



Great Marlow School

Excellence • Compassion • Integrity



Welcome to our Year 7 Information Evening



Our Aims



To give you an insight into GMS's vision and values and to outline the expectations we have of our students.



To direct you, as parents and carers, to where you'll find help and support.



To inform you of the support on offer within school and opportunities for communication.





Vision & Values

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

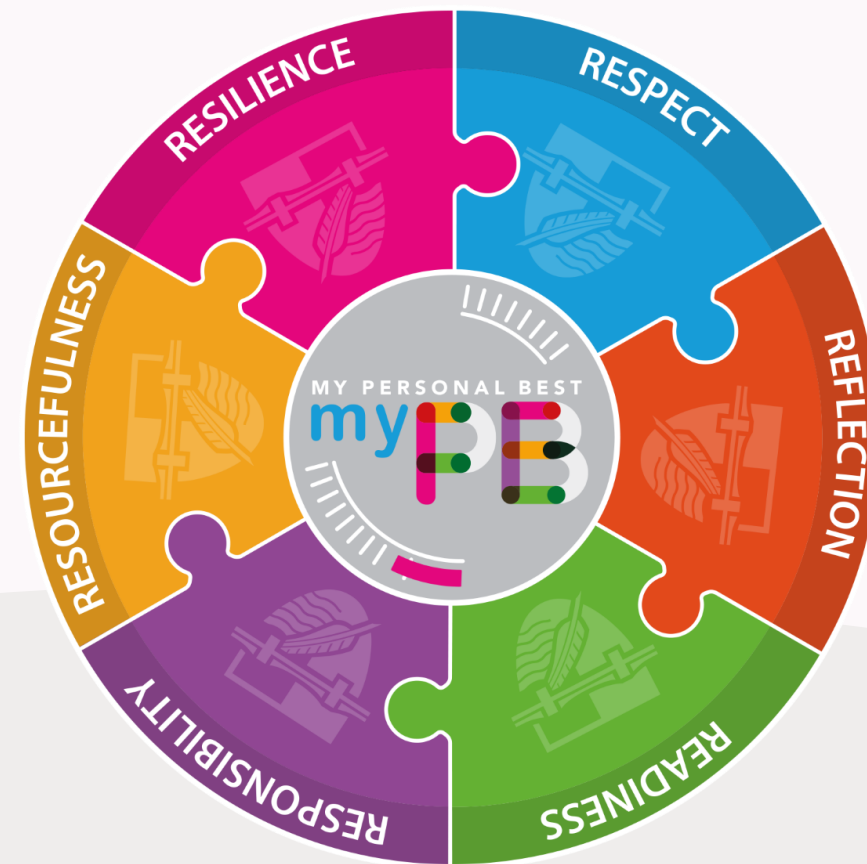
My Personal Best

The **'My Personal Best'** programme is integral to the school's teaching and learning philosophy.

The 7Rs are a guiding set of positive values and attitudes.



Year 7 Vision and Values



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Year 7 Vision and Values



Year 7s are compassionate, respectful and resilient members of the school community.



All students feel confident in taking responsibility for their academic, emotional and social development.



Good communication between all three stakeholders is important - PARENTS/CARERS, STUDENTS and SCHOOL.

Our vision is to offer the highest quality learning environment possible so that our students are inspired to be compassionate, successful and resilient contributors to a better society.

