

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2023  
YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE  
POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

Welcome to this edition of the WGSA Newsletter. In this edition we have some news from the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors on Banter and current clubs being run. We also have a match report from Mr Brown when the year 7s took on Magnus!

**What is Banter?**



**Banter or Bullying?**

An expression that comes across as playful teasing amongst a group of friends.

**Banter Rules:**

- If it is hurtful, it is not banter.
- Language and behaviour can be taken differently, so be careful what you say to others.
- Any language that is violent, threatening, and abusive is behaviour that is unacceptable.
- If you are a witnessing banter and the victim does not speak up whilst looking hurt and uncomfortable, report them to the Safeguarding Team or the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- If it isn't funny, don't laugh.
- Don't pick on something you know someone is already insecure about - It's cheap!
- Saying 'It's just banter' or ending your sentence with 'just kidding' doesn't unsay a hurtful comment.
- Keep your language and behaviour clean.
- It is not banter if you are not friends.
- If someone asks you to stop then stop!

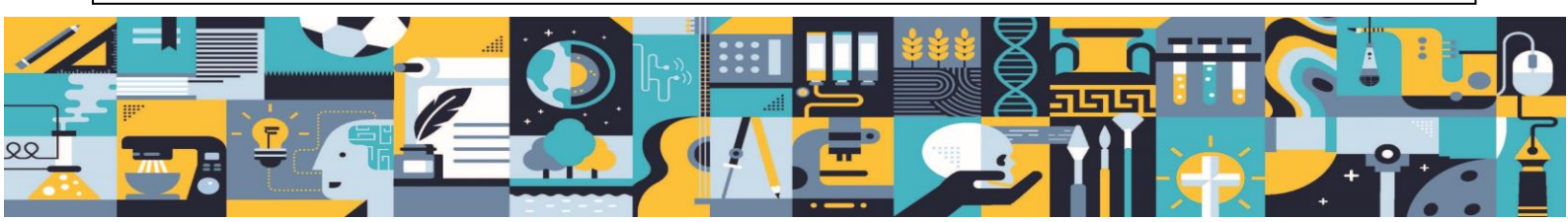
By Rhys Howe

**Guard of Honour**

Some of you may still be wondering, 'Why are there so many students in reception holding signs wishing us a great holiday at the end of every term?'

Well, this is the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors giving you all a guard of honour and a wellbeing pick me up. In sport a guard of honour is a show of respect. Previous guard of honours have seen affirmation cards, posters created by pupils and Christmas gingerbread cookies

Her are some photos from previous guard of honour.





## West Grantham Academy vs Magnus Academy (Yr7)

During term 4, our Year 7 had a football match against Magnus Academy Year 7. A tale of two Harrisons...

An epic battle took place on the football field with two teams fighting out a tightly contested match ending in glory and shared spoils for both.

The game was evenly matched from the off with both keepers being tested and some resolute defending from both sides. The deadlock was broken however, when Magnus Academy forged out a 2-goal lead. West Grantham Academy fought back with goals from Harrison Unsworth and Harrison Kilgallon to reach the half time whistle locked in at 2-2.

The second half started in similar fashion but this time it would be West Grantham Academy to take the lead. Harrison Kilgallon found himself in a bit of space and rifled home a fantastic effort from distance with West Grantham Academy celebrating wildly, however, Magnus Academy would not lay down and drew things level before the final whistle. With a draw being a fair result, both teams left the field with their heads held high, highly anticipating a rematch at some point in the future.

Well done to all those that took part and represented West Grantham Academy in excellent fashion.

**Mr Brown**

## Student gives presentation to Grantham Sunrise Rotary Club as part of Leadership Awards

Robert-Christian Ostafe, from West Grantham Academy, gave a presentation to members of the Grantham Sunrise Rotary Club at its recent meeting.

Robert took part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, an outdoor course teaching leadership and resilience skills.

