edlyn and Amie played a fantastic rendition of 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman'. Moreover, Chethan played a beautiful piano solo and this was followed by Year 10 GCSE and Year 11 Musicians. Year 13 L3 BTEC students performed 'Too Young to Die', 'Murder on the Dancefloor' and 'This Christmas', which showcased the high standards we have come to know from our KS5 students.

To close the show, upper school voices performed 'Santa Tell Me' and the All-Stars Cuban Band played the concert out with 'Tio Macaco', 'Rudolf's Mambo' and 'Shake A Tail Feather', featuring multiple solo parts from Chandan on keys. The concert finished with a final collaboration of all musicians, vocalists and the audience on their feet singing 'Merry Christmas Everyone'.

A wonderful celebratory mood was created, and we would like to thank the school community for coming together to celebrate students' talents. Well done to all staff and students involved and thank you for everyone's efforts for making this live event come together.

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**Have a lovely
Christmas Break!
Stay Safe!
See you in the
Spring Term.**