

Dear parents and carers,

Year 11 Update

The second round of mock examinations is now complete. Whilst the students take a momentary sigh of relief, their teachers are now busily marking their exam papers. Early indications show that students have made a lot of progress since the first round of mocks which were sat in November. Teachers have reported that there is a lot of evidence of students having revised and prepared well for these tests. Students will receive personalised feedback in their lessons so that they can learn how to improve even further in readiness for their finals in May and June.

Please could I take this opportunity to thank parents/carers who have supported your children so well with their preparations for these exams. The partnership between school and home has been really strong for this year group and I'm sure the final outcomes in August will reflect the collaborative efforts of everyone. Please keep 2nd April in your family calendars. This is the date of the final Y11 parents' evening, which will commence at 4pm. Further details and booking arrangements will be communicated soon.

Congratulations to Mr Khan

Huge congratulations to Mr Khan whose wife gave birth to their second child last week. Baby Rafay was delivered successfully on 13th March and I am told that mother and baby are doing well. We are all thrilled for Mr Khan and his family.

Artwork for Headteacher's Office

When I moved into my new office in September, the walls were bare and uninspiring. Fortunately, our art teacher, Miss Walsh has an active art club who stepped in to help. After combining aspects from initial design ideas created by a number of pupils, two members of the art club took the lead in producing the bespoke imagery for my office. Jenna and Fatima created a piece of artwork in three sections. I am told that the technical name for this is a triptych. The artwork features some of my many interests, which include cycling, running, playing the piano, pilgrimage to Lourdes, and my beloved football team, Manchester City. Thank you to Jenna and Fatima from the art club who have produced such an impressive and vibrant piece of art. It will be displayed with pride in my office.



Y8 Parents' Evening Feedback

We had another successful parents' evening on Wednesday evening. This time it was the turn of our year 8s and their parents/carers. As always, the turnout was extremely high. Feedback was very positive. Parents were especially impressed by our prefects who helped with refreshments and other front of house duties to make the event run smoothly.

Calendar

April
2025

2nd April

Y11 Parents' Evening

4th April

Commendation
Assemblies
Classroom Moves
End of Term (1pm
finish for students)

22nd April

School Re-opens

Rochdale Music Service Showcase

On Thursday 13th March our Wind Band, Rock Band and Flute Ensemble represented our school at the Rochdale Music Service Showcase. The event was held at the Curtain Theatre and was open to all high schools in Rochdale and the surrounding area. Sadly, we were the only orchestral secondary ensemble to perform at this event. However, this does not take away from the very impressive performance from our students, staff and friends from the local community. Our musical ensembles are a credit to our school, especially at a time when many schools have abandoned so many of the creative aspects of their curriculum. Credit must go to Mrs Goff and her dedicated team who work tirelessly to ensure that students from our school have such vital cultural opportunities.



Cyber Skills and Careers Day at Burnley College

Our students recently attended the Cyber Skills and Careers Day at Burnley College as part of Lancashire Cyber Festival Education Week 2025. The event was designed to introduce them to exciting opportunities in cyber security, STEM careers, and emerging technologies through hands-on activities such as the Cyber Security Challenge, Lego Robotics, and VR Engineering. Students found the event highly valuable, with one commenting: "The Lego Robotics session was really cool—it showed how we could build and program different types of robots!" – Murishe. Another student particularly enjoyed the immersive experience of virtual reality, saying: "VR Engineering was just the most fun. It really made me think about careers in technology." – Oscar. The event gave students new insights into careers in Cyber and STEM, with several expressing enthusiasm about pursuing paths in these fields. A huge thank you to Burnley College for hosting this fantastic event! We look forward to more opportunities like this in the future.



AGT Presentations

You may remember that I reported that some of our high prior-attaining students from year 10 have been working with Dr Lety from the Brilliant Club. The purpose of the programme is to really challenge our most academically able students so that they know in advance what will be expected of them when they progress to university. Last week, the students all presented their work to Dr Lety and to members of the Senior Leadership Team. The presentations were very impressive. It was clear that the students had been challenged to think in depth about the Colonialism and Inequality topic that they had been given. I am sure that this group of students will feel suitably motivated to pursue further academic study at university level when they progress from school and college.



Un Festival De Las Fallas

Our Spanish Club meets every Thursday evening to engage in activities that are designed to enhance their language learning in lessons and to stimulate their interest in Spanish culture. The students have been working together to prepare for an event called Un Festival De Las Fallas, which translates to the festival of torches/fires. The festival is held every year in the city of Valencia. It is a celebration in honour of Saint Joseph who was a carpenter. The origin of las Fallas comes from the old carpenter's tradition who, when celebrating the arrival of spring on 19th March, used to burn pieces of wood that were used to prop up their lights during the winter. To this bonfire they gradually started to add old belongings and rags, which gave the wooden structure a human-looking aspect, until they became the ninots that we know today. The Fallas celebrations have evolved into temporary works of art which, in some cases, cost millions of euros which are then burnt. Our students held their own version of this cultural festival. They even created bespoke invitations for their teachers, many of whom stayed behind after school to celebrate the work of the Spanish Club students.

Sport Update

The sporting success of our students continues! This week I can report that our year 9 boys had a really impressive away win at Alder Grange. Whilst the team conceded four goals, they scored seven in reply. The year 9/10/11 girls fought equally hard to earn a point in a ten goal spectacle at TVLA. The great thing about the PE department here at WCHS is that the focus is not just on football. Since my last newsletter, our students have competed in the U14/U16 Badminton tournaments as well as having a go at skateboarding in a competitive event. Our dancers are putting the finishing touches to their eagerly awaited performance at the Blackburn Empire Theatre next week and finally, we wish the very best of luck to Fin H, Joe C and Harris A who are currently in Thailand competing in the WMF World Muay Thai Boxing Championships.



Former Student Success

It is always great to share the news of our recent alumni who seem to be doing so well. This time, I am able to report that one of our former students, Katie Needham, has received six conditional offers to study Computer Science at university. Katie has opted to accept the offer from Edgehill. We wish her lots of luck with her final A level examinations and beyond.

Early Finish Reminder

School will close at the earlier time of 1pm on Friday 4th April. This is the final day of term before the Easter break. Although we do not traditionally close early at Easter, it is necessary because we are making a lot of changes to the layout of the school. The time will be used by staff to relocate several classrooms and offices. The rationale behind the room changes is to avoid corridor congestion, increase the space available for SEND and to create a Pastoral Hub on the ground floor. Please accept my apologies in advance for any inconvenience caused.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Oliver'.

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher