



**George Eliot Academy**  
The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

# Parent Bulletin

January 2026

## ECOSYSTEM

An ecosystem is a geographic area where plants, animals, as well as weather and landscape, work together to form a system. Ecosystems contain both living, or biotic, parts which include plants, animals, and other organisms, as well as non-living, or abiotic, parts including rocks, temperature, and humidity.

There are two types of ecosystems:

**Terrestrial Ecosystem** and **Aquatic Ecosystem**.

An ecosystem can be as small as an oasis in a desert, or as big as an ocean, spanning thousands of miles.





# A message from our Principal

I am writing to you with a real sense of pride following our recent Ofsted inspection. I want to take this opportunity to share the many strengths recognised by the inspectors and, most importantly, to thank you for the support you continue to give to George Eliot Academy.

The inspection highlighted the hard work, commitment and determination of our staff and pupils, and it was wonderful to see the progress and achievements across the academy celebrated so positively. It is important to mention that since 2018, the Academy has made year on year improvement, each year improving more and achieving better results.

Inspectors confirmed that safeguarding arrangements at George Eliot Academy meet statutory requirements. Creating a safe, caring and supportive environment for every child remains our highest priority, and this judgement reflects the strong culture of vigilance and care that exists across the school.

The report recognised that pupils are making good progress and developing the skills they need to succeed. Improvements in outcomes, including for disadvantaged pupils, reflect the commitment of our teachers and the positive attitudes and resilience of our pupils, demonstrating their STAR values.

It was pleasing to see that inspectors commented on our highly effective work around attendance which has resulted in significant improvement. They reported that clear routines, consistent expectations and strong relationships between staff and pupils are helping to create a calm and purposeful learning environment where pupils can focus on learning.

Our curriculum was recognised as being carefully planned to meet the needs of all pupils. Teaching approaches are increasingly consistent, and pupils benefit from lessons that help them build their understanding step by step. The inspection highlighted our inclusive approach and the support provided for pupils with additional needs. We are proud of the way staff work to ensure that every child feels valued, supported and able to succeed.

Inspectors recognised the clarity of leadership and the dedication of staff across the academy. I am incredibly proud of the team and their commitment to creating the best possible experiences for our pupils every day.

None of this would be possible without you. Your support, whether through encouraging attendance, reinforcing routines, engaging with the school or simply supporting your child each day, makes a real difference. We truly value the partnership we have with our parents and carers.

We always strive to be the best we can be, and this report gives us confidence that we are moving in the right direction. We are excited to build on these successes and continue creating even more opportunities for every child to thrive, grow, and shine at George Eliot Academy.

The link to our Ofsted Inspection report and an article for the Coventry Telegraph are below:

<https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50293944>

<https://www.coventrytelegraph.net/news/local-news/ofsted-praise-nuneaton-school-pupils-33307522.amp>

Mrs H Zakary  
Principal

Self-Discipline

Tenacity

Ambition

Responsibility



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# Ofsted Report 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Pupils and staff at George Eliot Academy in Nuneaton have made an excellent start to the new year having received positive feedback from Ofsted Inspectors following their visit to the school in November.

The inspection marked the school's first under Ofsted's new inspection framework, with the Inspectors commenting on the "significant improvements" that have been made in recent years since the school joined United Learning. As a sign of the school's positive trajectory, it was found to have met the 'expected standard' across all six of Ofsted's assessment criteria.

Amongst the aspects of the school complimented in the report, the Inspectors highlighted the "strong culture of care and inclusion" that has been fostered at George Eliot. Inspectors credit this to the positive relationships that have been cultivated between pupils and staff, and the ambitions the school has for all pupils to succeed. Likewise, the Inspectors made clear that pupils are proud to attend the school and feel both valued and supported.

Inspectors credit the school's progress to the strong leadership at the school. This includes the "determined actions" of leaders which place "pupils' best interests at heart".

Alongside a strong academic provision, pupils are said to benefit from a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities on offer, including clubs and events such as careers fairs, which lay the foundations to "prepare them well for adult life".

