HGSF Weekly Newsletter

Monday 2nd November 2026



PT Time	
Monday	Year 12 and Year 13 (Atrium) : Welcome back assembly
Monday Launchpad	Year 12 (Atrium) : Introduction to Vespa and Unifrog
Tuesday	Notices and Week Ahead
Wednesday	Year 12 : The Big Conversation Year 13 : The Big Think
Thursday	PT Quiz
Friday Extended PT	Year 12 (PT Rooms) : Review of Academic Profile Year 13 (Atrium) : How to prepare for university interviews

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What's on this week	
Monday 2nd November	Return to Sixth Form following half term
Wednesday 4th November	HGSF Open Evening **Sixth Form will remain open until 5pm on Wednesday 5 November, however, please note only the Study Centre will be in use and this room MUST be left clean and tidy ready for Open Evening. If you are staying to help at the Open Evening, please put all belongings in your lockers.**
Thursday 5th November	Exam Workshops (P2) in SF7: Managing exam stress, coping strategies, building resilience and everything in between - run by Miss Bartles

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Upcoming	
Tuesday 10th November & Wednesday 11th November	Smoothie and Sushi Event - *more details to follow*
Wednesday 11th November	Creative Futures Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Wednesday 11th November	Y13 TMUA/STEP Support Session, Crown Streeet Primary School - *students involved have been advised*
w/c Monday 16th November	Y13 Common Assessments
Thursday 19th November	Year 12 Parents Evening
Thursday 19th November & Friday 20th November	Y13 Voice Workshops with Tom Morrison - *students involved will be advised*
w/c 23rd November	Y13 Common Assessments
Tuesday 24th November	Year 12 Biology in Action Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Wednesday 2nd December	Life Drawing - Year 12 Art Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Wednesday 2nd December	Y13 TMUA/STEP Support Session, Crown Streeet Primary School - *students involved have been advised*

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Upcoming	
Thursday 3rd December	Year 12 Chemistry in Action Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Friday 4th December	Year 12 and Year 13 Spanish Workshop - *all students involved have been advised*
Wednesday 9th December	Life Drawing - Year 12 Art Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Tuesday 15th December	A Level Certificate Evening for our previous Year 13 cohort - sixth form will close at 5.15pm
Wednesday 16th December	Life Drawing - Year 12 Art Trip - *all students involved have been advised*
Wednesday 16th December	Y13 TMUA/STEP Support Session, Crown Streeet Primary School - *students involved have been advised*
Friday 18th December	Sixth Form closes for Christmas 
Tuesday 5th January	Return to Sixth Form

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Student Notices:

University Interviews/Entrance Tests/Job Interviews: Please remember to complete an Absence Request Form, you can get these from the office or from the white unit in the Atrium.

University Open Days: You are encouraged to attend University Open Days, up to a maximum of three on week days in any half term during school time. (Most universities now have Open Days at the weekend). You must complete an Absence Request Form; have it approved by parents/carers and either Mrs Lambert or Mrs Roberts, and submit it to Sixth Form Reception at least three days before the visit takes place. (If an alternative Open Day is available at the weekend, permission to miss a day of lessons will not be given). Failure to submit this form will result in the absence being unauthorised.

Lost ID Badges: If you have lost your ID badge this must be reported to the sixth form office immediately so we can cancel access to the building. You must purchase a new badge via ParentPay.

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.

Gold DofE Year 13: Please login to your edofe and assess what you still need to do to achieve your Gold DofE Award and complete any outstanding sections.

Student Vehicles: A reminder to let us know your vehicle details if you are now driving to school and parking on site or on the surrounding roads. https://forms.office.com/e/AsCg54cGk6

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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Legal Cheek

Register to attend

Registrations are open for the 2026-27 edition of Legal Cheek's flagship virtual event series for Year 12 and 13 students (sixth formers) considering the solicitor apprenticeship route, in partnership with 24 leading law firms and The University of Law.

It kicks off on **Thursday 26 November 2026 (4:30pm to 6pm)** with a solicitor apprenticeship application masterclass delivered by 12 leading law firms' early careers teams covering the following topics: 'Researching firms and building commercial awareness', 'Writing a winning application' and 'Looking ahead to assessment centres'. This will be followed by a virtual law fair with the firms.

