



## Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Staff

I am delighted to share some exciting developments that will shape the future of Great Howarth School. As part of our ongoing commitment to providing the very best for our pupils, we have embarked on a major expansion project that will see the creation of a brand-new primary school building and a full refurbishment of our existing site.

This project reflects our vision for the school and our recognition of the increasing need for high-quality SEMH provision. With the number of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) rising both locally and nationally, there is a growing demand for specialist support. To meet this need, we are increasing our Published Admission Number (PAN) for 2026, allowing us to provide life-changing education to more young people who require a nurturing and tailored learning environment.

The new state-of-the-art primary building will be purpose-built to support the needs of our youngest pupils, ensuring they have the best possible start in their education. Meanwhile, our current school building will undergo a full refurbishment, enhancing classrooms, learning spaces, and facilities to ensure they are truly fit for purpose. This investment will enable us to deliver a modern, engaging, and therapeutic environment, designed to support not just academic progress but also the emotional and social development of our students.

We know how important it is that our students learn in an environment that inspires confidence, curiosity, and success. These improvements will ensure that every child at Great Howarth has access to the very best facilities, helping them to thrive both in school and beyond.

We look forward to keeping you updated as the project develops and thank you for your ongoing support as we take this exciting step forward together.

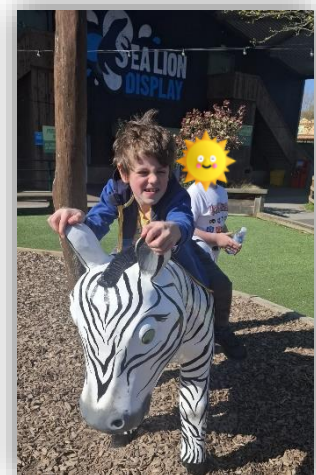
**Gavin Hosford, Headteacher**

## Primary Go Wild!



A recent visit to Knowsley Safari Park offered primary pupils a unique and enriching educational experience that brought classroom learning to life.

By observing animals in their natural habitats, pupils gained firsthand knowledge of wildlife, animal behaviour, and conservation efforts – as well as having lots of fun!



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## The Big Build!

Our building work will take place in three key phases:

- Phase 1: *Construction of a new primary site, featuring five classrooms, specialist therapy rooms, and a play area tailored to the needs of our youngest pupils – started March 31<sup>st</sup>!*
- Phase 2: *Refurbishment and re-fitting of the first half of the existing building.*
- Phase 3: *Refurbishment and re-fitting of the second half of the existing building*

We are really excited about the fantastic project, and we are looking forward to starting the New Year in 2026 with a brand-new fantastic looking school!



*"I'm absolutely thrilled about the new build at Great Howarth. It's an incredible opportunity to create a space that truly reflects the needs of our pupils.*

*This development will give us the environment our young people deserve - safe, inspiring, and designed to support their learning, wellbeing, and personal growth.*

*I can't wait to see the difference it will make."*

**Carol Nolan, Deputy Headteacher**



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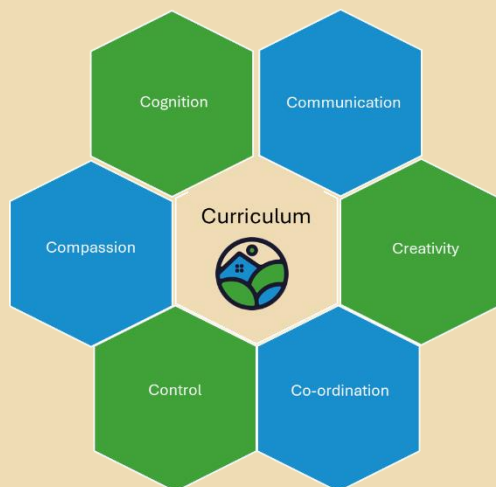
## Embedding the 7Cs at Great Howarth

### *A Framework for Communication, Compassion and Care*

At Great Howarth, we are always looking for ways to deepen our understanding of the needs of our pupils and to create an environment where every young person feels safe, supported and understood. One of the frameworks that has become an integral part of our practice is **7Cs** - a trauma-informed, relational approach that helps guide both our thinking and our actions.

#### What are the 7Cs?

The 7Cs are a set of seven key principles that underpin relational and therapeutic practice. They are:



#### Why do we use the 7Cs?

Our pupils often come to us with experiences of trauma, disrupted relationships or unmet needs. The 7Cs give us a shared language and approach that prioritises emotional safety and relational repair.

Rather than focusing solely on behaviour management, we use the 7Cs to understand the 'why' behind behaviour, and to respond in a way that builds trust and connection.

#### What's the impact?

For staff, the 7Cs offer a consistent framework that reduces reactive responses and promotes a calm, reflective culture across the school. Staff feel more confident in supporting complex needs and more connected to their colleagues through shared values and collaborative practice.

For our pupils, the benefits are profound. They experience adults who 'stay with them' in moments of crisis, who genuinely listen, and who hold high expectations while offering unconditional positive regard. Over time, this helps pupils develop emotional regulation, build resilience and re-engage with learning and relationships.

