OCT 26

GREATFIELDS

NEWSLETTER



GREATFIELDS SCHOOL

Kindness Aspiration Action

#1

WELCOME

As we approach the end of our first half term, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and positive start to the academic year, and my first as Headteacher of Greatfields School.

Autumn is a season of change, and there has certainly been plenty of that at Greatfields. It has been a real pleasure getting to know our students, staff and families, and seeing the school in action. I have been struck by the energy, ambition and ideas across our school community, alongside the genuine pride that students and staff have in Greatfields.

A particular highlight has been seeing our new Year 7 students settle into secondary school life. Starting a new school is a significant transition, and it has been fantastic to see them finding their feet, developing friendships, understanding our routines and embracing the opportunities available to them. We have also welcomed new colleagues across the school, who have brought fresh perspectives, enthusiasm and experience to our team.

There has been plenty to celebrate this half term. Our Year 6 Open Evening saw increased interest in the school, providing an opportunity to showcase Greatfields to prospective families. We have welcomed governors into school to meet with staff and students, and representatives from the local authority to explore our inclusive practice and highlight the excellent provision and support available to our learners.

Beyond the classroom, students have been busy representing the school at sporting fixtures, with some excellent results and a few very close contests, particularly in basketball! What has stood out to me is the pride our students take in representing Greatfields, and the commitment and teamwork they demonstrate. We have also seen geography field trips, visits from external speakers including the Bank of England, and a range of opportunities that bring learning to life beyond the classroom.

As I shared at the start of term, our vision is to build a school where every learner is known, challenged and empowered. This continues to shape our priorities: improving attendance and engagement, strengthening the quality of teaching and learning, securing strong academic outcomes and ensuring every student benefits from an inclusive, ambitious education.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Our school values of Kindness, Aspiration and Action remain central to this work. We have made a positive start, but there is more to do. We will continue to strengthen our expectations around behaviour, ensuring lessons are calm and purposeful, students feel safe and everyone is able to learn without disruption. Alongside this, we are looking at improvements to our school site, the dining experience and school food, and the wider environment in which our students learn and socialise. These improvements will take time, but I am confident that, working together, we can make a real difference.

I am also looking forward to spending more time in classrooms next half term, seeing the teaching and learning taking place every day, and continuing to hear directly from students about their experiences. There is much to look forward to on the school calendar, including our upcoming production of High School Musical. I would strongly encourage families to get a ticket and support the students and staff who have been working hard to bring the performance together!

One of my priorities as Headteacher is to build strong partnerships with families. Good communication, shared expectations and mutual support are essential if we are to achieve the very best for our young people. Attendance is an important part of this partnership too. Being in school, on time and ready to learn every day makes a real difference, and I would ask all families to continue supporting us with this. Finally, I want to thank our staff for their hard work and commitment throughout what has been a demanding half term, our students for the energy and enthusiasm they bring to school, and our families for their continued support.
Change brings opportunities, and while there is always more to improve, I am excited about what lies ahead for Greatfields. We have much to be proud of and even more to aspire to.

I wish all our students, families and staff a restful and enjoyable half term break, and look forward to welcoming everyone back for Autumn 2.

Mr Hudson
Headteacher

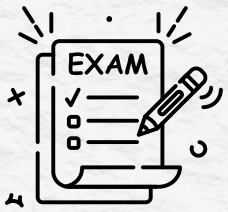
Kindness Aspiration Action

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY





Monday 2nd November 2026
First Day back after Half Term



Monday 2nd November - Friday 13th November 2026
Year 11 and 13 Mock Exams



Thursday 12th November 2026
Sixth Form Open Evening - 4pm



Monday 23rd November - Friday 4th December 2026
Year 7 and Year 8 Tracking Assessment



Thursday 3rd December 2026
Year 11 Parents' Evening



Monday 7th December - Friday 18th December 2026
Year 10 and Year 12 Tracking Assessment

Thursday 10th December 2026



Greatfields presents High School Musical - 6pm

Friday 18th December 2026
Last day of Term



Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January 2027
Christmas Holidays



SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT
HISTORY

KS3 HISTORY:
THE BAYEUX TAPESTRY

This term, KS3 students will be studying the Norman Conquest of 1066, exploring how William of Normandy conquered England and the impact this had on English society.

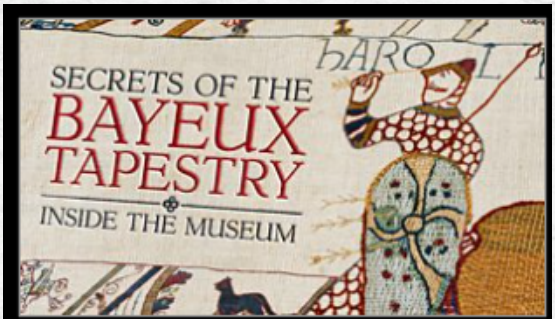
A key focus will be the Bayeux Tapestry, one of the most important surviving sources from the period. Students will explore what the tapestry can tell us about the events of 1066 and how historians use it as evidence to investigate the past.

We are particularly excited that the Bayeux Tapestry is in England for the first time in around 950 years! This gives students a unique opportunity to learn about an extraordinary historical artefact while it is here in Britain.

Want to learn more at home? Students and families can also watch the BBC documentary about the Bayeux Tapestry on BBC iPlayer, exploring its fascinating history and significance. It is a great way to continue the learning beyond the classroom and discover more together!