The second session takes place on **Thursday 14 January 2027 (4:30pm to 6pm)**, where current solicitor apprentices at 12 leading law firms will share what to expect on a solicitor apprenticeship, in a series of short workshops covering the following topics: 'Perception v reality', 'City living and social life' and 'Looking ahead to qualification'. This will be followed by a virtual law fair with the firms.

Ashurst Perkins Coie · Bates Wells · Bird & Bird · Burges Salmon · Gowling WLG
Hogan Lovells Cadwalader · Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer · Kennedys · Linklaters · Mayer Brown
Mishcon de Reya · Norton Rose Fulbright · Osborne Clarke · Pinsent Masons · ReedSmith
RPC · Shoosmiths · Slaughter and May · Stephenson Harwood · Wedlake Bell London
Weightmans · Weil · White & Case · Winston Taylor

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OxNet 2026/27 - Year 12 Students

Apply by 12noon on Wednesday 4th November

(Applications submitted past the deadline will not be accepted.)

Year 12 students can apply to one of six highly competitive courses: Philosophy & World Religions, Humanities, Social Sciences, Languages, English or Science. OxNet runs from January through to August 2027; each course is unapologetically academic in its focus and includes participating in activities such as study skills modules, an online Seminar Series with academics leading in their field, an Easter Essay submission, additional Twilight Talks, our renowned August Summer School (Access Week) and more!

The purpose of OxNet is:
✅Challenge students to think beyond the curriculum in a critical, flexible and independent manner.
✅Raise academic resilience, confidence and curiosity.
✅Demystify the tutorial method and challenge preconceptions of an Oxford college.
✅Prepare students for the realities of undergraduate study at a research-intensive institution.
✅Develop students' skills in time management and multitasking, while showcasing the variety of subjects available at degree level and the importance of interdisciplinary learning.

OxNet programmes



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Manchester Lit&Phil



Armed with Hope: creating a new conflict literacy for the 21st century

From medieval weapons to AI warfare, this talk explores why the Royal Armouries remains relevant today

Date and time
19 November 2026
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Location
Citylabs 1.0 Bruntwood Sci Tech
0 Nelson Street,
Manchester M13 9NQ

Price
£15.00 General Admission / £6.00 Students / Members book for FREE

Accessibility
Fully accessible area and space.

Overview

How the world's oldest arms and armour collection is finding new relevance and purpose in a fragmenting and fractious globe. The Royal Armouries has gone through numerous incarnations since John Fleet was first appointed to look after that part of the Privy Wardrobe moved to the Tower of London in 1323. Over centuries, its star has risen and fallen with the fortunes of its various Masters, several of whom have been imprisoned, and at least one beheaded, in the same Tower that held their collections. At different times in the past, the Armouries have been central to both the projection and application of state power and at other times they have been relegated to an adjunct of the Office of Works. Today, firmly established as a fully-fledged national museum, the Royal Armouries is navigating a world where the relevance, legitimacy and sustainability of such organisations, particularly as free, universal institutions, is itself under challenge. The 22nd Master will explore why we still need the assorted rapiers, bucklers, snaphances and arquebuses that began life in the belongings of fourteenth century kings in a world of 3D-printed firearms, AI-assisted drones and death rays from space.

Practical Information

Booking is essential. The NHS Grafton Street car park is a multistorey car park near the venue.

Book now

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Manchester Lit&Phil



A Conversation with Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell

CH DBE FRS FRSE FRAS FInstP HonMRIA HonFLSW

Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell delighted an audience of 600 on 22 September 2026 with her captivating lecture, “Careering Through Astronomy”, delivered at the invitation of the Manchester Lit & Phil. Among those attending were students from Manchester colleges, who shared in an evening of scientific discovery and personal reflection.

In recognition of her outstanding scientific achievements, leadership and generosity, she was presented with the Dalton Medal, the Manchester Lit & Phil’s highest honour.

Earlier that day, Professor Jocelyn had been interviewed by the BBC. Between that interview and her lecture, I had the privilege of speaking with her. She kindly agreed to continue our conversation by email for publication on our website. The interview that follows offers a glimpse of the candour, humour and independent spirit that make her such a compelling voice in science.

