



Newsletter

Summer Term 1
Friday 17th April 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

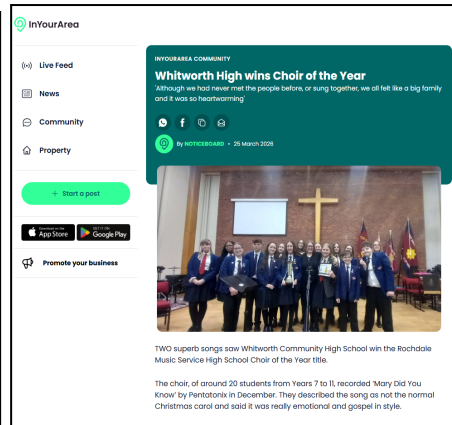
Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Easter break. As we return to our fortnightly newsletters, you'll notice that this one is a bit of a "bumper issue." Because the holidays interrupted our usual schedule, some of the highlights and celebrations included may feel like they happened a while ago, but I didn't want these wonderful achievements to go unrecognised.

Commendation Assemblies

The last things to happen before we broke up for Easter were the termly Commendation Assemblies. Students were deservedly rewarded certificates and prizes for all of their efforts during the spring term. The awards were for consistent effort with home learning, progress with Bedrock reading, 100% attendance and 0 behaviour points. The assemblies then culminated in the presentation of stars which I'm sure you will have seen displayed on the lapels of the students' blazers. The stars are awarded for effort and attainment, meaning that all students can be nominated, regardless of their academic ability.

In The News

It has been great to see that the amazing successes of our students haven't gone unnoticed by the local press recently. Articles about our students' achievements have been reported on the Roch Valley Radio website, the In Your Area publication and in the Rochdale Observer. It can sometimes feel as though journalists predominantly focus on negative news stories, so it is great to see our students making the headlines for all the right reasons.



Calendar

April
2026

28th April
Y8 HPV
Vaccinations

May
2026

5th May
GCSE Exams
Commence

22nd May
School closes for
half term

June
2026

1st June
School reopens

22nd June
Year 10 Work
Experience Week

24th June
GCSE Contingency
Day

Spring Term Reports

Reports were published earlier this week. In the past, reports have only been shared electronically using the Edulinkone app. However, following a number of requests from parents, we have also sent paper copies with students this time. Please could I encourage all parents/carers to discuss the reports with your children.

Year 11 Exams Update

We are fast approaching the time of the year when our year 11s will be sitting their formal final examinations. Many students have been in school during the Easter holiday completing the coursework and controlled assessment elements of their Music and Design Technology courses and some have now completed the practical assessments in subjects such as Art and Performing Arts. From what I have seen in this first week back, the year 11s are really engaged and are taking the preparation for their finals very seriously. Attendance at the intervention sessions has been high and homework completion has been at a good standard. Please could I urge parents/carers to make sure that your children are sticking to their revision timetables, completing exam preparation work that is set for them and attending any intervention sessions that have been organised for them. Also, please don't hesitate to get in touch with school staff if you need any assistance or advice regarding exam preparation for your children.



Y11 Supported Revision Sessions

This is probably a good point to remind parents/carers about supported revision sessions which are available in the library from 3 - 4.30pm. These are facilitated by Mrs Williams, our Academic Mentor, who is experienced in supporting Year 11 students of all abilities with: revision and exam technique; balancing and organising workload; staying motivated and managing exam stress. Any Year 11 student is welcome to attend as and when they feel it would be helpful, no booking required. Sessions are held until 4.30 to enable students to come after subject specific interventions if they wish. Please encourage your son/daughter to use this weekly opportunity to get some focussed revision done in school with support available if needed.

Summer Term Extra Curricular Timetables

As you will know, there are lots of opportunities for students to get involved with extra curricular activities beyond the school day. I have included the two main extra curricular timetables here so that parents/carers can encourage their children to participate. Involvement in such activities can enhance the learning journey and give students a sense of belonging to our school community.

Physical Education			Extra-Curricular Summer Term 1		
AFTER SCHOOL 3pm- 4pm	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SPORTS HALL	OAA Yr 7-8 Mrs Belham	CRICKET NET TRAINING Yr 7-10 Mr Khan	BADMINTON/ TT GCSE Mr Malik	CRICKET NET TRAINING Yr 7-10 Mr Khan	FOOTBALL Staff vs Yr 11 Mr Cawley
FITNESS SUITE/ SPORTS CORRIDOR				FITNESS Yr 7-10 Mr Malik	
NETBALL COURT	NETBALL Yr 7-8 Miss Mcvarish	NETBALL Yr 9-10 Miss Mcvarish			
FIELD	FOOTBALL Yr 7-8 Mr Cawley Mr Malik	FOOTBALL Yr 9-10 Mr Cawley Mr Malik			
PLEASE BE AWARE CLUBS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION FOR SCHOOL FIXTURES OR WEATHER					

Creativity		Extra-Curricular Summer Term			
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school				Wind Band and Beginner Band - Hall / Music Room 8:30am	Flute Group - Keyboard Room Year 7 Brass - Music Room 8:45am
Break-time	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room
Lunch-time			Ukulele Club - Y8/11 - Music Room		Ukulele Club - Y7 - Music Room Blooket/Duolingo Club - Y7/8 0B
After-school (3pm-4pm)	Art Club (all years) - Art Studio Arts Festival cast Drama Studio	Drama Club - Drama Studio KS4 Art Club - Art Studio		Spanish Club - OB KS4 Art Club - Art Studio Arts Festival cast Drama Studio	Vocal Group - Music Room Rock Bands - Guitar Room
Y11s - Please check the intervention timetable for your intervention sessions. Music Practice Rooms are available to book at break-time / lunch-time and after school - please see Mrs Goff					

Spain Trip

On Easter Monday, 24 students and 3 staff set off in the early hours of the morning for Spain, ready to spend five days immersing themselves in Spanish language and culture—and they certainly made the most of every moment!

