Moorside High School

20TH NOVEMBER 2026

#Team Moorside Update

Proud to be part of Consilium Academies



Mrs Ryles-Dean - Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, it has been another busy and productive fortnight at Moorside, with students continuing to engage positively in lessons, enrichment opportunities and the wider life of the school. Despite the mixed weather, the school has remained calm and settled, and it has been pleasing to see students demonstrating high standards, working hard in lessons and making the most of the opportunities available to them.

Many of you will be aware that Miss Smalley, Vice Principal for Quality of Education**,** is currently away from school following surgery. I know our whole school community will join me in wishing her a full and speedy recovery. To ensure that we continue to provide the highest standards of teaching, learning and curriculum provision during her absence, Mr Thompson will be supporting and overseeing the Quality of Education portfolio, alongside his existing pastoral responsibilities. I am also pleased to share that Miss Drinkwater has been seconded to the role of Vice Principal for Behaviour and Attitudes, allowing us to continue driving forward the pastoral aspects of school life. We are fortunate to have a strong, experienced and stable leadership team, and I am confident that we will continue to build upon the excellent progress being made across the school while Miss Smalley recovers.

One of our key priorities is ensuring that we work closely with our families and local community. We always welcome feedback and value the views of parents and carers as we continue to improve. Since September, we have received a great deal of positive feedback, particularly around:

- The dedication of our teaching staff, especially in Year 11, who generously give their time to provide intervention sessions and additional support.
- The strength of our pastoral care, with Heads of Year and Pastoral Support Officers providing valued support to students and families.
- Continued improvements in behaviour, attitudes to learning and academic expectations.
- The breadth of extra-curricular opportunities available, particularly within sport.
- Increased communication around safeguarding, including assemblies, PSHE lessons and parent updates covering topics such as social media, knife crime and substance misuse.
- The growing popularity and success of our Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.
- Improved communication with families through Parent Updates, Moorside News, social media and ClassCharts.

While we are proud of the progress being made, we know there is always more to do. If you have any feedback about what is going well, areas where you have seen improvement, or aspects of school life that you feel we should focus on, please do get in touch via MHSInfo@consilium-at.com**.** Your feedback is invaluable in helping us continue to develop and improve the experiences and opportunities we provide for our young people.

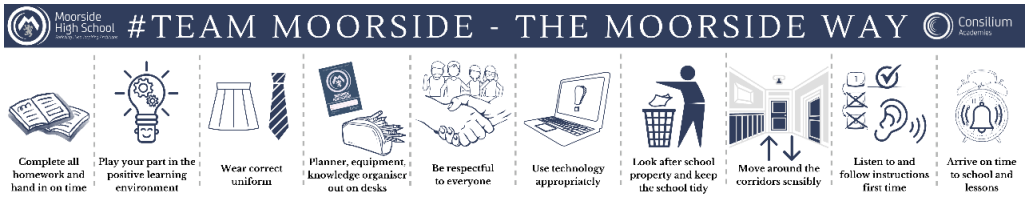
I hope you enjoy reading about just some of the fantastic opportunities, achievements and experiences our students have been involved in over the last fortnight.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. By working together, we can continue to ensure our students achieve highly, contribute positively to their community and represent Team Moorside with pride.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs H. Ryles-Dean

Principal



Inset Day 27th November 2026

Please note that school will be closed to all students on Friday 27th November 2026 due to a scheduled INSET (Staff Training) Day.

These dedicated training days provide valuable opportunities for our staff to work together on school improvement priorities, curriculum development, and professional learning, helping us to continue providing the highest quality education and support for all students.

Students will return to school as normal on **Monday 30th November 2026. 08:25**

Celebrating Ollie's Fantastic Achievement



We are delighted to share some wonderful news about one of our students, Ollie, who has achieved something truly remarkable in the world of darts.

Ollie has qualified for the JDC World Series, which will be held at Hangar 61 in Bristol this December. To earn his place, Ollie had to finish among the top 128 ranked junior players in the world, competing against more than 5,000 players aged 10 to 17. An incredible achievement in itself, Ollie finished the season ranked 81st worldwide.

This is a testament to Ollie's dedication, hard work, and commitment to his sport. The next stage of the competition takes place in December, and if Ollie reaches the final, he will have the opportunity to compete in Bahrain on the World Masters stage.

We are immensely proud of Ollie's success and wish him every luck as he represents himself, his family, and our school on the international stage. Congratulations, Ollie, on this outstanding achievement!

Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening

A reminder that our Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening will take place on Thursday 3 December. This is an important opportunity for parents and carers to meet with subject teachers, discuss current progress and gain a clear understanding of what students need to do to move forward before the next round of mock examinations.