FoGMs - Friends of Great Marlow



Great Marlow School
Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

[Safeguarding](#) [News & Calendar](#) [Publications](#) [Contact](#) [Search](#)

[Our School](#) [Learning](#) [Sixth Form](#) [Student Area](#) [Parents & Carers](#) [About Us](#)



FoGMS Important Dates in September

Published 6 August, 2026

FoGMS

- Uniform Sale – Saturday 25 July 09:30 -11.00
- New Parents' Social – Thursday 17 September 19:00-21:00
- Friends of Great Marlow School AGM – Monday 21 September 18:30 – 20:00

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved



Student Support

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Student Support



Mr S Taylor
Director of Learning

Miss H Hyde
Student Support
Officer

Miss S Kayani
Student Support Officer
(Maternity Cover)

We will provide:

- a continual strong relationship with cohort
- consistent support
- consistent communication with home

KS3 office – S block

Year 7 – Tutor Team



E1	E2
Mr Horler	Mrs Singh
B4	S8

F1	F2
Miss Goodenough	Miss Porter
T11	T4

H1	H2
Mrs Clark	Mr Taylor
D4	D5

K1	K2
Mrs Dale	Mr Jones
D1	S6

Form Tutors – First Point of Contact

7E1	PHorler@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7E2	PSingh@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7F1	CThompson@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7F2	LPorter@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7H1	CClark@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7H2	NTaylor@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7K1	HDale@gms.bucks.sch.uk
7K2	DJones@gms.bucks.sch.uk

Student –School- Parent/Carers



I Will...

reward students
support students
educate students
monitor progress
communicate openly
respond as soon as able

Form Tutors will...

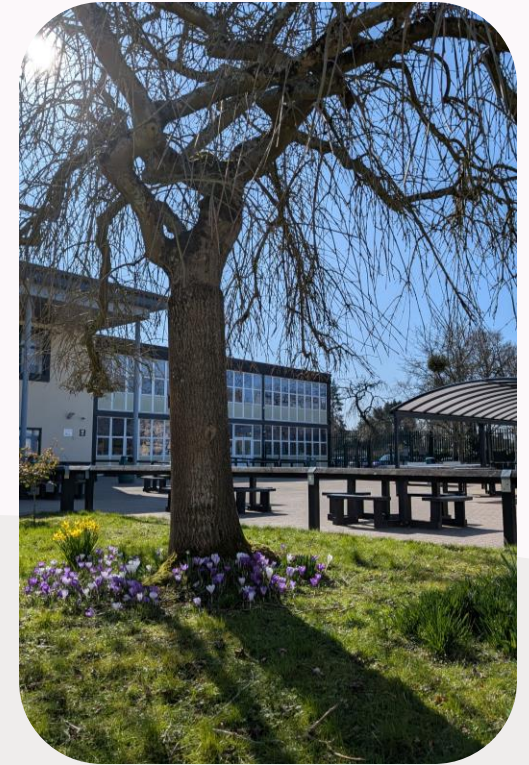
be your first point of contact
utilise form time
celebrate successes
support progress
communicate effectively
work closely with DoL and SSO

You can...

monitor progress
have open and honest
conversations
monitor and support with
homework
encourage good habits
discuss student experiences

My commitment to you:

- I am always open to hearing from you; you'll never be bothering me.
- I will strive to respond within 24 hours to a communication.
- I will always provide an outcome that has the interests of the students at the forefront of my mind, although it may not be the outcome you wanted.





Curriculum & Homework

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Curriculum



- **Most subjects** are taught in mixed ability form groups - Eagles, Falcons, Hawks and Kites
- **Core PE** is mandatory for all; students are allocated a learning pathway in September.
- **DT** is taught in 4 groups within each house
- **RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education)** - one lesson per fortnight (with the form tutor)