Mysteries of the Bayeux Tapestry



Secrets of the Bayeux Tapestry: Inside the Museum

SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Year 12 Health & Social Care Students Explore Work Experience Opportunities at King's College Hospital

On Friday 2nd October our year 12 Health & Social Care students had the exciting opportunity to attend a workshop focused on work experience at King's College Hospital.

We would like to thank Christian Rafael from King's College Hospital for visiting our students and delivering an informative and engaging session. Christian provided valuable insight into the work experience opportunity and answered students' questions about what they could expect from the placement.

Our students were highly engaged throughout the session, asking thoughtful questions and showing genuine enthusiasm about the opportunity. The workshop allowed students to develop their understanding of working within a healthcare environment, explore potential career pathways, and gain valuable insight into the skills and expectations associated with working in a hospital setting.



We are delighted to provide our students with opportunities that help them connect their classroom learning with real world healthcare experiences and inspire them to consider future careers within the health and social care sector.

Mrs Begum
(HoF for Social Sciences)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: POETRY



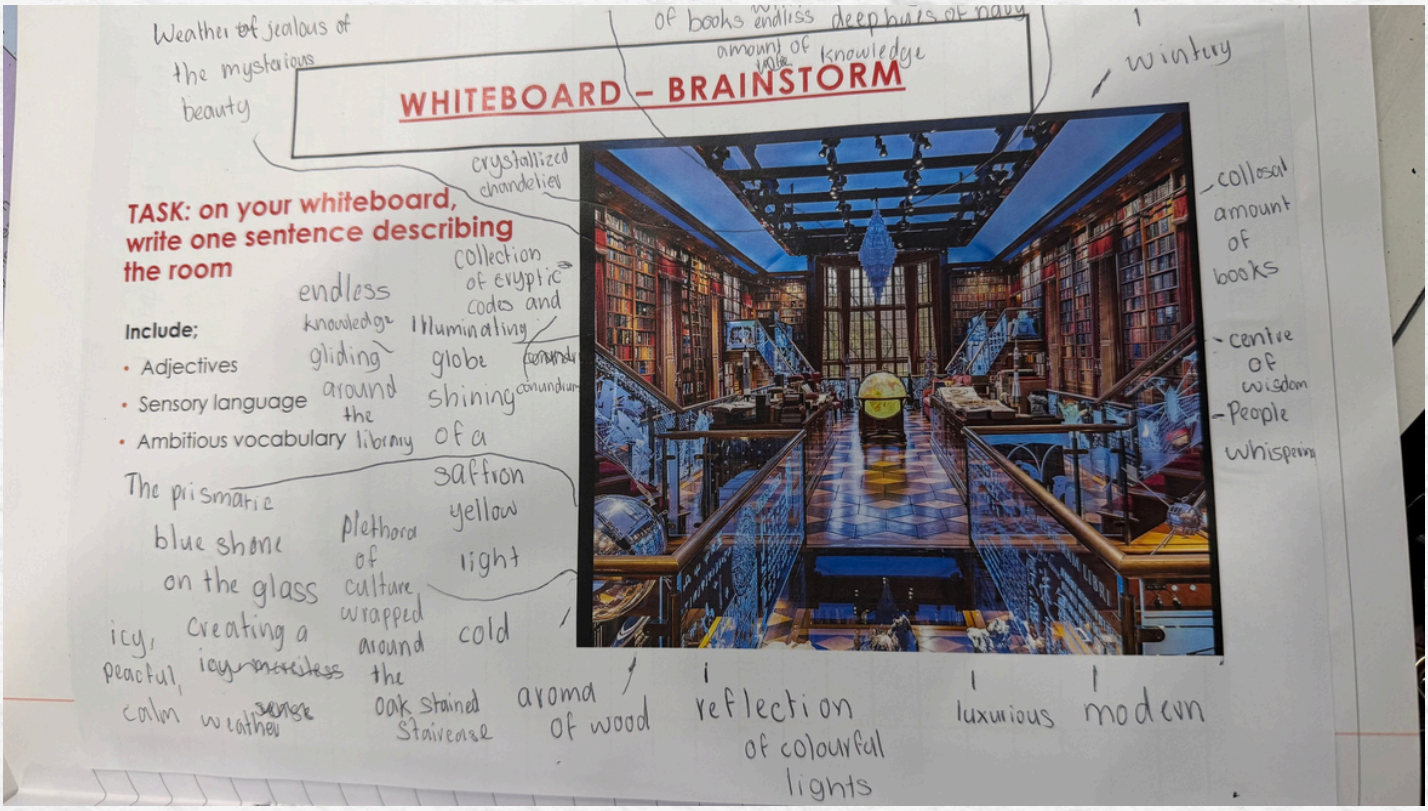
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2026

This October, we have been celebrating Black History Month, with this year's theme, 'Honouring Our Communities', recognising the achievements, contributions and stories of Black people who have shaped our society. Students took part in a thought-provoking assembly led by Mr Miah, encouraging them to reflect on the importance of history, identity and community. This is particularly relevant here in Barking and Dagenham, where our rich cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths. At Greatfields, we are proud to celebrate this diversity and ensure every student feels known, valued and empowered.

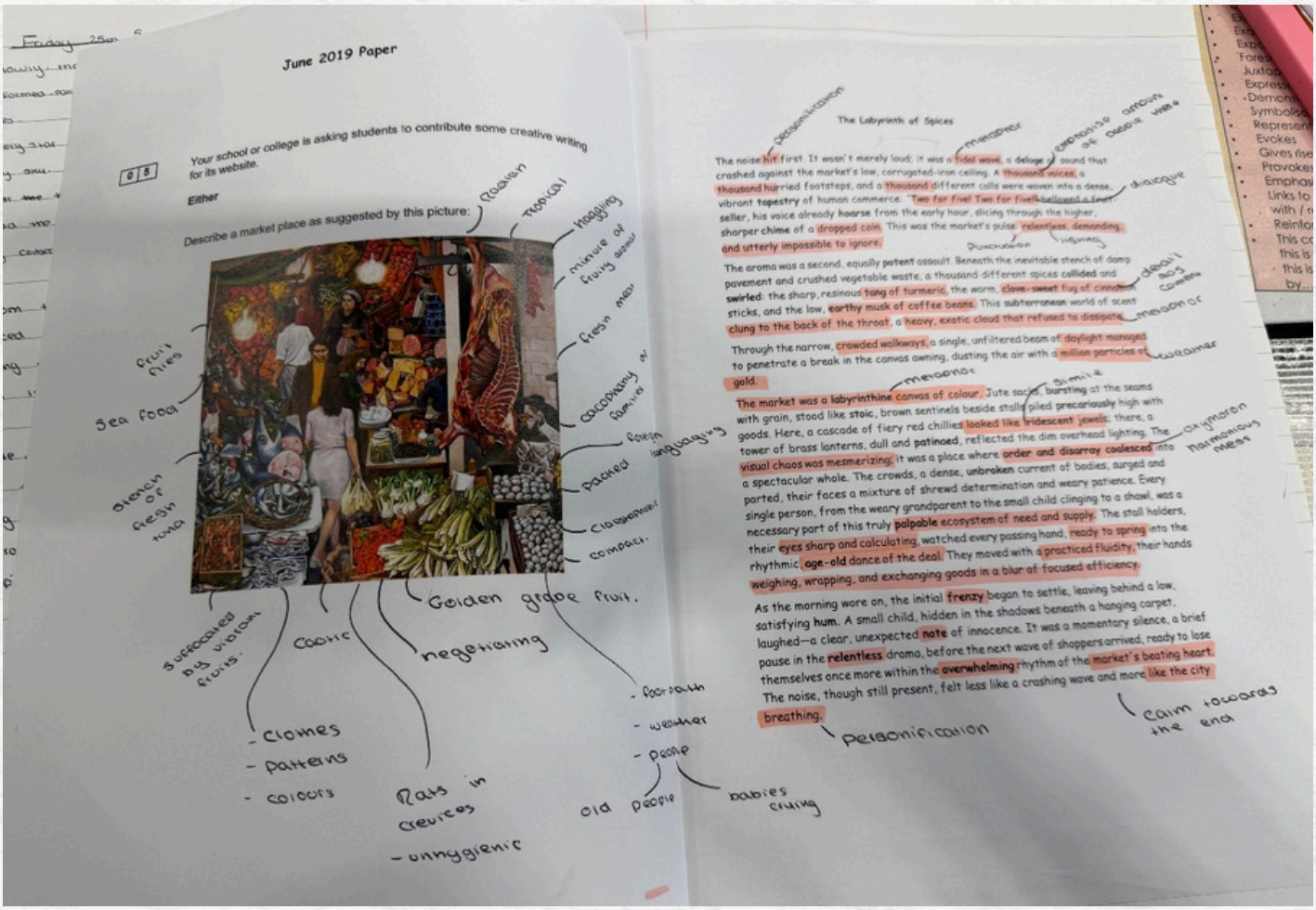


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SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT
ENGLISH



