



Welcome to your Whispers
of news and events...

11.09.26



Headline...

Hello to everyone in our school community, my name is Mr Vallance and I am absolutely delighted to be making my first contribution to the wonderful Whittington Whisperer! When I was doing my research prior to my application and interview for the role, this hugely important part of the school was one of the things that made me really want to be part of the Whittington Green family.

The truth is that I have wanted to work at Whittington Green for a long time. I applied in around 2010 for a head of year role but did not get an interview! During my career I have worked mainly in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire for 20 years, spending 12 years as a senior leader. I have always seen Whittington Green as a special place, one that cares deeply about its students, always trying to ensure they become the happiest and best possible version of themselves. To have the opportunity to lead that work is something that I feel extremely proud and privileged to have.

I will strive to do all I can to help build on the excellent work done by Mrs Burnside and all of the school students, parents, staff and governors. I want us to continue our excellent pastoral care of our students, whilst also ensuring our teaching and curriculum fully meets our student's needs.

I cannot tell you how wonderful it has been to be around the students and staff this week. They have even tolerated me telling them about my severe dislike of tuna and Crocs! Everybody has made me feel incredibly welcome (especially while I have been getting lost!) and I cannot thank them enough for this. I am also really looking forward to meeting parents and carers in the coming weeks, both at our Y5/6 Open Evening on 22nd September and at our soon to be advertised 'Meet the Headteacher' on 30th September.

Thank you in advance for all your partnership and support, I am so looking forward to working with you all.

Mr Vallance,
Headteacher

A Winning End To The Year...

The final whistle of last term brought with it a fantastic result in our staff charity football match against Outwood Academy...



On a very hot and tiring last day of term the staff football team made the short journey to Outwood Newbold to take part in a charity match in memory of Karen McCready. The team had never played together before but behind the scenes preparation and scouting reports from analysts Mr Vickers and Mr Crossland gave enough information for team manager Mr Kingham to select a team that was competitive and entertaining at the same time.

On arrival at Newbold it was clear this was not just going to be a leisurely kick about. Into the bear pit strolled the WGS team. Hundreds of home supporters already cranking up the atmosphere the team getting a taste of what it must be like to play in the Old Firm Derby.

Emerging from the changing rooms the team was boosted by the sight of the travelling army congregated behind Mr Aquah's goal. Horns, drums and loud vocal support settled the nerves. Our students were an absolute credit to the school all afternoon and their loyalty was rewarded with what could only be described as a 10/10 performance.

The forward line of Williamson and Albon showing touches of the great Dalglish and Rush. The midfield generals of Townsend and Stones showing glimpses of Petit and Viera. On the left wing Kemp dazzled like Giggs all afternoon, and on the right Vickers showing touches of Carlton Palmer. The defence were solid superbly marshalled by captain Virgil Van Spacey alongside wannabe striker Reid. Both full backs Payne and Crossland solid but always looking to overlap and charge forwards to support the fluent attacks.

An early goal from Stones was all the team had to show for a dominant first half display where in truth 5-0 would have flattered the opposition. Kingham becoming slightly agitated that the dominance was not translating into goals started to ring the changes. Evans came on to produce a commanding display alongside Redgrave and Bathurst who were exemplary all afternoon.

The second half went the same way as the first with total WGS dominance but this time the players had put their finishing boots on the right way around. A superb strike from Townsend 2-0, an unsavable penalty top bins from Acquah, the cheekiest backheel from Williamson all rounded off with a classic own goal. 5-0 probably should have been 10 but it doesn't matter as the hoards of fans witnessed a total footballing display that Ajax would have been proud of.

A massive thanks to all students and staff who attended you were amazing.
What a way to finish the year.

N. Kingham
Team Manager



Meet our Head Boy and Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl

2026 - 2027



We are delighted to introduce our newly appointed Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. These students have taken on an important role within our school community and are ready to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities that come with their positions.

As senior student leaders, they will play an active part in school life, helping to share the views and ideas of their peers, supporting younger students and contributing to events and activities throughout the year. Their enthusiasm, commitment and positive attitude will be valuable as they take on these new responsibilities.

