
Parent Handbook



We Grow A Little Everyday

Integrity 🌳 Courage 🌳 Excellence

Values and Rewards



Our Values

We care deeply about every child's experience at school and want them to feel a part of something special. We talk often to our young people about our motto '**We Grow a Little Everyday**' as a simple way to show them that everyday is a new day and an opportunity to try their best. We talk about our school community like a tree - The Gracewood tree where everyone is welcome and has the opportunity to grow, just like we as a school are also on a journey of growth. As part of this attempt to mould our young people to be great humans, we have introduced three key values that we will talk to them about in tutor time, in interactions around the school and in assemblies.

- **Integrity - We do the right thing**
- **Courage - We embrace the challenge**
- **Excellence- We aim high**

These values are central to everything we do because they provide a shared understanding of what matters most in our school community. When staff and students share the same values, it helps guide decision-making and shapes positive behaviours, enabling our young people to become successful learners, kind individuals, and responsible citizens both now and in later life.



Rewards at GWA

At Gracewood, we believe that rewards should significantly outweigh sanctions because positive recognition is one of the most effective ways to encourage and reinforce the behaviours we want to see. We want our students to know that their effort, kindness, courage and commitment to excellence are noticed and celebrated every day. Through our Grace Points system and a range of rewards, we recognise great choices, hard work and positive contributions to our school community, helping students to build the habits and character that will lead to success both in school and beyond.



Regular opportunities for rewards

Grace Points
Awarded for
displaying our values

Excellence
Certificates per
lesson worth 3
Grace Points

Friday phonecall
home for a great
achievement and 5
Grace Points



Accumulating high amounts of Grace Points

Badges for
cumulating high
amounts of Grace
Points

Reward Trips
and Half Termly
Principal's
Breakfasts

Queue Jumper at
lunch time for
high weekly
Grace Points

When our staff communicate home and share the amazing progress and hard work of your child, we know how much of a difference that makes to students. We aim to do this as much as possible to support them here at school.



Times of the School Day

8.10 - Gates Open, Canteen open for Breakfast

8.25 - First Bell for Morning Line Up

8.30-9.00 - Tutor Time and Assemblies

9.05-9.50 - Period 1

9.55-10.40 - Period 2

10.40-11.00 - Break Time

11.00-11.50 - Period 3

11.55-12.40 - Period 4

12.40-13.20 - Lunch

13.20-14.10 - Period 5

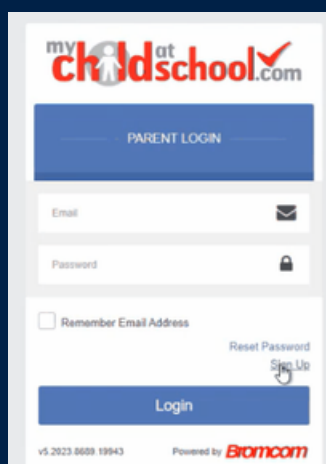
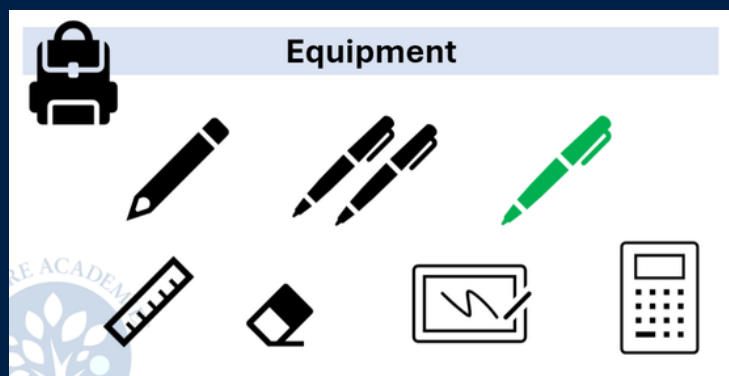
14.15-15.00 - Period 6

15.00 - 16.00 After school clubs, Champions Hour for Y11 and Detentions

Equipment

Coming to school equipped is very important so students can get straight to work in lessons without any fuss. Students must have:

- A pencil
- 2 black pens
- A green pen
- A ruler
- An eraser
- A whiteboard pen
- A scientific Calculator



Equipment Shop

On the MCAS app, parents can buy all or some of the above equipment and students can collect this from reception at the beginning of the school day to ensure they are equipped.

