Readers of the Month

Nov. 2025





Huge congratulations to **Eime Makarenko** and **Rayyan Islam** who are the readers of the month. Eime said “I enjoy reading because every page opens the door to new knowledge.”

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Year 9 Winners

Nov. 2025



”The Waltham Forest basketball season is underway and our year 9 team got off to a great start. **So far they have won every game!!!** Well done boys.”

Mr Clark, Head of PE

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Year 11 Exploring Career Opportunities

Nov. 2025

Careers Fest at London Excel Centre

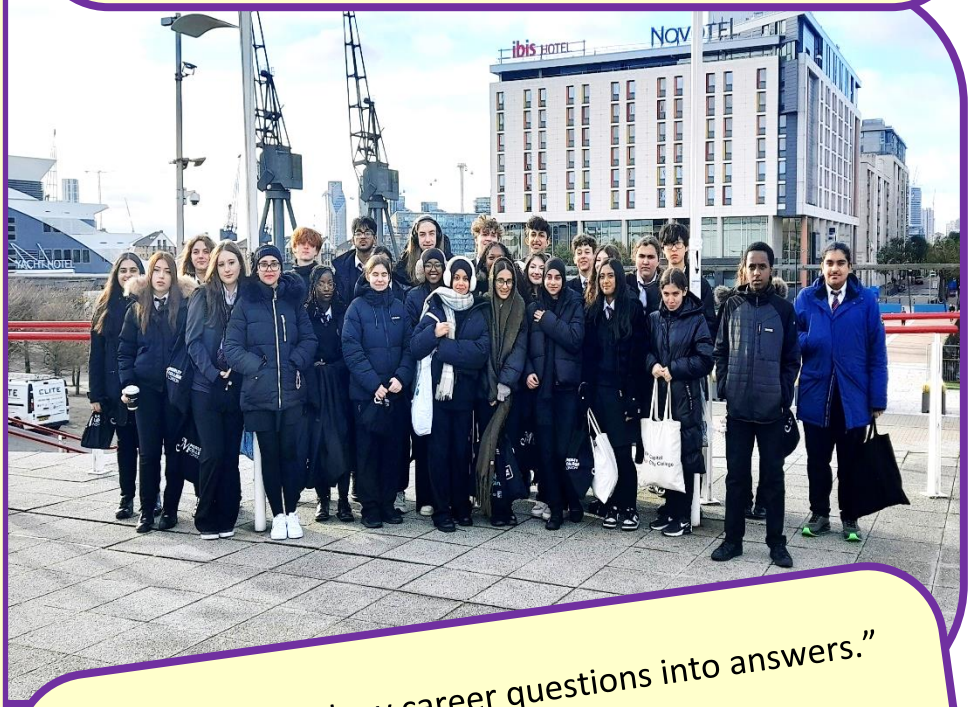
Year 11 students attended the Careers Fest at London Excel Centre, where they explored a variety of career pathways, engaged with industry professionals, and gained inspiration for their future ambitions. The London School & College Leaver Festival brings students together with employers, universities, colleges, and other general training providers allowing them to explore all the options available to them post 16 - 18.

"Excel Careers Fest was a game-changer—so many doors opened today!"

"I came for ideas, and left with a plan."

"Meeting employers face-to-face made everything feel real."

"The event helped me discover roles that match my skills and passions."



"This event turned my career questions into answers."

"The Careers Fest opened my eyes to so many opportunities I didn't know existed."

"Talking to industry professionals gave me confidence about my future career path."

"I learned that networking isn't scary—it's about building real connections."

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Creative Fashion Week Workshop

Nov. 2025

Creative Fashion Workshop and Careers Talk with Grepa Studios

We were thrilled to welcome Grepa Studios a local East London creative business, for a hands-on fashion workshop with our students. During the two-hour session, students transformed old T-shirts into stylish, wearable art—exploring themes of sustainability, design, and self-expression. They also had the opportunity to hear from professional artists about their careers in the creative industry and ask questions about working in the arts.











