

Dear parents and carers

It feels like only a short time ago that we began this academic year, yet we now find ourselves entering the final five weeks of term.

It has been a positive and productive year, although not without its challenges. As a sector, we are facing some of the most significant changes in education for over a decade, and we will endeavour to keep parents fully informed as these developments begin to impact our school and students. The forthcoming curriculum and assessment reforms, alongside the SEND White Paper, will undoubtedly bring changes to aspects of school life.

Thank you to all parents who took the time to complete our recent survey. We have been overwhelmed by the strength of positive support that shines through your responses. At the same time, we recognise that there are some misconceptions we need to address, alongside genuine areas for improvement, including our KS3 homework provision and ensuring consistent communication. Once we have had time to fully analyse all responses, including student feedback, I will write again with a more detailed update.

There is still much to celebrate and look forward to this term. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are now approaching the final stages of their examinations, and we wish them every success. We are also looking forward to celebrating our Year 11 Prom and Year 13 Leavers' Party—two very special occasions. These events are always filled with a real mix of emotions: pride in all that has been achieved, sadness at saying goodbye, and excitement for what lies ahead. It is a privilege to see our young people step into the next stage of their lives, and we look forward to watching them continue to grow, thrive and be successful in whatever paths they choose.

Achievement assemblies and auction assemblies will, as always, be moments of great pride as we recognise the contributions and successes of our students.

You will see in this bulletin a staffing update, following enhancements to our leadership structure to support our ongoing work with Haydon Bridge High School. Alongside this, we are working across the trust to

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establish priorities for next year, while also reviewing this year carefully to ensure we are fully prepared for a strong start in September.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students and their families later this term. Their energy and enthusiasm bring so much to the school community. We will also be hosting our Year 5 "Experience the Exceptional" evenings, and we are excited to showcase all that William Howard School has to offer. Despite a change in local demographics, we are pleased to have a full intake for September, enabling us to continue offering a broad and balanced curriculum alongside a strong extra-curricular programme.

After a competitive interview process, we have just chosen our new Head Students. Max Foster and Morven Yerbury are our new Head Students and Lydia Sabuda and Liam Hetherington are our new deputy head students. I look forward to working closely with them next year to drive improvements across the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie, Isabella, Evie and Iona for their exceptional contribution in these roles this year—they have been outstanding ambassadors for the school.



In the classroom, we remain fully committed to maintaining high-quality learning experiences right through to the end of term. Looking ahead, we will be further developing student leadership opportunities to help drive the quality of learning across the school, recognising the invaluable insight our students bring.

Over the coming weeks, students will also benefit from a wide range of trips and visits. We wish all of our international travellers safe journeys and a fantastic experience. I would like to extend my thanks to our staff, whose dedication and willingness to go above and beyond make these opportunities possible.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Your faithfully



**Kath Pigdon,
Headteacher**

**Please do take the time
to read the information
in this bulletin carefully
to stay up to date with all
key school news.**

Staffing Update

We would like to share an update on staffing following the conclusion of our recent work with Haydon Bridge High School and the resulting leadership changes.

We are delighted that **Mrs Hill** and **Mrs Dixon** have been promoted to Interim Assistant Headteachers, supporting both schools in their roles. In addition, **Mr Davies**, **Mr Tidmarsh** and **Ms Mulholland** have joined the senior leadership team as Interim Associate Assistant Headteachers.

Looking ahead, **Mr Hayward** will take up the position of Head of Science from 1st September 2026.

Mr Byers will take on curriculum leadership for RE and KS3 PD next year, while **Mr Connolly** has been appointed as Director of Learning for the Sixth Form and will work closely with Ms Nichols to continue to strengthen our provision. **Miss Inglesfield** will step into the role of Interim Director of Learning for Year 8.

We are also pleased to welcome **India Mahal**, who will join the Art Department in September, and **Philip Irwin**, who will be joining the Geography Department to cover Mrs Van der Westhuizen's maternity leave.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to **Sadie Brunskill** from our admin team and wish her every success in her new role and move.

Friends of WHS

We would like to recognise the fantastic work of the **Friends of William Howard School**, who continue to provide invaluable support through fundraising and helping to bring new projects to life for the benefit of our students. Their commitment makes a real difference to the opportunities we are able to offer.