The outcome of this inspection has given the school another reason to celebrate following a host of recent successes, including the opening of their 'Harmony Garden' in the summer. Homeira Zakary, Principal at George Eliot Academy, said:

*"I am extremely proud of all our pupils, my staff team and the entire school community for their commitment to ensuring George Eliot Academy is a thriving place to learn and flourish. This recognition from Ofsted is another positive step in the journey we are on as a school and a strong signal of our ability to provide an excellent education to our young people."*

Ben Antell, Director of Secondary Academies at United Learning, said:

*"This excellent feedback is testament to the efforts of pupils and staff alike, all of whom should be very proud of their efforts."*

*"It is particularly gratifying that Inspectors note the sense of belonging and pride that pupils feel to the school as part of the 'George Eliot family', notably through the positive relationships that have been fostered amongst pupils and staff. Congratulations to all involved."*



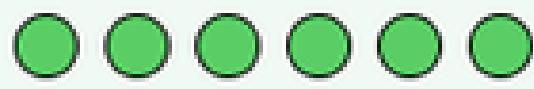
# Ofsted Report 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## Inspection report: 18 November 2025

Exceptional

Strong standard

Expected standard



Needs attention

Urgent improvement

► [Our grades explained](#)

### **Safeguarding standards met**

 [Show](#)

### **Expected standard**

[Achievement](#)

 [Show](#)

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[Curriculum and teaching](#)

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[Inclusion](#)

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[Leadership and governance](#)

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[Personal development and well-being](#)

 [Show](#)

You can read our Ofsted report in full here: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/137079>



# Youth Parliament

Our Youth Parliament representatives met at Nuneaton Town Hall where they got the chance to meet the Mayor, meet with Jodie Gosling MP and started to discuss with other representatives how they plan to make positive change in their local area. We are incredibly proud of the initiative our pupils are showing in making a positive improvements to the local community.





## Year 9 Sports Leaders

On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025, sixteen Year 9 pupils from George Eliot Academy proudly represented the school as Sports Leaders by hosting a highly successful indoor athletics event for three local primary schools, Park Lane Primary, Wembrook Primary and Croft Junior School. The event was designed to promote physical activity, leadership development, and positive transition experiences for younger pupils, with pupils from Years 3 and 4 taking part in the competition. The Sports Leaders took full responsibility for the planning, organisation, and delivery of the competition. In preparation, pupils completed leadership training which equipped them with the skills needed to officiate events, manage teams, record results, and ensure the smooth running of the day. On the day of the event, they demonstrated exceptional professionalism, confidence, and teamwork while welcoming the visiting schools and supporting all participants throughout the competition.

The School Games host for Northern Warwickshire was very thankful for their efforts and said **'The leaders were brilliant! They created the perfect atmosphere to ensure a positive experience of competition'.**

The indoor athletics programme included a variety of track and field-based activities such as sprinting, relay races, long jump, speed bounce, and throwing events. The Year 9 leaders carefully explained the rules at each station, ensured fairness and safety at all times, and offered encouragement to the younger athletes, helping to create an inclusive and positive sporting environment.

The visiting primary pupils showed outstanding enthusiasm, determination, and sportsmanship across all events. The atmosphere was energetic and supportive, with George Eliot Academy Sports Leaders playing a key role in motivating participants and modelling excellent behaviour and respect.

Staff from the visiting primary schools praised the organisation of the event and the maturity of the Sports Leaders, commenting on the positive impact the experience had on their pupils. The event also provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen partnership links between George Eliot Academy and its feeder primary schools.

This successful event highlights George Eliot Academy's ongoing commitment to developing leadership skills, promoting healthy lifestyles, and providing meaningful sporting opportunities for pupils of all ages. The Year 9 Sports Leaders are to be commended for their dedication, responsibility, continuous demonstration of our STAR values, and outstanding representation of the school, and we look forward with great anticipation to the next events that they will lead.



