



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave ☐ Garstang ☐ Lancashire ☐ PR3 1YE ☐ Tel: 01995 603226 ☐
Email: info@garstang.fcat.org.uk

14th March 2025

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I hope this letter finds you and your families well. We have had a busy half term so far and I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some information on what has been happening in school.

Year 11 have been doing their last set of mock examinations. This is always a busy time as staff work hard to assess the papers as soon as possible and advise students on how best to use their time before the all-important GCSE exams begin. There are numerous opportunities for students to attend intervention sessions both during and after the school day which will continue to run.

With GCSEs on the horizon, Year 9 have been making choices about what they would like to study next year. For the second year running, students have been given a range of options which they can study at local colleges to supplement the school offer. You may have seen the BBC News story last week which featured our year 10 students who are accessing this 'Compass Curriculum' (link below if you missed it!) We are excited that there are three new options added to the offer next year where students can opt to go to Blackpool Sixth and study Psychology, Sociology and Economics.

[Link](#)

Careers continue to be a focus across all of our school community as some of our year 7 students have been working with the Bitesize Careers programme. Students gained valuable career insights through a BBC Bitesize careers tour visit. Students provided feedback to the BBC via research and presentations, with Year 7 students acting as "roving reporters" and Year 10 students participating in group interviews. This collaboration benefited both students and the BBC.

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Evie Smethhurst & Maddie Shillitoe from Year 7

As a school we are continuing to work closely with Lancashire County Council and our local community to ensure the safety of everyone when travelling to and from school. KS3 students have been designing a Road Safety Banner which will soon be displayed outside of school. One of our students, Lily-Jane Townley (Year 9), has also had a focus on road safety as part of her D of E volunteering. Part of this involved working with Pirelli where they were so impressed with her she even made industry press!!!



Lily-Jane with Sophie Lydon. Link to story below:

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<https://www.tyrenews.co.uk/news/pirelli-celebrates-women-in-tyre-industry-with-guest-speaker-sophie-lyden>

As a school we have also been working hard with our new Anti-bullying team, promoting anti-bullying initiatives across the school in the form of expanding our anti-bullying ambassador team for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 pupils. Moreover, as a parent or carer should you have any concerns about potentially bullying you can report it directly using the link on our website where we will take action immediately. The link is:

<https://garstangcommunityacademy.com/termdates/anti-bullying>

Could we also please remind parents when dropping off children to be mindful of the impact on our neighbours in the local community. A number of concerns have been raised from residents on Ash Drive so please be careful not to block any driveways if you are dropping off or collecting your children from there.

School continues to offer lots of opportunities for trips for students to enrich their learning. The English Department has run two successful trips: one to the Poetry Live event at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and this week a theatre trip to see

'Blood Brothers' in Liverpool. The History Department have also taken a group of students to visit Durham Cathedral as part of their GCSE History course. The experience not only gave them the opportunity to have an in-depth tour of the Cathedral, but also included a visit to Durham University and a tour with some enthusiastic undergraduates.

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Last night, we also welcomed future students to our 6 to 7 Quest event. This fun and engaging evening offers future parents/carers the opportunity to find out about school and gives the children a chance to take part in a treasure hunt taster event where they visit all departments, subjects and meet staff whilst becoming familiar with the building.

Finally, just in case you missed it in the paper, or from our children, World Book Day saw Garstang welcome an unforgettable visitor as part of World Book Day. Everyone also received a book token so please encourage them to buy a book as well as continue to access our amazing Digital Library via our website.

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Year 8 students with REXY the Dinosaur

<https://www.lep.co.uk/education/jurassic-lunch-break-giant-t-rex-roams-garstang-community-academy-5024795>

Before I sign off, I would like to thank all of the parents/carers who attended our recent 'Meet the SLT' event. Please be assured that we are reflecting on your contributions and looking at ways we can address them.

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

- 27th March - Year 10 Parents' Evening - 4pm to 7pm
- 24th April - Year 7 Parents' Evening - 4pm to 7pm
- Year 11 GCSE Exams commence on Friday 9th May and run until Wednesday 18th June, although all students must be available up until the end of the Contingency day on Wednesday 25th June.
- Year 10 students will undertake their mock exams from Tuesday 17th June until Friday 27th June.

Yours sincerely

Satinder Singh
Headteacher



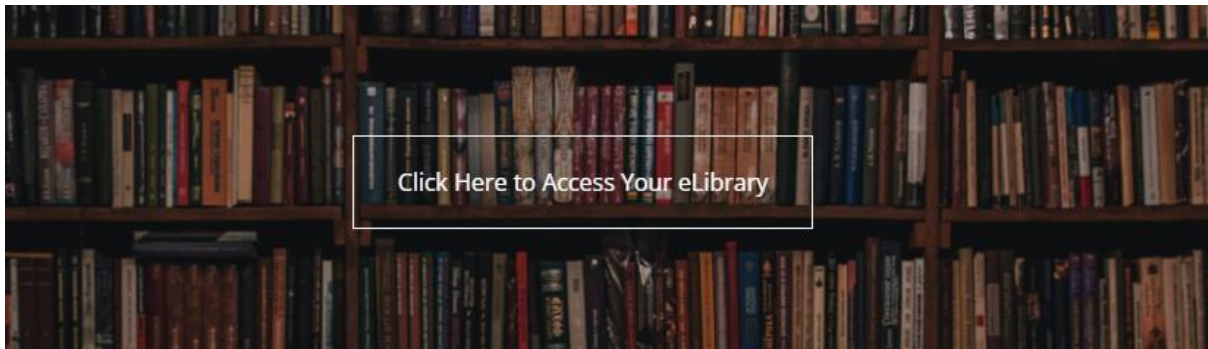
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Students can access the Digital Library by following the steps below or by downloading the 'ePlatform by Wheelers' reading app:

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



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