Read Now

To view the video recording of ‘Careering Through Astronomy’ by Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell for Manchester Lit&Phil on 22 September 2026 – Click Here

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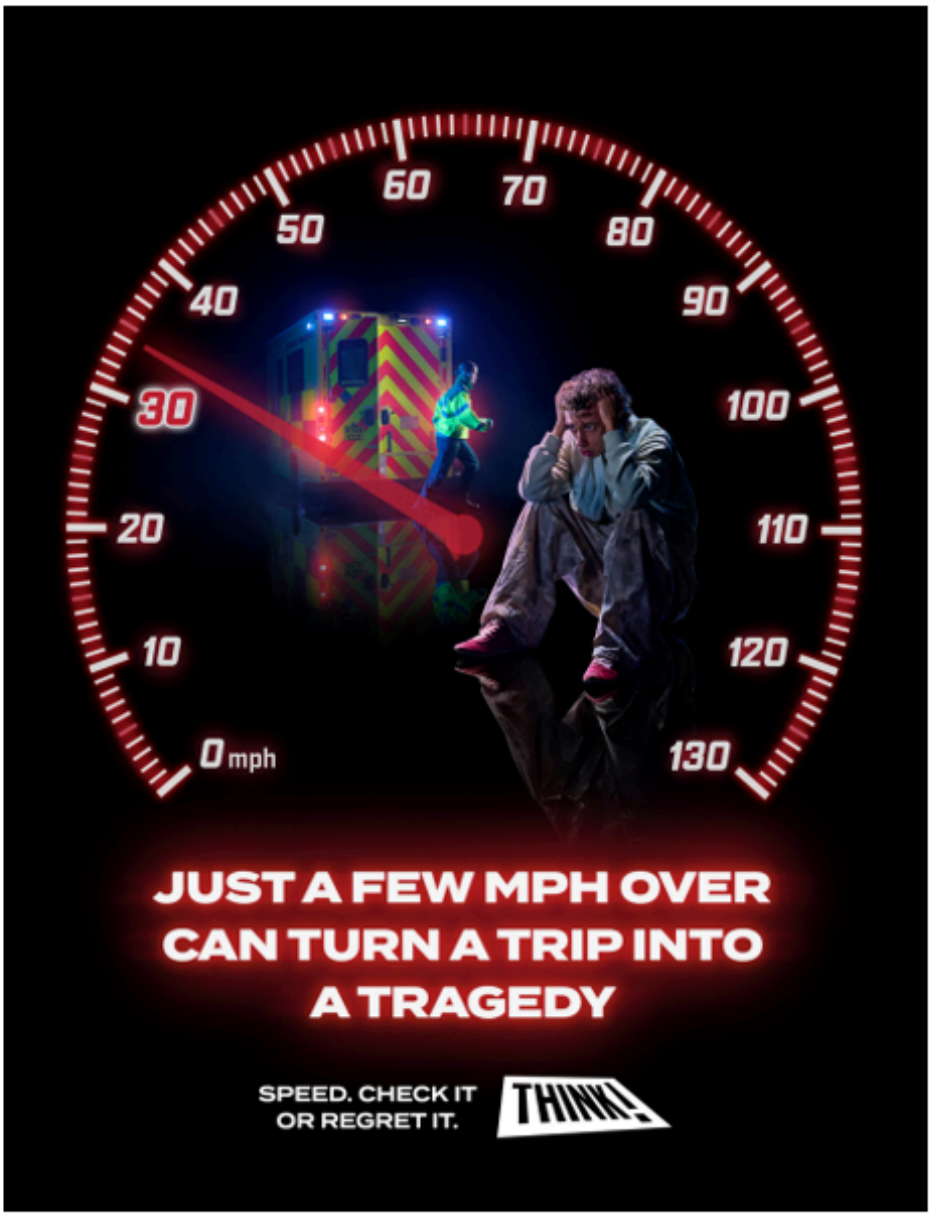
Check out @thinkgovuk's campaign 'Speed. Check it or regret it'

The campaign is available across social media, radio and digital radio platforms, #Think!

Speed is a major factor in many fatal road collisions. Driving just a few miles per hour over the speed limit, driving too fast for the road conditions or taking a bend too fast can all lead to serious consequences.



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Keep up to date with us on Social Media

hazelgrove_sixthform

Hazel Grove Sixth Form