Reader of the Month

Jan. 2026



Congratulations to **Muhammad 7G** for showing us that every page turned is a step towards endless possibilities! – **Reader of the month**!

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 7 Book Club

Jan. 2026







"The Year 7 Book Club is currently reading The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. Students take part in guided discussions exploring key themes such as courage, friendship, and the battle between good and evil, while developing comprehension and critical thinking skills. The club provides a supportive environment that encourages a love of reading and confident participation in discussion."

Ms Watkins, Deputy Head of English

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Wear Blue Charity Day

Jan. 2026



Wear Blue Charity Day: “At the end of the December term we had our Wear Blue Charity fundraising day. I’m pleased to say that we managed to raise £366.58 in total and the funds are split in half between Lloyds Park Children’s Charity and the Jamaica Earthquake Appeal.”

Ms Ahmedzai, Head of Citizenship

History Enrichment Club

Jan. 2026

"The History Enrichment Club gives students the opportunity to explore the past in a fun and engaging way beyond the classroom. Through activities such as playing the Horrible Histories board game, students develop their historical knowledge while strengthening skills such as teamwork, discussion, and strategic thinking. The club encourages curiosity, enthusiasm for history, and learning through interactive play."

Ms Tomkins,
History Teacher

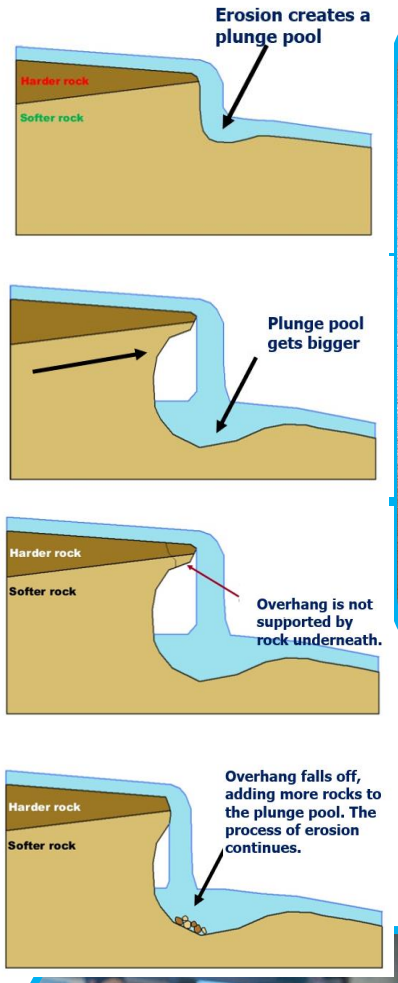


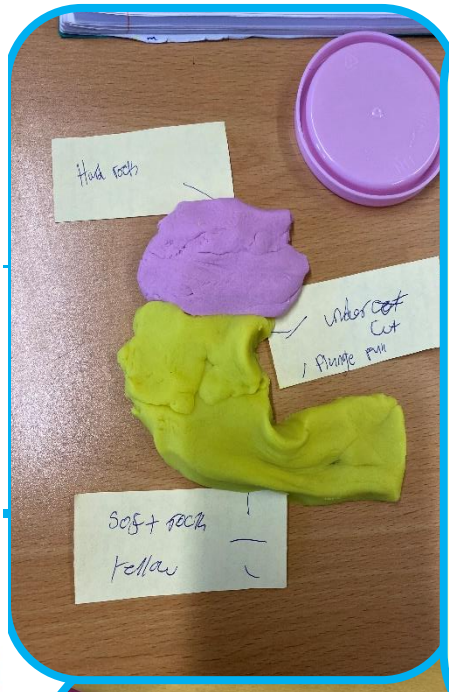


Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 7
Practical Geography

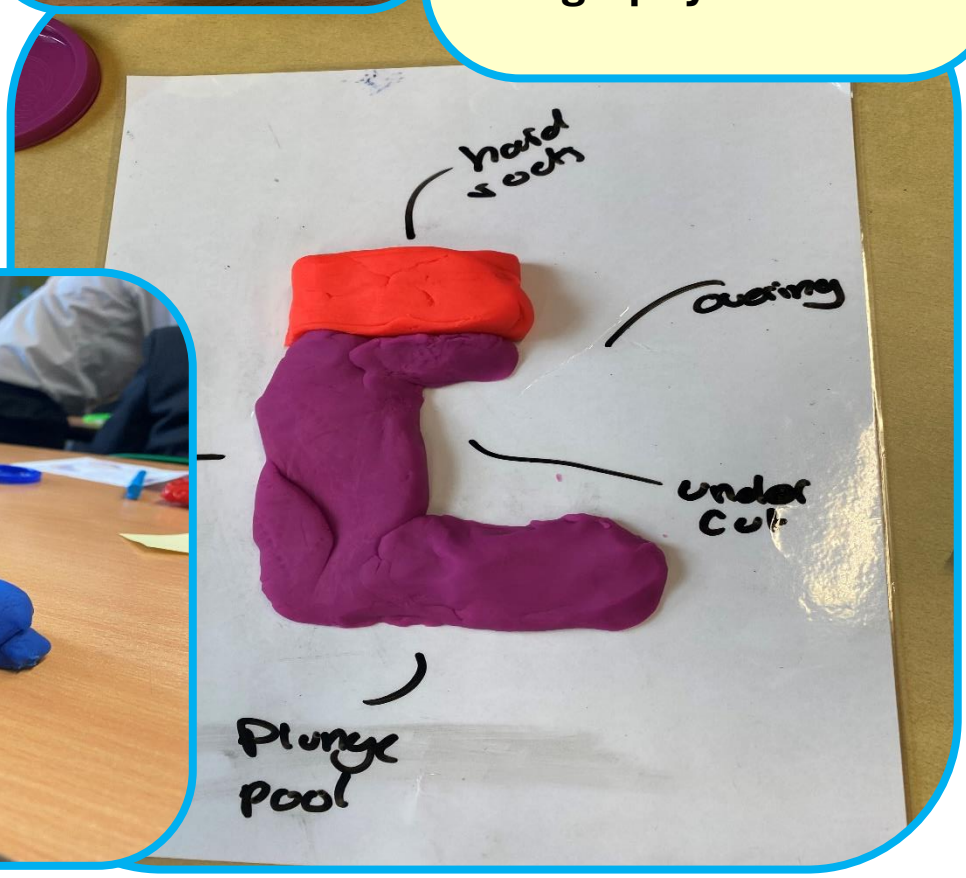
Jan. 2026





"7G used playdough to model the formation of waterfalls which occur when there is a layer of hard rock over a layer of softer rock that is eroded by water. Once the model was made they labeled them."

Ms Byrne, Head of Geography





Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

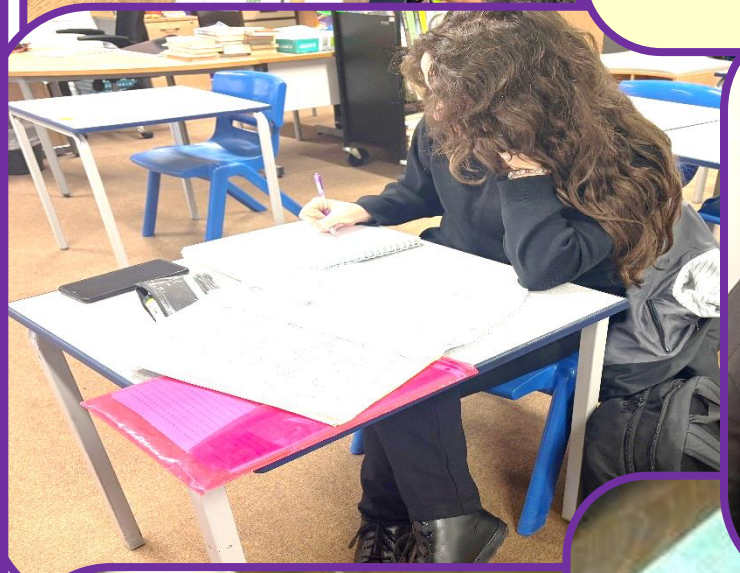
Year 10 Mock exams

Jan. 2026



"Year 10 students had their first set of Mock exams in January. The preparation was clear. We are proud of the effort serious attitude the cohort approached these important assessments with. **These students were in the library at 7:30am!**"

