

Monday 9th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to share the details you need as we approach the end of term,. The Autumn Term will end on Friday 20th December at 12.10pm. The bus to Burtonwood will be leaving shortly afterwards. If your child requires a lunch before they leave, please email their Year team so we can arrange that. The Spring Term begins on **Tuesday 7th January 2025** at 8.20am.

At the end of term, we will be saying farewell to a couple of colleagues. I would like to thank them both for their hard work and dedication. Mr Craven in the Science department and Mrs Hughes from Health & Social Care are leaving us for pastures new. We also have two staff who will be starting their maternity leave before students return to school. They are Mrs McArthur (Modern Languages) and Mrs Kitchener (English). On behalf of the students, Governors, parents, carers, and staff I would like to wish them all the very best of luck. In January, we will see Mrs Eaton return to school from her maternity leave.

Later this week on **Friday 13th December** we will be holding a voluntary non-uniform day in support of Warrington Foodbank which is part of the Trussell Trust. The foodbank is part of The Trussell Trust's network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in our local communities, as well as across the UK. Further information about the work of the Foodbank can be found at [Warrington Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#)

Voluntary donations

Donations will be collected during Form Time on Friday morning and form representatives will bring everything that is received to our foyer. Students who arrive late may drop off their donations at reception.

The foodbank have released their up-to-date shopping list as suggested donations:

- Tinned meat; tinned fish
- tinned fruit & vegetables
- coffee & tea; sugar
- long life milk
- jam/marmalade
- crackers
- packet rice
- pasta sauce
- cleaning products
- cereal/porridge
- pet food
- toiletries.

Christmas treats are also being accepted too e.g. selection boxes, biscuits, sweets, etc. It is often the case that some families may wish to give more to the cause and if that is the case, we are pleased to receive it and pass it on to the charity. We would encourage as many students and staff as possible to take part and to help collect items for this worthy cause.

If a student prefers not to take part, that is not a problem, but they may still make a voluntary contribution to the food bank if they so wish.

Non-uniform guidance

- Please note that offensive slogans, crop tops, shorts are not allowed.
- Students should dress appropriately for the weather, e.g. coats if raining/cold etc.,
- Students may choose to wear Christmas jumpers if they so wish but there is no expectation to do so.
- School rules of no make-up and jewellery still applies.
- If your child is timetabled for PE that day, they should bring their school PE kit as normal.
- It is essential that all students still bring their equipment for school so they are fully prepared for their learning

We thank you for your support in advance.

Rewards – Thanks to all parents for your support in getting students to attend school. The school's attendance is currently well above the national average. Our end of year celebration assemblies will be taking place each day during the last week of term, and we are thrilled to recognise and reward our students' successes in terms of progress and effort within lessons, attendance, standards and expectations, involvement in our school community and demonstrating our schools' G.R.E.A.T values. We will also be celebrating those students that have achieved their silver award (600 points) this half term and those students will have the opportunity to exchange their positive points for prizes.

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

Year 7 – Thursday April 24th, 2025.

Year 9 – Thursday January 23rd (Options Evening) & Thursday February 6th, 2025

Year 10 – Thursday February 27th, 2025

Year 11 – Thursday January 16th, 2025

Year 12 – Thursday March 27th, 2025.

Year 13 – Thursday January 23rd, 2025

Term Dates – Here is a reminder of our term dates for the remainder of the year.

Spring Term

Open Tuesday 7 January - Close Friday 14 February

Open Monday 24 February - Close Friday 4 April

Summer Term

Open Tuesday 22 April - Close Friday 23 May

Open Monday 2 June - Close Friday 18 July

INSET Days – (school closed to students) Monday 6 January 2025 & Monday 21 July 2025

Term dates for 2025/26 are available on the school website. The dates for 2026/27 will normally be shared with you in May.

Thank a Member of Staff – In my last letter I mentioned a new page on the school website where parents, carers and students could thank a member of staff for any particular reason they wanted. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to do this since – over 250 nominations have been made. You can access the page via this link - <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. I hope you all manage to have a very relaxing, peaceful Christmas holiday.

Best wishes



Mr G Evans
Headteacher

Why is school attendance so important?

ATTENDING SCHOOL
REGULARLY HELPS TO
 BUILD CONFIDENCE
 AND DEVELOP VITAL
 LIFE SKILLS

SCHOOL

is the key to *future success!*

Missing just		Missing nearly
2 DAYS	=	3 WEEKS
of school		during a
each month		school year

15 minutes
 LATE EVERY DAY

=

two weeks
 OF LEARNING LOST
 EACH SCHOOL YEAR

DATA SHOWS PUPILS WITH MORE THAN

95% ATTENDANCE
 ACHIEVE BETTER GCSE RESULTS!

at least one grade higher!

Even **90%** attendance
 is still 19 days of
 education lost in a school
 year.

SPEAK TO YOUR TUTOR, YEAR TEAM OR A MEMBER OF THE ATTENDANCE TEAM IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ATTENDANCE@GREATSANKEY.ORG