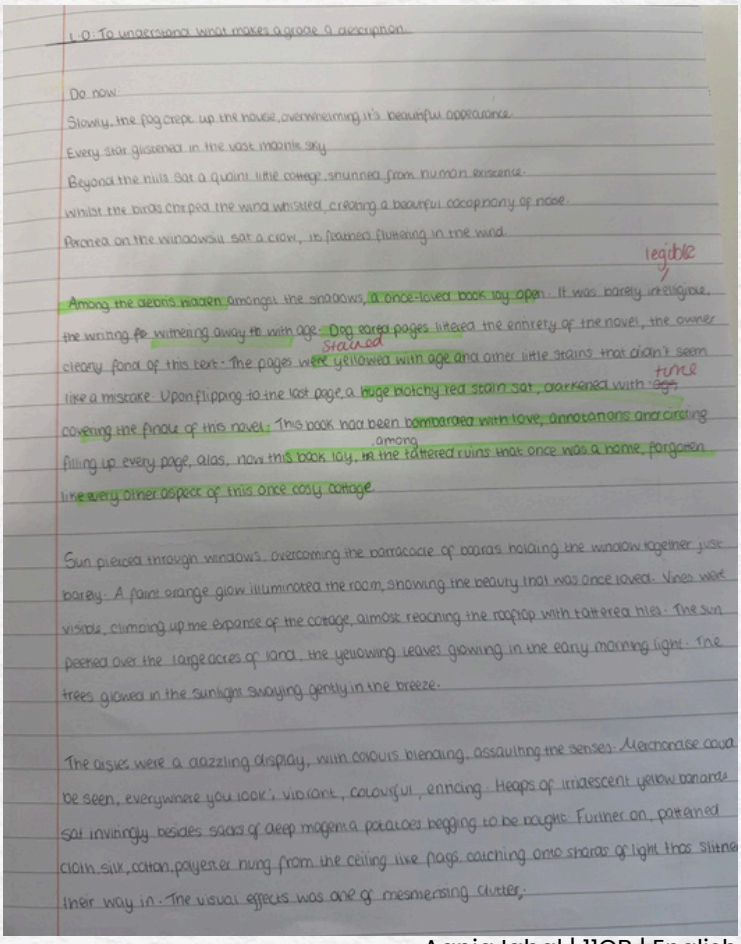
Harry Pothezhath | 11RP | English



Shanelle Dariah | 11MA | English

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L.O: To understand what makes a grade 9 description

Do now:

Slowly, the fog crept up the house, overwhelming it's beautiful appearance.
Every star glistened in the vast mantle sky.
Beyond the hills sat a quaint little cottage, shunned from human existence.
Whilst the birds chirped the wind whistled, creating a beautiful cacophony of noise.
Perched on the windowsill sat a crow, its feathers fluttering in the wind.

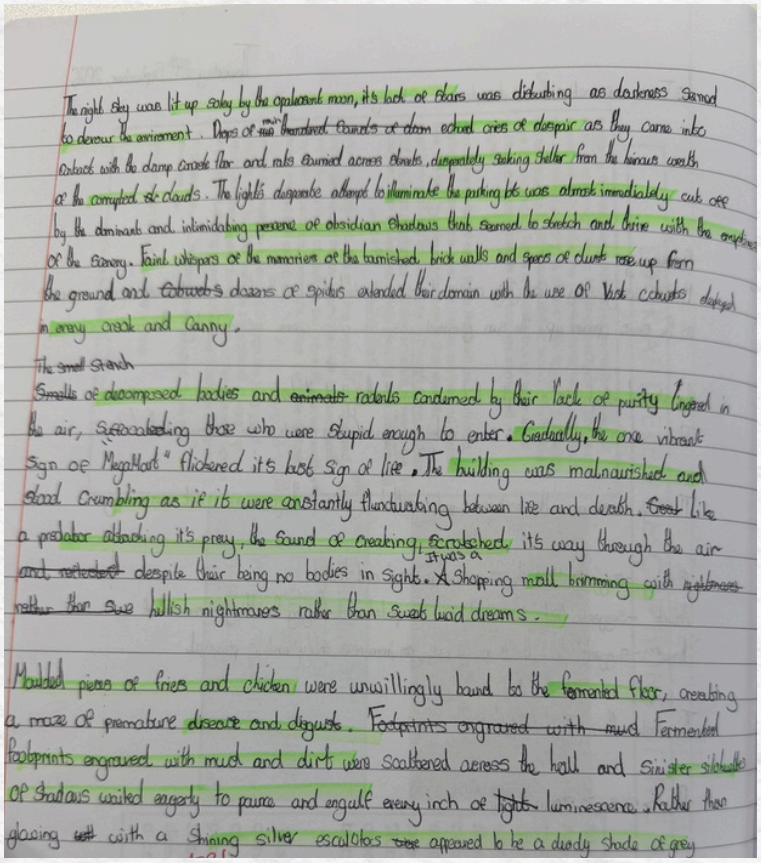
legible

Among the debris hidden amongst the shadows, a once-loved book lay open. It was barely intelligible, the writing ~~to~~ withering away ~~to~~ with age. Dog eared pages littered the entirety of the novel, the owner clearly fond of this text. The pages were stained yellowed with age and other little stains that didn't seem like a mistake. Upon flipping to the last page, a huge blotchy red stain sat, adorned with tone covering the finale of this novel. This book had been bombarded with love, annotations and circling filling up every page, alas, now this book lay, among the tattered ruins that once was a home, forgotten like every other aspect of this once cosy cottage.

Sun pierced through windows, overcoming the barricade of boards holding the window together just barely. A faint orange glow illuminated the room, showing the beauty that was once loved. Vines were visible, climbing up the expanse of the cottage, almost reaching the rooftop with tattered tiles. The sun peeked over the large acres of land, the yellowing leaves glowing in the early morning light. The trees glowed in the sunlight swaying gently in the breeze.

The aisles were a dazzling display, with colours blending, assaulting the senses. Merchandise could be seen, everywhere you look, vibrant, colourful, enticing. Heaps of iridescent yellow bananas sat invitingly besides stacks of deep magenta potatoes begging to be bought. Further on, patterned cloth, silk, cotton, polyester hung from the ceiling like flags catching any shards of light that slithered their way in. The visual effects was one of mesmerising clutter.

Aania Iqbal | 11GB | English



The night sky was lit up solely by the opalescent moon, it's lack of stars was disturbing as darkness seemed to devour the environment. Drops of ~~the~~ hundred thousands of dim echoed cries of despair as they came into contact with the damp concrete floor and ruts seemed across streets, desperately seeking shelter from the heinous wrath of the corrupted ~~the~~ clouds. The lights desperate attempt to illuminate the parking lot was almost immediately cut off by the dominant and intimidating presence of obsidian shadows that seemed to stretch and thrive with the emptiness of the scenery. Faint whispers of the memories of the tarnished brick walls and specs of dust rose up from the ground and cobwebs dozens of spiders extended their domain with the use of their colonies dotted in every crack and canny.

