

WEST GRANTHAM UPDATE



WEST GRANTHAM
Church of England Secondary Academy

Friday 05 June, 2026

Energy, Engineering and Explosive Experiments

The sunshine has finally arrived, and with it a welcome boost of energy across the school, especially in our outdoor enrichment programme. Students have been making the most of the brighter conditions, with American Football stepping things up a level as they practice more advanced and trick plays, putting their skills into action in competitive matches. Over on the greens, our golfers have seen a real upswing in performance, with calmer weather helping students refine their accuracy and confidence - proof that practice (and a bit of sunshine) really does pay off. Cross country runners have been clocking up the miles, while KS3 football and Junior Lionesses have continued to show great teamwork, determination and plenty of goal-scoring enthusiasm.

Our Duke of Edinburgh students have been preparing for their upcoming expedition by learning essential first aid skills, building confidence in how to respond to situations they may face outdoors. From bandaging to basic response techniques, they're getting expedition-ready, one skill at a time. Meanwhile, GCSE exams have now been underway for a few weeks, and we'd like to recognise the continued focus, resilience and hard work shown by our students during this important period. Keep going, you're doing brilliantly.

Students also had the opportunity to learn about life beyond school with a RAF assembly, which explored careers in the armed forces and gave a fascinating insight into the opportunities available. It certainly gave plenty of food for thought and may even have sparked a few future flight plans. In Science Club, things have once again been bubbling, as students created mini rockets using old camera film canisters, bicarbonate of soda and vinegar. The results were explosive in the best possible way, with launches that really took learning to new heights. Adding a creative twist, Art Club has recently collaborated with Science Club, capturing striking, artistic photographs of dissections including lungs, hearts and eyeballs. The results are both impressive and intriguing... but a small squeamish warning to parents: some of the images included in this newsletter may not be for the faint-hearted! Finally, our Year 10 Engineering students have been hard at work completing their final practice sessions before beginning their official coursework projects after the summer holidays. Students have been developing their practical skills on the lathe and milling machines, refining their precision through filing, and even trying their hand at welding. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they prepare to take on this next challenge.

A word from...

Alissa, **Year 11**

GCSEs can be very stressful for Year 11s, and lots of students do end up struggling at times, both with the pressure and mentally overall. However, the teachers really help to reduce this stress by making sure we have the best lessons, revision support and guidance. They also take the time to have motivational conversations, which makes a big difference and helps us feel more supported during such an important time.

It's also been encouraging to see how students are supporting each other, whether that's revising together or just helping someone stay positive on a difficult day. Even though it can feel overwhelming at times, there's a strong sense that we're all in it together, which makes the whole experience a bit more manageable.

WEEK A - JUN 08

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Basketball
Christian Union

Wed

Athletics, Rounders,
Fitness Gym, Library
Club, STEM Club,
Dodgeball, Sewcial Club