RSHE — Relationships, Sex and Health Education

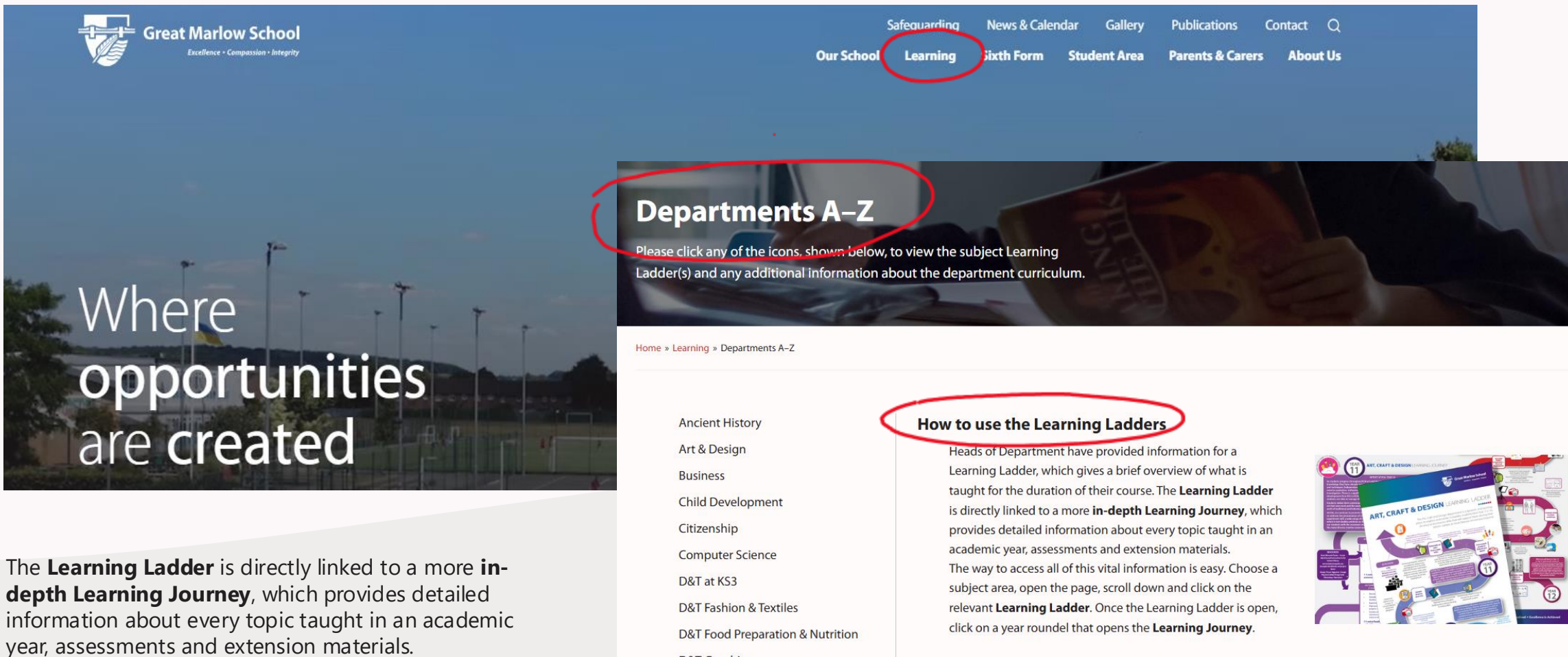
One lesson per fortnight
(taught by form tutor).

Covers important topics such as:

- Ready for change
- Changing friendships
- Managing friendships, consent and boundaries incl. peer pressure



Curriculum – Learning Ladders



Great Marlow School
Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

Safeguarding News & Calendar Gallery Publications Contact Q

Our School **Learning** Sixth Form Student Area Parents & Carers About Us

Where opportunities are created

Departments A-Z

Please click any of the icons, shown below, to view the subject Learning Ladder(s) and any additional information about the department curriculum.

Home » Learning » Departments A-Z

- Ancient History
- Art & Design
- Business
- Child Development
- Citizenship
- Computer Science
- D&T at KS3
- D&T Fashion & Textiles
- D&T Food Preparation & Nutrition
- D&T Graphics

How to use the Learning Ladders

Heads of Department have provided information for a Learning Ladder, which gives a brief overview of what is taught for the duration of their course. The **Learning Ladder** is directly linked to a more **in-depth Learning Journey**, which provides detailed information about every topic taught in an academic year, assessments and extension materials.

The way to access all of this vital information is easy. Choose a subject area, open the page, scroll down and click on the relevant **Learning Ladder**. Once the Learning Ladder is open, click on a year roundel that opens the **Learning Journey**.



