



George Eliot Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

George Eliot Academy Parent Bulletin

May 2025

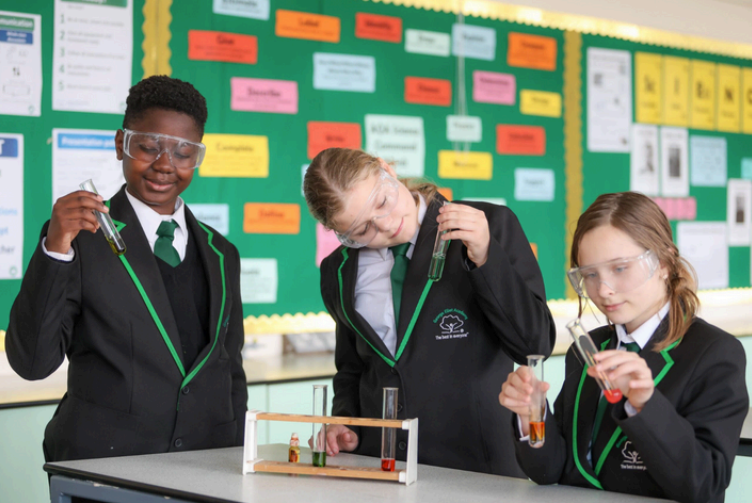


Self-Discipline

Tenacity

Ambition

Responsibility



A message from our Principal

Dear George Eliot Academy families,

As we head towards what will hopefully be a bright and sunny Summer half-term, I would like to extend my thanks to all of our families for their continued support of the school. This final term of the academic year is always filled with energy, achievement, and celebration—and 2025 is no exception!

Firstly, huge congratulations to our Year 11 pupils who have made an excellent start to their GCSE examinations. Their dedication, tenacity, and focus have been truly commendable, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have approached this important milestone.

Another heartfelt thank you goes out to our incredible PTA, headed up by Lorraine Lewis. This half term they have secured and installed outdoor gym equipment for pupils, as well as a beautiful peace garden. We will have an official launch soon with many photographs to share.

Looking ahead, our younger Year groups—Years 7, 8, 9, and 10—are preparing for their end-of-year assessments. These are valuable opportunities for pupils to reflect on their progress and showcase their learning. We know they will rise to the challenge with the same enthusiasm and determination they have shown all year.

We are also thrilled about the upcoming Year 7 residential team building trip. This is always a highlight of the summer term, offering pupils a chance to build friendships, develop confidence, and create lasting memories in a fun and supportive environment.

Other exciting events on the horizon include our much-anticipated Sports Day, where pupils will demonstrate their athletic talents and team spirit, and our Year 6 transition days, which help our newest pupils feel welcomed and ready for the journey ahead in secondary school.

Our PTA are also busy planning a very exciting Summer Fair for this year, more information to come soon.

With so much to look forward to—celebrations, trips, performances, and more—we are excited to make this term a memorable one for every member of our school community.

Thank you as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing all the successes and special moments of the summer term with you.

Warm regards,

Homeira Zakary
Principal
George Eliot Academy



Self-Discipline

Tenacity

Ambition

Responsibility



Contents Page

Date: May 2025

School/Community Information	Year Group Relevant To	Link
Welcome	All families	Click here
Pupil Achievements	All families	Click here
Paul Canoville Winners	All families	Click here
Race to the Line	All families	Click here
Mental Health Support - Exams	All families	Click here
Connect for Health	All families	Click here
Pupil Data Records Update	All families	Click here
Leave of Absence During Term Time - Update for Parents	All families	Click here
Community Notices	All families	Click here
Key Dates and Contact Us	All families	Click here

Pupil Achievements

A huge well done to Faith in Year 7 who smashed her ice skating competition during the Easter holidays, winning a bronze medal.

What an amazing achievement Faith, we are all very proud of you.

Well done!



Congratulations also go to Isabel in Year 10, who has had a string of TV appearances over the last couple of years in various performing roles.

For VE day, Isabel appeared in ITV's This Morning performing with the D-Day Juniors.



Following this, she attended a street party at Number 10 Downing Street where she performed a solo in the song Victorious, followed by an appearance on BBC Newsround.

Wow Isabel, what a busy day!

An amazing achievement. We cannot wait to see what the future holds.



[Return to contents page](#)

An Evening with Paul Canoville: A Celebration of Character and Community

An Evening with Paul Canoville, on the 5th May, was a celebration of the incredible achievements of our pupils and the growing partnership between The Paul Canoville Foundation and United Learning schools.

Hartshill Academy proudly hosted the event, welcoming pupils, parents, and colleagues from George Eliot Academy, Heath Lane Academy, and Nuneaton Academy.

