



NEWSFLASH

WELCOME
BACK.
TO
School

Autumn Term Begins

We are delighted to welcome all of our students back to Mossley Hollins for the start of the autumn term. Whether you're returning after a well-earned summer break or joining us for the first time, we hope you're feeling refreshed, ready, and excited for the term ahead. This is a time for new beginnings, fresh goals, and continued growth – and we look forward to supporting every student in making this a successful and rewarding start to the academic year.



Our Annual Learning Awards for Year 7-10

Yet again, we were very proud to hold the most important evening in our school calendar on Thursday 17th July 2025. We welcomed our special guest, Mrs Keeley Schofield, Chair of our School Governing Body, to award the certificates, prizes and trophies to some of the most hard-working and resilient young people you could hope to teach. There were prizes for progress and academic attainment as well as for their commitment to charity, the community and to overcoming significant odds. Prizes in the Arts and Sports were given to some top-class performers. We were treated to live performances from the band, Lexi O'Mara singing 'Defying Gravity' and Lilliana-Mae Egerton, Madeline Duckworth & Mollie Pyatt who danced superbly to 'Woman Like Me'. We send our huge appreciation to Lisa Cusic and Rachel Judge, two of our longest serving staff members, for organising such a professional production and to all teaching and support staff for their significant contribution.



The overall Academic Excellence Awards for 2025 went to:
Year 7 – Joshua Pickford
Year 8 – Olivia Lee
Year 9 – Elijah Robins
Year 10 – Thea Smith-Heeley



Cameron's Generous Hair Donation



At Mossley Hollins, we are proud to celebrate the compassion and generosity of our students—and this week, one student in particular has truly inspired us all.

Cameron, a dedicated and thoughtful member of our school, has once again made a remarkable gesture of kindness. After growing his hair long Cameron recently had it cut and donated it to Little Lady Locks, a charity based in Failsworth that provides tailored hair loss solutions free of charge to children and young people under 18 across the UK.

Founded in 2018, Little Lady Locks fills a vital gap in services for young people experiencing hair loss due to chemotherapy, alopecia, and other conditions. The charity works tirelessly to restore confidence and dignity of children and young people.

What makes Cameron's contribution even more special is that this is the second time he has donated his hair. His continued commitment to helping others is a shining example of empathy and selflessness, and we couldn't be prouder.

Cameron's story reminds us that small acts of kindness can have a big impact—and that even a haircut can help change someone's life.

Well done, Cameron! You are a credit to Mossley Hollins and an inspiration to us all.

Equestrian Success for Amber and Chasing Charlie!

We are incredibly proud to share the fantastic achievements of Amber and her horse, Chasing Charlie, who competed at the David Broome Equestrian Centre in Chepstow earlier this year.

Amber had a brilliant start to the weekend, jumping 75cm and placing 8th out of 85 competitors. She took on two rounds — 90cm and 95cm — placing 20th out of 115 and 10th out of 180 respectively.

Amber stepped up to the international arena, jumping a full metre alongside competitors from Aintree and other international circuits. Although she completed the course, two unfortunate pole faults kept her from placing — but her determination and courage were truly commendable.

Amber's commitment and passion for equestrian sport continue to inspire us all. We'd like to thank our staff and students for their ongoing support of Amber, and we look forward to seeing what she and Chasing Charlie achieve next!



Welcome to the library

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS



As the new academic year begins, we're delighted to welcome all students back to the library and extend a special warm welcome to our **Year 7** students joining us for the first time. It's been a joy to meet so many of you already, and we've loved seeing your enthusiasm during our "Visit the Library & Check Out a Book" incentive, which has been running all week.

The start of term is the perfect time to build new habits—and one of the most powerful is reading regularly. Just 10 minutes a day can make a difference to your academic success and mental wellbeing. In fact, according to NHS Devon University Healthcare:

Reading reduces stress

68%

more than



listening to music

100%

more than



Drinking tea

300%

more than



Going for a run

600%

more than



Gaming

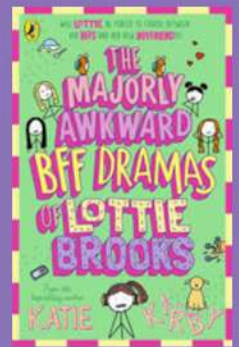
Tips to build a Reading Habit

- Borrow a book from the school library – we have something for everyone!
- Feeling overwhelmed? Start with a shorter book or a graphic novel.
- Not enjoying your book? No problem—swap it for another and try again.
- Join one of our book clubs – ask in the library for details.
- Read for 10 minutes before bed – a great way to wind down and boost your brain.