*"The 7Cs have transformed how we understand and respond to our pupils. It's not just about supporting academic needs - it's about meeting emotional and sensory needs too. When we lead with compassion and curiosity, we unlock potential in pupils who have previously felt unheard or unseen."*

**Emma Davies, SENCO**



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## Welcome to Sofi Wilde – Our New Primary Teacher

We're delighted to introduce **Sofi Wilde**, who has joined the Great Howarth team as our new **Primary Teacher**.

Sofi brings a wealth of experience in supporting pupils with **Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)** and is passionate about creating engaging, structured and nurturing environments that allow all children to flourish.

She is trained in and specialises in two highly effective approaches for supporting autistic learners:

◇ **TEACCH** – This is a structured teaching approach that helps pupils feel safe and secure through the use of **visual timetables, clear routines, and well-organised learning spaces**. It reduces anxiety and promotes independence by helping pupils understand what's expected and how to achieve it.

◇ **Attention Autism** – A fun and interactive programme designed to develop **attention, communication, and turn-taking**. Using exciting, visually stimulating activities, Attention Autism builds pupils' ability to focus and engage in group learning.



Sofi is also a **Professional Development Consultant in Numicon**, a visual and hands-on resource that supports pupils in understanding mathematical concepts. Numicon uses colourful shapes and patterns to help children **see and feel numbers**, making maths more accessible and enjoyable for all learners.



We are so pleased to have Sofi on board. Her calm and caring approach, combined with her specialist knowledge, is already making a big impact with our youngest pupils.

Please join us in giving Sofi a very warm welcome to Great Howarth School!



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## Duke of Edinburgh Award Update

### *Adventure, Achievement, and the Great Outdoors!*

We are excited to share that this summer term, a group of our secondary pupils will be taking part in the **expedition element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award**—a fantastic opportunity to build resilience, teamwork and independence in a real-world setting.

This year's expedition will take us to the stunning **Conwy area in North Wales**, where pupils will explore the coastal paths, navigate through beautiful landscapes, and visit the historic **Conwy Castle**. Pupils will work together to plan routes, carry their equipment, and complete a self-supported journey along the coast—an experience that promises challenge, adventure, and unforgettable memories.



As you can see from the above photo, our pupils have been enjoying the experiential learning element of the award, and have loved being 'at one with nature' – *apologies for the muddy kit to all of those who have had to wash it all afterwards!*



This term, our pupils headed to **Bibby's Farm** in Chorley, Lancashire - a fantastic outdoor activity centre.

At Bibby's Farm, pupils took part in a range of practical, hands-on activities that promoted teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and perseverance.

From navigating woodland trails to learning outdoor cooking and participating in team challenges, every part of the trip was designed to build confidence and transferable life skills.



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## World Book Day – March 2025



This term, we had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day! Pupils and staff got into the spirit by dressing up as book characters and sharing stories that inspired them. Classrooms were transformed into reading zones, and we took part in a range of fun, book-themed activities - from storytelling sessions and quizzes to creative writing challenges. The day was a brilliant celebration of the joy of reading, and a wonderful

reminder of how stories can spark imagination, build empathy, and bring us together. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day so special!

## Vocational Education

Our vocational education continues to provide a valuable alternative for students who may find it difficult to connect with traditional academic approaches.

These experiences provide hands-on, practical learning that can feel more relevant and meaningful, helping students see the direct application of their skills in real-world situations.

For those who struggle to engage with classroom-based lessons, vocational education can reignite their motivation, build their confidence, and offer a sense of achievement.





## Preparing for the Future: Work Experience at Great Howarth

This term, we have been incredibly proud to launch our **Work Experience opportunities** for some of our secondary pupils. It's been a real highlight of the term, with young people stepping into new environments, developing vital skills, and starting to imagine a future beyond the classroom.

For all young people, the transition from school to adult life can be daunting - but for pupils with additional needs, it can feel even more complex. That's why meaningful, well-supported work experience is such a valuable part of our offer at Great Howarth.

Work experience gives our pupils the chance to:

- **Develop practical skills** that are directly transferable to the workplace
- **Build confidence and self-esteem** by succeeding in a new setting
- **Understand expectations around professionalism**, timekeeping, communication and teamwork
- **Explore different career paths** and find out what they enjoy
- **Strengthen their independence** and decision-making skills



For pupils with **SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) needs, autism, or other additional needs**, these opportunities can be especially powerful. The structure, purpose, and sense of achievement gained from work experience can boost motivation and self-worth, and help our young people picture themselves as capable and employable individuals.

As we look to next term and beyond, we plan to expand our work experience programme even further.

Our goal is to ensure that every young person at Great Howarth has the opportunity to develop their skills, aspirations and confidence in the real world—no matter their starting point.

**We're not just preparing pupils for employment.**

**We're helping them believe they have a future where they can achieve.**



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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

**Bank Holiday – School Closed**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025

**Staff Training Day – School Closed**

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**First Day of Summer Half Term 1**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**Bank Holiday – School Closed**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Last Day of Summer Half Term 1**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

**First Day of Summer Half Term 2**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025

**Last Day of Summer Half Term 2**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025



**Dependable**

**Collaborative**

**Compassionate**

**Inspiring**

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