



George Eliot Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Parent Bulletin

February 2026

ECOSYSTEM

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

There are two types of ecosystem: 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.



Self-Discipline

Tenacity

Ambition

Responsibility



Farewell and Best Wishes to Miss Lucy Havard

After ten years of exceptional dedication to the pupils, families and community of George Eliot Academy, we share both pride and warm wishes as we announce that Miss Havard left the school at the end of Spring half term 1.

While we are truly sad to see her go, we are equally excited for the new chapter ahead, as Lucy expands her career and returns to her home town to be closer to her family and friends. This move marks an important step for her professionally and personally, and we are delighted that she is embracing such a positive opportunity.

During her decade of service, Lucy has made a profound difference to countless pupils and parents, particularly through her outstanding pastoral and behaviour work. Her commitment to supporting young people, whether through guidance, care, or steadfast belief in their potential, has enriched the lives of many and helped shape the caring, inclusive ethos that defines our school.

Lucy's journey at George Eliot Academy has been remarkable. She has grown through a series of leadership roles, from Head of Subject, to Assistant Principal, to Vice Principal. At each stage, she has shown integrity, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for young people.

We are incredibly proud to see her continue to grow as she steps into her new role, which will see her utilise and expand the skills she has developed, and we know she will bring the same dedication and excellence to this next stage of her career.

On behalf of our staff, pupils, parents, and the wider school community, we thank Lucy for her outstanding contributions over the past ten years.

She will always be part of George Eliot Academy family, and we wish her every success and happiness for the future.



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Careers Council

This piece has been produced by members of George Eliot Academy Careers Council. Each pupil has detailed different aspects of their role. The Careers Council is proud to support and promote careers initiatives across the school.

In Careers Council, we have many important responsibilities. We help to improve careers education across the school by giving feedback and sharing ideas in meetings. We also speak in assemblies and support events such as the school Careers Fair, where we help set up tables and talk to visiting employers.

Another key part of our role is visiting different form groups to promote opportunities, such as the Dig Data work experience with Google and the Dunelm work experience. We design posters, spread the word, and make sure pupils know about important careers information and deadlines. Overall, we work together to improve careers education in our school and ensure pupils are aware of the many opportunities available to them.

– Kara H, Year 9

I wanted to join Careers Council because I have a strong interest in careers and future pathways. Since joining, I have developed valuable skills such as hosting external visitors, speaking to pupils in form groups, attending careers meetings, and taking part in work experience opportunities. Being part of the Council has helped me build confidence and leadership skills, and I am excited for what is still to come.

– Sam A, Year 7

Aside from Careers Council, our lessons also include thinking about future careers. For example, I am interested in science and programming. Lessons such as Maths, Science and Technology have encouraged me to think of creative solutions and approaches to problem-solving. I found that our Careers Fair also helped me learn about different professions.

– Elsa D, Year 8

My primary aspiration for the future is to become an intelligence officer. I have used Unifrog to research the role and it has given me greater insight. Intelligence officers collect and evaluate information to identify threats to a country. Although the role is generally office-based, they may travel and work from other locations. Subjects like History, Maths and Languages would be useful for me to study. This career fascinates me, and I know that developing my problem-solving, communication and technology skills would help me succeed in this role.

– Megan G, Year 8

Careers education helps us connect our interests to future opportunities. For me, swimming inspires me because it pushes me to be resilient, ambitious and determined to reach higher levels, even competing nationally one day. It also opens career pathways such as becoming a lifeguard or a swim teacher. I already help younger children learn to swim, which shows how hobbies can link to future jobs. My teachers know this is a passion of mine and often talk to me about it, taking an interest in my ambitions.

– Matthew, Year 10



Careers Council continued

Our role within the Careers Council includes promoting careers and encouraging pupils to think about their future pathways early in their school life. We have helped to organise and support careers fairs where colleges, universities, and employers share information about what they offer. We also remind pupils about key dates and opportunities, including work experience programmes.

In the future, we hope to deliver more assemblies for all year groups to keep pupils informed about their options and choices. Being part of the Careers Council is a great opportunity because it gives us insight into leadership, allows us to meet inspiring careers professionals, and helps us make informed decisions about our own futures.