For families needing support with equipment please let us know and we will provide a full pencil case of equipment for children.



Uniform Expectations



Uniform

At Gracewood, our school uniform is about much more than clothing. Just like wearing the shirt of a team you support, our uniform creates a shared sense of identity, pride and belonging. It reminds students that they are part of something bigger than themselves and that we are all working together towards the same goals.

Uniform also helps to remove visible differences between students, reducing pressure around fashion and trends, and ensuring that everyone arrives at school ready to learn as equal members of the Gracewood community. By wearing our uniform well, students show pride in themselves, their school and the values we share.



Our Uniform

- A plain white shirt (tucked in)
- A Gracewood Blazer
- Plain grey trousers or a knee-length pleated grey skirt
- A Gracewood tie
- Plain black school shoes
- Gracewood PE top and plain navy shorts for Sport
- Optional: A plain navy school jumper

All school uniform can be ordered from our provider website: [Gracewood Academy | Price & Buckland](#)

We have made sure there are only 3 branded items in our uniform bundle so that parents can shop around for cheaper prices to reduce cost where possible.

Items not permitted

- Students **cannot wear jewellery** such as bracelets, rings, necklaces. Students can wear one pair of small ear studs only.
- Students **cannot wear false lashes or excessive make up**
- Students **cannot wear fake nails**
- Students **cannot wear trainers**
- Students **cannot wear branded sports socks**, instead a plain black or white sock is permitted
- Students cannot wear **facial piercings**
- Students cannot wear **leggings or stretchy elastic flares instead of school trousers**

If a student arrives with these items they will be asked to remove them and receive a detention. If a student has nails or lashes that cannot be removed they will be in Reflection Room until they are removed. If students have these in the holidays it is important to ensure they are removed safely before the start of term.

On the rare occasion a child has a serious injury, e.g a broken leg, and must wear a different school shoe temporarily, we ask parents to speak with the pastoral team and seek to find a non-branded trainer or simple black shoe that supports the child and is still smart for school. The pastoral team will support with these reasonable adjustments.

Hairstyles

At Gracewood, we ask students to keep hair colours natural in appearance to maintain a smart and professional learning environment; however, we fully embrace and support the principles of the Halo Code, recognising and celebrating natural Black hair, protective hairstyles and cultural expressions of identity.

Attendance and Punctuality



Attendance

At Gracewood, we know that every lesson matters and that excellent attendance is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. When students attend school every day and arrive on time, they benefit from high-quality teaching, build positive relationships with staff and peers, and avoid gaps in their learning that can be difficult to close.

We care deeply about attendance because regular attendance tells us that children feel happy, safe and connected to our school community. In a world where screens and social media can so easily capture young people's attention, school remains one of the healthiest places for children to be: learning, communicating, collaborating and developing important social skills with their peers and trusted adults.

A 5% drop in attendance may not sound like much, but it means missing nearly 100 lessons over two years. Every lesson counts. 100% attendance gives students the best possible opportunity to succeed.

95% Attendance

- Missing around 1 day every month of school.
- Around 9 days of learning lost each year.
 - Around 47 lessons missed each year.
 - Over a two-year GCSE course, this is close to 100 lessons missed, equivalent to the learning time of almost two GCSE subjects.

90% Attendance

- Missing around 1 day every two weeks.
- Around 19 days of learning lost each year.
 - Around 94 lessons missed each year.
 - Over two years, this is nearly 200 lessons missed, making it much harder to keep up with new knowledge and skills.

85% Attendance

- Missing around 1½ days every two weeks.
- Around 28 days of learning lost each year.
 - Around 141 lessons missed each year.
 - Over two years, this adds up to over 280 lessons missed, reducing the likelihood of success in examinations.

Our attendance team ring families to understand absences and support young people to attend regularly. If you do have an absence please contact our attendance officer and register this on MCAS.

