

# HGSF Weekly Newsletter

Monday 10th February 2025



HAZEL GROVE  
SIXTH FORM

## PT Time

**Monday**

Key Messages

**Monday  
Launchpad**

Year 12 - Career Briefing - Becky Wagner is a Researcher from Salford University and will be talking about Air Quality and Climate Change

**Tuesday**

Notices

**Wednesday**

Year 12 The Big Conversation

Year 13 The Big Think

**Thursday**

Year 12 - Join the live event with Fay Newton from MMU on Degree Apprenticeships - [Join Here](#)

Year 13 - PT Quiz

**Friday  
Extended PT**

Year 12 & Year 13 (Atrium) : What does our society do to support Muslims during the Holy Month of Ramadan?

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## What's on this week

**Wednesday  
12th February**

Y13 - Deadline to complete UCAS Next Steps Microsoft Form

**Thursday 13th  
February**

Y12 and Y13 - Deadline to volunteer for assisting at the Sixth Form External Offer Holders Morning. [Click Here to Volunteer](#)

**Friday 14th  
February**

Finish for Half Term

**Friday 14th-  
Monday 17th  
February**

Y13 Trip to Rome


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## Upcoming

<b>Monday 24th February</b>	School re-opens after half term
<b>Monday 24th - Friday 28th February</b>	Y13 Mock Exams - Study Leave for all Year 13 Year 12 Mock Exams - Core and Further Maths
<b>Wednesday 26th February</b>	Y13 Spanish Laberinto Lecture Trip - <i>Students involved have been advised</i>
<b>Saturday 1st March 10am to 12pm</b>	Offer Holders Morning for Y11 External Applicants - <b><i>thank you to all Y12 and Y13 students who have volunteered to help at this event</i></b>
<b>Monday 3rd - Friday 7th March</b>	Y12 Work Experience Week
<b>Tuesday 4th March</b>	Y12 UCAS Exhibition, 9.30-11.30 - <i>details have been sent</i>
<b>Wednesday 5th - Thursday 6th March</b>	ELITE Pathway Residential - <i>Students involved have been advised</i>
<b>Thursday 13th March</b>	Y12 Geography Fieldwork Trip to National Trust Longshaw - <i>more details to follow</i>
<b>Tuesday 18th - Thursday 20th March</b>	School Production 

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## Upcoming

**Wednesday 19th  
March**

Y13 STEP Prep at CHSF - *Students involved have been advised*

**Wednesday 26th  
March**

Y12 (Atrium) at 1.30pm - Visiting Speaker Professor Bill McCaffrey

The session will take place during a time you can all attend. Professor Bill will be speaking to you about the common narratives of success and then focusing on some approaches for navigating the uncertainties that commonly confront young people. The session will be part lecture, part workshop focussing on an article by the philosopher A C Grayling.

Y13 are welcome to join.



**Professor Bill McCaffrey**

### Profile

I hold a BA in Geology from Oxford (1987) and a Ph.D. from Leeds (1991). I joined the University as a Research Fellow in 1993, was promoted to Professor in 2007, and took up an Emeritus Chair on my retirement in 2022.

**Thursday 27th March**

Y12 and Y13 Parents Evening

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## Student Notices:

**Business Dress:** Please follow the link to revisit the [Business Dress expectations](#). Hoodies and trainers are not part of business dress and should not be worn around the building.

**Signing Out:** Please remember to sign out at the end of the day.

**Emails:** Please get into the habit of checking your emails every day to ensure you are not missing key information.

### **Room Changes:** SF8 Rooms Changes - Thursday 13th February

Period 1

12B/EI1 MMI - will move to SF1

Period 2

12D/Ma2 CWO - will move to SF2

12D/Bi1 JWA - will move to SF5

Period 3

12E/De1 LME - will move to SF2

Period 4

13C/EI1 LMT - will move to SF6

12C/Cs1 SRD - will take place in the ICT Suite

**UCAS Discovery Exhibition:** Year 12 Students have been emailed an invitation link to join our booking, if you have not already done so, please make sure you do this as soon as possible, following the instructions in your email.

**Gold DofE:** Year 13 should have received an email outlining what you still need to do to achieve your Gold DofE Award, please see Mrs Lambe for further advice.

