

Maghull High News

Aspire Achieve Enjoy



16 December—20 December

Hello and welcome to the last school newsletter of this term. This newsletter is a special edition to mark our rewards and celebrations week. It has been wonderful to celebrate the wide range of successes our students have had both in and out of school. It has also been really exciting to introduce a brand new award: The Maghull High Award. This has been awarded to students who have made significant contributions in and out of school. Throughout our newsletter you will see the range of student success. We have also included a list of key dates for next term. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our staff, students and their families a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 6 January at normal time.

Maghull High Award

Wednesday 18 December marked the first ever Maghull High Awards. 18 students received this special award for their achievements in the wider community. It was a real pleasure to celebrate their success in school. Award winners ranged from elite level athletes, to musicians and charity workers. Students were invited to a presentation led by Mr Kay and Mr Dawson in which their individual successes were shared and each student received a Maghull High Award badge. Students then joined Mr Dawson for a hot chocolate breakfast over in our Sixth Form centre. It was great to recognise our students' significant contributions both in and out of school.



Attendance

We understand that some parents/carers have struggled to make contact with school to report an absence due to busy phonelines. When reporting your child's absence, please email attendance@maghullhigh.com so a member of the team can get in touch.

Nut Free School

A polite reminder that Maghull High School is a Nut Free School. Most school classrooms will have at least one allergic pupil. To protect our school community Maghull High School is ensuring we are a Nut Free School.

On Monday morning, year 7 enjoyed their end of term celebration and Christmas assembly. Well done to all students who received a subject award. Winners collected a certificate and a selection of sweets to mark their achievements throughout this term. Well done to the following students:

Art: Jack Y Computer Science: Ajay W Dance: Zerrin B Design and Technology: Blake L Drama: Tilly J English: Owen S Food Technology: James E Geography: Emily R History: Kaydence Y Maths: Alessio K Music: Thomas H-C Physical Education (Boys): Harry M Physical Education (Girls): Indy V Religious Studies: Archie P Science: Emily R Spanish: Jake S SPARX Reader: Amiah H Head of Year Award: Freya S Headteacher's Award: Alex C



On Thursday morning, year 8 enjoyed their end of term celebration and Christmas assembly. Well done to all students who received a subject award. Winners collected a certificate and a selection of sweets to mark their achievements throughout this term. Well done to the following students:

Art: Bella Mc Computer Science: James E Dance: Millie J Design and Technology: Harry J Drama: Molly R English: Sophie U Food Technology: Sadie P Geography: Lily-Frances F **History:** Willow F Maths: Dominic E Music: Will H Physical Education (Boys): Caiden M Physical Education (Girls): Molly M Religious Studies: Joshua S Science: Alice G Spanish: Harry E SPARX Reader: Chloe C Head of Year Award: Isaac D Headteacher's Award: Elise B



On Wednesday morning, year 9 enjoyed their end of term celebration and Christmas assembly. Well done to all students who received a subject award. Winners collected a certificate and a selection of sweets to mark their achievements throughout this term. Well done to the following students:

Art: Mollie H Computer Science: Rosa B Dance: Mia R-S Design and Technology: Martha G Drama: April Mc English: Grace M Geography: George B History: Haripriya D Maths: Grace M Music: April Mc Physical Education (Boys): Lucas A Physical Education (Girls): Mollie B Religious Studies: Jacob B Science: Sophie Mc Spanish: Georgia N SPARX Reader: Louisa-Mae B Head of Year Award: Harrison B Headteacher's Award: Charlotte H



On Tuesday morning, year 10 enjoyed their end of term celebration and Christmas assembly. Well done to all students who received a subject award. Winners collected a certificate and a selection of sweets to mark their achievements throughout this term. Well done to the following students:

Art: Hollie S Business Studies: Jack L Computer Science: Carl S **Construction:** Joseph Mc Dance: Lily V Drama: Jake S Engineering: Chase B-V English: Lily R Geography: John L History: Alyssa T ICT: John L Maths: Chase B-V Music: Eleanor B Physical Education (Boys): Connor T Physical Education (Girls): Lily M Religious Studies: Abbie W Science: Luke E Spanish: Ethan H Head of Year Award: Daniel J-K Headteacher's Award: Sophie G