Punctuality

The school day begins with a bell at 8:25am, signalling that students should move to their tutor group line-ups. Line-up is an important part of our morning routine, allowing tutors to share key messages, check that students are ready for the day ahead, and ensure that uniforms and equipment meet expectations. **Students are expected to arrive at school on time each day, at 8.25 or before, so that they can fully participate in these routines and begin learning positively. If students are late to school, line up or lesson they will miss out on valuable input and over time this leads to a huge loss of learning.**

Throughout the day, bells clearly signal the start and end of lessons. Students are given five minutes of movement time between lessons, allowing them to travel calmly and responsibly to their next classroom. When the second bell sounds this signifies that the teacher will now close their door and the lesson begins. This reminds students that when the classroom door close, learning begins and anyone arriving after this point is late. By maintaining high standards of punctuality, we maximise learning time, reduce disruption and create a calm, purposeful environment where every student can succeed.



If a student is late to school they receive a 30 minute detention that day.

If a student is late to line up they receive a 30 minute detention that day.

If a student is late to lesson they receive a 30 minute detention that day.

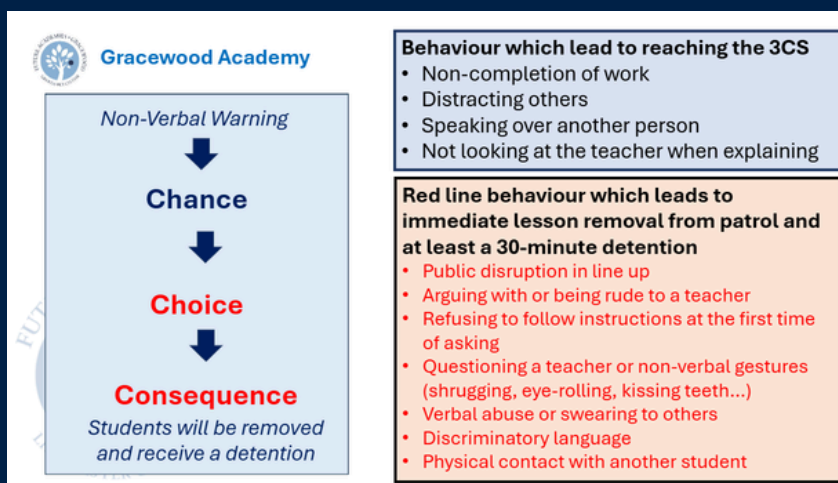
Students who attend school 100% all week and have no lates are awarded 10 Grace Points! Every half term we give out 100% attendance badges to celebrate students' commitment to school!

Student Culture

Behaviour for Learning

At Gracewood, we know that high standards of behaviour create a positive school culture where every child can thrive. Learning should be disruption free. The brain is wired to focus on one thing at a time, and when lessons are interrupted by distractions, valuable learning is lost for everyone. Our classrooms are places of calm, purposeful learning, meaningful discussion and mutual respect, where students can fully engage with the subject being taught.

To support this, we operate a simple three-stage behaviour system. If a student makes a mistake in a lesson, they will first receive a verbal warning and a clear opportunity to refocus on their learning. If disruption continues and a student reaches three warnings within a lesson, they will be removed for a period of reflection so that the learning of others can be protected. This will result in a detention. In cases of red-line behaviour, students will be removed immediately, as such behaviours are not acceptable at Gracewood and require further reflection and support. Our approach is rooted in fairness, consistency and a commitment to ensuring that every lesson remains a calm environment where all students can succeed.



Detentions and Restorative Conversations

At Gracewood, we believe that consequences should be meaningful, proportionate and focused on helping students make better choices in the future. Students who are removed from a lesson following the Chance, Choice, Consequence process will receive a 30-minute detention on the same day (unless the incident occurs during Period 6, in which case the detention will take place the following day). During this detention, teachers are asked to attend the canteen and hold a restorative conversation with the student. This provides an opportunity to discuss what happened, revisit expectations and ensure the student can return to lessons with a fresh start.

We never hold grudges about poor behaviour. Growing up means making mistakes, and our role is to help young people learn from them. However, these conversations are important in helping students reflect on their choices so that future lessons can be more productive and successful.

30-minute detentions may be issued for: Removal from a lesson following the Chance, Choice, Consequence process (on-call). Lateness to school. Lateness to lessons. Lack of required equipment. Wearing prohibited uniform items, such as facial piercings. Missing homework.

