



WGSA Newsletter- Autumn Term 2025

End of Term Message



I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, and to wish you a safe and restful Christmas break after what has been another successful term at our wonderful school.

This summer we celebrated our best ever progress score for our year 11s after their GCSEs and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements.

This year we started the term by welcoming 124 new year 7 students to our school community. I am delighted to tell you that they have all settled really well and are a fantastic addition to the academy. When asked how they are settling in at secondary school, a new year 7 said, 'The school feels friendly and there's always something new happening, which makes each day interesting. After just a few weeks I feel like I belong here, and I'm excited for the rest of the year.'

September saw our second open evening of the year. We changed our format this time to showcase our enrichment offer. Visiting families told us how impressed they were by this unique offer - it is something that we are very proud of. This term our students have been

given opportunities to experience a wide range of enrichment activities, and I am pleased to share some photographs of them with you later in this newsletter

I hope you enjoy reading about the successes and experiences of our amazing students in this newsletter. Further information on all our news and events can be found on our school website on this link¹. Alternatively, you can keep in touch via the academy's Facebook page.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and I wish you all the very best for the new year. We look forward to welcoming all students back for the Spring Term on Monday 5 January 2026 at 8.30am.

Clare Barber

Executive Principal

Clubs and Enrichment



¹<https://www.wgacademy.org.uk/news-and-key-events/latest-news/>

Thank you to Mr Manning for keeping you all updated on our club and enrichment news in his fortnightly newsletters. You can catch up on his fortnightly news here².

We share here a selection of photographs of our students taking part in clubs and enrichment this term.



²<https://www.wgacademy.org.uk/news-and-key-events/newsletters/>





























Sporting Achievements



All year groups have taken part in the Small Schools FA Cup. Whilst we haven't progressed in any of the categories, there have been plenty of standout and promising performances on the pitch. The PE department extend their heartfelt thanks to all of the students who have played in the cup matches - they played with courage, integrity and passion. We look forward to building on the experience in next year's competition.

We were delighted to hear that the academy has won an Equal Access trophy for our involvement in encouraging girls in sport, in particular in playing football. Well done to the PE department and our girls in winning this award.

SNMAT Performance at Southwell Minster



In October, three of our students joined primary pupils across the Trust at Southwell Minster for a Trust musical performance. The talented Liam, Isabella and Blaine supported the primary pupils in performing 'This Little Light of Mine' and 'Lean on Me'. Miss McGinlay said, 'I couldn't ask for more from budding musicians.'





Year 6 Transition

As part of their transition to secondary school, year 6 pupils from The West Grantham Primary Academy have taken part in a Humanities' Day at the academy. Their teacher wrote to us after and we were delighted to read the feedback from the pupils; 'They enjoyed the experience of handling a physical map in geography and locating our schools on it. They liked looking at the information and books about The Mayans and The Aztecs and sharing what they found out. They loved making their own pizza rolls and being able to cook altogether. They were particularly impressed with the library and the selection of books available. One student hopes future year 6s get the experience of going, and another said they hoped all secondary schools are the same as WGSA.'

We look forward to inviting more year 6 from local primary schools in the Spring Term.

All Things Science

Wow, what a busy term in science!

Year 7 have settled into their science lessons and are really enjoying using the scientific equipment. This term they have learnt about cells and space. Year 8 meanwhile have been doing lots of 'shocking' experiments in their topics of electricity and magnetism. They have also learnt how to mix chemicals safely during their topic of chemical reactions. Year 9 have spent the term learning about the very topical subject of the atmosphere, including global warming, carbon footprint and renewable energy sources.

In KS4, year 10 have covered the topics of digestion, ions and density in the subjects of biology, chemistry and physics. All of these topics have provided opportunities for practical work allowing the students a greater understanding of how science works. Year 11 have been working really hard in preparing for their mock exams at the end of this term.

Our Wednesday afterschool club and Friday enrichment continue to be very popular with students as they explore science through more practical and investigative work outside of their lessons.

Careers



Year 9 students visited BGB and Pentangle during National Manufacturing Week. Both manufacturing firms support our GCSE students in years 10 and 11 by offering practical lessons on their sites. This option is a very popular choice every year, and we are sure the year 9 students who visited them this term will be keen to choose engineering as an option in year 10.

