



Open Evening Speech Thursday 25th June 2026

Slide 1 Welcome

Good evening, everyone, and a very warm welcome to Stretford Grammar School.

My name is Liz Baxter and I am Acting Headteacher.

It is an absolute pleasure to see so many families here tonight. Thank you so much for coming to visit us this evening.

We realise what a huge decision it is to choose the right secondary school for your child.

It is about much more than just results and facilities - it is about finding a community where your child will thrive, feeling happy, safe and supported. It is also about finding the school where your child will be encouraged to become the very best version of themselves, academically but also more holistically as a well-rounded individual.

If we get that right, your child will be ready to meet the demands of adult life with kindness, respect and empathy. I fully believe that we are that school and that environment.

Slide 2 Adversity and community strength

Stretford Grammar School is a unique community. Having worked here as Deputy Head since 2008 and more recently as Acting Headteacher, it is something that I have always known and loved about the school, but in the most recent 2 months it is something that we have all felt tangibly and palpably.

It has been a very difficult summer term here at school: I've no doubt you are aware that we have lost 2 longstanding, respected and highly experienced members of staff in the last two months. In April we lost our beloved Headteacher, Michael Mullins, suddenly and tragically. We felt and continue to feel his absence profoundly but it is testament to his legacy and his tireless work over the 17 years of his headship that we have been able to carry on, embedding his core values of ambition, respect and endeavour.

At the beginning of June, we lost our Curriculum Leader for Maths, Chris McAvoy, who had been at the school for 25 years and was a steadfast pillar of our community.

But, our community here at school is incredibly strong because it is built on core shared values of respect and kindness and therefore when things go wrong in life, as they inevitably do, we come together, rally, and support each other, students, staff and parents, creating a safe and secure environment where we look after each other and are able to show the strength and resilience to carry on.



Slide 3 Pastoral Care

Stretford Grammar School is a uniquely diverse and harmonious school with both academically high standards but also particularly strong pastoral care.

We are a small school with 957 students including 152 in the Sixth Form. We know our students and we know when something is wrong and if something is wrong, we always keep you informed.

A key part of the triangle of support and success between staff, students and school is our parent body. We have excellent relationships with our parents, and we pride ourselves on the strength of communication with home.

Conversely our parents and carers are excellent at getting in touch with us about any changes at home so that we can support in school.

With a strong, highly experienced Pastoral Team of Form Tutors, Progress Leaders, Pastoral Managers and Attendance Officer all managed by our Assistant Headteacher responsible for Safeguarding and Wellbeing, Stretford Grammar School is well placed to support your child.

Slide 4 Support

Every child is unique and many of our students have additional and special needs. As a school which prides itself on inclusivity and with an experienced SENCO and Assistant SENCO, plus a team of Teaching Assistants, we are well placed to support all our students so that they can succeed academically and thrive in an environment which celebrates the uniqueness of every student.

Our HUB is a place where students can find a space at Break and Lunchtime which is calm, supportive and welcoming.

This academic year, we have taken part in Trafford's School Partnership Programme. This year's focus has been Special Educational Needs, and we have collaborated with other Trafford schools to develop our practice.

Back in March we received excellent feedback through a peer review on the support and provision that we offer in school



Slide 5 High Performing Grammar School

We are incredibly proud of our reputation as a high-achieving grammar school; we are unapologetically a very academic school with high expectations. Our outcomes at GCSE and A Level reflect consistently strong performance.

2025

We are so proud that in 2025, 97% of our students achieved Grade 5 or above in all of their subjects, as well as an incredible 67% achieving Grade 7 and above in all of their subjects, a reflection of their hard work and commitment as the quality of teaching and support from our staff.

2025

This success continues at A Level with 44% of all grades being A or A* and 76% of our sixth form students accepting a place at a Russell group university.

We have a well-established programme for supporting students with the next stage of their lives, whether that be university or an apprenticeship. With a bespoke Higher Achievers group for students intending to apply for Medicine, Veterinary Science and Dentist courses, as well as a HE+ High Attainers group linked directly with the University of Cambridge, we have a proven record of supporting students to secure places on these highly sought after courses, but also to secure places at Russell Group universities for courses in other subjects and vocations, including Law and Architecture.

Slide 6 Diversity and Inclusivity / Personal Development

The strength of Stretford Grammar is our sense of community, and the wonderful diversity of our community, providing a cultural inclusivity that is enriching and outward looking, something that we celebrate through our cultural calendar of events and awareness, including an assembly programme that involves staff and students presenting on diverse topics such as Black History Month, Science Week, Remembrance, The National Year of Reading, Deaf Awareness, Anti-bullying, Anti-racism and National Refugee Week.

Students are not just a name or number here; your child will be known and valued; they will be supported and encouraged to achieve success. Mr. Mullins was always emphatic that he wanted every child to achieve success, whether that be in the classroom with academic achievement and effort, or outside of lessons in one of the many sports we offer (football, rugby, volleyball, cricket, rounders) or as part of our School Parliament, our Bee Well group



or in organising one of our many charitable events, such as our Throwback Sports Day on Monday organised by the Sixth Form and our AHT , Mrs. Akhter, to raise money for Mr. Mullins' charity. War Child, another key indicator of our students – they are aware of the world around them, the country around them and also of their local community.

Slide 7 Enrichment and Extra Curricular

Outside of lessons, our students have a wealth of opportunities for enrichment – curriculum trips and visits, the Conway Centre Residential for Y7, Snowdonia for Y8, Lille for Y9, Ainsdale for Y10, Duke of Edinburgh from Y9, Bushcraft in Y8, Barcelona for Y10 and Y11, Cambridge University and the Lake District in Y12 the list is endless – as well as to participate in a sport after school or at lunchtime, a range of choirs, orchestra and ensembles, Science Clubs, Creative Writing and Public Speaking in English. I could carry on for another 10 minutes, but you hopefully get the picture.

Stretford Grammar School is a place to learn and achieve but also a place to grow and succeed, of course in the classroom but also outside of it through friendship, participation and experiences which create memories.

Slide 8 Looking ahead

These are exciting times for Stretford Grammar School: the building at the front of school was completed in 2021 and now the rest of the school is to be totally rebuilt with purpose-built classrooms, a large sports hall and activity studio, an assembly hall and performance space and a multi-use games area that will secure first rate facilities to match the ambitions of our students in the future

Slide 9 Thank you

Thank you once again for visiting us tonight; I hope that, during the course of the evening, you gain a sense of our school and our community and enjoy your visit. We love our school and are so very proud to be part of the Stretford Grammar family.