60-minute detentions may be issued for: Failing to attend a 30-minute detention. Repeated removals from lessons (on-calls). Repeated lateness during the school day.

Reflection Room

The Reflection Room provides students with a calm space to reflect on their behaviour when they have been removed from a lesson. To minimise lost learning, Heads of Faculty have provided subject-specific work that students are expected to complete during their time in the room. If a student is removed from lessons more than twice in a day, or three times in a week, parents will be informed that the student will remain in the Reflection Room for the rest of that day or week respectively.

Please refer to the behaviour policy on our website to understand more serious behaviour consequences such as suspensions.

Pastoral Information

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones can be a significant distraction for young people, and we know that reducing unnecessary screen time supports both wellbeing and learning. **At Gracewood, we operate a simple "See it, Hear It, Lose it" policy.** Students must keep phones switched off and in their bags throughout the school day.

1. **If a phone is seen or heard by a member of staff, it will be confiscated and returned the following school day.**
2. **A second confiscation within the same half term will require a parent or carer to collect the device.**
3. **A third confiscation will result in the phone being retained for the remainder of the half term.**

We make these expectations very clear so that students can avoid losing their phones in the first place and remain focused on learning.



From September, we will also be supporting Hertfordshire's "Bricks for '26" initiative for Year 7 students. This means that where a phone is needed for communication before or after school, students should only bring a basic mobile phone rather than a smartphone. We are pleased to support this initiative because we know that, whilst students are rarely caught using phones in school, the temptation to immediately return to screens after the school day can be significant. We want to encourage young people to spend more time with friends, engage with the world around them, develop independence and enjoy childhood without the constant pressures that smartphones can bring. By working together with families, we hope to promote healthier habits and help our students build positive relationships both online and offline. More information will be shared with Year 7 parents in due course.

Pastoral and Safeguarding Support

Our Pastoral and Safeguarding Team is here to ensure every student feels safe, supported and ready to learn. The team works closely with students and families to provide guidance with wellbeing, attendance, behaviour and any safeguarding concerns. A student's Form Tutor is often the best first point of contact, as they know students well and can help access further support when needed.

- **Year 7** - Miss Medcalf (Head of Learning) and Miss Harris (Pastoral Support Manager)
- **Year 8** - Ms White
- **Year 9** - Miss Frame
- **Year 10** - Miss Frame
- **Year 11** - Miss Harris
- **Assistant Principal - Pastoral:** Mr Buckley m.buckley@gracewood.futureacademies.org
- **Safeguarding Lead** - Mrs Lawrence

If there is anything affecting your child's wellbeing, welfare or ability to learn, please let us know as soon as possible by contacting their Form Tutor, Year Group Lead or a member of the Safeguarding Team so that we can provide the right support at the right time.



Inclusion Team

Our Inclusion Team, including our SEND Department, Teaching Assistants and Literacy Support Team, is dedicated to helping every student succeed. Through tailored support, interventions and classroom assistance, the team ensures that all students can access learning, develop confidence and achieve their potential.

- **Assistant Principal - Inclusion:** Ms Wilkinson
a.wilkinson@gracewood.futureacademies.org
- **Deputy Sendco** - Mrs Maguire
c.maguire@gracewood.futureacademies.org



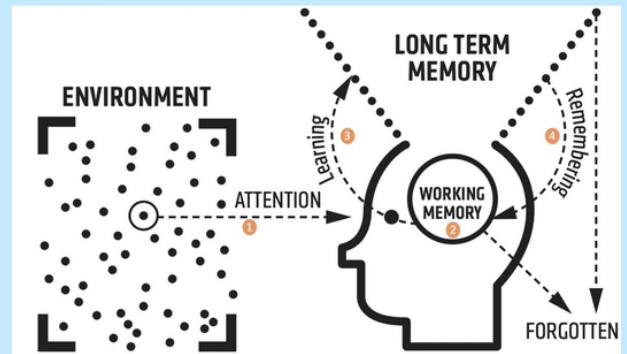
How we learn at GWA

Teaching and Learning

How We Learn

The diagram aside shows that we are constantly surrounded by information from our environment, but only a small amount can be processed through attention and held in working memory before it is transferred into long-term memory. Because working memory is limited, distractions, unclear explanations or complicated instructions can quickly reduce how much learning takes place.