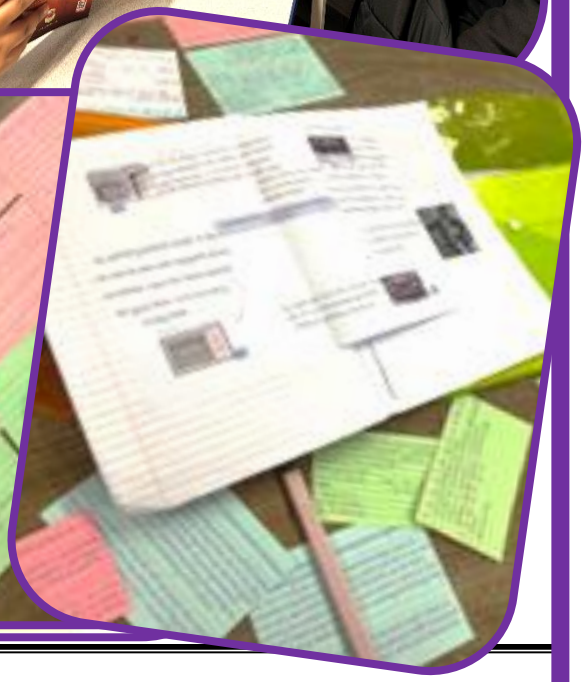
Ms Hardy, Assistant Headteacher











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

GMS Girls Borough Finalists

Jan. 2025



"GMS Year 7 and Year 8 Girls Basketball teams are through to the Waltham Forest Borough Finals!"

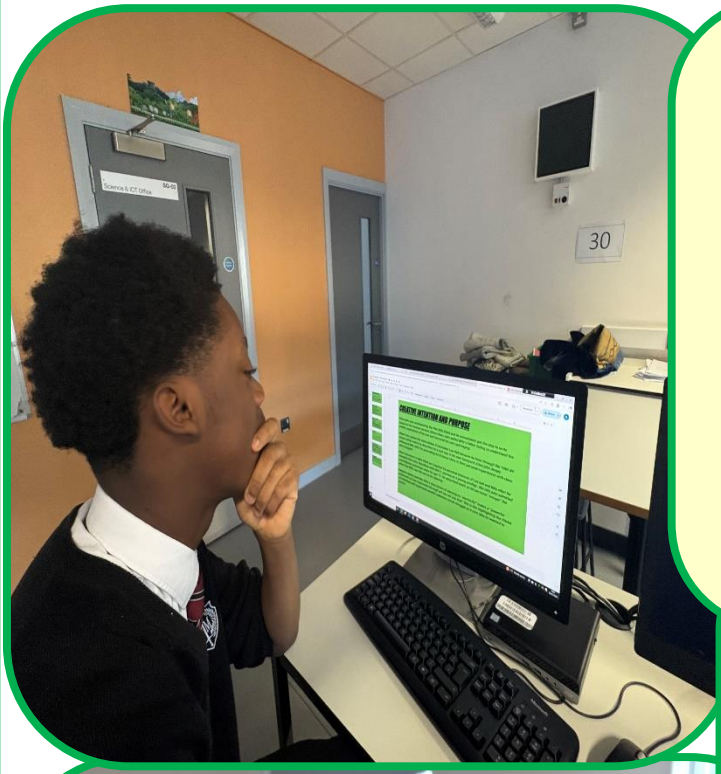
Ms Hadaway, PE Teacher



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 10 Coursework for Final Qualifications

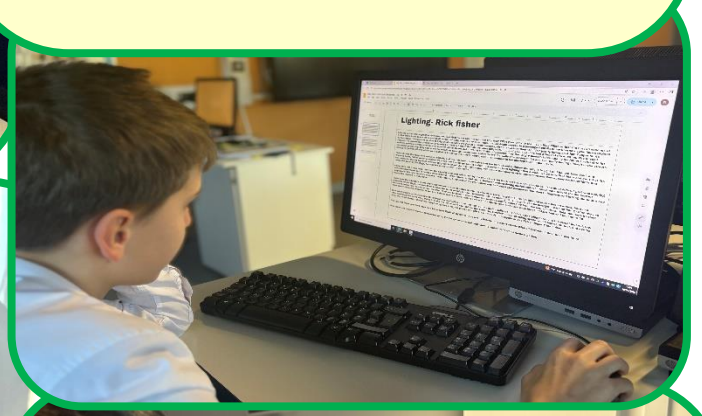
Jan. 2026

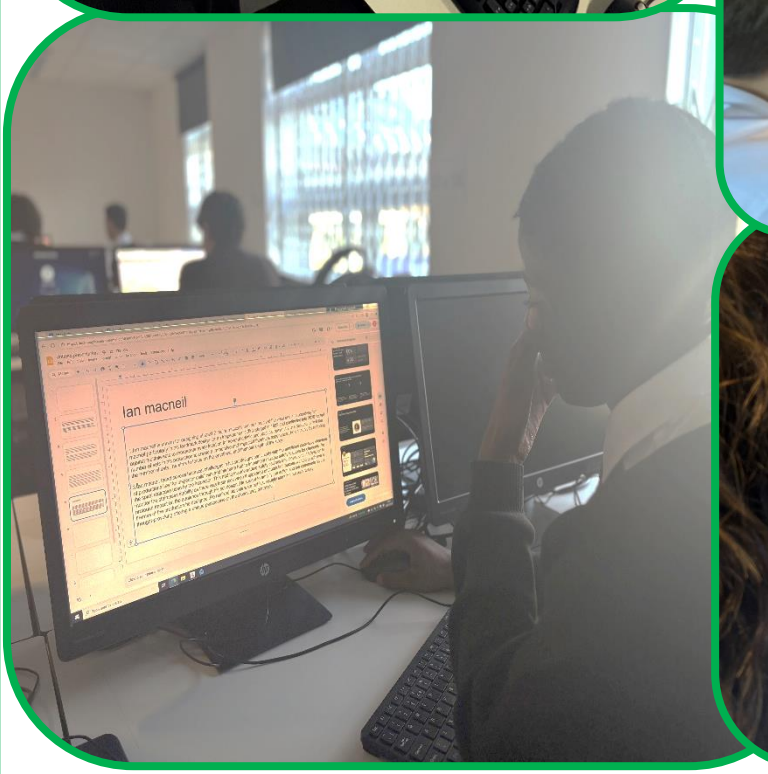


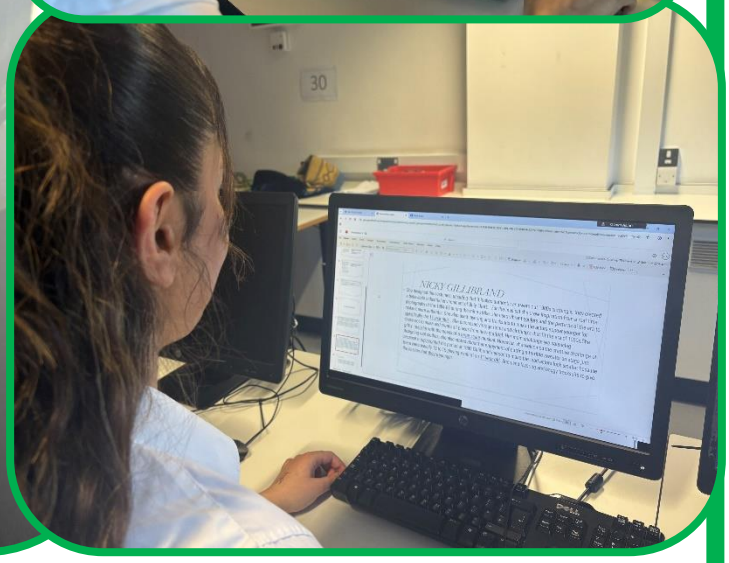
"When you think of GCSEs you may assume that all the exams are taken in May of Year 11. In fact, some courses require the students to be producing GCSE standard work from the start of Year 10.

Well done to our Drama cohort who have started their Unit 1 coursework."

Ms Bradley, Head of Drama







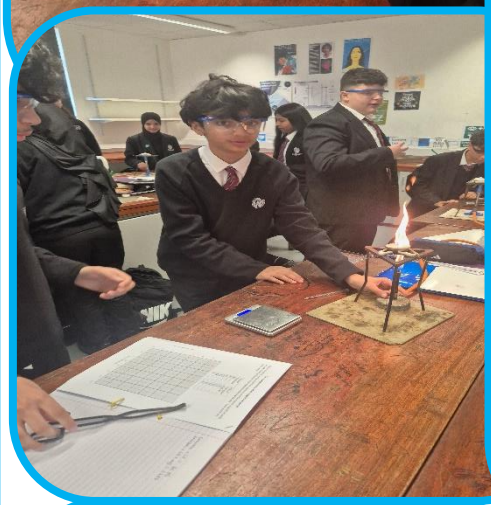
Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

