

WEST GRANTHAM UPDATE



WEST GRANTHAM
Church of England Secondary Academy

Friday 20 March, 2026

Stories, Sportsmanship and Science Week

The past fortnight at WGSA has been packed with curiosity, creativity and community spirit, with students diving head-first into competitions, celebrations and special events across the school. Our library has been a hive of activity all week, buzzing with excitement as students took part in a Sponsored Read and a range of book-themed competitions. From guessing the teacher's favourite book to designing striking front covers, the library has been full of students discovering new stories, swapping recommendations and, in some cases, reading more in one week than they thought was humanly possible. Year 7 also had their Parents' Evening, complete with a Book Fair that brought families together to browse everything from well-loved classics to brand-new releases. It was brilliant to see students proudly showing off what they've been reading and leaving with armfuls of new books to enjoy.

Elsewhere, four of our Sports Ambassadors travelled to Harlaxton Manor to support a Wheelchair Sports Festival and the feedback was nothing short of spectacular. Event organisers described them as "engaging, bubbly, energetic and some of the best leaders this year so far." Their positivity, encouragement and leadership shone throughout the day, and they represented WGSA with maturity and enthusiasm. A huge well done to all four for making such a strong impact.

Football fever also swept through the school as fifty-two students took part in our Charity Football Tournament for Sport Relief on Monday 9th March. After battling through competitive group stages, complete with dramatic goals, close calls and plenty of cheering, two standout teams reached the final for a tense and gripping match. The game stayed tight right up until the closing minutes when Fin McMissiles secured the winning goal, becoming the first ever WGSA Charity Football Champions. A huge congratulations goes to every player for showing skill, teamwork and brilliant sportsmanship throughout the event. And a massive thank you to the staff who helped run, referee or support from the sidelines.

This week also marked Science Week, and the whole school has been fizzing (sometimes literally) with experiments and discovery. Students explored curiosity in themed assemblies, tackled binary coding puzzles, and enjoyed an increased number of practical lessons, ranging from DNA extraction to friction investigations. The science labs have been full of excitement, teamwork and the occasional "wow!" moment, all of which you'll see captured in the many photos included in this newsletter. It's been wonderful to see students so engaged and eager to explore the world scientifically.

A word from...

Our PE Department,
@WGSA_PE

We're excited to share that our PE Department now has its very own Instagram page! You can find us at @WGSA_PE. The account is private, so parents and carers will just need to send a follow request. We'll be using the page to keep you up to date with everything happening in PE and sport at WGSA.

You can expect content from fixtures and results to enrichment activities, clubs and celebrations of student success.

Over the next few weeks, we'll be posting photos, updates and highlights from across the department, so you can see all the brilliant things our students are getting up to. We'd love for you to give us a follow and stay connected with all things WGSA sport!

WEEK A - MARCH 23

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Basketball (Positive Futures)
Christian Union
PSHE Info Evening

Wed

Fitness Gym, Library Club, STEM Club, Dodgeball, Sewcial Club
Y10+11 Inspire+ Assembly

Thu

Homework Club
Fitness Gym
Debate Club
Chess Club

Fri

Library Club

WEEK B - APRIL 13

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Basketball
Christian Union
Y9 Options Evening
PSHE Drop 4

Wed

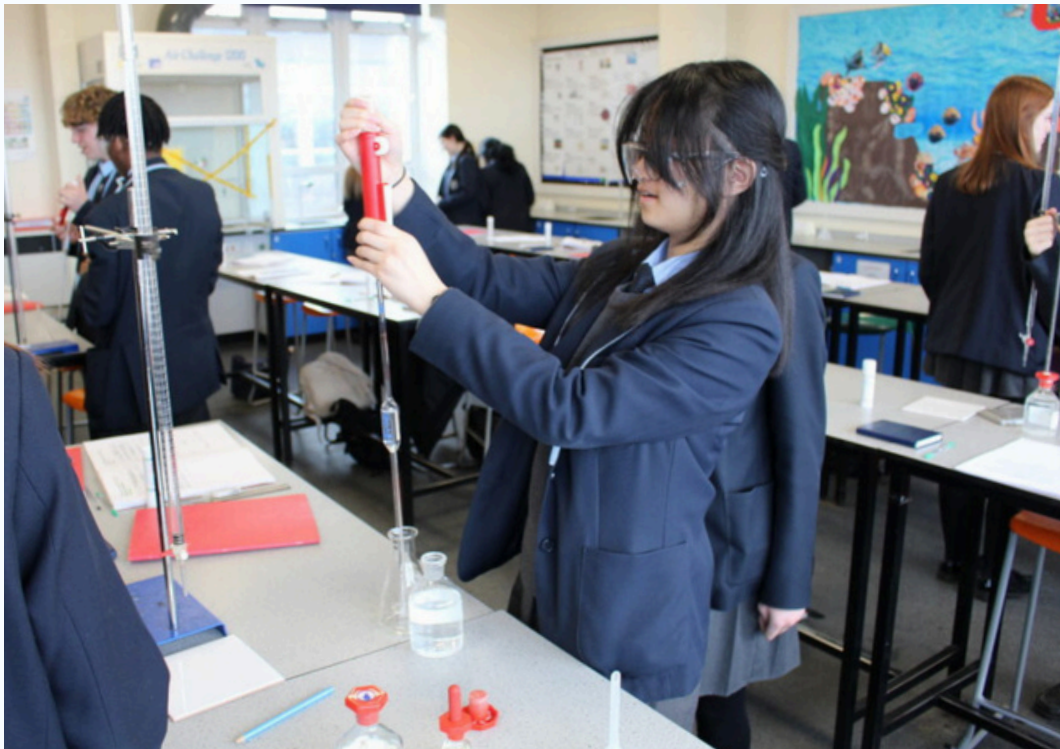
Fitness Gym, Library Club, STEM Club, Dodgeball, Sewcial Club
Year 9 Stay Safe Day