At Gracewood, our teachers work hard to provide clear explanations, simple routines and precise instructions so that students can focus their attention on the right things, avoid confusion and maximise their learning. Clear teaching helps every child succeed and is a key part of our inclusive approach to education.



It's Easy to Do the Right Thing at Gracewood

At Gracewood, one of our mantras is "It's easy to do the right thing" and "It's hard to get a detention here." We say this because we believe it is our responsibility as adults to make expectations clear, consistent and easy to follow. Through regular practice of routines, clear expectations, punctuality systems and well-structured lessons, students always know what is expected of them.

Our staff are experts in their subject and continue to develop their teaching through twice-weekly training and collaboration. By making instructions clear, lessons engaging and school routines predictable, we create an environment where students can focus on learning and success. As we often say, being clear is being kind.



Being Clear is Being Kind

You will often hear teachers use phrases such as "Show me your green pens, we are going to mark now," "In silence you will..." or "With your partner you will..." These simple, direct instructions remove uncertainty and help students stay focused on their learning.

We also use SLANT as a shared attention routine. Teacher will say '3..2...1 SLANT' which is similar to 'eyes on me'. It means: Sit up, Listen, Ask and answer questions, Nothing in your hands, Track the speaker

SLANT provides a clear signal that it is time to listen and engage.

By making expectations explicit, students are less likely to feel confused about what they should be doing and more likely to make positive choices. This approach is part of our commitment to inclusive classroom practice and is used successfully in many high-performing schools to create calm, focused and purposeful learning environments. We know that we can only attend to one thing at a time and these cues help make it clear that the teacher is about to explain something important and we don't want students to miss out on this expert input.

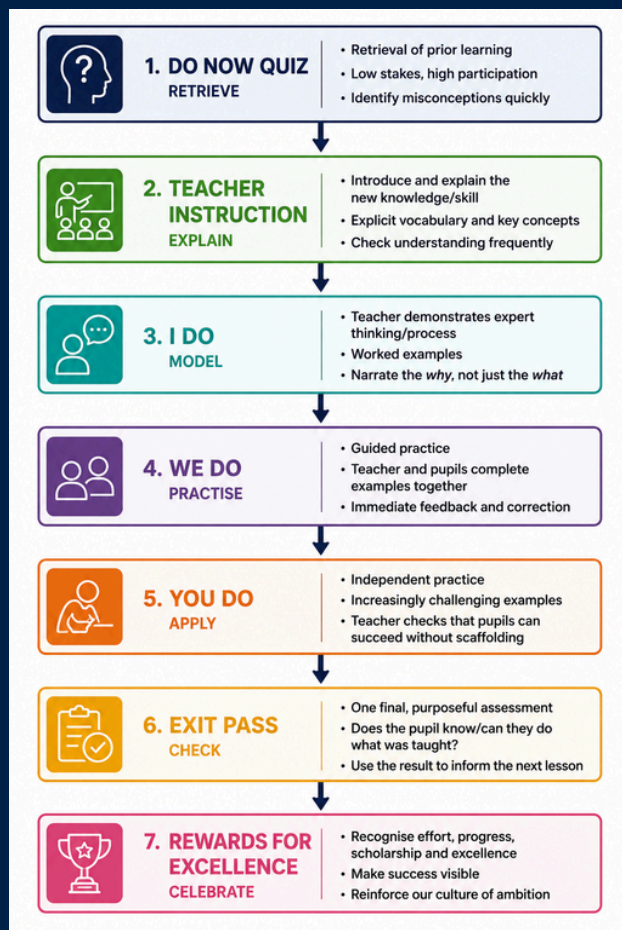
How we learn at GWA

A typical lesson at GWA

At Gracewood, lessons typically follow this structure because it is one of the most effective ways for students to learn new knowledge and skills. By combining retrieval practice, clear teacher explanation, expert modelling, guided practice and independent application, we help students understand new learning before applying it confidently for themselves.

We also know that children learn best when classrooms are predictable and routines are familiar. That is why lessons often feel similar across subjects. This consistency helps all students, particularly those with additional needs or barriers to learning, feel safe, confident and clear about what is expected. By making lessons structured and inclusive, we ensure that every child can focus their attention on learning and achieving success.