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards course is for young candidates aged 13 to 16 years old where they attend a weekend outdoor residential course. Here you get the chance to go in a cave and abseil amongst other exciting activities.

After the presentation, Irvin Metcalf, president of the Rotary Club, said: "You have done well on the course and made your parents and our club members proud of you."

Robert has stated "This was a great opportunity for me to improve my confidence and leadership skills and I would say to anyone that is offered this opportunity to go for it."



## Students get hands-on experience at Grantham engineering firms

At West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy, Year 10 engineering students are taking part in a course which combines school-based theory work with practical instruction, all leading to industry-recognised qualifications.

Miss Slack is lead teacher of engineering at the academy and says the course is proving a success with students. She said: "I am so pleased with how the students are taking to the new engineering course which is equivalent to taking a GCSE."

Students study theory classes in the academy, coupled with practical sessions at two Grantham engineering firms - Iconic Engineering Solutions and Pentangle Engineering Services Ltd.

Miss Slack added: "This is a unique opportunity that WGSA offers, and it really prepares our students for the world of work. They get insight into the workings of a local business, and we are hopeful that this will lead to some apprenticeship opportunities."

This term, students have already made their own trammel, which is used for scribing arcs when marking out.

Jamie Clare, managing director of Iconic Engineering Solutions, has welcomed the opportunity to work with the students.

He said: "Working with West Grantham Academy has enabled us to fulfil several of our goals as a company this year. We have been able to engage with a school directly and help forge a qualification that is new to them with our direct industry knowledge."

"We have also been able to interact with students at a much earlier time in their school pathway which has helped a few of them decide whether engineering is for them... happily I think most of them are loving it!"

Cayden Swann, a Year 10 student on the course, said: "I am finding the course very fun and exciting. I started initially because my parents recommended it. But now I am considering a career in engineering because I really enjoy the subject and it's great to be able to see all the progress I've made since I started."

"It's fun to know that the parts we're making are being used for something practical and not just for something that is used once or twice."

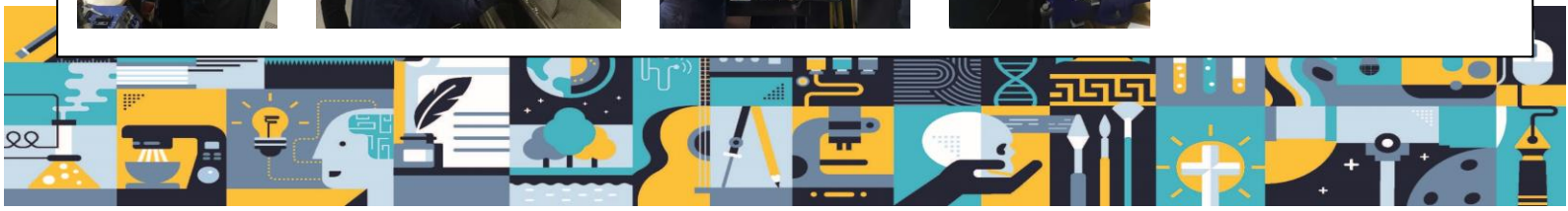
Year 10 student Josh Riley is taking part in the initiative and said: "The course has inspired me to take a career in engineering. I chose it because I thought it would be interesting; but now I see it as a future career. My favourite part is the hands-on, practical part of the course."

Nigel said the course will future proof Grantham's proud history in engineering and manufacturing industries. "Grantham is known for its engineering history and without the new generations getting involved, it will be history."

"There is no reason why, with some hard work and determination, that the students of today can't be the engineers of tomorrow."

Students at West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy can choose the course as an option in Year 9 to take at Key Stage 4.

The full article can be found on the Grantham Journal website.





# WGSA Choir

## Benefits of joining a choir

1. Improves Musicality
2. Improves Mental Health
3. Improves your Confidence

You will have the opportunity to sing a variety of songs from different styles and cultures, read music, develop great vocal technique, and learn performance skills. Singing in a choir is a great way to make friends and build relationships with people who have a common interest - making music!

