

WEST GRANTHAM UPDATE



Friday 14th March, 2025

WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Secondary Academy

Spring, Sports and Shrove Tuesday

Spring has officially arrived at WGS A, and with it, a fresh start to another exciting half term. As always, our students have been busy, from competing in athletics to tackling big questions in our newest club. This week, we proudly entered four teams into the English Schools Athletics Association competition—an amazing achievement for all involved. Shrove Tuesday also brought the perfect excuse for a sweet treat, with pancakes served in the dining hall, much to the delight of students and staff alike.

We have a wonderful new Christian Union club in collaboration with the Youth Pastor of Alive Church. Open to all Year 7 and 8 students, the club meets every Friday lunchtime for open discussions on life's big questions, such as: Is there a God? Has science made God irrelevant? How can a good God allow suffering? And what is the meaning of life? Any curious students are encouraged to come along! Year 11 students have now completed their final round of mock exams—the last hurdle before the real thing. Well done to everyone for their hard work and dedication. Keep up the momentum as we

head into exam season!

On Thursday, KS4 students had the opportunity to hear from BGB Engineering, a leading local company specialising in electrical slip ring technology and engineering solutions. A fantastic insight into future career paths in the industry! Alongside all these exciting events, our regular clubs and enrichments continue to thrive. Football club has seen students putting in the hard work, fine-tuning their skills as the season picks up. Gardening Club is making the most of the growing season, with students busy watering and caring for their plants. Debate Club continues to spark great discussions, while Frisbee and Golf enrichments have finally moved back outdoors after the stormy weather. This week, the school has also been celebrating Science Week, with extra practicals, a science-themed assembly and even a small practical for students and parents to try at home (instructions can be found later in the newsletter).

That's all for this issue—keep an eye out for more updates in the next edition. Until next time, keep learning, keep growing, and enjoy the sunshine!

A word from...

Cayden, Y7

Hello, my name is Cayden, and I'm in Year 7. I think West Grantham is an amazing choice for secondary school! I love it here, and I'm sure many others do too.

The school has top-notch facilities, including wonderful student support for those who may be struggling, as well as fantastic classrooms filled with teachers who not only educate but also put a smile on your face day in, day out. Another fantastic part of West Grantham is enrichment. Every two terms, you get to choose from a wide range of amazing activities to take part in on Friday mornings. From Ultimate Frisbee to International Film Club, there's something for everyone!

The school helps new students settle in very quickly. They have supported me and many others in getting used to the school, knowing where to go, and understanding what to do. Every student is also given a planner—a handy journal to note down important information, school rules, and our shared vision.

As a proud Church of England school, West Grantham is built on five key values: ambition, courage, belief, love, and integrity. Students aim to show these values every day and are often rewarded with positive points for their efforts. Positive points are a big part of school life—you can earn them for being on task in lessons and demonstrating good behaviour. West Grantham is a great choice for newcomers, and I have personally found the staff to be some of the nicest people I've ever met. Every lesson you go into is almost guaranteed to be fun, and I'm not just saying that—I truly believe it! Every lesson is both engaging and educational, making it the perfect match.

