

Year 8 Newsletter Autumn 2026



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I would like to thank you all for your incredible support last year. Year 7 is done. It went very quickly. And in that time, we've seen the confidence of pupils grow and their characters emerge.

*Pupils showed great enthusiasm, motivation and resilience throughout last year. They tried new things, made new friendships, made progress and **showed great character and commitment to the year group and wider school community**. They have certainly lived up to Glenthorne's values of honesty, responsibility and respect. I am very proud and I know Mrs Shephard (Assistant Head of Year) and Form Tutors are too.*

*I very much look forward to a successful Year 8. And our motto will remain: **"Your Character Makes Our Community"***

Best wishes,

*Mr Hemingway
Head of Year 8*

Head of Year: Mr Hemingway

Assistant Head of Year: Miss Shephard

Year Assembly: Tuesday B Week (Gym).

Whole School Assembly: Every Monday (Sports Hall).

End of School day: 15:10.

Time allocation on HW: 30 minutes.

Year 8 HW Club: A30 Everyday (except Wed)
3:15-4:15

Equipment: Ensure you are fully equipped for the day. This includes your planner, books and pencil case.

Uniform: Coats and bags must be black, dark grey or navy blue. Blazers, ties and house badges must be worn. Shirts must be tucked in. No jewellery (plain small stud earrings only)

Key Dates

- Halloween Disco: 15 October
- Samba Workshop: 17 November
- Glenthorne Celebrates: 2 December (Invite Only)
- In class Assessments: 14-18 December
- Whole School Production: Annie 26, 27 and 28 January
- Year 8 Reports published: 29 January
- Government & Politics Immersion Day: 5 February
- Year 8 Parents Evening: 24 February

Challenge Week

Runs every year in July and once again pupils will have the opportunity to attend a residential trip this year.

Land & Wave is an outdoor adventure company based in Swanage, Dorset, offering include coasteering, kayaking, paddleboarding, archery, archery tag, evening activities and many more and it is very different to Bushcraft.

We will offer **100 places** and there will be a waiting list for anyone else. **Names will be picked from a ballot.** We want as many to go away as possible.

And for those who do not attend there will be onsite activities, Drama, Media, Sport, including day trips that pupils can get involved in also. We shall look forward to that.

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

We encourage every Year 8 student to become involved in school life beyond the classroom.

A wide range of clubs and activities are available before school, at lunchtime and after school, covering areas such as sport, music, drama, dance, technology, debating and much more.

Research consistently shows that involvement in extra-curricular activities can help young people develop confidence, resilience, and strong friendships



How to access Extra Curricular and Enrichment Booklet:

1. Visit GHS Website
2. Curriculum
3. Extra-Curricular
4. Download Autumn Booklet PDF

Extra-Curricular

"The school has a great range of extra-curricular activities on offer that I, or anyone can take part in. They also have lots of Performing Arts performances which I love, as well as a huge range of sporting clubs and activities!" – Year 7 Pupil

Glenthorne High School has a long standing tradition of offering high quality enrichment opportunities and activities in addition to the curriculum. These activities are an important and exciting feature of school life and contribute enormously to our pupils' social, moral, spiritual and academic development.

There is an extensive range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities on offer including exceptional Arts and sporting provision with opportunities to take part in workshops, field trips and research.

We also offer students the chance to immerse themselves in different cultures and experiences through a number of national and international trips and visits. Every academic year we also launch our Challenge week which gives over 200 pupils in Key Stage 3 the opportunity to take on the House camping challenge.

Theatre trips, visits to exhibitions and museums plus excursions to local colleges and universities also occur regularly and provide further opportunities for students to enrich and extend their learning beyond the classroom.

Our school's sporting and Arts provision is impressive, successful and popular. Extra-curricular groups also benefit from working with professional coaches and artists. We also run our own Saturday Performing Arts School (ArtsOne). Details can be found under the Saturday School tab above.

Extra-curricular timetable for Autumn Term 2026 will be updated in the coming weeks.

Extra Curricular and Enrichment School Autumn Booklet

PDF



Extra-curricular Clubs & Enrichment

Autumn Term 2026



Social Media and Online Safety

- As young people gain greater independence online, parental involvement remains extremely important.
- While social media can support communication and social development, it can also expose young people to risks such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content, negative influences, and online safety concerns.

We encourage parents to:

- Maintain open conversations about online activity.
- Limit time spent on social media platforms.
- Avoid allowing mobile phones in bedrooms overnight.
- Many issues dealt with in school begin on large group chats that are most active late in the evening when students should be sleeping. Limiting access to devices overnight can help improve sleep, concentration, wellbeing, and academic performance.

Celebrating Success

At Glenthorne we strongly believe in recognising and rewarding achievement.

Throughout the year students can earn:

- Achievement points
- Positive postcards home
- Staff shout-outs
- Recognition in assemblies
- Awards at end-of-term celebrations

Rewards acknowledge not only academic success but also effort, resilience, kindness, leadership and contributions to school life.

One of the highlights of the year will be the Year 8 rewards trips which will include **Ice Skating** and **Thorpe Park**.



And remember...

