NEWSLETTER

Where excellence thrives, growth is nurtured, and responsibility matters

Headteacher Welcome

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly positive and productive term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for their continued support and commitment to our school community. The start of a new academic year always brings with it excitement, opportunities and new challenges, and I am delighted with the way in which our students have embraced these with maturity, enthusiasm and determination.

One of the most pleasing aspects of this term has been the calm, purposeful and positive atmosphere around the school. Visitors regularly comment on the warm welcome they receive from our students and the respectful relationships that exist between staff and young people. Our classrooms have been focused on learning, with students demonstrating resilience, engagement and a willingness to challenge themselves. These are qualities that will serve them well not only throughout their time at school but also in their future education and careers.

Attendance has also been a real area of strength this term. We have seen encouraging improvements across all year groups, reflecting the importance that our students and families place on being in school every day. Good attendance remains one of the single biggest factors in academic success, and we are grateful for the support of parents and carers in ensuring that students make the most of every learning opportunity available to them. It has been particularly pleasing to celebrate the many students who have achieved excellent attendance while maintaining high standards in their studies and wider school life.

This term has also seen the successful continuation of our mobile phone-free school day. Students have adapted exceptionally well to this initiative and have shown remarkable levels of responsibility and cooperation. The impact has been significant, with noticeable improvements in social interaction, engagement in lessons and the overall climate across the school. Breaktimes and lunchtimes are increasingly characterised by conversation, activity and positive relationships, helping to strengthen our sense of community and belonging.

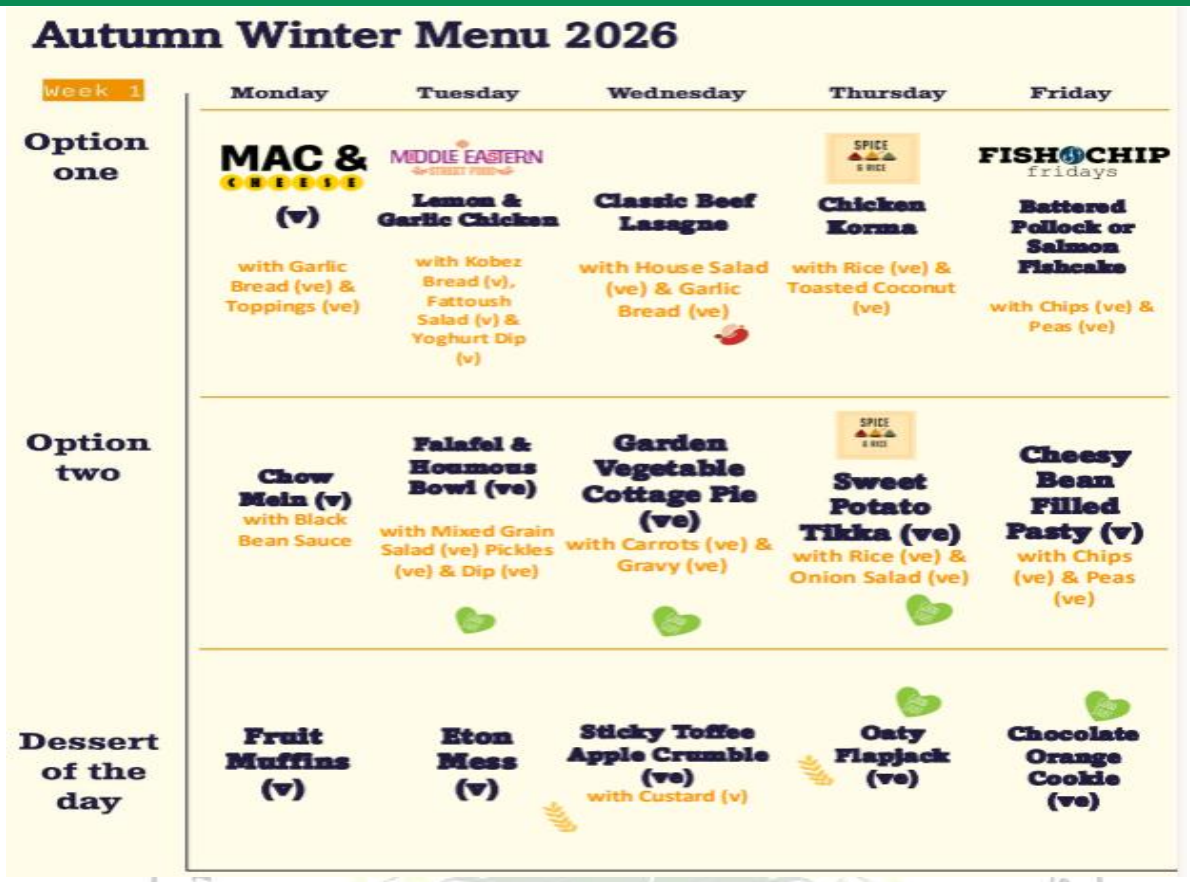
Beyond the classroom, students have represented the school with pride across a wide range of activities. Whether through sporting fixtures, performing arts events, leadership opportunities, educational visits or enrichment activities, students have demonstrated talent, commitment and a willingness to contribute to the wider life of the school. These experiences play a vital role in personal development and reflect our commitment to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to grow, excel and take responsibility both inside and outside of the classroom.

I would also like to recognise the dedication and professionalism of our staff, whose hard work and unwavering commitment make these successes possible. Every day they go above and beyond to provide the highest quality education and support for our young people. Their passion for helping students succeed continues to be one of the school's greatest strengths.

As we look ahead to the next term, we do so with a great sense of optimism. We have much to celebrate, but we remain ambitious for what we can achieve together. The foundations laid this term provide an excellent platform on which to build, and I am excited to see our students continue to develop academically, socially and personally throughout the year.

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish all members of our school community a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another successful term.

Term 2 Canteen Menu and Prices



A brief overview of term 1

Matthew 13:32

Maths

Throughout Term 1, students in Mathematics have continued to develop their confidence, fluency and resilience through our consistent use of the Mastery Flow Model. By focusing on deep understanding, structured practice and purposeful challenge, students have been encouraged to thrive, grow and extend their mathematical thinking at every stage of their learning journey.

Across Key Stages 3 and 4, students have explored a broad range of topics, beginning with essential number skills and progressing towards increasingly sophisticated mathematical concepts. Lessons have developed students' understanding of arithmetic, fractions, decimals and percentages, while also introducing them to algebraic reasoning, manipulation and the use of complex algebraic formulae. Through carefully sequenced learning, students have built strong foundations before applying their knowledge to more challenging problems and real-life contexts.
Assessment has remained an integral part of the learning process. Students have regularly completed feedback sheets, retrieval activities and practice assessments, allowing them to identify strengths and address areas for development. For our KS4 students, termly assessments and exam-style practice papers have provided valuable opportunities to prepare for future GCSE examinations, building both confidence and familiarity with exam expectations.

We are extremely proud of the effort and determination shown by our students this term and look forward to supporting them as they continue their mathematical journey throughout the year.

Curriculum Corner

A brief overview of term 1

English

This term has been a busy one for the the English Department

All of our key stage three students have taken part in reading assessments this term. This assessment has allowed us to understand what help and support our students need and put in interventions in place to aid student progress.

We welcomed the Nottingham Shakespeare Company into the school this term. Both year IO and year 11 had the privilege to watch them perform Macbeth, following which they engaged in a Q&A with the actors regarding their performance, the way they presented the characters and, very importantly, how they created the blood on stage! We 100k forward to another busy term leading up to Christmas.

Science

This half term has been a busy and successful one across Science, Food Technology and Design & Technology. In Science, students have continued to build their knowledge and skills across all three disciplines. Year 7 have studied cells, density and atoms, while Year 8 have explored respiration, photosynthesis, the particle model and diffusion. Year 9 have developed their understanding of cell types, transport in organisms and atomic structure, while Year 10 have focused on radiation, stem cells and bonding. Year 11 have studied groups within the periodic table, thermal energy transfers and completed their mock examinations in preparation for GCSEs.

It has been fantastic to see increased engagement with Sparx Science, with more students regularly completing independent learning and developing their scientific understanding beyond the classroom. We would also like to recognise the outstanding contribution of our Open Evening helpers. Olly, Jessica, Jasmine and Taya did an excellent job leading the heart and lung dissections, while Caidan and Louise enthusiastically supported visitors with the chromatography keychain activity.

In Food Technology, students have combined nutritional knowledge with practical cooking skills. Topics have included the Eatwell Guide, healthy eating, coagulation and the Maillard reaction, while Year 11 students have started preparing for their first NEA by investigating enzymic browning in fruit.

In Design & Technology, students have developed a range of design and manufacturing skills. Year 7 have learned workshop techniques through making wooden figures, Year 9 have designed and produced automata using workshop machinery, and Years 10 and 11 have begun preparing for and completing NEA work, including modelling, timber construction and technical drawing. Across both subjects, it has been wonderful to see students demonstrating creativity, resilience and independence in their practical work.

Curriculum Corner

A brief overview of term 1

Exploring the World, the Past and Our Society: Humanities This Half Term

It has been another exciting half term in the Humanities Faculty, with students travelling across continents, centuries and cultures without ever leaving the classroom!

Religious Education students have explored how religious beliefs and practices shape the lives of people around the world. From faith and worship to challenging moral questions, students have developed a deeper understanding of religion and the diverse society in which we live.

Citizenship students have examined how media, politics and public opinion influence the choices we make as citizens. A particular highlight was our fantastic trip to London, where students visited the Houses of Parliament, saw British democracy in action and explored some of the capital's most famous landmarks, bringing classroom learning to life.

Geography students have investigated some of the biggest issues facing our planet, from powerful natural processes to the opportunities and challenges experienced by communities around the world. Their studies have helped them better understand our increasingly interconnected world.

History students have travelled through hundreds of years of history, exploring significant people, events and turning points that continue to shape life today. Along the way, they have developed their curiosity, critical thinking and investigative skills.

A special congratulations to Joan, Christabel and Joel, whose entries in the Bible Schools Project 2026 were recognised with special commendations. To receive recognition in a national competition is a remarkable achievement, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished.

If this half term is anything to go by, next term promises to be another fantastic term in Humanities!

Curriculum Corner

Creative Arts

PE:
Term 1 has been a positive and successful start to the year in PE. Students have engaged well in both curriculum lessons and extracurricular activities. Lunchtime clubs and after-school football sessions have been particularly well attended, demonstrating strong enthusiasm and commitment to sport and physical activity across the school.
All students have successfully completed their PE Student Passport, taking part in a range of fitness tests to establish baseline data and track their individual progress throughout the year. Within lessons, students have developed their practical skills through a variety of activities. The girls' group focused on netball, developing teamwork, passing, movement and game play skills. The boys' group participated in football, improving their technical ability, tactical understanding and fitness. The mixed group completed a unit of tag rugby, building communication, decision-making and invasion game strategies.

Overall, students have shown excellent participation, effort and engagement throughout Term 1, providing a strong foundation for continued progress in PE during the rest of the academic year. Next term all students (year 7-10) will need football boots as stated on the pe uniform policy.

Performing Arts:

The spotlight has certainly been shining on Drama this term! Our Year 7 students have made an incredible start, throwing themselves into lessons with energy, imagination, and enthusiasm.

Auditions for Peter Pan were packed with talent, and the excitement continues as students begin rehearsals in their newly assigned roles. Preparations are now well underway for our eagerly awaited Night of the Musicals in December, and we cannot wait to share what promises to be an unforgettable performance.

Adding to an already fantastic term, 40 students recently enjoyed a trip to see Blood Brothers. Not only was it a wonderful theatrical experience, but their exemplary behaviour and positive attitude made them outstanding ambassadors for the school. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Art:

Term 1 has been a productive and creative start to the year in Art. Students have engaged positively in lessons, demonstrating enthusiasm, imagination and a willingness to develop new artistic skills and techniques.
Throughout the term, students have explored a range of artistic processes, building their confidence in drawing, design and creative experimentation. They have developed their understanding of key art elements, including line, tone, shape, colour and composition, while producing a variety of practical pieces.