# Year 9 Sports Leaders

## Sports Leaders Events

We are delighted to share highlights from two recent events, organised by Miss Evans in partnership with the School Games Coordinator for Northern Warwickshire, which showcased not only the breadth of opportunity we provide for young people, but also the exceptional quality, character, and energy of our Sports Leaders.

### SEND Sports Festival – Tuesday 20th January

On Tuesday 20th January, we proudly hosted an inclusive SEND sports festival for 50 Year 3 and 4 pupils from Camphill Primary School, St Michael's Academy, The Canons CofE Primary School, Goodyears End Primary School, Weddington Primary School, and Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Primary School.

The morning featured a range of adapted activities including table cricket, stacker cups, table tennis, table hockey, archery, boccia, blind football and curling. The focus throughout was on participation, confidence and enjoyment, and the atmosphere was warm, welcoming, and encouraging.

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders were outstanding. They demonstrated genuine care, patience and understanding, adapting activities thoughtfully and supporting pupils with a wide range of additional needs. Their calm approach and positive communication ensured every child felt safe, included, and successful.

Visiting staff were full of praise. One commented, "Your leaders were incredible with our pupils, so patient and encouraging. Every child felt like they mattered." Another shared, "The atmosphere was so supportive. It was wonderful to see older pupils leading with such kindness and confidence."

Our pupils represented the school with maturity and compassion, creating an environment in which pupils thrived both socially and physically. The event also provided a valuable transition experience, allowing younger pupils to visit our school in a supportive setting and experience first-hand the inclusive culture we are proud to promote.



# Year 9 Sports Leaders

## Sports Hall Athletics Event – Monday 26th January

Just a few days later, on Monday 26th January, our Sports Leaders delivered a large-scale Sports Hall Athletics competition for approximately 300 Year 5 and 6 pupils.

The day was split into two high-energy sessions, each hosting five schools and around 150 pupils. We were delighted to welcome Croft Junior School, Middlemarch Junior School, St Nicolas CofE Academy, St Pauls CofE Primary School, Weddington Primary School, All Saints CofE Primary School, Camphill Primary School, Michael Drayton Junior School, Our Lady and St Joseph Catholic Academy, and Park Lane Primary School.

Pupils competed in a wide range of track and field events, including sprint and relay races, obstacle relays, standing long jump, triple jump, vertical jump, speed bounce, javelin, and chest push. From the first race onwards, the sports hall was buzzing, with an electric atmosphere created by cheering teams, enthusiastic competitors and, at the centre of it all, our composed and confident Sports Leaders. They managed events, organised equipment, recorded scores and ensured the competition ran smoothly, all while motivating and encouraging the young athletes.

Our leaders truly embodied our STAR values, showing maturity, empathy, and a genuine commitment to supporting others. They handled responsibility with confidence and demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and initiative throughout a fast-paced and demanding day. Staff from visiting schools praised the professionalism and enthusiasm of our pupils, noting how they created such a positive and memorable experience for every child involved.

This event also supported transition, giving primary pupils the opportunity to experience our school environment, meet our pupil leaders and begin building confidence about moving to secondary school.

Across both events, our Sports Leaders proved to be exceptional role models. They brought energy, responsibility, and integrity to everything they did, and continue to play a significant role in shaping the positive, inclusive, and aspirational culture of our school. Their conduct throughout these events is a powerful reflection of the moral character we strive to develop in every pupil.

We are incredibly proud of them.

