



## A Transformational Term and a Bright Future Ahead

As we approach the end of another incredible academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly exciting and transformative term for Great Howarth School.

One of the most significant milestones this term has been the development of our brand-new Primary School. From the initial groundwork to watching the structure begin to take shape, there has been tremendous excitement across the school community. This new space represents far more than bricks and cement – it represents our commitment to providing the very best environment for our youngest learners to thrive, grow, and feel safe.

Alongside this, we are delighted to share that the renovation of our existing school building is now well underway. It's been inspiring to see the plans we've spoken about for so long finally becoming a reality. The work signals the next chapter in our journey, creating a modern, welcoming and purpose-built environment for all our pupils. While the process brings its inevitable changes to routines, the sense of shared purpose and pride across the school has never been stronger.

As we look ahead to the summer break, we know many of our children and families are ready for a well-earned rest, and so are the staff! We hope the holidays offer everyone time to recharge, connect, and enjoy the longer, lighter days.

September 2025 promises to be a truly special moment as we begin the year with a new building, new spaces, and new opportunities for learning, connection and creativity. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and belief in what we do.

Wishing you all a restful, sunny and joyful summer break.

With warmest wishes,

Gavin Hosford, Headteacher





## Celebrating Gold!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Great Howarth School has been awarded the **School Games Mark Gold Award** - a prestigious recognition of our commitment to physical activity, competitive sport, and wider wellbeing for all pupils.



The School Games Mark is a nationally recognised award led by the Youth Sport Trust. It celebrates schools that go above and beyond in providing inclusive, engaging, and high-quality physical education and sporting opportunities throughout the year. To achieve the Gold level, schools must meet a range of challenging criteria – and we are proud to say we've done just that!

These include:

- *Offering a broad and balanced PE curriculum across the year*
- *Providing opportunities for all pupils to take part in physical activity*
- *Taking part in inter-school competitions*
- *Promoting leadership and personal development through sport*
- *Tracking and celebrating pupils' involvement and progress*

This award is a real testament to the energy, dedication and enthusiasm of our staff and pupils alike. It reflects not just the range of sports and activities on offer – from football and

fitness, to boxing and wellbeing walks – but the inclusive spirit with which our pupils take part.

For our young people, many of whom have previously found traditional school sport inaccessible or intimidating, this recognition means everything. It represents belonging, confidence, teamwork and pride – and it's those values that matter most to us.



*We'd like to say a huge thank you to our staff team for championing sport as a tool for wellbeing, resilience and growth.*

**And of course – congratulations to our pupils!**



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## Putting Wellbeing First - Mental Health Awareness Week at Great Howarth, May 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2025

At Great Howarth, we believe that caring for our mental health is just as important as looking after our physical health – and during Mental Health Awareness Week, we made sure that message rang loud and clear across our school community.

This year, our focus was on staff wellbeing – recognising the incredible work our team do every single day and creating space to relax, reflect, and recharge.

We planned a wide range of restorative and uplifting activities, including:

**Glass Painting** - a calm and creative session that allowed staff to slow down, express themselves through art, and experience the mindful benefits of focusing on the present moment.



**Mini-Massages and Facials** - provided by a local beautician, these sessions were all about giving back to those who give so much. A chance to unwind, be pampered, and feel cared for.



**Cold Water Immersion Therapy** - our brave staff took on the ice bath challenge! Cold water therapy is known to boost mood, reduce stress, and improve circulation – and it certainly sparked a lot of laughs (and screams!).

**Wellbeing Walk at Hollingworth Lake** - open to staff, families and dogs, this was a joyful and social way to move, connect and reflect together in the great outdoors.

These activities weren't just about fun, each one promoted one or more of the five ways to wellbeing: *connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, and give.*

*By creating space for staff to pause and take care of themselves, we're helping build a culture where wellbeing is woven into the everyday, not just an afterthought. We are committed to supporting the mental health of everyone in our community. Mental Health Awareness Week was a brilliant reminder that when we take care of each other, we thrive together.*



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THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



## A Milestone Achievement - Our First Cohort Earn the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

We are incredibly proud to share that a group of our pupils have become the first ever cohort at Great Howarth School to achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award - a truly remarkable milestone!

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award is one of the UK's most respected youth development programmes. Designed to support young people aged 14 to 24, it encourages them to push boundaries, grow in confidence, and gain skills that last a lifetime.



