

ASPIRE 2029 OUR PLAN

650 years of WGS.

Respect the past, nurture the
present and inspire the future.



WISBECH
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



WGS
WHERE
GENERATIONS
SUCCEED



ASPIRE 2029

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear members of the WGS community,
past, present, or future.

As we embark on a journey towards our milestone of the 650-year anniversary of our wonderful School, I am privileged to present to you this vision document, *Aspire 2029*. It encapsulates our aspirations and outlines our core values and commitments as an educational institution, an institution that dates back to its inception in the church in Wisbech in 1379.

The name *Aspire 2029* sets out what we want to achieve by our 650th anniversary, and mirrors our collective aspirations to not just meet but exceed the expectations of our pupils, staff, and community. Our vision is guided by the core values of respecting the past, nurturing the present, and inspiring the future. This vision has been meticulously developed with valuable input from our dedicated staff and pupils, ensuring that it captures the essence of our School and all of its stakeholders.

Community is at the heart of everything we have set out within *Aspire 2029*. We firmly believe that education transcends the confines of the classroom walls and extends into the fabric of our community, our WGS family. It is through fostering a strong sense of belonging and collaboration that we can truly create an environment where each individual thrives and becomes the best that they can be.

Our vision emphasises the importance of our standards, our attitudes, and our spirit, enabling us to provide a supportive and nurturing culture where every voice is heard and valued.

With *Aspire 2029*, we understand that success is not measured solely by academic achievements, but by the holistic growth and development of our pupils. We are committed to providing an all-round education that inspires going beyond textbook knowledge, encompassing values such as integrity, endeavour, and compassion. Our aim is to cultivate individuals who not only excel academically, but also possess the ethical framework and interpersonal skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the modern world with humanity, curiosity, and confidence.


As we look towards the future, we are fuelled by a collective passion to inspire generations of pupils to come. Our vision is forward-thinking and innovative, rooted in the belief that education is a catalyst for positive change and progress. We aim to equip our pupils with the skills, mindset, and values needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world, paving the way for them to become exemplary leaders and changemakers in society, where generations succeed.

With *Aspire 2029*, we envisage a place where generations don't just pass through, but where they succeed, where we would define success as leaving a lasting impact on the world around them. It is our shared commitment to create an environment where every individual is empowered to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of our community and beyond.

We invite you to join us on this inspiring journey towards excellence and look forward to the great achievements and milestones we will celebrate together as a thriving community of learners and leaders.

Warm regards,

Barney Rimmer
Headmaster



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ASPIRE 2029

OUR WGS ETHOS



We reach beyond the narrow confines of exams and provide an all-round education that inspires our pupils to become the best that they can be.

Whatever their ambition, interest or opportunity, WGS is here to ensure all pupils make great choices. And the choices they make are the result of support, guidance and inspiration.

While, undoubtedly, there are targets and goals to be reached, our pupils' successes are the result of an all-encompassing culture to be the best they can be in everything they do, throughout their whole lives.

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OUR WGS VISION



Our pupils are nurtured and supported while they discover who they are. They are guided and encouraged to fulfil their potential, and are prepared for their future jobs, and lives.

This means our pupils are prepared to embrace their next steps beyond WGS, choosing to remain part of our community, sharing their experiences and opportunities with each other and the next generation.





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OUR WGS GOAL

To provide our pupils with a supportive and inspiring environment, that lets them know they can grow, try, fail, succeed, change and adapt; WGS will be with them, for it all. Now, and in the future.

To build an extremely close-knit community, from the youngest pre-schoolers, through confident, articulate senior pupils, to proud Old Grammarians.

To advance WGS for the benefit of past, current and future generations.



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OUR WGS APPROACH



We clearly and carefully define what success looks like for every single individual at WGS. Once that has been established, we can help them to achieve it.

We do not impose a narrow definition of success on our pupils. We will ensure they have the support and direction to achieve success.

We are big enough to be able to provide everything any pupil needs as they grow and develop.

We are also small enough to know every pupil's strengths, hopes, dreams, weaknesses and fears, and tailor their school life for them.





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OUR WGS CULTURE

It is essential to us that the culture of WGS manifests itself in everything we do as staff, academically, as with the arts, in sports, pastoral care, support and administration.

That means everybody at WGS is an essential element in creating our culture.



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OUR WGS ESSENCE

◆ Nurture and celebrate

Every individual in the WGS community is known and respected. We celebrate their endeavour and excellence.

◆ Welcoming and inclusive

Once you have been through the gates of our school, you belong to the WGS family.

◆ Opportunities for all

Every pupil at WGS has the chance to seize every opportunity that comes their way.

◆ Strength of spirit

We create independent thinkers, not group thinkers. Our pupils will have the strength of spirit to be the best versions of themselves.





ASPIRE 2029

THE WGS PILLARS

These are the strands that together deliver the WGS vision and ethos, driving and guiding the processes that will be implemented to achieve our goals.

- ◆ Academic
- ◆ Pupil Enrichment & Wellbeing
- ◆ Community & Communication
- ◆ People
- ◆ Sustainability



THE WGS PILLARS



Academic

A beacon for academic excellence and personalised learning

- Academic endeavour and effort, at all levels and abilities, is acknowledged and celebrated.
- Every pupil is known and recognised for their academic ability and capability.
- Every pupil makes excellent progress from their own starting point.
- We want to create lifelong learners, filled with curiosity, able to adapt and seize future opportunities.
- We constantly strive to develop our teaching and learning expertise, incorporating new and innovative ways of working.

Activities and Initiatives

Current

- **Admission process** – It is important to us that pupils will be known, and not just through tests, but through team skill activities and taster days.
- **AI and innovation** – WGS staff have taken their first steps using AI with an AI group established. The next phase is to review how to introduce effective and safe use of AI into our pupil work and enhance the teaching and learning experience.
- **Pathways focus** – A commitment to personalised learning plans for our pupils.
- **Literacy focus** – Every pupils to understand the importance of literacy, and how to improve their reading age with data to monitor progress.

Planned

- Pupil AI and integration into schemes of work.
- Project-based learning embedded into curriculum at all levels.

Pupil Enrichment & Wellbeing

Preparing our pupils for the modern world

- Every pupil is known and recognised for their talents and potential.
- Mutual respect is shown by all to all.
- Every pupils is aware of the world around them, both locally and globally, and their potential influence on it.
- Enrichment activity participation and effort (at all levels and abilities) is acknowledged and celebrated.
- Every pupils develops the ability to think independently, to problem solve, to lead and to collaborate.
- Wellbeing is prioritised with a focus on each pupil finding self-esteem, self-confidence, and a healthy, balanced lifestyle.

Activities and Initiatives

Current

- **Societal matters** – Time across our School year is dedicated to societal matters, and they are embedded into our curriculum.
- **Enrichment programme** – This is a well-established part of life at WGS with pupils experiencing many extra-curricular activities.
- **Wellbeing focus: Prep School** – Fundraising for Wellbeing Garden, Prep Place2Be, Peer Support, Quiet Room, Forest School and an Outdoor Classroom.

Planned

- **Enrichment lecture series** – Programme revitalisation with headline contributors linked to Old Grammarians.
- **Pupil devices** – Senior School pupils are issued with devices or can use their own. No mobile phones are allowed until Sixth Form.



THE WGS PILLARS

Community & Communications

Creating an engaged and supportive community

- An engaged and supportive alumnae community is central to our culture. Working with our alumni we create a full programme of alumni events, based on 'respect the past, nurture the present and inspire the future'.
- Working in partnership with the local community, we will provide more opportunity for our pupils.
- We are a beacon of support in the region, and commit to help with local societal and charity work.
- We will continue to embed international mindfulness into our community.
- We will continue to provide opportunities to meet with, and capture the voices of all in our WGS family.

Activities and Initiatives

Current

- **WiPP (Working in Partnership Programme) and Primary School link** – Providing opportunities for local primary schools with sport and academic experiences e.g. Super Science, Marvellous Maths.
- **Parent coffee morning** – Capturing parent voice through topic themed discussion and an audience with the Head, Bursar and Senior team.
- **Riverline** – A commitment to showcase and celebrate all that is achieved at WGS throughout the School and extended community, including our Old Grammarians.

Planned

- **To continue to develop the Old Grammarians** – Inviting OG's to support the School through Speech Day, events and committees, as well as celebrating their success beyond WGS.



People

A commitment to the wellbeing of all our staff at WGS

- The WGS culture manifests itself in everything that our staff do with inclusivity and respect for all.
- 'Our staff body is a cohesive whole, all working together, ensuring our pupils are nurtured.'
- All our staff are committed to the delivery of a better school experience for our pupils.
- There are development pathways for all staff linked to ambition, capability and potential, including preparation for leadership.
- A clear aim to recruit and retain the best staff, making us an outstanding employer in the area.

Activities and Initiatives

Current

- **Staff wellbeing** – An employee assistance programme has been implemented to provide our staff with expert advice and guidance.
- **Middle leader development** – A new programme, designed by us, to ensure staff are ready for the next stage of their careers and support our aim to promote within.

Planned

- **Relationship with the wider teaching community** – Become a beacon or destination for a positive teaching experience through providing positive placements within our school community for trainee teachers, alongside high-quality mentoring.

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THE WGS PILLARS



Sustainability

We must be financially and environmentally sustainable

- Effective and efficient use of space to enable the best possible learning and an environment that promotes wellbeing.
- Efficient and effective use of technology that aids teaching and learning.
- Managing the campus sustainably through a focus on energy use, energy supply, waste management, transport, travel and water usage.
- Working with suppliers to establish ethical partnerships that ensure shared values and long-term sustainability.
- Driving value for money as a commercial perspective within every decision taken and seizing new opportunities to use our campus in other ways.

Activities and Initiatives

Current

- **Commitment to digital strategy** – Providing iPads to First to Fourth Form pupils to enhance their learning experience, and a commitment to ensuring all years are prepared for the digital world outside of WGS.
- **WGS recycling project** – Drive to recycle and reduce waste is now embedded throughout the whole School and has provided educational opportunities for all.

Planned

- **Continued development of the Campus layout** – To ensure effective classroom layout to support the teaching and learning throughout the School.



ASPIRE 2029

COME AND VISIT US!

Our Reception is accessed via the Chapel Road entrance and car park. If you are using satnav please use postcode PE13 1RH.

School Reception Opening Hours:

Monday - Friday / 7.45am - 5.30pm

Telephone: +44 (0) 1945 583631

For admissions enquiries -
admissions@wisbechgrammar.com



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