A regular fixture in our careers calendar is a visit by the Commando Chef. This year students were shown ration packs and given the opportunity to cook and taste them. After sampling their rations, students tried on various pieces of equipment. A great day and one of the highlights of our careers programme.



Christmas 2025

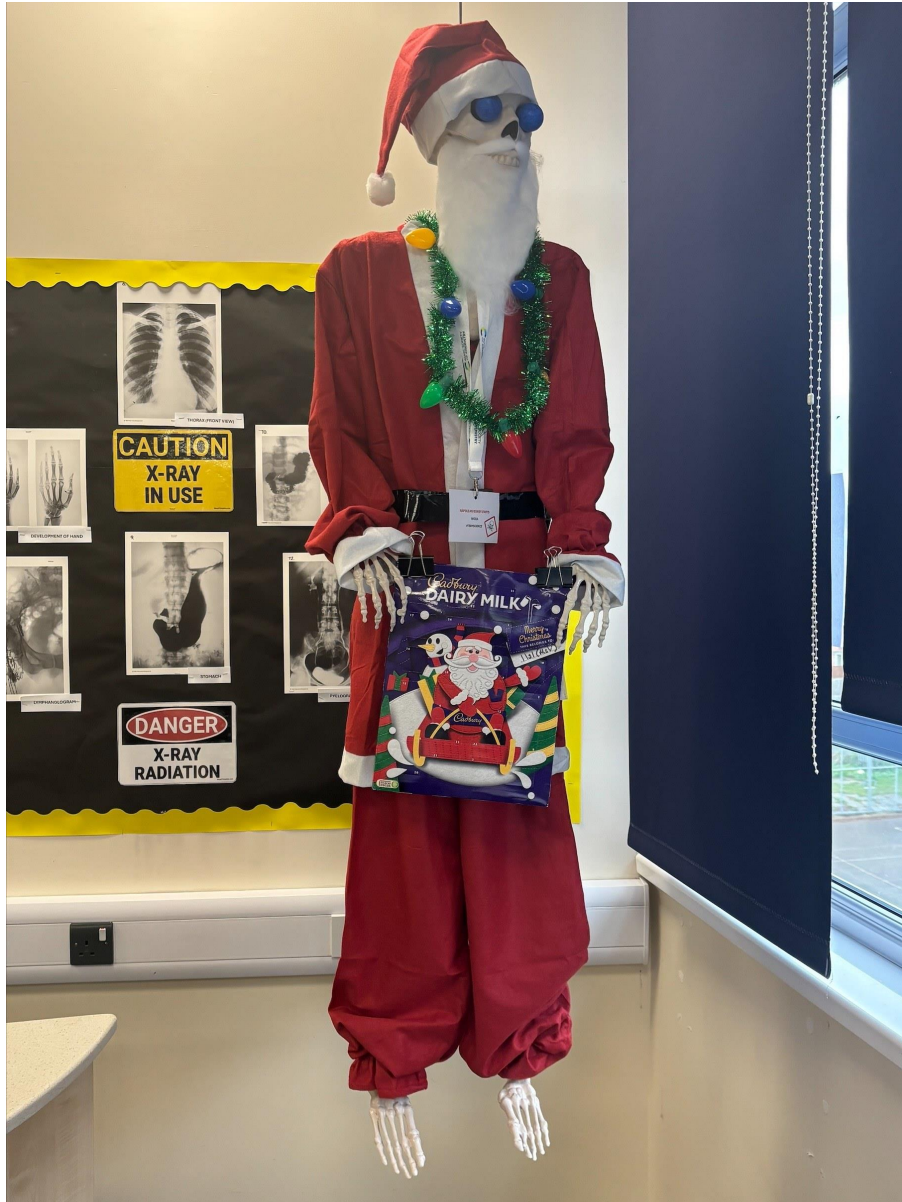




Christmas celebrations started with the decorating of our tree in the main reception. In keeping with tradition, students demonstrating excellent behaviour and attendance are chosen to decorate the tree. This year we were lucky enough to have Toni to put the star on top!

The science team are brilliant every year with their 'Chemistree' decorating - and this year they haven't let us down! They have really excelled in their imagination in bringing science and Christmas together. We even have a Science Santa this year!





Year 10 and year 11 students had a lovely afternoon at the Stamford Corn Exchange watching a performance of A Christmas Carol. The students' conduct during the afternoon was impeccable with Mrs Mitchell commenting that they 'outshone all the other schools.'