Bookings are now open via Arbor, and we strongly encourage all Year 11 families to attend. These conversations play a vital role in ensuring students are fully prepared and supported as they continue their journey towards their final GCSE examinations.

BeeWell Survey 2026

We are pleased to be taking part in the #BeeWell Survey 2026, a large-scale annual wellbeing survey for secondary school students across England. The survey has been co-created with young people and leading mental health experts and is delivered in partnership with The University of Manchester, The Gregson Family Foundation and Anna Freud.

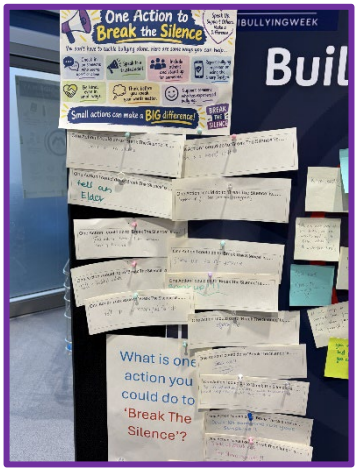
This year marks the sixth year that Moorside has participated in the survey. The information gathered helps build a better understanding of young people's experiences, wellbeing, relationships, health and happiness, while also supporting schools and local organisations to make informed decisions about how best to support young people.

Students in Years 7, will complete the survey during November as part of their Personal Development programme. The survey is completed online in school and provides students with an opportunity to share their views and experiences in a safe and confidential way.

The survey will take place on the following dates:

- Year 7: 24th to 26th November

Anti-Bullying Week



This week, we marked Anti-Bullying Week and Transgender Awareness Week, with this year's Anti-Bullying Week theme focusing on **'Break the Silence'**. The theme encouraged everyone to speak up about bullying, challenge unkind behaviour and support those who may be experiencing it, reminding us that silence can sometimes allow bullying to continue.

We started the week with Odd Socks Day, a celebration of individuality and a reminder that everyone should feel accepted, valued and respected for who they are. Throughout the week, our Equality and Diversity and Charity and Community Student Leadership Teams led a range of activities designed to promote inclusion, kindness and understanding across our school community.

One lunchtime activity invited students to reflect on **'What Makes Someone Feel Included?'**, encouraging thoughtful discussions about the power of words, the impact our actions can have on others and the small things we can all do to help people feel welcomed and supported. Building on the messages shared during World Kindness Day, Student Leaders also created a 'Spread Some Kindness and Love' display, where students added positive messages to help spread kindness throughout the academy.

Our Student Leaders also delivered an engaging assembly to students, exploring the different forms of bullying, the impact it can have on individuals and the importance of speaking up, supporting others and knowing where to seek help. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, commitment and leadership shown by our students in delivering such an important message and helping to create a school culture where everyone feels safe, respected and included. A huge well done to everyone involved.

Remembrance Day at Moorside



On Tuesday 11th November, our school community came together to observe the national two-minute silence and remember those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts around the world.

We were incredibly proud of our students, who conducted themselves with maturity, respect and dignity throughout the occasion. The atmosphere around school was one of reflection and remembrance, with students recognising the importance of taking time to honour those who have given so much for others. During the silence, students were exemplary, demonstrating the respect and understanding that we value so highly at Moorside.

Adding to this special occasion, our Hive students created a beautiful display of poppies in the Hive windows. Their thoughtful work provided a poignant visual reminder of the significance of Remembrance Day and helped create a reflective environment for everyone in our school community.

We were also honoured to be invited to attend the Remembrance Service at the local Cenotaph on Friday 6th November, where representatives from Moorside High School laid a wreath on behalf of our school community. It was a privilege to represent Consilium Academies Trust, our, students, staff and families, and to pay our respects alongside members of the wider community.

Thank you to all students and staff for approaching Remembrance Day with such respect. Their conduct was a credit to themselves and to Team Moorside.







Children in Need



Our Children in Need celebrations, that were led by our Charity and Community Student Leadership Team, brought plenty of fun, community spirit and fundraising to Moorside.

It was fantastic to see so many students and staff getting involved, wearing yellow and proudly sporting their Pudsey ears and scrunchies in support of this important cause.

There was a real buzz around the academy throughout the day, with a range of activities taking place including Bear Pong, a popular cake sale and delicious Pudsey-shaped cookies from the canteen. It was wonderful to see our school community coming together, having fun and supporting a charity that makes a real difference to the lives of children and young people across the UK.

Thanks to the generosity of students, staff and families, we were delighted to raise an amazing

£96.25 for BBC Children in Need.

A huge well done to our Student Leadership Team for organising and running the event so successfully, and thank you to everyone who donated, participated and helped make the day such a memorable success. Together, we have shown the power of our Moorside community in supporting others and making a positive difference.