Anastasia 10M

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Technology Superstars

Nov. 2025

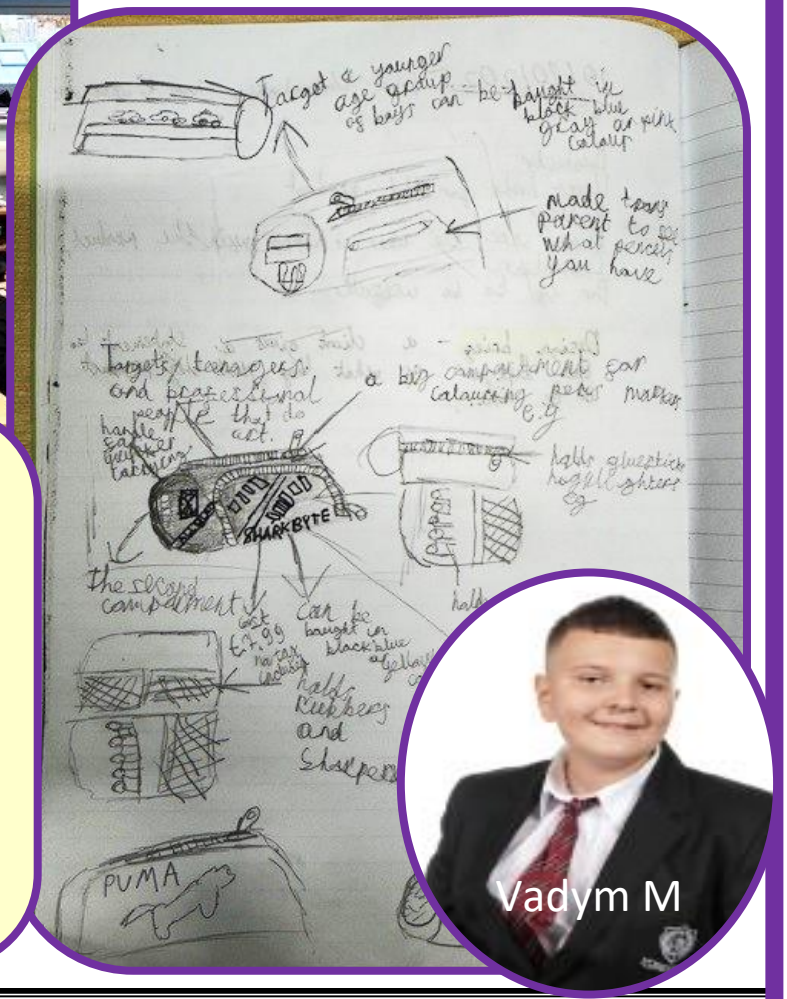




"This month Year 8 had to create a presentation on sustainable clothing for homework. Well done to **Eveline, Misha, Liyana and Nilah** who made some of the most professional presentations this year"
Ms Placide, Head of Technology

"Vadym in Year 7 did thorough research to conceptualise his final design. Great work!"

Ms Placide Head of Technology



Vadym M

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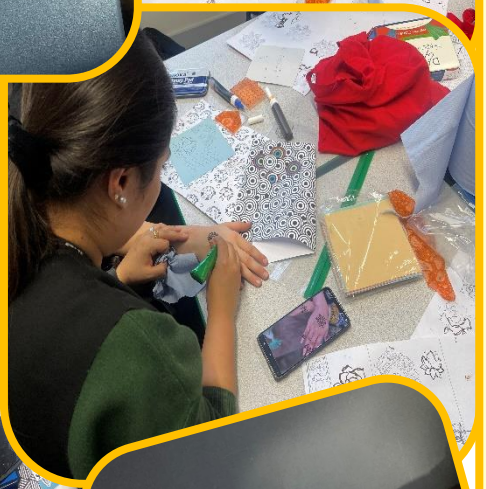
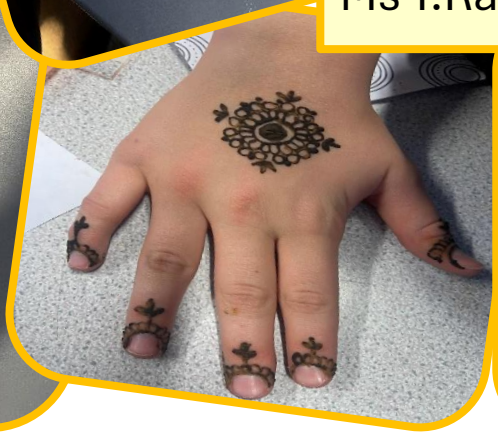
Henna Club

Nov. 2025








Henna Club Members Shine at Showcase!

Last week, our talented Henna Club members showcased their stunning designs, captivating everyone with their artistry. The event was a vibrant celebration of skill and cultural expression. A huge thank you to everyone who participated and supported the Henna Club!
Every Thursday untill the 18th December 2025.

Ms T.Rabbani

Post 16 Choices Evening Year 10 and 11

Nov. 2025

Post-16 Choices Evening

We proudly hosted over 25 post-16 providers—including leading colleges, sixth forms, and apprenticeship organisations—for an evening dedicated to shaping bright futures. Parents and students explored an exciting array of academic and vocational pathways, gained insight into entry requirements, and discovered the many possibilities that lay ahead.

The borough's expert careers advisor was also present, offering invaluable guidance to help each young person take confident steps toward their next chapter."

Ms Ainsworth, Careers co-ordinator









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GMS Students Achieve Jack Petchy Awards

Nov. 2025

"This November I had the honour of taking our students to the Jack Petchy Award ceremony."

Ms Hadaway





Apprenticeship Awareness Assembly

"Year 11 broadened their horizons this month with a fantastic guest speaker assembly focused on apprenticeships! The session opened students' eyes to the incredible range of opportunities available beyond traditional Sixth Form routes. From degree apprenticeships to hands-on vocational training, our students learned how they can kickstart their careers immediately after their GCSEs."

Golden Ticket

Nov. 2025



McKenzie O'Brien is our first golden ticket winner!!
Our new catering providers are hiding a Golden Ticket every day for a free treat.
Well done to eagle eyed McKenzie.

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VIP Pass

Nov. 2025



VIP Pass - Inaugural winner

A huge congratulations to James Infantino, who has earned the distinction of becoming our very first VIP Pass holder! This is well-deserved **recognition for** his **fabulous attendance** and commitment, reflected in his **impressive** collection of **PRIDE points**.

“This was a great achievement for me and I enjoyed using the pass. Bringing my friends with me was awesome. This allowed me to share my achievement and reward with my friends. I enjoyed being recognised for my PRIDE Points and attendance”

James Infantino

Remembrance Day

Nov. 2025



The Laying of The Flowers at Chingford cemetery in honour of Remembrance Day.

GMS students were invited to lay a Poppy Wreath followed by a visit to Commonwealth Graves of ex-service personnel.

The students laid a flower and cross in their memory and found out information/facts about the ex-service personnel.

MP Ian Duncan Smith accompanied George Mitchell during our visit and listened to speeches from our students.

Our students represented George Mitchell with pride and were very respectful throughout.
Ms Hadaway Learning Leader for Year 10









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Attendance counts

Nov. 2025

Attendance is Up!

A big thank you to the whole community for supporting our students get to school consistently.

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."

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

Find out more info about your year group

Nov. 2025

All year groups have their own PADLET (website) with further information. Use the QR codes to access the PADLET and save to favourites.

Year 7

Year 8

Year 9

Year 10

Year 11

Careers

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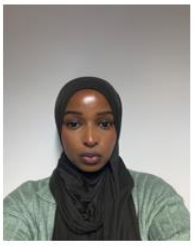
Safeguarding

Nov. 2025

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 approach the end of term, we want to thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe and well. Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do, and we'd like to share some key updates and reminders.

Online Safety

With the holiday period approaching, many students will spend more time online. Please:

- **Check privacy settings** on social media and gaming platforms.
- **Talk regularly** about safe online behaviour, including not sharing personal information.
- **Report concerns** using platforms like CEOP or ThinkUKnow.

Safeguarding

Nov. 2025

The festive season can be joyful but also challenging. If your child feels anxious or low:

- Encourage open conversations.
- Access support via **Kooth** (free online counselling) or **Young Minds**.
- Contact school if you need advice – we are here to help.

