

PHILIPS NEWS



Philips
High School

WINTER 2025

A WARM WELCOME

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the hard work and commitment shown by our whole school community. Throughout this term, staff and pupils have worked tirelessly to ensure that we continue to provide an excellent education and maintain high academic standards for all.

I am particularly pleased with the successful implementation of our new five-phase lesson structure. This approach has already had a positive impact on teaching and learning across the school. Our pupils are now confidently applying their knowledge and skills independently in every lesson, developing resilience and becoming more reflective learners. These are vital qualities that will serve them well as they progress through school and prepare for the future.



We ended the term on a real high with our Christmas Celebration Evening. It was a wonderful showcase of drama, dance and music. The evening was a true spectacle, with outstanding performances from pupils across all year groups. Special recognition goes to Molly Cooper (Year 11) and Eliza Gresty (Year 9), who worked incredibly hard on the show and choreography. We are extremely fortunate to have such talented students, including the 26 Year 7 pupils who took part so confidently in the performance.

Parents and carers of pupils in Years 7–10 should now have received their end of term reports. I hope you are pleased with the progress your child is making and find the feedback helpful in supporting their continued development. Year 11 Parents and carers, will have received an Attitude to Learning report and are invited to attend our **Mock Results Evening on Monday 12th January at 6.00pm**. This event will provide an opportunity to receive your child's predicted grades and discuss next steps as we move closer to the GCSE examinations.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We value the strong partnership between home and school and look forward to working closely with you in 2026.

With my very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Mr C. Hibbert
Headteacher



EMOTIONALLY FRIENDLY SETTINGS

This term, staff taking part in Emotionally Friendly Settings Training, we hope to achieve our Bronze accreditation this year. Following our training, staff, parent and pupil surveys will be sent out to inform our action planning. This is a free programme that schools can take part in as a way to improve our whole school approach to mental health and emotional wellbeing.



WHAT IS EFS?

The Emotionally Friendly Settings (EFS) Programme is a free, whole-school, evidence-based approach developed by educational psychologists to support the emotional wellbeing and mental health of pupils and staff.

It provides a structured yet flexible framework that helps schools assess needs, implement effective strategies, and embed emotional wellbeing into everyday practice.

USEFUL CONTACTS

BARDOC (out of hours service) - Please contact 111

Emergency Housing - 0161 253 5537

(In an emergency after 5pm 0161 253 6606)

Care and Support Service (CASS) - 0161 253 6666

Fairfield Hospital - 0161 624 0420

Healthy Minds (Adults) - 0161 253 5258

Healthy Young Minds (Young People) - 0161 716 1100

Metrolink - 0161 205 2000

Travel Line - 0871 200 2233

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

Greater Manchester Police - 0161 872 5050 or 101

Rape Crisis Line GM - 0808 802 9999

Mind Mental Health Support - 0300 123 3393

Shelter Manchester (free housing emergency helpline) - 0808 800 4444

Admissions (Bury LA) - 0161 253 5670



DIARY DATES

TERM DATES

LAST DAY OF WINTER TERM
18 December 2025 -

Pupils are dismissed from 12.00pm

START OF SPRING TERM
6 January 2026

Normal time

HALF TERM
16 - 20 February 2026

RETURN TO SCHOOL
23 February 2026

Normal time

UPCOMING TRIPS & SCHOOL EVENTS

- Languages Event (University of Manchester) - January 2026
- Ski Trip - April 2026
- Naples Trip - May 2026





A NIGHT OF TRIUMPH FOR OUR CANTEEN HEROES

November was a month of celebration as our incredible Canteen Staff were honoured at the prestigious Awards for Excellence event. The night was a resounding success as our team took home the coveted **Catering Team of the Year Award**, proudly sponsored by Dunster's Farm. This accolade is a testament to their unwavering commitment to providing exceptional service and culinary delights day in and day out. But the accolades didn't stop there:

Our canteen also received the prestigious **Food for Life Gold Award**, a recognition of their commitment to serving nutritious and sustainably sourced meals.

This dual achievement underscores the dedication and hard work of our canteen staff, who continually go above and beyond to ensure that every meal is crafted with care and responsibility.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the team for their well-deserved recognition and thank them for their invaluable contribution to our community. Here's to many more years of excellence and innovation in our canteen!



LEST WE FORGET

Philips High School held a moving Remembrance Day ceremony to honour those who lost their lives in conflict, marking Armistice Day.

At 11:00am, the entire school paused for a two-minute silence, led by Cadets in a formal parade. Year 11 Cadet, George, performed The Last Post, highlighting the school's commitment to remembrance and community values.

Major Chris Townson praised the cadets, emphasizing the importance of witnessing the ceremony for Year 7 students. The event also recognized the school's history, as thirty-one former pupils from Stand Grammar School died in World War I. Headteacher

Mr Hibbert stressed the importance of remembering past sacrifices for freedom.





A NIGHT OF TRIUMPH FOR OUR CANTEEN HEROES

In November, students and staff put their best feet forward as they showed off their odd socks in celebration of Anti-Bullying Week.

Odd Socks Day is an initiative run as part of Anti-Bullying Week to celebrate individuality and prompt conversations around inclusivity and kindness.