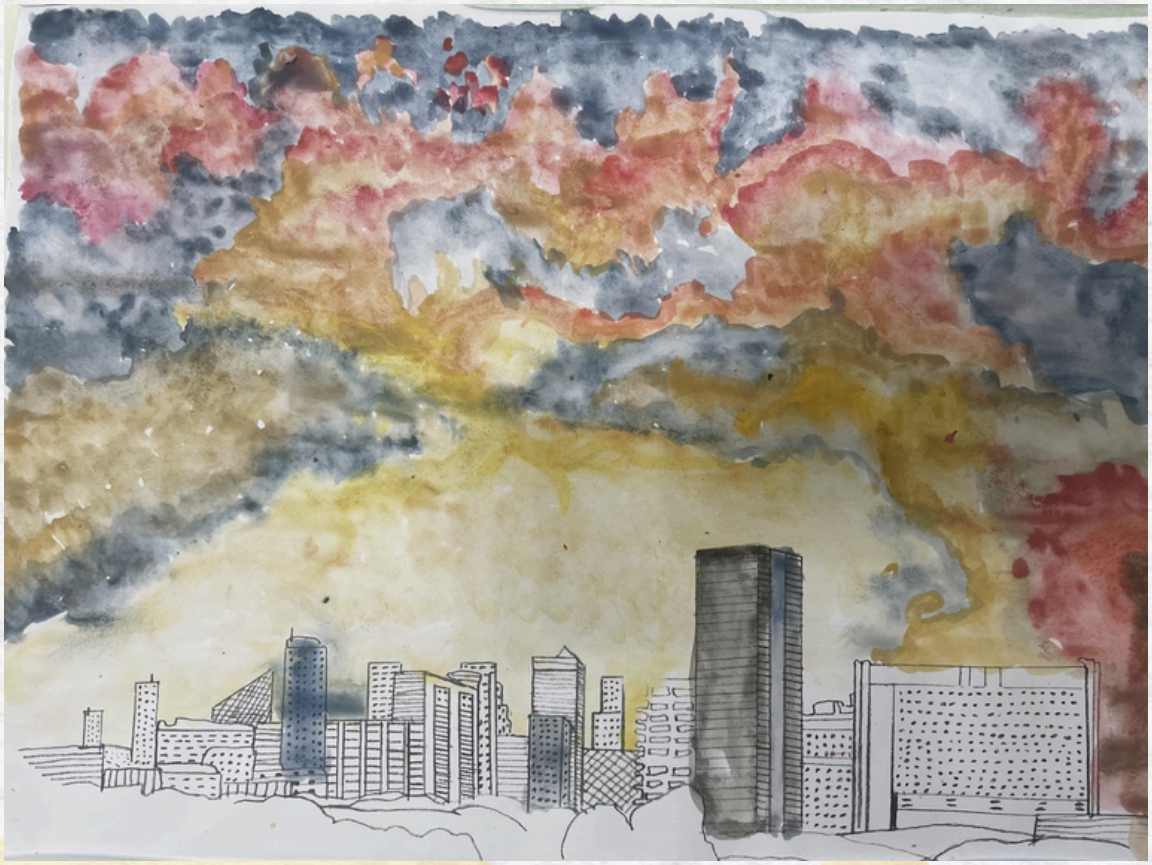
The smell stench
Smells of decomposed bodies and ~~animals~~ rodents condemned by their lack of purity lingered in the air, ~~s~~ suffocating those who were stupid enough to enter. Gradually, the once vibrant sign of "MegaMart" flickered its last sign of life. The building was malnourished and stood crumbling as if it were constantly fluctuating between life and death. ~~Scott~~ like a predator attacking it's prey, the sound of creaking, ~~scratched~~ it's way through the air ~~and reverberated~~ despite it was a their being no bodies in sight. A shopping mall brimming with ~~nightmares~~ rather than ~~sue~~ hellish nightmares rather than sweet lucid dreams.

Mouldy piles of ~~lines~~ and chicken were unwillingly bound to the fermented floor, creating a maze of premature disease and disgust. ~~Footprints engraved with mud~~ Fermented footprints engraved with mud and dirt were scattered across the hall and sinister silhouettes of shadows waited eagerly to pause and engulf every inch of ~~light~~ luminescence. Rather than glowing ~~with~~ with a shining silver escalators ~~was~~ appeared to be a dreary shade of grey

Temitope Sanda | 11NM | English

Year 11 students completed high level creative writing annotations with detailed descriptive writing responses. They evidently showed use of ambitious vocabulary, carefully constructed sentences and embedded language techniques in line with English language criteria.
Well done Year 11s!

