



Newsletter

Summer Term 2
Friday 3rd July 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

There is so much going on in school at the moment that it was difficult to know where to start. I hope this newsletter gives you a flavour of all of the great things that are happening.

Year 9 Computing Students Visit Digital Security Hub

A group of Year 9 Computing students recently visited the Greater Manchester Digital Security Hub, known as DiSH, in Manchester as part of a Workplace Safari experience. During the day, students explored how digital technology and cybersecurity are used in real-world workplaces. They took part in a range of practical activities, including coding robots using AI, a Cyber Lego incident response challenge, and a Cyber Threat Team game designed to introduce them to the type of problem-solving used in the digital and cybersecurity sector.

The visit gave students a valuable opportunity to meet industry professionals, experience a professional working environment and learn more about future careers in cybersecurity, software development, data protection and digital technology. Students represented the school brilliantly throughout the day and showed curiosity, teamwork and enthusiasm during the activities. It was a fantastic opportunity to raise aspirations and help students understand how the skills they develop in Computing can lead to exciting future pathways.



Robots, Code and Cyber Challenges at Accrington and Rossendale College

On Thursday, 11th June, a group of Year 8 Computing students visited Accrington and Rossendale College for a MEGA Day (Motivated, Educated Generation with Ambition). The day was packed with practical challenges, including controlling robots, physical computing, digital detective work and cyber problem-solving. Students had to work in teams, test ideas, adapt when things went wrong and think carefully under pressure.



Calendar

July 2026

Wednesday 8th

Year 7-10 Awards
Evening
(Invitation only)

Friday 17th

After school closure
for Summer break

August 2026

Thursday 20th

GCSE Results Day

**September
2026**

Wednesday 2nd

School re-opens

One of the highlights of the cyber challenge was seeing how students responded to the challenges. Abigail explained how her team had to change their robot code when it kept moving in spirals, while Martha spoke about the satisfaction of finally getting the robot to stop in the right place. Sonia enjoyed the AI password challenge and described the feeling of solving it in time as “amazing”. Students also reflected on how creative and team-based technology careers can be. Many were surprised that computing is not just about coding, but also about communication, problem-solving and imagination. It was a brilliant day, and the students represented the school superbly.

Oxford University Trip – 17th June 2026

On 17th June 2026, excited Year 8 students from WCHS embarked on an inspiring trip to Pembroke College, University of Oxford, alongside other local schools. After a pleasant coach journey, the group arrived to a warm welcome and an insightful address by Oxford staff on widening higher education participation for students from the North. Although rainy weather cancelled the outdoor tour, students quickly adapted, enjoying an informative Q&A session with OxNet alumni. They then experienced a taste of university life by sharing a delicious lunch in the historic dining hall with current Oxford students dressed in traditional academic attire, followed by a quick try at croquet on the lawn.

The afternoon focused on academic excellence, starting with a fascinating study skills lecture on history and technology. Our 12- and 13-year-old students deeply impressed the lecturers with their maturity, engagement, and critical thinking, especially during a debate on using artificial intelligence as a study tool. The highlight of the day was the project poster presentations, where WCHS students spoke intelligently and confidently about cyber security to a packed auditorium. Throughout the trip, our students behaved impeccably, represented the school exceptionally well, and left with the proud achievement of having delivered a presentation at the University of Oxford.



Work Experience

Last week, our Year 10s embarked on a week of work experience. Their placements were incredibly varied and generally very successful. Placements ranged from office work to manual labour and even working as yoga instructors. To their great credit, some students have been offered jobs as a result of their hard work pending them getting the right qualifications at school and college. It was a personal pleasure to go out and visit some of our students whilst they were doing work experience and to hear the excellent feedback from their placement providers. Many thanks to Ms Grenaghan and Mrs Howarth for co-ordinating this and a huge thank you to the employers who hosted our students.

Gunge A Teacher

As you will all know, we have an ongoing fundraising campaign to raise funds to keep our school minibus on the road and to save for a new one. Mr Cawley's latest idea was an event called 'Gunge A Teacher'. Students could buy raffle tickets to be in with the chance of pouring gunge over a member of staff. As you can see from the photographs below, the students took great delight in this activity. I'm still not sure if I've forgiven Sophie B for pouring thick and gloopy red gunge over my head!

The next fundraiser will take place on Monday (weather permitting). We've already got hundreds of students signed up for the colour run and it is hoped that this will be a highly enjoyable event as it was last year.



Duke of Edinburgh

Also last week, we had the final expedition for our latest cohort of Duke of Edinburgh participants. Despite the relentless heat, the students successfully completed their final two-day expedition. This means that they have all completed the full set of requirements to earn their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards, which they will be given at the Awards Evening next week. What an amazing achievement by a resilient and hard-working group of students.



