

June 2024

Dear families,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we navigate towards end of the academic year together, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the significance of extra-curricular/enrichment activities in your child's overall development.

At Great Academy Ashton, we understand that education extends beyond the classroom. While academic achievements are undoubtedly crucial, extra-curricular/enrichment activities play a pivotal role in shaping well-rounded individuals. These activities encompass a wide range of options, including sports, arts, music, drama, and various clubs. Please see link to our Enrichment offer, scroll down the page and click the PDF link: [Enrichment | Great Academy Ashton \(\[greatacademies.co.uk\]\(http://greatacademies.co.uk\)\)](#)

I would also like to make you aware that as staffing changes occur some activities may not be available and as new staff join; new enrichment opportunities arise.

The importance of enrichment and the reasons why participating in extra-curricular activities is beneficial for your child can be found below.

Holistic Development: Extra-curricular activities provide a well-rounded education by fostering the development of essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and time management. These skills are invaluable in preparing your child for future challenges.

Social Skills: Engaging in activities outside of the regular classroom setting helps children build social connections, make friends, and learn how to collaborate with peers from all different backgrounds. This social interaction enhances their interpersonal skills and contributes to a positive school experience.

Health and Well-being: Physical activities, such as sports, contribute to your child's physical health. Regular exercise has been linked to improved concentration, better academic performance, and overall well-being. Encouraging a healthy lifestyle from a young age sets the foundation for a lifetime of good habits.

Passion and Interest Exploration: Extra-curricular/Enrichment activities offer a platform for your child to explore their passions and interests outside the academic curriculum. This exploration can help them discover hidden talents and develop a love for lifelong learning.

College and Career Opportunities: Colleges and employers often seek well-rounded individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to activities beyond academics. Participation in extra-curricular/enrichment activities can enhance your child's college applications and set them apart in the competitive job market.

We strongly encourage your child to explore the various extra-curricular opportunities available at our school. Whether it's joining a sports team, participating in a drama club, or engaging in community service projects, these activities contribute to a more enriching and fulfilling educational experience.

At Great Academy Ashton we simply encourage our students to 'jump in with both feet'. Together, we can ensure that your child's educational journey is both academically rewarding and personally enriching.

I would also like to share with you that GAA is participating in a National Pilot Scheme to improve enrichment, not just for the children at GAA but for the whole of Tameside. Over the next few months our working relationship with the Enrichment Partnerships Pilot will develop and will provide some fantastic opportunities for the young people of Tameside. Watch this space!

Finally, we are extremely proud to be partner school for the Manchester United Foundation. The MU foundation provides many opportunities for so many of our students. To this end the CEO of the MU foundation, John Shiels and several of his colleagues are attempting to conquer Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. AIM: to raise funds to support the education and community outreach programmes delivered by the Foundation in areas of high deprivation across Greater Manchester and beyond. The Foundation is committed to improving the lives of those children and young people who need it most, and during the 2022/2023 season worked with over 25,000 young people to provide opportunities for them to feel empowered to reach their goals.

To find out more and to donate please visit: [John Shiels is fundraising for Manchester United Foundation \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/John-Shiels-is-fundraising-for-Manchester-United-Foundation)

Support and guidance is always available from our school and if you have any specific queries in relation to this letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Hartley
Assistant Principal
Attendance and Engagement