During the trip, students took part in a wide range of exciting activities, all delivered entirely in Spanish. These included stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking, cooking classes, storytelling, a pool party, karaoke, and even a beach photo race. From the moment we arrived, our *monitores* (local Spanish-speaking instructors) led the programme, supporting students with key vocabulary before each activity so they could confidently understand instructions and take part fully.

It was a fantastic week filled with memorable highlights: making mermaid-shaped biscuits in cookery sessions, playing energetic (and sometimes very silly!) paddleboard games, and finishing our karaoke evening with a lively group rendition of a Shakira classic. Most importantly, students embraced every opportunity to practise their Spanish, making a real effort to communicate with the *monitores* and local people throughout the visit. Their enthusiasm and confidence grew noticeably as the week progressed.

Wonderful memories were made, friendships strengthened, and the experience will stay with students for years to come.

To read more about the trip and see photos of what we got up to, please visit our X (formerly Twitter) page: @WCHS_MFL. Keep an eye out for details of our next Spain trip, coming soon!



Benchball Competition

During the final week of term, year 7 and 8 students took part in the interform benchball competition. It was brilliant to see so many students and their form tutors staying behind after school to engage in such an active and fun event. Although the event was billed as 'friendly', there was definitely a competitive edge, and I'm mainly talking about the form tutors who were very keen for their students to be crowned champions. Orion won the year 7 competition whereas Pegasus were the winners in year 8. Thanks to all who were involved and congratulations to the winners.



Year 7 Footballers Reach The Final

On the evening that my last newsletter was published, our year 7 boys football team were in action against Alder Grange competing for a place in the Rossendale Cup Final. Thanks to a late equaliser by Charlie J, the game finished as a draw. Thankfully our boys triumphed in a penalty shoot out to reach their first ever final as students at Whitworth Community High School. I look forward to reporting back about their success in the final which is due to take place in May.



Year 10 Football Semi-Final

Yesterday evening, despite a fantastic team performance, our year 10 boys were not quite able to reach their respective final. They were beaten by two goals to one in a brilliant home game. Sadly, this brings their cup run to an end. On a positive note, Adam J scored an excellent goal from 25 yards out and Max H had a brilliant game in the right back position.



Spotlight on the History Department

In History, our classes have moved on to studying the British Value of Democracy. Our Year 7 groups are exploring the age of enlightenment this term, learning about the American and French Revolutions and how they informed our modern understanding of democratic values and social equality. Year 8 have just completed a topic learning about Britain' extension of the franchise in the 19th century and are beginning to explore how groups like the Suffragists and Suffragettes fought to extend legal and political rights to women." One of our Year 8 students commented "I think this is really exciting because we're learning about the struggles these women had to get rights, and without them we wouldn't be where we are today".

Focus Art Project

Miss Wilson's creative intervention sessions have been a vibrant and inspiring space for pupils across Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Through a combination of open discussion and artistic expression, students have explored important life themes such as self-esteem, anger management, resilience, and understanding the challenges around the cost of living. Alongside these meaningful conversations, pupils have produced some truly incredible pieces of artwork that reflect their thoughts, emotions, and personal growth. Miss Wilson is immensely proud of the progress each student has made—not only in their creativity, but in the confidence, maturity, and self-awareness they are developing as young adults.



Red Rose Reading Project

We are currently taking part in the Red Rose Reading Project along with Alder Grange and Falinge Park High School, and led by Mrs Middlemas. The focus of the project is disciplinary literacy and the challenges that students can encounter when reading non-fiction at secondary school. Before Easter, staff from the two schools and Mrs Middlemas came to Whitworth to meet with Mrs Howarth to discuss reading at Whitworth and visit KS3 History and Science lessons. The remit of the project is to focus on how subject teachers support students from the start of Y7 to meet the varied reading challenges of disciplinary literacy: how to read like an historian, how to interrogate a text like a geographer, how to decipher the language of a maths problem so they can actually work out what to calculate. The idea is to identify and share best practice across schools and across subjects. Our visitors were very impressed with our students and the lessons they visited, including reading in form time. Mrs Middlemas visited Whitworth again today to conduct a student voice with some of our Y7 students to find out what they think about the challenges of reading. Thank you to Evie-Lys A, Georgie B, Daisy B, Ellis C, Lillie-Mai, Jace H, Ronan M, , Brody O'C, Matilda T, Abigail A, Sienna-Lea A, Noah A, Emilie B, Harris BH, William G, Poppy J, Andre L, Bruce M and Hewitt W who all took part in the project today.





Alumni Update

Last half term, you might have seen a familiar face on the television when one of our alumni, Shaun Stephen took part as a contestant on the popular Saturday night show, Gladiators. Shaun followed his dad's footsteps as a contestant and he was a fabulous competitor who only narrowly missed out on a place in the final rounds. Aside from competing as a Gladiator, Shaun has done very well since leaving school. He completed his college education at Stonyhurst College and I am told that he is now an aerospace apprentice.

As regular readers of my newsletter will know, I always like to celebrate the success of our former students. Therefore, if you know of any of our alumni who are doing really well with their chosen pathways, please get in touch so that I can share their successes.



Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher