"Year 7 embracing the opportunities at Secondary school"

Sept. 2025







Angel Kaur 7M



Anas 7M & Asiya 7G

"Our new Year 7s have hit the ground running this term, showing curiosity, creativity and commitment across the board. Congratulations to our **Readers of the Month, Asiya 7G, Anas 7M and Angel 7M** whose love of books is inspiring classmates far and wide.

Lunchtimes have come alive with the buzz of our Lego Club, where imagination builds confidence, and our Chess and Scrabble Club, where strategic thinking meets friendly competition. We're also proud of students embracing independent learning—like one standout pupil who's been completing his homework on the computer with impressive focus and flair. "

Ms Ainsworth, Librarian



Perseverance, **R**espect, **I**ndependence, **D**iversity, **E**xcellence

Artist of the Month

Sept. 2025



Maria Edah-Tally 11W has been investigating the work of Barbara Kruger. In response to this artist's work she has produced this excellent pencil sketch of Walt Disney with one half of the image having the tones inverted.
Mr Alexander Head of Art



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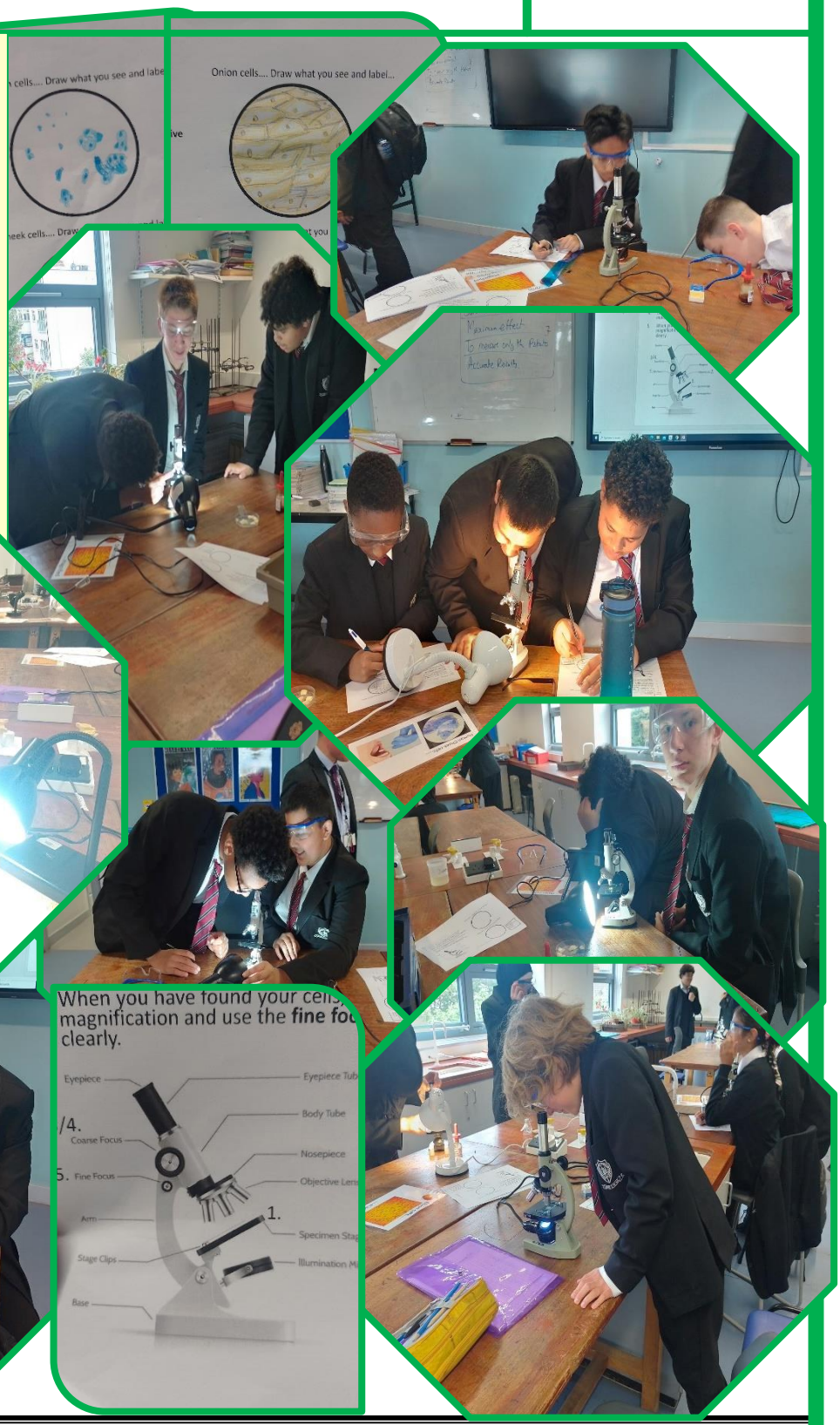
Year 9 GCSE Science

Sept. 2025

"Using a microscope is a fundamental skill in Science. 9M conducted an experiment using their own body cells! **Theo** and **Ameera** drew the images beautifully"
Mr Farrow Science Teacher



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Exam Readiness

Sept. 2025



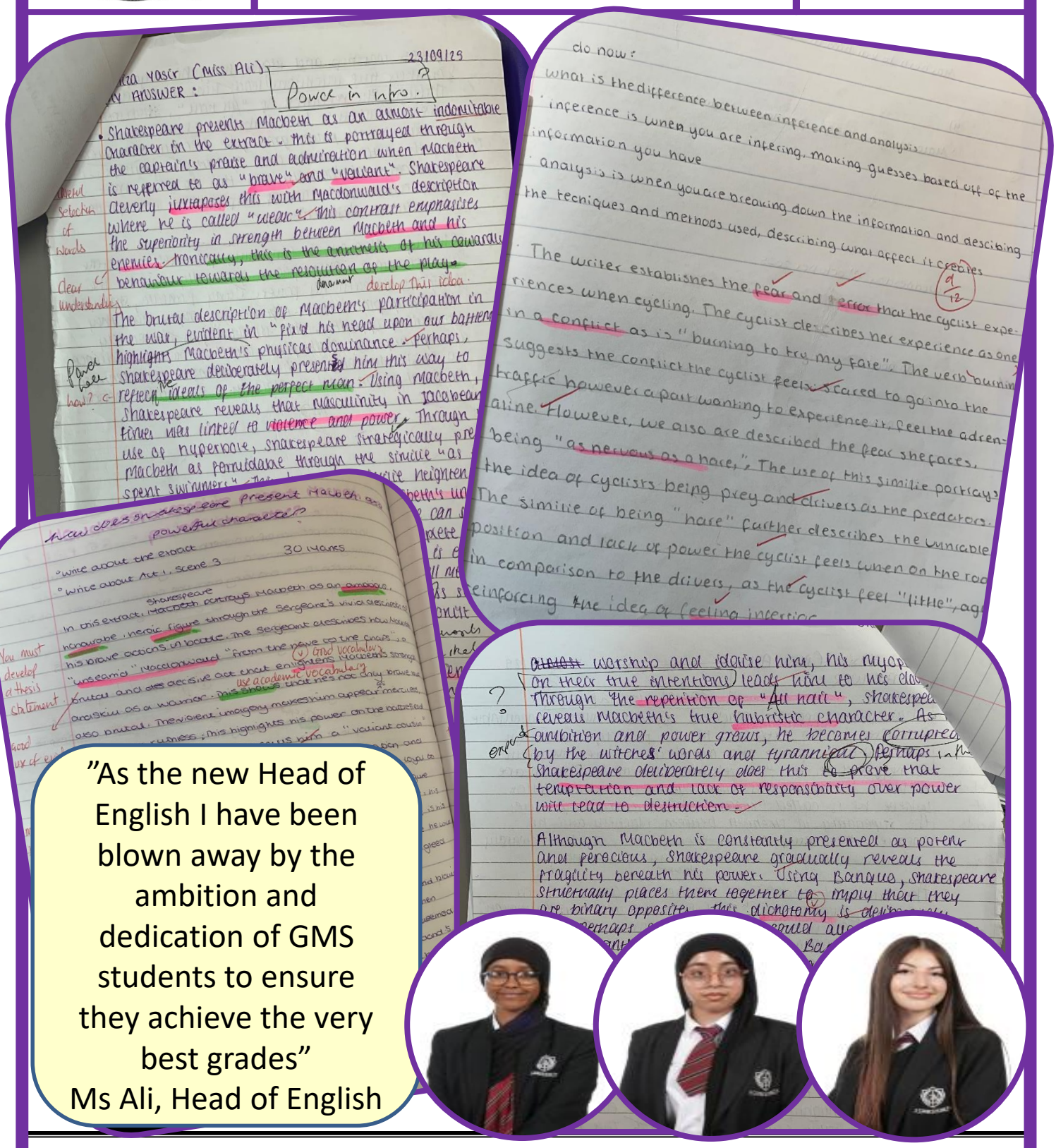
Year 11 have been working hard on their independent learning and revision skills – as can been seen in these examples. They have their November Mocks fast approaching and preparation is key.

Ms Hardy
Assistant Headteacher

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

English – Aiming for Grade 9

Sept. 2025



"As the new Head of English I have been blown away by the ambition and dedication of GMS students to ensure they achieve the very best grades"
Ms Ali, Head of English

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A week at Oxford University

Sept. 2025





Two of our Year 11 students spent a week of their Summer holidays at Oxford University. They were successful achieving a place a place on the Universify programme which gives participants a snapshot of life as an undergraduate university student.

Klara Balliu had the opportunity to attend Oxford University's Jesus College for the week long residential. She found the experience really positive, and says 'the experience was both exciting and eye-opening, giving me the chance to discover new opportunities, through engaging taster classes. One of the highlights was the mix of academic and social activities, such as sports and punting, we were able to bond as a group and build lasting friendships.'

Jia Peng spent the week at Trinity College, Oxford. He agreed with Klara 'I thought Universify was very well planned and organized. I think that the taster sessions were very good as they gave you an idea what the subject was like and if you would want to possibly pursue it in the future.'

Klara adds 'beyond the fun, the programme offered a valuable insight into university life and helped me better understand the range of options available after school. Experiencing the Oxford environment first-hand showed me what higher education can offer, both academically and personally. Overall, it was a unique and inspiring experience that encouraged me to think more deeply about my future and the possibilities open to me'

Both students will continue with the programme through Year 11 and return to Oxford for a final residential prior to their GCSE exams.

Ms Jeffery, More able Co-ordinator

Year 10 GCSE

Sept. 2025



"**Haroon 10M** has produced this excellent independent work for An Inspector Calls. He is clearly dedicated to achieving the highest possible grades"
Ms Watkins Deputy Head of English

"My Year 10 Triple science class have been investigating the properties of light. In Science we want students to experience the practical aspects of science alongside the theoretical"
Ms Saunders

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MORE IS IN ME

Congratulations to all our students in the class of 2025.

This year our students were awarded 245 grades at 9-7, a 25% increase in the top grades compared to the previous year. Half of our students gained at least one grade 9-7.

Sept. 2025













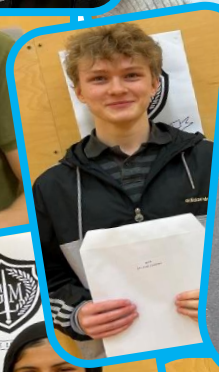



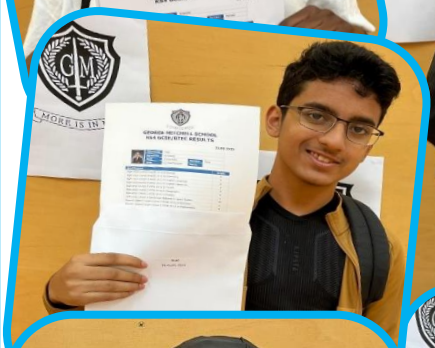





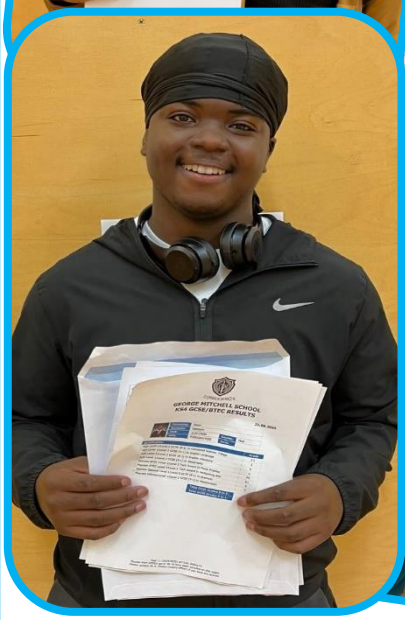

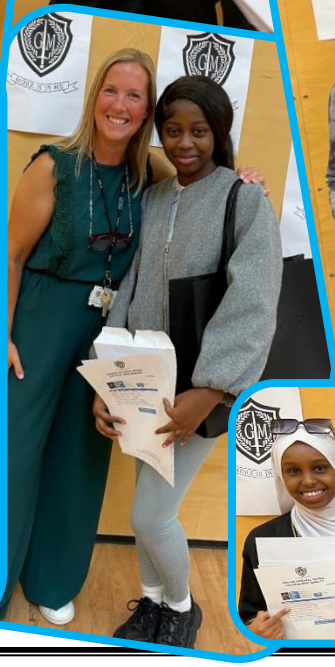





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Attendance counts

Sept. 2025

" The connection between attendance and grades is clear and well-documented. Each day a student is absent, they miss out on valuable learning experiences, including direct instruction from teachers, classroom discussions, and collaborative activities with their peers.

This missed content often creates gaps in their understanding that can be difficult to fill later on. As a result, students with poor attendance are at a higher risk of falling behind, which can lead to lower grades and a diminished sense of confidence.

Well done to **7G, 8M, 9W, 10F and 11M** who have the highest attendance of their year groups."

Mr Hussain Associate Assistant Headteacher

Yearly Attendance	Yearly Days Missed	Yearly Learning Hours Missed	Learning Hours Missed Over 5 Years
100%	0	0	0
97%	6	30	150
95%	10	50	250
90%	20	100	500
80%	40	200	1000
50%	100	500	2500

Extra Curricular

Sept. 2025

Extra-Curricular Programme

Engaging in extra-curricular activities offers a wide range of benefits. Whether it's sport, music, drama or debate, these activities help our young people to develop essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience time management and leadership. They also offer a valuable outlet for creativity, boost self-confidence and foster a sense of belonging with in the school community.

Importantly, participation in extra-curricular activities has been linked to improved academic performance and well being as students learn to balance responsibility and build positive relationships.

Please use the link sent via Evolve to reserve your child's space in one of the activities below

Day	Activity	Where?	When?	For who?	Speak to?
Monday	Girls Basketball	Sports Hall	3-4pm	Girls – Year 7 & 8	Ms Hadaway
	Piano and Ukulele	Music Room	After school	All year groups	Ms Topping
	Basketball	Sports Hall	Lunchtime	Y9/Y10 boys	Mr Khawaja
Tuesday	History Enrichment	3-24	3-4	All year groups	Ms Tomkins (History)
	Coding	GS5	3.15-4.15pm	KS3	Mr Batasi
Wednesday	Football Club	Playground/Sports Hall	3-4pm	Boys – Year 7 & 8	Mr Clark
	Girls football	Playground/Sports Hall	3-4pm	Girls – Year 7 & 8	Ms Hadaway
	Gardening Club	1-16	After school	KS3	Mr Vilca
	Vocal Group	Music Room	After school	All year groups	Ms Topping
	Russian Language	SEN Base	Lunchtime	Y11 Russian Students	Ms Baiioud
Thursday	KS4 Band	Music Room	TBC	Y11	Ms Topping
Library Activities	Lego Club Scrabble Club Chess Club	Library	Every break/lunchtime	All years	Ms Ainsworth
Instrumental Lessons/ Band	Want to learn an instrument or get involved in one of the GM bands? See Ms Topping for more details!				

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Safeguarding

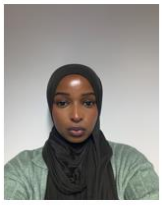
Sept. 2025

Safeguarding and Personal Development

Meet the Team:



Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Marissa Tomkins



Child Protection Officer (All Through)
Najma Hamud



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Janet Bergin-Miah

As we complete the first half term of the year, we want to take this opportunity to share important safeguarding updates and reminders to help keep our students safe, both in and out of school. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility, and your partnership is vital in ensuring our young people thrive in a safe and supportive environment.

Online Safety – Staying Safe in a Digital World

Secondary students are increasingly active online, whether through social media, gaming, or messaging apps. Please remind your child to:

- **Never share personal information** online.
- **Report and block** any inappropriate or harmful content.
- **Speak to a trusted adult** if they feel uncomfortable or threatened online.

We recommend using parental controls and regularly discussing online activity with your child. Visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk for age-appropriate guidance.

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Adolescence can be a challenging time emotionally. We encourage open conversations at home about feelings, stress, and mental health. At school, students can access:

- Our **Pastoral Team**
- **Safe Spaces** during break and lunch – please see the extra-curricular timetable for clubs and activities that your child can take part in
- **Breakfast club from 8.20am**
- **School Counsellor/Mentoring** (referrals via their Learning Leader or member of the Safeguarding Team)

If you notice changes in your child's behaviour, mood, or sleep patterns, please reach out to us.

Safeguarding

Sept. 2025

Attendance & Safety

Regular attendance is essential for learning and wellbeing. If your child is absent, please notify the school immediately. Persistent absence can be a safeguarding concern, and we may follow up with home visits or referrals to external agencies.

Reporting Concerns

If you or your child have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**, or any member of our safeguarding team. All concerns are treated seriously and confidentially.

Email: GMSafeguardingTeam@georgemitchellschool.co.uk

Reminders for Parents

- Check your child's phone and social media regularly.
- Encourage them to speak up if something doesn't feel right.
- Stay informed about current trends and risks affecting young people.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe. If you have any questions or would like further resources, please don't hesitate to contact us.