

CLIMBING HIGHER : RAISING ASPIRATIONS



Whitworth Community High School

PROSPECTUS





Welcome

To Whitworth Community High School

Welcome to Whitworth Community High School, where we cultivate high expectations, exceptional teaching, and outstanding standards to foster a purposeful and aspirational learning environment.



This is an exciting time to become part of our school community. We have recently moved into our fantastic new building, established a positive reputation locally, and we consistently achieve strong GCSE results, leading to our school being oversubscribed in every year group.

Our students thrive in a small, close-knit community where they feel safe and valued. They have access to a challenging and diverse academic curriculum, as well as a variety of enriching cultural, sporting, and creative activities. The strong relationships our students form with dedicated staff ensure they are well looked after and safe.

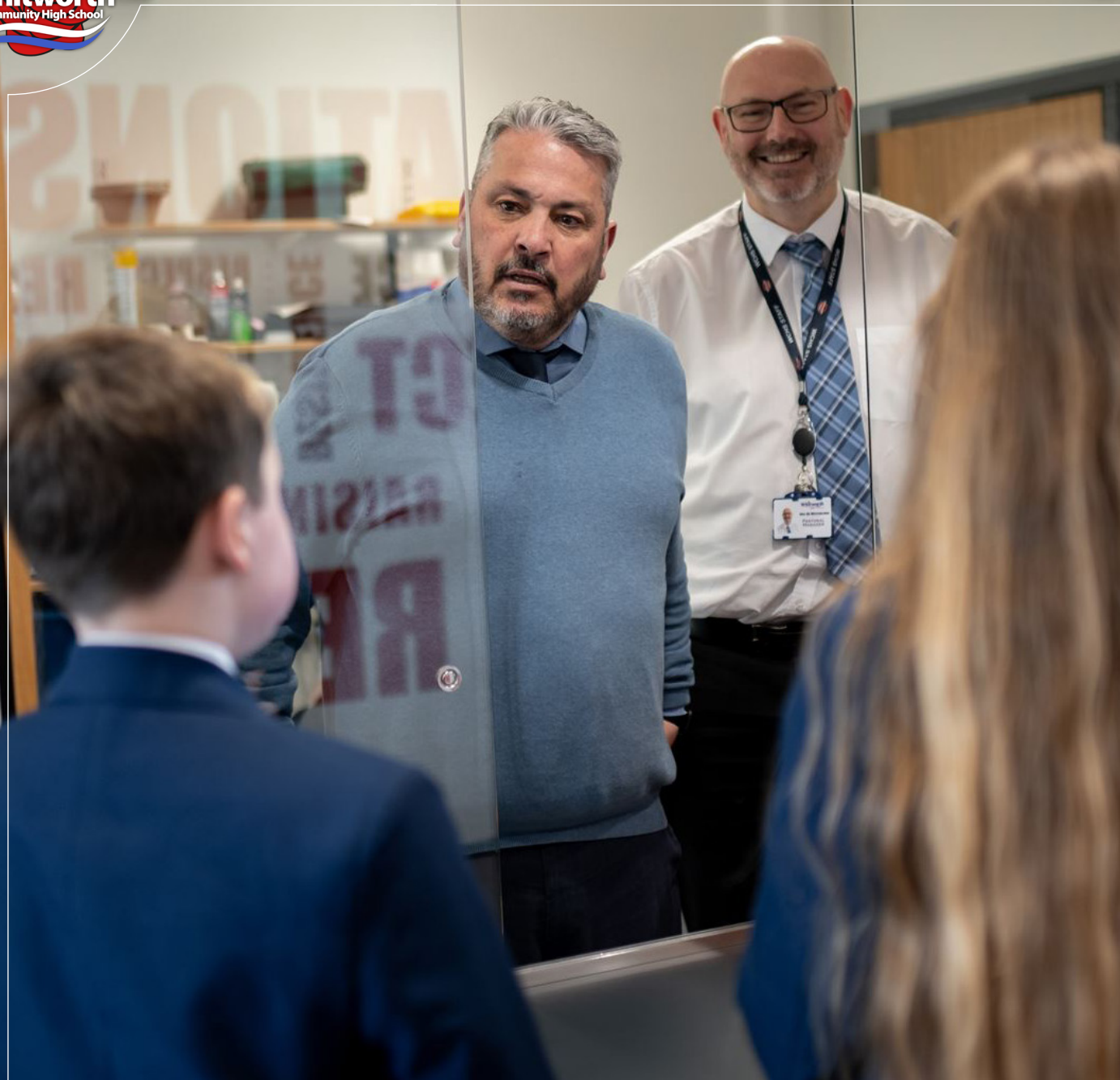
Students are challenged and supported by our fantastic teaching and associate staff and we work together towards our shared goal: 'Climbing Higher.' We expect all students to work hard, and encourage them to involve themselves in school life and to make a positive contribution to the school through a wide range of extracurricular opportunities.