The group were joined by Councillor Lucy Smith, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People at Bury Council, and Lynne Ridsale, Chief Executive at Bury Council, to talk to them about the anti-bullying initiatives run in school.

Students talked about their roles as anti-bullying ambassadors and discussed how they support peers in school. They also explained all the work they do to promote the various reporting systems available at school for young people with concerns.

Mr Chris Hibbert, Headteacher at Philips High School, said: "Anti-Bullying Week is an important event in our school calendar. Wearing odd socks is a fun and visual reminder that being different is something to celebrate and it sparks powerful conversations about respect and inclusion.

"Every child deserves to learn and grow without fear of intimidation, and we are serious about supporting our young people in speaking out about bullying and working to build a school community where everyone feels able to thrive."



PHILIPS GETS A SIMPSONS MAKEOVER

Philips High School has been given a yellow-tinted makeover after appearing in the latest Simpsons-style artwork by popular digital creator OnlyMancs.

Known for his distinctive "reimagining" of Greater Manchester towns and neighbourhoods, OnlyMancs shared his newest piece on **Tuesday, December 2**, turning the familiar streets of **Whitefield** into a scene straight out of Springfield.

The illustration features an array of instantly recognisable local landmarks, all transformed into the iconic cartoon style made famous by The Simpsons. Among them are **Philips High School**, the **Whitefield Metrolink station**, **Slattery Chocolatiers**, **Melis Mediterranean restaurant off Balmoral Avenue**, the **Goat's Gate pub**, **State Fayre Bakery**, **Morrisons**, and several other well-known spots. Philips High School stands out as a central part of the artwork, celebrating the role the school plays within the community while giving it a playful animated twist.

The attention to detail across the piece has struck a chord with locals, many of whom were quick to spot their favourite buildings and share the post online.

OnlyMancs has built a strong following by transforming Greater Manchester locations into vibrant cartoon scenes, from town centres to transport hubs and independent businesses. Whitefield is the latest area to receive the treatment, joining a growing collection of Greater Manchester communities immortalised in the artist's instantly recognisable style.

As with previous works, the piece has sparked plenty of conversation, with residents praising both the accuracy of the landmarks and the nostalgic charm of seeing their hometown through a Simpsons-inspired lens.





A FESTIVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE MANCHESTER UNITED FOUNDATION

Our Philips pupils enjoyed a fantastic festive experience thanks to the Manchester United Foundation. They attended the Foundation's annual Christmas party at Hotel Football, where a silent disco and prize giveaways made for a fun-filled celebration.

Adding to the excitement, one of our pupils was selected to take part in the filming of the Manchester United Foundation's Christmas advert at Old Trafford, alongside the men's and women's first-team players. The day included an early Christmas surprise, with the pupil receiving a full Manchester United kit and football boots, as well as an invitation to return later this month as a matchday mascot.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils and grateful to the Manchester United Foundation for providing such a memorable opportunity.



YEAR 10 BIOLOGY SCIENCE DAY!

In November, our Year 10s explored how the body's systems connect, with the heart at the centre.

They linked it to digestion, enzyme action, circulation, respiration and the nervous system — all through hands-on, engaging activities.

A brilliant day of learning and discovery!



EXCITING EVENING AT THE YEAR 7 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The Year 7 Netball Tournament in Bury featured eight schools competing in an exciting atmosphere.

Our team achieved two wins, a draw, and one loss, showcasing the dedication of players and coaches. Many teams sported matching hairstyles, enhancing unity and team spirit.

The event celebrated athletic success and community togetherness.





ARBOR APP

Stay informed and engaged with your child's education by using the Arbor App, an essential tool for receiving real-time updates. With the Arbor App, you can receive important messages from the school, monitor your child's attendance, and keep track of their behavior. This app is not just convenient—it's a vital resource for staying connected to your child's academic journey and ensuring you are always in the loop.

Download the Arbor App today and scan the QR code to get set up.



Arbor App



**Arbor
Support**

TAKING HOLIDAYS?

All requests for holidays during term time must be made in writing to enquiries@philips.oaklp.co.uk. A holiday taken during term time could result in a penalty notice. If issued, penalty notices are issued to each parent of each child and the amount of the penalty will be £160 to be paid within 28 days (£80 if paid within 21 days). Penalty notices will also be considered for 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

We hope you find this information useful. We try to give you helpful information and keep you up to date with legislation, policy changes and school attendance issues. We would love to hear what you think and any ideas for improvement you may have. Please use this email to send us your comments, feedback and/or concerns:

enquiries@philips.oaklp.co.uk

FEELING UNWELL?

Often a child will wake up in the morning saying they feel unwell. Always try and send your child to school if they are a little 'under the weather', for example with a runny nose, headache or stomach ache. The school will contact you if your child is unwell, which is why it is vitally important that we have your correct contact details.

Injuries are not acceptable reasons to be absent from school unless they require medical treatment. Further guidance can be found on the government website via this link:

[CLICK HERE FOR NHS GUIDANCE](#)

Absence from school causes gaps in children's knowledge and understanding. As children progress through school they build on their existing knowledge, however children who have gaps struggle to grasp next steps.



LATENESS FACTS

If you are this many minutes late every day:	You will lose approximately this number of days' learning each year:
5 minutes	4 days
10 minutes	7 days
15 minutes	11 days
20 minutes	14 days
25 minutes	21 days