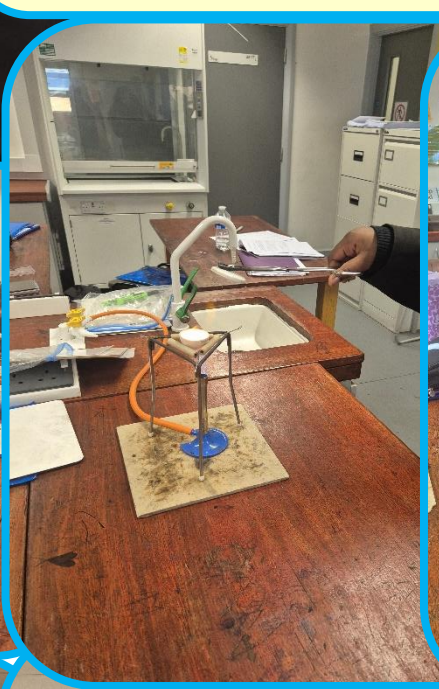
Year 8

Making Scientific Discoveries

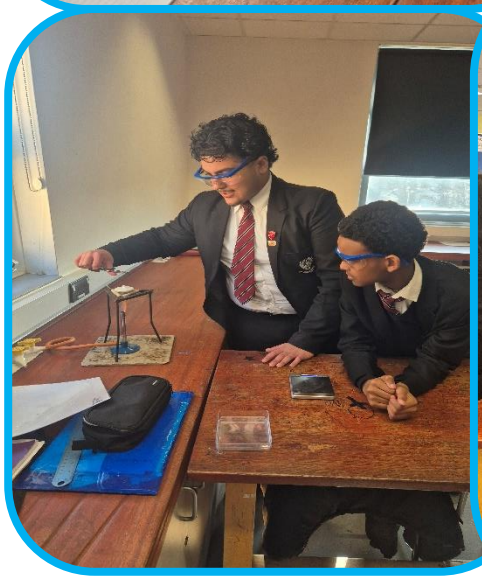
Jan. 2026













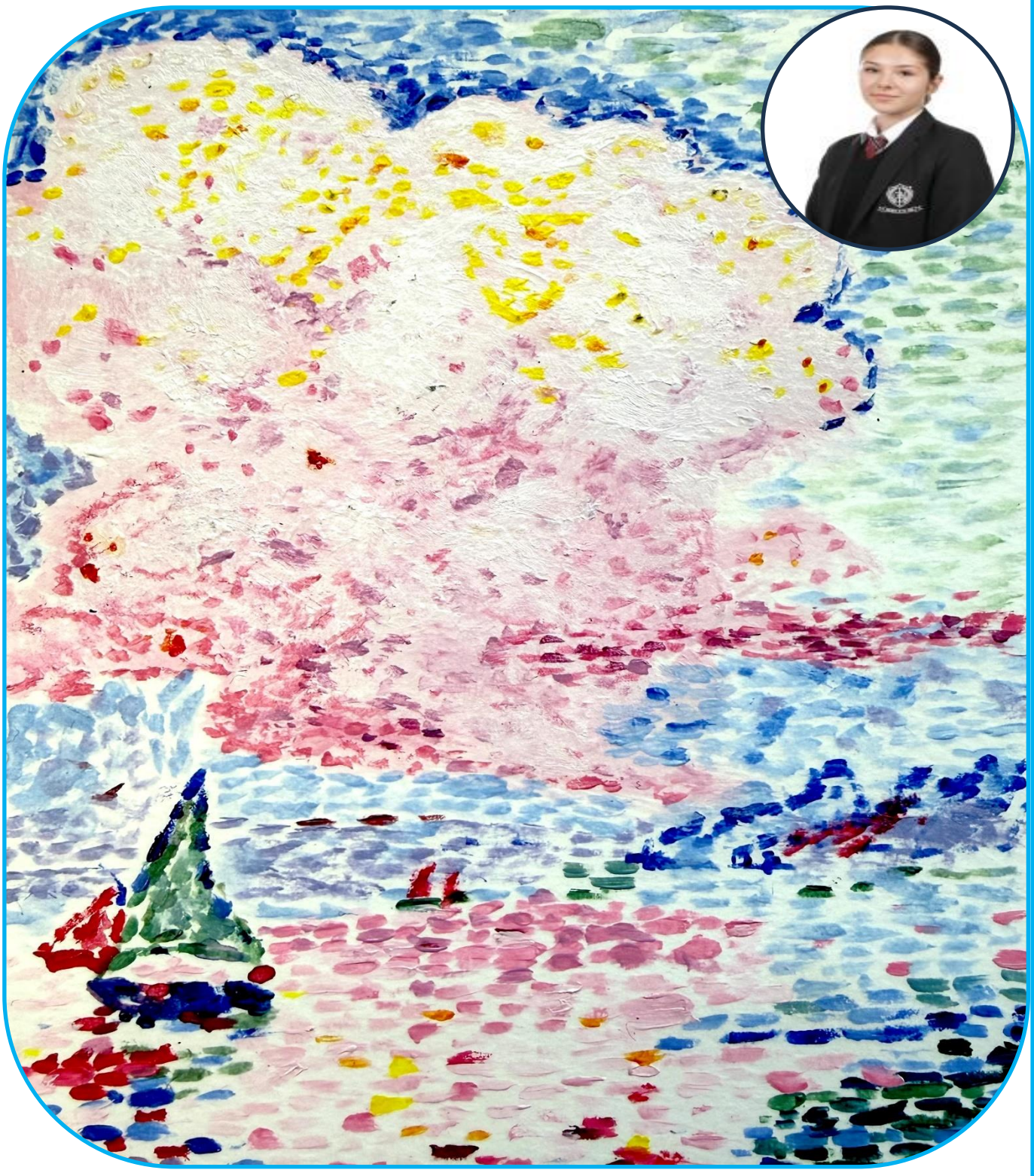
"My first month as a science teacher at GMS has been really enjoyable. The students are curious and enjoy science. Here **8F** are conducting an experiment."
Ms Khan, Science Teacher

