



Ellesmere Park  
High School



# NEWSLETTER

April, 2026



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Welcome to the second newsletter of the new academic year!

It has been another busy and rewarding term for our school community. One of the key milestones has been our Year 9 students making their GCSE option choices. An important step as they begin to shape their future and consider their aspirations beyond Key Stage 3. We are proud of the thoughtful approach they have taken and grateful to staff and families for their guidance and support provided throughout the process.

This term has also seen us celebrate both National Careers Week and National Apprenticeship Week, giving students across all year groups valuable opportunities to explore future pathways, hear from employers and education providers, and broaden their understanding of the many routes available to them.

Meanwhile, our Year 11 students have shown resilience, maturity and determination as they successfully completed their mock GCSE examinations. Their commitment and hard work have set a strong foundation as they move closer to the summer exam series.

As always, we are incredibly proud of the ambition, effort and achievements demonstrated by our students this term, and we look forward to sharing more highlights from across the school in the pages that follow.



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## Year 7 - 11 Intra Form Competition

We wrapped up the term with an inspiring rewards assembly, celebrating the fantastic achievements and successes of our young people. The atmosphere was filled with pride as students were recognised for their hard work, resilience, and positive contributions to school life.

The excitement continued as students came together for an action-packed intra-school competition, uniting each year group in a lively dodgeball tournament. The event was full of energy, teamwork, and friendly rivalry, with students showcasing their skills while demonstrating excellent sportsmanship and a strong culture of inclusivity throughout.

It was a fantastic way to end the term, bringing the whole school community together and leaving everyone with a strong sense of achievement and belonging. Moments like these truly highlight the spirit of our school and set a positive tone for the term ahead.



## Year 10 Manchester Museum



Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to Manchester Museum, where they explored a wide range of fascinating exhibits spanning history, science, and culture. From ancient Egyptian artefacts to impressive natural history displays, the trip brought classroom learning to life and encouraged students to make meaningful connections with their studies. Throughout the day, students engaged thoughtfully with the collections, asked insightful questions, and took part in discussions that deepened their understanding of key topics. Staff were particularly impressed with their curiosity, enthusiasm, and exemplary behaviour. This enriching experience provided a valuable opportunity to learn beyond the classroom and has inspired many students to take a greater interest in the subjects explored during the visit.

In addition to exploring the museum's galleries, students had the opportunity to take part in structured learning activities designed to support their curriculum. These sessions encouraged them to analyse artefacts, think critically, and collaborate with their peers, helping to build important academic and communication skills. Many students particularly enjoyed the interactive elements of the visit, which allowed them to engage more deeply with the exhibits and develop a stronger understanding of the topics studied in school.

Trips like this play an important role in broadening students' experiences and aspirations, offering them a glimpse into the wider world of learning beyond the classroom.

## Salford Youth Mayor Elections

Our Student Leadership Team took on an exciting and meaningful role in supporting the elections for Salford Youth Mayor. Demonstrating impressive organisation, teamwork, and a strong sense of civic responsibility, they helped plan, promote, and run the voting process. From setting up the polling stations to ensuring every voice was heard, their dedication brought their democratic voting process to life for their peers. This hands-on experience not only deepened their understanding of local leadership and decision-making, but also empowered them to see the real impact young people can have on their community.



## Blast off into space

Sixty of our Year 8 and 9 students recently took part in an exciting “Blast Off into Space” event, delivered by the Smallpiece Trust. The day was packed with engaging, hands-on activities designed to introduce students to the fascinating world of space science, engineering, and technology.

Working in teams, students tackled a range of challenges, from designing and testing ideas to solving real-world problems inspired by the space industry. They also had the opportunity to learn about the wide variety of careers available within STEM fields and the pathways to achieve them. The event not only sparked curiosity and enthusiasm, but also helped to build confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, leaving students feeling inspired about the possibilities of a future connected to space exploration.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated creativity and resilience as they refined their designs and shared ideas with their peers. Many commented on how much they enjoyed collaborating and discovering new aspects of science and engineering they had not considered before. By the end of the event, the room was filled with excitement and a sense of achievement!



## Year 11 Food and Nutrition

Our Year 11 students have been working incredibly hard in preparation for their upcoming Food Technology practical exam, demonstrating dedication, creativity, and resilience throughout the process. As part of their assessment, students have planned, prepared, and perfected a range of dishes carefully considering nutrition, presentation, and technical skill. Lessons have been filled with purposeful activity as students refine their time management, practice key techniques, respond to feedback to improve their outcomes. It has been fantastic to see the level of independence and organisation they have developed, alongside their ability to adapt and problem solve in a fast paced kitchen environment. The quality and variety of dishes produced have been outstanding, reflecting both their commitment and the progress they have made over the course. We are incredibly proud of their efforts!



## Year 10 Economics of Football



A group of Year 10 Sports Studies students recently visited the University of Manchester in Manchester to attend a football economics event. The trip aimed to show how sport connects with real-world business and finance.

During the visit, students took part in interactive workshops exploring how football clubs make money through ticket sales, sponsorships, and broadcasting, using examples from the Premier League. One activity involved managing a fictional club, where students made decisions about transfers and budgets, helping them understand the balance between success and financial stability.

They also learned about player values and wages, discovering how performance and popularity influence a player's worth. A short campus tour gave students a glimpse of university life and encouraged them to think about future study options.

Overall, the experience was engaging and educational, helping students see football not just as a sport, but as a global business.

## Girls Active Event

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## Year 11 Bouldering Event



Year 11 students recently took part in an exciting bouldering session, where they had the opportunity to challenge themselves both physically and mentally. Stepping outside of their comfort zones, students tackled a variety of climbing routes, each requiring focus, problem-solving, and perseverance.

Throughout the session, students demonstrated impressive resilience and determination, supporting one another as they worked through difficult climbs and celebrated each other's progress. The experience encouraged them to keep trying, even when faced with challenges, and to recognise that success often comes through persistence and a positive mindset.

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and courage on display. The session not only promoted physical wellbeing but also reinforced important life skills that will support students as they approach their upcoming exams and future endeavours.

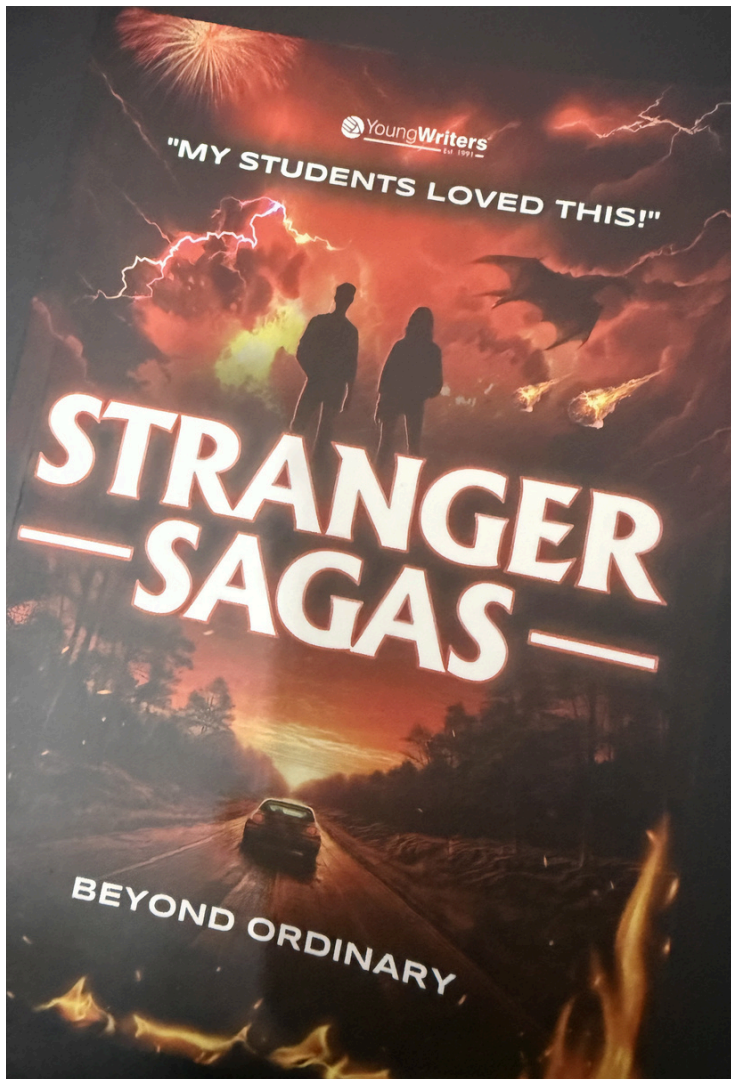
Experiences like this play a vital role in building confidence and fostering a sense of achievement.

## Poetry by Heart

The Poetry by Heart competition was a wonderful celebration of language, memory, and performance, and our students rose to the occasion with remarkable confidence and skill. In particular, Liliana and Praise exceeded expectations with their expressive and engaging recitations. Both students demonstrated not only a strong command of their chosen poems but also a deep understanding of tone, rhythm, and meaning. Their ability to bring the words to life captivated the audience and reflected the dedication and practice they had invested. Liliana's poised delivery and Praise's powerful expression made them stand out, and their achievements are a testament to their hard work and passion for poetry. We have everything crossed for them to be selected to represent Ellesmere Park at the National Competition.



## Year 7 Young Writers Competition



We are delighted to share some fantastic news about our Year 7 students, who recently took part in the Young Writers competition. This national initiative encourages creativity, imagination, and a love of writing, and our students rose brilliantly to the challenge.

We are incredibly proud to announce that 82 of our students had their work selected for publication in the anthology *Stranger Sagas*. This is a remarkable achievement and a testament to the talent, dedication, and creativity shown by our young writers. Their pieces explored a wide range of imaginative ideas, demonstrating originality, confidence, and a growing mastery of storytelling.

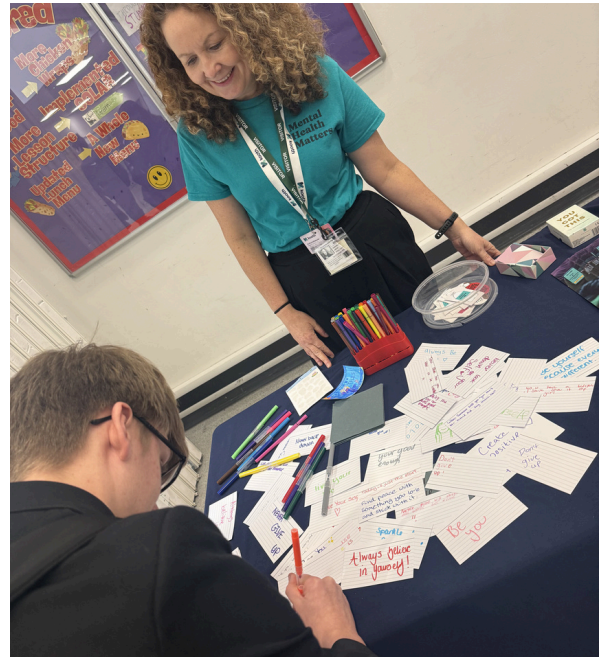
Participating in Young Writers has given students a valuable opportunity to express themselves, build their confidence, and see their work celebrated beyond the classroom. Having their writing published is an exciting milestone and one that we hope will inspire them to continue developing their skills.

We would like to congratulate all students who took part and extend a special well done to those whose work has been published. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to seeing their creativity continue to flourish.

# Children's Mental Health Week

During Children's Mental Health Week, we were pleased to welcome KOOTH to Ellesmere Park to promote their online support services and encourage our students to develop effective strategies to support their wellbeing. The sessions provided valuable guidance on managing emotions, building resilience, and knowing where to seek help when needed. In addition, our Year 11 students took part in a focused assembly on managing exam stress, where they explored practical techniques to stay calm, organised and positive during this important period. These activities formed an important part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

It was encouraging to see students engaging thoughtfully with the sessions, asking questions and reflecting on how they can apply these strategies in their daily lives. By creating open conversations around mental health and equipping students with accessible tools and support networks, we continue to foster a safe and supportive school environment where every student feels empowered to look after their wellbeing.