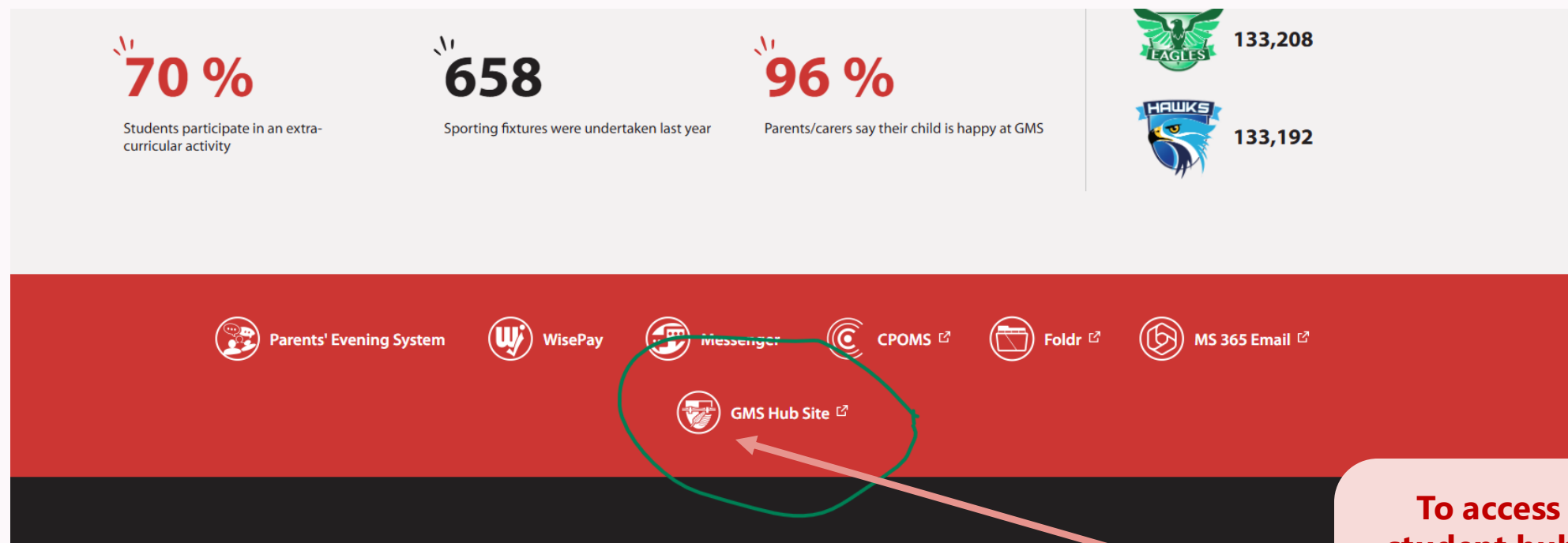
The **Learning Ladder** is directly linked to a more **in-depth Learning Journey**, which provides detailed information about every topic taught in an academic year, assessments and extension materials.