On Friday morning, year 11 enjoyed their end of term celebration and Christmas assembly. Well done to all students who received a subject award. Winners collected a certificate and a selection of sweets to mark their achievements throughout this term. Well done to the following students:

> Art: Sophia Hyland A-B Business Studies: Isla G Computer Science: Jack W Dance: Hollie B Drama: Maddison S Engineering: Alfie B English: Taylor W **Geography:** Paige A History: Erin W ICT: Fox G Maths: Finn G Music: Charlotte L Physical Education (Boys): Sam L Physical Education (Girls): Ava C Religious Studies: Mia C Science: Annie H Spanish: Taylor W Head of Year Award: Faye T Headteacher's Award: Eva K



Rewards and Celebrations: Sixth Form

On Thursday morning, it was the turn of our Sixth Form students to receive their awards to celebrate their success throughout this first term of the academic year. Well done to all of our prize winners.



As a reward for their dedication to their study, Sixth Form students were rewarded with a Christmas party during Friday afternoon.



Rewards: Year 8 Pantomime Trip

On Tuesday, year 8 students visited the M&S arena to watch the pantomime of Peter Pan as a reward for their outstanding commitment to learning this year. Students had a great day out and behaved impeccably throughout the visit.

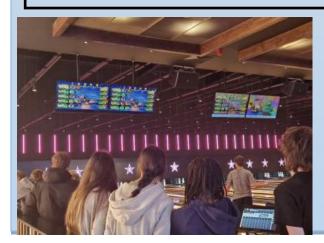




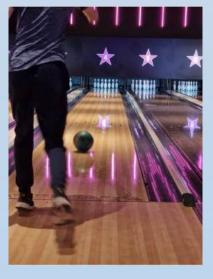


Rewards: Year 10 Rewards Trip

On Monday year 10 students enjoyed their rewards trip to Hollywood Bowl to celebrate their achievements this term. Students enjoyed games of bowling, lunch and some time in the arcades.







Rewards and Celebrations: GCSE Revision Hub

As a reward for their dedication towards revision attendance to GCSE Hub each week, students in year 11 were treated to a night of pizza during Tuesday's Revision Hub. Students have worked incredibly hard over the last 15 weeks and have attended weekly revision sessions every Tuesday as part of the GCSE Revision Hub. Thank you to Mrs Rowland and our teaching staff who have facilitated these sessions and ensured all students have been well supported.



Rewards and Celebrations: Year 11 Trip

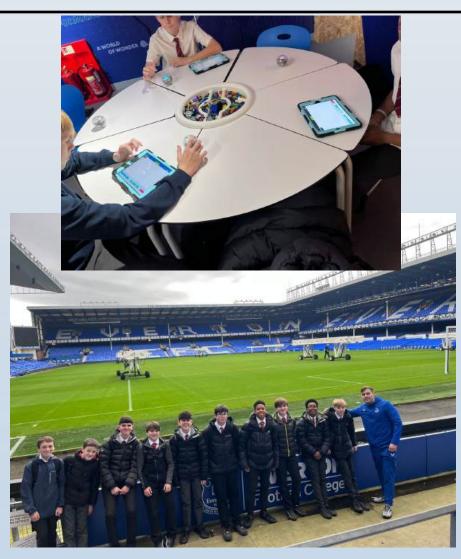
As a reward for their dedication to their study, Sixth Form students were rewarded with a Christmas party during Friday afternoon.



Rewards and Celebrations: Everton in the Community

Students in year 9 enjoyed a celebration event with Everton in the Community at Goodison Park. Students enjoyed time at the digital skills lab and entering coding instructions to sphero robots. They then had a walk around Everton football stadium for some pitch side pictures.

The students have displayed a positive attitude during the sessions this year and have also been commended by the staff for their conduct and behaviour.







Liverpool in a Box

Throughout this term, students in year 7 have embarked on a project called 'Liverpool in a Box'. All students put together a box of items that they feel best represent the city. Riley G, Mia G-R and Emily Rose C were all shortlisted as finalists. On Thursday, Mr Kay selected an overall winner which was Emily Rose-C. We were delighted to have been joined by our Trust CEO, Mr Raikes, to present students with their prizes.

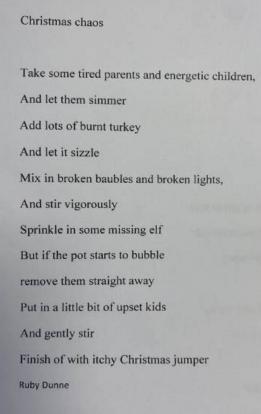


Christmas Writing Competition

Our annual Christmas Writing Competition took place once again with over 50 entries from students across the school. The English department thoroughly enjoyed reading each entry we received and it was difficult to pick out our finalists and overall winner. Congratulations to all finalists, Ela Eren, Jessica Murphy, Antonio Hayes, Ruby Dunne, Olivia Olson, Daisy Fletcher and Daniel Johnson-Kenny. Our overall winner was Talia Hand. Well done to all who entered.



Christmas Writing Competition Entries



An empty Christmas Jessica Murphy.

Tis the month of Christmas, the decorations are starting to appear. I'm supposed to be jolly, but how, when your not here?

Mum's got out the Christmas tree, it's my turn to put on the star. When I look at it, I think of you, because a star is what you are.

It's now Christmas morning, I've been opening presents for awhile. I take a glance out the window, I see a robin, it makes me smile.

The dinner table looks lovely, with crackers and a Christmas roast. But the chair beside me is empty, this is when I miss you the most.

I'm off to bed now dear brother, as happy as I can be. I'm wishing for sweet dreams dear brother- as it's you I hope to see.

But These Children

Christmas time, a time for Joy, a time for longitter, but not for these children. As the other houses gluminer up with many celephotion, their shiring stars reflecting off of these work faces. But set for these children, tonight they sweep the chinangs and decorate the place with borken baubles, as these children do miss what made chinstmas.

These children dream of steelings and gifts, a Juli roast and the Juiplace raging, decorations harging in the dim moonlight. But these children atso long for something greater, their father from war who warn't expected to be buck until far later.

The clock then struck midnight, and everywe sleeps, everyone but these children. The carolles were blown out and nothing was heard, not even a mouse. There a door swing open, and the sound of muchaly boots dragged against the floor.

Christmas day All the months go past, each is like a guest, December is the last, December is the best. Every girl and boy, Has their own bit of joy, And when Christmas day comes, They all get their favorite toy. Now at the the Dinner table we sit, There are sprouts which are green vomit, But at the corner of my eye, I see pigs and blankets, my favorite! We can all hear the bells of Christmas day, Which simbolizes the day the children play, Now all i can say is, This is christmas day Antonio Haves

Daniel Johnson-Kenny—Year 10

Whispers of Christmas Eve

In the hush of a winter's night, Beneath the shimmering stars so brigh The world is wrapped in a soft white glow, As gentle flakes of snowflakes flow.

The pine trees stand, adorned with cheer, While laughter and joy fill the atmosphere. Garlands of holly, red ribbons tied, Echo the magic of love that never died.

Stockings are hung by the old fireplace, With hopes and dreams in each cozy space. The scent of cookies, warm and sweet, Dances through air, a delightful treat.

Children in pajamas, eyes wide with glee, Whisper their wishes, hearts wild and free. "Will Santa remember? Will he come our way?" As dreams weave together this magical day.

The carolers sing, their voices unite, Spreading the warmth of this beautiful night. From house to house, the melodies soar, Bringing us closer, like never before.

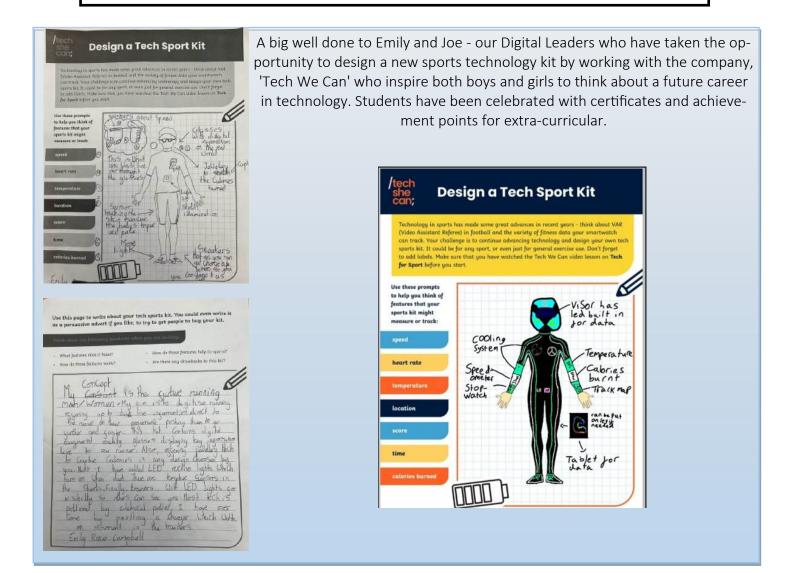
And as the clock strikes the midnight hour, We hold precious moments, like a blooming flower. For Christmas is not just the gifts or the lights, It's love that we share on these long, starry nights.

So gather around, let the stories be told, Of treasures that cannot be bought or sold. For the true gift of Christmas, in hearts it will live, Is the love and the joy that we freely can give. Christmas light

12 months have passed the time flows so fast Christmas is near it's the most magical blast the Christmas lights twinkle on December's nights Christmas is love and it shines so bright Christmas is home where warmth fills the air with hearts full of joy and kindness to share as Christmas approaches the chill fills the air come gather together find comfort and care a house full of laughter with lights all aglow some may be lonely with nowhere to go it's not just about Santa or gifts piled high but reaching out to others and lifting them to the sky lift them up to the light let them know they're not alone with movies and pyjamas and hugs that feel like home hot chocolate and dinners from dusk until dawn in the rush of the season let's remember what's drawn the church bells are ringing the people in a rush all for one day so sit and think for a while why it's called Christmas day

Daisy Fletcher—Year 11

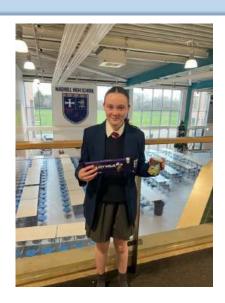
Rewards and Celebrations: Digital Leaders

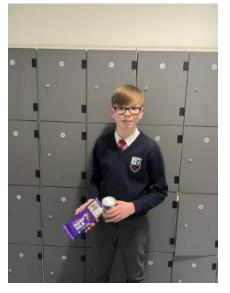


Rewards and Celebrations: Science Competition

Throughout December, students have ben entering a competition within our Science department to design a new sleigh for Father Christmas. There were lots of entries with some fantastic designs for a new sleigh, with our winning entries displayed on the following page. Well done to our winners: Isabella S (1st Place); Brooke M (2nd Place); Harry T (3rd Place).



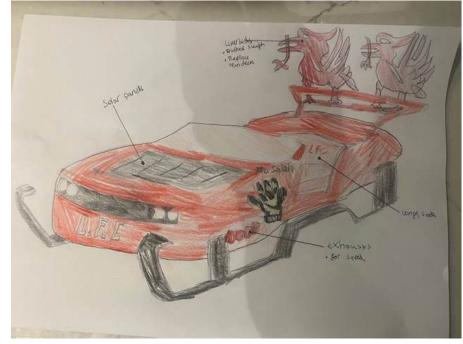


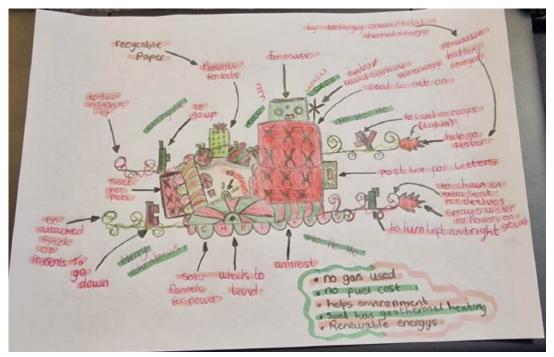


Rewards and Celebrations: Science Competition Entries





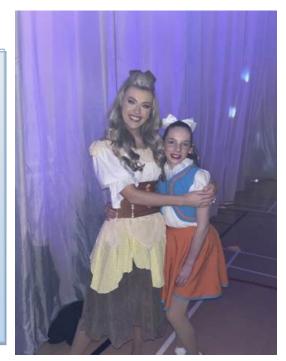




Rewards and Celebrations: Student Spotlight



Congratulations to Zerrin B in year 7 who was part of the Cinderella pantomime outside of school this year. Zerrin received rave reviews for her performance and we are so proud of her. Zerrin works exceptionally hard both in, and out, of school. We look forward to watching Zerrin in her next production of Peter Pan at Easter!