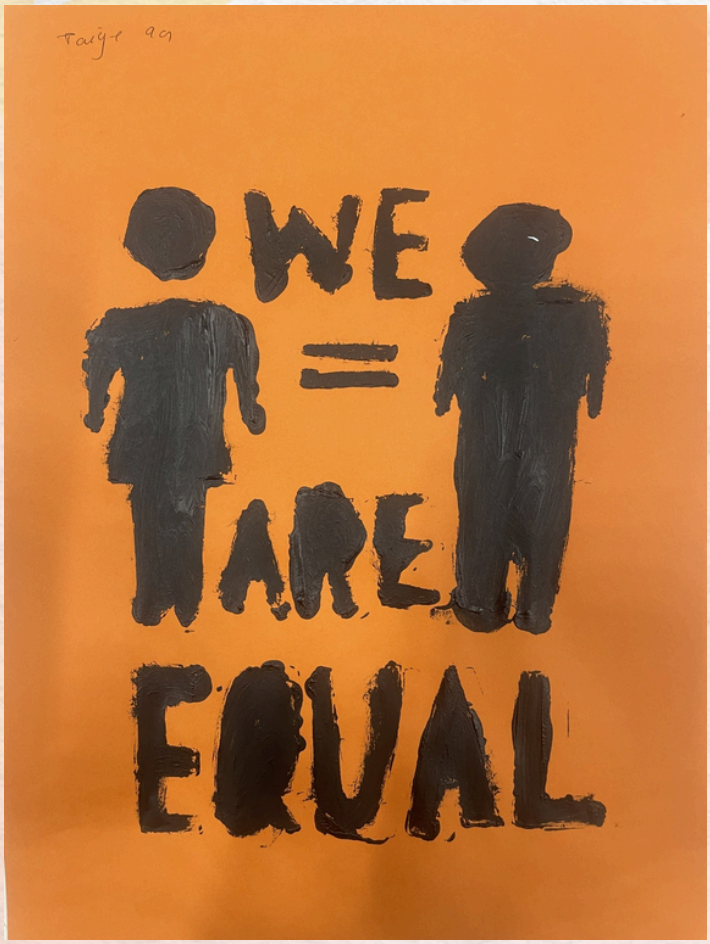
ARTISTS OF THE MONTH



YEAR 7 IOANA POPESCU - 7MA
AMAZING WATER COLOUR ARTWORK OF A LANDSCAPE OF BARKING.



YEAR 8 DOLOESI NDREU KLOSI - 8FK
BRILLIANT SELF-PORTRAIT BASED ON BELONGING



YEAR 9 PAIGE COLLINS - 9DA
EXCELLENT STENCIL DESIGN ON EQUALITY



SPORTS FIXTURES & RESULTS



Our football and basketball teams have been busy representing Greatfields School in fixtures against local schools this term.

FOOTBALL

Year 7 Boys

- Through to the next round of the London Cup! A thrilling 4–4 draw against George School ended in an 8–7 penalty shoot-out victory.
- Were beaten 6–2 by Jo Richardson.

Year 8 Boys

- Celebrated a 4–3 away win against Royal Docks. Goals: Owura, Klevis and Ortis (2). Player of the Match: Abderrhim.

Year 9 Boys

- A close match against Eastbrook ended 1–0 to the opposition.

Year 10 Boys

- A narrow 2–1 result went Eastlea's way.

Year 11 Boys

- Robert Clack took a 5–1 win in the opening game. Noba scored for Greatfields, with Harry Saka named Player of the Match.
- A draw against Eastbrook at full time led to a penalty shoot-out, with Eastbrook taking the win.



YEAR 8 BOYS FOOTBALL TEAM

BASKETBALL

Sixth Form Academy

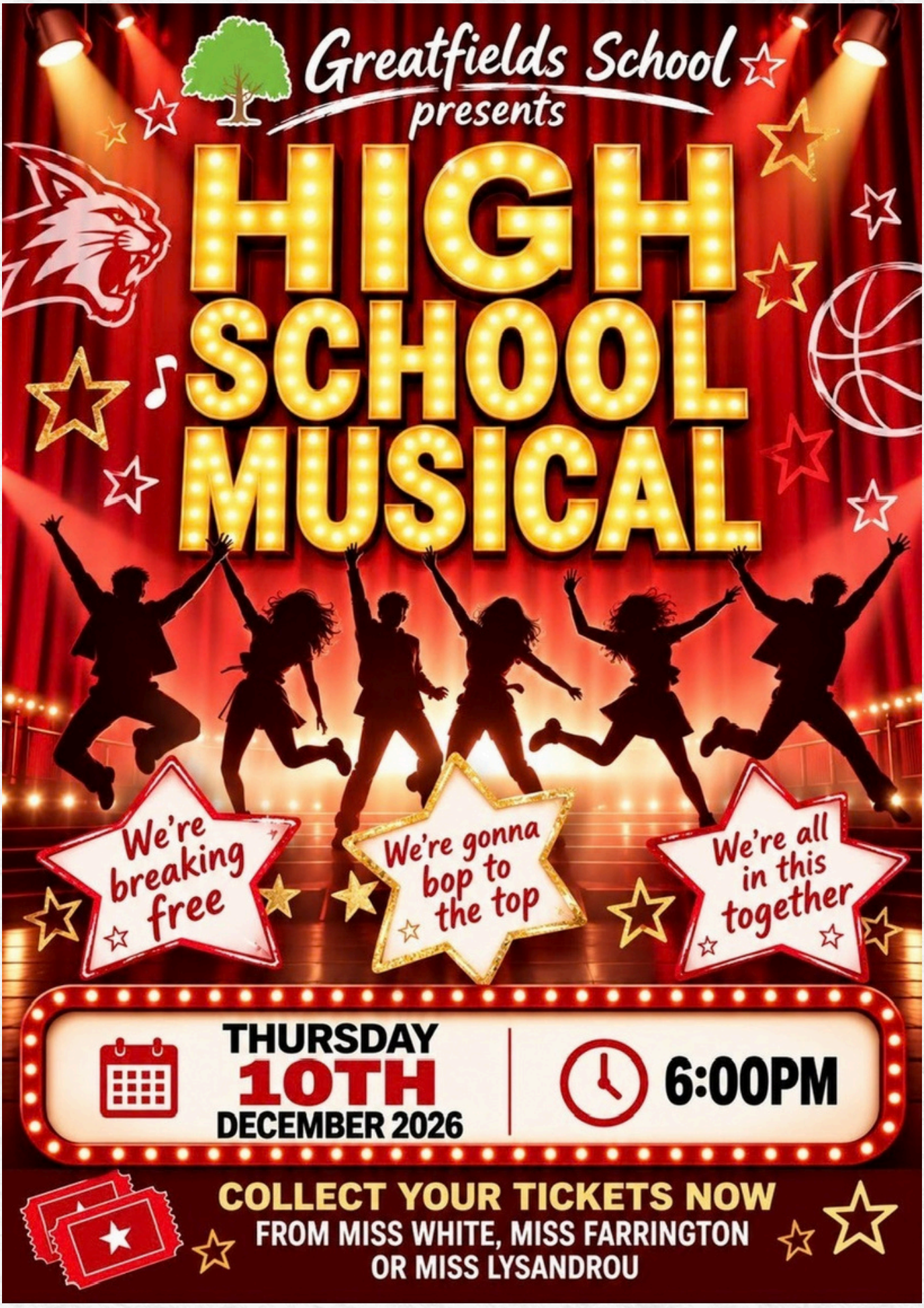
- Greatfields beaten 84–44 by Harlington.
- A dramatic finish against Bedford saw Greatfields narrowly edged out 81–80 in the final seconds.