Attendance & Safety

Please ensure:

- We have **up-to-date contact details** for emergencies.
- Your child knows how to travel safely and who to contact if they feel unsafe.

For out of hours safeguarding concerns, please see below for a list of contact details:

* If you have concerns about the welfare of a child contact the Waltham Forest Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) team: 020 8496 2310 or email: MASHrequests@walthamforest.gov.uk
* If you have concerns about a child's mental health, contact Waltham Forest CAMHS – emergency phone number - 0300 555 1247 - Open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.
* Outside of these hours, you can call **Mental Health Direct** for crisis support: 0300 5551000
* If a young person or child's life is at risk and you need urgent medical assistance e.g. you suspect someone has taken an overdose, you should call 999 or go to an A&E department.
* Alternatively, you can contact your local police on 101 at any time.

Family Support

* **Gingerbread** (support and advice for single parents): 0808 802 0925
* **Childline (24 hours)**- 0800 11 11
* **Macmillan Cancer Support** - 0808 808 0000
* **Crime Victims** – Victim Support: 0808 16 89 111
* **Crimestoppers** – Crime Prevention: 0800 555 111
* **Refuge** – Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247
* **Homelessness** – Shelter (24 hours)- 0808 800 4444
* **Kooth** – Free Mental Health Support for young people – www.kooth.com

Safeguarding

Nov. 2025

Addiction

* **Drinkline** - 0300 123 1110
* **FRANK** – Friendly confidential drugs advice: 0300 123 6600
* **Beat** – Beating Eating Disorders (Mon– Thur 1:30pm – 4:30pm) 0345 634 7650
* **GamCare** – Support, information and advice for anyone with a gambling problem (8am – midnight, 7 days a week) 0808 8020 133
* **Kidscape** – Keeping safe, bullying and how to cope: 020 7823 5430
* **Missing People – Message Home** (Left home, run away, send a confidential message) - 116 000
* **National Missing People Helpline** - 116 000
* **Neighbourhood Watch** - 0116 402 6111
* **NSPCC – Child Protection Helpline** (24 hours) - 0808 800 5000
* **Samaritans (24 hours)** -116 123

Local Foodbanks:

* **Eat or Heat - http://eatorheat.org/**

Jewel Road 1a, London, E17 4QU

* **Rukhsana Khan Foundation** – Saturdays – 11am – 12pm - https://www.rukhsanakhanfoundation.org/

William Morris Community Centre, 6-8 Greenleaf Road, London E17 6QQ

* **FoodCycle London, Walthamstow** – Thursdays 6.30pm – walthamstow@foodcycle.org.uk

St Mary's Welcome Centre, Church End, Walthamstow, E17 9RH

* **Hackney Foodbank Warehouse - https://www.hackney.foodbank.org.uk/ -** 020 7254 2464

The Hackney Foodbank, Wally Foster Community Centre, Homerton Road, E9 5QB

To report a concern to the George Mitchell Safeguarding Team, please email:

* GMSafeguardingTeam@georgemitchellschool.co.uk
* If you are a student and would like to report a concern you have about your friend/peer, please click the following link: https://forms.office.com/e/JUVfWD0x5U
* Please note that this is an anonymous form and you do not have to give your name unless you wish to do so

Thank you for working with us to keep every child safe. Wishing you and your family a restful and happy holiday.

Extra Curricular

Nov. 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

Extra-Curricular Timetable

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	Table Tennis	Sports Hall	Lunchtime	All years	Mr Gursoy
	Y7 Reading Club	2-07	3-4pm	All Y7	Ms Watkins
	Gardening Club	1-16	After school	KS3	Mr Vilca
	Choir	Music Room	After school	All year groups	Ms Topping
	Russian Language	SEN Base	Lunchtime	Y11 Russian Students	Ms Baiioud
	Y7/Y8 Football Practice	Playground	3-4pm	Y7/Y8 Boys	Mr Clark
Thursday	KS4 Band	Music Room	TBC	Y11	Ms Topping
	Henna	SEN Room	3-4pm	KS3	Ms Rabbani
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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