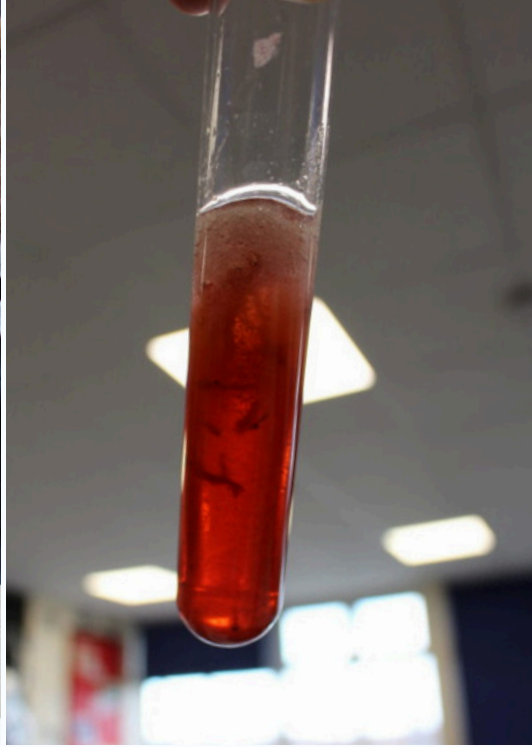
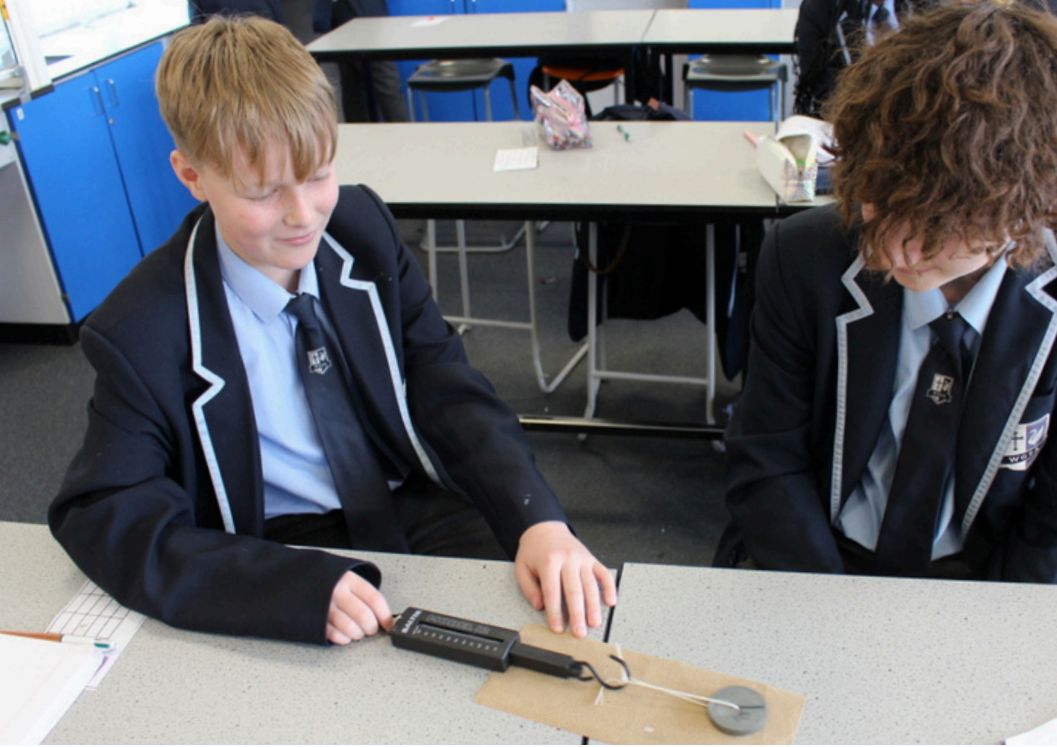
Thu

Homework Club
Fitness Gym
Debate Club
Chess Club

Fri

Library Club





10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

1 VALUE ALL READING

When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.

2 WIDEN THE SELECTION

Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.

3 GIFT A BOOK

One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.

4 CONNECT WITH AUTHORS

Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorfy and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.

5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.

6 TALK BOOKS

There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.

8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.

9 RECONNECT

There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.

10 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert

Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



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