### **Wednesday KS3 Lunch: In the Music Studio**

Instrumental lessons for guitar, drums and voices are still available from Lincolnshire Music Services, if interested please collect a form from Mr Charlton.

## **Students of WGSA visit University**

Throughout the year, students from both year 10 and 11 have been visiting different universities. This is to allow them to experience life at university and to prepare them for choosing what university they might like to go to.

During the visits, students get to take part in a lecture and tour the campus and accommodation on site. In addition, students will get information about different courses available at each university. This includes information on what they will learn, how long the course is, etc.

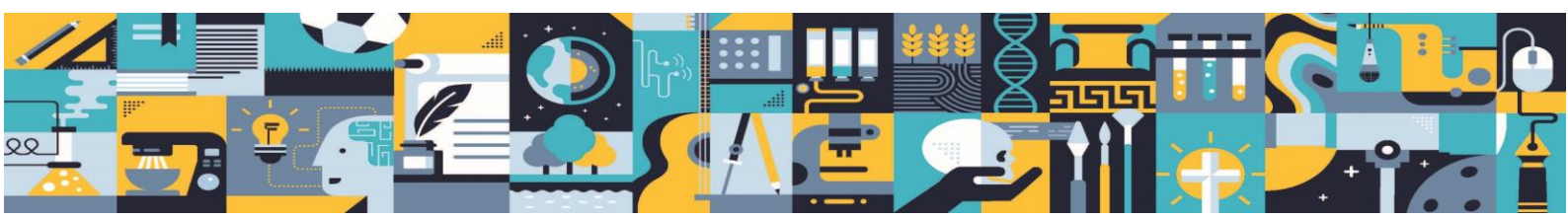
So far, the University of Nottingham has been visited by year 11 students and the University of Lincoln has been visited by both year 10 and 11. The visits are being run by Miss Lines and will continue as students move up through the school.

By Anabel Dawson



The University of  
**Nottingham**

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA



## Enrichment

At the start of the academic year pupils of West Grantham Secondary Academy, have had the opportunity to take part in Enrichment activities.

These take place every Friday morning for 45 minutes and pupils can pick from many exciting opportunities like:

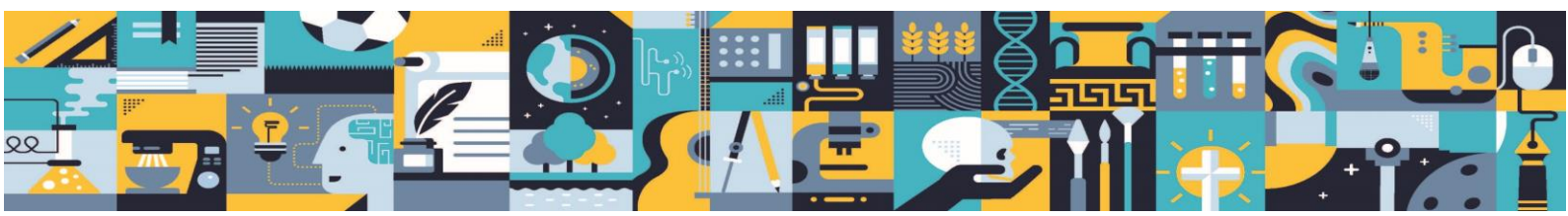
- Archery
- Cooking
- Photography
- Couch to 5k
- Golf

This term sees four new activities:

- Card games
- Journalism
- Travel and tourism
- Exploring with instruments

The term Enrichment is used to describe all the extra learning opportunities that we have as pupils, which is important to help our personal development and extends our curriculum beyond classroom learning.

By Cole Green-Rowland



## Options Evening

On the 23 February, Year 9 pupils had their option and Parents evening.

The options evening is about discovering your learning journey from year 9 into year 10 and 11, it is to help those who may not be sure about what options they would like or want more information on certain subjects.

GCSEs are done in blocks, and you will have the choice of 3 (1 from each block). Some subjects are mandatory, such as English, Mathematics and Science. At the options evening the teacher for those subjects would be present giving you added information on the subject as you narrow down what you would like to choose as it is an especially important decision.

Throughout your options evening you may discover a whole new option you hadn't thought was a choice, for example theology which is on the RE side with ethics, theory, philosophy, psychology and sociology.

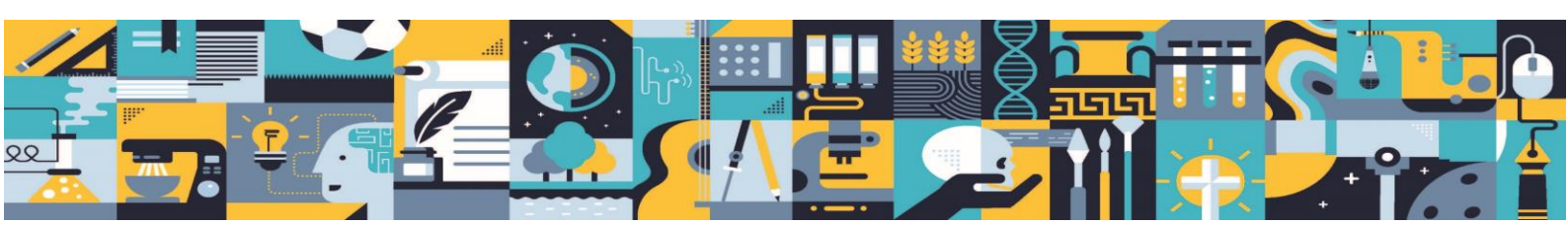
The options available this year were:

Spanish  
Art Craft and design  
History  
Geography  
Music

Business Enterprise  
Creative Media Production  
Health and Social Care  
Hospitality and Catering  
Theology, Philosophy and Ethics

Sport  
Construction  
Engineering  
Performing Arts

By Connor Whitfield



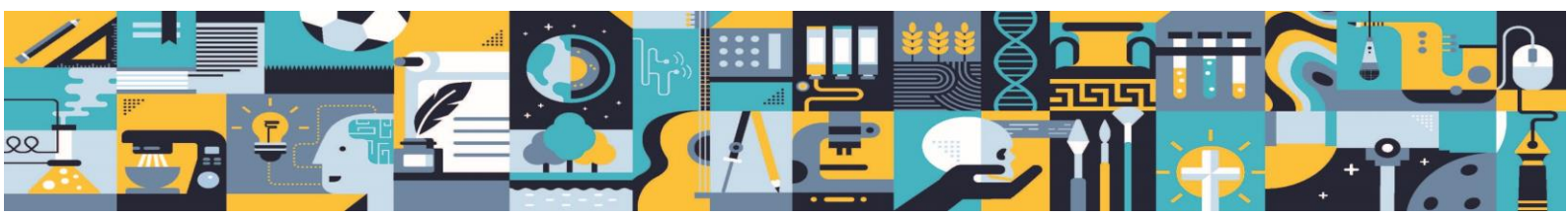
## Year 11 Students visit Sheffield

The Year 11 Geographers visited Sheffield in February to complete fieldwork, which is a compulsory element of their course. The students had previously studied Sheffield and therefore this trip allowed them to consolidate their learning on the city. In addition, they will be tested on their understanding of the fieldwork process in Paper 3 of their GCSE's.

Students visited 3 different areas of the city. They walked through Endcliffe and up to Broomhill, completing environmental quality surveys and taking photographs as they did so, looking at the quality of life in the different areas. They walked up as far as the University of Sheffield, before getting back on the coach and heading further north in the city to Parson Cross.

They were brilliantly behaved and engaged throughout the day. We look forward to completing their physical geography fieldwork with a trip to Skegness.

