



NEWSFLASH

WELCOME BACK!

to the



SPRING TERM

We hope you had a restful break and are ready for an exciting new term ahead. Despite the snowy start to the year, lessons and activities are in full swing, and we're looking forward to seeing all the fantastic achievements our students will make in the coming weeks. Please take extra care when travelling to and from school, and let's make this term a great one together!

Stay Connected with Bromcom - Your School Communication Hub

Did you know the easiest way to keep up with school updates is already at your fingertips? Bromcom is our main communication platform, designed to make life simpler for parents and carers. From important announcements to attendance updates, everything you need is in one secure place.

Why Bromcom?

- Instant updates – Receive messages directly to your phone or email.
- Cost-effective – Using Bromcom helps us reduce costs, so more resources go into your child's education.
- All-in-one access – View behaviour, reports, and key information quickly and easily.

How to get started:

1. Download the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) app from your app store.
2. Log in using the details provided by school. If you need help, contact the office.
3. Check your contact details are up to date so you never miss an important message.

Tip of the Week: Enable push notifications in the MCAS app to make sure you see messages as soon as they're sent.





The Countdown is On! – Matilda the Musical Jr.

We're thrilled that the countdown has officially begun for our school production of Matilda the Musical Jr.! Our talented cast and crew have been working tirelessly behind the scenes to bring this beloved story to life, and we can't wait for you to see the magic on stage.

With just a few weeks to go, rehearsals are in full swing, costumes are coming together, props have been made and the excitement is building. This is a show you won't want to miss – full of energy, humour, and unforgettable performances.

Performance Dates:

26th, 27th and 29th January – in the Arts Theatre

Tickets:

Are available to buy through MCAS App

Mark your calendars and join us for an evening of incredible entertainment. Let's make this production one to remember!



Celebrating Character and Achievement at Mossley Hollins



In the final week before we broke up for Christmas, Mossley Hollins was filled with celebration, pride and a real sense of community spirit as we recognised our students' outstanding Character Pillar achievements. Throughout the week, students from across all year groups were awarded badges in Leadership, Participation, Learning and Service—four pillars that sit at the heart of what it means to be a Mossley Hollins student.

It was especially inspiring to see some of our Year 7 students earn their very first badges. For many, this marked the beginning of their Character Pillar journey with us, and they wore their new badges with pride, enthusiasm and a clear sense of belonging.

Well done to every student who received recognition this term; each badge represents commitment, effort and the willingness to contribute positively to our school community.

At Mossley Hollins, our Character Pillar badges are designed to celebrate the qualities that help young people grow into confident, responsible and compassionate individual, whether it be recognising students who step up, guide others, act as role models and show initiative, or honouring those who give their time, kindness and support to others, both in school and beyond.





These badges represent the values we uphold as a school. They reflect our commitment to nurturing well-rounded young people who contribute positively to their community and carry these values into their futures.

As we go into the new term, we are excited to see even more students striving for their next badge and continuing to embody the character and spirit that make our school such a special place.

WHAT'S ON *in the* LIBRARY

Welcome back! New Year's Reading Resolutions

Happy New Year and welcome to a fresh term in the library! We're excited to help you discover new stories, explore ideas, and make reading part of your everyday life. Whether you're revising, relaxing, or just curious, the library is here for you.

Start 2026 with a reading goal! Here are some ideas:

- Read one book a month – easy and achievable.
- Try a new genre – step outside your comfort zone.
- Join a reading challenge – we'll have one running soon!
- Share your reading journey – tell us what you're loving.



Hello From Our Year 7

Student Librarians

HELLO!



We are absolutely delighted to introduce our brand-new Year 7 Student Librarians!

This year we received a record number of applications, and the enthusiasm, confidence, and passion shown by every single applicant was truly inspiring. After holding interviews with all candidates, we quickly realised just how difficult the selection process would be—the standard was incredibly high, and every student performed brilliantly. If we could have chosen them all, we would have!

After much careful deliberation, we are thrilled to welcome the following students to our 2026 Student Librarian Team, Freddie, George, Heidie, Isabelle, Hermione. We can't wait for them to join us.

Our new librarians will be mentored by our experienced team of Senior Librarians and will receive training in all aspects of library life—from working at the checkout desk to creating eye-catching displays. They will also be on hand to support students, help with book recommendations, and contribute to making our library an even more welcoming and vibrant space.

We're so excited to see the energy, ideas, and enthusiasm they will bring to the role. Please join us in congratulating them and wishing them a fantastic start to their library journey!

School Fundraising

On the run-up to Christmas, we completed a number of fundraising activities – both to support school funds for student rewards and to make charity donations.

We are delighted to share what we achieved together:

- £80 to purchase food for the Mossley foodbank by selling homemade Christmas decorations
- A staggering £672 from the Year 7 Christmas Disco towards student rewards
- The library team have raised a grand total of £1750 which will be used to purchase a Book Vending Machine when enough has been raised

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make a difference. Your generosity supports our students and wider community in meaningful ways.

Do you have any fundraising ideas? If so please contact Mrs Byrne, Executive Assistant to the Headteacher heads.ea@mossleyhollins.com



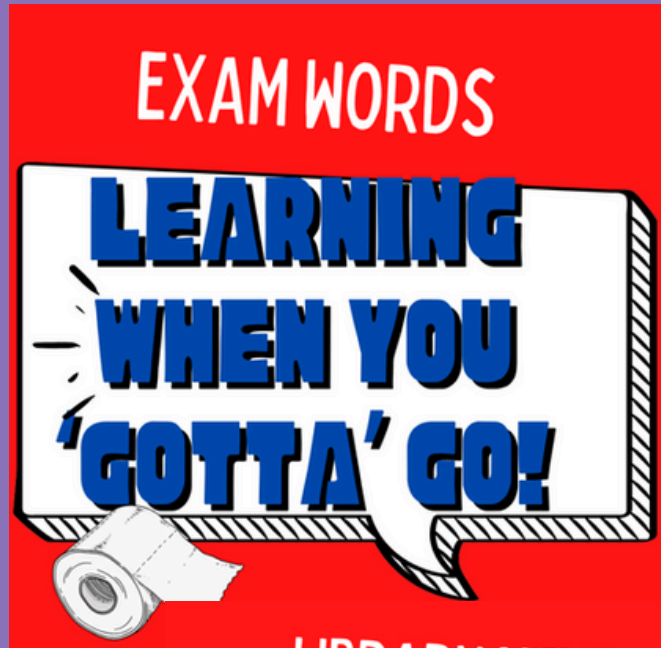


Learning... Even When You Gotta Go!

One of the joys of working in a school library is finding creative ways to sneak learning into the everyday moments of school life. This initiative does exactly that—even in the most unexpected places.

If you've visited the student toilets recently, you may have noticed something on the back of the doors. These posters aren't just decoration—they're mini learning boosters designed to make every minute count. And what better time to absorb a quick burst of knowledge than during a quiet moment with no distractions?

To help every student feel more confident with language—because strong vocabulary skills support success in every subject. Our aim is to make learning feel natural, effortless, and even a bit fun.



GCSE Sciences Edexcel

WHAT ARE YOU BEING ASKED TO DO IN THE EXAM

DESCRIBE=

Give an account of something, or link facts, information, events, or processes in a logical order

JUSTIFY=

Give evidence to support an answer

LIBRARY NEWS



ROOT WORDS

Biblio = "Book"

- Bibliography – a list of books or sources
- Bibliophile – a person who loves books
- Bible – from Greek biblion, meaning "book"



Sports News

We start the new year with a bang!

Both our Year 7 and Year 9 netball teams made an outstanding start to their Tameside Cup campaigns, recording emphatic victories in the opening round of the competition.

The Year 9 team delivered a composed and dominant performance to defeat Copley Academy 14–0. From the first whistle, the team showed excellent control of the game, with strong passing through the court and confident shooting in the circle. The defence worked tirelessly to intercept the ball and prevent any scoring opportunities, resulting in a clean sheet and a well-deserved win.

The Year 7 team were equally impressive, producing a high-scoring display to beat Laurus Rycroft 38–1. Their attacking play was fast and fluid, with accurate feeds into the circle and consistent finishing. Defensively, the team showed great determination and teamwork, limiting the opposition's chances and quickly turning possession into goals.

Both teams should be extremely proud of their performances. These convincing results are a fantastic start to the Tameside Cup and set a positive tone for the rounds ahead. Well done to all players involved!

Year 7 Team Picture. No Picture for the year 9's as they are all camera shy.



Parent Information

Dates for your Diary

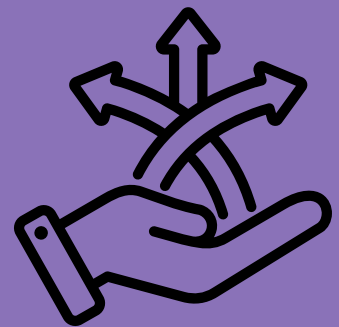
Key Dates for Spring Half Term 1:

- 13th January - Year 10 Life Skills
- 14th January - Year 10 & 11 Performing Arts Tour 2026 performed in school by Oldham College
- 22nd January - Year 10 Drama trip to Blood Brothers
- 22nd January - Year 8 Parents Evening
- 26th, 27th & 29th January - School Production - Matilda the Musical
- 2nd February - Year 11 PPE's (2 weeks)
- 9th February - Year 9 Booster injections
- 10th February - Year 9 Spanish Trip Parents Meeting

Half term 16th - 20th February

Key Dates for Spring Half Term 2:

- 25th February - Year 10 JDUP event
- 26th February - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 2nd March - Year 10 T2 Assessments (1 week)
- 9th March - Year 8 T2 Assessments (1 week)
- 16th March - Year 7 T2 Assessments (1 week)
- 17th March - Year 9 Life Skills Day
- 17th & 18th March - GCSE Music Performance Exams
- 24th & 25th March - School Dance Show
- 26th March - Year 9 Parents Evening



Year 9 Options

We are currently finalising the options process for our current Year 9 students, after receiving some insightful feedback from our current Year 10 parents. More details will follow shortly

As you can see, we have a jam-packed term ahead, with assessments scheduled for March. Students can start preparing now by making use of the revision tools available on our school website or by revisiting the work covered in their Knowledge Organisers. Taking small steps now will make a big difference later!

In addition, **Year 10** will take part in a **Life Skills Day** covering important topics such as **Managing Unwanted Attention; Safe Sexual Relationships; Consent; Alcohol, Drugs and Sexual Risk; and Misogyny or Claire's Law (domestic violence)**. If you have any concerns about these topics, please contact **Mr Hayward** at classof2027@mossleyhollins.com.



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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g. race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unexplained stings, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 31% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.



WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm - just after school - carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 38% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' - Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinella.org.uk



Source: See full reference list on guide page or <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>

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