



Newsletter

Autumn Term 1
Friday 17th October 2025

Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale
Lancashire, OL12 8TS
Tel (01706) 343218
www.wchs.co

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a really tough few weeks for everyone involved in our school community following Brody's tragic death. Thankfully, we have been well supported by the Local Authority, by other external organisations, by our neighbouring schools and by each other. We know this is an incredibly difficult time following Brody's sudden death, and our thoughts are with his family, friends and everyone affected.

Last week, we were able to provide some immediate support for students who were affected, and we want to continue helping children in the most caring way. In school, the pastoral staff are available to talk with children in groups or individually to see how they are coping and to offer guidance if needed. These conversations are not a crisis service but can help us to understand if additional support may be needed later. Please keep in mind that in the first few weeks after a bereavement, children often feel numb, shocked, or overwhelmed. Therefore, starting formal counselling too soon can sometimes be unhelpful. Right now, the most important support comes from family, friends, and school, focusing on practical help, stability, and emotional care.

At home, if you are concerned about your child's safety or wellbeing, please seek help promptly:

- Follow the advice and signposting as set out in my previous letter e.g. Kooth
- Contact your GP for a mental health assessment
- Go to A&E if your child is at immediate risk
- Call the 24-hour Mental Health Helpline (dial 111, option 2).

We also ask that parents/carers keep form tutors or pastoral staff informed of any concerns that you have so we can continue to support your children at school. Thank you for working with us to ensure your child feels safe, supported, and cared for.

This week, we have taken ideas from students about how they would like to remember Brody in school. We started by creating a memory wall where students could write down their favourite memories of Brody on post it notes which were then attached to a display board. Lots of students have taken the opportunity to write post-it notes, which we will now collate and give to his family in a book. Students have asked if we could put a plaque on the bench in the playground where Brody used to sit with his friends - we will do this as soon as possible. Some students have also asked if we could have a musical dedication for Brody in the form of an annual music award or even a piano for the main hall with his name inscribed - hopefully these are things that we might be able to arrange over the next few weeks and months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents/carers who have been in touch to give condolences and/or to offer support. It has been very much appreciated by staff and students.

Year 7 Settling In Evening

I am sorry that the year 7 Settling In Evening had to be postponed at such short notice. We have now set a new date for the event. It will be held on Wednesday 19th November in school from 6pm to 7pm.

Calendar

**October
2025**

21st - 23rd October
Autumn Show 7.00pm

24th October
After School Closure
Half Term

**November
2025**

3rd November
School Re-Opens

12th November
GCSE Presentation
Evening at The
AShcroft 7.00pm

19th November
Y7 Settling In Evening
6pm to 7pm

Car Park Safety

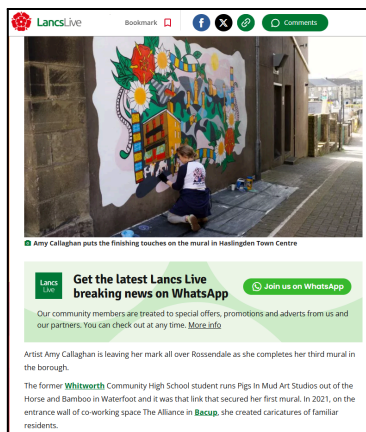
Hopefully, parents/carers will have seen a separate letter sent out last week by Mr Bland about a number of near misses in the school car park. These have been caused by unnecessary numbers of vehicles and excessive speed.

To help us reduce the number of vehicles on site, Mr Bland has said that it would be helpful if parents/carers only drive onto the school site in the morning to drop off their children if it is absolutely necessary e.g. if your child has a mobility issue. He also respectfully asked that all drivers who need to use the school car park drive carefully and considerately. The site speed limit is 10 miles per hour.

On a similar theme, a number of complaints from local residents regarding double parking and waiting on double yellow lines on Hall Street. For the safety of all school users and local residents all drivers are asked to follow the parking regulations and consider the safety of others. Thank you to the majority of parents/carers who always park and drive safely and courteously when dropping off at school or attending school events.

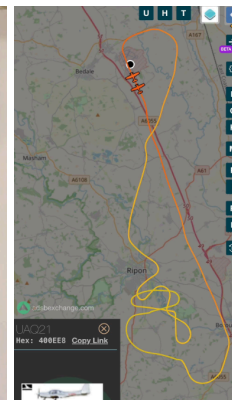
In the news

It was great to see some of our students and alumni featured in the local news during the last fortnight. Former student, Amy Callaghan was featured in Lancs Live in an article about her amazing art work and for her success with her 'Pigs In Mud' art studio success. Our Year 11 Performing Arts trip to Moulin Rouge was reported on the Roch Valley Radio website, as was year 10 student Victoria E who appeared in the Hey Kids production of Nativity the Musical at Middleton Arena last week. Victoria starred alongside former students Charlotte E and Daisy R in what was a very successful production.



Brooke B's RAF Flying Experience

Year 9 student Brooke B was selected to attend Air Experience Flying at RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire. The event took place on 9th October, during which Brooke had the chance to fly a GROB Tutor with a Royal Air Force pilot. Brooke, who attends Cadets in Rawtenstall said that it was an amazing experience. Brooke enjoyed wearing the full RAF flying suit which included some 'very cool' safety goggles. However, the highlight of the experience for Brooke was when she was allowed to take control of the plane mid-flight! Brooke now aspires towards a career as a pilot for the RAF. We wish Brooke all the best with her career ambitions.



Careers Fair

One of the strengths of our school is our Careers Guidance. Every year, we meet and exceed all of the GATSBY Careers Benchmarks. Part of our offer is the annual Careers Fair, which took place yesterday in the Sports Hall. All students in all year groups were allocated a time slot to partake in this initiative, which was a great success. The event was enhanced this year with preparation tasks and post event reflection work, which led to the event being much more meaningful for the students. Thanks to Ms Grenaghan for organising the opportunity and a special thanks to all of the volunteers who gave up their time to speak to students about potential career opportunities.



Sports Roundup

Last week, our girls competed in the year 10/11 Rossendale Netball Tournament. This was a great way for the girls to prepare for their GCSE PE practical moderation. The event was hosted by BRGS and I'm told it was a cold night! The team recorded 1 win, 1 draw and 2 losses. It was the turn of the year 9 girls last night. They also had a mixed bag of results which included 2 draws and 3 losses. Frustratingly, only one point separated the teams in the three defeats.

The first league football match of the year was against Haslingden. It ended with no goals but it was a fantastic performance from both year 10 teams. It was a very competitive game where neither school could get a goal to claim all three points. Mr Cawley described it as the best 0-0 draw he has ever seen.

Our year Y7/8 girls football team were 6-3 victors in their first league match ever. Some girls had never played a competitive match before, which makes the achievement even more impressive. It was a great atmosphere with Tabatha S refereeing and Anastasia K coaching.

Unfortunately, the year 11 boys B team lost 3-2 in their match this week. However, they were up against the A team from TVLA. It was a close fixture, some of which has been used to send off footage for GCSE PE moderation.



School Production - 21st to 23rd October

We are now in the final stages of preparations for our school production of Once Upon A One More Time. Students have been working hard after school, in the evenings and at weekends to put the finishing touches to this year's production. Tickets can be purchased through <https://stagestubs.com>. Customers have to make an account on the website prior to purchasing tickets.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher



Whitworth
Community High School

WHITWORTH PRESENTS...
ONCE UPON A ONE MORE TIME

OCTOBER
21ST, 22ND & 23RD
AT 7 PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STAGESTUBS
£6 PER TICKET

ONCE UPON A ONE MORE TIME
HIGH SCHOOL VERSION
BASED ON THE MUSIC PERFORMED AND RECORDED BY
BRITNEY SPEARS
BOOK BY
JON HARTMERE
THIS AMATEUR PRODUCTION IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL
ALL AUTHORISED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI
WWW.MTISHOWS.CO.UK