

Programme of Support for Families 2024.25

We are pleased to introduce our programme of support for families at Great Western Academy. Our core value of care extends beyond the classroom door, and we would like to offer families this programme of support to help and encourage parents and carers to engage in their own learning, as well as supporting their child even further.

Below is our programme of support. Each session explains how you can join. If a session is sign up, a link will be sent out shortly in advance of the event. If a session is invitation only, but you feel it may benefit yourself or your child, please do get in touch.

If you would like any further information, please email: SFF@gwacademy.co.uk.

Date	Time	Activity	Staff involved	Explanation of session	How to join this session
Wednesday 11 th September	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Introduction into Year 12	LHA/ DSM	A session open to all Year 12 Parents and Carers with a focus on communicating details of the ways in which the studies of the students will change now that they have entered post-16 education. It will give clarity on how GWA Sixth Form will support each student over the coming two years and the ways in which parent and carers can support their success in the fast-paced ever-changing phase of their lives.	Drop in
Thursday 19 th September	9am – 10.00am	Coffee Morning	HOH/ ABR/ EFL	A chance to come into school and meet with other parents and have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. The pastoral team will be available to answer any questions or give advice, as well as the IT team on standby for any teething issues with logging in and using school programmes.	Drop in
Wednesday 25 th September	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Sixth form and College Applications	RST/ DSM	Information evening about the range of qualifications and venues available to students in year 12. Key information for parents ahead of attending sixth form and college open evenings.	Drop in

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Wednesday 2 nd October	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Information evening for Pupil Premium parents	DBA	An opportunity for families to explore what is means for their child to receive Pupil Premium. There will be a short overview of the support available at school followed by a Q&A for families.	Invitation only
Wednesday 9 th October	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Why ‘just get over it’ can never work	Mark Atree - Psychotherapist	A session that will look at why we can ‘over-react’ to seemingly low-level situations. We will look at what’s happening in your head, where has the extra and unwanted emotion come from and what we can do about it.	Sign up
Monday 11 th November	4.30pm – 5pm	Introduction to RSE	LBR/ LHA	An introduction to RSE. This will cover the key topics that will be covered with your child, so you can be prepared and support with any questions.	Sign up
Wednesday 27 th November	4.30pm – 5.30pm	GCSE Science – the similarities and differences between Combined and Separate Science and what that means for post-16 options	DBA	This session will give you an overview of the Science curriculum and dispel some myths around Combined Science vs Separate Sciences. It will also provide handy tips on how to support your child to success. This session is for parents of year 8 and 9 students only.	Sign up
Wednesday 15 th January	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Identifying exploitation	PCSO Emma Harriman	A session designed to help parents understand how young people are approached and groomed, and key warning signs to look out for.	Sign up
Tuesday 21 st January	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Social behaviours of Mental Health	LHA	This session offers an opportunity to learn and discuss about mental health and wellbeing through a different lens. Since Covid there has seemingly been a bigger push towards the bio-medical model, however, is it now time to consider health promotion and how we can take ownership back for our health and wellbeing based on the social behaviours we engage with. Join us to gain an insight into some theories and	Sign up

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				practical ways you could positively support your health.	
Wednesday 5 th February	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Careers and Skills	DCL	A session designed to explore our careers and skill provision at GWA, tracing the journey for students from year 7 to Y13 and beyond, discussing our teaching of skills in school.	Sign up
Wednesday 12 th February	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Student Finance	LHA/ DSM	This is a workshop to support navigating the student finance system. It will provide key information on the sections that are required to be completed. Focusing on introducing what the young people will need to fill out themselves and the sections that will require preparations of paperwork by parents/guardians. Although, this session focuses on year 13, it is open to students and families of other year groups looking to get some early information to support future decision making.	Sign up
Wednesday 12 th March	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Supporting your KS4 child to revise for exams	RST/ LHA	This session will cover key revision techniques, sources of advice and support for parents and students in the lead-in to GCSE's.	Sign up
Wednesday 26 th March	4.30pm – 5.30pm	Why Read? – encouraging reluctant readers and why it matters	JCO	A session for both reluctant readers and their parents, we will explore why reading is so important before looking at the barriers to reading and practical ways to overcome them.	Sign up
Wednesday 30 th April	5.00pm – 6.00pm	External Exam Information Session	RST/ LHA	Key information regarding the exam season and how to support students to prepare for external exams.	Drop in

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Wednesday 6 th May	2.30pm – 4.30pm	PCSO community drop-in	Emma Harriman/ EFL	An opportunity to visit the Police Van in the car park at GWA to ask our local PCSO any questions you may have or to get advice from the local policing team.	Drop in
June – Date TBC	5.00pm – 6.00pm	Year 11 into 12 parents information evening	LHA/ DSM	Following the students having an opportunity to get to know more about life at GWA Sixth Form from transition day, this evening offers the chance for parents and carers to be introduced to the different expectations and opportunities that comes with their child starting the next phase of their studies.	Drop in
Wednesday 9 th July	5.00pm – 6.00pm	UCAS parents information evening	LHA/ DSM	With the UCAS applications now open, and year 12 students starting to build their profiles, this is an opportunity for parents and carers to gain an insight into ways they can support in the process. It will highlight the recent changes and talk through the differences when it comes to applying to the highly competitive course. Although, this session focuses on year 12, it is open to students and families of other year groups looking to get some early information to support future decision making.	Sign up