Summer Reading Challenge: Book Bingo!

Please don't forget to return your completed card by 18th September to be entered into a prize draw for a book voucher!

Recommended Reads This Term Year 7



Book of the Week

No
Ballet
Shoes
in
Syria



"Wise and kind and unputdownable."
Hillary McKay,
author of The Slyhorns' War
CATHERINE BRUTON



Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria.

When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship.

But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father - separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.

Library Stationery fundraising Sale – 19th September 2025

Library Stationery fundraising Sale – 19th September 2025

Get ready.....On Friday 19th September, the school library will be hosting a Stationery Sale at break time and lunch time to raise funds for new books, comfy reading spaces, and exciting student-led projects.

FLASH SALE!

The clock is ticking!
FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025
IN THE LIBRARY

Enjoy exclusive offers across our fundraising stationery collection –including Harry Potter stationery, Manga Pens, bookmarks, cute pens, rainbow pencil, gel pens, pencil cases,.

Prices from 50p to £2.00 (cash only)
all money raised helps to fund the school library!



From glittery gel pens to quirky pens, Harry Potter stationary to rainbow pencils there'll be something for everyone—whether you're a doodler, a planner, or just someone who loves a good bargain. Prices will be pocket-money friendly from 50p for a bookmark to £2.00 for a pencil case, and every purchase helps support our school library..

Funds raised will go directly toward improving our library—creating a more welcoming space for all students.

🕒 **When & Where:** Break time on Thursday 19th September Location: School Library

🎒 **Come along, grab some cool stationery, and help make our library even better!**



Notice for Year 7 Parents: Life Skills Day – Tuesday, 16th September

We would like to inform you that on Tuesday, 16th September, the school will be hosting a Life Skills Day for all Year 7 students. This important event is designed to equip students with essential knowledge and skills that will support their personal development and well-being.

During Life Skills Day, students will participate in sessions covering the following topics:

- Consent
- Puberty
- Personal Hygiene
- Self-Image
- Resilience

We understand that some of these topics may be sensitive for certain students. If you believe that any of the subjects may cause concern or issues for your child, we kindly ask you to inform the school at your earliest convenience. This will allow us to make any necessary arrangements to ensure your child's comfort and well-being during the event.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to providing our students with a valuable and supportive learning experience.

Bravo, Abigail! A Star in the Making

We're very proud to share that Abigail Rogers in Year 8 has passed her Grade 4 LCM Musical Theatre exam with Distinction!

Abigail's dedication, talent, and passion for musical theatre have truly paid off.

Her performance impressed the examiners with its confidence, creativity, and emotional depth, earning her one of the highest accolades in the grade.

Abigail has worked really hard and deserves this fantastic result. Everyone at school is proud of her and excited to see what she does next in musical theatre. Congratulations, Abigail! Keep shining!



Coming Soon to Mossley Hollins – Matilda the Musical!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's school production will be the magical, mischievous, and much-loved Matilda the Musical! Inspired by Roald Dahl's iconic story and brought to life with unforgettable songs and dazzling performances, our students are ready to take you on a journey filled with courage, creativity, and a little bit of chaos.

This year's school production will be.....



Audition got underway this week and the Performing Arts team were thrilled with the energy that the audition room was filled with as students proudly exhibited their talents to secure a place in the show.

Stay tuned for performance dates, ticket information, and behind-the-scenes sneak peeks. You won't want to miss this spectacular celebration of talent, teamwork, and the magic of storytelling.

Sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty... and we can't wait to show you how!

Year 11 Mock Exams & Top Revision Tips

As we approach a crucial stage in the academic year, we want to ensure our Year 11 students feel confident and well-prepared for their upcoming mock exams. These will begin the week commencing Monday, 10th November, and will run for two weeks. The mock exams are an important opportunity for students to experience exam conditions, identify areas for improvement, and build momentum ahead of their final GCSEs.



To support your child during this period, here are our Top 5 Revision Tips to help them revise effectively and stay on track:

🎯 1. Make a Realistic Revision Timetable

Structure is key. Encourage your child to plan short, focused sessions with regular breaks. Prioritise subjects they find most challenging and include time for rest and hobbies to maintain balance.

📖 2. Use Active Revision Techniques

Passive reading isn't enough. Try flashcards, mind maps, teaching someone else, or answering past paper questions. These methods help embed knowledge and improve recall.

🕒 3. Start Early and Revise Often

Cramming leads to stress. Starting early allows for spaced repetition, which is proven to boost long-term memory. Even 30 minutes a day can make a big difference.

🧠 4. Practice Past Papers Under Timed Conditions

This builds exam stamina and helps students get familiar with the format and types of questions. It also highlights areas that need more attention.

😴 5. Prioritise Sleep and Wellbeing

A well-rested brain performs better. Encourage healthy sleep routines, nutritious meals, and regular movement. Mental wellbeing is just as important as academic preparation. We appreciate your continued support in helping our students succeed. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the Year 11 team.

The Great European Bake-Off



Our MFL faculty is organising a bake-off challenge to celebrate European Languages Day (26th of September). Everyone is welcome to participate.

Please create your own desserts/cakes/brownies at home, with the theme of a European country.

It can be an authentic recipe from a country or can be designed like a country from Europe.

Bring your creations to the MFL Faculty on **Wednesday 24th September**, and our MFL judges will award prizes for various categories!

The creations will then be sold in a cake sale on Friday 26th in collaboration with Macmillan charity.



Parent Information

TERM DATES 2025/2026

Term 1A

Monday 1st September 2025 – Friday 24th October 2025

INSET Day (school closed to students)

Monday 1st September 2025

INSET Day (school closed to students)

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Wednesday 3rd September Students return

Term 1B

Monday 3rd November 2025 – Friday 19th December 2025

Term 2A

Monday 5th January 2026 – Friday 13th February 2026

INSET Day (school closed to students)

Monday 5th January 2026

Tuesday 6th January Students return

Term 2B

Monday 23rd February 2026 – Friday 27th March 2026

Term 3A

Monday 13th April 2026 – Friday 22nd May 2026

Bank Holiday (School closed)

Monday 4th May 2026

Term 3B

Monday 1st June 2026 – Friday 17th July 2026

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Dates for your Diary



Key Dates for Autumn Term 2025

15th & 19/09/2025 Year 11 Geography Field Trips

16/09/2025 - New Year 7 Life Skills Day

23/09/2025 - Open Evening for Year 6 with an early finish for current students at 1.20pm

09/10/2025 - New Year 7 Settling In Evening

16/10/2025 - Year 11 Parent Partnership Evening

23/10/2025 - Full Vaccinations

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Parent Information

Learn about emotions

My name is Susie Peter, and I am a PhD candidate at University College London (UCL), supervised by Dr Matt Somerville and Professor Bonamy Oliver.

What is this about?

This research project explores how children's environments and personal experiences shape their understanding of emotions. We aim to learn more about which factors help children develop healthy emotional responses, which directly impacts their mental health and wellbeing.

Who can take part?

We are inviting children in Year 7 who are attending secondary schools in England. We would love to involve your school and your families in this research project.

What will I be asked to do?

Children will be asked to complete a 20-minute survey at school about their feelings, emotions, well-being, and experiences. Parents will engage in a short online game with their child taking up no more than 10 minutes.

What's in it for your school?

We offer seminars about effective strategies to support young people in managing their emotions at staff development days or parents' evenings.

More info



Macmillan Cake sale

Friday 26th
September 2025

In the drum area
at breaktime

Any contributions
of cakes / buns /
cookies would be
most welcome!



Parent Information

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about VPNs

VPN use among UK teens is on the rise – with a noticeable uptick following the introduction of the Online Safety Act's age-verification rules. A VPN – or virtual private network – can boost online privacy by hiding internet activity and masking the user's location. But while this technology has legitimate uses, it can also allow children to bypass safety filters and access inappropriate content. This guide covers what parents and educators need to know about VPNs and how to keep young people safe.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS

VPNs are commonly used by young people to get around blocks on school networks or parental controls. This could include accessing social media, gaming sites or adult content that would otherwise be filtered out.

ACCESSING INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

When a VPN is active, content filters can no longer see which sites a child is visiting. This means they could access inappropriate content without detection. This also makes it harder to intervene when a child is engaging in risky behaviour, as it may be difficult to detect it's happening.

REDUCED TRANSPARENCY

VPNs may make parental monitoring software ineffective, stopping parents from monitoring their child's activities, including their ability to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content or online contact. This in turn may prevent parents from protecting their children from attempted sextortion or other online threats.

FALSE SENSE OF ANONYMITY

Children believing that VPNs make them invisible online may seek to explore unavailability internet content, including content which might otherwise be blocked. This may result in them seeking and accessing increasingly inappropriate – or even harmful – content.

INCREASED EXPOSURE TO MALWARE

Many free VPN apps are poorly regulated and may carry hidden malware. Young people installing unverified software could unknowingly open up their device (and home network) to spying, data theft, computer viruses, or even remote access by criminals.

RISK OF MALICIOUS VPN PROVIDERS

Although VPNs may increase privacy from network or service provider filtering and monitoring, this results in providing user and usage data to VPN providers. Some VPN providers may track user activity and sell that data to advertisers – or worse, malicious third parties. Not all VPNs are trustworthy.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLAIN THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF VPNS

Explain how VPNs can help protect user data and therefore may be appropriate when using public or other unsecured Wi-Fi, or while dealing with sensitive corporate or personal data.

EXPLAIN THE RISKS OF VPNS

Discuss online risks, including harmful, disturbing, and criminal content, inform children about criminal contact, such as sextortion, and how VPNs may restrict adults from monitoring children's internet use and helping them avoid these risks.

FREE ISN'T FREE

Discuss the risk of 'free' VPNs and how they may sell or use people's data, which adds privacy risks. Additionally, discuss the potential for added malware in VPN downloads, and how these compromise devices and apps, leading to potential fraud or theft.

CHECK DEVICES FOR VPNS

VPNs can be installed as both apps and browser extensions, so regularly check these on the devices used by the young people in your care. If they have been using VPNs, discuss it, listen to their reasoning, and inform them of the associated risks. In some cases, it may be appropriate to block VPN use via parental controls and other settings.

DISCUSS ONLINE BOUNDARIES

Reinforce the importance of keeping safe online and how filtering and monitoring helps keep young people safe – explain this to them rather than just 'being strict'. Encourage an open conversation around what they're accessing and why.

Meet Our Expert

This guide has been created in collaboration with Gary Henderson, director of IT at a large independent school in the UK, an ambassador for the Association of Network Managers in Education and the Vice Chair of the Independent Schools Council Digital Advisory Group.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



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www.mossleyhollins.com



01457 832 491



Huddersfield Road, Mossley OL5 9DP

Parent Information

Casual School Examination Invigilator

Role: Casual School Examination Invigilator
Pay Scale: Grade C, Point 5 (£13.21 per hour)
Hours: Casual, term time only
Contract: Permanent
Closing Date: 8 September 2025 (12 noon)
Start Date: November 2025



Interested applicants should complete an Application Form and Equal Opportunities Application Form available at www.tret.org.uk/vacancies/mossley-hollins-vacancies. Completed applications should be returned to: hr@mossleyhollins.com or Human Resources Department, Mossley Hollins High School, Huddersfield Road, Mossley, via Ashton-under-Lyne, Greater Manchester, OL5 9DP.

School Meal Account

To ensure that lunchtime runs smoothly and all students have the opportunity to eat and take a well-earned break from learning, it's important that every child has sufficient funds on their school meal account.

If a student does not have enough money on their account, they will be directed to Student Reception. Our admin team will then attempt to contact you to request that funds are added. If we are unable to reach you, your child will be provided with a sandwich and a bottle of water to see them through lunch.

Please note that students must have a positive balance on their account in order to be served lunch the following day.

We're very grateful that the vast majority of families continue to support us with this. If your child currently has a negative balance, we kindly ask that this is cleared so they can start September with a fresh account.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