To achieve the Bronze Award, our pupils had to complete four key sections:

**Physical** – taking part in regular physical activity, building fitness, motivation and wellbeing.

**Skills** – developing a new personal skill such as cooking, art, or a creative hobby.

**Volunteering** – giving back to the community through acts of kindness, support or service.

**Expedition** – planning and undertaking a journey, including navigation, and teamwork.

The culmination of this journey was a memorable and challenging expedition to Conwy Castle in North Wales. Surrounded by the stunning scenery of the Welsh countryside, our pupils navigated their route, carried their gear, and supported one another every step of the way. It was a genuine test of independence and cooperation – and one they passed with flying colours.



Our pupils demonstrated determination, adaptability and leadership, all of which are crucial as they prepare for the next stage of their lives.



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THE DUKE OF  
EDINBURGH'S AWARD



More than just a certificate, the DofE Award represents a huge step in each young person's journey towards adulthood.

The award builds self-esteem, communication skills, resilience and responsibility; all qualities that will serve them well in education, employment and beyond.



For many of our pupils, this has been a genuinely transformative experience, and they have proved to themselves and others what they are truly capable of.

***A huge congratulations to our pioneering DofE cohort - the future is bright, and this is just the first chapter.***



*"We are beyond proud of what they have achieved, and we know this is just the beginning"*



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**Skills Builder**  
PARTNERSHIP

## Building Essential Skills for Life

At Great Howarth School, we are committed to preparing our pupils not just for academic success, but for life beyond the classroom. That's why we've embraced the **Skills Builder Framework** - a powerful, structured approach to developing the essential soft skills that young people need for the world of work, further education, and independent living.

The Skills Builder Universal Framework breaks down eight key employability and life skills into teachable, measurable steps. These are the skills that employers consistently value, and the ones our pupils will rely on every day in adult life. The eight essential skills are:



Rather than being treated as 'add-ons', these skills are woven into our curriculum, routines and culture. Whether it's through project work, daily interactions, careers education or enrichment activities, pupils are explicitly taught what each skill looks like, how to improve it, and why it matters.

For example, a group project might focus on **teamwork** and **leadership**, while a class debate helps pupils build **speaking and listening** skills. In practical subjects like food tech or enterprise, pupils naturally practice **problem solving**, **creativity**, and **staying positive** when things don't go to plan – all of which are recognised and celebrated using the Skills Builder language and framework.

For many of our pupils, navigating the social and emotional world of work can be just as challenging as any academic task. By breaking each skill down into manageable, concrete steps, Skills Builder gives our young people a clear pathway to progress.

The framework helps to build confidence, self-awareness and independence while giving them the tools they'll need in interviews, work placements and for developing adult relationships.



*Skills Builder isn't just a framework – it's a mindset. And by embedding it into everyday life at Great Howarth, we're helping our young people grow into thoughtful, capable and employable young adults who believe in their ability to succeed.*



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## Arts & Crafts Festival 2025

June saw the return of one of our most inspiring events of the year – the Great Howarth Arts & Crafts Festival!



Our talented pupils poured their imagination, skill and heart into creating an incredible range of artwork and handmade crafts, which were proudly displayed in a gallery-style exhibition for parents, carers, and the wider school community to come in and enjoy. The turnout was fantastic, and the atmosphere was buzzing with pride and creativity.



The festival showcased everything from bold canvases and intricate drawings to mixed-media pieces and expressive abstract work. It was a celebration of our pupils' individuality, and seeing their work displayed so professionally gave them a real sense of achievement.

Pupils designed and produced a beautiful range of acrylic crafts including keyrings, picture frames, and personalised items, all of which were sold to raise funds for the school. Pupils also hand-crafted a series of soaps using essential oils, carefully selecting scents, shaping the soaps, and preparing them for sale.







## A Sweet Send-Off - Leavers' Prom 2025

There wasn't a dry eye in the house as we came together to celebrate our wonderful leavers with a heartfelt and joyful Prom Afternoon Tea on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, a beautiful way to mark the end of their journey at Great Howarth School.

The event was nothing short of magical. The canteen was transformed with incredible decorations, creating a welcoming and celebratory space filled with laughter, music, and a few happy tears.



Pupils were served a delicious afternoon tea, complete with sweet treats, sandwiches, and all the trimmings; a well-deserved moment of calm, celebration and togetherness.

One of the most special moments of the afternoon was the presentation of the coveted Great Howarth leavers' hoodie to each student. Personalised and worn with pride, these hoodies symbolise not just the end of one chapter, but the lasting sense of identity and belonging our pupils take with them as they move on.

