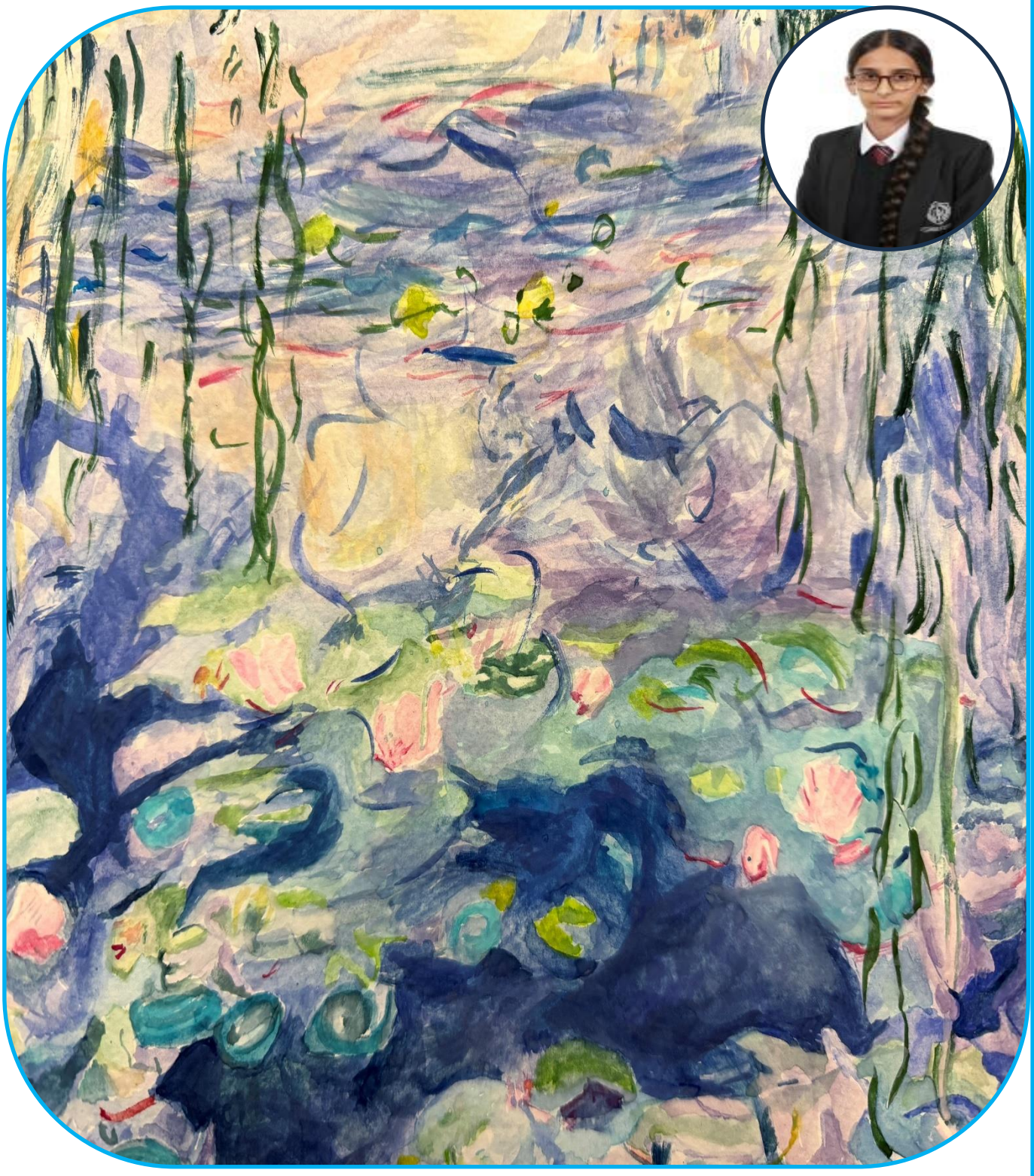
Artist of the Month

Maria Edah-Tally 11W

Feb. 2026



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

The Royal Opera House

Feb. 2026





"In February, GMS students went to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to see a production of Turandot by Puccini. They even got the chance to sing Nessun Dorma with the cast at the end of the show."

Ms Topping, Head of Music

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 7 Music

Feb. 2026









"This term our talented Year 7 students have been learning about African drumming. Some of them will be performing at our Easter concert on Monday 23rd March"

Ms Topping, Head of Music

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 7 Music

Feb. 2026











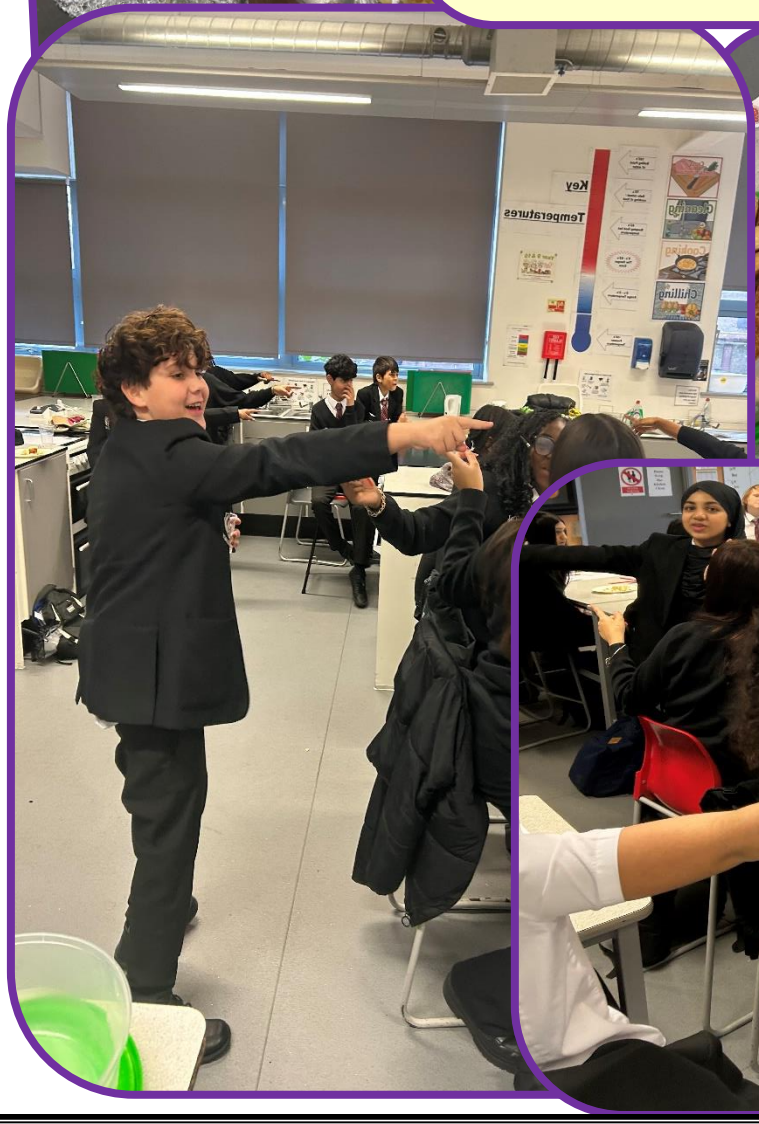
Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

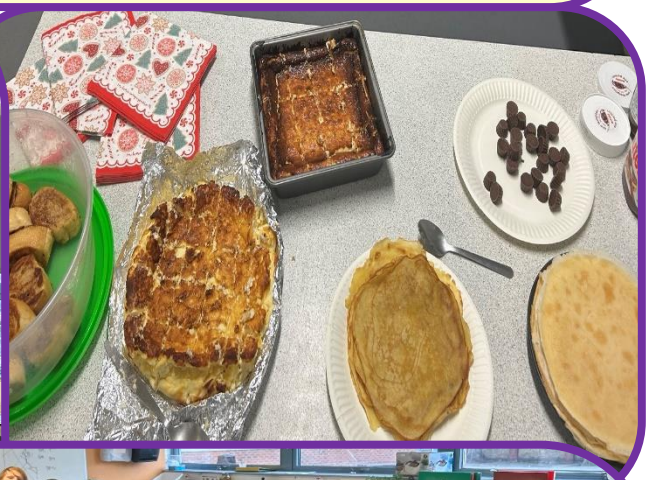
Year 8
8F Win French Competition

Feb. 2026



"As part of the curriculum, Year 8 have been introduced to the topic of food and prepared their own crêpes and French toast. Many of them were very excited to taste what they had made, and the activity was a great opportunity to combine language learning with a fun, hands-on cultural experience."
Ms Mejai, French Teacher







Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Talented Year 10s Visit University of the Arts London

Feb. 2026









"Our Year 10 Textiles students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to **University of the Arts London (UAL)**, ranked as one of the **world's top universities for Art and Design**. The day began in a university lecture hall, where students gained valuable insights into the diverse **career pathways within the creative industries**, from fashion design to sustainable textiles. Following the talk, current UAL students led a **guided tour of the campus**, offering a first-hand look at the state-of-the-art facilities and vibrant studio spaces. To round off the experience, our students got hands-on in a specialist **embroidery workshop**, refining their technical skills and exploring new creative possibilities. It was a fantastic opportunity for our young designers to envision their future in the arts!"

Ms Placide Head of Tech and Ms Ainsworth Careers Co-ordinator

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 8
Teaching the class about Sustainability

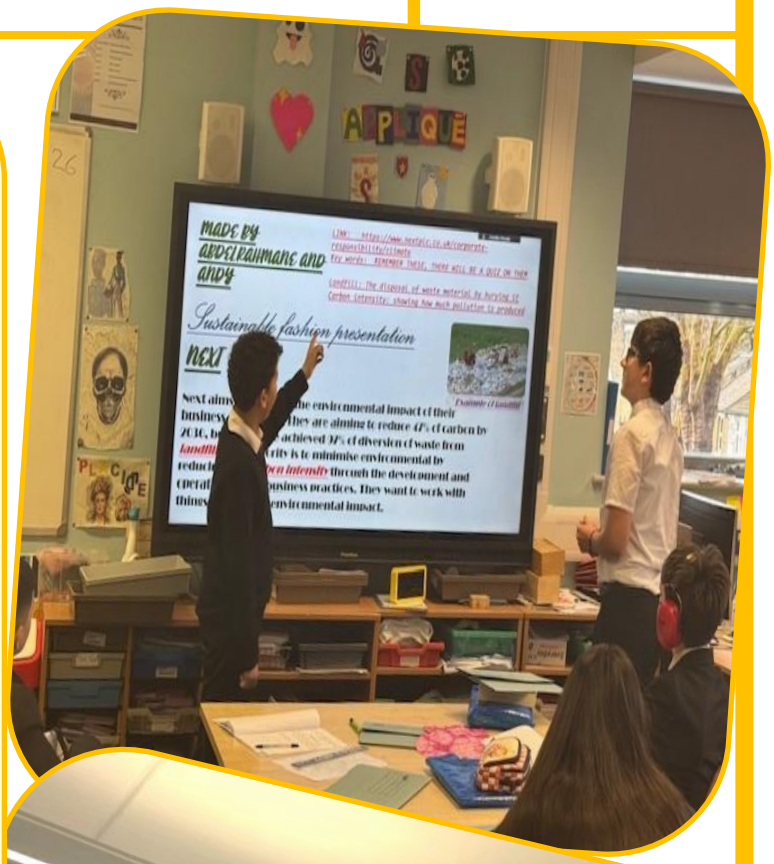
Feb. 2026

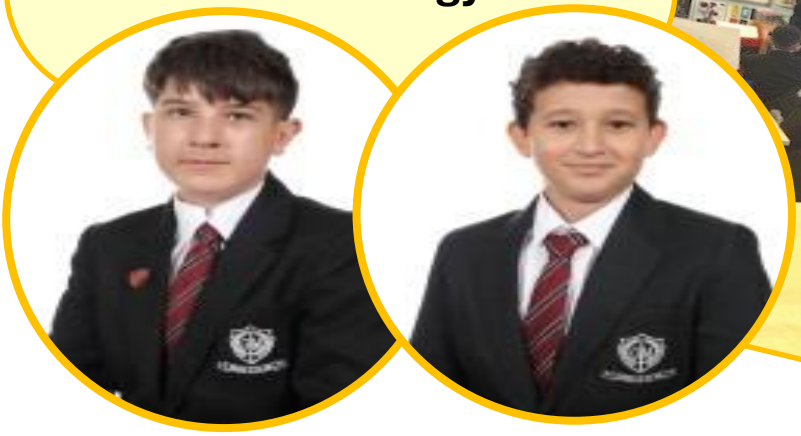
"This February, Year 8 presented their research on sustainability to the class.

Students of note were **Andy** and **Abd-Elrahman** from **8M** who:
-highlighted and defined key words
-used MCQs and mini white boards to check for understanding.

They really stood out as professional teaching and learning leaders"

Ms Placide,
Head of Technology







Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 8 Basketball Team

Feb. 2026

"Our Year 8 boys did George Mitchell proud by reaching the semi-finals of the Waltham Forest Basketball Competition. After some excellent performances by the team in the group stages, we fell just short in the semi-final against a very strong Frederick Bremer team."

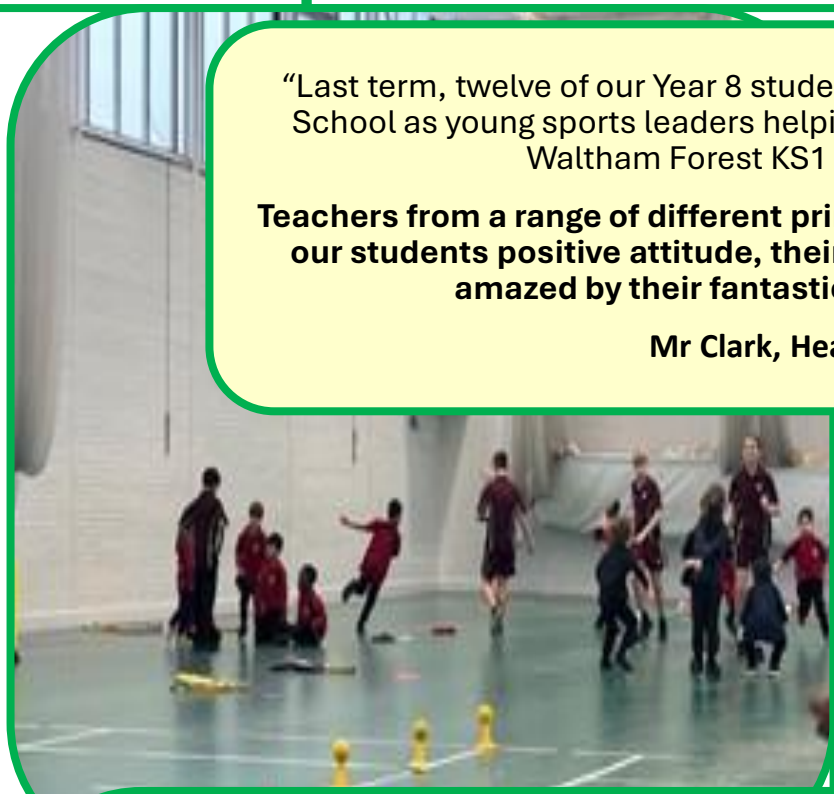
Mr Clark, Head of PE



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 8 Sports Leaders

Feb. 2026



"Last term, twelve of our Year 8 students represented George Mitchell School as young sports leaders helping to run, organise and lead the Waltham Forest KS1 Cricket festival.

Teachers from a range of different primary schools all commented on our students positive attitude, their professionalism and were all amazed by their fantastic leadership skills."

Mr Clark, Head of PE





Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 9

Talented Mathematicians

Feb. 2026

More than 25 Year 9 students achieve certification in the National UKMT challenge.

“The problems on the Maths Challenge are designed to make students think. The challenge consist of stimulating problems for both beginners and experienced problem-solvers.”

Mr Osei-Frimpong, Head of Maths



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

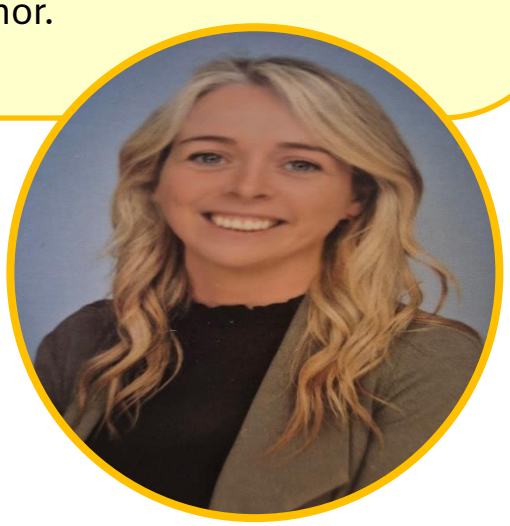
Meet our Governors

Feb. 2026

Aoife Deane

I serve on the Curriculum Committee for George Mitchell where I am committed to supporting the development of a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that enables all pupils to thrive. Through this role, I aim to ensure high standards of teaching and learning, promote continuous improvement, and help the school deliver the best possible outcomes for every child.

I am currently an Assistant Headteacher at a school in Redbridge and have 13 years of teaching experience. My professional background enables me to contribute strategic insight, educational expertise and a strong understanding of school improvement to my work as a governor.





Courtney Reid

I am trustee/ Link Governor for SEND and a member of the Resources Committee at George Mitchell School. With a background in education, I bring valuable professional insight into his governance role and am committed to ensuring that all pupils, particularly those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), receive high-quality, inclusive support.

I work closely with school leaders and fellow governors to strengthen strategic planning, oversee resources responsibly, and help create an environment where every child can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Meet our Governors

Feb. 2026

Jo Hadaway

Teacher and middle leader at George Mitchell School since 2017

I care about the George Mitchell community and our students' futures beyond that of a class teacher and secondary learning leader.

I have the opportunity to work with the headteacher and the governors to find solutions and continue to drive George Mitchell forwards to becoming an outstanding school.

Jo serves as a staff governor





Edna Addai

Edna Addai is an experienced senior leader in programme governance, risk and transformation within the financial services sector. She currently serves as a Risk Portfolio Lead (Vice President) at Deutsche Bank, where she oversees large-scale regulatory and governance programmes, working closely with senior executives and international regulators.

With over 15 years' experience across global institutions including Barclays, Citigroup, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Credit Suisse, Edna brings deep expertise in strategic oversight, accountability, risk management and performance monitoring. She is Prince2 qualified, a certified Six Sigma Green Belt, and holds an MSc in Management Sciences and Operational Research from Warwick Business School.

Edna has previously served as a Parent Governor at Barclay Primary School. She is passionate about educational excellence, strong governance, and ensuring that schools provide inclusive environments where every child can thrive.
As a trustee, Edna offers strategic insight, robust oversight, and a strong commitment to supporting leadership teams in delivering high standards of education and safeguarding.

Edna serves on the Finance and Premises Committee and Careers.

Attendance counts

Feb. 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

Feb. 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

Feb. 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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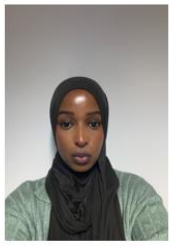
Safeguarding

Feb. 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

Feb. 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

Feb. 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

Feb. 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!**				