Mrs Atkins



## West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy hold 'Women in Industry Day' for Year 10 and 11 girls

Women with extraordinary business acumen share their stories with students.

Students at West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy welcomed three guests to speak at their 'Women in Industry' event, aimed at inspiring female students to aim high in their career goals. Clare Barber is Principal at West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy and said she wants students to overcome both real and perceived barriers in their future careers. "We want our KS4 girls to attain the confidence to achieve their rightful place in society and the world of work."

The three visitors were Zoë Blake, CEO of CareLoop Health, Slava Barber Head of Human Resources UK and EU at Soloprotect, and Helen Waite, Deputy Director at the Department for Education.

Additionally, as a Ukrainian national, visitor Slava Barber was also able to spend some time speaking to two of the academy's younger Ukrainian students. All three reported that they thoroughly enjoyed speaking in their mother tongue about their shared culture, and what they miss about home.

Zoë Blake is CEO of CareLoop Health and formerly CEO of Kooth. She attended the event and was able to work with the year 10 and 11 students. She said, "It was an honour to be invited to West Grantham C of E Secondary Academy, and to meet the Year 10 and 11 girls. The school has a lovely welcoming atmosphere." Student Elly-May Cooper said the event was beneficial, "It was really useful, and I enjoyed it a lot. It gave me an understanding that you can do anything you put your mind to."

Another guest speaker was Helen Waite, who is a Deputy Director at the Department for Education. Helen said she enjoyed speaking to the students about her own career and experience within the civil service. "It was fantastic to take part in an event designed to raise the aspiration of girls. The civil service offers jobs at all levels right across the country, including a whole range of apprenticeships." Students reported that they learned that with hard work and focus, no matter your background or starting point, it is possible to achieve your goals. Student, Selina Ambrose-Leigh, said, "It was really well done with a wide range in jobs. It helped to reassure me to aim for high performing jobs. I think the school should definitely do this workshop again."

Summing up what she learned at the workshop, student Georgi-Lea Askew had words of wisdom, "No matter what your background is, you have the power to turn it around at any moment. Your worst enemy is often yourself."

Principal, Clare Barber said she felt the event was a great success. "Listening to students break down the reasons that foster low self-esteem or low aspirations means they now grasp how to overcome those barriers. We will continue to support all of our students to aim high in their life ambitions, and hope that events like this are overturning the myths and historical impediments that have meant that many women do not fulfil their potential."

Edited from original article by Keanen Burnett





## Last Message from the Anti-Bullying Team

In our school, there are many ways we keep you safe:

We have the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who are solely focused on keeping the other students feeling safe and happy within our school.

There is a safeguarding team consisting of, Mrs Pendleton, Mr Martini, Ms Barber, Mrs Kuffour, Mrs Glover, Mrs Blakey and Mrs Archdale. Students can go to these staff whenever they do not feel safe or need someone to talk to. However, students can go to any teacher they trust if they want. You can also visit Mrs Milligan at lunch if you need someone to talk to, she is a great listener.

At breaks and lunch times, you can visit the library and play chess with your friends or have somewhere to go to when you need a break from the canteen.

The Prefects are also a team who are focused on bettering the school, and will help you report anything, and will be there for you whenever you need somebody to talk to.

Student support is in the corridor between the canteen and the toilets, they are the go-to teachers if there is something wrong. Whether that's a medical ailment, or an emotional need, they are here for all the students.

There are staff at the gates and on duty in almost all corridors just in case any student needs help. They can keep an eye out for bullying and are there for students if they need someone to talk to.

Finally, the Anti-Bullying-Alliance runs some clubs for students during lunch and after school. On Mondays, after period 6 for year 11s, there is a basketball club. During lunch times on Monday and Wednesday there is a friendship club for KS4 and for KS3 this is on Tuesday and Thursday's. This is in the room at the end of the corridor opposite Miss Slack's room in 3.4. It is a good time to meet up with friends to share interests, play board games and have social interaction.

By Mabel Howard