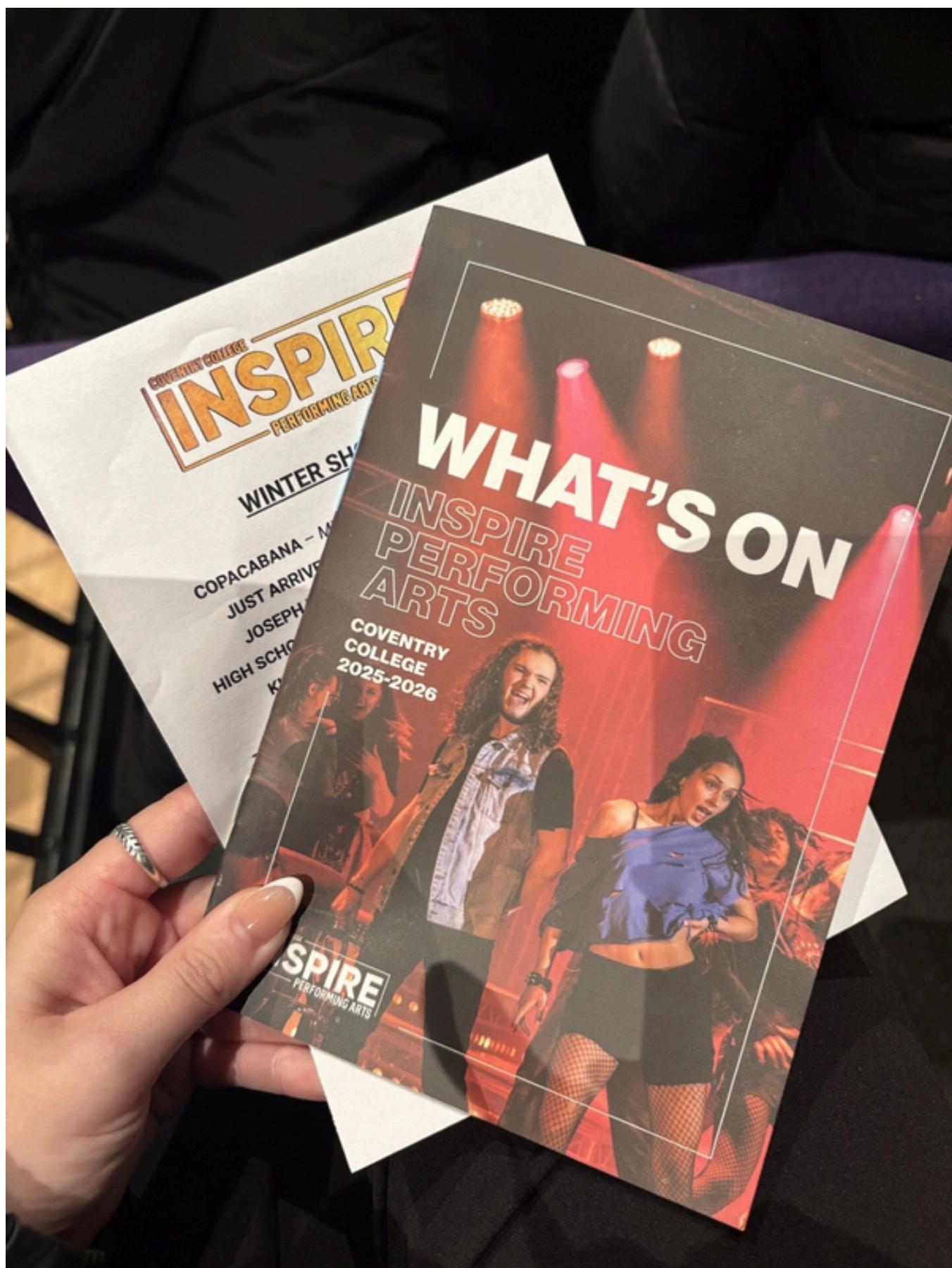


# Coventry College Trip

This month, our Year 11 pupils had an inspiring visit to Coventry College, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the impressive facilities and got a real taste of college life.

One of the highlights of the afternoon was a fantastic performance featuring pupils from a variety of courses, including Drama and Musical Theatre. Our pupils loved seeing the creativity, talent, and hard work showcased by the college performers!

A huge thank you to Coventry College for hosting us and giving our pupils such a valuable insight into the opportunities available after Year 11.