As Education Partners, our schools shared the Foundation's core values of Allyship, Belonging, and Community—values that continue to underpin our efforts to develop the personal character of our young people.

Congratulations to our George Eliot Academy Winners: Peter, Jack, Imogen, Alfie and Jayden.

Founded in 2015 by former professional footballer Paul Canoville, The Paul Canoville Foundation has supported tens of thousands of children and young people each year, sharing Paul's powerful story of resilience, determination, and hope. His message continues to inspire and encourage young people to overcome challenges and believe in their potential.



[Return to contents page](#)

Race to the Line: Year 7 STEM Challenge

Our exciting Race to the Line event—a national, team-based STEM competition—recently showcased the creativity and engineering skills of our Year 7 pupils.

The challenge was to design and build the fastest rocket-powered car using a specific motor, then race it over a set distance. This was a thrilling way to bring science, technology, engineering, and maths to life, encouraging hands-on problem-solving.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Ivor King, every Year 7 pupil took part. In the lead-up, pupils explored real-world racing concepts like aerodynamics, forces, speed measurement, and distance-time graphs, inspired by Ferrari F1 resources and careers in Formula One. Working in teams of four, they applied their learning to design and build their own rocket cars.

The big race took place on April 30th in the Sports Hall, with Ivor King representatives in attendance. Pupils launched their CO₂-powered cars down a tethered track in a thrilling display of speed and innovation. The fastest teams now advance to the regional finals, proudly representing George Eliot Academy.

Certificates were awarded for the fastest cars and best designs in each class, with overall winners chosen by Ivor King. Their support and presence made this enriching experience possible.

Pupil feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

“It was fun working in a team and being creative.”

“It was great linking lessons to real-life careers like Formula One.”

“An inspirational and fun activity.”

“Meeting scientists and hearing about their careers was really interesting.”

Ivor King representatives added:

“Great enthusiasm from staff and pupils—Year 7, you were fantastic!”

“A well-organised and very successful event!”

Congratulations to all our Year 7 pupils for their creativity, teamwork, and engineering brilliance. Best of luck to our finalists in the regional competition!



[Return to contents page](#)



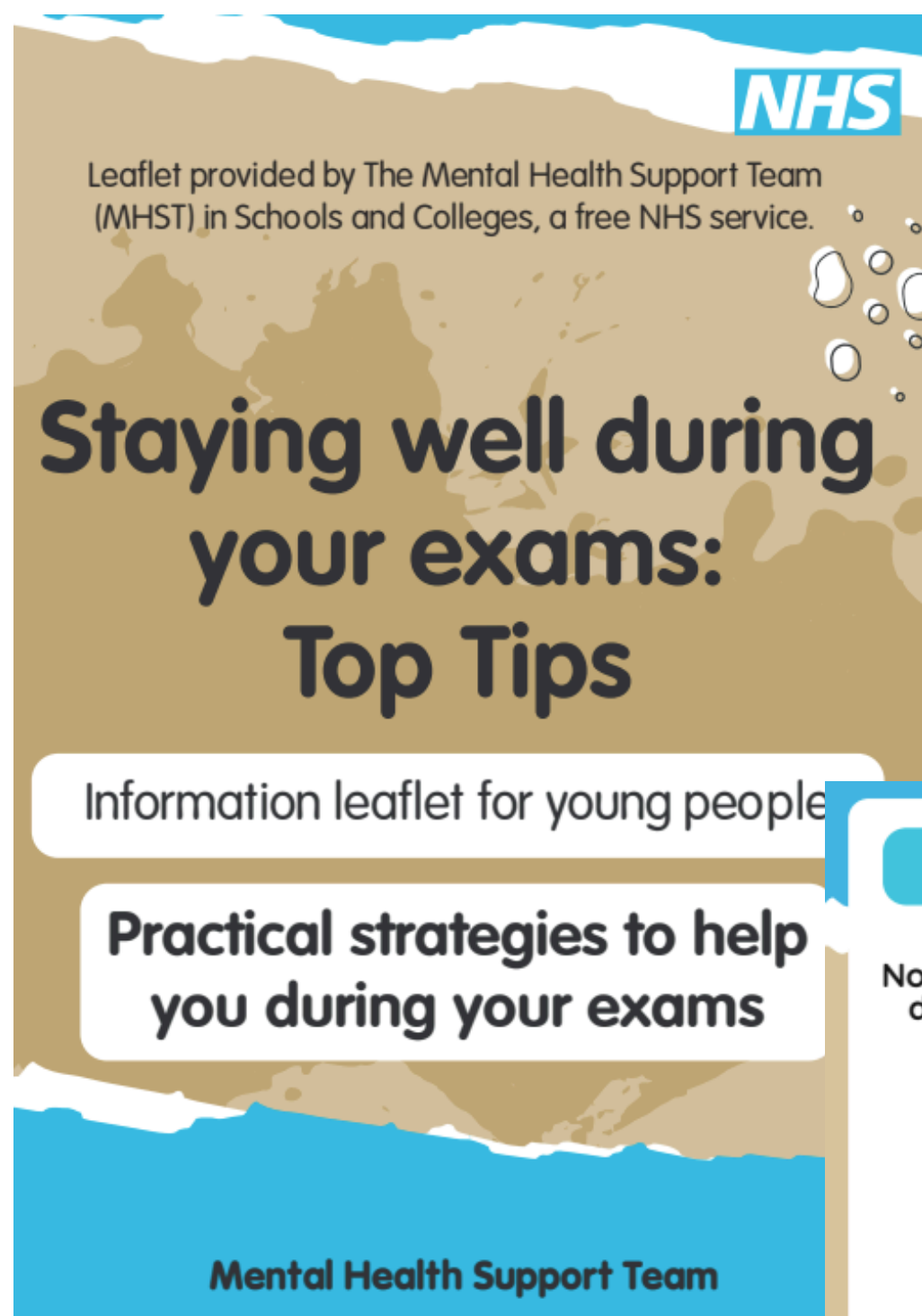
Mental Health Support Team

Staying well during your examinations: Top Tips

The Mental Health Support Team has provided a comprehensive and supportive guide for all pupils dealing with potential stress during the examination season.

This is useful for our Year 11 pupils completing their GCSE examinations, or our younger years preparing for their end of year assessments.

You can download the full leaflet here: [CLICK HERE](#)



Top Tip 1

Notice signs of stress during exam time. What are your warning signs?



- dizziness
- headaches
- trouble sleeping
- acne or spots
- clenched jaw or grinding teeth
- tense muscles
- heart beats faster
- overeating or loss of appetite
- moodiness or irritability
- back pain
- fingers feel numb and tingly
- nail biting
- skin rash
- sweaty hands
- breathing harder and faster
- nervous or upset stomach or nausea
- body feels weak
- achy legs

Top Tip 2

Remember the reason for your signs of stress.

Fight *flight* *FREEZE*



Remember that you are safe!

Find out more!




SCAN ME

Top Tip 3

Practise and choose a breathing, grounding or calming technique that works for you.

Finger Breathing

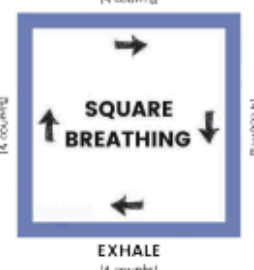


5 4 3 2 1
RIGHT NOW

54321

5 Things I Can See
4 Things I Can Feel
3 Things I Can Hear
2 Things I Can Smell
1 Deep Breath


Square Breathing



Can you notice...


- 5 things that are red
- 4 things that are orange
- 3 things that are yellow
- 2 things that are green
- 1 thing that is blue

TIPP




Temperature

Change your body temperature. Splash your face with cold water, hold an ice cube, or take a cold shower.




Intense Exercise

Do intense exercise to match your intense emotion. Sprint to the end of the street, do jumping jacks or push ups.



Paced Breathing

Try 'Square Breathing.' Continue until you feel more calm.



Paired Muscle Relaxation

Focus on one muscle group at a time. Tighten your muscles as much as possible for 5 seconds. Then release and relax. Repeat with other muscle groups.

[Return to contents page](#)



Connect for Health

Connect for Health are coming into school on the below dates and will be in The Mill and Canteen area at lunchtimes. They will have display boards and information for pupils to access during social time and professionals that they can connect with.

3rd June- Sexual health/Contraception, in the Mill for Years 9,10,11

10th June- Anxiety, in the Mill for Years 9,10,11

17th June- Healthy Eating, in the Canteen for Years 7 and 8

24th June- Social Media, in the Canteen for Years 7 and 8.

<https://compass-uk.org/services/c4h/>



[Return to contents page](#)



Attendance and Absences

To comply with the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024 and Data Protection expectations, it is vitally important that George Eliot Academy keeps accurate and up to date information relating to every pupil on roll.

The information we are required to record includes:

- Pupil's full legal name (and if appropriate, their preferred name).
- The name, address and contact details of every person known to the school/academy who is a parent* to the pupil with whom the pupil normally resides (this is the address that has been used to register with their GP).
- The name, address and contact details of any additional parent*.
- Any other emergency contact details.

In order to gather this information, every year we send out data collection forms. Parents are asked to complete the form with as much information as possible and then return to the school, signed and dated. We would ask that even where there are no amendments to the data collection sheet, parents return the form, signed and dated.

George Eliot Academy requests that if you change your contact number, move home or there are any other circumstances which may impact your child, the school is notified as a priority.

N.B. *The Education Act 1996 defines a 'parent' as a). any natural parent, whether married or not, b). any parent who, although not a natural parent, has parental responsibility as defined in the Children Act (1989) for a child or young person c). any person who, although not a natural parent, has care of a child or young person.

[Return to contents page](#)



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Supreme Court has clarified the law on unauthorised leave, including holidays, during term time (Platt v Isle of Wright 2017). The Supreme Court has made clear that attending school 'regularly' means that the children must attend school on every day that they are required to do so. As such, the parents of any child who is absent from school without authorisation for any length of time are likely to be considered as committing an offence under s444 of the Education Act 1996.

The law states a leave of absence may only be granted by a school if an application is made in advance and if it considers there are exceptional circumstances relating to the application.

Schools must judge each application individually considering the specific facts and circumstances and relevant background context behind each request.

A leave of absence is granted entirely at the school's discretion. Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.

Where a leave of absence is granted, the school will determine the number of days a pupil can be absent from school.

When making an application for Leave of Absence parents are advised to give sufficient information and time to allow the Head teacher the opportunity to consider all the exceptional circumstances and to notify parents of their decision. The school may also request further information on the application and supporting documentation where appropriate.

It is advised that if the resident parent has not received notification or a response regarding the leave of absence application, it is the parents' responsibility to ascertain if the leave is authorised prior to the start of the leave.

The school can only consider Leave of Absence requests which are made by the 'resident' parent ie the parent with whom the child normally resides.

Where applications for leave of absence are made in advance and refused, the child is expected to be in school on the dates set out in the application. If the child is absent during that period, it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Where a leave of absence is requested, but additional days taken either prior to or after the request may be considered as part of the leave of absence.

Leave of Absences which are not made in advance cannot be authorised in line with legislation. This will result in the absence being recorded as 'unauthorised'.

All matters of unauthorised absence relating to a Leave of Absence will be referred to the Warwickshire Attendance Service, part of Warwickshire County Council. Penalty Notices are issued in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Penalty Notices and in the first instance, as an alternative to prosecution proceedings.

[Return to contents page](#)



LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING TERM TIME

UPDATED INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Leave of Absence taken in the academic year 2024-25

The law relating to Penalty Notices changed with effect from 19 August 2024. Therefore, Penalty Notices issued for Leave of Absence taken from September 2024 will be issued in accordance with the updated legislation.

- Penalty Notices are issued to each parent of each absent child, (for example 2 children and 2 parents, means each parent will receive 2 invoices – 4 in total).
 - First Leave of Absence offence: The Penalty Notice amount of £160 to be paid within 28 days, this is reduced to £80 for each child if paid within 21 days.
 - Second Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): The amount of £160 paid within 28 days. No reduced amount.
- Payment plans will not be offered and/or payments received outside of the 28 day period will not be accepted. Where a penalty notice remains unpaid the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider criminal prosecution.
- Third Leave of Absence offence within a 3 year period (from the date of issue of the first penalty notice): Penalty notices will not be issued and the matter will be referred to Warwickshire County Council's Legal Services to consider instigating criminal prosecution proceedings under S444 of Education Act 1996.

Your child's progress academically as well as socially is our shared priority.

[Return to contents page](#)



Community notices



Polite reminder - parking

Please be reminded that parking around the school at pick up time is very limited and a number of residents have mentioned their cars are being blocked in and there is reduced visibility because of cars parked on corners and around the island.

Please can we ask all parents to be extra considerate of parking during collection time.

Donations

Could we please kindly ask that parents consider donating any of the below items which can be used to support families that may need support through our PTA uniform shop or other avenues:

- Any uniform in good condition but no longer required - Uniform and PE kit.
- Any coats that are still in good and wearable condition.
- Any boxed games, chess sets, board games etc that our pupils can use during lunch breaks.

All and any donations are very gratefully recieved.



Parent Information Session

A big thank you to PC Lee Marsden and all of the parents and families who attended our parental information session about County Lines.

It was a really informative and interesting session.

Watch this space for upcoming sessions.

[Return to contents page](#)

Key Dates

5th June: Poland Trip parent meeting

20th June: Year 10 Orbyts conference

24th June: Coach Bright graduation

30th June - 4th July: Poland Trip

2nd and 3rd July: Year 6 Transition Days

7th - 9th July: Year 7 residential

11th July: Sports Day, school closed to all pupils at 1.30pm

15th July: PTA Summer Fair

Contact Us

To visit our new look website: [Click here](#)

To see our home school communication chart and contact links for the school: [Click here](#)

To follow our social media channels, please click on the below icons.



[Return to contents page](#)