AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER FOR

gmis

Greater Manchester Independent School

OUR NEW HOME



FROM JANUARY 2027

PLEASE READ ON FOR A LETTER FROM OUR HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some very exciting news about the future of our school.

In January 2027, we will be opening the doors to our brand-new school premises at **Aspen House in Oldham**, marking an important and exciting new chapter in our school's journey.

This move represents a significant step forward for GMIS and, most importantly, a wonderful opportunity for our students. Our new premises will provide us with considerably more space, improved facilities and a range of exciting possibilities to further develop the learning experiences and opportunities we offer.

Whilst our surroundings may be changing, the things that make GMIS special will remain very much the same. Our commitment to providing a caring, nurturing and supportive environment, our engaging and ambitious curriculum, our strong core values and our belief in the potential of every individual student will continue to be at the heart of everything we do.

We are incredibly proud of the school community we have built together, and this move is about building upon those successes, rather than changing what already works so well.

A New School, New Opportunities

One of the most exciting aspects of our new premises is the wealth of additional space and facilities they will provide. With **more than three times the teaching space available at our current site**, we will be able to offer an even wider range of learning experiences, whilst continuing to provide the individualised support that our students need to thrive.

Some of the exciting features of our new school include:

- **More space for learning**:
  - Our additional teaching space will allow us to create a greater variety of purposeful, engaging learning environments. We will retain our successful small-group teaching model, whilst introducing opportunities for more flexible, open-plan and 'station-based' learning activities that encourage exploration, independence and active participation.

- **Dedicated sensory and therapeutic spaces**:
  - We will have specially designated areas to support students' sensory, emotional and therapeutic needs, helping us to further strengthen the nurturing and inclusive environment that is so important to our school community.

- **Improved outdoor facilities**:
  - Students will benefit from safe, dedicated outdoor play and recreational areas, with exciting plans to develop a multi-use games area in the future.

- **A new Creative Arts and Technology Centre**:
  - This is a particularly exciting addition to our school. Our new premises will include dedicated facilities for practical and creative subjects such as cooking, music, digital media and woodwork. Activities that have previously required students to travel to other locations will now be accessible within the school itself, making these valuable learning experiences a more regular and integrated part of our curriculum.

Of course, our commitment to learning beyond the classroom will remain just as strong. Our students will continue to enjoy the wide range of offsite learning and enrichment opportunities that have become such an important part of life at GMIS, including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Forest School, fishing, construction and other practical, vocational and outdoor experiences.

Our ambition is simple: **to preserve everything that makes GMIS such a special place to learn, whilst creating even more opportunities for our young people to develop, achieve and succeed.**

Our New School Address

From January 2027, our new school address will be:

Greater Manchester Independent School (GMIS)
Aspen House
Units 7–13, Whitney Court
Oldham
OL4 1DB

We will provide families with any additional information they may need about accessing the new site ahead of our opening in January.

Important Information: Changes to Term Dates

In order to facilitate the move and ensure that our new premises are fully prepared to welcome students, we will need to make a small adjustment to our school calendar for the end of this term.

Our final day of the autumn term will now be Tuesday 15th December 2026.

We intend to make this a particularly special day at our current Peel Street site, with a celebration of our time there, including our traditional Christmas dinner and end-of-term rewards.

It will be a wonderful opportunity for students and staff to reflect on the many happy memories we have made together, celebrate our achievements and look forward to the next stage of our journey.

The school will then reopen to students at our new Aspen House premises on Thursday 7th January 2027.

We appreciate that changes to term dates may require some adjustments for families, and we thank you for your understanding and support as we make this important transition. Our school website has been updated to reflect these revised term dates.

Home-to-School Transport Arrangements

We understand that the relocation may raise questions about home-to-school transport, and we want to reassure families that we will continue to support existing transport arrangements wherever possible.

Our current proposals are as follows:

- **School minibus transport:** Students who currently travel to and from school using our school minibus service will continue to receive this service following the move.

- **Local authority taxi transport:** Students who currently travel by taxi arranged through their local authority will continue to do so. We will notify the relevant local authorities of our change of address, meaning that families will not need to take any action in relation to the school's relocation.

- **Individual transport arrangements:** We recognise that every student's circumstances are different, and transport arrangements are always considered on an individual basis. For some students, the change in school location may mean that they are now eligible for taxi transport rather than the school minibus. If you would like to explore this possibility, please contact us and we will be happy to direct you to the appropriate local authority team for advice and support.

We recognise how important reliable, familiar transport arrangements are for our students and their families. We will work closely with the relevant local authorities and transport providers to support a smooth transition and minimise disruption wherever possible.

Supporting Our Students Through the Move

We also appreciate that, whilst a new school building is an exciting prospect, change can sometimes feel unsettling, particularly for young people who benefit from familiar routines, environments and relationships.

Please be reassured that the **wellbeing, confidence and individual needs of our students will remain our first priority throughout this transition.**

The familiar staff, supportive relationships, consistent routines and personalised approaches that our students know and trust will continue at our new premises. We will approach the move thoughtfully and sensitively, supporting students to become familiar with their new surroundings and helping them to feel safe, comfortable and excited about the opportunities ahead. Students will have the chance to visit the new site prior to the move.

Our aim is to ensure that every student experiences this move not simply as a change of building, but as a positive and exciting next step in their educational journey.

Questions, Support and Further Information

We appreciate that families may have questions about the move, our new facilities or the practical arrangements involved.

To make communication as straightforward as possible, we have established a dedicated email address for any enquiries relating to our new premises:

newsite@gmis.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to contact us using this address if you have any questions, concerns or matters you would like to discuss. We will be happy to help and will continue to share further information as we approach the move.

Looking Ahead Together

As we prepare to say goodbye to our Peel Street premises, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for their ongoing trust, encouragement and support.

GMIS has always been about much more than the building in which we teach and our students learn.

Our school is about the relationships we build, the opportunities we create, the care we show one another and the progress, achievements and successes of the remarkable young people who make up our school community.

Our new school will give us the space and facilities to achieve even more, but it is the people, values and ethos of GMIS that will continue to make it a special place.

We are tremendously excited about what lies ahead and look forward to welcoming our students into their new school in January, as we begin this next chapter together.

Thank you, as always, for being such an important part of our GMIS community.



Yours sincerely,

Louise Hodson

Executive Head of School
Greater Manchester Independent School