



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave □ Garstang □ Lancashire □ PR3 1YE □ Tel: 01995 603226 □

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

I would like to share some highlights from our first half-term back in school. As always, this has been an incredibly busy and productive time of year, and I am immensely proud of everything we have collectively achieved since September.

This half-term has been particularly important as we have been delighted to welcome many new families keen to join our community in the next academic year, and we were also pleased to welcome back visitors to our school throughout the term. Furthermore, we successfully held our annual Learn to Learn event, which proved to be a wonderful opportunity to showcase the essential skills and support systems available to students as they transition to the next exciting stage of their education.

In addition to these foundational activities, our students have enjoyed lots and lots of fantastic additional activities and events, including a tremendous celebration of languages across the school during our European Languages Day, brilliantly organised by our fantastic Modern Foreign Languages Department. These events, alongside many others, enrich their learning experience and contribute to the vibrant spirit of our school.



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Company Limited by Guarantee Number 08364709

Registered in England & Wales – Registered Office: Mereside Primary Academy, Langdale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4RR



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One particularly enjoyable event was delivered by Lancaster University School of Maths (LUSoM), known for its rigorous academic environment and focus on nurturing mathematical talent, delivered some dynamic sessions designed to challenge, inspire, and excite. Students explored topics beyond the standard curriculum, including logic puzzles, number theory, and real-world applications of abstract concepts. The class was led by Wing Liu, an experienced educator from LUSoM who brought energy, clarity, and a genuine passion for the subject.



Year 11 students had the opportunity to hear from a representative from Blackpool Sixth, who delivered an informative and inspiring assembly about post-16 options. The session highlighted the wide range of courses available, from A-levels to vocational pathways, and encouraged students to start thinking seriously about their next steps. Cardinal Newman College made a strong impression as staff visited GCA to host a lunchtime drop-in session for curious students. The event aimed to inform, inspire, and engage pupils as they begin to consider their next steps in education. And last, but by no means least the girls in Years 10 & 11 had the chance to attend an informative session delivered by Lancaster Girls' Grammar School (LGGS) - a fantastic option for post-16 education.



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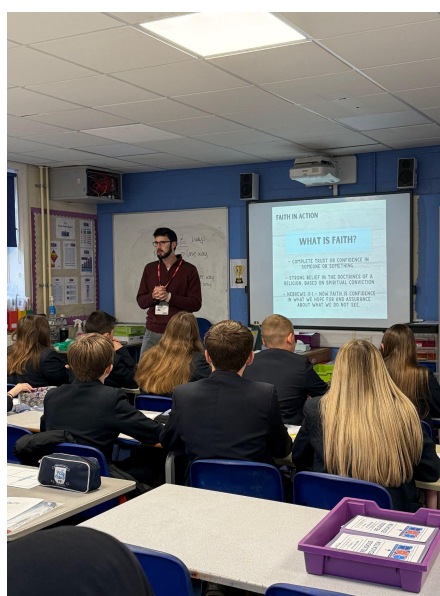
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Students in Years 9 and 10 recently took part in the exciting NHS 360 Careers Fair at University of Cumbria, an immersive event designed to showcase the wide range of career opportunities available within the National Health Service.



Year 8 students recently welcomed Jonny Bayes from the Northern Interschools Christian Union (NISCU) to their RE class. This visit aimed to enrich their understanding of Christianity. Jonny is a regular and welcome visitor to the school and always popular with the children.



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The careers interventions this term were drawn to a close with an inspiring talk from BAE Systems, who visited school to speak with Year 11 students about apprenticeship opportunities available after Year 11 and Year 13. They shared valuable insights into the skills and qualifications needed, and gave an overview of their work in defence, aerospace, and security. BAE will also be attending our Careers Fair on 27th November, and families are encouraged to explore their Apprenticeship Open Day in Barrow on 3rd November—[BAE Barrow Open Day Registration](#) .

For more details about BAE opportunities, visit the [BAE Careers Page](#)



Calling All Parents, Carers, and Community Contacts – Join Our Annual Careers Fair!

At Garstang Community Academy, our annual Careers Fair is a cornerstone of our commitment to helping students explore their future pathways and achieve their aspirations. This year's event will take place on **Thursday 27th November**, with all year groups attending throughout the day alongside their teachers.

The fair offers a fantastic opportunity for students to:

- Discover a wide range of career sectors
- Speak directly with employers about their roles and experiences

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- Explore post-16 options including college, sixth form, apprenticeships, and higher education

We know that many of our parents, carers, and extended community members work in a diverse range of industries both locally and nationally. With that in mind, we'd love to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining us as an **exhibitor**—whether to showcase your business, share your career journey, or highlight opportunities in your sector.



Event Details: **Date:** Thursday 27th November **Time:** 11:00am – 3:00pm
Location: Garstang Community Academy

Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

If you're interested in taking part or have ideas on how you could support our Careers Programme, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'd be delighted to hear from you.



Contact: p.askew@garstang.fcat.org.uk or complete the google form here:
[Google Form](#)

Year 9 Workplace Visits – Inspiring Futures

As part of our commitment to preparing students for life beyond the classroom, Year 9 pupils will be receiving information about a series of workplace visits taking place throughout the academic year. These visits are designed to give students a real-world insight into different industries and careers, helping them explore their interests and aspirations.

One of our first visits will be to EDF, where pupils will have the opportunity to learn about careers in energy and engineering. More opportunities will follow, covering a wide range of sectors to ensure there's something for everyone.

Please note that places on each trip will be limited. We encourage pupils with a genuine interest in the featured workplace to apply, as these experiences are a valuable part of their career education journey.

Attendance

At Garstang Community Academy (GCA), we firmly believe that punctuality and regular attendance are the single biggest factors in determining your child's success and achievement. When students are consistently in school and on time, they are best placed to fully engage with their learning, build strong relationships, and reach their full potential.

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To ensure we maintain a consistent, supportive, and clear approach to this critical area, we have updated our Attendance Policy for the 2025/26 academic year.

We want to make sure you have a clear understanding of our procedures, your responsibilities, and the comprehensive support we offer to remove any barriers to your child's attendance. The updated policy outlines:

- Our Philosophy: Our commitment to actively encouraging 100% attendance and the support we offer when challenges arise.
- Clear Procedures: What to do when your child is absent and the steps we take to follow up.
- Intervention and Support: How we work with you, through attendance plans and reintegration meetings, to quickly resolve issues.
- Legal Expectations: Information regarding unauthorised leave during term time and the use of Penalty Notices.

We invite you to read the full policy on the school website to familiarise yourself with these important updates.

We are committed to working together with you to give our students the best opportunities to succeed. If you have any concerns about your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact their Year Leader or our Senior Attendance Manager as early as possible.

As a school, we would welcome you to join our new facebook group, 'Garstang Community Academy Achievement HUB', which is another avenue of celebrating the successes of our children.

Staffing update

Mr Felvus has been a Teacher at the school since 1999, was employed in the roles of Teacher of Geography, Subject Leader – Geography, Head of Humanities and Assistant Headteacher. Mr Felvus has decided to leave the school to explore a new chapter in his life and we thank him for his many years of service to Garstang Community Academy and we wish him well the very best in his future endeavors.

We will update any students together with you, their parents/carers about who will be taking over Mr Felvus' classes following the half-term break.

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Before I sign off, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all our parents and carers. Your continued support is invaluable to our school's success, and we deeply appreciate the partnership we share in your child's education. I hope this upcoming break is a lovely, restful, and enjoyable time for you and your families. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed for the second half of the term.

Many thanks from all the staff at GCA,

Satinder Singh

Headteacher

Key Dates to look out for:

Half term - Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October - students return to school on Monday 3rd November

Thursday 20th November Class of 2025 - GCSE Awards Evening - invitations will be sent

Monday 24th November - Year 11 mock examinations begin (2 weeks)

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