Christmas lunch was a resounding success! Staff and students sat in celebration together to feast on a traditional Christmas lunch. It was quite a tense run up to the day, with the main oven breaking the week before! Our amazing Chef and his team were saved by a replacement oven being installed the day before and having to run up and down from the food technology room with turkeys and roast potatoes in hand!

Our thanks go to Mrs Breden and Mrs Milligan for once again organising the high successful annual Gift Drive. This year 162 presents were donated for children in our school and wider community. Thank you to all the staff and students who have generously donated and thank you to the Hope Community Cafe for hosting the event.

Our wonderful choir have visited Red Court residential home and the Hope Community Cafe to sing carols with residents and the local community. Miss McGinlay said, 'The children were absolutely fantastic and sounded stunning with big smiles all around.' A highlight of the day was to sing Happy Birthday to a lady at Red Court celebrating her 101st birthday!

On the last day of term, the whole school community joined together in celebration at a carol service at St Wulfram's Church. It was a lovely way to end the term and celebrate the spirit of Christmas.



And finally, a lovely Christmas message to all parents and carers from our wonderful Makaton enrichment group.

Merry Christmas from everyone at West Grantham Academy.



<https://youtu.be/JLiWyzKLVYs>

Getting In Touch

The academy closes for the Christmas break at 12.00pm on Friday 19 December 2025 and we re-open to students on Monday 5 January 2026. If you need to contact the academy during the summer break, please email office@wgacademy.org.uk³ and we will reply to you as soon as we are able.

³<mailto:office@wgacademy.org.uk>

Term Dates 2025/26 and 2026/27

TERM DATES 2025/26

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	Days
AUGUST	25	26	27	28	29	TERM 1 33 days
SEPTEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
OCTOBER	29	30	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
NOVEMBER	27	28	29	30	31	
	3	4	5	6	7	
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
DECEMBER	24	25	26	27	28	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	14	18	19	
JANUARY	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	31	1	2	
	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
FEBRUARY	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	20	30	
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
MARCH	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
APRIL	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	
MAY	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
	30	31	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
JUNE	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	1	
	4	5	6	7	8	
JULY	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
	1	2	3	4	5	
AUGUST	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
	29	30	1	2	3	
SEPTEMBER	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	1	
OCTOBER	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	
	25	26	27	28	29	
NOVEMBER	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
DECEMBER	29	30	1	2	3	
	6	7	8	9	10	
	13	14	15	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27					
Teaching		190 days				
Inset		1 and 2 September 2025, 23 and 24 February 2025, 27 July 2025				
Holiday						
Bank Holiday		25 and 26 December 2025, 1 January 2026, 3 and 6 April 2026, 4 and 25 May 2026				

TERM DATES 2026/27

2026/2027	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
August/September	31	1	2	3	4	TERM 1 32 DAYS
September	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
September/October	28	29	30	1	2	
October	5	6	7	8	9	TERM 2 35 DAYS
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
November	2	3	4	5	6	
	9	10	11	12	13	TERM 3 30 DAYS
	16	17	18	19	20	
	23	24	25	26	27	
November/December	30	1	2	3	4	
December	7	8	9	10	11	
	14	15	16	17	18	TERM 4 22 DAYS
	21	22	23	24	25	
	28	29	30	31	1	
January	4	5	6	7	8	
	11	12	13	14	15	
	18	19	20	21	22	TERM 5 34 DAYS
	25	26	27	28	29	
February	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	TERM 6 37 DAYS
March	1	2	3	4	5	
	8	9	10	11	12	
	15	16	17	18	19	
	22	23	24	25	26	
March/April	29	30	31	1	2	TERM 5 34 DAYS
April	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
May	3	4	5	6	7	TERM 6 37 DAYS
	10	11	12	13	14	
	17	18	19	20	21	
	24	25	26	27	28	
	31	1	2	3	4	
June	7	8	9	10	11	TERM 6 37 DAYS
	14	15	16	17	18	
	21	22	23	24	25	
June/July	28	29	30	1	2	
July	5	6	7	8	9	
	12	13	14	15	16	TERM 6 37 DAYS
	19	20	21	22	23	
	26	27	28	29	30	
						190 DAYS

Teaching	
Inset	
Holiday	
Bank Holiday	