Wherever they go, our students are praised for their respectful and positive attitude and their confident and engaging manner. Respect is at the heart of everything we do and our 7 Expectations underpin the school's work. We are committed to ensuring that all our young people are successful lifelong learners; resilient, caring individuals; positive contributors; and responsible citizens with clear moral values. Above all, we want them to have the highest aspirations for themselves and the self-belief needed to succeed.

Now is a fantastic time to join Whitworth Community High School, and we hope our outstanding academic achievements and respectful ethos shine through in our prospectus. Thank you for exploring our school!

Yours sincerely
Mr A Oliver
HEADTEACHER





Pastoral Care

At Whitworth Community High School

PASTORAL TEAM

Here at Whitworth Community High School, students are valued and well cared for in an environment that is kind and caring in its approach to the students. The pastoral team is always on hand to support students when they have difficulties. They regularly put strategies in place to support any students who need wellbeing or mental health support. Additionally, behaviour concerns are dealt with in a way that helps young people to understand what it is they have done wrong, why it is a problem and how they can improve. We will encourage where needed, empathise when required and enforce with appropriate sanctions the high standards that we hold dear as set out in our policies.

TUTOR GROUPS

Our pastoral system is organised in a tutor group system. Your child will remain in the same group throughout key stage 3. Each tutor group is associated with one of our five houses, all of which are named after famous constellations: Aquila, Draco, Orion, Pegasus and Ursa. There are regular competitions and sporting events throughout the year during which students can represent their respective houses, culminating in our annual sports day, which is always a highlight of our academic year – as long as the weather is kind to us.

During form time each morning, form tutors ensure that students are well equipped, appropriately dressed in their school uniform, well informed of current activities, and praised for their recent achievements. Form tutors also use this time to speak individually with students who have fallen short of our expectations. Additionally, time is often made at the start of the day to identify and support children who may be going through difficult times in school or at home.

REWARDS

Celebrating student success is central to our vision of 'Climbing Higher' and underpins the ethos of our school. We celebrate our students' successes every day by giving achievement points – as well as at formal events such as Commendation Assemblies and Awards Evenings. Our rewards system encourages students to earn achievement points for academic achievement and endeavour; for leadership, charitable and community action; for representing the school; for participating in enrichment activities and for demonstrating our 7 Expectations. Achievement points lead to prizes, postcards, and invitations to Hot Chocolate Fridays for exceptional achievements and endeavours – for 'Climbing Higher' and for challenging themselves within or outside school.

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do. All staff, governors and volunteers undertake mandatory Keeping Children Safe in Education training along with Safer Working Practices updates on an annual basis. This is then underpinned by regular training throughout the year on other topics such as Prevent and Online Safety. At Whitworth Community High School, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, including the students. As such, assemblies, tutor times and social development lessons are regularly used to educate students on their responsibility to recognise and report when they think there might be a safeguarding concern.

History



The Curriculum

At Whitworth Community High School

KEY STAGE 3

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum builds upon the knowledge gained from primary school and is underpinned by the expectations set out in the National Curriculum. In years 7-9 all our students study English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, History, Geography, Religious Studies, Spanish, Physical Education, Design Technology, Music, Art, Drama & Performing Arts and Social & Personal Development. This broad and balanced curriculum allows students to make informed option choices towards the end of year 9.



KEY STAGE 4

Exciting opportunities to specialise in option subjects begin in year 10, whilst everyone continues to follow the core curriculum. Students might choose from subjects they have already studied or may opt to follow new options such as Sociology, Hospitality, or Business Studies. The strength and breadth of the core curriculum, alongside a wide range of optional subjects, provides our students with the breadth and depth of learning to succeed. This allows them to apply for post-16 study, progressing to A levels and other sixth form courses, to vocational study, to apprenticeships and to university.

