



Newsletter

Spring Term 2
Friday 6th March 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Ski trip to Kitzbühel, Austria

Despite travel delays, the 2026 WCHS ski trip to Kitzbühel, Austria, was a tremendous success for our 41 students and dedicated staff. Demonstrating incredible resilience during demanding 7:00 am to 10:00 pm schedules, students skied in ability groups. When high winds closed gondolas, our experienced staff adapted plans, enabling skiing across three different resorts. Beyond the slopes, students embraced Austrian culture, enjoyed Eisbaren ice hockey, and visited thermal pools. Staff provided exceptional care, fostering a supportive environment where year groups seamlessly blended to form lasting friendships. Complimented by locals for their excellent behaviour, our students made this a highly rewarding trip. Many thanks, as always to Mr Duxbury, who made this amazing experience possible for the students.



National Youth Orchestra

On Monday 23rd February, 40 of our musical students attended an incredible performance by the National Youth Orchestra at the iconic Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. We were treated to a fabulous programme of music, including Pirates of the Caribbean, and a world exclusive performance of an arrangement of Phantom of the Opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which was written to mark the musical's 40th anniversary. The students thoroughly enjoyed the concert and were amazed by the incredible talents of the young musicians in the orchestra.



Music For Youth

This afternoon, our school wind band will be competing in the national Music For Youth Festival. Under Mrs Goff's direction, the band have prepared a varied programme of music and they are looking forward to showing off their musical talents to the judges. The programme starts with a True and Trusty, which is a traditional march, which is followed by Eye of The Tiger, a Beatles Medley and a rendition of Rock Around the Clock. I look forward to reporting how they got on in my next newsletter.

Calendar

**March
2026**

Year 9 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 18th
March 4.00pm -
6.00pm

Friday 27th March
After school closure
for Easter break

**April
2026**

Monday 13th April
School re-opens

2nd Year 11 Parents' Evening

Wednesday 15th
April 4.00pm -
6.00pm

**May
2026**

GCSE Examinations commence

Tuesday 5th May

Year 11 Mocks

The second round of year 11 mocks are now well underway. Early indications suggest that students have been preparing well. Added to this, their conduct in the exam hall has been excellent. I have pasted the copy of the timetable for next week below so that parents/carers can assist your children with their revision schedules.

w/c9/3	1	2	3	4	5
Mon	Maths			GCSE and VCERT PE	
Tue	History			Physics	
Wed	Art, DT***		Art	Art, Computing, Music	
Thur	Maths		Spanish	Geography	
Fri	English			Business	

* Students that study both RS and Hospitality will sit their RS exam Wednesday morning of week one
** One student who studies GCSE PE and Sociology will sit their Sociology exam Wednesday afternoon of week one
*** One student who studies Art and DT will sit their DT exam Tuesday morning of week two.

Year 7 Parents' Evening

Last Wednesday, we hosted parents' evening for our new Year 7 cohort. It was generally a very successful evening, after which the parental feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The main concern raised about the evening was that some parents could not get to see all of their child's teachers. The reason for this is that some teachers have several classes in the same year group and can't fit enough appointments into a 2 hour window. I am very sorry to any parents who encountered this issue. Please could I encourage parents who have any concerns to use the 'messages' tab on edulinkone to contact your child's teacher.

National Careers Week Virtual Assemblies

Careers education is a top priority at WCHS, as we believe it is vital to inspire students to consider their future aspirations from an early age. To provide a broad view of the professional world, our students engaged in a series of daily online assemblies this week featuring a diverse line-up of guest speakers.

The week began on Monday with Dan Thornton from Mewburn Ellis, followed by Ben Haworth from *Singletrack Magazine*, who discussed sports journalism on Tuesday. Mid-week, Dr Angela Tait from Salford University explored post-18 education pathways, while Thursday's session with Dr Molly Howarth focused on the role of being a clinical psychologist within the NHS. Finally, Dr Vincent and Mr Khan from MAC Plc rounded off the series on Friday with a look into clinical research. There was an opportunity for students to ask questions and they contributed some excellent ideas, which showed their engagement.

One of the highlights and recurring themes across the talks was the passion and enthusiasm our guests had for their jobs. Many of them talked about their motivation to help others and positively contribute to society, as well as the need to be resilient and the message that hard work usually leads to success. Following the talks, we will encourage students to reflect on their own career interests and the steps they can take now to succeed in the future.

It has been a truly inspiring experience, and I am incredibly grateful to our guests for giving their time so generously to broaden our students' horizons.