Thu

Homework Club
Fitness Gym
Debate Club
Chess Club

Fri

Library Club

WEEK B - JUN 15

Mon

Football Clubs, Fitness Gym, Gardening Club, Library Club

Tue

Library Club
Basketball
Christian Union

Wed

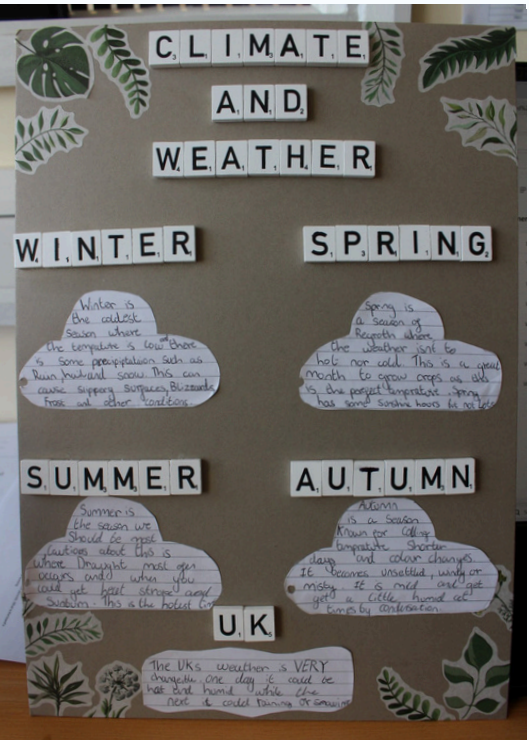
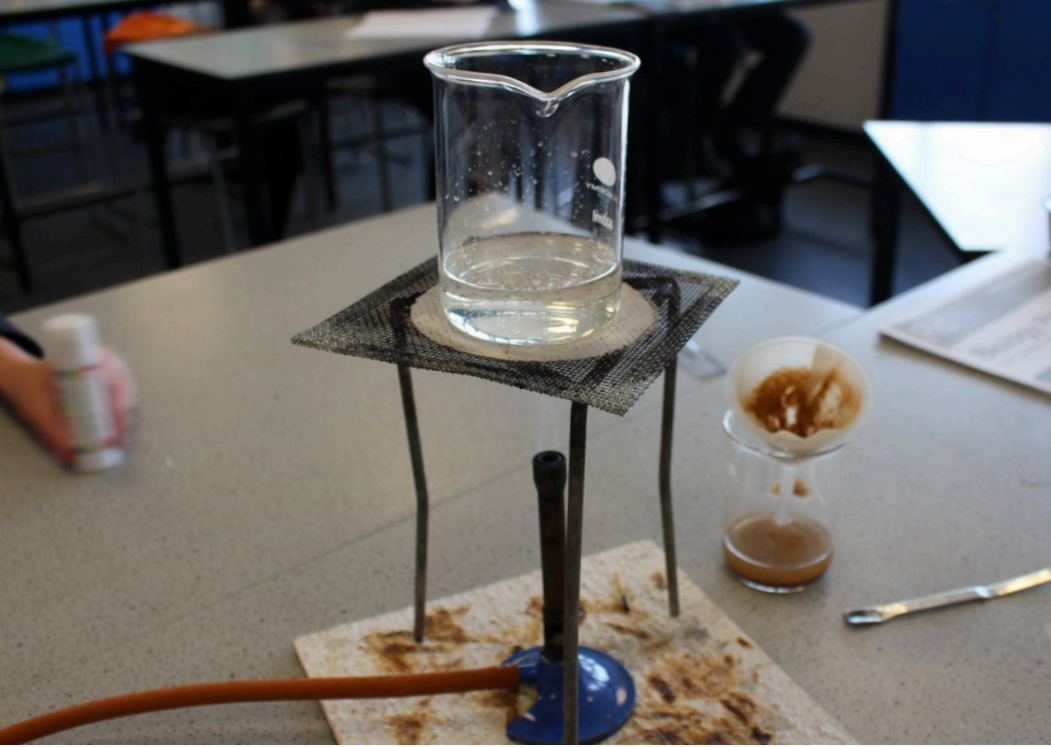
Athletics, Rounders,
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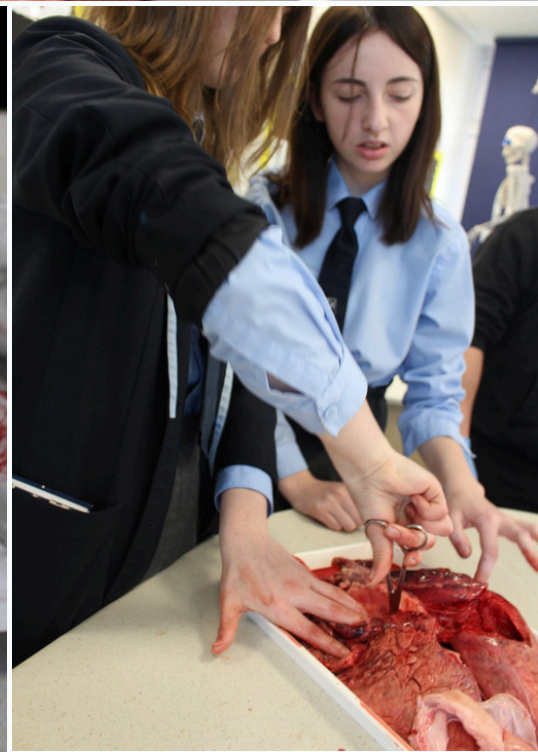
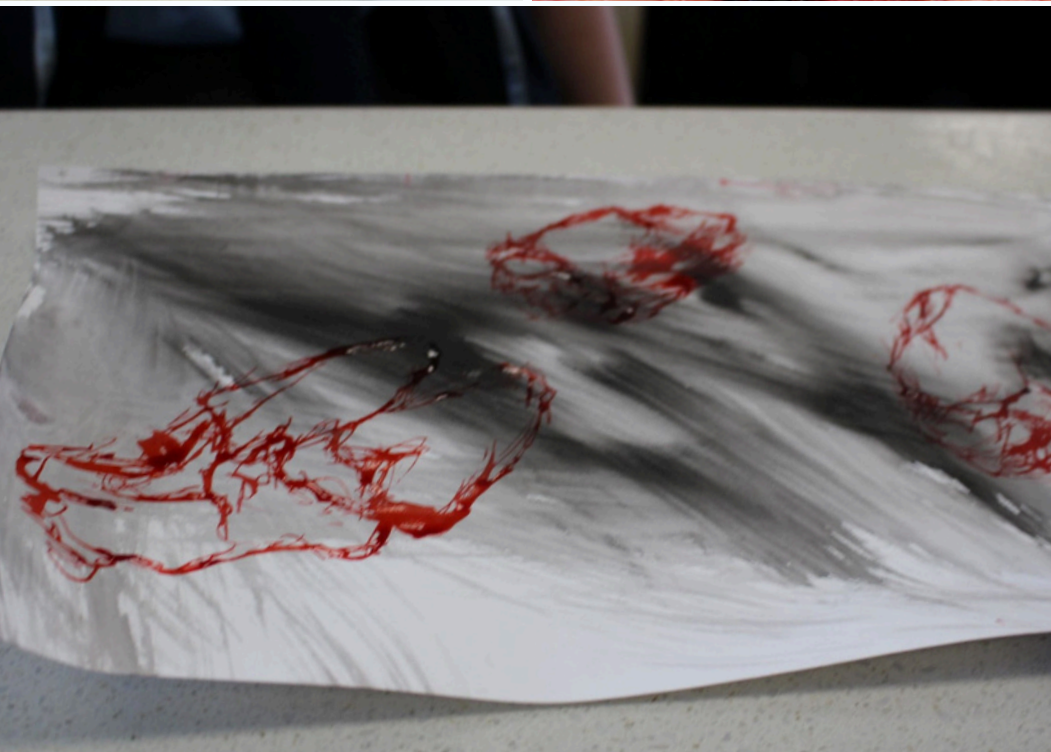
