

Dear Parents,

18th September 2026

Home News

Last week our Silver Duke of Edinburgh group successfully completed their qualifying expedition to Llangollen and Delamere Forest, including an overnight camp. The weather was favourable and the pupils achieved a 100% success rate. Throughout the expedition they demonstrated considerable responsibility for navigation, adherence to the Countryside Code, preparing and cooking their food, and making hot drinks. Opportunities of this nature are only possible because of the dedication and commitment of our staff; my thanks to Anthea, Pat, Adam and Mr Hamilton for their support.



School Uniform

Whilst the vast majority of pupils attend Greenbank wearing the agreed school uniform, I would like to highlight an emerging issue regarding footwear. An increasing number of pupils are coming to school in white trainers and branded styles such as Vans and All Stars. Although these may appear fashionable, they do not conform to our uniform policy. School uniform is important because, among other things, it creates a sense of identity and belonging, helps pupils feel part of the school community and can encourage pride in school. I am aware of tactics such as pupils wearing black trainers to leave home and then changing into other footwear from their school bags. Our uniform policy is deliberately flexible, but there must be clear boundaries and expectations. Your support in ensuring pupils attend school in the correct footwear is important. Thank you for your support with this- it does make a difference. Full details of the uniform policy can be found on the school website: <https://www.greenbankschool.org/page/school-uniform/144102>

Attendance

Greenbank places great importance on attendance. We are significantly above the national average for school attendance at 92%. However, we cannot be complacent. If pupils are not in school, they are unable to access learning, make progress or achieve their potential. School fully supports pupils who need to attend medical or other necessary appointments and will authorise such absences. I will not, however, authorise holidays during term time. It is disappointing that I have already received a number of requests for holidays which do not meet the exceptional circumstances criteria set out in our policy. It is equally disappointing when families take their child on holiday



Headteacher: Mr M. McCann

without informing the school; such incidents may lead to referrals to Safeguarding and Social Care teams.

Absences for the purpose of a holiday will also attract a fine. If an unauthorised absence for a holiday covers ten school register sessions (five school days) or more, the local authority may issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to each parent or carer at the request of the Headteacher or Governing Body. Penalty charges are £160 if paid within 28 days, reducing to £80 if paid within 21 days, per parent/carer per child. The national framework limits penalty notices to two per parent for the same child within a rolling three-year period; a second notice within three years is charged at a flat rate of £160 if paid within 28 days. Once two Fixed Penalty Notices have been issued, if a third unauthorised leave of absence occurs within a three-year period the Local Authority may move directly to prosecution. The attached leaflet is an update from the Department of Education notifying parents and carers of the changes to fines for school attendance.

How we support our community

I am pleased to report that Sixth Form pupils, supported by Stef, organised a 'Jeans for Genes' day today. Information was sent to families via Arbour and a message was added to the school website banner. The pupils enjoyed the event and understood the serious purpose of the fundraising, contributing to a worthwhile cause.

Many thanks for your continued support. Stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

Yours faithfully,

Mike McCann
Headteacher, Greenbank



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