

# WEST GRANTHAM UPDATE



WEST GRANTHAM  
Church of England Secondary Academy

Friday 7th February, 2025

## Storms, Shrubs, Science and Sheffield

The past fortnight has been packed with exciting activities, trips, and club highlights. From fieldwork in Sheffield to hands-on (and slightly gruesome) science experiments, students have been making the most of every opportunity. Let's take a look at what's been happening...

Our Year 11 Geography students recently ventured to Sheffield for a field trip, where they explored the Winter Gardens as part of their urban studies. Despite the chilly weather, students enjoyed observing the sustainable design and biodiversity within the city. A fantastic opportunity to bring their classroom learning to life!

Six of our students took part in a Panathlon event at The Tennis Centre, competing in a range of activities including curling, basketball shooting, skittles, beanbag throwing, and balancing a ball on a tennis racquet. The students showed great enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship—well done to all who participated!

The science department recently received a generous donation from Wickes, providing tools, equipment, and materials to enhance practical learning. Science Club wasted no time putting some of it to use—diving into a fascinating dissection session involving sheep hearts, lungs, and eyeballs. A huge thank you

to Wickes for their support! (Graphic image warning: pictures below).

Golf and Frisbee enrichment students found themselves forced indoors thanks to the last of Storm Eowyn's strong winds. While they couldn't take to the course or field, they made the most of the session with indoor drills and technique practice. Hopefully, next time they won't be throwing caution to the wind! Despite the weather, our Gardening Club is thriving, with students carefully tending to plants and ensuring everything is well-watered. It won't be long before we start seeing the results of their hard work!

Our footballers have been keen to showcase their talents, with some great energy and teamwork on display during training. It's been fantastic to see their passion for the game growing every week!

Did you know that Boots (the pharmacy in town) runs a Football Boot Swap Scheme? If your child has outgrown their football boots, they can swap them for a different size or purchase a pair of used boots for just £5! A great way to keep up with those ever-growing feet without breaking the bank.

That's all for this edition! Stay tuned for more updates, photos, and student highlights in the next issue.

### A word from...

#### Peach, Y11 Engineer

Hi, I'm Peach, and I'm currently studying engineering as a vocational qualification. Studying engineering has been one of my best experiences; it has given me a better understanding of the career path I want and how to get there. West Grantham also partnered with some of the engineering enterprises in the local area, such as Pentangle Engineering and BGB Engineering. Every other Wednesday I go to Pentangle, a manufacturing engineering company which predominantly specialises in automation and machinery, located on the Alma Park industrial estate. I've really enjoyed my time in engineering, both at Pentangle and during my theory lessons.

During the weeks in which I stay in school, my teachers usually give us research tasks where we go in depth of the engineering history and developments of everyday items, such as the innerworkings of a bicycle. I remember being at Pentangle, dismantling and restoring a broken bike with a small group of other students, learning how to use equipment. Even though it is very "hands-on", I've never found it monotonous nor labouring. The different machinery and techniques that I've learned have been valuable to me as it has given me new practical skills which I could apply outside of my lessons. Skills using hand tools, specialised equipment, teamwork and independence. (And now my parents always ask me to fix the hinges on the doors).

Continued...

### WEEK A - FEBRUARY 10

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club	Library Club Table Tennis Chinese New Year Themed Menu	Grantham College Assembly Fitness Gym Library Club	Homework, Fitness Gym, Debate, DT, STEM Clubs Positive Futures PSHE Drop Day	Art Club Library Club

### WEEK B - FEBRUARY 24

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
INSET	INSET	SPRING TERM 2 START Fitness Gym Library Club	Homework Club, Fitness Gym, Debate Club, Design Tech and Art Club, STEM Club Positive Futures	Library Club



## A word from... Peach

## Continued...

Despite being the only girl there, I never felt out of place; my peers, teachers and the engineers at Pentangle has always given me help whenever I was unsure and confused by something and generally having a great time working at Pentangle.

Studying engineering has also affected myself; going to the Pentangle and working alongside the engineers there has given me an appreciation and made me more curious about the making of everyday objects.

Furthermore, one of the tasks in this course is to make a cardboard prototype. Even though it is one of the most difficult and tedious activities – due to the materials fragility – I found it to be one of my favourite activities. It engages my brain to find creative ways to overcome these difficulties and strengthens my skills in understanding the mechanical side of engineering.

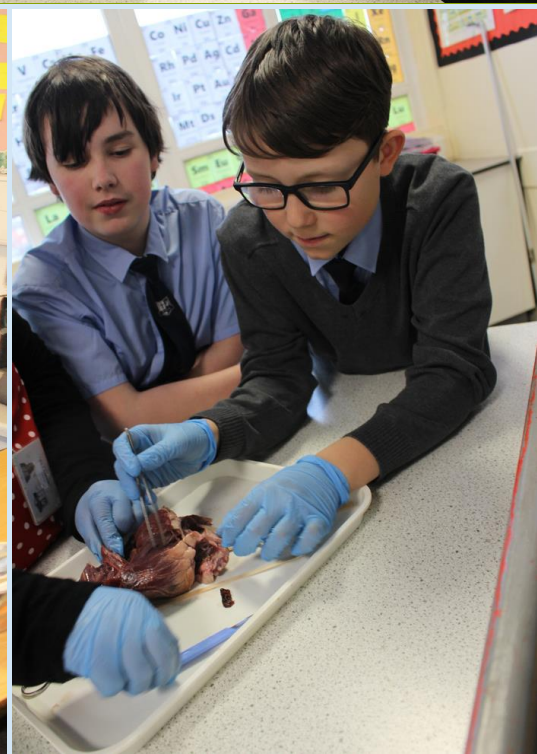
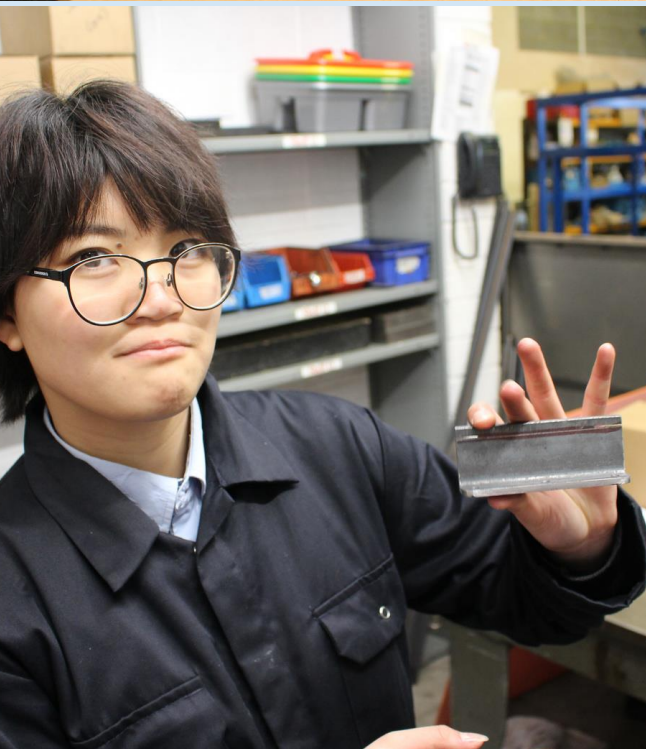
Moreover, I also learnt the technical skill of using CAD (Computer Aided Design) involving the knowledge of mechanical/structural designs and understanding of engineering principles.

Studying engineering at school has also opened doors for me outside of school and in the future. It looks great on any CVs and my applications to colleges and sixth forms but most importantly, it has given me the opportunity to apply to be an apprentice in the partnered companies in the future.

I can confidently say that the opportunity to study engineering in secondary school has given me a sense of security and direction in the next steps I will take to pursue engineering as a career.













# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money – usually a one-off payment. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

### ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

### IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

### DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

### PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with.

### MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



The National College

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>