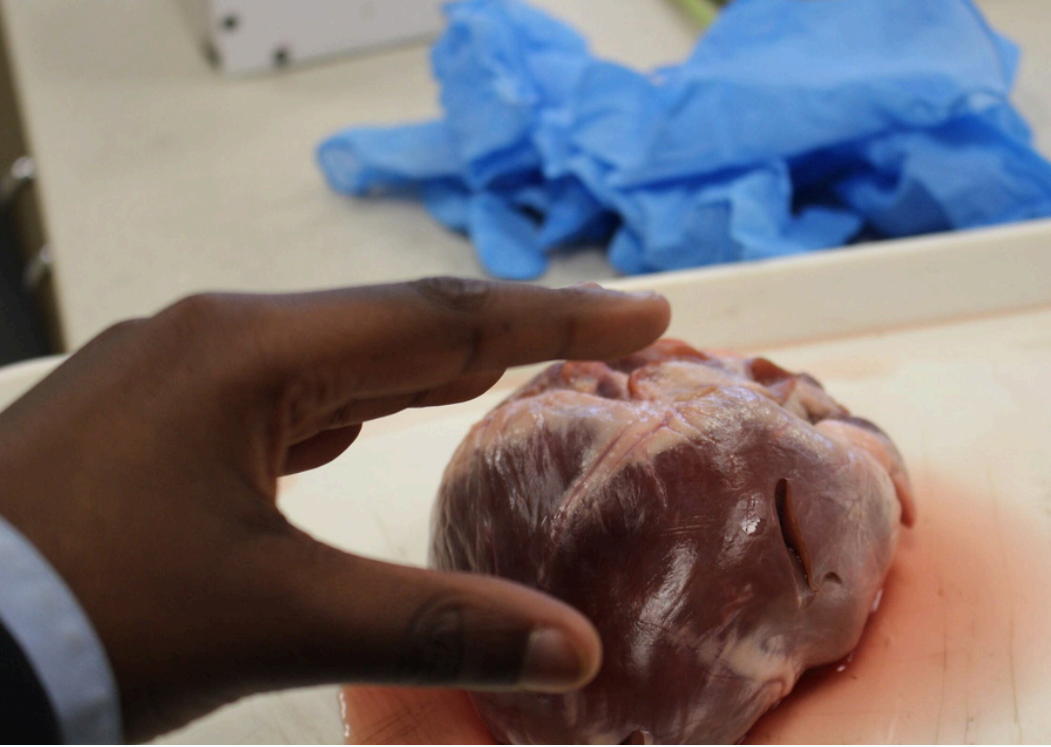
Thu

Homework Club
Fitness Gym
Debate Club
Chess Club
Leavers' Assembly

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

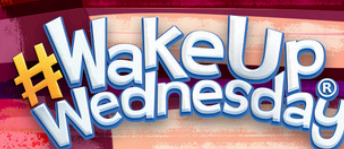
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever; it generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' 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.



The National College®

See full reference list on our website