

Tuesday 16th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Open Evening – Thursday 25 September 2025

We are holding our annual Open Evening on Thursday 25th September from 4.00-7:30pm. As a result, school will close early that day at 1.45pm so that time is available for students and staff to arrange the activities which will be on show during the evening. Lunch arrangements will run as normal on the day. As in previous years, we will be asking for student volunteers to help on the evening and further information will follow in due course.

Should you require your child/children to be supervised until the usual finish time, please email the Year Group using the email address below. We have arranged for the Burtonwood bus to leave at 1.55pm.

Year 7 – Intake2025@greatsankey.org

Year 8 – Intake2024@greatsankey.org

Year 9 - Intake2023@greatsankey.org

Year 10 - Intake2022@greatsankey.org

Year 11 - Intake2021@greatsankey.org

New staff – We have welcomed the following new teaching staff this term. I am delighted to be able to recruit such good quality staff to join the Great Sankey staff team. Welcome to Mrs Khan & Miss Bebbington (Art), Mr Campbell, Dr Hawkins and Mr Ó Gallachóir (Science), Mr Heath and Mrs Reid (Geography), Mrs Baxendale and Miss Paul (English), Mr Murphy (Music), Miss Lawrence (Business Studies) and Ms Hampson (Cover Supervisor).

Standards – Thank you again to the overwhelming majority of parents and carers who are supporting us to uphold the high standards of uniform and behaviour that we expect. I would like to remind you, as the cold weather returns, that jumpers are optional but wearing one does not mean a blazer is not required. Blazers remain compulsory. Some time ago, I wrote to you to inform you of our plan to eradicate vaping in school by introducing vape sensors in all student toilets. When they were installed, we were getting an average of 20 alerts a day. I am pleased to say this has reduced dramatically and each month we now get less than one alert on average a day. Thanks to the parents & carers who have supported us with this and to students for responding so positively. The vape sensors remain in place.

Attendance – As you will be aware last year school attendance was one of our school priorities. As we start this new academic year, we just wanted to add our thanks to all our families who have worked closely with the school to support all our children and young people in attending. This hard work has paid off and last year was our highest school attendance since 2022, which was above the national average. We have also made a strong start to this academic year, again seeing our highest figure to date. We do wish to take this opportunity to remind families that we also recognise that attending school is not always the easiest for everyone and that we are here to support you. If you feel this would be beneficial, please email your child's year team or attendance@greatsankey.org and one of our members of staff will contact you. Attached to this letter you will also find a letter from Warrington Borough Council that we have been asked to share with all families. The letter expands on the implementation of the 'Working Together to Improve

Attendance' guidance from the Department for Education and how they will implement Fixed Penalty Notices. We ask all parents and carers to take a couple of minutes to read through this to keep themselves informed of the guidance.

Outcomes – This summer's results at A Level and GCSE gave the school its best outcomes for several years. Year 13 and Year 11 achieved results above the national average in all core subjects and in many other areas too. Congratulations to all our students who were a credit to their families and to the school. We are so proud of their achievements. Many of our 6th Form students are now beginning their time at university, in apprenticeships or in the world of work. It is also lovely to see so many students staying with us at Barrow Hall College in Year 12. Our 6th Form Open Evening for students in Year 11 is on Thursday 16th October.

Progress Evenings – The dates below are in the calendar for parents and carers to meet staff during the year to discuss their child's progress.

Year 7 – Thursday October 16th, 2025 (Meet the Form Tutor) & Thursday March 26th, 2026.
Year 8 – Thursday April 23rd, 2026
Year 9 – Thursday January 29th, 2026 – this will include an Options Meeting
Year 10 – Thursday February 26th, 2026
Year 11 – Thursday December 11th, 2025
Year 12 – Thursday September 18th, 2025 (Parent Induction Evening) & Thursday February 12th, 2026.
Year 13 – Thursday September 18th, 2025 (Parent Induction Evening) & Thursday January 8th, 2026

Term Dates – Here is a reminder of our term dates this year.

Autumn Term

Open Close Friday 24 October

Open Monday 3 November - Close Friday 19 December

Spring Term

Open Tuesday 6 January - Close Friday 13 February

Open Monday 23 February - Close Thursday 2 April

Summer Term

Open Monday 20 April - Close Friday 22 May

Open Monday 1 June - Close Friday 17 July

INSET Days – (school closed to students)

Monday 5 January 2026

Bank Holiday Monday 4 May 2026

The term dates for 2026/27 can be found on our website here - <https://greatsankey.org/termdates>

Thank a Member of Staff – Thank you to all parents, carers and students who have already taken the opportunity to thank someone in school who has made a real difference to them. I always enjoy reading what you have to say about our staff, and I do make sure that anybody who gets mentioned gets the credit they deserve. You can thank a member of staff here -

<https://forms.office.com/e/ykrNbMqKu2>

Thanks for your continued support as we do our best to work together to help your children achieve greatness.

Best wishes



Mr G Evans
Headteacher



Steve Park
Chief Executive

Sharon Cooper
Interim Director of Children's Services
People Directorate

East Annexe
Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Fixed Penalty Notice update.

I am writing to inform you of the fixed penalty notice procedures for this academic year.

In line with national expectations and Warrington Borough Council's policy, schools are required to monitor attendance closely and take action where there are unauthorised absences.

Where a child has 10 or more unauthorised absences (equivalent to 5 full school days) in an academic year, this may result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) being issued. Schools are advised **not** to authorise holidays in term time and parents should be aware that this may result in a FPN being issued if the above criteria are met.

Your child's school will monitor attendance, and where appropriate they will refer cases to Warrington Borough Council for consideration of a FPN. The local authority will review each referral and determine whether a FPN should be issued.

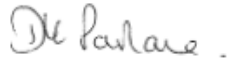
Fixed Penalty Notice Charges.

- **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.
- **£160** per parent per child if paid within 28 days.
- Failure to pay may lead to prosecution in Magistrates Court.

A maximum of two Fixed Penalty Notices can be issued per parent for the same child within a three-year period. After this, any further unauthorised absence may result in a prosecution.

For any further information please use the attached link which gives up to date guidance on school attendance - [Working together to Improve School Attendance](#)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Debbie Parlane', followed by a small horizontal line.

Debbie Parlane
Education Welfare Manager
Email: dparlane@warrington.gov.uk