# Year 10 Work Experience



We are pleased to share that Year 10 Work Experience has officially launched for the 2025–26 academic year.

The placement week will take place from 13th–17th July 2026, giving students a valuable opportunity to step into the world of work, develop essential skills, and gain first-hand insight into different career paths. All students are responsible for finding their own placements, and they have now been issued with Work Experience Packs containing full instructions and a help sheet to support them in contacting employers.

Once a placement is secured, students must upload the details onto Morrisby, with a deadline of Friday 23rd April. This allows the school sufficient time to verify each placement and complete the necessary safety and safeguarding checks. Work experience is an important and enriching part of our careers programme. It helps students develop confidence, communication skills, independence and resilience, while also giving them a deeper understanding of workplace expectations. For many, it can confirm an existing career interest or open their eyes to new possibilities they may not have considered. Most importantly, it supports young people in making more informed decisions about their future.

# Principal's Award

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the students who have achieved the Principal's Award for consistently demonstrating our core values of being vibrant, inclusive, and proud. These students stand out for their positive attitudes, resilience, and commitment to making a meaningful contribution to school life. Whether through their enthusiasm in lessons, their kindness and respect towards others, or their willingness to get involved in the wider school community, they truly embody what it means to be part of our school.

By modelling these values each day, they help to create a welcoming, supportive, and aspirational environment where everyone can thrive. Their actions do not go unnoticed, and they serve as excellent role models for their peers. We congratulate them on this well-deserved recognition and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and inspire others.



# SEND Post 16 Careers Event

We were delighted to host our first bespoke Post-16 transition event, designed specifically to support students in Years 9–11 with an EHCP, alongside their parents and carers. The event was a great success and provided a valuable opportunity for families to begin exploring the next steps beyond secondary school in a supportive and informative environment.

The evening began with a welcome and introductory talk, where key information about Post-16 pathways was shared, including college provision, specialist settings, and supported internships. This session helped to build awareness of the range of options available and offered guidance on navigating the transition process.

Following this, families had the opportunity to attend a careers fair-style marketplace, where they could speak directly with a range of external providers. This allowed for meaningful conversations, personalised advice, and the chance to ask questions about specific provisions and support available after Year 11.

Feedback from attendees and providers has been extremely positive, highlighting the value of having dedicated time and space to discuss individual needs and future pathways. We would like to thank all the providers who attended and contributed to making the evening so impactful, as well as our families for their engagement and support. We look forward to building on the success of this event in the future.



## Digital Skills Session

This half term a group of year 7 and 8 students have been looking at their own digital safety and how to support others in being safe online; this has included information around AI, Deep Fakes and Violence Against Women and Girls. Part of their work has been using the You Won't Know Until You Ask government campaign [Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety](#). The group have been producing some fantastic work and it has been informative for all involved. Following the Easter break the group will be planning some sessions to be shared with a year 6 group for a local primary, this will be putting together a video of information and a small task to be delivered to educate year 6's on digital safety.

## Big Life Group - NHS

A group of Year 10's started a Wellbeing Etherapy intervention project exploring self-esteem, how to manage worry and exam/study stress. They were introduced to the online Silvercloud programme to support them moving forward and something they can access in their own time. This support can now also be offered individually to our students moving forward. It is self-help Etherapy with an online platform to support it teaches students techniques and strategies to cope better with negative thoughts and feelings, whilst building on their wellbeing and resilience.

## Emotional Friendly Schools

We are pleased to share that our journey towards achieving the Emotionally Friendly Schools (EFS) award continues to make strong progress. As part of this work, we are committed to ensuring that the wellbeing of our students, families, and staff remains a central priority within our school community.

Following the valuable feedback gathered from parents, students, and staff through our Autumn term surveys, we have taken proactive steps to further strengthen our support offer. In response, we recently hosted a parent coffee morning, which provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the wide range of support services available across Salford. This event allowed parents and carers to engage in informal discussions, ask questions, and gain a better understanding of how we can work together to support children's emotional wellbeing.