At Gracewood, we believe students deserve to be taught by experts. Our teachers have strong subject knowledge, holding degrees and specialist qualifications in the subjects they teach. This matters because we want every student to access rich, challenging and engaging learning that stretches their thinking and develops a deep understanding of the world around them.



The Power of Reading

Reading is one of the most powerful ways for young people to develop their knowledge, vocabulary and understanding of the world. Students who read regularly become more confident communicators, stronger writers and more successful learners across all subjects.

To support this, students read with their tutor three times each week, exploring a range of carefully chosen canonical texts. These shared reading sessions help to improve reading fluency, build cultural capital and expose students to ideas, experiences and perspectives beyond their everyday lives. **Arriving to school on time at 8.25 is essential, as it ensures students can fully benefit from this important opportunity to read and learn alongside their tutor group.**

Ambitious Curriculum



At Gracewood, we believe that every child deserves access to an ambitious curriculum filled with powerful knowledge that inspires, challenges and broadens horizons. We want students to know more, do more and go further, regardless of their starting point or prior attainment. We reject the idea that a rich and challenging curriculum is only for some students. Instead, we believe that all children can be stretched by fascinating ideas, great books, important concepts and meaningful learning experiences.

Our teachers carefully consider the knowledge and skills that matter most, selecting high-quality content that helps students build deep understanding over time. Alongside this ambition, we offer a broad range of subjects, ensuring students receive a well-rounded education. From English, Mathematics and Science to Music, Drama, Sport, Citizenship, Design Technology and Food Preparation, students have opportunities to discover new interests and talents. Despite being a smaller school, we are proud of the breadth of our curriculum. For a subject-by-subject breakdown of what students will study, please visit our website.

Assessments and Homework

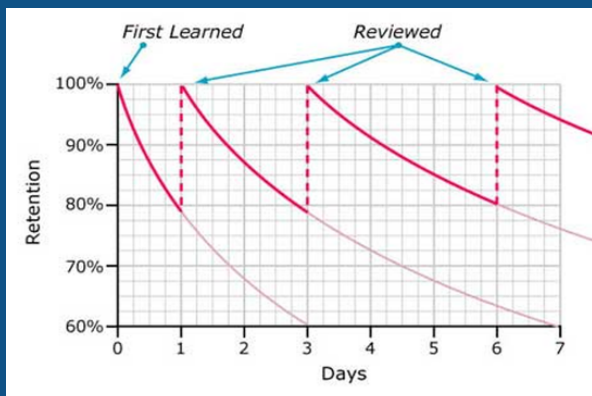
In our classrooms, teachers are regularly assessing students' knowledge to support them to know and do more. Here at Gracewood, there are two types of assessments that we use.

- **Formative Assessment:** Ongoing checks for understanding used during lessons to identify misconceptions, provide feedback and adapt teaching so that students can make progress.
- **Summative Assessment:** Assessments completed at the end of a unit, term or course to evaluate what students have learned and measure their overall attainment against expected standards.

At Gracewood, students complete larger summative assessments twice each year. These assessments help us understand how well students have secured and remembered the knowledge and skills from the units they have studied over time. The timeline below outlines when these assessment windows take place and when parents can expect progress reports. Following each reporting window, we provide guidance to help families understand the information shared and offer practical ways to support learning and progress at home.

Year Group	First Summative Assessment	Second Summative Assessment
<i>All year groups have annual Reading Tests in Summer Term to understand levels of literacy</i>		
Year 7 and 8 Assessments	WC 7th and 14th December	WC 10th and 17th May
Year 9 and 10 Assessments	WC 18th and 25th November	WC 9th and 10th June
Year 11 Mock Exams	WC 9th and 16th November	WC 22nd Feb and 1st March
	Public Exams commence from 10th May	

Revision and Homework



Research shows that knowledge is remembered for longer when it is regularly revisited and retrieved from memory. Students who review learning over time are more likely to retain information, recall it in assessments and feel confident in examinations. This principle underpins our approach to revision and homework.

The Forgetting Curve shows that information is naturally forgotten over time if it is not revisited. Each time knowledge is reviewed or retrieved, memory becomes stronger and forgetting slows down. This is why regular, spaced revision is far more effective than last-minute cramming and helps students remember more over the long term.