Under-14s

- A closely contested match against St Martins finished 71–68 to the opposition.

A huge well done to all students who represented Greatfields School. Congratulations to our winning teams and Players of the Match.

WINTER MUSICAL



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ABSENCES & MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

How to Report Your Child's Absence from School

Please report your child's absence before 8:30am each day using one of these options:

1. **Phone: 020 3946 5900**
2. **MCAS: Log in and submit an absence report.**
3. **Email: office@greatfieldsschool.com**

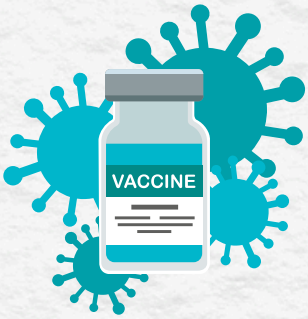
Include your child's full name, class, date of absence and reason.
You must report the absence every day, even if you have already explained the reason or provided medical evidence, unless the school has confirmed that daily updates are not needed.

Medical Evidence and Authorised Absences

- Please provide **medical evidence when requested** to support your child's absence.
- The school will review the evidence and update the attendance record, authorising the absence where appropriate.
- **Reporting an absence does not automatically mean it is authorised.** All absences are reviewed in line with the school's attendance policy.

Medical Appointments During the School Day

- Book medical and dental appointments outside school hours wherever possible.
- If this is unavoidable, inform the school in advance and provide appointment details and medical evidence.
- Your child should attend school before and after the appointment wherever possible to minimise missed learning.
- Time missed for appointments can affect your child's attendance, even when the absence is authorised.



FLU VACCINATION

Monday 2nd November – Tuesday 3rd November 2026

The flu vaccine is being offered at your child's school again this autumn/winter. Nurses will be visiting Greatfields on Monday 2nd November – Tuesday 3rd November 2026. Please check your emails for further information and how to consent.



🦠 **What is flu?**
Flu is more than just a bad cold. It is a highly infectious virus that can spread quickly in schools and families. Children often recover well, but flu can sometimes lead to serious illness, particularly in babies, older people and those with long-term health conditions.

Why is my child being offered the vaccine?
The vaccine helps to:
✔️ Protect your child from flu
✔️ Reduce serious illness and hospital admission
✔️ Reduce the spread of flu to family and friends
✔️ Help keep children in school and parents at work

What vaccine will my child receive?
Most children are offered the 👃 nasal spray vaccine, which is:
- quick
- painless
- needle free
- highly effective

Some children may be offered a **gelatine-free** 💉 **injectable vaccine** if the nasal spray is not suitable or if parents choose this option where available under the programme.

Is the vaccine safe?
Yes. Millions of children have safely received the NHS flu vaccine.

Can the vaccine give my child flu?
No. The flu vaccine **cannot cause flu.**
Some children may develop mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore arm or mild temperature while their immune system builds protection.

My child has asthma or an egg allergy.
Most children with asthma or egg allergy can still receive a flu vaccine.
Please tell the vaccination team about any medical conditions when completing your consent form.

My child has a cold.
A mild cold without a temperature is not usually a reason to delay vaccination.
If your child is unwell with a fever, the vaccination may be postponed.

Does the nasal spray contain pork gelatine?
The nasal spray contains a highly purified form of porcine gelatine, which is used to keep the vaccine stable.
A gelatine-free injectable flu vaccine is available. Please indicate this on the consent form or contact the immunisation team. ✉️

Why is the vaccine needed every year?
Flu viruses change every year. The vaccine is updated annually to provide the best protection against the strains expected each winter. ❤️

For more information about vaccines and our contact details please visit **www.schoolvaccination.uk** or scan the QR code

Part of the NHS School Aged Immunisation Service

NHS

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38ºC or more)?

