

Urmston Grammar School

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14 December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have almost made it to the end of a very busy term. Students and staff have been involved in a whole host of events, activities and visits as you will be able to see on the [newspage](#) of the school website.

You can also keep up to date with the activities of students by following us on social media; there are whole school accounts ([Urmston Grammar | Facebook](#) [Urmston Grammar \(@UrmstonGrammar\) / Twitter](#)) and several departments have accounts on Instagram.

So many school and enrichment events ended up online during the pandemic, but we were so pleased that life has returned to some sense of normality this term.

I am delighted that so many of our students continue to embrace our key messages and understand the importance of working to the best of their ability in order to secure success, taking pride in their work, their school and themselves, making the most of the opportunities that are available to them, and having empathy for others. I know many of your sons and daughters have taken advantage of the enrichment activities that are available to them, but if they haven't, I hope you will encourage them to make this part of their new year's resolutions; there really is something for everyone: [Urmston Grammar School - Extra Curricular](#). If they cannot find something they want to do, I would challenge them to set up something for themselves and their peers.

A group of students have been developing their journalism skills as part of the student magazine 'Perspectives'. They have been working with Miss Hammond since the Summer Term to create a platform to showcase and share student and staff perspectives. It is a fantastic way of celebrating students' voices in articles, poetry and stories. [Home – UGS Perspectives \(wordpress.com\)](#) Some of you may be aware the name is borrowed from the UGS school magazine back in the 1960s and carries on a long tradition of articles and features written by and for students at Urmston Grammar School.

One of the highlights was after a hiatus of three years, the Year 9 students headed for France and Belgium as part of the Battlefields trip; this was an excellent opportunity to take learning outside the classroom and our students were able to explore the sacrifices made by the WW1 troops and the

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pride, participation, empathy

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personal stories of those involved in the war effort. Dr McPartland and the teachers who supported the students were so impressed with the high level of engagement, the respect shown, and the understanding developed by all the students who took part.

Last month debating also happened face to face when Mr Warnes took students to the Lancaster University Schools' competition. Twenty-four teams took part in the competition from all over the North of England. Urmston Grammar participants were Issy, Freya, Abi, Laurel from Year 12 and Theo and Niall from Year 13. We were delighted that two of our teams made it to the final and Laurel and Issy were the overall winners!

We have also had debating success as part of the ESU Public Speaking regional competition where our Year 11 team - Libby, Ghelila and Nell - were overall winners and are through to the next stage. Our Year 12 team Freya, Abi and Laurel are also through to the next round of the ESU Mace debating competition. The ESU teams have been supported by Mrs Derby.

Mr Cummins and Mrs Chadwick arranged the annual German 'Spelling Bee' competition. The Year 7 German classes have taken part in very competitive class rounds and the grand final took place this week. After a superb performance from many students, it was great to hear Ibraheem (7M) spell at speed and become the Year 7 champion. All the students involved earned well deserved points for their houses.

The festive season started with our PTA Christmas Fair which was a wonderful opportunity for the school community to come together, stock up with Christmas goodies and raise over £1700, which will be used to enrich the lives of your children. The parents and staff were ably supported by our PTA Ambassadors and our senior prefects. Sophie's musical performance added a magical element to the evening.

It is vital that all young musicians have opportunities to perform to an audience and that they can showcase their talents to parents, friends and the wider community. It was wonderful to see so many parents supporting our Year 7 'Let's Sing' event and I look forward to seeing more of you on Thursday evening as we celebrate the festive season with our 'Festival of Christmas'.

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A significant number of students have been rehearsing with Mr Harrison, Mrs Glen and Ms Langham as part of the preparations for West Side Story. We have had a few sneak previews of dancing and singing as students get ready for their parts in this exciting musical and I know that we are going to be in for a treat! Tickets go on sale from Friday 16th December through ParentPay.

At last week's Careers Fair. Mrs Kinder had arranged for a huge number of employers and providers to contribute to a marketplace and lead presentations. The event gave Year 9-12 students the opportunity to gain insights into a whole range of different careers and make informed choices about their future. We were delighted to see so many of our parents, governors and alumni offering their support by representing their sectors during the evening.

The charity spirit was in evidence as part of the House donations for the 'Winter Food Drive' to help families in need across Greater Manchester this Christmas. It is wonderful that our students continue to make a commitment to creating a more positive Christmas experience for those who are less fortunate than themselves. The students will also be raising money on the last day of term by wearing their festive jumpers to support 'Save the Children'. The students are definitely following our key message of 'developing empathy'.

The teachers and support staff have, as always, worked tirelessly to support students in and out of the classroom throughout the term and I would like to thank them for all that they do to ensure the success of our students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support as we work together to ensure that your child is able to achieve their very best at Urmston Grammar.

As the year draws to a close, we are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Arshad who is leaving us to take up a new role in a local school. We would like to thank her for all that she has done to support our students this term.

As Year 12s are now in their final preparations for internal examinations, I hope they will use their holiday wisely. Students should make time to relax and recover, but this is their chance to make a concerted effort so that they can tackle the upcoming examinations with confidence.

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I would like to remind everyone that Y7-11 students finish for the Christmas break at **12:45 pm on Wednesday 21st December 2022** (Y12/13 will be dismissed at 12:15 pm). School will re-open for the new term as normal at **8:30 am on Thursday 5th January 2023** which will be a Week A on student timetables.

On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you and your families the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R S Wall', with a long, sweeping underline.

R S Wall
Headteacher