

The Whitworth Whistle



Winter 2025



Head Teacher Op-ed

As always it is a pleasure to provide the opening words for The Whitworth Whistle. This publication gives students a unique opportunity to develop literacy skills using current sporting initiatives as a stimulus for articles. As such I am really pleased that we are now on our fifth edition and I am proud of all of the students who have contributed.

I am also very proud to read about all of the ongoing success of our students in a variety of sports. It is particularly good to hear about so many of our girls actively taking part in sporting pursuits and this is celebrated on front cover picture. The “This Girl Can” campaign championed by Sport England has definitely made its way to Whitworth Community High School.

Mr Oliver, Headteacher

Editor Op-ed

This term has come with many ups and downs, with more positives than negatives; one negative, this being our last time editing and writing a piece for the newsletter as it is now our last year in school and we have to focus on our GCSEs. It only felt like yesterday when we were in year 10 doing this for the first time when Mr Cawley chose us to be the editors. Even though we have just finished our second to last mocks and it has been a few weeks filled with stress, we didn't want to turn down the last chance to edit the newsletter, which has been filled with many memories. We want to take this opportunity to thank Mr Cawley for giving it to us in the first place, we are very grateful we got to be the editors not once but twice. With new fun games, sporting competitions and the school show we hope you enjoy reading this newsletter as much as we did editing it.

Eva Doherty & Katy Pickering, Editors



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@WCHS_PE



From Pitch to the Page

Gareth Walker, teams up with Whitworth High to inspire young journalists. Literacy Kicks came to school and had a story to tell. Gareth Walker started off not knowing what he wanted to do in life, but he started to report on small matches and grew all the way up to the Paralympics in 2012 and 2024. One of his experiences was when he was reported a match and because he wasn't the tallest he had to ask a player one big question and the player thought he was a kid grabbed his paper and signed it. He has reported on Rugby League World Cups, reported on Rugby League matches, Magic Weekend, and many more (which are all great, as I have read a few of them myself). Gareth Walker was really inspiring to me, and I am sure he was to everyone else. He was kind and really helped me understand where I went wrong in places and how to fix that. Although I wasn't sure on how to write an article at first he showed us all techniques on what to do and how to use them to improve our writing.

On the day Gareth came in, we got to know him as he told us his stories, and then we began our work. The first activity was writing an article and taking notes, so we reviewed the 2025 Women's World Cup, with England winning on penalties. During this, Gareth came around to look over our work and made sure we were all okay with what we were supposed to be doing. The second activity was about Nathan Maguire and his story in the Paralympics but will get back to that in a bit. We wrote an article about him after Gareth gave us some more tips. (Nathan's story was pretty cool to learn about). Lastly Gareth gave us a sheet of articles about different people that had mistakes (put in on purpose) that we had to spot. He talked us through the steps of writing for a newspaper the rough draft the last draft was the one that got sent to the editor for mistake.

Nathan Maguire, a paralympian with a great story to tell. At just a young age about eight years old Nathan felt a tingle. At age 8, he went to bed as a regular child — and woke up unable

to walk. Overnight, he became paralysed due to Transverse myelitis, a rare condition where the immune system attacked his spinal cord. He soon went to the hospital and got diagnosed. Whilst in hospital he got a wheelchair and he thought it was the best thing ever and he would speed around the ward popping wheelies. A lot of the nurses weren't a big fan of this. His dad said "this is a new chapter." After just a few weeks he was out of hospital and not long after that he attended his first wheelchair basketball session. When he finished he said "I was discharged from hospital on Christmas Eve, and by the 5th of January I was playing wheelchair basketball. I didn't know anyone with a disability, let alone people my age with a disability. So sport was a way for me finding myself." Throughout living his life with a disability he loved doing activities and his dad as a teenager pushed him to do activities such as basketball, swimming, even rowing until he found where he was good at what he liked; 2020 he won a silver medal (in the Paralympics) and 2022 in the commonwealth games, he won gold medal. A recent quote from him "A lot of people see a disability as the end of their life. But my disability has taken me to so many places ... if someone had said 'do you want to get rid of disability tomorrow?' I'd say no." This proves no matter what, you can do anything.

Jack Cornall (Year 7)



Fresh Faces, Fresh Stories: Year 7s Join the Newsletter Team!



Welcome to our new year 7 students who have joined our newsletter team for after Christmas. They all produced one article on our Literacy kicks session and the winner is above. Well done.

Noah Aughey, Aliesha Gibbons, Daphne Radford, Robyn Newell, Aaron Hampson

Isabelle Guest, Betsy Parkes, Jack Cornall, Eydi Traynor, Lily-Ann Horridge

Ambassadors Are Being Trained for Impact

During Year 8, I represented our school as a Sports Ambassadors. We had to undergo training to keep children safe and happy. However, training was a fun element on the road to success. The first task on our practical journey was to mentally think of games that could keep children from being bored in the short space of time; while they waited for other schools to attend the event. We used games such as Chicken or Hero, Simon says, and Cat and mouse.

Later in the year I am going to be continuing with my duties, by training to become a dodgeball official.



We will also be helping and running one of the schools favourite annual events; the colour run!

I really enjoy my role as a sports ambassador, especially events like Botcha training with a British wheelchair racing champion. Sports hall athletics with years 3, 4, 5, and 6, both tournaments with primary schools and secondary schools. Hopefully, the new sports ambassadors will feel the same way after their training.

James Power (Year 9)



Hall of Fame Welcome

Welcome our new additions to the Whitworth Hall of Fame:

- Charlotte Zampach Year 8 - Lowry Contemporary Dancer
- Mason Hayhurst Year 9- Lancashire Inter League Cricket
- Oliver Loader Year 7- Muay Thai Boxing Champion
- Libby Bell Taylor Year 7- Accrington FC Girls Academy
- Emmie Howard- Gymnastics Floor Routine Champion
- Charlie Hartley- Lancashire Inter League Cricket



Brain Break

A



B



C



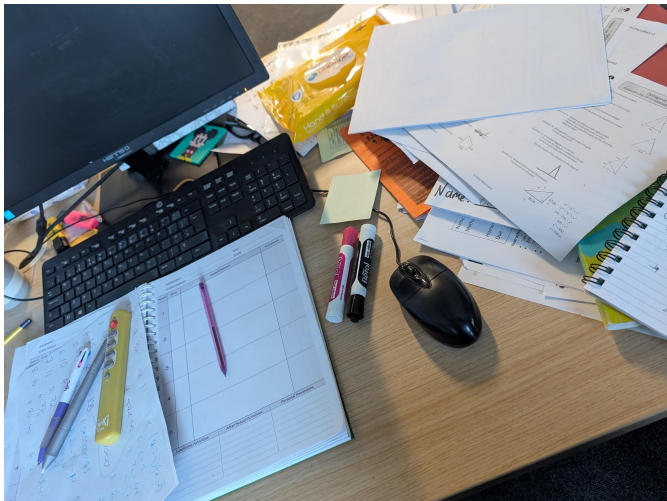
**Can you work out who our AI robot has made into a child teacher?
Answer at the bottom of the page!**

**Can you work out who the desk
belongs to?
Answers at the bottom of the
page!**

D



E



A- Mr Williams B- Mr Towers C-Mrs Murray D-Mrs Cavanagh E-Miss Turner

Around & About Whitworth High

Small Acts, Big Impact: Highlights from This Year's Food Drive

This month, our school community came together with one shared goal: to help local families in need through our Food Drive. Led by student volunteers and teachers, the initiative encouraged everyone to donate non-perishable items, from canned vegetables to toiletries, to help restock neighbourhood homes.

A local Food Drive is a simple but powerful way to support people in need, creating an opportunity for everyone to contribute - no matter how small the donation may seem. It also raises awareness about hunger in the area and encourages people to work together toward a shared goal of helping others.

Thanks to the dedication of our school community, many items were collected. The donations were delivered to the local food bank: the lighthouse, ensuring that more families have the essentials they need. The Food Drive is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we work together with kindness and purpose. We want to say a thank you to everybody that contributed, volunteered, or helped spread the word.

Eva Doherty and Katy Pickering. (Year 11)



**205 Food
Items Donated**

Fantastic Footballing Festival

On Wednesday 15th October 2025, Whitworth's footballing enthusiasts took on Belmont in a thrilling football festival. Nine keen students, desperate to attain victory with teamwork, effort, and competitiveness, kicked off the game full of energy. However, Belmont were equally determined to prove themselves and strive for glory.

With high optimism and expectations, students warmed themselves up to prepare for the big game ahead of them. Logan L (year 8) led this productive warm up, to get the rest of the team focused and ready to play. Finally, the game was ready to commence; Whitworth vs Belmont. The game was on.

As the game kicked off Logan L blocked many strikes; however, early on, Belmont's star striker, No 9, kicked the ball into the net, closely followed by another (from the same player). It already wasn't looking good for Whitworth, when No 15 scored for Belmont, making the score 3-0. The goals continued (scored by No 15, 9 and 6).



After a half time breather, Whitworth and Belmont's players were eager to get going again; Mr Cawley's encouraging pep-talk boosted their spirits after such a disappointing first half, with that they were ready to give it their all once again.

However, the game was already out of reach and with an own goal, the final score stood at 7-0 to Belmont. Benji W (year 8) spoke to us after the game stating that Belmont had fast players, which was unlucky for the Whitworth team but they still had strong players. There was good determination from all players with a special shoutout to Leo P (year 7). Everyone lifted each others spirits really well.

Despite a devastating loss, the Whitworth team didn't let it get them down. They are now even more determined to make a comeback next time they play.

Isabelle Bostock & Alessia Bagaglia.
(Year 8)

Grit and Ground: Cross-Country Athletes Shine



Students from Years 7 to 9 delivered an excellent set of performances at the Rossendale Cross Country event. Despite heavy rainfall in the days leading up to the race, the course held up remarkably well, and competitors enjoyed much-improved conditions.

In the Year 7 races, Charlie F secured a strong 10th-place finish for the boys, while Amelia M impressed with a superb 4th-place result in the girls' event.