**Child Trust Fund:** The £250 you received could now be worth £1900 so can pay for driving lessons, university support etc. Please ask your parents/carers if they know where your CTF is. If they don't remember, or never invested it, or if you want to find out yourself: visit <https://findctf.sharefound.org/> or <https://www.gov.uk/child-trust-funds/find-a-child-trust-fund> to find the money – they will do a check against the CTF Register. See last weeks Newsletter for further information.

**The 16-19 Bursary:** The 16-19 Bursary Fund is a scheme to help students facing financial hardship to continue in full time education after Year 11. We would encourage all students to read the information [here](#), or to see Mrs Gill for further advice. The bursary is discretionary and you do not always need to meet the criteria outlined.



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## National Apprenticeship Week, 10th - 14th February

**HIGHER & DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS VACANCY LISTING**  
JANUARY 2025

Explore 2,400 Higher and Degree apprenticeship vacancies.

Discover vacancy details from over 80 employers, including:

- Vacancy locations
- Salary information
- Direct application links

[Click Here For More Information](#)



# HGSF Weekly Newsletter

Monday 27th January 2025



## Manchester Metropolitan University Degree Apprenticeship evening

When: Wednesday 12th February from 4.30pm - 7.30pm

Why attend?

Attend our Open Evening to hear more about our programmes from the academic team who deliver them, speak to employers and meet some of our current degree apprentices who will be sharing their insight and experience.

[Reserve a spot](#)

# UCAS

**Interested in an apprenticeship? Find out everything you need to know.**

<https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships>

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## Winchester Maths Summer School

[Applications are now open](#)

The residential course is open to Year 12 students from maintained sector schools who are considering studying maths at university. It provides an opportunity to explore the subject in a beautiful setting, with a small group of like-minded young people. The course will be led by specialist maths teachers from Winchester College, supported by undergraduate and graduate students from leading universities.

This year's Summer School will run from 17:00 on Monday 30 June to 12:30 on Saturday 5 July. The theme is 'Proof in Mathematics' and students will explore methods of proof including induction, contradiction and direct argument, and study examples from geometry, combinatorics, number theory and more.

A typical day involves two 90 minute sessions before lunch, followed by 90 minutes of problem-solving in small groups. There is a shorter session before dinner and a range of evening activities. The course offers participants plenty of freedom to develop their own interests under the guidance of a teacher or university maths student, as well as to receive advice about university admissions and how maths is used in industry. There is also time to relax, have fun and explore the city as well as the historic, 14th century campus.

The Summer School is academically demanding, but the atmosphere is relaxed and informal. Typically 30 students attend the course and are accommodated in a mix of single and double rooms.

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

“WMSS is very interactive and all of the topics are explained very simply. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants to study maths at university.”



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## PwC Virtual Experience Day

Join the PwC Virtual Experience Day during February half term to explore career opportunities in business, finance, accounting, and professional services while developing key employability skills.

### Event Details

Date: Tuesday, 18th February

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Virtual (join from anywhere)

Who Can Attend? Year 11, 12,13 and University students

### What to Expect?

- Learn about PwC's early career pathways in consulting, audit and tax
- Take part in interactive sessions and real-world business case studies
- Gain insights into careers in finance, tax, consulting, and accounting
- Hear from current apprentices, graduates and senior professionals about their experiences at PwC

### Why Attend?

This one-day virtual experience is designed to give students valuable exposure to the world of professional services, helping them build confidence, develop key skills, and gain an understanding of career opportunities at PwC.

Whether you are considering an apprenticeship, exploring work experience, grad roles, or simply want to learn more about the industry, this event will provide first-hand insights and career advice to help you take the next step.

Register now to secure your place!

[Register Here](#)

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**YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS**

## Get Into Law Virtual Work Experience

This event is designed for students exploring options such as legal apprenticeships, solicitor training contracts, and university pathways. Whether you are looking for an alternative to university or seeking clarity on the legal profession, this session will give you the information you need to make an informed decision about your future.

### Event Details:

Date: Thursday, 13th February

Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

For: Year 11, 12, 13 and university students interested in law

Location: (Zoom link provided upon registration)

### Meet Leading Law Firms & Institutions

You will have the opportunity to engage with representatives from some of the most prestigious law firms in the UK, as well as legal education providers, including 3 Magic Circle:

Farrer & Co – A specialist firm with expertise in private client and corporate law

TLT – A forward-thinking law firm known for its innovative approach and diverse culture

Freshfields – A global firm offering expertise in corporate, dispute resolution, and finance law

Mishcon de Reya – A firm known for its work in litigation, corporate, and private client law

Slaughter & May – A leading firm specialising in high-profile corporate and commercial cases

Linklaters – A global law firm with expertise in banking, corporate, and dispute resolution

University of Law – A leading provider of legal education and solicitor training

### What to Expect?

Workshop rooms on Zoom where you can rotate around rooms to chat with different employers and dive deeper into different areas of law

Insights into solicitor apprenticeships, training programmes and work experience schemes

First-hand experiences from current legal apprentices and trainees

Advice on applications, securing work experience, and making yourself stand out

Interactive sessions with Early Careers teams and senior lawyers from top firms

The opportunity to ask questions and network with various legal professionals

This event is a must-attend for anyone considering a legal career. Whether you are set on becoming a solicitor, interested in alternative routes, or simply exploring your options, this session will provide valuable insights to help shape your future.

[Register Here](#)

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**Do you want personalised support and guidance on your next steps?**

Get ahead with **FREE** one-to-one online mentoring as part of your Duke of Edinburgh Award



**Here's what you'll get:**

- ✓ Choose your own mentor from our list of industry pros
- ✓ Opportunity to build your skills from DofE into essential career and employability skills
- ✓ Personalised career advice that fits your unique interests and goals
- ✓ Gain an understanding of different jobs and how to put together applications and CVs

**Mentoring is...**

- ✓ Fully online
- ✓ Text-based
- ✓ Flexible

**“** I look back on my mentoring experience and feel extremely grateful for my Brightside mentor and what she taught me. Mentoring really does have the ability to change and develop all aspects of your life - Janhavi, mentee **”**

**24 February 2025 - 18 May**

 **Sign up in seconds here**

Sign up by 14 February

The DofE are working with British Gas to deliver a 12-week online mentoring programme for young people aged 16+ who are currently working towards a DofE Award (at any level). The programme dates are 24th February – 18th May 2025 and there is an online induction session on 24th February which must be attended.

DofE participants will be matched with a mentor of their choice, from a number of British Gas employees. Over the 12 weeks of the programme, they will explore future career options and pathways, and reflect on the transferrable skills that they are gaining through their DofE. We hope that participants will leave the programme feeling more motivated to complete their full Award and more confident about their futures.

All communication between mentors and mentees will be via text-based messages (rather than via phone/video calls) on a secure online platform - the Brightside Mentoring Platform.

All mentors will be DBS-checked, and the platform's filter system screens all messages and ensures messages are moderated by NSPCC-trained coordinators.

For more information about the Brightside Mentoring Platform, please see their FAQs.

Sign-up instructions for participants:

Participants must register via the [online form](#) by Friday 14th February.

Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.



**YOUTH  
WITHOUT  
LIMITS**





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For students considering university:

Uni Guide Podcast – University vs Apprenticeships - Episode 38 is out today! Should students consider university or an apprenticeship? Three expert guests share their insights.

[Listen now.](#)

Summer schools – a taste of university life - We're busy gathering details on all university summer schools and residential, offering students a great way to experience university first-hand. [Find out more and search for a summer school here.](#)

University support for students in one place - From event discounts to university event searches, a Jargon Buster and video guides, there's plenty to explore. [Visit the student support page.](#)

[\*\*Visit UniTasterDays\*\*](#)



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## Internal Y13 Exams February 2025



		9am		1.15pm
Week 2	Monday 24 February	English Lit/Geog 2hrs		Biology/Physics 1hr 30mins
	Tuesday 25 February	Psychology 2hrs		Chemistry/Business Studies 1hr 30mins
	Wednesday 26 February	Media Studies/ Further Maths Yr13 2hrs 30mins / 1hr15mins		Core Maths (Yr12) 1hr 30mins
	Thursday 27 February	Maths 2hrs		French/Spanish 1hr 45mins
	Friday 28 February	English Lang / History / PE 2hrs 30mins / 2hrs		Further Maths (Yr12) 1hr 15mins

## Internal Exams and Protocols

### Exam Protocols

- Arrive at 08.30 ready for a 9am start.
- Arrive at 12.45 for a 13.15 start.
- Ensure you have left your phone and belongings in the relevant room as directed by exams staff.
- Ensure you have bottled water, clear pencil case, no phone/watch and all of your equipment

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## Super curricular



### The Connected Brain

The brain is mostly organised into small modular regions connected to each other. Typically, each region performs different cognitive tasks, from image processing to language. This organisation leads us to model the brain as a network, the 'brain connectome'. This fundamental view of the brain has become a central paradigm for neurosciences linking topological properties of networks to brain functions.

This lecture presents ideas from graph theory to study this network and understand the way that the brain learns and operates.

[Watch Here](#)



### How Inequality Affects Mental Health

Traditional risk factors for mental illness include genetics, perinatal factors, substance use, negative life events, trauma and organic disorders. However, there is compelling evidence that higher rates of mental illness are seen in minoritised and marginalised groups. Deprivation, poverty, and being from a minority group, for example, being Black, South Asian, Gypsy Roma Traveller or from an LGBTQ+ background, are all associated with a higher risk of mental illness.

Dr Smith outlines how social disadvantage and different types of discrimination are associated with an increased risk of mental illness.

This lecture explores how societal factors play a significant role beyond genetic predisposition or biological influences, and why understanding these social determinants is crucial for effectively tackling mental health disparities.

[Watch Here](#)

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## Living With the Forever Chemicals

The forever chemicals, or PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances) represent a large family of highly persistent synthetic chemicals widely used in everything from carpets to non-stick cookware, to firefighting foams and furniture textiles.

They are highly persistent in nature and have been found in the blood and breast milk of people and wildlife globally.

They are linked to cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease. How can we reduce our exposure to them?

[Watch Here](#)



## Are We Too Reliant on Medical Imaging?

Imaging is used every day in medical healthcare, and the likelihood is that if you go to hospital that you will receive an X-ray, ultrasound or CT scan. With increasing reliance on complex imaging and the NHS now at breaking point, this lecture asks whether we have become too reliant on imaging and if so, how that manifests in today's healthcare.

This lecture assesses the potential advantages and disadvantages of such a system and what the potential solutions might be.

[Watch Here](#)



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## What Can We Learn from Fakes?

It seems that fakes are everywhere – very few domains of social life are exempt from concerns about fakes and a general ‘crisis of authenticity’. While fakes are often considered worthless, this talk argues that fakes can signal blind spots in our understanding of health-related matters.

This lecture draws on examples from the art world and discussion of fakes in films and what these can tell us about fakes in domains of health and medicine.

[Watch Here](#)



## Meet the Cybercriminals

Portrayals of hackers in the movies lead us to believe that cybercriminals are young white males who wear hoodies. The cybercriminal population is actually much more diverse in terms of gender, ethnicity, age, neurodiversity and other aspects. Motivations range from the ideological, to profit, to mischief and back again. We will meet the cybercriminals in all their variety and discover how a better understanding of their demographics and drivers can help citizens, businesses and governments protect themselves.

[Watch Here](#)



## Sleep and Mental Health

In recent years, the links between sleep and mental health have been slowly unravelled. We are beginning to understand that not only does mental health impact sleep, but also that poor sleep has important consequences on our psychology.

This lecture explores this complex relationship, and highlights the importance of sleep as a major factor in our mental wellbeing. The lecture covers strategies to manage disturbed sleep, and touches on other disorders such as nightmares and night eating syndrome.

[Watch Here](#)



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Want some new ideas to make life happier?

We all want to feel happy and well. But what can we actually do to be happier and more resilient in daily life, especially when we're facing tough times?

At this special event, author and psychology expert Vanessa King from Action for Happiness will explore some ideas to boost wellbeing that are emerging from the latest science.

Drawing on insights from her books and innovative work with organisations, Vanessa will share tips and guide us through some examples. She'll remind us how happiness comes from our choices and actions - so it's often more within our control than we realise.

You'll leave with new ideas to try out and practical ways to integrate these ideas into your daily life - leading to more happiness at home, at work and beyond.

New Ways To Be Happier - Vanessa King  
12 February 2025 - Online via Zoom at 7pm  
Tickets: Open to all with optional donation.  
By booking you will also receive access to the event video and resources.

**[Book Here](#)**