Reader of the Month

Apr. 2026



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

"Books are portable magic...you can take the story anywhere".

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 8 and Year 9 Science Trip

Apr. 2026







"More than 50 of our students had a fantastic time at the Big Bang Science Fair, which this year placed a strong focus on **green skills and sustainability**. Through hands-on experiments, interactive demonstrations and discussions with professionals from universities and industry, students explored how STEM subjects link to environmentally responsible careers and solutions to real-world challenges.

The day was engaging, inspiring and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, leaving our students motivated and excited about future pathways in green and sustainable industries".

Ms Ainsworth, Ms Martin and Ms Byrne

MORE IS IN ME

Year 8 and Year 9 Science Trip

Apr. 2026









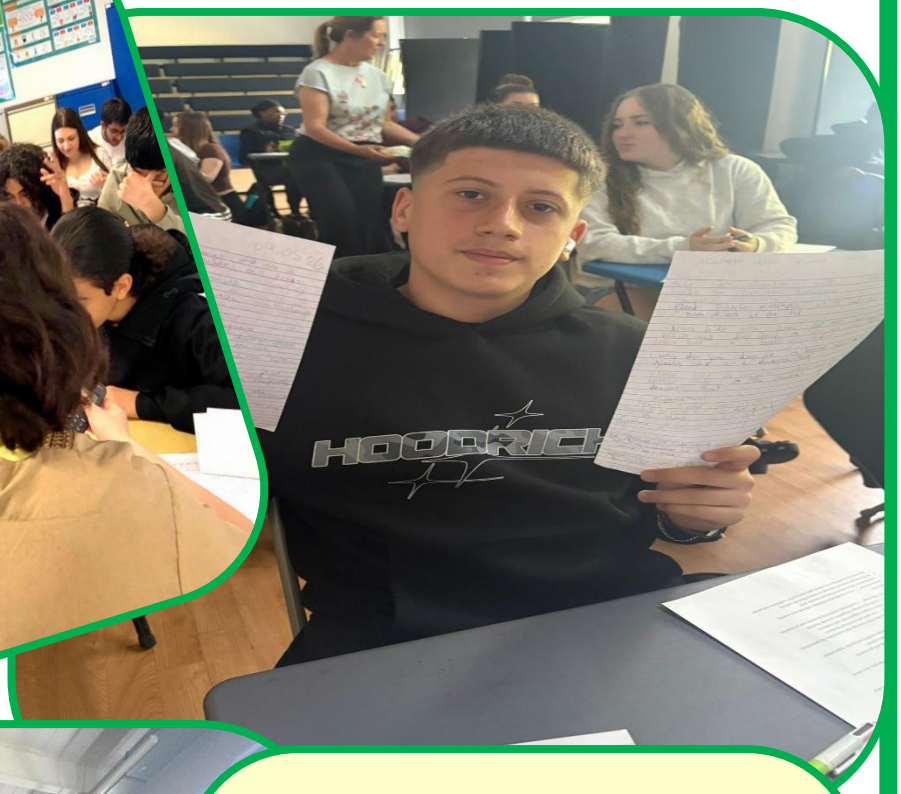


Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 11 Saturday School

Apr. 2026







A big thank you to all the staff who have run Saturday and Holiday intervention sessions in preparation for the GCSE exams Well done to all the dedicated and ambitious students who have put the extra work in.

The exams have started and the hard work continues. We wish all Year 11 best of luck in their exams.

Mr Farrow, Deputy Headteacher

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

GMS has Talent!

Apr. 2026



"At the end of last term we held our second concert of the year. Our talented students enthralled a packed audience with outstanding performances. I'm so proud of everyone who participated."

Ms Topping, Head of Music





Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

GMS has Talent!

Apr. 2026







Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

GMS has Talent!

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Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 9
Science in Action

Apr. 2026





"As part of the Science Curriculum my Year 9 class spent a lesson dissecting lambs hearts. Although some were a bit squeamish at first this was a very valuable experience for our understanding of the way the heart works" Mr Farrow, Science Teacher







Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Year 9 Squash Trip

Apr. 2026



As a reward for all their hard work, Mr Vilca took five Year 9 students to a local squash club – where he is an instructor - to try out this fast paced sport.

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Meet our Governors

Apr. 2026

Hannah Gillot

I'm a **Co-Opted Governor**, and prior to that was an English teacher for almost ten years – I use this experience as part of the **Curriculum Committee**, and as a link governor focused on curriculum and teaching.

Since leaving teaching myself, I've worked in Education Technology helping schools and school groups to implement tools focused on Maths and writing. All of my professional experience so far means I'm passionate about ensuring pupils leave George Mitchell School with secure foundations in core subjects.



Are you interested in being a parent governor? Please contact: georgemitchell@georegmitchellschool.co.uk



Ismael Gonzalez *has served as* ***Chair of Governors*** *at George Mitchell School since November 2024. He brings extensive leadership experience in strategy, transformation, and organisational performance as a management consultant and former senior retail executive, and he supports the school with strategic oversight, constructive challenge, and a clear commitment to achieving the best outcomes for pupils and the Leyton community..*

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

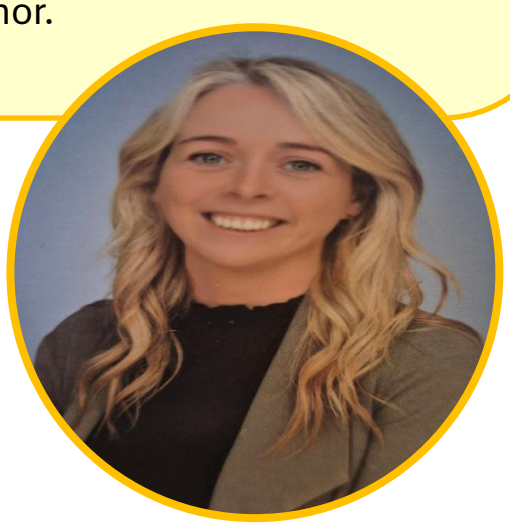
Meet our Governors

Apr. 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

Apr. 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

Apr. 2026

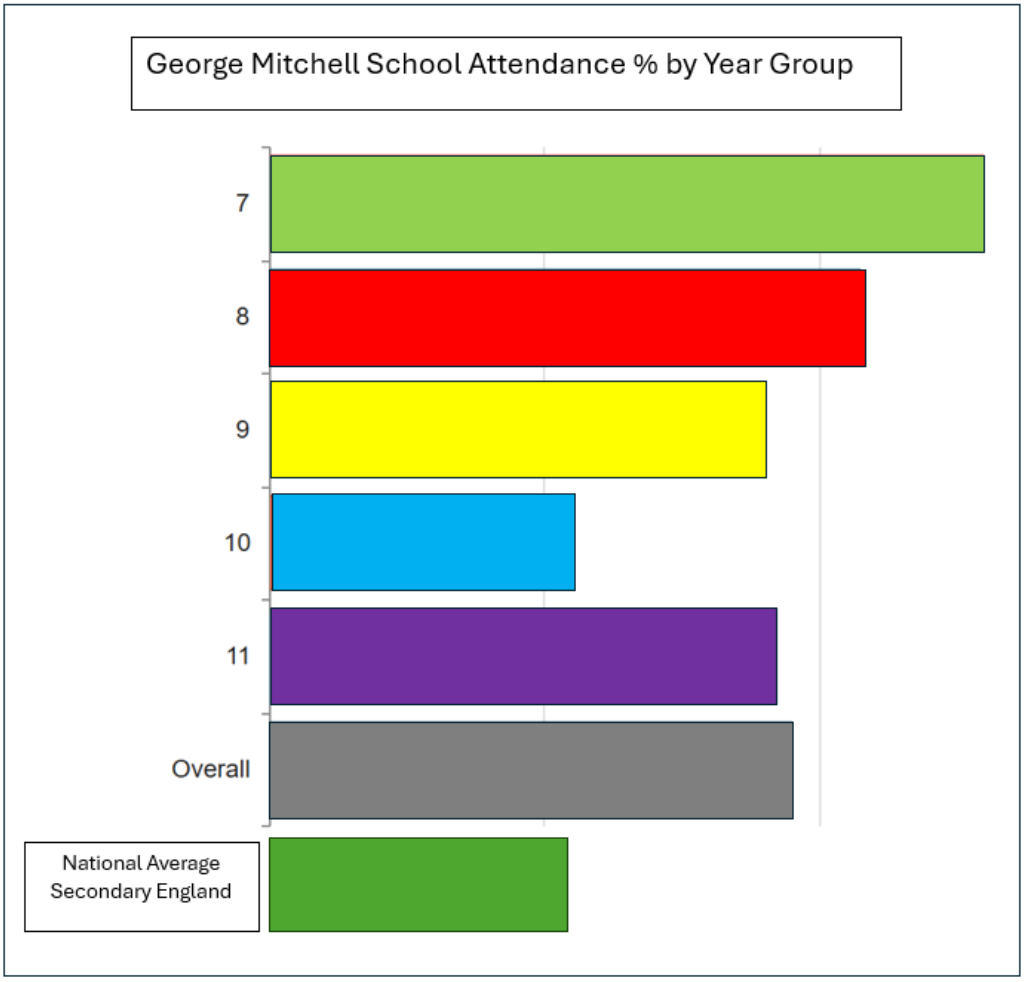
Fantastic news – Attendance is above the national average.