# Christmas Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported and attended our annual Christmas Fair. Each form group showed incredible creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm in planning, setting up, and running their stalls. Your hard work helped create a truly magical atmosphere and made the event a wonderful celebration for our whole community.





# Sarah Farrer- Pupil counselling

My name is Sarah Farrer, I am a qualified Counsellor & Supervisor, holding a membership with BACP (British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy)

I am a Person-Centred Counsellor, which means I provide talking therapy. I am also trained in using creative interventions to aid change.

The relationship I make with the pupils is the catalyst to them feeling understood, un-judged and accepted for all the parts of them. This provides the conditions necessary to realise what they need and how these needs may get met.

I do not provide advice or guidance but explore the pupils inner world, so they find their own answers, tools, and resources.

I work with many concerns and worries Including anxiety, self-esteem, self-harm, anger, friendships, trauma, family, school, bereavement or any general worries or concerns.

If you would like to contact me, please email me at: [sarah.farrer@georgeeliotacademy.org.uk](mailto:sarah.farrer@georgeeliotacademy.org.uk)





# Golden Ticket prize draw

Our Golden Ticket and attendance prize draw was a truly festive extravaganza, with an incredible number of prizes won by our wonderful pupils. It is always a joy to celebrate and reward our pupils for their hard work, dedication, and positive contributions to school life.

A huge congratulations to our top prize winners — **Bailey, Holly, and Ben** — who took home a brand-new bike, a £100 JD Sports voucher, and a new TV. What a fantastic way to finish last term!

Will you be in it to win it at the end of this term?





## Sponsored Sky Dive

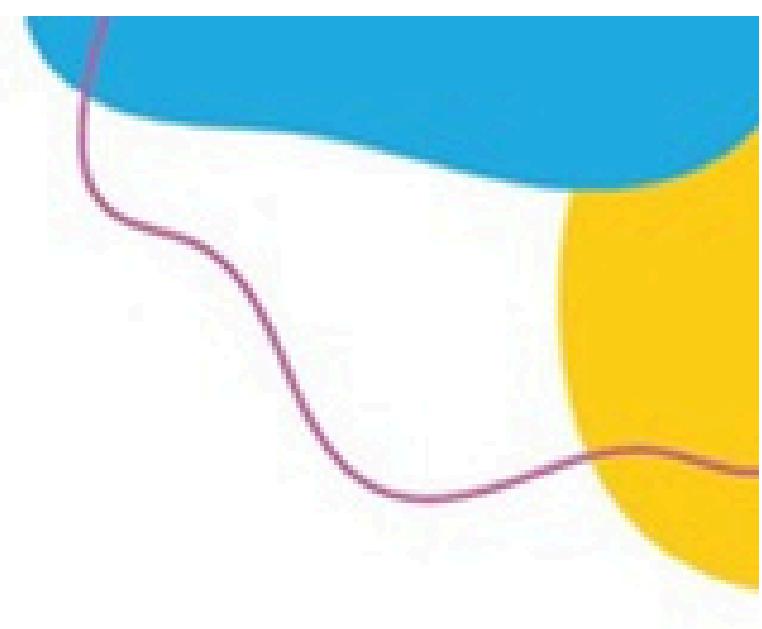
One of our wonderful parents is taking part in a sponsored sky dive in aid of Myton Hospice. If you are able to support, then the link to donate is at the bottom of this page.



<https://www.justgiving.com/team/thehorseshoesnuneatonpubskydive>



## Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



# Setting Future Goals

Setting goals helps you stay focused, motivated, and positive. They give you something to look forward to and remind you that *you're in charge* of your own journey. It's normal to feel a bit nervous when you think about the future, but looking forward can actually *help* your mental health. Looking to the future helps to build confidence, can give you direction and encourages optimism. Thinking about what's ahead reminds you that good things can still happen —even when times feel tough.

### Our Top Tips For Setting Goals:

#### 1. Start Small

Big dreams start with small steps. Pick one thing you'd like to improve—like sleeping better or spending more time outdoors.

#### 2. Make It Realistic

Choose goals that feel *possible*, not perfect. For example, "I'll talk to a friend once a week" is easier than "I'll never feel lonely again."

#### 3. Be Kind to Yourself

Progress takes time! Celebrate small wins and don't be hard on yourself if things don't go perfectly.

#### 4. Write It Down

Keep a journal or use your phone to track how you're doing. Seeing your progress boosts confidence!

#### 5. Ask for Support

You don't have to do it alone. Talk to someone you trust —a friend, teacher or family member—about your goals.

#### 6. Balance Is Key

Make time for fun, rest, and creativity. Mental health goals should make life *feel better*, not busier.



*More information  
about goal-setting!*

**In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the Children and Young People's Mental Health Crisis support available 24/7, by calling NHS 111.**

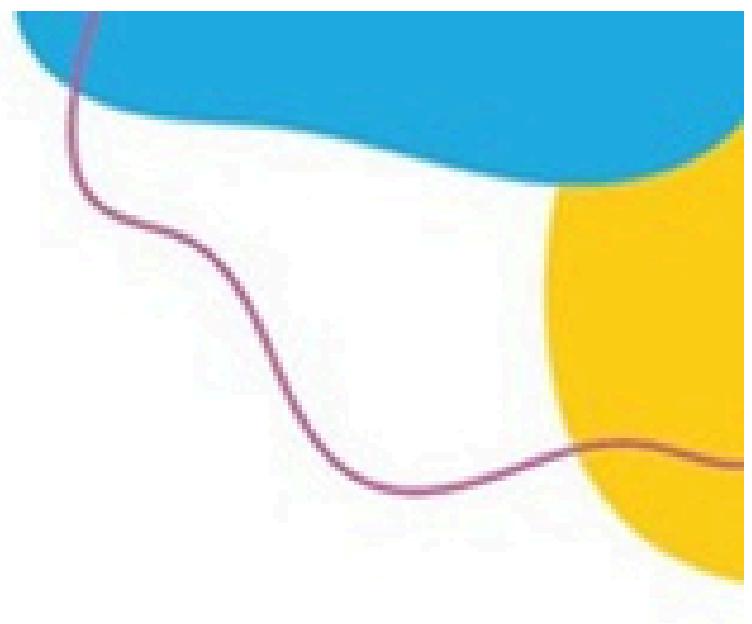
**Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.**

**MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.**

**Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.**



## Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



### Mood Boosters

Our mood can change, and this is completely normal. You may notice that sometimes you are feeling more tired than usual, maybe stressed or experiencing difficulties with schoolwork or friendships. Situations like these may cause you to feel a bit low, it can be really helpful to talk about these things with an adult, or someone you trust.

Whilst it is normal to feel this way at times, there are things we can do to **boost** our mood and help us to feel happier. By doing more of the things we love and value, or 'doing more of what matters', we can boost our mood. This helps us to feel less tired, have an increased sense of achievement, feel better about ourselves and have some fun!

#### Our tips for boosting your mood:

1. Have a look at the **BBC Moodboosters** video resources by scanning the QR code. There are a selection of videos to try, you could do these with a friend/ family member, with your class, or by yourself. But most importantly, have fun!
2. The **five ways to wellbeing** - can you challenge yourself to try one of these for each day over the next week! Watch the video on the QR code for more information.
  - **Connect** - Reach out to a friend/family member, listen to music that reminds you of happy memories, look at old photographs, or arrange activities with friends.
  - **Be Active** – Try different ways to get your body moving. You could dance, walk, skip, or hula hoop!
  - **Take Notice** - Spend time outside appreciating nature, maybe on your way to school or practise mindfulness
  - **Keep Learning** - Read a new book, watch a documentary, follow a new recipe, or learn a new language.
  - **Give** - Give someone you love a hug, hold the door open for the person behind you, or give your time to help others.



Five ways to wellbeing

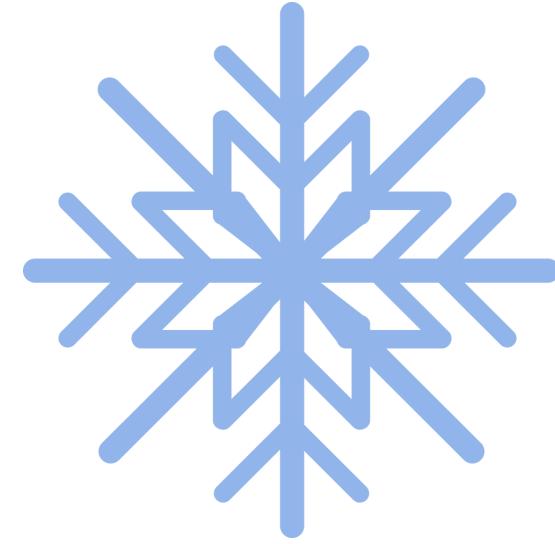
In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

# Safeguarding at GEA

## EDITION 3- Winter safety notices



### ***Ice Safety***

We remind both pupils and parents to be cautious of icy weather when out and about. Ice can be extremely dangerous and very deceiving.

It is incredibly dangerous to play or walk on any frozen bodies of water such as lakes and canals. The ice will not be thick enough to support a person standing on it and will often break suddenly without warning. The thickness of the ice can vary and the water underneath the ice poses a serious risk of injury or cold water shock if someone was to fall into it. West Midlands fire services urges young people to be heavily cautious around frozen lakes and canals and to keep clear of the waters edge.

Here is some safety advice for pupils from the West Midlands fire services:

- Stay well away from any frozen ponds, lakes, canals and rivers
- Keep clear of water edges which may also be icy and unstable
- Keep dogs on the lead around ice. If they do get on the ice **do not follow them out**, instead move to a position where the dog will be able to climb out and call them towards you.
- Call **999** and ask for the **Fire and Rescue Service** if someone falls into icy water — **do not attempt a rescue yourself** as it could lead to you falling in as well.

### ***Helpful Links***

**West Midlands Fire Service**  
**water safety**  
<https://www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/>

**Canal and river trust- winter water safety**  
<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/support-us/our-campaigns/safety-on-our-waterways/winter-water-safety>





## Railway Safety

While railways are a great source of transport they can also be very dangerous. Icy weather makes both platforms and tracks very dangerous.

Make sure you follow advice issued by the Network Rail:

- Always stay away from the platform edge and ensure you're behind the yellow safety lines when waiting for trains
- Never attempt to retrieve dropped items from tracks- instead inform railway staff.
- Allow plenty of time to get to your train, stations may be busy or slippery this time of year.

Trespassing on train tracks is **dangerous** and is a **criminal offence**. Certain parts of the railway, including stations, underpasses and level crossings, are open to the public. But if you step on the railway track, the land next to the track, or any area near the railway that isn't open to the public, you are trespassing. Even small segments of tracks can have live trains that may not be able to stop easily on icy tracks. Ensure you stay clear of tracks and **only ever use official level crossings to cross train tracks**, making sure the barriers are fully raised and the signals are off.

### ***Helpful Links***

#### ***Network Rail level crossing safety***

<https://www.networkrail.co.uk/who-we-are/safety-in-the-community/level-crossing-safety/using-level-crossings-safely/>

#### ***West Midlands railway safety advice***

<https://www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/onboard-facilities/safety-railway>



## **Pupil Wellbeing Booklet**

We are pleased to share our new **Pupil Wellbeing Booklet**, designed to support the emotional, mental and physical wellbeing of our pupils. The booklet brings together helpful information, guidance and signposting to support available both in school and beyond, helping pupils understand where they can turn for help and how to look after their wellbeing.

The booklet reflects our ongoing commitment to creating a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment where every pupil feels valued and listened to.

A digital copy is available below as well as on our school website under the Wellbeing Hub. Physical copies are also available from the school on request.

### **Pupil Wellbeing Booklet**