To continue this important work, the Friends of WHS are currently looking to welcome new parents, particularly to take on the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. If you have experience in finance or managing PTA funds, your skills would be a great asset to the team. Please contact Mrs Hill (thill@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk), if you would like to be put in touch with the Chair to find out more.

World Cup

Excitement is certainly building as the Football World Cup gets underway, with many of our students keenly following the matches and supporting their teams.

We are aware that a number of the group games take place late in the evening and would ask for your support in ensuring that this does not impact students' attendance, punctuality or readiness to learn the following day. We will, of course, share in the enthusiasm—particularly if England progress through the tournament—and will look for appropriate ways to celebrate as a school community.

However, unlike our neighbours north of the border, we won't quite be able to offer a day off!



Student Events



There is plenty for students to look forward to this month as our House Competitions take centre stage.



Budding chefs will showcase their culinary creativity in **WHS MasterChef**, while keen linguists will battle it out in the **House Spelling Bee**. These events provide a fantastic opportunity for students to develop confidence, teamwork and communication skills while enjoying some friendly competition.

Our **Year 7 Open Spaces Summer Fair** promises to be bigger and better than ever, with a special mini agricultural show theme. Visitors can explore a variety of craft stalls, meet livestock, support student enterprise projects and enjoy activities on the show field. The fair is a wonderful celebration of creativity, entrepreneurship and rural learning.

Following the successful installation of our new polytunnel, we are delighted that **Open Spaces** has been invited to supply fresh produce to Charlie's Bistro in Brampton. This exciting partnership gives students a real-world insight into sustainable food production, local business links and the journey from field to fork.

Students studying Agriculture are eagerly anticipating the **Royal Highland Show** at the end of June, a highlight of the Open Spaces Character Curriculum



each year. The event offers an inspiring opportunity to learn about modern farming, innovation, food production and the many careers available within the agricultural sector.

We are very much looking forward to our annual **Sports Awards Ball**, a highlight of the school calendar where we come together to celebrate the achievements of our students over the past year. It is always a fantastic evening, showcasing not only success and commitment, but also the incredible breadth of sporting opportunities we offer. What makes the event really special is seeing such a wide range of students involved, each contributing in their own way and demonstrating the inclusive spirit of sport within our school community.

In the final week of term, we are excited to be holding our **CET "Be the Best You Can Be" week**. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in a wide range of activities that encourage them to demonstrate their talents, resilience and commitment. Throughout the week, students will showcase how they strive to be the best version of themselves, whether through academic challenges, creative experiences or wider enrichment opportunities. It promises to be a positive and inspiring way to end the term.

Our annual **Character Development Day** takes place on 16 July. This important event encourages students to develop their character qualities through a wide range of enriching activities beyond the classroom. Please ensure you confirm your child's attendance to their trip so that transport and activity arrangements can be finalised. If you have any questions, please contact your child's year group team.

The school year will conclude with the much-anticipated **House Day**. This fun-filled, inclusive celebration brings together the entire school community for a day of creative, sporting and team-based challenges. The excitement builds throughout the day before the coveted House Cup is awarded to the winning House, providing a memorable finale to another successful year at William Howard School.



Outward Bound Residentials: Building Character Through the Outdoors

Since returning after Easter, our students have benefited from an exceptional programme of four Outward Bound residentials, each carefully designed to develop key aspects of character through our core values of respect, resilience, responsibility and confidence. It has been inspiring to see so many of our young people embrace challenge, support one another, and grow in confidence through these powerful experiences.



Year 7 & 8 – Howtown: RESPECT

We began the term with 48 Year 7 and 8 students embarking on a week-long residential at Howtown Outward Bound Centre, focusing on our core value of *respect*—respect for themselves, for others, and for the environment.

From the moment they arrived on the shores of Ullswater, students were immersed in adventure. A brisk “jog and dip” set the tone for the week, and from there they tackled a wide range of physically and mentally demanding challenges including ghyll scrambling, abseiling, rowing, cliff jumping and mountain expeditions.



Each group completed a 24–30 hour expedition, demonstrating determination and teamwork as they navigated challenging terrain and unpredictable Cumbrian weather. Even in difficult conditions, students showed remarkable resilience and positivity, supporting each other and maintaining excellent standards of behaviour throughout.

Reflection was an important part of the experience, with students journaling and setting personal goals each day. Their thoughtful reflections and conduct earned consistent praise from Outward Bound staff. We returned immensely proud of a group who demonstrated respect in every sense.

Year 10–12 – Ogwen Cottage: RESPONSIBILITY

Our second residential saw Year 10, 11 and 12 students travel to Ogwen Cottage, where the emphasis was on *responsibility*. Alongside undertaking challenging outdoor activities, students also balanced this with evening revision, preparing for upcoming examinations.



This residential required students to take ownership of both their learning and their conduct, demonstrating maturity, independence and a strong sense of responsibility. It was particularly pleasing to see older students modelling positive attitudes and determination, both in outdoor challenges and academic preparation.





Year 8 & 9 – Loch Eil: RESILIENCE

Our third residential took 48 students from Years 8 and 9 to Loch Eil in the Scottish Highlands, where the focus was firmly on *resilience*.

Following a long journey, students wasted no time launching into activity, including the traditional loch “jog and dip”. Working in “clans,” they explored teamwork and the “5 Ps” of group dynamics, learning how to respond when pushed beyond their comfort zones.

Expeditions took students to remote and challenging environments, including the slopes of Ben Nevis, where they experienced rapidly changing conditions and carried full kit over long distances. These experiences tested both physical and mental endurance, but every student rose to the challenge.



The remainder of the week was packed with activities such as canoeing, raft building, crate stacking, gorge walking and a leap of faith, alongside problem-solving and team challenges. By the end of the week, students had developed greater self-belief, resilience and a deep sense of accomplishment.

Ullswater – Confidence Building

Finally, a small group of students took part in a three-day confidence-building residential at Ullswater. Over the course of the visit, they engaged in activities such as canoeing, rock jumping, gorge walking and team challenges.



Despite initial nerves, every student showed remarkable courage and a willingness to step outside their comfort zone. The highlight for many was the gorge walk, which brought together teamwork, perseverance and plenty of laughter.

Staff and instructors commented on the group’s positivity and support for one another, while relationships strengthened significantly over the three days. Students left with noticeably increased confidence and a strong sense of achievement.

A Lasting Impact

Across all four residentials, a common thread has emerged: our students have embraced challenge with enthusiasm, courage and determination. They have supported one another, overcome fears and developed key life skills that will serve them well beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of their conduct and achievements, and grateful to the Outward Bound staff for their expertise and encouragement in delivering such meaningful experiences.

These residentials continue to play a vital role in shaping character at our school, and we are delighted that our partnership with Outward Bound will continue next year.

Residential & International Trips



Numerous students will be heading off to a variety of exciting locations within the next few weeks.

Year 10 MFL students are jetting off to Menorca;

Year 9 and 10 Historians are journeying to Berlin; A Level Geographers will be exploring North Wales; and Performing Arts students are heading to the bright lights of London.

This year has certainly provided a wealth of enrichment opportunities for students and staff eager to explore beyond WHS, with a range of residential and international trips enjoyed by pupils across all age groups. These experiences have supported a broad range of subjects, enabling students to develop their skills and extend their learning beyond the classroom in diverse and challenging environments.

We are grateful for the dedication of our WHS staff, who generously give their time and expertise to plan and lead these initiatives. Their commitment is highly valued by colleagues and our wider school community. Through these opportunities, students have travelled extensively, both within the UK and abroad, fostering a culture of curiosity, adventure, and academic ambition.

We are proud of how our pupils represent the school during these visits, demonstrating confidence, resilience, teamwork, and enthusiasm. Whether engaging in language learning, competitive sport, fieldwork, outdoor challenges, or the arts, they consistently embody the values of WHS.

Looking ahead, the coming academic year offers further exciting opportunities, including early visits such as a cultural trip to Spain and an expedition to Pompeii. A comprehensive programme of trips is planned for 2026–27 across a wide range of subjects, including Outdoor Education within our Character Curriculum. We are also pleased to offer a residential visit with the Calvert Trust for SEND pupils.

Further details about all trips will be shared with parents and carers in due course. We kindly ask that

applications are made with full commitment, as places cannot be withdrawn once allocated due to the significant planning and costs involved.

Thank you to our students and families for their continued support and engagement. These shared experiences are a valued part of our school community, and we look forward to another year of enriching opportunities and memorable journeys.

Spotlight on Year 10



Year 10 students have been working hard in preparation for their upcoming **mock examinations**. Through the use of Personal Learning Checklists (PLCs), targeted revision lessons, and clearly structured exam calendars, students are well placed to take the next step in their academic journey at William Howard School.

We are pleased with the commitment and determination that Year 10 have shown and encourage them to continue their focused preparation in the coming weeks. These mock examinations provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their progress and identify areas for further development ahead of Year 11.

If you require any further information regarding the mock examination process, please do not hesitate to contact the Year Group Team.

(ptidmarsh@williamhowardschool.cumbria.sch.uk)

Following the exam period, Year 10 students will take part in a **Mock Interview Morning and Post-16 Careers Event**. These experiences are designed to help students prepare for work experience placements, future education choices and career pathways. We are looking for around 30 volunteer interviewers and would love to hear from parents and carers who have experience of recruitment or interviewing as part of their professional roles. If you can help, please contact Mrs Hill (thill@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk).

Sixth Form

Year 11: Step Up to Sixth Form

Our Step Up to Sixth Form programme will take place from 30th June to 2nd July, providing students with the opportunity to experience their chosen subjects, meet teaching staff and gain an insight into Sixth Form life. Students will also learn more about the wider opportunities available, including the EPQ, Maths Studies and the Sports Leaders Qualification.

Further information, including the programme for the three days, will be shared with parents and students in advance. Any Year 11 student interested in joining the Sixth Form who has not yet applied should contact Miss Nicholls at nnicholls@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk.



Year 12: Future Focus

Year 12 students have a busy and exciting few weeks ahead as they begin preparing for their next steps beyond Sixth Form. On 26th June, students will attend the **Northumbria University Open Day**, where they will explore the campus, attend subject sessions and learn more about university life, accommodation, student finance and support services.

The week beginning 29th June will see students undertake their **Work Experience placements**. We have been extremely impressed by the initiative and professionalism students have shown in securing placements linked to their interests and future aspirations, with some opportunities arranged further afield. Students who are still finalising placements will continue to receive support from Mrs Hill and the Sixth Form Team.

Students will also take part in our annual **Character Development Day** in Keswick. A guided walk to Walla Crag via Ashness Bridge will provide opportunities to develop resilience, independence and teamwork, while enjoying the stunning Lake District scenery and spending time together as a year group.

Year 13: Celebrating Achievement and Looking Ahead

As Year 13 students complete their final examinations, they reach the end of a successful and memorable two years in the Sixth Form. We have been incredibly proud of the determination, resilience and maturity they have shown throughout their studies and during the examination period.

We look forward to celebrating with students at the **Leavers' Party on 19th June at Carlisle Rugby Club**, where we will reflect on the many achievements, experiences and memories that have shaped their Sixth Form journey.



A special thank you goes to our **Student Leadership Team**, who have been exceptional ambassadors for both the Sixth Form and the wider school community. Their enthusiasm, commitment and positivity have helped create a vibrant and welcoming Sixth Form experience for all.

Finally, thank you to the entire Year 13 cohort for everything you have contributed over the past two years. It has been a pleasure to see you grow in confidence, embrace new opportunities and support one another along the way. We are incredibly proud of the young adults you have become and look forward to celebrating with you on Results Day as you begin the next exciting chapter of your journey.

RESULTS DAYS 2026

A/AS Level and BTEC Level 3
Thursday, 13 August

GCSE and BTEC Level 2 / Tech Awards
Thursday, 20 August

Ensuring Positive behaviours on the Journey to and from School

Through the year we have continued to work with students, yourselves and the bus companies to ensure everyone has a safe, calm and positive experience to and from school. At William Howard School, we place great emphasis on creating a culture where all students are respectful, responsible and considerate of others. This expectation does not stop as students leave school – it extends to journeys on school buses, where students represent both themselves and our wider school community.

The vast majority of our students travel safely and behave impeccably. However, we occasionally see behaviours that fall below our expectations, including a lack of respect towards other passengers and drivers, excessive noise, and unsafe movement around the bus. These behaviours can put others at risk and detract from a calm and safe journey for all.

We would appreciate your support in reinforcing the following expectations with your child:

- ★ Treat all passengers and the driver with respect
- ★ Remain seated during the journey and follow driver instructions at all times
- ★ Use respectful language and maintain a calm environment
- ★ Take responsibility for personal behaviour and belongings
- ★ Remember they are representing the school in the community

Where behaviour does not meet expectations, we will address this in line with the policy of the Local Authority and bus companies;

1. Bus warning letter
2. Bus ban (eg 1 day bus ban)
3. Bus ban for the remainder of the term.

If you have any concerns regarding the behaviour of students on the school transport, please contact Mr Davies (rdavies@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk). We know that when school and home work together, we see the best outcomes for our young people. Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us maintain high standards and a safe, respectful environment for all.



Uniform

During the final half term of the year students may now move to summer uniform which means that the blazer is no longer compulsory. All other aspects of our uniform expectations remain unchanged. We ask that students continue to wear their uniform with pride and ensure that standards remain high every day.

As we move towards the final part of the academic year, it is important that we maintain the strong routines and expectations that support a positive learning environment. Our expectations around behaviour, attendance, punctuality and being fully prepared to learn remain as high as ever, and we will continue to uphold these through to the end of term and beyond into September 2026. In particular please note the following from the school uniform policy:

Black school trousers:

Plain, straight-leg, black school trousers. No black jeans or black canvas trousers of any style, or leggings.



During summer term, students can wear school supplied tailored shorts.

Cumbria Fire & Rescue Service

#BeWaterAware



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Enjoy Water Safely



For more tips on being
safe around open water
visit: www.rlss.org.uk

Open Water Safety Advice

Around 85% of accidental drownings occur at open water sites. Many of these drownings occur due to a lack of knowledge and understanding of open water safety. The basic principles of open water safety, combined with knowledge and understanding of the hazards, can increase enjoyment of open water and significantly reduce the number of incidents that occur each year.

- ▶ Always look for warning and guidance signs
- ▶ Swim parallel with the shore, not away from it
- ▶ Avoid drifting in the currents
- ▶ Do not enter fast flowing water
- ▶ Be aware of underwater hazards
- ▶ Get out of the water as soon as you start to feel cold
- ▶ Never enter the water after consuming alcohol
- ▶ Only enter the water in areas with adequate supervision and rescue cover
- ▶ Always wear a buoyancy aid or lifejacket for activities on the water or at the water's edge
- ▶ Always take someone with you when you go into or near water
- ▶ If someone is in difficulty in the water, provide reassurance, shout for help and call the emergency services.

Making Cumbria a safer place for all

cumbriafire.gov.uk



Water Safety Education

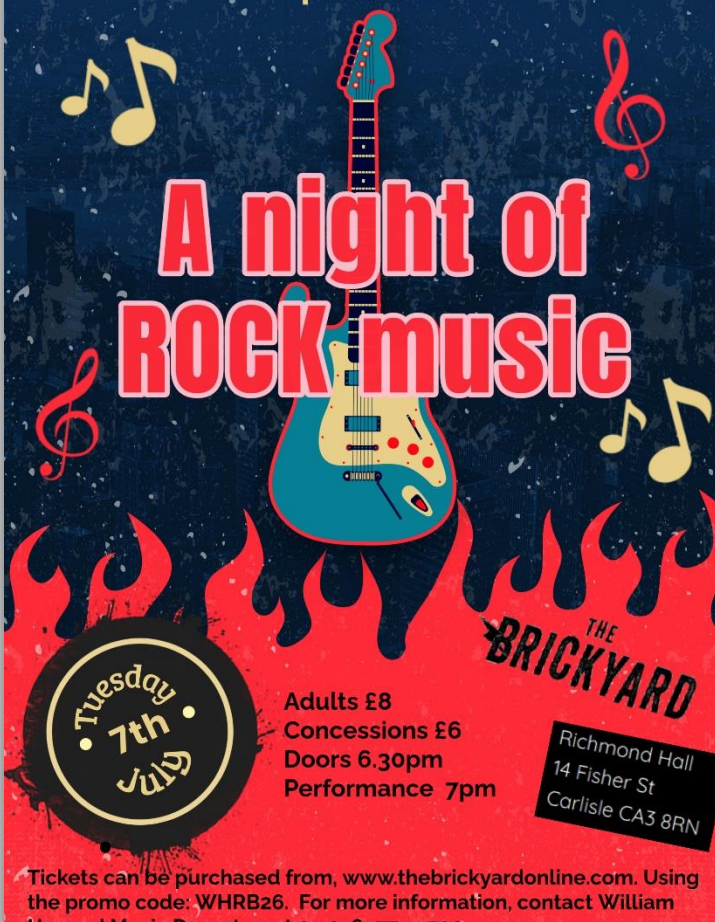
I am sure you will be well aware of the recent tragic events around the Country involving, in the main, young people coming into great difficulty in cold water. We are so lucky to live in an area where young people can enjoy the outside spaces. However, these incidents are a sobering reminder of how important it is for us to support our students in understanding risk and making safe choices.

As we have done over the past few years, we will again be delivering water safety assemblies for all students in school. We hope that the fire service can again support us to deliver these important messages but if you, or someone you know, has relevant expertise in this area and would be willing to support our work with students, we would welcome hearing from you. Please contact Mr Anderson:
danderson@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk.

Dates for the Diary

15 – 26 June	Y10 & Y12 Mock Exams
15 - 19 June	Y9 Geography Fieldwork in Brampton
Wed 17 June	Y5 Experience the Exceptional
Thu 18 June	Y11 Leavers Morning Royal Highland Show Trip
Fri 19 June	Year 13 Leavers' Party at Carlisle Rugby Club – from 6.30pm.
Mon 22 June	Y5 Experience the Exceptional
22 - 25 June	DoE Gold practice Expedition
Wed 24 June	Y8 & 9 Archaeology Trip to Tullie and Vindolanda
Thu 25 June	Boccia – NW Regional Finals (Liverpool) Water Safety Assemblies
Fri 26 June	Year 12 Northumbria University Open Day visit FoWHS Bake Sale
27 June - 4 July	Y10 visit to Menorca
Mon 29 June	Y6 Transition Day
29 June – 3 July	History Trip to Berlin Year 12 Work Experience Week
30 June - 2 July	Year 11 Step up to Sixth Form – PA Trip to London
30 June - 3 July	Y12 Geography Fieldtrip to North Wales
Mon 6 July	Y7X Dove Cottage Trip Y10 Mock Interview & Post 16 Morning
6 - 10 July	CET “Be the Best You Can Be” Week
Tue 7 July	Auction Assemblies (Y8, 9 & 12) Y8 visit to Energus Rock Night at the Brickyard, Carlisle
Wed 8 July	Wheelchair Rugby with Penrith Pumas CET Innovate Final OS Summer Agricultural Fair Trinity Musical Theatre & Drama Exams Sports Award Ball Holocaust Education Presentation


**William Howard School,
presents....**



A night of ROCK music



Adults £8
Concessions £6
Doors 6.30pm
Performance 7pm

THE BRICKYARD
 Richmond Hall
 14 Fisher St
 Carlisle CA3 8RN

Tickets can be purchased from, www.thebrickyardonline.com. Using the promo code: WHRB26. For more information, contact William Howard Music Department on 016977 45700.

Thu 9 July	Y7Y Dove Cottage Trip WHS Strictly Staff Competition
Fri 10 July	Auction Assemblies (Y7 & 10) Get Cosy and Read Day Bake Sale
Mon 13 July	DoE Gold Expedition Summer Concert Evening
Tues 14 July	Y6 Stepping up to WHS Parents Evening Achievement Assemblies (Y8, 9 & 10)
Wed 15 July	Achievement Assemblies (Y7 & 12) Summer Concert Evening
Thu 16 July	Character Development Day
Fri 17 July	MTN Runners Blencathra Before School Run House Day END OF TERM