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Artist of the Month

Constanta Craciun 11M

Jan. 2026



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Attendance counts

Jan. 2026

Every Day Counts: Why Attendance Matters

As we move further into the term, we want to take a moment to highlight a simple but powerful factor in student success: consistency.

Research shows a direct link between regular attendance and academic achievement. In secondary school, the curriculum moves at a fast pace. Missing just one or two days can create "learning gaps" that make it harder for students to engage with new concepts when they return.

The Impact of Attendance

- **Academic Momentum**: Lessons are often sequential. Being present ensures your child doesn't miss the "building blocks" of a subject.
- **Social Connection**: School is where vital social skills and friendships are formed. Regular attendance helps students feel like they belong to our community.
- **Future Readiness**: Developing the habit of reliability now is one of the best ways to prepare for the expectations of college and the workplace.

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

Attendance counts

Jan. 2026

How We Can Work Together

We understand that illnesses and emergencies happen. However, we encourage families to schedule appointments outside of school hours whenever possible.

If your child is struggling with school anxiety or other barriers to attendance, please reach out to their Head of Year. We are here to support you and find solutions together.

Did you know? A student with 90% attendance actually misses four weeks of school over the course of a year. That's a lot of missed opportunities!

Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our students reach their full potential.

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

Jan. 2026

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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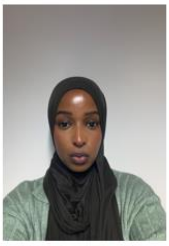
Safeguarding

Jan. 2026

Meet the Team:



Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Marissa Tomkins



Child Protection Officer (All Through)
Najma Hamud



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Janet Bergin-Miah

Safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do, and we'd like to share some key updates and reminders.

Online Safety

Many students use social media, gaming platforms and messaging apps daily. Please continue to:

- Talk regularly with your child about who they interact with online.
- Encourage them to keep accounts private and never share personal information.
- Remind them they can speak to you or a trusted adult if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable.
- **Report concerns** using platforms like CEOP or ThinkUKnow.

Safeguarding

Jan. 2026

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. Please remind them to keep phone use to a minimum when in public – there have been a spate of phone thefts over the last year and sadly, children and young people are easy targets for opportunist thieves.

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

Safeguarding

Jan. 2026

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Teenagers can experience stress from schoolwork, friendships and social pressures. Signs a young person may be struggling include changes in mood, sleep, appetite or engagement with school.

If you're concerned, please reach out—our pastoral and safeguarding teams are here to help

The following page also has contact details to help support your young person:

https://www.mind.org.uk/for-young-people/how-to-get-help-and-support/useful-contacts/

Extra Curricular

Jan. 2026

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	Piano and Ukulele	Music Room	After school	All year groups	Ms Topping
	Girls Netball	Sports Hall/Playground	After school	KS3	Ms Hadaway
Tuesday	History Enrichment	3-24	After school	All year groups	Ms Tomkins (History)
	Computing Club	GS5	lunchtime	KS3	Mr Batasi
	DofE club	Computer Room	After school	KS4 – invite only	Ms Hadaway
Wednesday	Table Tennis	Sports Hall	Lunchtime	All years	Mr Clark
	Y7 Reading Club	2-07	After school	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
	Trampolining	Sports Hall	After school	All year groups	Mr Clark
Thursday	KS4 Band	Music Room	TBC	Y11	Ms Topping
Library Activities	Library Games	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!**				