YES Keep them off school until it goes away.

NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in

A cough, cold or sore throat

Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.

Threadworms

Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.

Should go in (let the school know)

Cold sores

Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.

Conjunctivitis

Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.

Head lice & nits

You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.

Hand, foot & mouth disease

If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.

Slapped cheek syndrome

Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.

Seek treatment before returning to school

Impetigo

They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.

Ringworm

See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.

Scarlet fever

They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.

Chickenpox

Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.

Keep them off (at first)

Ear infection

If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.

Measles

They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.

Vomiting & diarrhoea

Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'



EAL AND COMMUNITY NOTICES



Congratulations to two of our EAL students on their fantastic achievement in becoming EAL Ambassadors! Serena Eric and Metha Alshimmary

EAL Ambassadors 2026/27



Both students successfully completed an application and interview process to secure their roles, demonstrating their enthusiasm and commitment to supporting others.

As EAL Ambassadors, they will help welcome new students to our school, make them feel comfortable and included, and support them as they settle into their new environment. They will also act as friendly faces that new students can turn to for help, guidance and encouragement.

We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to seeing them make a positive difference within our school community.

Well done to both students!



A Great Start to Parent ESOL Classes 2026!

Our Parent ESOL classes are off to a fantastic start! It has been wonderful to see parents engaging in their learning, building confidence and enjoying the opportunity to learn together. The classes offer much more than learning English. They provide a welcoming space for parents to build friendships, share experiences and develop a stronger connection with our school community. As parents improve their English skills, they can also feel more confident communicating with school staff, supporting their children's education and getting involved in school life.

We are proud to see our parent community growing and look forward to another successful year of learning, friendship and building positive connections between home and school.

A big thank you to all our parents for their enthusiasm, commitment and positive energy!



Kindness Aspiration Action



SEND Notices



After-school clubs and Revision Sessions

Homework Club: Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
Cooking Club: Thursdays
Poetry Club: Thursdays
Anime Club: Wednesdays
GCSE English Revision: Mondays
GCSE Maths Revision: Thursdays



SEND Drop in Sessions

Parents can drop in without an appointment if they have any SEND related queries.



Tuesdays 9am to 11am
Thursdays 2pm to 4pm.

Kindness Aspiration Action

SAFEGUARDING NOTICE

GREATFIELDS SCHOOL
Kindness Aspiration Action

COMMUNITY SAFETY Event

Thursday 26th November 2026

10:00am - 12:00pm

Please contact our safeguarding team for more information

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ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES 2026-2027

Key Stage	Monday 11-11.30am/13.30- 14.00pm/ 15.00-16.00pm	Tuesday 11-11.30am/13.30- 14.00pm/ 15.00-16.00pm	Wednesday 11-11.30am/13.30- 14.00pm/ 15.00-16.00pm	Thursday 11-11.30am/13.30- 14.00pm/ 15.00-16.00pm	Friday 11-11.30am/13.30- 14.00pm/ 15.00-16.00pm
3	**Break 1** Girls Basketball MIKA EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club- Library EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School** Dance- SAWH/SUFA/MALY Dance studio SEND Homework club Year 9 Boys Football- MIKA Girls Football- JOHE Film Club – C104 HABE	**Break 1** Year 9 Boys Futsal JOHE EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club- Library EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School** Games Club – C104 FECR	**Break 1** Handball Club LALZ EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library Year 7 Netball JOHE EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School** Dance- SAWH/SUFA/MALY Dance studio SEND Homework club SEND- Anime Club OMSA Year 7 Boys Football ROWI Year 8/9 girls Netball LALZ Art Club – C104 THAI	**Break 1** EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library Dance SAWH Dance studio Year 7 Football ROWI EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School** Street Dance SAWH Dance studio SEND Homework club SEND Poetry JAHA SEND Cooking JUBE Year 8 Boys Football PEOC Japanese Speaking Club – C104 KUMA	**Break 1** Badminton Club LALZ EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School**
4	**Break 1-** EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library Dance- SUFA Dance studio EAL Homework Club – C104 **After school** Dance- SAWH/SUFA/MALY Dance studio SEND Homework club SEND English KIFL Year 10 Boys football LALZ Girls Football JOHE Film Club – C104 HABE	**Break 1** EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library GCSE Drama SAWH Dance EAL Homework Club – C104 **After school** Games Club – C104 FECR	**Break 1-** Handball club LALZ EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library EAL Homework Club – C104 **After school** Dance- SAWH/SUFA/MALY Dance studio SEND- Anime Club OMSA SEND Homework club SEND Maths GEKN Art Club – C104 THAI	**Break 1** Year 10/11 Netball JOHE EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library Dance SAWH Dance studio EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School** SEND Homework club SEND Poetry JAHA SEND Cooking JUBE Japanese Speaking Club – C104 KUMA	**Break 1-** Badminton Club LALZ EAL Homework Club – C104 **Break 2** Chess Club Library Year 11 Football ROWI EAL Homework Club – C104 **After School**
5	**Daily** Give Back	**Daily** Give Back	**Daily** Give Back	**Daily** Give Back	**Daily** Give Back

GREATFIELDS SCHOOL

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