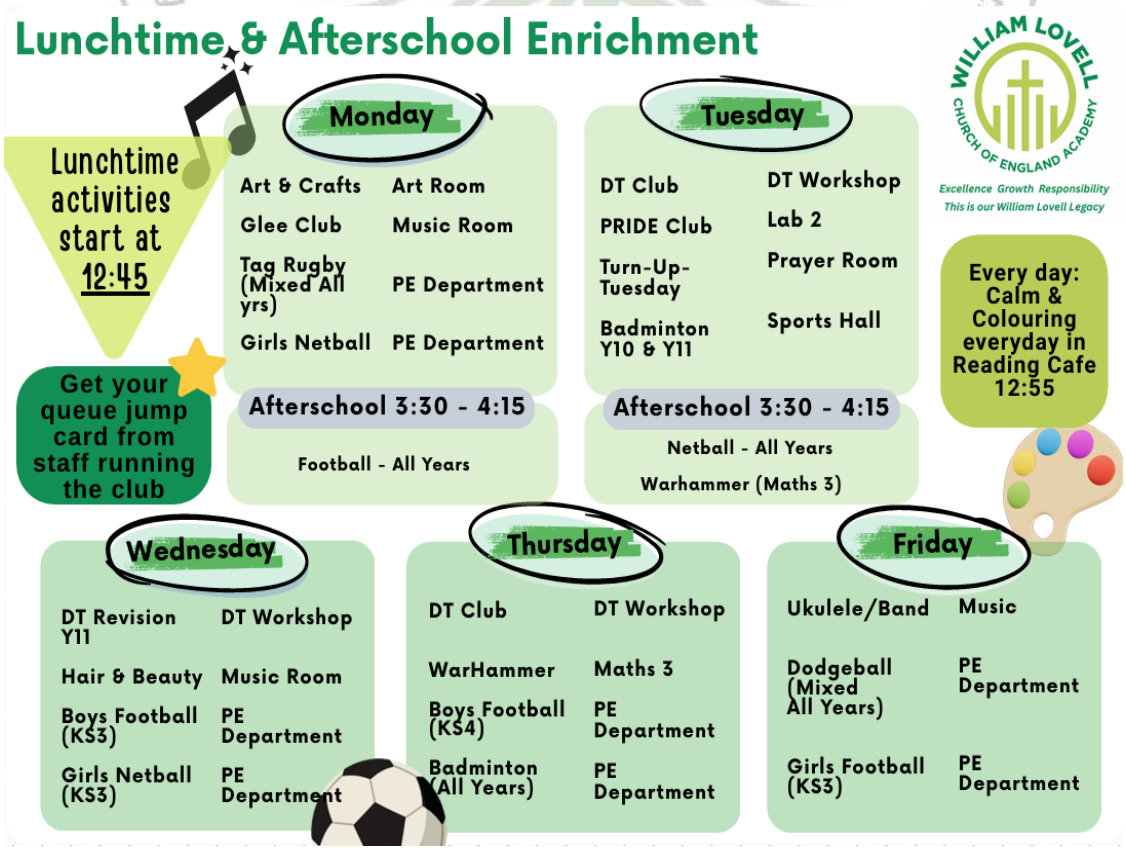
Students have worked thoughtfully to improve the quality of their work, responding to feedback and reflecting on their progress. Sketchbooks have been used effectively to record ideas, research artists, develop designs and showcase learning over time.

A particular strength this term has been the positive attitude shown by students towards creative challenges. Many have demonstrated resilience when refining and improving their work, taking pride in their final outcomes.
Overall, students have made a strong start to the academic year, showing creativity, commitment and engagement throughout Term 1 and establishing a solid foundation for future artistic development.

Mobile Phone Policy & Uniform

Over the course of this term, the introduction of a mobile phone-free school day has had a notably positive impact across the academy. The absence of phones during the school day has helped to create a calmer, more focused learning environment, with students engaging more readily in lessons, socialising positively with their peers, and making the most of break and lunchtime opportunities. Staff have reported improved levels of concentration in lessons, whilst students themselves have adapted remarkably well to the expectations. We would like to commend our students for the mature and responsible manner in which they have embraced this change.

The success of this initiative is a direct reflection of the high standards demonstrated by our students. Compliance with the mobile phone-free expectations has been exceptionally strong, and students should take great pride in the contribution they have made towards maintaining a positive school climate. By embracing the policy so positively, they have helped to foster a culture where learning, wellbeing and respectful interactions remain at the centre of school life. We are grateful for the continued support of parents and carers in reinforcing these expectations and helping to ensure their success.

As we look ahead to the new term, we would also like to take this opportunity to remind families of the importance of maintaining our high standards of uniform. A consistently smart appearance reflects the pride students take in belonging to our school community and helps to promote a culture of excellence. We ask that all students wear their school blazer at all times around the school, alongside either a plain black V-neck jumper or the official school jumper where an additional layer is required. Trousers should be appropriately fitting and in accordance with the school uniform policy, avoiding styles that are excessively tight. Shirts should be tucked in, with top buttons fastened, ensuring students present themselves in a manner that reflects our expectations.

We would greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers in helping us uphold these standards from the first day of term. A simple check before your child leaves the house each morning can make a significant difference in ensuring that uniforms meet school expectations and that students are ready to learn from the moment they arrive. By working together, we can continue to maintain the high standards of appearance, conduct and pride that are such an important part of our school community.