Year 9 Access Arrangements

Throughout this week, the SEND team have been busy testing Year 9 students for examination access arrangements. This is a process by which students who require special arrangements in order to make the exam process more accessible for them are tested to determine their eligibility for bespoke arrangements. Thank you especially to Mrs Manning who has taken the lead with this process.

Rochdale 6th Form Taster Day

On Tuesday, over half of our Year 10 students attended a taster day at Rochdale Sixth Form College. This is a vital day as our students begin to think about their transition from high school to college. The students took part in a variety of lessons, lectures and other activities so that they could get a flavour of what life at college might be like. I think the students were particularly impressed with their free lunch. Thanks again to Ms Grenaghan and Mrs Howarth for making this opportunity happen for our students.

Year 6 Welcome Day and Evening

We hosted our annual welcome day for our new Year 7 cohort on Thursday. School was a hive of activity as the young children took a day out of their primary schools to experience a day in the life of a high school student. After the students had their turn, they were invited to bring their parents along to the Welcome Evening, during which they were able to purchase uniform items and listen to speeches from some current students and head prefects.

Geography Field Trip

One of the final events to mention is the Geography field trip to Blackpool that is taking place today. Sadly, I'm not able to give any updates about the success of the event yet but I can say that there were lots of excited Year 10s in school this morning. Hopefully, it will be as successful as previous field trips.

Musical Theatre Stars

Three of our talented students, Louisa C, Isabelle O, and Ava L, recently shone on stage after months of rigorous training at Footlights in Rochdale. Every weekend, the dedicated trio polish their dance, drama, and singing skills with a specific focus on musical theatre. Their hard work culminated in a demanding, high-energy weekend where they performed back-to-back shows of *The Greatest Showman*. We are all proud of their dedication and brilliant performances. Congratulations, girls!



Abby 'Trotts' to Victory

Another amazing achievement to celebrate is that Year 9 student, Abby P, recently qualified to ride at the Horse of the Year show. This is definitely something that needs to be celebrated, especially as Abby is very humble regarding her own abilities. The photo below was taken on Sunday afternoon during the qualifying rounds in Formby. It never ceases to amaze me to hear about the talents and skills of our amazing students.



Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

Family Hubs Network Rossendale Partners

Rossendale Newsletter – July 2026

Children and Family
Wellbeing
Service

New Initiatives

Starting School This September? Join our New School Meet & Mingle sessions!

designed to help children starting primary school build confidence, make new friends and meet future classmates before the big day. Parents, carers and grandparents can access school readiness information, learn about Family Hub support and connect with other local families. Sessions take place on 8th July at Rawtenstall Family Hub and 16th July at

Maden Family Hub, Bacup.

from 9:30am–11:30am.

Spaces are limited, so book early and give your child a positive start to their school journey.

Working Together

Britain in Bloom 2026:

Our Targeted Youth Support Team has been working hard alongside Rossendale Civic Pride to support this year's Britain in Bloom competition, focusing on the themes of Rawtenstall, Regeneration and Rewilding.

Young people have been busy planting and creating a beautiful garden outside Rawtenstall Family Hub, showcasing their creativity while helping to enhance the local environment.

With judging taking place at the end of July, we wish everyone involved the very best of luck and extend a huge thank you to Rossendale Civic Pride and our dedicated team for their enthusiasm, commitment and fantastic work.

Making a Difference

We're excited to share our Rossendale Family Hubs Summer 2026 Programme, with a fantastic range of free activities, family events, wellbeing sessions and HAF activities taking place across the summer holidays.

HAF Family Fun Events, including:

- Party in the Parks
- Circus Skills
- Healthy Heads Cooking
- Theatre Workshop
- Emma's Crazy Creatures
- Valley Hoopers Family Fun

We also have our Sensory Room at Maden Family Hub, Bacup, available to book free of charge throughout the summer, with four slots available each day. Families can book by calling 01772 536 873.

Please help us spread the word by sharing this information with families, partners and professionals who may benefit from these opportunities.

For further information, families can contact us at Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk

Supporting Local Families



Supporting young parents (16–21) to build safe, independent futures

The M3 Teenage Family Project is here to help young parents take positive steps towards a brighter future. Across Rossendale, Burnley, Hyndburn and Pendle, we provide safe, welcoming, fully furnished homes for up to 14 families – offering stability, support, and a place to truly feel at home for up to two years.

What makes us special?

We don't just provide accommodation – we help build confidence, independence and life skills:

- Learn how to manage a home and everyday responsibilities
- Get support and advocacy at meetings with Children's Social Care
- Connect with Family Hubs and wellbeing services
- Receive tailored, regular support every step of the way

As families grow in confidence, we support them to move on to independent living – ready, prepared, and empowered to succeed.

Referrals & enquiries: 01706 216600

For more info, get in touch today,
Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk

or call us on 01772536873

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire
County
Council