Top Ten Tests: From September, students in Years 7-10 will complete a weekly Top Ten Test homework, designed to strengthen long-term memory through regular retrieval of key knowledge from each subject.

Champions Hour: Year 11 students attend three compulsory teacher-led revision sessions each week, from 3.00pm to 4.00pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. These sessions are designed to make revision manageable, provide expert support and help students prepare successfully for their examinations.

Additional Support: If we feel a student would benefit from extra support with homework or revision, they may be invited to attend one of our Inclusion Homework Clubs or supported Champions Hour groups, where staff can provide additional guidance and encouragement.

Enrichment - The Gracewood Grow

Our enrichment offer is a key part of school life at Gracewood. We believe that education extends beyond the classroom, and that the experiences students have outside of lessons play a vital role in broadening horizons, building confidence and developing character.

The Gracewood Grow provides a wide range of opportunities for students to explore new interests, develop talents and discover future aspirations. Organised into five branches of enrichment, the programme reflects our school values and includes experiences linked to the world of work, curriculum enrichment, culture, the arts, sport and personal development.

Across their time at Gracewood, all students will take part in a range of meaningful experiences that help them grow into well-rounded, resilient and ambitious young people.

To support this, a programme of clubs, visits, activities and enrichment opportunities will be published each term, ensuring every student has the opportunity to get involved, try something new and continue to grow beyond the classroom.

Students can look forward to a wide range of opportunities to get involved in school life, including:

- Sports teams and fixtures across a variety of sports.
- Choir, music and performance opportunities.
- Drama productions and performances throughout the year.
- Academic clubs such as Science Club, Environmental Club, Coding Club, Reading Club and subject-specific enrichment.
- Regular use of our school library to encourage reading for pleasure and independent learning.
- Opportunities to represent student voice through the School Council.
- Community events and charity initiatives, helping students make a positive contribution beyond school.
- A comprehensive careers programme, including employer encounters, workplace experiences, visiting speakers, university outreach and our annual Careers Week.
- Educational visits, competitions and enrichment activities that bring learning to life beyond the classroom.



THE GRACEWOOD GROW

Helping students to 'branch out'

The Gracewood GROW is organised into Five Branches of Enrichment, carefully designed to reflect Gracewood's values and ensure students have a breadth of meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.

BRANCH 1: CHARACTER
Experiences that build resilience, leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline.

BRANCH 2: CURRICULUM
Clubs, competitions, masterclasses, and academic enrichment that deepen learning.

BRANCH 3: CULTURE
Trips, arts, performance, literature, sports, and encounters with the wider world.

BRANCH 4: CAREERS
Employer encounters, workplace visits, talks, mentoring, and skills development.

BRANCH 5: COMMUNITY
Service projects, volunteering, student leadership and contributions to Gracewood and beyond.



Parental Events

The Gracewood Tree - Growing Together

At Gracewood, our tree is rooted in the belief that children thrive when school and home work together. We want every family to feel welcomed, valued and part of our community, and we encourage parents and carers to engage with the many events we offer throughout the year. Whether learning about your child's progress, contributing to school improvement, connecting with other families or simply coming together in the spirit of community, we believe that by working together we help every child grow and flourish.

Parents' Evenings

Date	Details
<i>Weds 7th October 4pm – 7pm</i>	Year 7 Settling In Evening Meet the tutor and Y7 team
<i>Weds 16th December 4pm – 7pm</i>	Year 11 Parents Evening
<i>Weds 27th January 4pm – 7pm</i>	Year 8 Parents Evening
<i>Weds 10th February 4pm-7pm</i>	Year 7 Parents Evening
<i>Weds 3rd March 4pm – 7pm</i>	Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Evening
<i>Weds 14th April 4pm – 7pm</i>	Year 11 Parents Evening
<i>Weds 5th May 4pm-7pm</i>	Year 10 Parents Evening
<i>Thurs 20th May 4pm – 5pm</i>	Year 10 into Year 11 Information Evening

Our Communication Promise

We are committed to building strong partnerships with families through open, timely and professional communication. Our aim is to respond to parent enquiries as quickly as possible and, where appropriate, speak directly by telephone to ensure concerns can be resolved clearly and efficiently.