Youth Enterprise Success

In my recent newsletters, I have reported about the various fundraising events that our Youth Enterprise Team have been involved in. On Tuesday evening, the team were invited to a celebration event during which they were personally recognised and thanked by the Mayor of Rossendale and representatives from Rossendale Hospice. Our brilliant team of year 10 students were presented with the award for most innovative fundraising. They can be seen with their award in the photograph below. Collectively, the 5 Rossendale High Schools raised over £10,000 for the hospice. What an amazing achievement!



London Theatre Trip

Yesterday, a group of our Performing Arts enthusiasts were lucky enough to head down to London to watch a matinee performance of Marie & Rosetta. The elder sister of one of our own talented singers, Murishe M was starring in this professional West End two-hander performance alongside Beverley Knight. It sounds as though it was an amazing opportunity but there were some very tired students in school this morning after what must have been a very long day. Thanks especially to Mrs White and Mrs Goff for arranging this theatre trip for the students. It looks like they used her time wisely on the coach trip home developing their AI art work, see below.



In The News

Congratulations to Henry E and Phoebe S who have recently been featured in the Rochdale Observer after being honoured to be chosen to represent their squadron at the Greater Manchester parade marking the 85th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps. Henry and Phoebe aspire to have careers in the Royal Air Force and I have no doubt at all that they will both be extremely successful. They are a credit to their squadron, they are a credit to our school and we are all very proud of them.

Proud cadets mark 85th anniversary

18 Feb 2020 10:11 AM

CADETS from Whitworth were honoured to be chosen to represent their squadron at Greater Manchester parade to mark the 85th Anniversary of the Air Training Corps.

Fourteen-year-old Senior cadets Phoebe Shaw and Henry Eccles, from Whitworth Community High School, are both planning a career in the RAF.

On February 8, an anniversary service was held at St George's Church, Stockport, and afterwards there was a military march of about a mile through the town.

Both Henry and Phoebe said the march was hard on their feet but they felt very privileged to be a part of the ceremony.

Phoebe said: "There were eight or nine cadets from our squadron - 1200 Rochdale Air Cadets - represented.

"I spent ages making sure the creases were right in my uniform, moulding my belt and fixing my brassard, a piece of fabric worn on your arm with badges on.

"I felt quite honoured and proud to be there and I was happy to represent my squadron.

"There were meant to be 60 cadets, but there were 107 including the band."

Henry said: "It was really good to be a part of the celebrations. I was polishing my boots for two hours before the parade."

Phoebe wants to become a fighter jet pilot. Last year she attended a camp when she was one of only six cadets out of the 100 on camp who were selected to fly a plane.

Once airborne, she was given control of the plane and the pilot took her through aerobatics before she gained her Blue Wings.

Phoebe has military family history in the army as her grandmother and

her aunt were both in the forces and were in charge of tanks, but she said she had always loved planes.

Henry has just finished

His exams to become a Senior in the Air Cadets and he said the exams were a bit tricky.

After high school, he is considering attending a

Military Preparation College for Training and then becoming an aircraft technician in the RAF.

Henry said: "I have really wanted to do this

Career for a few years now. I want to be the person fixing the planes."

He is also completing his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze.

Sport Update

Sadly, our girls lost out in a wet and windy football fixture against TVLA U13s last Thursday. Mr Cawley said they played some great football but were unlucky with their final finishes. Our Year 11 boys also played in horrible weather conditions at the start of this week. Thankfully they beat BRGS 3-2 in a closely fought home fixture. The weather improved for our Year 9 boys who achieved a brilliant away win at Haslingden on Tuesday evening. I've been asked to give a special mention to Luca T-M who had a great performance as a left back.

Sport isn't just about football, so it was great to see our year 8 netballers competing in the Rossendale Tournament that was re-arranged from October. Well done to all our girls for your competitive spirit during the evening. You did our school proud.



Alumni Success

I always like to share positive news about our former students who have been successful beyond their time in school. Recently, it was brought to my attention that Grace Hartley, who left us in 2023, is featured in Hopwood Hall's latest newsletter, in which she is celebrated. Grace left us wanting an apprenticeship but she couldn't secure one at 16. Our careers advisor, Ms Grenaghan advised Grace to apply for a T-level in Accounting at Hopwood Hall, which she did, and she's now secured a Business Administration Apprenticeship with Albany Products Ltd. She was awarded the Service Industries Award at Hopwood's Celebration evening. Congratulations to Grace!



Best wishes

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

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher