



## **GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 ·  
Email: [info@garstang.fcat.org.uk](mailto:info@garstang.fcat.org.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the half-term break.

I wanted to share with you some more information about what we have been working on in school since I last wrote to you.

Oracy skills have been a key focus for us in school as we work hard to prepare children with skills for life. We have launched a strategy to ensure these skills are practised across the curriculum.

Our focus on reading and vocabulary also continues. All children in Key Stage 3 (Year 7 to Year 9) are enjoying our WIKI vocabulary programme, as we are developing skills to understand unfamiliar vocabulary. Why not ask them what is the best way to find out how many syllables are in a word? How do they know if a vowel is long or short? Which letter pretends to be a vowel? Through using words that are essential for the curriculum, we are supporting them to understand key curriculum vocabulary.

Children in Key Stage 4 (Year 10 to Year 11) have also been given a useful tool to master the Command Words in their GCSE exams. Ask them to show you how to use this resource to gain a deep understanding of how to master exam technique.

We have now come to the end of the first half of our Form Time reading programme. Miss Wild will be delivering assemblies after half term to launch the second round of books that children will read and discuss in form time, which can be seen below for Year 7,8,9 and 10.



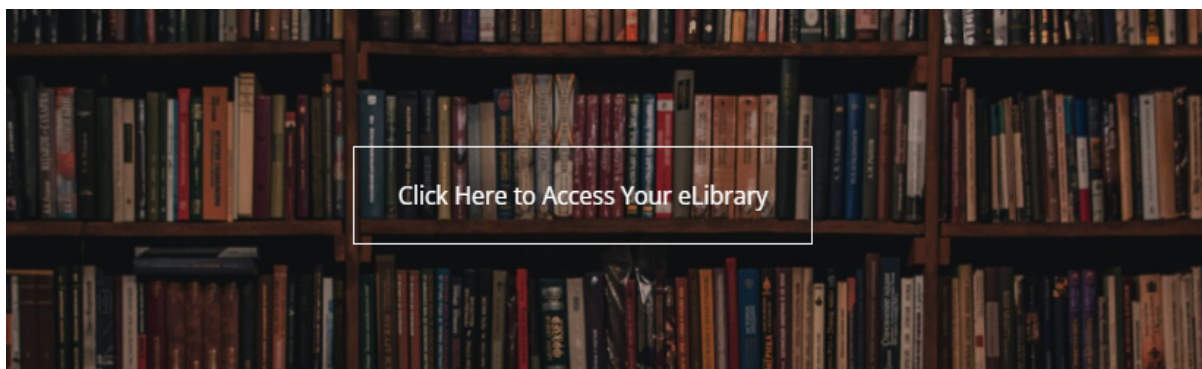
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We also have an online library (e-library), where the children can search for, find, and download all of their favourite books and start reading them immediately. There are 1,000 books they can read on a mobile phone, tablet, or computer. There are also over 900 audiobooks they can listen to on an electronic device or smartphone. Students can access these by following the steps below or by downloading the 'ePlatform by Wheelers' reading app:

1. Go onto the Garstang Community Academy website
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page
3. Click on E-Library.



### FYLDE COAST ACADEMY TRUST

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



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Last night year 9 attended our Options Evening to help with subject selection for Key Stage 4. Visitors from a range of Post 16 providers also attended along with our

Careers Advisor Mrs Askew to connect possible choices to potential careers. Thank you too to our excellent PTA team for their hospitality support.

After half term Year 11 will be doing their second round of mock exams. Below is a link to a free webinar that parents can sign up to which is about how AI (Artificial Intelligence) can support learning and revision.

**[Parent/carer/family event:](#)** Thursday 27 February 2025 19:00 - 19:30

Earlier this week, I attended a conference about The Virtual School with Mrs Cooper (Assistant Headteacher). One of the many inspirational guest speakers included the Olympian and gold medal World Champion Kris Akabusi....



Kris also generously recorded a message especially for us and you can access via X [@GarstangAcademy](#).

Valentine's Day marks the end of our first half term of 2025. The children have been sharing with us things that they love about school, although we know they are looking



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forward to their holiday and hope you all enjoy the half term break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 24th February 2025



Some key dates to note are listed below. As always, thank you for your continued support.

Half term Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

24th February to 7th March - Year 11 Mock Exams

27th February - Year 8 Parents' Evening

4th March - Meet the Senior Leadership Team

13th March - Year 11 History trip to Durham Cathedral

13th March - 627 (Year 6 to 7) Quest Transition event

27th March - Year 10 Parents Evening

24th April - Year 7 Parents Evening

Yours faithfully

Satinder Singh  
Headteacher

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