In the combined Year 8/9 races, George H ran confidently to claim 7th place for the boys, and Layla T-C put in a determined performance to finish 16th in the girls' field.

It was a day of great effort, positive attitudes, and outstanding representation from all who took part. Well done to everyone who competed.

Final Whistle: See who won!

Game	Result
Yr 7 Football Friendly	WCHS 1-2 All Saints
Yr 7 Football Friendly	Alder Grange 2-5 WCHS
Yr 7 Football Friendly	TVLA 2-4 WCHS
Yr 10/11 Netball Tournament	4th in Group
Yr 10 Football League Game	Haslingden 0-0 WCHS
U13 Girls Football League Game	WCHS 6-3 All Saints
Yr 11 B Team Football Friendly	TVLA 3-2 WCHS
Yr 7/8 Football Friendly	WCHS 0-3 Belmont
Yr 9 Netball Tournament	4th in Group
Yr 9 Football League Game	Alder Grange 6-2 WCHS
Yr 9 B Team Football Friendly	TVLA 3-2 WCHS
U15 Girls Football League Game	Alder Grange 3-3 WCHS
Yr 10 B Team Football Friendly	TVLA 5-1 WCHS
Yr 7 Football League Game	TVLA 1-3 WCHS
U15 Girls Football League Game	TVLA 0-4 WCHS
Yr 8 Football Friendly	TVLA 1-1 WCHS
Yr 11 Football League Game	WCHS 5-2 All Saints



Balls Flying, Crowds Cheering: Interform Dodgeball Delivers

On Monday the 20th of October 2025, all year 8 forms took part in a competitive game of dodgeball. All the forms were eager to win; most students in the year group showing up to participate and play with great enthusiasm. Miss Doyle's form, 8 pegasus won a prize for the most people who turned up to play.

The atmosphere was intense as the competitors were deeply focused on playing to the best of their abilities. Overall, year 8 Draco took the top spot on the podium, closely followed by Pegasus and Aquila. Year 7's and Year 9's also participated in their own interform event. For year 7, the top three forms were Ursa, Aquila, and Draco and in Year 9 the winners were Ursa, Aquila, and Orion.

Keilis Morris in year 8 made a great effort of dodging the ball, moving just on time as the ball came her way. During the match between 8 Orion and Pegasus, Mason Hardaker hit Daniel Brophy with full power and caused him to reluctantly step away from the game.

When all matches finished, the players waited with anticipation to find out who had won (8 Draco); everyone came away from an evening of fun and competitiveness.

Lilah Rose Craven, Martha Barry & Maisie Loftus
(Year 8)





Picture Perfect Portraits



Welcome to our Picture Perfect Page, created for students who are passionate about photography. In this edition Sophie Barron in year 9 attended the Panathlon Bowling Competition and took some fantastic photos that we're excited to share.

On Thursday afternoon, Frankie Kershaw, Leo Poulter, Theo Smout, Lillie-may-davies, and Zander Stansfield all competed in the Rossendale Panathlon, they did amazing. Lillie did loads of amazing spares; the atmosphere was wonderful and just like our school they were competitive, polite, and always trying to climb higher. Theo threw the ball with some speed and he was so close to getting a strike but then followed with a spare. Although we didn't win the competition gave everyone a chance to enjoy a lively, memorable experience. The exciting atmosphere let us celebrate sportsmanship and school pride.

Sophie Baron (Year 9)



Rivals Return: Staff Take On Students in Annual Showdown

Every year, we hold a fun competition between year 11 students and staff. The aim is to reduce the stress and the monotony of revision. The aim is also to further enhance positive relationships between students and staff, especially as we approach the second half of the academic year, during which year 11 students will be under a lot of pressure due to their GCSE examinations.

The majority of the events will take place on the final Wednesday of term but some need to happen in advance so that a wide variety of pursuits and sports are included. As such, the football and netball matches took place last week. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the staff took the points in the football match, which they won by 5 goals to two. In the netball, the staff were also the victors, so things are looking good for the staff...not that we're a competitive bunch!



Thrills and Team Spirit at Year 7/8 Sports Hall Athletics Event



Approaching TVLA for the Athletics festival we were very excited to see the events that were going to be taking place. The festival started at 10:30 am with many teams getting ready to start. The event was about having fun, nobody winning in the end and more about taking part. The events included: speed bounce, javelin throw, long jump, chest throw, and bean bag shot.

We interviewed Mr Bibby from the Valley Leadership Academy who runs the events across Rossendale; asking him a series of questions.

Qu: Why do you not have a winner at these events?

Ans: For most kids it's their 1st event and we don't want them to feel disappointed so we make it fun and inclusive. They do feel like they are competing because they have races in the event but it's all around fun.

Qu: What's the best part of your job?

Ans: The best part is bringing people together from different schools and communities. At the bowling I looked out and thought all these kids are having fun and that was amazing.

The whole event was finished with a relay race with everyone cheering for their team.

Written by Lily Walker Knowles (Year 9)

Interform Update

2025 Champion DRACO



Position	House	Points
1st	URSA	1630
2nd	DRACO	1520
3rd	PEGASUS	1435
4th	AQUILA	1425
5th	ORION	1350