WEEK A - MARCH 17

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Table Tennis

Wed

Fitness Gym
Library Club

Thu

Homework, Fitness Gym, Debate, DT, STEM Clubs
Positive Futures

Fri

Christian Union Club (Lunchtime)
Art Club
Library Club

WEEK B - MARCH 24

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Table Tennis

Wed

Fitness Gym
Library Club

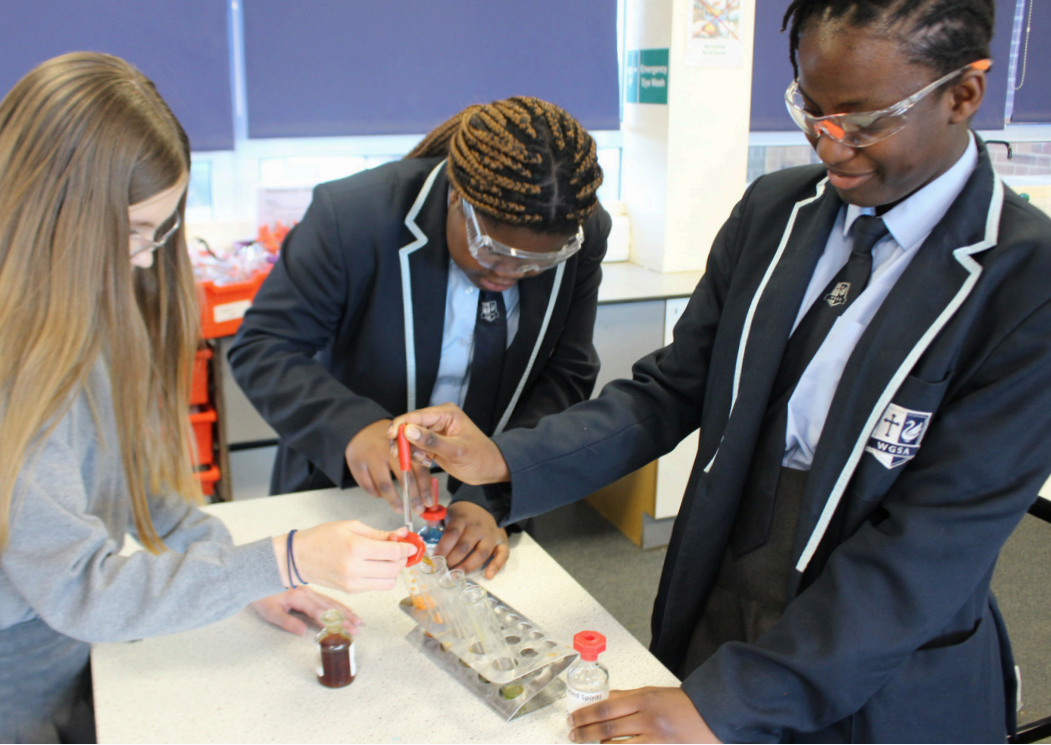
Thu

Homework Club, Fitness Gym, Debate Club, Design Tech and Art Club, STEM Club
Positive Futures

Fri

Christian Union Club (Lunchtime)
Library Club





Chromatography

Exploring Science at Home: Chromatography Fun!

Dear Parents and Students,

We're diving into the fascinating world of **chromatography**! Chromatography is a method scientists use to separate different substances in a mixture. It's like a magic trick where we can see hidden colours or chemicals that we usually can't spot with our eyes. It's an important process used in everything from testing the quality of food to identifying pollution in the environment.

What You'll Need:

- Coffee filter or paper towel
- A cup of water
- A washable marker or felt tip pen (black works best)
- Scissors

Steps:

1. **Cut the Paper:** Start by cutting your coffee filter or paper towel into a strip (about 2 inches wide and 6 inches long).
2. **Draw a Line:** Using a washable marker or a felt tip, draw a thick line about 1 inch from the bottom of the strip.
3. **Prepare the Water:** Fill a small cup with a bit of water (just enough to cover the bottom, about 1-2 cm deep).
4. **Set Up the Chromatography Strip:** Place the bottom of the paper strip in the cup with the water, making sure the marker line is above the water. The water will slowly move up the paper.
5. **Watch the Magic Happen:** Over time, you'll see the colours from the marker start to separate into different hues as the water travels up the paper. The different pigments in the ink move at different speeds, showing you a rainbow of colours!
6. **Observe and Discuss:** After the water has travelled a good way up the paper (about 20 minutes), take the strip out and let it dry. You can discuss how different markers might separate in different ways, and why certain colours move faster than others.

Why Is This Important?

Chromatography teaches us how different materials react and separate. By doing this experiment, students will gain a hands-on understanding of how scientists use chromatography in their work.

Feel free to take photos of your results and share them with us in the science department. We'd love to see what you discover!

Happy experimenting!

Mr Davies, Science Teacher

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people and help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2 AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree'. Using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3 PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even (or perhaps especially) if you disagree with it. This makes people feel respected and allows for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own opinions to them.

4 ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel ..." or "I think ..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5 FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused this upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "You're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to inflame the situation.

6 STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. Remind children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. If a conversation becomes too intense, remind them it's OK to suggest continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7 START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Talk openly to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or inconsiderate behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8 SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9 AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory remarks in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10 REFLECT AND LEARN

After a child has had a disagreement, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What did they handle well? How might they improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future? You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical examples to further develop their skills in showing respect during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinate Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safer environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.

ANTI-BULLYING
ALLIANCE

#WakeUp
Wednesday®

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National
College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/choose-respect>

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