In addition, we were delighted to facilitate a dedicated parent drop-in session led by Salford's Education Psychologists. This session offered parents the opportunity to discuss any concerns in a supportive and confidential environment, as well as receive professional guidance and practical strategies to support their children at home.

We will continue to build on this work as we move forward with the EFS award, ensuring that the voice of our whole school community remains at the heart of our development.



# Attendance matters

At EPHS, we are committed to ensuring every student has the best possible opportunity to succeed, both academically and personally. One of the most significant factors in achieving this success is excellent school attendance.

Research consistently shows that students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve higher grades
- Build strong relationships with peers and teachers
- Develop confidence and resilience
- Stay on track for future education, training, or employment

Even occasional absences can have a cumulative impact. Missing just one day a fortnight can add up to several weeks of lost learning over the course of a year. Lessons build on prior knowledge, and frequent absence can make it difficult for students to keep up, leading to gaps in understanding and increased stress.

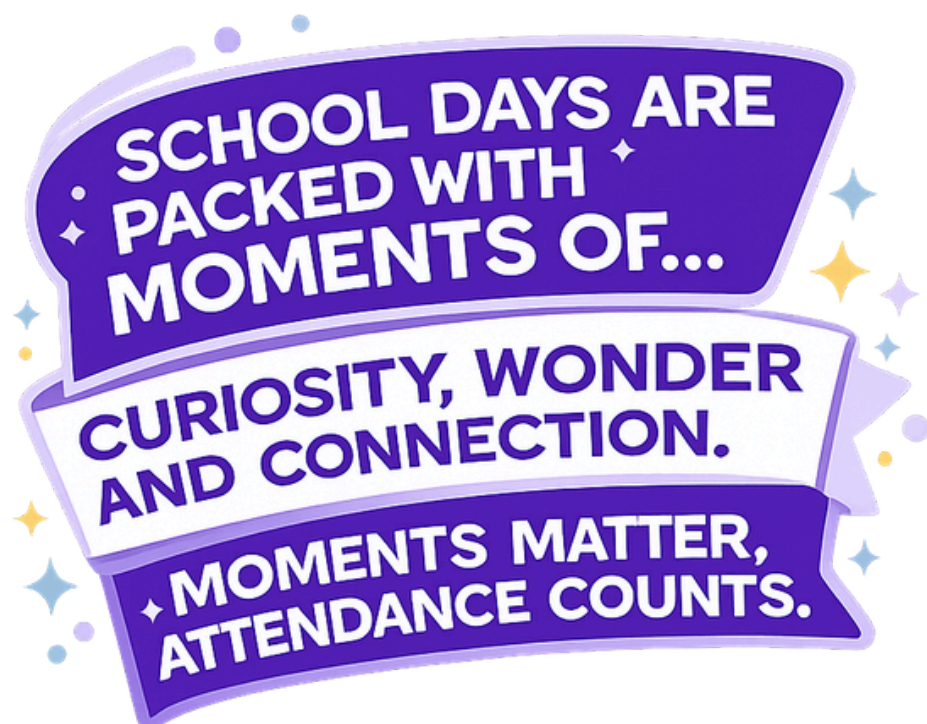
We understand that there may be times when absence is unavoidable due to illness or exceptional circumstances. However, we kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child/children attends school every day and arrives on time, ready to learn.

You can support your child's attendance by:

- Encouraging a consistent daily routine, including a good night's sleep
- Avoiding term-time holidays
- Communicating promptly with the school if your child is unwell
- Reinforcing the importance of education and attendance at home

If your child is experiencing any challenges that are affecting their attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to work in partnership with you and provide support where needed.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child make the most of their education.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## April, 2026



Autism Awareness Month



Lake Garda Residential



Year 8 HPV Immunisations



Year 8 Careers Takeover Day



Year 10 Parents Evening



Year 7 PGL Parent and Carer information evening

## May, 2026



Year 11 GCSE Exams



Year 7-11 Anti-Racism Assemblies



Year 7 PGL Residential