Well done to Freya'Dolly McGivern who performed in her dance school's Christmas show on Tuesday. Freya is an exceptionally talented dancer who has attended Mary Halford's School of Dance for many years. Freya performed in several pieces on Tuesday night including ballet, modern and tap.

Maisey Carey (year 10) has been collecting and buying (using her own money) selection boxes which she generously donated to Alder Hey Children's Hospital. Maisey donated over 127 selection boxes in total, bringing lots of joy to many children over the Christmas period. Well done, Maisey—we are so proud of you.



Maghull High in the Community

Christmas Choir

Our school choir have been out and about spreading Christmas cheer across our local community. Mr Dutch and our outstanding choir visited local care homes, including Parkhaven Trust, singing Christmas carols to all residents.



Supporting Local Foodbanks

Throughout December, staff and students across our school have taken part in a reverse advent calendar. Each day throughout December, students brought in various food and goods that could be donated towards our local foodbank. This was organised by our fantastic Sixth Form Student Leaderships Team and on Thursday, Sixth Form staff and students dropped off all of our collections to South









Supporting Next Steps

On Friday 13th of December students from year 11 attended a fantastic taster day at Southport College accompanied by Mrs Woolley and Mrs MacKinnon from the Inclusion Team.





There was a large variety of subjects on offer; creative media and photography, art, health and social care, carpentry, travel and tourism, plumbing, childcare, and hairdressing and beauty. Courses range from a Level 2 qualification to Level 3 (BTec and T-levels) in an incredible learning environment offering spacious classrooms and opportunities for enrichment activities including sports, gym, college radio, societies, quizzes, the use of pool tables/table tennis and the list went on! There was also a large spacious canteen with a subsidised Costa Coffee concession which proved popular!

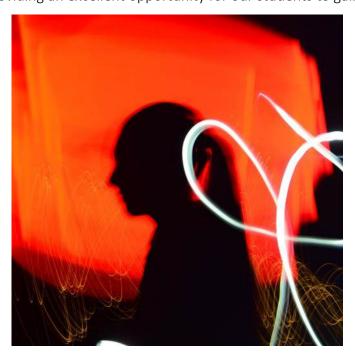
During the childcare taster, students had the opportunity to design Christmas themed activities for nursery students in a simulated nursery environment which local nursery children attend.

The mock hospital wards with simulation adult/child dummy patients were popular allowing students to practise essential health care skills in a realistic hospital setting. Placement experience forms part of the course with many students progressing onto careers as nurses, paramedics, and midwives following higher education at university.

There were some incredible technical workshops including on site garages, plumbing, painting and decorating, construction and engineering, using the same tools and equipment used by the professional trades. During his session Will learnt how to make a lap joint in a fully equipped carpenters workshop.

In mocked up TV studios students bring broadcasts to life, learning how the process works from start to finish. Ruby and Luke had the chance to use the photography studio with professional lighting to produce some outstanding photography using themselves as the subject with slow exposure light effects.

Our school careers fair on Friday 14 February, will have representatives present from Southport college, providing an excellent opportunity for our students to gain a little bit of an insight in what the college can offer.





Leave presents unwrapped unless the person likes unwrapping presents. You could wrap up their presents together as a shared activity. Using wrapping paper printed with things linked to the person's interests may be an alternative to using Christmas wrapping paper. You can also wrap in clear/patterned cellophane so that the present is not a surprise but the person can still enjoy the unwrapping!

Make sure gifts are ready to play with to avoid frustration, e.g. build gifts prior to giving them, put the batteries in before the person opens/receives their present. If you do wrap presents put a note/photograph on the gift tag to say what is inside. Encourage friends/family members to do the same.

No surprises = less anxiety

Remove the pressures of opening presents in front of people by having a a place where the young person can open their presents in private. It can feel very uncomfortable opening a present when all eyes are on you.

If young children are reluctant to open new presents, put a new present next to a favourite item (e.g. a new toy next to a favourite toy).

PRESENTS

Buy the person presents related to their interests and passions and encourage friends or family members to do the same.

If presents are tricky, set a limit on the number of presents, e.g. one from parents/carers and one from grandparents.

Other family members could perhaps give money or vouchers.

Introduce presents one by one, or a few at a time, instead of all at once. The person may prefer to open presents gradually over the course of a few days.

In relation to receiving presents, if this is difficult during the rest of the year for the young person, then it is no different at Christmas. If a person finds it difficult to speak, struggles with what to say, finds it hard to open presents in front of people or tends to be very honest about whether they like the present or not, then make adjustments for this and talk to family members. For young people who say they want to respond to others when they open their present, but struggle to think what to say in the moment, you could work out with them what they would like to say beforehand and write this on cue cards as a visual reminder, e.g. "Thanks for my present. I'm going to open it later with my others."

togethertrust.org.uk





Plan a menu with the young person of what they would like to eat on Christmas day and give it to them a week or so before so that they are prepared. For younger children, they could plan dinner creatively by drawing/sticking pictures of their meal on a paper plate. For older children, plan their meal using a menu template. They may wish to look at some recipes themselves. You could cook the meal before the day to try it out. Take a photograph as a visual reminder.

If possible, try to eat at the same time as you usually would. If this is not possible, prepare for this, e.g. by writing a Social Story, adding the mealtime to the visual schedule for the day, having snacks if the mealtime is later than usual.

If the young person dislikes traditional Christmas Day foods, they may wish to plan a meal that is still special to them. A meal of all their favourite things to eat instead is a good way to celebrate the occasion.

Sitting round a table with a larger number of people than usual can be difficult. Be aware of things that may cause sensory overload, e.g. raised noise levels, pulling of Christmas crackers/party poppers and smells from food.

Prepare the person for any changes to how the usual eating place will look, e.g. different tablecloth, plates, cutlery, placemats/coasters, table decorations. It may support the person if they can help to choose the tableware.



DINNER

If you dress the table, it may help if you keep things the same as usual for the young person, e.g. they may prefer to sit in their usual place with their usual placemat, plate and cutlery.

You should discuss with the young person whether they would prefer to eat their Christmas dinner in another room, whilst watching something they like on TV. This may, for example, help to 'mask' the noise from the dinner table and reduce social pressures. If going to somebody else's house for Christmas dinner, try to make sure the young person knows what time dinner will be, where they will eat it and what they will eat. They may wish to select a packed lunch to take with them to eat whenever they like.

Discuss with the young person whether they wish to eat all or part of their dinner with everyone else. If they would like this, perhaps ask if they would like to sit closest to the door so that if things become too overwhelming, they can quickly leave the room and have some time away in their room. You may have room to set up a small table in the room, just for them. If you are visiting somebody else's home for dinner, identify a room they can go to if they need some space. They may want to choose some things to take with them if they need some time away from the group, e.g. a few sensory items in a sensory box, a favourite object.





Putting up decorations can involve a lot of change inside and outside the places we are decorating. There will be lots of new additions or we may have moved furniture around to accommodate our decorations. Whilst lots of autistic people like decorations, returning home or walking into school to find these spaces fully decorated could be a bit of a shock, especially if the changes were unexpected. It's often important to prepare the person for any changes to how the usual space will look before you decorate. Here are some general ideas that may help. Everyone is different so it's important to find out what individual triggers and preferences are....

Consider decorating gradually, e.g. you could put the Christmas tree in position one day, decorate it the next day, then put up other decorations even later. Involve the young person in changes to the space, e.g. take them shopping for decorations, let them handle decorations, let them see decorations being hung up, or let them help putting them up.

Understand and make accommodations for things that may trigger sensory overwhelm. Christmas scents and candles can often be overwhelming as can fast-flashing fairy lights and ornaments that play sounds and tunes.



Try and make sure the young person knows how long the decorations will be up. Some autistic people can struggle with the concept of time and may not automatically know that you will be taking the decorations down at some point. Even not knowing when they will be taken down can cause distress. It would help to mark the day on a calendar or schedule or for older children, set a diary reminder on their phone.

Keep things that might overload the person away from communal areas, e.g. flashing Christmas lights or noisy ornaments could go in other rooms rather than the living room or their bedroom. You could put a tree at the back of a classroom out of plain view. Have a 'Christmasfree' zone in your home or school. Tree chocolates – some young people experience anxiety and become pre-occupied with how many chocolates are on the tree or when they can have them. They may want to eat them all at once. Try making it a game by adding one chocolate per day to the tree for the young person to find. If they don't like this, you could put the chocolates away and hand them one each day to eat.

If furniture needs to be moved around for the tree going up, try not to move everything at once and explain where things will move to. It may help to draw a plan of the room. Once the room is set for Christmas, take a photograph – this could then be used next year to prepare the young person for what the room will look like again in the lead up to decorations going up.





Regular school attendance is crucial for your child's educational progress. Being present allows children to form lasting friendships, develop essential interpersonal skills, and contribute to better mental health and overall wellbeing.



Schools must only grant leaves of absence for specific circumstances set out in the 2024 attendance regulations.

The permitted circumstances are:

- Taking part in a regulated performance or employment abroad
- Attending an interview
- Study leave
- A temporary, time-limited part-time timetable
- Exceptional circumstances

See the guidance (paragraph 37).

Unfortunately a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation would not constitute an exceptional circumstance.







There are significant changes to penalty notices for unauthorised absences during term time, effective from 19 August 2024.

What you need to know:



Second offence within 3 years:



E160 with no discount.

Penalty after 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling 10-school week period. This includes late arrivals after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.



Max 2 penalties in 3 years per child. Further offences may lead to prosecution.

Regular attendance helps your child succeed! Contact us if you have any questions.



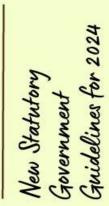
School registers close at 9.15am. The guidance states, 'If a pupil...arrives...after the register has closed, the attendance register must be amended to record them as absent using code U or another absence code that is more appropriate.'

This means that a child who arrives between 9.15am and 12.25pm will be marked as an unauthorised absence, unless there is a reason set out in the authorised absences section.

4



ATTENDANCE UPDATES





Additional Support	Following the new government statutory guidance around attendance, we want to reiterate the support that is available to our young people and their family. At Maghull High School we are committed to fostering a	Our dedicated Wellbeing Support Team is here to provide the resources, guidance, and care needed to help students thrive both academically and personally.	There are several external agencies who also provide support for young people and their families. Click the logo to find out more information:	Keoth Online wellbeing community offering woys to manage emotions, helpful habits, offering podcasts and more!	A great app to help with every day worries and to help look after yourself using meditation and breathing techniques.	An app to help learn hundreds of meditations to help with sleep and feelings of worry.	Parenting Emotional and practical support and guidance for children, young people and families A mental health charity offering online counselling to those aged	ort ort of the current and on or of the current of
Social Benefits	Improved Social Skills Being in school helps children make friends and learn how to work with others.	Sense of Belonging Attending regularly helps children feel part of the school community.	Teamwork Working with classmates in lessons and activities builds teamwork skills.	Wellheina Benefits		Emotional Stability Routine helps children feel secure and less anxious.	Good Habits Regular attendance builds important life skills like time management and responsibility.	If you would like more information about the government statutory guidelines and the school's policy, which can be found on our website, please email: attendance@maghullhigh.com
		Academic Renalito		Better Learning & understand material.	Steady Progress behind and can students don't fall behind and can stay on track.	Higher Grades children more chances to improve their marks.	Increased Participation children get involved in tessons and activities.	Extra Support Extra Support Deceded.

Upcoming Event: Careers and Industry Insight Day

Advanced notice that on Friday 14 February we will be holding our annual Careers and Industry Insight Day for students across year 8-13. This event takes place throughout the day in our school sports hall with each company, industry and organisation set up with a stall each. Students are then able to attend and find out more information about various career pathways. There will also be representatives from further and higher education establishments taking part. If any our parents or carers wish to take part to represent their own business or career, we welcome any additional support. Please email careers@maghullhigh.com for more information.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Finally, as we round of this term, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our staff, students, parents and carers a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year, We hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable two weeks off and we look forward to welcoming all of our school community back at normal time, on Monday 6 January.



Dates for the diary

Monday, 6 January: All students return to school Thursday, 23 January: Year 7 Parents Evening Thursday, 30 January: Sixth Form Open Day Thursday, 6 February: Year 8 Parents Evening Wednesday, 12 February: Year 9 Options Evening Friday, 14 February: Staff and students finish for half term (normal school hours). Monday, 24 February: INSET Day. Thursday, 27 February: Year 11 Parents Evening Thursday, 6 March: Year 9 Parents Evening Thursday, 3 April: Year 13 Parents Evening Friday, 4 April: End of term