



Newsletter

Autumn Term 1
Friday 3rd October 2025

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Dear parents and carers,

Sadly, I start my newsletter with a message that I gave to all students and staff this morning regarding the attacks that took place at the Heaton Park Synagogue in Crumpsall yesterday:

"I'm sure that by now you will have heard about the awful attack that took place in Manchester yesterday, in which two people were killed and several others injured; all reportedly targeted because of their faith. It's important that we keep the victims and their families in our thoughts and prayers, especially as this tragedy occurred so close to home.

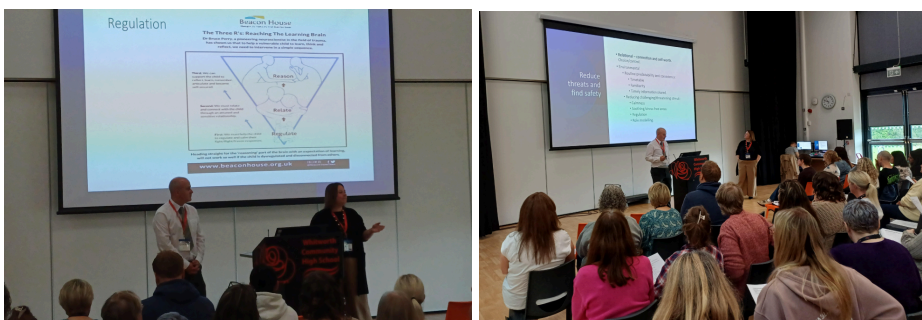
At the same time, we must remember that, despite events in the wider world, we are fortunate to learn and work in a school where everyone is welcomed and respected.

I'm proud to lead a school with a zero-tolerance approach to bullying of any kind, especially when it is racially or religiously motivated. We should celebrate this and take pride in being part of a community where everyone is valued, regardless of the colour of their skin, their faith, or their background.

Let's all do our best to reject hate and stand together against those who try to create division. Let's keep working to make our school a kind, inclusive, and tolerant place; a place where everyone can feel safe, happy, and respected."

Trauma Informed Practices

During our inset day on Friday 19th September, we were very fortunate to have some amazing training delivered by Kevin and Louise Egan from Encompass Education. The training was designed to help staff develop a deeper understanding of the fact that some students have had adverse experiences that might have led to them struggling with their social, personal or academic development. Kevin and Louise challenged staff to really think about how we can support children in school, to enable them to have the best possible experience of school, thus preparing them for the world of work.



Calendar

October
2025

6th - 9th October
Scholastic book fair

8th October
Y7 Settling in Evening
6.00-7.30pm

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

Facebook Untruths

Please could I take the opportunity to remind parents/carers that school does not respond to any issues that are written on Facebook, or on any other social media platforms. Sadly, I am told that some parents/carers have continued to express their frustrations online, particularly in a group called Making Whitworth A Great Place To Live. It is a real shame that a group that was set up with such positive intentions is being used in such a negative way by a small minority of people. As you know, school staff can not and will not respond to or refute allegations made online. Therefore, please can I ask that if you see posts of this nature, question the validity of the posts and if appropriate, politely ask the complainants to get in touch with staff at school so that we can respond to their concerns through the appropriate and professional channels. Please can I thank the huge majority of parents and carers who always follow the correct procedures.

School Wind Band

You will remember that I reported last year about the success of our thriving School Wind Band. You will now be pleased to know that the band is continuing to build momentum with lots of new Year 7 members. If your child is interested in getting involved, please encourage them to speak to Mrs Goff!



Sports Update

I know that our students take so much pride in representing WCHS. Therefore, it is great to be able to report that many of our sports teams are now back up and running. Most recently, over 30 of our Year 7 boys have expressed an interest in playing for the school. As such, Mr Cawley has now fielded 3 different teams of players for matches against All Saints, Alder Grange and TVLA. Not to be outdone, we have also seen some interest from some of the Year 7 girls who took part in a Girls Football Celebration event last week. During this mini-competition, the coaches were hoping to capitalise on the recent success of the Lionesses to inspire the next generation of female footballers.



Young Referee

Whilst watching the second half of the year 7 boys fixture against TVLA, I was really pleased to see that one of our older students was refereeing the game. Joseph S, in Year 10 had recently spoken with Mr Cawley about ways in which he could get more involved in the extracurricular life of the school. It was suggested that Joseph might have a go at the thankless task of refereeing. Joseph took up the challenge and is doing a great job. On Wednesday evening, it was clear to see that Joseph had the required maturity and, as such, was able to stay calm and neutral throughout the match. Joseph is now considering whether he might pursue a Football Association qualification to enable him to officiate more matches.

European Day of Languages Celebration

On Friday 26th September, the school came alive with colour, creativity and community spirit as we celebrated European Day of Languages.

The day began with great excitement as an *abundance of cakes* arrived for our very own Great European Day of Languages Bake Off. The imagination and flair shown by our students was truly impressive, making the task of judging a very difficult one for Mrs Haworth, Mrs McVarish and Miss Badley. After much deliberation, the winners were finally crowned, though every entry deserved recognition for its creativity and effort.

Meanwhile, form groups took part in a quiz, testing their knowledge of languages and cultures through video clips, texts and pictures. The celebrations soon spread across the whole school, with staff joining in by sharing words of love and friendship in different languages, reflecting this year's theme: "*Languages open hearts and minds.*" A particular highlight came from Mr Hannan, who not only shared traditional German *Lebkuchen* biscuits with his students but also impressed them with his German rap!

Throughout the day, students joined a "language hunt," collecting words from a wide variety of languages hidden around the school. At breaktime, the fun continued as students were challenged to "chat for a chocolate," sharing words they knew in other languages with staff. Of course, it was also time to enjoy tasting the wonderful creations entered into the Bake Off. Thanks to the enthusiasm and generosity of our school community, the Bake Off raised an impressive £400 for Macmillan Cancer Support — a fantastic achievement.

Our celebrations concluded this week with a special assembly reflecting on how languages help to build bridges between people and cultures, while also opening hearts and minds. It was a day filled with joy, learning and togetherness — a fitting tribute to the power of languages.

Congratulations to the European day of Languages Bake Off winners: Y7 - Leo P (decorated cake) and Skye G (traditional dish); Y8 - Chloe D (decorated cake) and Theo Baron (traditional dish); Y9 - Sophie B (decorated cake) and Edi T (traditional dish); Y10 - Tom H (decorated cake) and Sophie L (traditional dish); Y11 - Isla B (traditional dish); Group Winners - Maisie L / Louisa M (decorated cake) and Ohrán / Ronan M (traditional dish).

Congratulations also to our Language Hunt winners: Madison Sophia M, Betsy P, Isabelle W, Freddie F and Olivia L.



Year 11 Revision Evening

The Year 11 Revision Evening was a resounding success. We had a packed hall of year 11 students and their parents/carers. Following an opportunity to purchase revision materials, Mrs Haworth presented a brief presentation on the topic of general revision strategies. The students and their parents/carers then went off to some breakout spaces where they were given subject-specific guidance on how to prepare for exams. The Year 11 Revision Evening is always a significant event in the academic calendar as it represents a re-setting of the partnership between school and home, which is vital for the success of our students. A huge thank you to all of the teachers who presented revision presentations and to parents/carers who attended the event with their children.

Year 7 Settling In Evening - Wednesday 8th October

All parents/carers of our new Year 7s should by now have received an invitation to the Settling In Evening, which is due to take place at 6pm next Wednesday. We would love to see as many Year 7s and their parents/carers as possible. This is usually a very positive event during which students are praised for their efforts so far. It is also a good opportunity to forge some strong working relationships between parents/carers and school staff.

Scholastic Book Fair: Monday 6th - Thursday 9th October

We are looking forward to hosting a Scholastic book fair in school next week for Y7-9. Further details below.

School Production

Tickets are selling fast for our forthcoming school production. This year, we've rolled the clock back to the late 1990s for a jukebox performance of chart-topping hits by Britney Spears. *Once Upon A One More Time* turns our favourite fairytales upside down with a clever twist. When a fairy godmother goes rogue and plops copies of *The Feminine Mystique* in the laps of classic heroines, the damsels embark on a quest to rewrite their stories and redefine 'happily ever after'. Tickets are now available via 'StageStubs' either online or through the app

3 Reservoir Ramble

Odhran M and Ronan M both took part in the 3 Reservoir Ramble on Saturday 20th September to raise money for Springhill Hospice. They walked 7.81 miles in the pouring rain with members of their extended family in memory of their great-grandparents. The total raised for the hospice through the event was over £27,000. Congratulations to both boys for showing such resilience, especially in the extreme weather conditions. We are all proud of you!



Celebrating Successes

It is always a pleasure to be able to report student successes both in and out of school. Unfortunately, I don't always get to hear about what students achieve beyond the school day. Therefore, it would be great if parents and carers could let me know about the achievements of their children so that they can be celebrated in the newsletter. It is also great to hear about former students who are doing well. If you know about the successes of any of our current and former students, please pass on some details (with pictures, if possible) so that they can be included in future newsletters. office@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk

Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher



**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

 SCHOLASTIC

COME TO THE BOOK FAIR

FILL YOUR
SCHOOL WITH
FREE BOOKS
WHEN YOU BUY
FROM THE
BOOK FAIR*

READING
GIVES YOU
SUPERPOWERS!

LAST YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT
HELPED TO DONATE OVER
£5.3M
IN BOOKS TO SCHOOLS
NATIONWIDE



The Book Fair will be open during morning break and after school from Monday 6th - Thursday 9th October. It will also be open during the Y7 Settling Evening so that parents can purchase a book then if more convenient.

Ways to pay - several options available

- Students can bring cash into school to purchase a book
- During the Y7 Evening, you may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines
- You can use the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay and select our school from the drop down menu
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair
- You can also use the QR code below and type in OL12 8TS to find WCHS





Scan the QR code to pay for your books online
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