Staff pulled out all the stops to make the day special, from decorating and setting up to serving food and sharing kind words. A huge thank you goes to the whole team for going

above and beyond to give our leavers the send-off they truly deserved.

Another highlight of the afternoon was an emotional end-of-year video montage, looking back on the memories, milestones and magical moments of the past year. There were smiles, a few tears, and plenty of reflection on just how far our pupils have come.

And to finish on a high – it was ice creams all round, as the sun came out for pupils (and staff!) to enjoy a treat and some final photos in the sunshine.

To all our leavers; we are so proud of you. You leave us not just with qualifications, but with resilience, character, and unforgettable memories.

*Wherever your next chapter takes you, you'll always be part of Great Howarth.*





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*"Another Place" is an art installation by Antony Gormley featuring 100 life-sized cast-iron figures spread along Crosby Beach.*

*The figures face the sea, and explore the relationship between humans, the environment, and the passing of time...*



**Crosby Beach:  
Another Place**



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## Discovery Days - Expanding our Horizons!

For the final week of the Summer Term, we launched our Discovery Days - Unforgettable days where our pupils have stepped outside the classroom to experience the wider world.

From the sands of Crosby Beach to the ancient Conwy Castle, museums, and the wonder of a real-life safari park, our pupils have been immersed in enriching environments designed to spark curiosity, build confidence, and inspire learning in the real world.

The purpose behind Discovery Days is rooted in our belief that education is far more than classroom-based learning. Many of our young people face barriers that limit their access to wider life experiences, so we are committed to removing those barriers and giving them the chance to see and do things they may never have experienced before.



*This is cultural capital in action, ensuring every child has access to the knowledge, encounters and opportunities that will help them thrive, not just in school, but in life.*

Discovery Days offer hands-on learning that connects directly to the curriculum in meaningful and memorable ways. Beyond that, they develop a real sense of citizenship, helping pupils to better understand the world they live in, the communities they are part of, and the responsibilities they have within society.

These experiences also nurture social skills, emotional resilience, and independence. Pupils are learning how to travel safely, interact respectfully in public, manage their own belongings, and reflect on what it means to be a responsible member of a group.

***"Discovery Days are great days, because they help our pupils discover the world, discover new knowledge and most importantly discover more about themselves"***



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## Conwy Castle

*A magnificent medieval fortress in North Wales, stands as a powerful symbol of strength and history.*

*Built by Edward I in the 13th century during his conquest of Wales, the castle is well-preserved, with its high walls and 8 towers still intact.*



**DISCOVERY  
DAYS**





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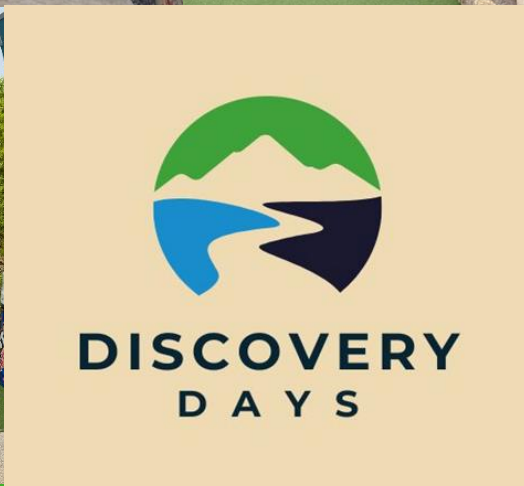
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On the last day of term, we had a fantastic time at Dino Falls Crazy Golf, surrounded by huge dinosaurs, tricky obstacles, and lots of laughter.

Pupils took on the prehistoric course with determination and a healthy dose of chaos, as balls flew, putters swung, and a few scores were definitely “creative!”





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## Great Howarth School Office Contact Number:

**01706 631 804**

*Rachel Williams – Admin Officer*

*Lucy Whelan – Admin Assistant*



This is the number to contact for any student absences, and of course any queries you may have

## Dates for the diary

### Summer Holiday

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

### Staff Training Day – School Closed To All Pupils

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

### First Day of Autumn Half Term 1 / Academic Year 2025/26

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### Last Day of Autumn Half Term 1

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### First Day of Autumn Half Term 2

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025

### Last Day of Autumn Term 2

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Staff Training Day – School Closed To All Pupils

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### First Day of Spring Half Term 1

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026



**Dependable**



**Collaborative**



**Compassionate**



**Inspiring**



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Enjoy the  
**SUMMER**  
**BREAK!**

