



Newsletter

Summer Term 2
Friday 5th June 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Year 11 Update

The GCSE examination season is rolling along very smoothly. As I said in my previous newsletter, all of the staff have been very impressed with the conduct of our students. They are a credit to the school and to their families. Please take note of the following dates: 15th June - Leavers Assembly, 24th June - Contingency exam date (please don't book holidays before this date), 25th June - Prom (for invited students only)

Year 7 to 10 Exams

I would like to give parents/carers another reminder about the forthcoming internal examinations that will be taking place for all Year 7 to 10 students during the fortnight commencing 8th June. Please could I ask all parents/carers to stress the importance of these assessments with your children. They will be used to help teachers assess where students are up to, plan the curriculum going forward and help Directors of Learning decide which sets/bands students should be taught in during the next academic year. Mrs Haworth presented assemblies to all students to give them ideas and tips on how to revise. In addition, revision materials are available to students on the school website. Login details for the revision tab of the website are as follows: username i.climb password Higher2021 (case sensitive). Some parents/carers have asked if they could have an exam timetable. Unfortunately, this is not possible because students are mainly completing their exams in class, which means there isn't a set timetable for the whole year group.

Parent/Carer Survey

It is really important that we take on board the views and opinions of all stakeholders when the school improvement plan is being written for the new academic year. Our students have all been given the opportunity to contribute to a survey, as have our staff. The views of parents/carers are equally important which is why I wrote to parents just before half term to ask if you would like to contribute. If you have not yet had a chance and would still like to contribute, please could I ask you to use the following link. The deadline for responses is Monday 8th June. Thank you to all parents and carers who have already done this.
<https://forms.gle/o1RVDJx52HW1nDBZ9>

PE Kit Changes from September

Further to my update on 13th January, I wanted to remind you of the slight uniform changes taking effect in September 2026. Our main goal is to reduce the number of branded items required, helping to keep costs down for all parents and carers. The standard school uniform will stay the same, as per the current uniform policy. The only changes will be to the PE kit, which from September 2026 will include:

● Compulsory PE Kit

- WCHS PE top with school logo - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear
- Plain royal blue football shorts (legacy shorts with the school logo will still be acceptable)
- Royal blue football socks or white sports socks
- Sports trainers (with non-marking soles to protect the sports hall floor)

● Optional Items

- WCHS Half Zip Navy Blue Mid Layer Top - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear
- WCHS Leggings - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear

From September 2026, skorts will no longer form part of the PE kit. This decision has been made to reduce costs for families, as skorts are an expensive branded item. Additionally, their length has raised concerns, as they are extremely short and do not always provide appropriate coverage for children.

Calendar

June
2026

8th June

Y7-10 Exams
commence

22nd - 26th June

Y10 Work
Experience

25th June

Y11 Prom

July
2026

2nd July

Y6 Welcome Day
(Students only)
&
Y6 Welcome
Evening 6.30pm
(students, parents
and carers)

8th July

Y7-10 Awards
Evening
(by invitation)

Water Safety Assemblies

Following a recent national rise in tragic open water fatalities involving young people during the hot weather, the fire service will visit our school next week to deliver urgent water safety assemblies. Representatives will speak directly with students to share vital protective advice, highlight hidden risks like cold water shock, and ensure our young people know how to stay safe around lakes, reservoirs, and rivers.

Year 9 Prefect Appointments

As our Year 11s are coming to the end of their time at school, it is important that our next cohort of young leaders step up to take on more responsibility. Thankfully, we had lots of applications from our year 9s who would like to become prefects. The selection process included a written application and a formal interview with myself, Mrs Turner and some of our Year 10 senior prefects. Congratulations to all of the successful candidates and welcome to the prefect team.



Haslingden Arts Festival

Yesterday, a group of our highly talented thespians took to the stage to perform in the Haslingden Arts Festival. This annual festival brings several local schools together to celebrate the creative talents of our young people. This year, our students chose to perform a 20 minute version of Peter Pan. This is the largest cast we have taken over to Haslingden, and the 23 students involved have spent a few intensive weeks getting their flying and swashbuckling in check, ready for the performance to a full house at Haslingden 6th Form Centre. All students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and we are all looking forward to being involved again next year.

School Show Announcement

Every year, our school community comes together to produce a fantastic musical, offering a wonderful opportunity for students to step into the spotlight. Whether performing on stage or working behind the scenes, taking part allows our young people to learn new skills, build confidence, and form lasting friendships across different year groups. For weeks, students have been trying to find out which production would be taking the stage next. The wait is finally over! Mrs White officially revealed that this year we will be travelling back in time to perform *Back to the 80s*. I cannot wait to see our talented students bring this show to life.



Minibus Driver

As you will all know, we take our students out of school so that they can take part in various extracurricular opportunities. We sometimes struggle to transport students to these opportunities as we don't have enough qualified minibus drivers in school. We are currently looking to recruit some minibus drivers who might be able to help us out on a casual basis. To be eligible, you must be under 70 years of age, and hold a clean driving license with category D1 included. If you might be able to help us out, please get in touch with Mrs Ellis. y.ellis@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk

Minibus Fundraising

Keeping our school minibus safe and on the road requires continuous support. Our ongoing minibus fundraising campaign serves a dual purpose: ensuring we can cover immediate, essential repairs for our current vehicle while simultaneously building a savings fund for a brand-new bus. To help us reach our goals, we have some fantastic activities lined up for the students. Soon, sports fans can enter our World Cup Predictor challenge for just £1. We are also launching our "Gunge the Teacher" raffle, with tickets priced at £1 each, £2 for three, or £3 for five. Winning tickets will be pulled out of a hat, and the lucky students chosen will get the ultimate prize: pouring the gunge over their teachers!



PE Extra Curricular Activities

As always, there are lots of opportunities on offer for students throughout school. Mr Cawley has asked if I would share with parents/carers the updated offer from PE. Taking part in additional school clubs, particularly in PE can boost fitness, develop confidence and foster a sense of belonging, enabling students to form new friendships. Please encourage your children to get involved.

Physical Education		Whitworth Community High School				Extra-Curricular Summer Term 2	
AFTER SCHOOL 3pm- 4pm	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
SPORTS HALL	DARTS Year 9&10 Miss Mcvarish	DARTS Year 7 Mrs Belham Mr Malik	DARTS GCSE Yr 10 Mr Malik	DARTS Year 8 Mr Lawrence Mr Cawley	FOOTBALL Staff vs Yr 10 Mr Cawley Mr Khan		
FITNESS SUITE				FITNESS Yr 7-10 Mr Malik			
NETBALL COURT or FIELD	FOOTBALL Yr 7-8 Mr Cawley Mr Malik	NETBALL GCSE Yr 10 Miss Mcvarish Mr Cawley					
PLEASE BE AWARE CLUBS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION FOR SCHOOL FIXTURES OR WEATHER							

Leo Dances to Victory in Blackpool

Year 7 student Leo P continues to make great progress with his dancing skills outside of school. Just before the half-term break, he attended the British Isles championship dance festival at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Leo competed across multiple categories and delivered an outstanding performance in every single one. He reached the semi-finals in both the Slow Dance and Freestyle Fast categories. He also danced his way into the finals for Freestyle Fast Pairs, Slow Pairs, and Street Pairs. To top off the day, Leo danced in several heats to beat 38 other contestants to secure first place in street dance, making him the British Isles under-12 street dance champion!



Emmie Vaults To Victory

Huge congratulations to Emmie H, who kept the Whitworth winning streak alive at The Garstang School of Gymnastics last Saturday. Competing across various disciplines, Emmie put on an absolute masterclass to bring home an impressive haul of medals. She secured a brilliant 2nd place on floor and 4th place on beam. To top off an already amazing day, she went on to take home the gold by winning both the vault and bars categories. We are absolutely thrilled by this incredible achievement from one of our youngest rising stars. The future is incredibly bright for this young gymnast!



Football Success

And the winning streak continues for our incredible students! One of our prefects, Harrison W plays under 15s football for Bury Football Club. His team won this season's JPL Premier League, then last weekend, they played in the Manchester County Cup final against Curzon Ashton FC and won by 3 goals to 1. As a result of winning the JPL they will be travelling down to Warwick University this weekend to represent the North West in the JPL Nationals tournament.



Military Training at HMS Raleigh

Continuing on the theme of celebrating students' out-of-school successes, I am pleased to report that Olivia M from year 9 has recently attended HMS Raleigh with the Cadets. Raleigh is located in Cornwall and is one of the largest Royal Navy training establishments in the country. Olivia has given me some photos to show off what she has been up to.



Alumni News

Former student Charlie Hastewell, was invited to Buckingham Palace Gardens on 22nd May to take part in a garden party to celebrate young people achieving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. He completed his Bronze and Silver D of E whilst at Whitworth Community High School, left in 2023 and then completed his Gold with Irwell Explorers. The expedition was the most challenging part, hiking and camping for four days. He still enjoys Scouting and has joined a stilt walking Scout group. After High School, Charlie completed A Levels at Rochdale Sixth Form and is now doing an apprenticeship at Menzies LLP, an accountancy firm in Manchester.



I want to use the final words in this newsletter to pay tribute to one of our former students, Sid Burke, who died recently. Sid left our school two years ago and was a much-loved member of our school community. He happened to be a member of one of my GCSE Religious Studies classes and he always had questions to ask and witty words to share in lessons. Sid liked to remind me that my attempts to insert some humour into my lessons were entirely futile, which was probably quite accurate. Our collective thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.

Best wishes

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

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher