



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave, Garstang, Lancashire, PR3 1YE, **Tel:** 01995 603226

Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

13th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter February into half term, we are pleased to report lots of exciting events and activities that have taken place in school. It has been a particularly busy and inspiring time, with a strong focus on future pathways, career aspirations, and academic milestones.

Inspiring Future Ambitions

Our Year 11 students started their day recently with a powerful boost of motivation as **Myerscough College** delivered an engaging and thought-provoking assembly. The session focused on ambition, effort, and future pathways, encouraging our students to think big about their next steps.

Furthermore, we welcomed Peter Wright from **Blackpool Sixth Form College**, who presented to a group of high-achieving and highly motivated learners. He shared details regarding the college's **Excellence Programme**, a specialist pathway designed to stretch our students even further as they transition to post-16 education.



Bridging the Gap: Career Visits

A cohort of ambitious students from Years 9, 10, and 11 traded their desks for the high-tech environment of **BAE Systems**. This visit was a fantastic way to bridge the gap between classroom learning and the world of work, providing a first-hand look at the incredible career opportunities within the UK's aerospace and defense sector. The first half of the day focused entirely on exploration. For many of our younger students in Years 9 and 10, this was an eye-opening introduction to the vast landscape of modern engineering.



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STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Innovation

In the spirit of innovation, a group of Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in **Road to RIAT: Blast Off!** an exciting national STEM challenge linked to the Royal International Air Tattoo. This event is designed to ignite curiosity and develop problem-solving skills in aviation and technology.

Working in teams, students designed innovative solutions for real-world aerospace problems. The competition served as a reminder that:

“Every breakthrough becomes a stepping stone for the next generation”.

Our students certainly rose to the occasion, demonstrating incredible imagination and resilience throughout the challenge.

UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge

Our brilliant Year 10s stepped up to the UKMT Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, demonstrating the sharp analytical thinking and high-level problem-solving required to tackle some of the nation's most complex puzzles. To complement this academic rigor, we were delighted to welcome JTL into school to kick off National Apprenticeship Week, giving students a front-row seat to the fantastic career prospects within the Electrical and Plumbing industries and the "earn while you learn" pathways that turn mathematical aptitude into real-world engineering success.



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Mock Results and Next Steps

We have also marked a significant moment for our Year 11 students as they received their **mock GCSE results**. By experiencing the process exactly as they will in August, students had a valuable opportunity to reflect on their progress and re-focus for their remaining time in school. To support this transition, we were delighted to welcome several local colleges and training providers who offered 1-to-1 guidance and answered questions about post-16 options. A huge well done to all our students for their hard work so far—and thank you to our visitors for helping make the day so meaningful. Onwards and upwards!



Student Learner Reviews

Thank you to all of you for engaging with Mr Stott's (Assistant Headteacher) video, which is still available on the school website. Further to this, a sincere thank you to those who attended our Parents' Voice evening, which also focused on the new reporting system. We truly value the candor and insights shared during the session. It is this kind of open dialogue that allows us to evolve and ensure our feedback systems are as effective as possible for both you and your children.

We will update you with the changes that we will be implementing as a result of hearing your views, when we return following the half-term break.

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Community Spirit and Life-Saving Support

We would also like to acknowledge the continued support of our fantastic **PTA**, who helped make this weekend's **CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) screening** such a resounding success. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who baked, bought, and donated at the cake sale; your generosity contributed to an incredible **£1,224** raised by the CRY Team. These vital funds will go directly toward supporting heart screenings for young people, proving once again that when our community comes together, we can make a life-saving impact. The next CRY event at Garstang Community Academy will be in October 2026.



This is just a taste of some of the exciting activities that have happened in school since I last wrote to you. To see more of what our students are achieving, I welcome you to join our **Facebook community** and follow our page. There, you will find more regular updates, including highlights of our fantastic sporting achievements and a glimpse into everyday classroom activities.

We wish you all a happy and healthy half-term and look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 24th February 2026.

Satinder Singh
Headteacher

Key Dates:

- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February Half Term holiday
- Monday 23rd February - School closed to students - staff INSET day
- Thursday 5th March - Y7 Progress Evening
- Thursday 26th March - Y8 Progress Evening

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