We aim to acknowledge communications promptly and provide a full response within 72 hours (excluding weekends, holidays and school closure periods). Where a detailed response may take longer, we will provide an update so that you know your enquiry is being addressed.



The Gracewood Roots Network

The Gracewood Roots Network is our **parent partnership group**, new for 2026, bringing together families and school leaders three times a year to support the continued growth of our school community. Rooted in the belief that children thrive when schools and families work together, the group provides an opportunity for parents and carers to share feedback, discuss school developments and contribute ideas that help shape the future of Gracewood.

We are looking for parents and carers who would like to play an active role in school life through community initiatives, fundraising activities, consultation on key projects and supporting events that enrich our students' experiences. Whether you can offer practical support, professional expertise or simply a willingness to get involved, we would love you to join us. Together, we can ensure Gracewood continues to grow strong roots and provide the very best opportunities for every child.

Express an interest in the link below or QR code aside.
<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/2kHbwuTwvX>

Expression of Interest Form - The
Gracewood Roots Network



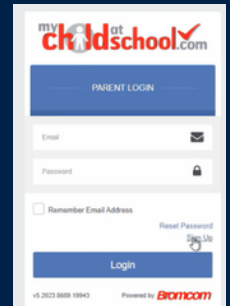
Parental Information

Our systems

MyChild At School (MCAS) is our parent app, powered by Bromcom, which helps families stay connected with their child's education. The app provides real-time access to important information, making it easy for parents and carers to stay informed and support their child's success at school.

Using MCAS, parents can:

- Report student absences quickly and easily.
- View attendance information and monitor attendance percentages.
- See achievement points, rewards and positive recognitions earned by their child.
- View behaviour information and any sanctions that have been recorded.
- Check timetables and key student information.
- Receive school communications and important updates.
- Book parents' evening appointments when available.
- Provide consent for trips and activities where required.
- Make payments for school meals, trips, events and purchase equipment from the equipment shop.
- Access reports and assessment information throughout the year.



If you are new to the school, you will be sent a guide to using these systems upon induction.

Food at GWA

Our canteen is open from 8:10am each morning, providing students with the opportunity to purchase breakfast before the school day begins. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals can also access a free breakfast option to help them start the day ready to learn.

At break time, students can purchase a range of snacks and light food items, while at lunchtime they can choose from our daily menu or receive their allocated Free School Meal entitlement.

We are proud to provide a well-balanced, nutritious and healthy range of food options throughout the day, ensuring all students have access to meals that support their wellbeing, concentration and learning.

We currently work with HCL as our canteen provider.

A hot meal is £2.50, a meal deal £2.80 and a range of other snacks ranging from 60p to £2.50.



Free School Meals

If your family receives Universal Credit, your child may now be entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) under the Government's expanded eligibility criteria. From September 2026, all children in households receiving Universal Credit can access a free school meal, although there are different categories of eligibility which may determine access to additional funding and support.

Applying is quick and straightforward and can help reduce household costs while ensuring your child receives a healthy meal each day. We encourage all eligible families to apply, even if your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, as eligibility may also support the school in accessing additional funding to benefit students.

To apply, please visit your local authority's Free School Meals application webpage or contact the school office for support and guidance. Eligible families should apply as soon as possible to ensure entitlement is in place.



Know a Year 6 Family?

If you know a parent or carer with a child currently in Year 6, please encourage them to sign up for our upcoming Open Events and Parent Information Evenings. These events are a fantastic opportunity to meet staff, tour the school, hear about our vision and values, and discover what makes Gracewood Academy such a special place to learn and grow. We would be delighted to welcome them and share the exciting journey our school is on.

GRACEWOOD ACADEMY



*Come and See
our school in action!*

OPEN EVENTS 26-27

**OPEN EVENING**
| 23 SEPTEMBER | 4.00PM - 7.00PM

**OPEN MORNING**
| 30 SEPTEMBER | 9.00AM - 10.15AM

**OPEN MORNING**
| 2 OCTOBER | 9.00AM - 10.15AM



Gracewood Academy
Church Lane
Potters Bar
EN6 1EZ

BOOK NOW