– Jenna P, Year 9

Mock interviews are another important part of careers education. These are practice job interviews designed to prepare pupils for the real world. During a mock interview, pupils are asked about their strengths and weaknesses, future interests, and skills gained both in and outside of school. Afterwards, they receive feedback on what went well and how they can improve.

Although mock interviews can be nerve-racking, especially for Year 10, they are extremely helpful. They make the future feel more real and give pupils a glimpse of independence and adulthood. Hosting employers from external companies means pupils gain experience speaking to professionals they may not know, which builds confidence and develops our STAR values: self-discipline, tenacity, ambition and responsibility.

– Krish D, Year 10



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GEORGE ELIOT ACADEMY INSTALLS SOLAR PANELS TO ROOF

*~ Installation of rooftop solar panels inspires pupils to learn more about sustainability ~
~ Pupils take part in site walk-around with project manager to learn more ~*

George Eliot Academy has begun the exciting project of installing solar panels to its roofs, marking a major milestone in the school's sustainability journey.

Working with eEnergy and programme manager Mace Consult, the school will install the solar panel system across all four of the school's buildings. The system is expected to generate around a third of the school's annual electricity needs, bringing more energy independence at a lower cost to the environment.

This week, 15 pupils were selected to take part in a special walk-around of the site with a talk from the project manager. In doing so, they were able to get a closer look at the technology, gain better understanding of how the solar panel system will power the school, and also about what goes into delivering energy projects.

The project has also seen pupils benefit in the classroom. Cutting across energy, climate change and sustainability, pupils will be able to access live performance data from the solar panels and other technologies that can be used in lessons across science, maths, geography and citizenship. The school will also be offering a 'Green Careers' talk later in the term for pupils to find out more about jobs in energy and sustainability.

This project is part of the Great British Energy Solar Partnership (GBESP), funded by Great British Energy and the UK government, and is delivered with the Department for Education to help schools generate their own power and reinvest savings back into education. George Eliot Academy is one of just 72 schools across the Midlands selected to take part in this initiative.

"We are proud to be taking meaningful action towards a greener future, reducing our environmental impact and championing sustainable energy within our local community. This investment reflects our long-term commitment to protecting the environment and supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future." **Mrs H Zakary, Principal**



Youth Parliament

Our Youth Parliament representatives attended their second meeting which had a focus on community safety. As well as conversations with Jodie Gosling MP, during the meeting pupils got to put forward their questions to representatives from Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Police, Stagecoach and Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.





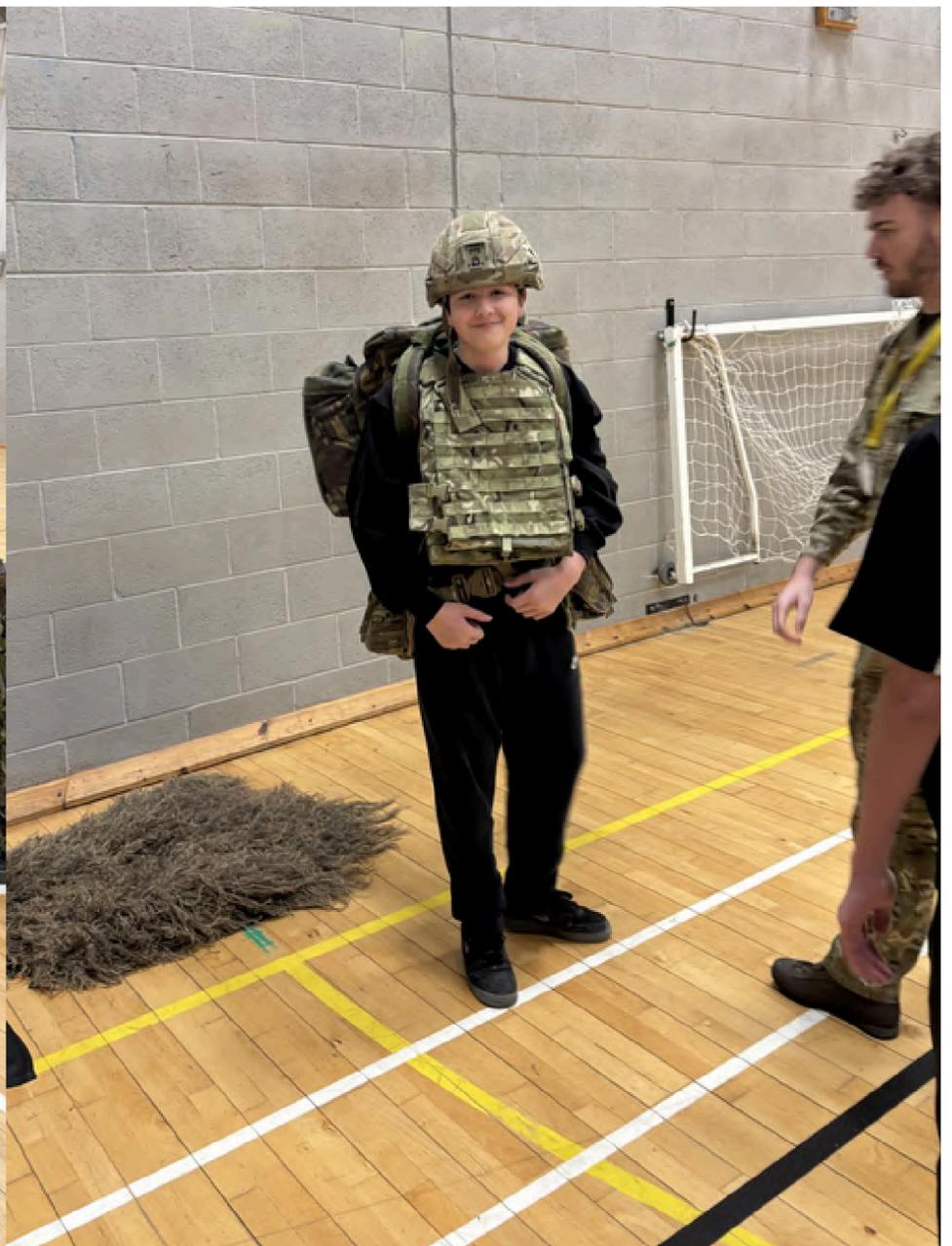
Army Careers Day

We recently hosted an Army Outreach Day for 40 pupils from Years 9 and 10, designed to develop teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills while also broadening pupils' awareness of future career pathways.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of practical, hands-on activities that challenged them to work collaboratively, communicate effectively, and think strategically under pressure. The tasks encouraged leadership, cooperation, and confidence, with pupils demonstrating excellent engagement and enthusiasm.

The session concluded with an informative careers presentation delivered by two serving Army personnel, who shared their personal experiences and career journeys. Pupils gained valuable insight into the variety of roles available within the Army, including an Artillery Officer and an Army Police Officer, helping them to better understand the diverse opportunities and pathways on offer.

The event was highly positive, with pupils responding well to both the practical challenges and the careers guidance, making it an engaging and inspiring day for all involved.





Rag2Riches Clothing Collection

GEA PTA needs your help to raise money for our school to go towards an outdoor reading area.

We are hosting a clothing collection with Rags 2 Riches 4 Schools.

Do you have clothes in your wardrobe that you no longer wear, maybe last year's fashions, or that buy that was too good to leave but it's not really you after all?

Please help us fundraise by donating your **good quality unwanted, re-useable (clean, dry and wearable) clothes and accessories** (please pair and tie shoes together).

Your donations are going directly to support people in Ukraine,

So please do not send poor quality, dirty or wet items, and no duvets, pillows, curtains, books, CDs or bric-a-brac.

STOP and THINK - is it something you would wear out and about yourself or pass to a friend? If not, no-one else will want to wear it either, so unfortunately, it is not reusable and cannot go in the bag.

Even if it is only one t-shirt please bring it in, as it will all help our school.
If you can involve family, friends and neighbours please do.