Our current attendance figures for this academic year are above both the national average and the local authority. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education.

While we are incredibly proud of these statistics, we must continue this momentum going forward.

By ensuring your child is here every day, you are giving them the best possible foundation for the future. We look forward to continuing this journey of success together.

Mr Hussain Associate Assistant Headteacher



Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Attendance counts

Apr. 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

Apr. 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

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Safeguarding

Apr. 2026

Meet the Team:

Safeguarding at George Mitchell



Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Marissa Tomkins



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)
Janet Bergin-Miah



Child Protection Officer (All Through)
Nina Phillips

Supporting young people to feel safe, confident and supported

As children move through secondary school, their independence grows. They spend more time with friends, online, and out in the community. Most of this is healthy and positive. However, we know from local information in Waltham Forest that young people can sometimes face pressures or situations that feel confusing or hard to talk about.

Safeguarding

Apr. 2026

Friendships, peer pressure and local influences

Some young people experience pressure from peers in their neighbourhoods or social groups. This might look like wanting to fit in, worrying about saying no, or feeling concerned about letting others down. In these situations, young people may appear confident while actually feeling unsure or overwhelmed.

Things you might notice

- Becoming more secretive about friendships, phones or online activity
- Changes in mood, confidence or behaviour that last more than a few days
- Pulling away from family or usual routines
- Unexplained money, gifts or new items
- Wanting to stay out much later than usual or changes to travel routes
- Increased anxiety about certain places, people or journeys
- New friendships that feel very intense or come with expectations

Safeguarding

Apr. 2026

Online life

Online spaces play a big role in secondary-age friendships. Problems can sometimes begin online and then feel difficult to step away from. Talk to your child about the positives and the pitfalls of their online life.

Emotional wellbeing and mental health

The teenage years can be emotionally demanding. Ongoing low mood, anxiety, withdrawal, changes in sleep, or feeling unsafe may be a sign that your child needs extra reassurance or support.

Working together

Please share concerns with school early, even if you're unsure whether something is a problem. Reassure your child that they can ask for help and be listened to without fear of getting into trouble.

Further information and support:

Waltham Forest – Help and advice for parents and carers:

https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/families-young-people-and-children/child-protection/child-protection-help-and-advice-parents-and-carers

NSPCC – Supporting teenagers:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/teens/

Safeguarding

Apr. 2026

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NSPCC – Supporting teenagers:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/teens/

Think U know (online safety)

https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/asset-library/Thinkuknow-Helpsheet.pdf

Extra Curricular

Apr. 2026

Personal Development:

Personal Development is a key part of school life, helping students build confidence, character and strong values for the future. Through a range of opportunities last term, students were supported to live out our **PRIDE values** of **Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity and Excellence.**

A total of 12 enrichment clubs ran, with 241 students taking part, offering something for everyone, from music and sport to the ever-popular lunchtime chess club. These activities encouraged **perseverance** through regular commitment, **independence** through pupil choice, and **excellence** as students developed skills and interests. The school concert was a highlight, with Ms Topping and the students delivering impressive performances that showcased students' confidence and commitment to excellence.

Extra Curricular

Apr. 2026

Personal Development:

Year 10 students completed a very successful work experience programme, developing **independence, responsibility** and **perseverance** through real-world experiences. Further opportunities included a visit to the local squash courts, promoting **teamwork and resilience**, apprenticeship assemblies supporting informed post-16 choices, a computing workshop, and an external speaker for Year 7, who spoke about History and her career journey, helping students link learning to future aspirations.

We also celebrated Cultural Day, giving students the chance to share and learn about different cultures within our school community. This event strongly reflected our values of **Diversity and Respect**, helping to build understanding, inclusion and a sense of belonging for all.

Perseverance, Respect, Independence, Diversity, Excellence

Extra Curricular

Apr. 2026

Day	Activity	Where?	When?	For who?	Speak to?
Monday	Piano and Ukulele	Music Room	After school	All year groups	Ms Topping
Tuesday	History Enrichment	3-24	Thursday lunchtime	All year groups	Ms Tomkins (History)
	Computing Club	GS5	Lunchtime every day	KS3	Mr Batasi
	DofE club	Computer Room	After school	KS4 – invite only	Ms Hadaway
Wednesday	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
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!				