Your Future Your Voice Event

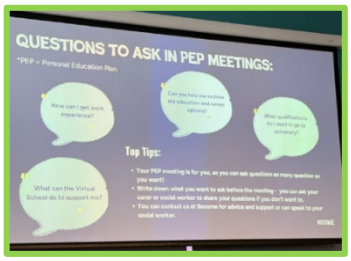


Our care-experienced students recently enjoyed a fantastic experience at the Your Future, Your Voice event held at MediaCity, gaining valuable insight into the wide range of education, training and career opportunities available to them as they begin planning their future pathways.

The event provided students with information, guidance and inspiration to help them think about their ambitions and next steps, while also highlighting the support and opportunities available to care-experienced young people.



Alongside these important discussions, students were treated to an exciting behind-the-scenes tour of MediaCity, where they visited television green rooms, saw where The Voice is currently rehearsing and even caught a glimpse of the remaining Children in Need set from the previous week.



It was a brilliant day that combined meaningful future-focused guidance with a unique opportunity to explore the world of television and media. Our students represented the academy superbly throughout and returned with plenty of inspiration, memorable experiences and a greater understanding of the opportunities that lie ahead.

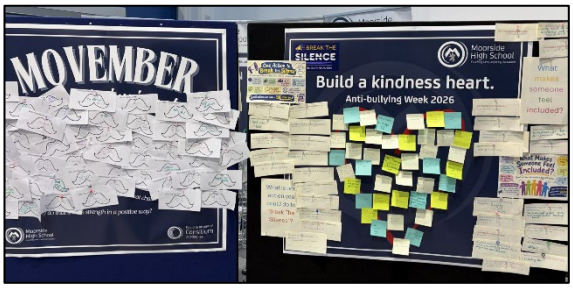
International Men's Day & Movember



This week, we were proud to recognise both International Men's Day **and** Movember, with our Health and Wellbeing Student Leadership Team leading activities to promote positive conversations around men's mental health, positive role models and the importance of speaking openly.

Students took part in our 'Moustache Messages' display, sharing their thoughts on what real strength means and celebrating the male role models who inspire them. Through these activities, we encouraged students to challenge stereotypes around masculinity, recognise that asking for help is a sign of strength and remember the importance of checking in on friends, family and one another.

As part of the celebrations, staff and students also came together to create a special video sharing positive messages about mental health, the value of talking openly and how we can all help break down the stigma that can prevent men and boys from seeking support when they need it. It was fantastic to see so many members of our school community get involved, and we look forward to sharing the finished video on our social media channels soon.



MOVEMBER





Each week, students have the opportunity to share their views and cast their vote on topical issues affecting young people and wider society through our Votes for Schools programme. Here's a look at the questions students have been considering and voting on over the past two weeks.

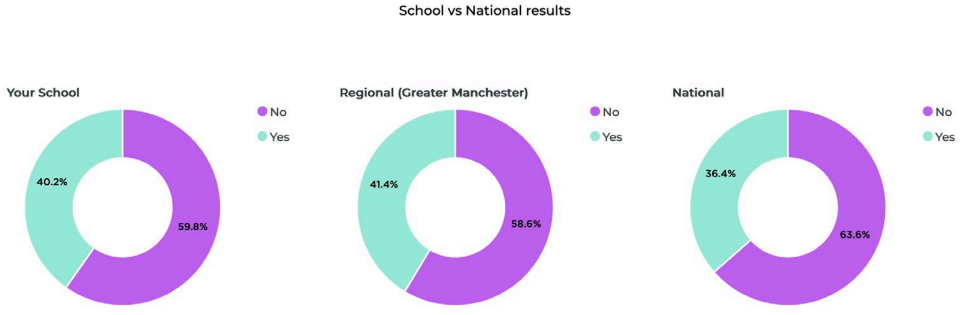
Should fireworks be quieter?

Last week, following celebrations for Bonfire Night and Diwali, students explored whether low-noise fireworks should become the norm and considered the question: Should fireworks be quieter? The vote encouraged students to think about the impact that traditional fireworks can have on people, animals and the environment. While fireworks are an important part of many celebrations and cultural traditions, their loud noises can cause distress for pets and wildlife, as well as people who may be particularly sensitive to sudden or unexpected sounds. Students were invited to consider whether quieter fireworks could offer a way to enjoy these celebrations while being more considerate of others and reducing some of the negative effects associated with traditional displays. The discussion also encouraged them to think about whether the needs of different communities can be balanced with the enjoyment and traditions that fireworks bring.



Does reporting bullying help?

Coinciding with Anti-Bullying Week 2026 and this year's theme, Break the Silence, students were asked to vote on the question: Does reporting bullying help? The vote encourages students to think about why speaking up matters, the importance of reporting bullying rather than staying silent, and how taking action can help create a safer and more supportive environment for everyone. It also provided an opportunity to reflect on the different ways we can support someone experiencing bullying and the role we all play in challenging harmful behaviour.



VotesforSchools – Find out more about the weekly programmes and how it gives young people opportunities to discuss current issues and have their say.

Safeguarding Update:

PARENT & CARER SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Operation Encompass

Early information sharing helps us provide timely support for children.

WHAT IS IT?

- Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding initiative that supports children affected by domestic abuse.
- It enables early information sharing between the police and schools when a child has been exposed to or affected by an incident.
- This helps us understand that a child may need extra care and support during the school day.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- When police attend a domestic abuse incident involving a child, they notify the school's trained Key Adult / Designated Safeguarding Lead, usually before the next school day.
- We handle this information sensitively and confidentially, sharing it only with those who need to know to safeguard and support the child.
- School uses the notification to plan support. It does not investigate the police incident.

HOW WE SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

- Our trained Key Adult / DSL receives notifications and considers the child's needs.
- Support may include quiet time, a discreet emotional check-in or adjustments to learning and routines.
- We work with families and external agencies where appropriate.
- Your child's safety and wellbeing remain our priority, with early help when needed.

Questions or concerns? Please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Drinkwater.

Moorside High School
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Working together to support our young people

OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

Christmas Card Competition



We are running a Christmas Card competition over the next four weeks. The competition is open to all students and the winning design will be published and sent out to other schools and our local community from Team Moorside.

All entries should be handed in at reception before 12noon on Monday 30th November.

The design should be no bigger than A5 and should represent us as a school. We are really looking forward to seeing all the designs.

Year 11 Update

Autumn Mock Examinations

Year 11 have now completed their first set of mock exams, which have provided an important opportunity for students to experience formal GCSE exam conditions and put their revision and preparation into practice. We would like to recognise the effort students have put into preparing for and completing these exams.

Although the mocks have now finished, it is important that students maintain their focus and continue building on the progress they have made. The experience will help students identify their strengths and recognise the areas where further revision and improvement are needed ahead of their GCSE examinations in the summer.

Looking Ahead

With the Autumn Mock Examinations now complete, our focus shifts towards maintaining the momentum students have developed throughout the examination period. Students must recognise that completing their mocks is an important milestone, but their preparation for the summer GCSE examinations is far from over.

This week, Year 11 attend an assembly on 'Bouncing Back after the Mocks', focusing on resilience, motivation and responding positively to challenges. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their mock exam experience and understand that progress comes from consistent effort, particularly when faced with setbacks.

It is important that students do not become complacent now that the mocks have finished. We encourage them to continue revising regularly, making effective use of GCSEPod and Sparx, and maintaining high standards of attendance, behaviour and engagement in lessons.

The effort students put in over the coming weeks will play an important role in their continued progress towards their GCSE examinations.

Key Dates

Mock Results Afternoon - Tuesday 1st December 2026

Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening – Thursday 3rd December 2026

Next set of Mocks – W/C Monday 25th January 2027

NAVIGATING HIGHER EDUCATION:
A parent & Carers Series 2026-2027

Greater Manchester Higher

Our range of online talks aim to empower you by providing the knowledge you need to guide your young person when navigating higher education.

- **Wednesday 14 October, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  Navigating Higher Education
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y11 - 13
- **Wednesday 18 November, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  Supporting GCSE Choices
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y9
- **Wednesday 9 December, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  Discover Options After Y11
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y10 - 11
- **Wednesday 24 February, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  Future Ready: Supporting your child's higher education journey
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y10 - 13
- **Tuesday 23 March, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  A guide to student finance and Disabled Student Allowance
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y10 - 13
- **Tuesday 11 May, 6 – 7pm; Online**
  Accessing Support in Higher Education
  Suitable for parents and carers of learners who are currently in Y10 - 13



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, PLEASE VISIT:

gmhigher.ac.uk/parents-carers



Key Dates:

Friday 27th November	School Closed – INSET Day
Thursday 3rd December	Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening
Thursday 10th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
Friday 18th December	School Closes for the Christmas Break 14:55

All term dates for the 2026-2027 academic year can be found on the school website or by clicking here

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MHSYear10@consilium-at.com, MHSYear11@consilium-at.com, MHSabsence@consilium-at.com

mail: MHSinfo@consilium-at.com **X (formerly Twitter) - @moorsidehigh** **Instagram – moorsidehighofficial**

CONSIDERATION ASPIRATION RESILIENCE EQUALITY