We are incredibly proud of all four students and look forward to seeing them grow in confidence and leadership as they begin their journey in these important roles. We know they will be excellent role models and make a positive contribution to our school community.

We wish them every success in their new positions and look forward to all that they will achieve together this year!

Meet the Ambassadors

2026 - 2027



With a new school year brings a new cohort of ambassadors. We are so proud of them all and the dedication they showed to achieve the roles they now have.

The interview process was tough but all showed exemplary professionalism, behaviour and kindness throughout. In particular, the compassion they showed the younger students on their transition days was fantastic to see. The students have grown so much throughout their time at Whittington Green and we can't wait to see what they achieve this year.

You will get the opportunity to speak with them and ask them about school life during our open evenings and other events, this is particularly helpful for any primary school families that are thinking about Whittington Green as their future destination.

We couldn't be prouder of the ambassadors and all they have achieved, however the work starts now. From charity fundraisers to getting out in the community, the students will oversee different projects throughout the year and take the school from strength to strength!

Mr Stones

Y10 Photography:

Exploring September Light

It has been a wonderful start to the year for our Year 10 Photography students, who headed out on their first external photo shoot in the beautiful September sunshine.

Students explored the local woodland before making their way to the churchyard, experimenting with different ways of seeing and capturing the world around them. They played with light, shadow, texture, composition and perspective, developing their confidence behind the camera and building a collection of images for their individual projects.

It was a lovely opportunity for students to take their photography beyond the classroom and see how light and environment can transform an image.

A big thank you to Mr Redgrave for leading the shoot and inspiring our young photographers as they begin their creative journey this year.



Y10 Photography:

Exploring September Light



Faith Finds Her Need For Speed

We love hearing about the fantastic things our students get up to outside of school, and Y10 student Faith has certainly discovered a new passion over the summer holidays — StoxKart racing!

Faith's stepdad already races in different leagues, so she had spent plenty of time watching the action and soon found herself wondering what it would be like to get behind the wheel herself. After doing some research, Faith discovered the 11–16 category and decided she would love to give it a go.

During August, her stepdad secretly arranged for Faith to have her first experience of racing. What she didn't know was that the day also included a test — and, without even realising she was taking it, Faith passed! She absolutely loved the experience and was soon hooked.

There was even a rather exciting (and slightly terrifying!) challenge when Faith was encouraged to have a go in the rain. Things got a little hairy when she slid off, but she bravely gave it a go — and clearly had a fantastic time!



As a special surprise, Faith's stepdad has now bought her very own stoxkart. It is currently being prepared for her, ready for Faith to start racing properly next year. Faith has already been working on the outer pink and blue spray design. We can't wait to see the finished car and, of course, plenty more photos of Faith in action!

It's fantastic to see Faith discovering a real love of motorsport and throwing herself into something so exciting. We wish her the very best for her racing adventures next year — and look forward to following her progress!



Faith's design for her kart



Mr Ashworth's Brain Teaser

You buy me to eat,
but never eat me.

What am I?



Do you think you know the answer to this week's brain teaser?
Be the first to find Mr Ashworth in Room 16 with your solution for the chance to win a small prize (and, of course, eternal bragging rights).

Check back here next
week for the answer



The Big Walk...



On Friday 18th September the whole School are taking part in a sponsored walk to raise money towards the equipment for the new Fitness Suite that is near completion within School. We will be walking to Poolsbrook Country Park, where we will eat our packed lunch, and then walk back to school.

The walk will take place during the normal school day. After leaving school we will walk along the Chesterfield Canal towpath, continue towards the Hollingwood Hub, onto the Staveley Basin and finally to Poolsbrook Country Park. We will then return via the same route. It is an easy walk along flat terrain which will enable everybody to easily complete.

The sponsor forms have been passed to students to record any funds raised and further copies will also be available from reception for anybody who has misplaced them or requires more. **If every child raises just two pounds, we will be able to buy a state-of-the-art treadmill or cross-trainer for the new facility.** Completed forms and sponsorship money should be handed into the finance office (near reception) by Friday 25th September.

Should we experience bad weather on Friday 18th September, the walk will be postponed to Monday 21st September.

Any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get it touch.



Whittington Green School

Year 5 and Year 6



OPEN

EVENING

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 from 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Presentation in the Hall

5.30pm and 6.30pm

Year 5 and Year 6 students and their parents/carers are invited to come along to Whittington Green School to experience our super facilities and resources.

There will be opportunities to talk to our staff and students as they proudly showcase their work.



After School Clubs

Have you explored our after school clubs?

We have a fantastic array of activities that cater to every interest and passion.

Whether you're keen on sports, arts and crafts, technology, gardening or anything in between, there's something here for everyone.

Beyond the fun activities, our clubs provide an incredible opportunity to forge new friendships and develop valuable skills. Whether you're honing your teamwork on the sports field or unleashing your creativity in the art room, there's no shortage of opportunities to grow and learn together.

Our convenient after school bus ensures that you can join in on the excitement without any worries about transportation – it departs promptly at 4.00pm.

Come and be a part of the adventure!

After School Clubs

Monday

**Beauty & the Beast
Rehearsals**

Y9+10 Girls Football
Miss Kemp

Y8 Boys Football
Mr Kingham

Y10+11 Boys Football
Mr Spacey

Y9 Boys Football
Mr Williamson

**Neurodiversity Club
House**
Miss Wells- Cole &
Miss McDermott

**Manga Monday
Library**
Mrs Bingham

Lower School Band
Room 27
Mr Redgrave

Writing Club
Room 20
Miss Turner

Tuesday

**Tech Theatre Club
Dance Studio**

Mr Bathurst

Y7+8 Girls Football
Mr Stones

**Chess Club
Library**
Mr Reid

Wednesday

**Beauty & the Beast
Rehearsals**

**Y7+8 Netball
Tennis Courts**
Miss Kemp

**Y9, 10 & 11 Netball
Tennis Courts**
Mrs Dewberry

Y7 Boys Football
Mr Townsend

DofE Drop in Room 16
Mr Ashworth & Dr Albon

**KS4 Independent Study
Room 21A**
Mr Spacey

**Book Club
Library**
Mrs Bingham

Upper School Band
Room 27
Mr Redgrave

Thursday

**Beauty & the Beast
Rehearsals**

Gardening Club
Rm 43
Mrs Pates

Art Club
Room 28
Miss Scothorn

Textiles Club
Room 36
Miss Donkin
Starts 17/9
(Limited places)

STEM Club
Room 38
Dr Albon
Starts 23/9

TEXTILES

club

FOR ALL
YEAR
GROUPS



AFTER SCHOOL
every Thursday

📍 ROOM 36

Textiles Club Information

Textiles Club will run again this year, and it will be every Thursday after school. This year we will be doing things a little differently.

Each term, we will have a new clothing project for you to make. You will work on your item throughout the term and, once it is finished, you will be able to take it home and keep it for yourself.

As we need to prepare materials for each project, there will be a maximum of 15 places available. Places will be given on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure you sign up quickly if you would like to take part.

The sign-up sheet will be on the door of Textiles Room 36 today. It will go up at the beginning of each term, meaning that if you don't get a place this term, you will have another opportunity to sign up for the next project.

Bringing your own fabric

Where possible, you are encouraged to bring fabric from home for your project. This could include:

- Old bed sheets
- Curtains
- Blankets
- Fabric you already have at home
- Old clothing that you no longer want or wear

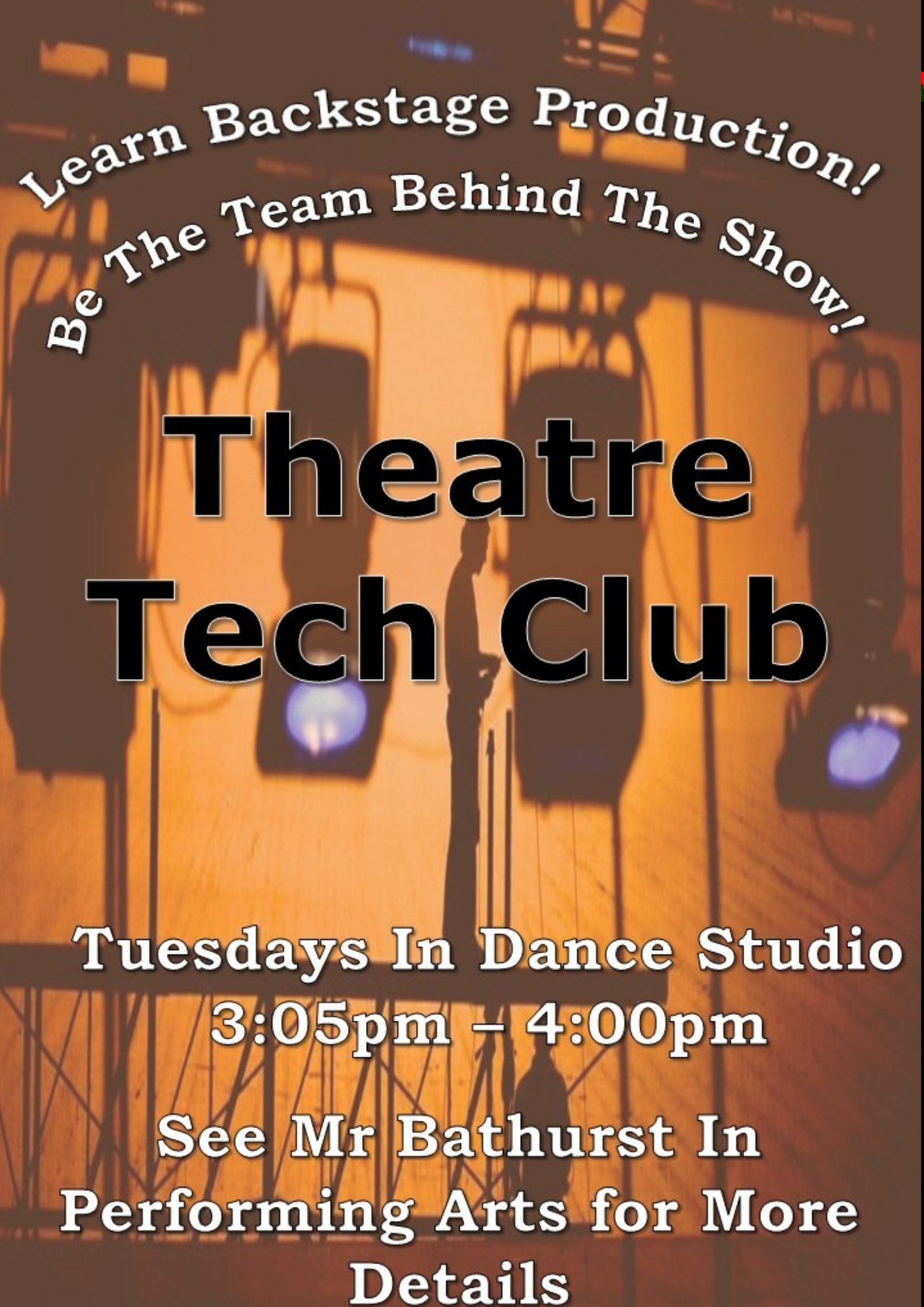
Please make sure you have permission from your parent/carer before bringing anything from home.

Don't worry if you don't have anything suitable to bring. You can still take part, as I will have materials available for students who need them.

Because each project will be completed over several weeks, please only sign up if you are able to attend regularly and commit to completing the project.

If you enjoy sewing, fashion, being creative, or simply want to learn how to make your own clothes, come and join us.

Miss Donkin



Learn Backstage Production!
Be The Team Behind The Show!

Theatre Tech Club

Tuesdays In Dance Studio
3:05pm – 4:00pm

See Mr Bathurst In
Performing Arts for More
Details



Whittington Green Fingers

Gardening is soul food.

Come along, potter, chat, have a cuppa and make new friends.

Our relaxed and social gardening club is held in the quad in the middle of new block.

We have had a fantastic donation of new equipment this year so we are raring to go and ready to transform the quad into a friendly welcoming space.



Equipment provided!



Come join the Whittington Green Fingers gardening club every **Thursday** after school (weather permitting).



STARTS Thursday 17th September in Room 43 – no need to sign up, just pop along



WHITTINGTON
GREEN SCHOOL

Aim Higher

YOUR FUTURE *Starts Here*

Explore your options.
Discover your path.
Achieve your potential.



EXPLORE
your options



DISCOVER
your passions



PREPARE
for success



ACHIEVE
your goals



Aim Higher

YOUR FUTURE. YOUR CHOICES.
YOUR SUCCESS.

Whittington Green School

Housing Officer

Job of the Week

Tenancy officer, neighbourhood housing officer

Housing officers look after rented properties for local authorities and housing associations.



You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- a college course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role
- an organisation's trainee scheme

University - You could complete a foundation degree or degree in:

- housing studies
- social policy
- building surveying

Entry requirements

- at least 1 A level, or equivalent, for a foundation degree
- 2 to 3 A levels, or equivalent, for a degree

College - You can do a college course, which would give you some of the skills needed to get a trainee position. Courses include:

- housing practice
- business administration
- T Level in Management and Administration

Entry requirements - 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, or equivalent, including English and maths for a T Level

Apprenticeship - You could apply to do an apprenticeship with a housing organisation or local authority housing department.

These include:

- Housing Property Assistant Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship
- Housing and Property Management Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship
- Senior Housing and Property Manager Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship

Entry requirements - You'll usually need:

- some GCSEs, usually including English and maths, for an intermediate apprenticeship
- 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4, including English and maths, for an advanced apprenticeship.

Skills and knowledge - You'll need:

- customer service skills
- administration skills
- to be thorough, pay attention to detail
- maths skills
- patience and the ability to remain calm in stressful situations
- the ability to work well with others
- the ability to think clearly using logic and reasoning
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- to be able to use a computer and the main software packages competently

Salary - £23,000 - £35,000

Find out more about this job. Scan the QR code for the MYPATH video.



Post-16 Open Evenings

Post-16 provider		Date
	Netherthorpe School	6 th October 2026
	Outwood Newbold	13 th October 2026
	Tupton Hall School	14 th October 5.30pm onwards
 Eckington School Chorus Education Trust	Eckington school	21 st October 5.15pm-8pm
	Dronfield Henry Fanshaw	11 th November 5pm – 8pm
	St Mary's Catholic high school	12 th November 2026
	Brookfield Community School	To be confirmed
	Chesterfield College	Sixth form open evening 4 th November 4pm – 6pm Showcase open evening (range of courses and apprenticeships) 11 th November 4pm – 7pm 17 th March 4pm – 7pm 23 rd June 4pm-7pm

**NATIONAL
SATURDAY
CLUB**

Society &
Change

I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT REALLY MATTERS

**IT STARTS
ON SATURDAY**



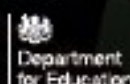
Free local Saturday Clubs
for 13–16 year olds



Find your Club

@natsatclub
saturday-club.org/join

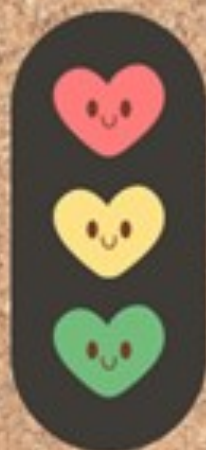
Supported using public funding by



**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Understanding our attendance **TRAFFIC LIGHTS**

Any questions, email attendance@wgs.derbyshire.sch.uk



95%+



Well done!

Attendance that is 95% and above is our target for all our students. The student is attending school regularly and is on track with their learning. No immediate action needed.

Improvement needed

This level of attendance can begin to impact academic progress. Our attendance officer may monitor attendance more closely, discuss reasons for absence with the student and family, and provide support if needed.

90-94%

below 90%



Cause for concern

The Department of Education classes anyone below 90% attendance as a persistent absentee. When this is the case, we will reach out to you to see how we can support you and your child and addressing any concerns you or they may have.

Public health nurse contact details

Whether your child or young person is in school or home educated, we can support with...

Continence

Sleep

Healthy
lifestyles

Puberty

Anxiety

Mental
health

Relationships

And much
more



For parents/carers of 5-19 year olds in Derbyshire text us on 07312 263744

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

We can also support young people aged 11-19 with all of the above as well as sexual health, drugs and alcohol support.



Young people aged 11-19 years in Derbyshire can text us on 07507 330025

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)



derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk



DerbysFamilyHealth