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved



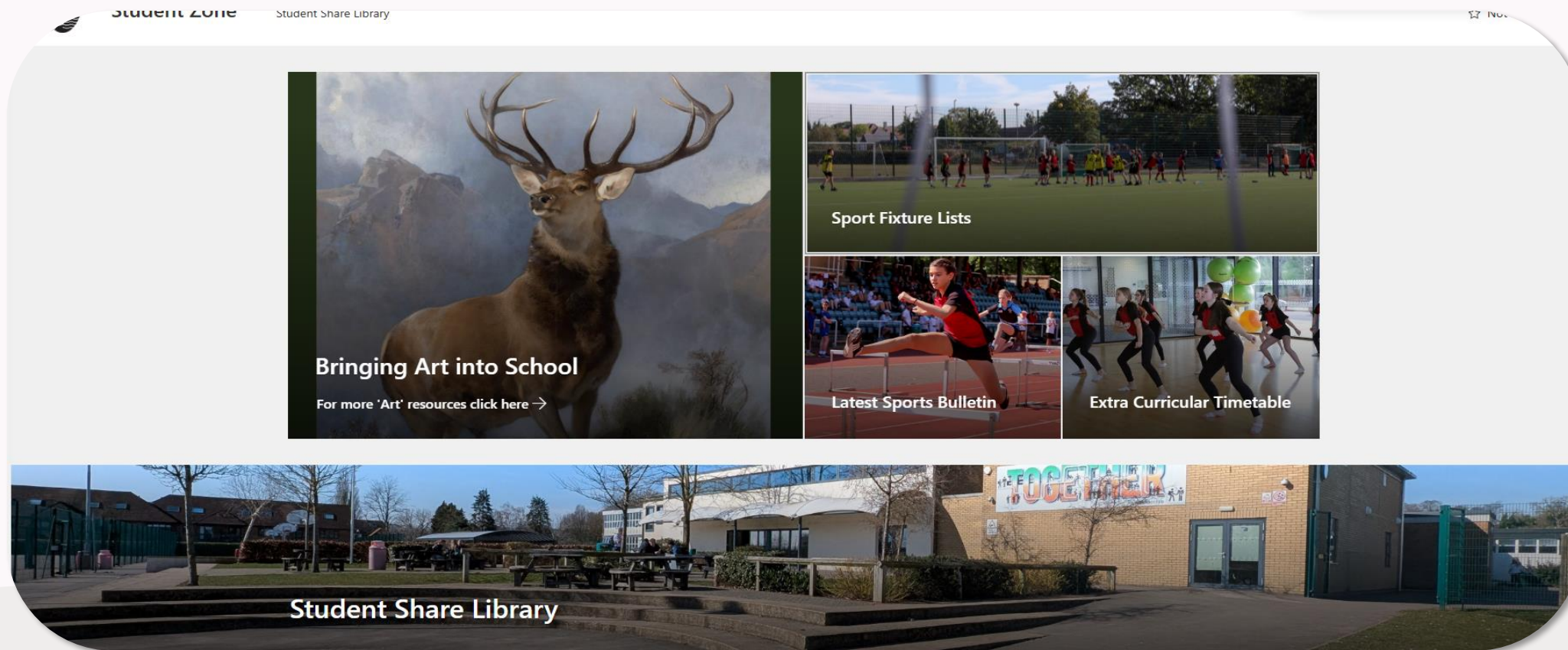
Click on any year roundels to access the in-depth Learning Journey

GMS – Student Hub



To access the student hub site, scroll down to the bottom of our website home page.

GMS – Student Hub



Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Homework



Planners

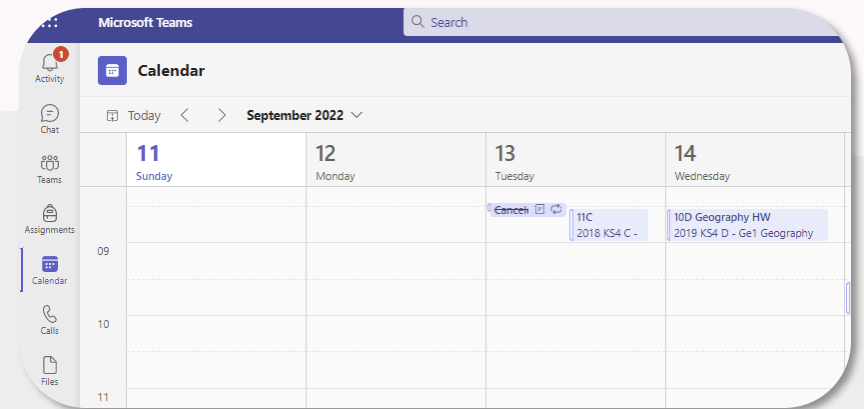
Students should record ALL homework and deadlines in their planners when it's set in a lesson.

Microsoft Teams

Staff to post homework assignment details on MS Teams – calendar.

Parents

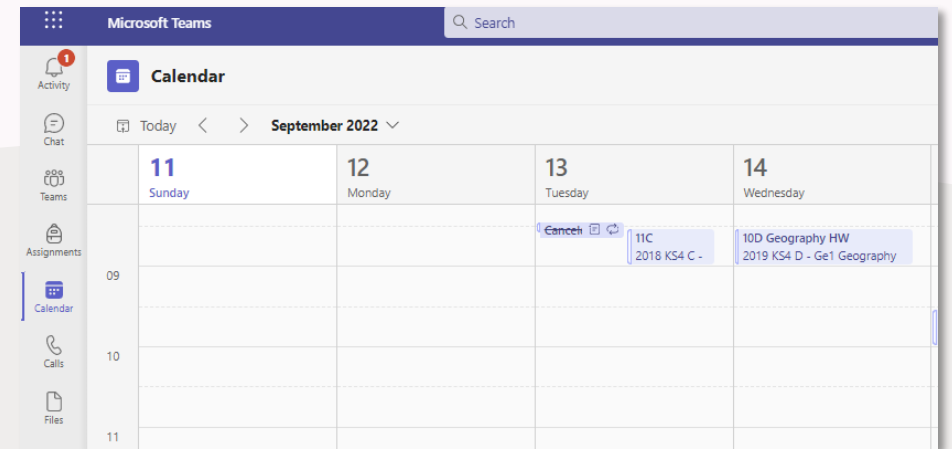
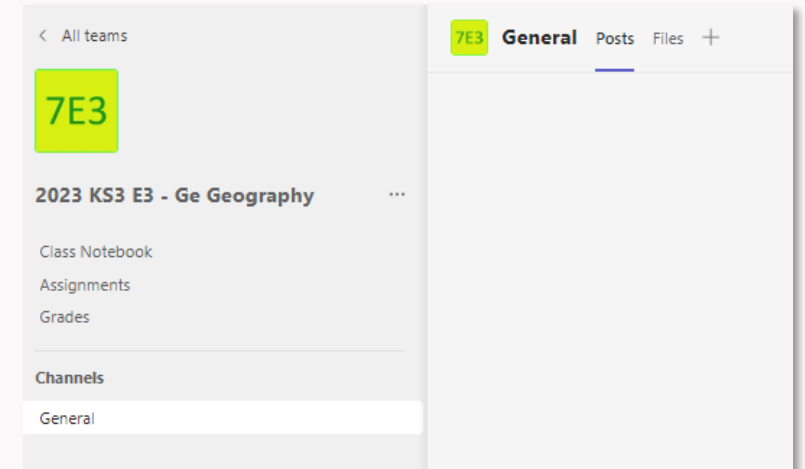
Please encourage completion of homework to the best of the student's ability.



Microsoft Teams



- is used for setting homework via assignments
- has a calendar function, which enables homework to be added to a student's Microsoft calendar; it gives a useful overview of when homework is due
- allows access to classwork resources, exam questions, tests and much more





Form Time

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Form Time



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Assembly	Equipment, planner & uniform check	Wellbeing Wednesday	Reading project	News day
				

Year 7: the point where reading can drop away

National Literacy Trust research found that the steepest decline in reading engagement happens in early adolescence:

46.9% of 8–11-year-olds reported enjoying reading compared with only **29.5% of 11–14-year-olds**. Daily reading more than halves across the same transition.

Their latest 2026 national survey, involving more than 125,000 children, found a small improvement after several years of decline, but still only 20.3% of 8–18-year-olds reported reading daily in their free time.

Year 7: the point where reading can drop away

Please continue to make reading non-negotiable at home. The book can be negotiable; the reading shouldn't be.

The [National Literacy Trust](#) has published new guidance this month specifically arguing that parents remain influential reading partners during secondary school.

Phones: Never seen. Never heard. Never used.

As of 1 September 2026, Department for Education guidance on mobile phones in schools is statutory.

It says schools are expected to have a policy that prohibits pupils' access to mobile phones throughout the school day — including lessons, movement between lessons, break and lunchtime.

Social media

TODAY

Online platforms already have legal duties to protect children.

SPRING 2027

Government intends under-16s to be unable to use major social-media services.

Social media

Delay social media.

Your child does not need it because they have started secondary school.

Government policy is now moving towards social media being unavailable to under-16s altogether.

If they don't already have it, don't introduce it.

If they already have it, now is a good opportunity to reconsider it.

Social media

Platforms to be off-limit to
Under 16s:

- Instagram
- Snapchat
- TikTok
- YouTube
- Facebook
- X (Twitter)
- Threads
- Reddit
- Twitch
- Kick

Uniform & Equipmen



Students are expected to take responsibility for wearing the correct uniform and ensuring that they have the essential equipment with them, at all times.

Hair – No extreme styles or unnatural looking colours

Nails – Nude colours only, no false/acrylic nails

Jewellery – One simple ring, a single stud in each ear (each removed for PE)

Skirts – Not rolled at the waistband, logo clearly displayed

Shoes – Smart and black, not trainers or trainer-style

Sports equipment – Keep in a bag, only used in designated areas at specified times.

Trousers – Not jeans

Jumpers – Black V neck jumper, no branded sweatshirts or hoodies. The Jumper is an additional layer – blazer must be worn

Blazers – To be worn every day, COATS must be worn over the top if required

Tie – To be worn every day

Essentials

- ☐ Planner
- ☐ Pencil
- ☐ Pen x2
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Glue stick
- ☐ Calculator



"A note from home is required should a student be unable to wear the correct uniform – consideration of the request will be considered by the tutor/DoL."

Attendance & Lates



Good attendance and punctuality underpin everything that we do.

90% attendance means up to 4 hours of learning is *missed* every week.

Students *must* be in form rooms by 8.30am.



Attendance & Legislation

Attendance - Information for Parents/Carers

- Holiday-related absences may result in a Penalty Notice should 10 sessions be missed in any 10 week block.
- GMS recognises that Penalty Notices may be unpopular with families, but it is important to inform you of the current position.
- Nationally, Headteachers are:
 - not permitted to approve term-time holidays except in genuinely exceptional circumstances
 - required to consider each leave of absence application on an individual basis before a final decision is made

School Calendar



15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Y13 Geography Residential: Cra... Staff Fit Friday 3:45-4:45 pm						
Week 1						
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm New Staff Meeting: Data	8:00 am - 10:00 am Governor Monitoring Visit: Exam Results	6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Y8 Parent / Carer Information Evening followed by Rowing Information Evening	12:30 pm - 3:00 pm SCHOOL CLOSURES			
6:00 pm - 6:45 pm Y9 Parent / Carer Information Evening followed by Rowing Information Evening	8:45 am - 5:00 pm Y10 Art Trip: Tate Modern / Borough Market		1:15 pm - 3:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting			
	3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Teaching & Learning Meeting		5:00 pm - 8:00 pm Y6 Open Evening: book through website from September			
	6:30 pm - 8:00 pm FoGMS AGM and Committee Meeting: T4					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Week 2						
3:15 pm - 4:15 pm New Staff Meeting: Safeguarding / Teams	3:15 pm - 5:30 pm Leadership Team Meeting	9:15 am - 10:30 am Y6 Open Morning: book through website from September	School photos: Y7, Y9, Y10 & Y12	8:30 am - 3:00 pm DfE Surveyors on site: CDC2		
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm GMS Local Governing Board		3:15 pm - 4:15 pm Learning Development Group Meeting	8:30 am - 3:00 pm DfE Surveyors on site: CDC2	9:00 am - 11:00 am Y10 RS Curriculum Session: Religion, families, education and freedom of speech / thought		
			9:00 am - 3:00 pm School photos: Y7, Y9, Y11 & Y13	9:15 am - 10:30 am Y6 Open Morning: book through website from September		

Opportunities are Created • Potential is Realised • Excellence is Achieved

Progress Reports



First one of autumn term- ATL and AFD only

Key Stage 3 Progress Review Guide

You will see some of the following words on your child's progress reviews during Years 7, 8 and 9: **foundation**, **emerging**, **secure**, and **exceptional**. These may be familiar from primary school. The words reflect a teacher's professional judgement of a student's knowledge and understanding at that point in time. As a loose guide, the colour bar below indicates roughly what GCSE grade each category might equate to, should a student's understanding of the subject remain similar at the time of the GCSE exam. In reality, understanding of a subject varies over time and this variation will show on different progress reviews. Student learning develops at different speeds and times, so variations are not uncommon.

	foundation	emerging	secure	advanced	exceptional
Rough guide to potential GCSE grade	1 2	3	4 5	6 7	8 9

**13th November –
first progress report**

**25th November –
parents evening**

**24th September –
Year 6 Open Evening
(school closes at 12:30)**



Safeguarding & Wellbeing

Safeguarding & Wellbeing - Key Staff Members



**Neil
Maguire**

Deputy Headteacher
Designated
Safeguarding Lead
(DSL)



Karen Craig

Assistant
Headteacher
Deputy DSL



**Anna
Gifford**

Safeguarding Officer
(Designated Looked
After)



**Guy
Pendlebury**

Headteacher
Safeguarding



Sheryl Paul

Safeguarding Officer
(Mental Health Lead)

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Safeguarding involves:

- ensuring the safety, wellbeing and success of every student
- protecting children from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children's health or development
- ensuring children grow up in safe and effective care
- taking action to ensure all children have the opportunity to access the best outcomes

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Our Commitment at Great Marlow School **GMS believes:**

- safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- in an open culture, where concerns can be raised
- in students being supported to make safe choices
- in collaborating with parents and carers
- in promoting continuous improvement and training

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Sleep

- The developing brain of a teenager needs between 8 and 10 hours of sleep every night. The effects of chronic (ongoing) sleep deprivation may include:
 - concentration difficulties
 - mentally 'drifting off' in class
 - irritability
 - an impact on mental health and physical health
- Routines and habits are crucial for term time
- Reduce screen time before bed – at least a 30 minute gap

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Great Marlow School
Excellence • Compassion • Integrity

Social Media and Online



Online Safety – nationalcollege.com offers free resource for parents/carers

- As parents be curious – follow the 4Cs as a starting point: content, contact, conduct and commerce (online posts, online unknown people, online influencers and online businesses (gambling, phishing))
- Respect the age limits, they are in place for a reason
- Remember 'Less is More' – less time online is healthier
- Screen time should be reduced before sleep routine
- Disinformation and misinformation are forms of fake news and should not be believed

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Mental Health - Bucks Mental Health Partnership

To help support the Mental Health of our young people, Great Marlow continues to work with the Bucks Mental Health Support Team (MHST).

Online Workshops

- Promote positive behaviours
- Discuss anxiety
- Discuss low mood
- Discuss self-harm

Details of how to sign up for the online Parent Sessions delivered by MHST will follow in a separate correspondence from Mrs Paul.

Safeguarding & Wellbeing



Vaping

In 2025 20% of children aged 11-17 had tried vaping, this is up from 15.8% in 2022 and 13.9% in 2020.

Vaping – can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances, including:

- Nicotine
- Flavourings such as diacetyl, a chemical linked to a serious lung disease
- Volatile compounds
- Cancer-causing chemicals
- Heavy metals such as nickel, tin, and lead
- SPICE – 1 in 5 illegal vapes contain other substances other than advertised

Thank you for listening

This presentation will be uploaded onto the school website