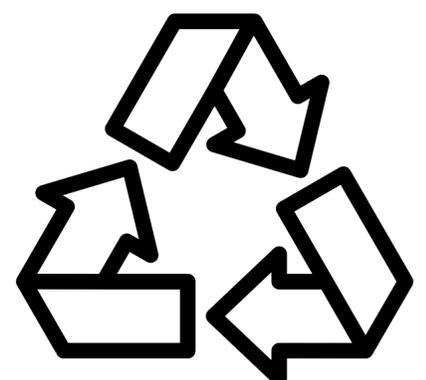
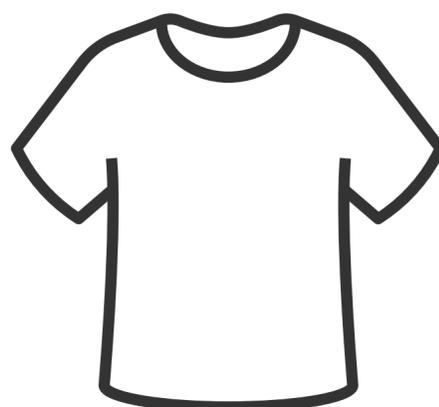
We truly appreciate your support in helping raise additional funds for our school for the benefit of our pupils.

There's no better feeling than knowing you raised funds, helped the economy, the environment, and somebody on the other side of the world – and all by donating some clothes.

If we can fill 100 bags we will have half a tonne!

**Please bring your donations to school:
by 9.00am on Friday 6th March 2026**

Thank You



Year 9 PSHE Day – McPhillips Careers Workshop

As part of their wider PSHE Careers Day, Year 9 pupils took part in a range of sessions designed to broaden their understanding of the world of work. One of these sessions was an engaging workshop delivered by McPhillips, offering valuable insight into careers within construction and civil engineering.

Across the 50-minute interactive session, pupils explored a variety of job roles in the sector and heard from McPhillips staff about their own career journeys. The workshop emphasised the ambition required to pursue opportunities within the industry and the different pathways available, including apprenticeships and further study.

Pupils demonstrated great self-discipline as they engaged with the presentation, participated in discussions, and asked thoughtful questions. The real-life stories shared by the visiting team also highlighted the importance of tenacity, showing how persistence and determination can shape successful careers.

The session encouraged pupils to think about their own future aspirations and the responsibility involved in preparing for life beyond school. It was a highly valuable contribution to a day full of diverse learning experiences.

We extend our thanks to McPhillips for supporting our PSHE programme and helping our pupils explore the world of work through the lens of our school values.





Year 9 PSHE Day continued

Our recent Year 9 PSHE Careers Day was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to explore the world of work, discover their strengths, and reflect on the kind of people they aspire to become. The day was designed not only to support pupils with practical careers guidance, but also to develop key character traits such as confidence, resilience, responsibility, and ambition.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a series of interactive workshops, each aimed at preparing them for future choices while building important life skills.

Highlights of the Day:

Writing a CV

Pupils learned how to create a professional CV, identifying their achievements, personal qualities, and experiences. This encouraged them to be reflective and take pride in their developing skills.

Taking Control of Career Choices

This session allowed pupils to think proactively about their futures. They explored different pathways, considered what motivates them, and learned the importance of taking ownership of their decisions.

Exploring Unifrog

Pupils were introduced to Unifrog, a careers platform that helps them investigate job sectors, compare courses, and track their own progress. Becoming familiar with this tool enables pupils to develop curiosity, organisation, and long-term planning skills.

What Are My Skills?

Pupils identified personal strengths such as communication, teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving. Recognising and valuing these skills helps pupils develop self-awareness, a key aspect of character education.

Working and Earning

Pupils gained an understanding of the world of work. This session supported the development of practical wisdom and responsible decision-making.

A Day That Builds Confidence and Character

The Careers Day offered Year 9 pupils the chance to deepen their understanding of the opportunities ahead and to reflect on the values and attributes they will need as they grow. By combining careers education with character development, the day helped pupils develop the confidence, resilience, and motivation necessary for life beyond the classroom.

Pupils engaged positively throughout and left feeling more informed, empowered, and ready to shape their own futures.



Year 10 PSHE Careers day

Our Year 10 PSHE Careers Day offered pupils an invaluable opportunity to deepen their understanding of life after Year 11 and to reflect on the values and character traits they will need as they take their next steps. The day combined practical careers education with personal development, helping pupils build confidence, resilience, ambition, and a sense of responsibility for their own futures. Pupils took part in a series of engaging and informative workshops designed to broaden their horizons and give them the tools to plan effectively for the years ahead.

Post-16 Options

Pupils explored a range of post-16 pathways, including A-levels, T-levels, apprenticeships, and vocational routes. This session encouraged them to think carefully about their goals, strengths, and aspirations—building maturity and independence as they begin making informed choices about their next stage.

Volunteering and Paid Work

This session focused on the value of gaining experience through volunteering or part-time employment. Pupils learned how these opportunities build character, develop teamwork and communication skills, and strengthen future applications for college, apprenticeships, and jobs.

CV Writing

Pupils learnt how to present themselves professionally and confidently. This helped them recognise their achievements and understand how to communicate their strengths effectively.

Personal Statements

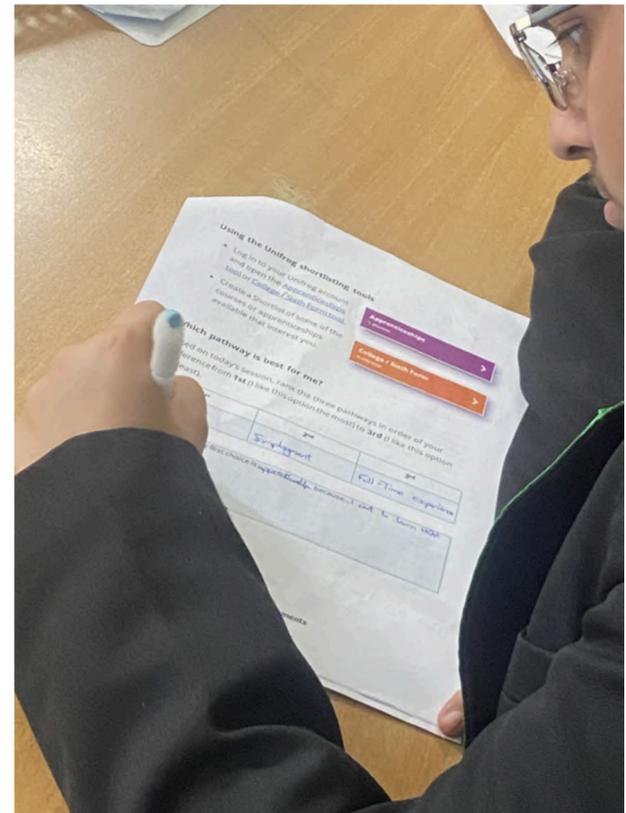
In this session, pupils began drafting personal statements for college or apprenticeship applications. They reflected on their experiences, ambitions, and personal qualities—developing self-awareness and taking responsibility for shaping their own narratives.

Employability Skills

Pupils explored what employers look for, including reliability, initiative, problem-solving, communication, and resilience. They were able to reflect on their own personal skills and how this may help them in the future.

Unifrog

Pupils used the system to research courses and explore careers sectors.





Year 10 PSHE day- Superhero CV Writing and Mock Interviews

As part of our Year 10 Careers PSHE Day, pupils took part in an engaging session delivered by McPhillips, based on their “Superhero CV Writing and Mock Interviews” workshop. The presentation encouraged pupils to explore their own strengths by analysing superhero traits and connecting these to real-world roles in the construction industry, such as engineering, planning and site management.

Through team activities, pupils identified key workplace skills, reliability, teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving and used them to create their own “superhero job pitches.” This interactive task helped them see how their personal qualities can translate into future career opportunities.

The workshop naturally reinforced our STAR values. Pupils showed Self-Discipline in organising their ideas, Tenacity when tackling unfamiliar job roles, and Ambition as they imagined the paths their skills could open. Discussions around professional behaviour and safety highlighted the importance of Responsibility in the workplace.

To conclude, pupils used the STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) technique to reflect on their experiences and learn how to present their strengths in CVs and interviews—preparing them confidently for life beyond Year 11.



Valentines Cake Competition

Well done to all of the valentine cake competition entrants. With so many wonderful cakes it was a really difficult decision.

Congratulations to A Farmer in Year 11 for producing the most delicious and well-presented cake.





The Hive At Valentines

The Hive has once again been stocked up with delicious goodies and Valentines themed gifts for pupils to purchase. The Hive is a brilliant shop for pupils and all purchases made from the Hive go directly towards funding rewards for pupils.





Disney Trip

Our pupils recently enjoyed an unforgettable adventure to the most magical place on earth, Disneyland!

As part of this incredible experience, pupils took part in a dynamic and interactive maths seminar, where they explored real-world problem-solving through exciting Disney-themed scenarios. From analysing ride mechanics to exploring the maths behind theme-park design, it was a learning opportunity like no other.

Of course, no trip to Disneyland would be complete without some time to soak up the magic! Pupils spent the rest of the day exploring the park, enjoying world-famous attractions, meeting beloved characters, and experiencing the wonder that makes Disneyland truly special.

It was a trip filled with learning, laughter and lifelong memories, an experience our pupils will never forget.





Quantum Theatre Performances

Our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have been treated to not one, but two wonderful performances of classic texts by Quantum Theatre. Pupils enjoyed watching performances of A Christmas Carol and Macbeth, both texts they study for GCSE.

This is the third consecutive year that Quantum have performed for our pupils, with the performances bringing to life the English Literature texts that they study.



The Riot Act – Year 9 Performance on Road Safety, Character & Making Positive Choices

Year 9 pupils were recently visited by The Riot Act, a dynamic theatre-in-education group known for delivering high-impact performances on important topics affecting young people.

Their latest production focused on three key themes: road safety, character, and making the right choices.

The interactive session combined live drama, real-life scenarios, and discussion to help pupils understand how the decisions they make today can have lasting consequences. Through a storyline and relatable characters, the performance highlighted the everyday pressures and challenges young people face, particularly around peer influence, responsibility, and staying safe on and around the roads.

Pupils were encouraged to reflect on how their actions can affect not only themselves but also their friends, families, and wider community.

The session concluded with a powerful message: good character is shown through the choices we make, especially when the right choice is not the easiest one. Staff noted that the Year 9 cohort were fully engaged throughout and left with a clearer understanding of how to navigate difficult situations safely and responsibly.

Overall, the visit was a valuable and impactful experience, reinforcing key life skills and supporting our ongoing commitment to personal development and pupil wellbeing.





Vibrant Voices Shine at Heart of England Music Hub's First 'Breaking Barriers' Conference

The school's choir, Vibrant Voices, took centre stage last week as they were invited to take part in a special workshop at the Heart of England Music Hub's first-ever Music Education Conference, themed "Breaking Barriers." Held in front of teachers, leaders and music specialists from across the region, the event celebrated inclusive, inspiring, and innovative approaches to music education, and our pupils played a starring role.

As part of the workshop, Vibrant Voices opened the session by demonstrating a range of warm-up techniques, showcasing how vocal preparation supports confident and healthy singing. They were then joined by a visiting primary choir from Fordbridge Community School, Solihull, for a collaborative rehearsal led by Hub specialists which included our own Head of Music Ms Hewitt. Together, the two choirs learnt and refined three uplifting songs, filling the venue with energy, teamwork, and impressive musicianship.

The workshop concluded with a live performance for all conference delegates, where the combined choirs delivered a polished and heartfelt rendition of the newly rehearsed pieces. Their singing was met with warm applause and praise from staff and attendees alike, many of whom commented on the pupils' enthusiasm, focus, and talent.

Throughout the day, our pupils embodied the school's STAR values; their professionalism, dedication, and exemplary conduct made them a credit to themselves and the school community. Vibrant Voices continue to grow in confidence and skill, and their participation in such a landmark event highlights the exciting opportunities available through our thriving music programme. We look forward to seeing where their voices take them next.





Year 9 Food Masterclass

Our Year 9 Food Technology masterclass sessions have been held afterschool turning our eager pupils into culinary experts. The sessions have been introducing key GCSE culinary techniques to Year 9 pupils ahead of their options choices later in the term, as well as supporting life skills for cooking at home.





Kooth Assembly on Exam Stress

This week, Year 11 pupils took part in an assembly led by Kooth, an online mental-health and wellbeing service for young people. The session focused on understanding exam stress and introduced pupils to practical strategies for managing pressure as they move closer to their GCSEs.

Pupils were also shown how Kooth can support them with free, safe, and confidential resources, such as wellbeing articles, self-help tools, and access to trained practitioners.

We hope the session helps reassure pupils during this busy period. If your child feels they need further support, they are encouraged to speak to a member of the pastoral team or explore Kooth's services.





Year 11 Prom

A reminder for Year 11 prom.

Prom takes place on **Friday 19th June 2026** from **7pm-11pm** at the **Hilton Hotel, Walsgrave.**

VIP tickets are already on sale for those pupils who are meeting 96% attendance. For all pupils, tickets will be on sale starting **Monday 9th March.**

Letters have been sent out to all parents.

Please see Mrs. Sandhu for more information.

Year 11
Prom Tickets
VIP SALE

For pupils who are meeting 96% attendance

Tickets on sale Monday 9th February

Letters will be out this week
See Mrs Sandhu for more information

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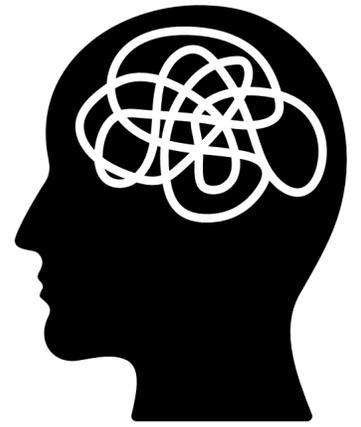
Safeguarding at GEA

EDITION 4- Exam Preparation and stress management

Exam Preparations

Preparation helps ensure you feel the very best you can when facing exams. Its not just about revising as much as you can, its also about taking care of yourself and managing stress. Try using some of these tips for pre exam preparations.

- Plan revision around an **easy to follow and realistic timetable** – aim for 2-3 hours a day broken into manageable chunks with lots of downtime and some rewards.
- Set a plan that works for you and remember people learn in different ways! **Make your own revision materials.** Instead of just trying to memorise notes, try making flash cards, voice recordings or mind maps... you could even write a song or poem.
- **Organise your workspace.** Where you work is important, if you're in a stressful environment, it is inevitable that the stress will rub off on you. Find somewhere light and calm where you can spread out and get organised.
- **Look after your physical health** – take some exercise, get fresh air, drink lots of water and get plenty of sleep.
- **Eat!** We don't perform well when we're hungry, so no matter how nervous you are, eat a balanced breakfast. Avoid sugary foods like chocolate, this will give you a sudden burst of energy but may cause you to crash during the exam. If your exam is in the afternoon, make sure you eat a decent balanced lunch before that too.
- **Limit screen time, particularly at night-time,** try to put phones and tablets down and come off-line 45 minutes before bed.
- Continue to **keep some time aside to do the things you enjoy,** such as sport, hobbies and seeing your friends. It is good to take time to reward yourself for your time spent revising.
- **Talk to other people you trust about how you are feeling such as friends, family and teachers.** They can support you and work with you through any concerns.
- **Reflect on all you've learned** to try and sum up all you've been doing so far and how you will be able to demonstrate knowledge.
- Remember **not to be too hard on yourself.** Be the best you can be, that is all you can do. If it doesn't work out, remember that it's not the end of the world.



School Counsellor

Our school counsellor is available from 8am everyday

Referrals can be made by emailing Sarah.farrer@georgeeliotacademy.org.uk

Our School counsellor, Sarah Farrer, is a person centered counsellor providing a safe warm and non judgmental environment needed for change. She does not provide advice or guidance but explores pupils inner world, so they find their own answers, tools, and resources.

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

Exam Stress Support

Exam stress can feel lonely and a heavy load to carry, but you don't have to tackle it alone. Lots of young people find exams difficult and it's okay to need support.

Do not hold it all in – try talking to someone about what's on your mind. If someone knows you feel stressed, they can have your back, encourage you and listen when you need them to. It could be a friend, family member, carer, community/faith leader, teacher, or anyone else you trust. You do not have to go through this alone.

Helpful Links

[Help Your Child Manage Exam Stress \(NHS Advice\):](https://www.nhs.uk)
<https://www.nhs.uk>

[Education and Exam Support:](http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education)
www.warwickshire.gov.uk/education

[Young Mind's guide for exam stress](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/)
<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

[Advice from Dr Sheila Redfern, Child & Adolescent Psychologist \(How to manage stress at important moments\):](#)

Watch the video: Dr Sheila Redfern gives advice on managing stress at important moments

[Parent Toolkit: Mental Health Difficulties in Children and Young People](#)