READING CULTURE

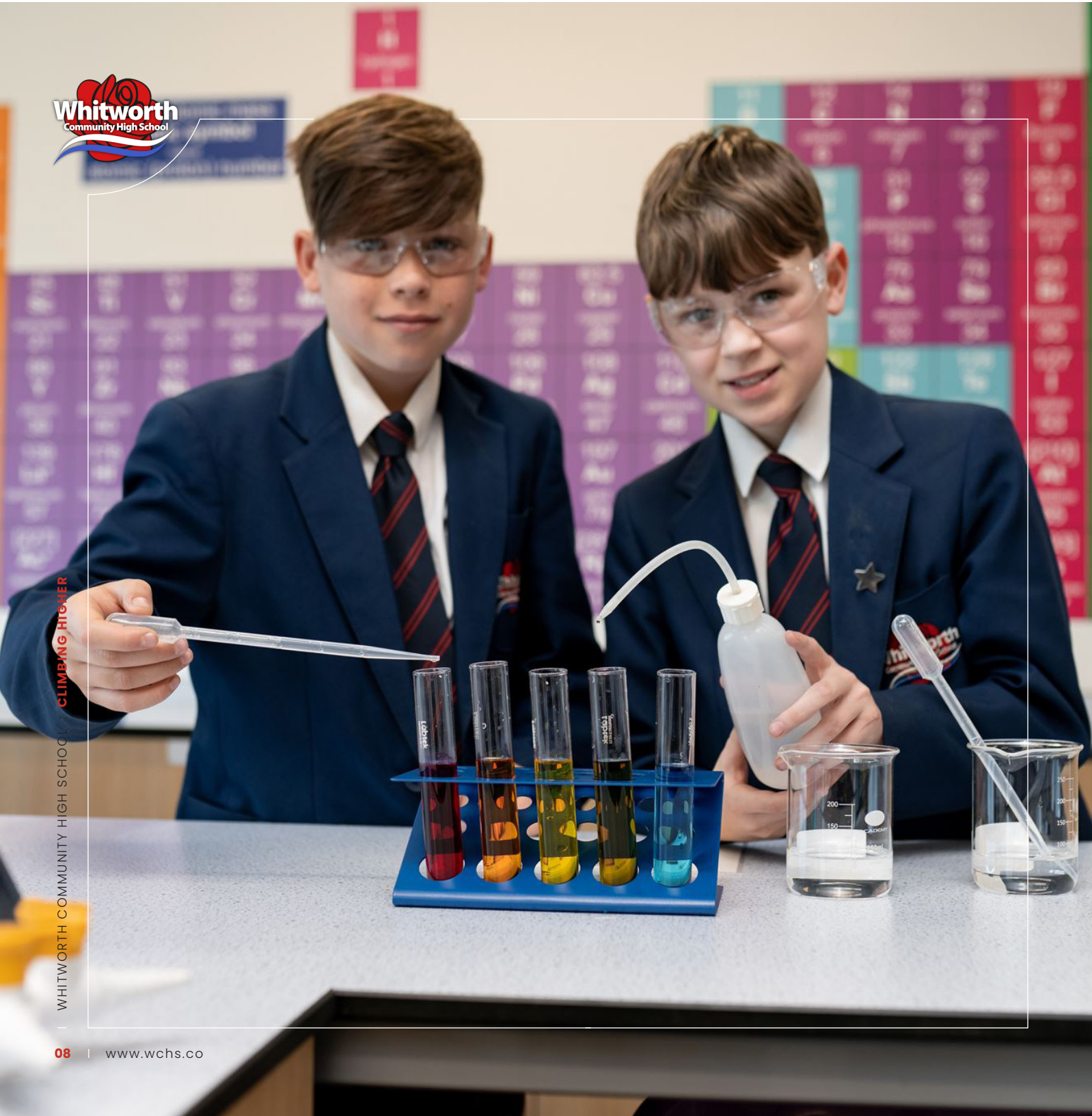
Reading is a key priority at Whitworth Community High School. This is so that we can ensure that students have the confidence and skills to engage fully with the demands of the curriculum; opportunities to enjoy reading for pleasure; and they develop as discerning readers who can evaluate legitimacy, quality and bias in the written word. All students in Years 7 to 9 will take part in a Bedrock Learning lesson - a literacy curriculum shown to significantly improve vocabulary, reading comprehension, and communication skills.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Whitworth Community High School meets the needs of all students and has a whole school approach to special educational needs and disabilities. We provide effective opportunities for all students by responding to students' diverse learning needs. These learning needs are communicated through personalised Pupil Passports. Our SEND provision is co-ordinated by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and Learning Support team.

MOST ACADEMICALLY ABLE

It is vital that sufficient stretch and challenge is in place for our most academically able students so that they can 'climb higher' towards their career aspirations. As such, each faculty has an individual strategy for this very purpose. In addition, regular initiatives are planned throughout the school year by our coordinator for Able, Gifted and Talented students. Initiatives include bespoke careers advice, critical thinking tutorials, leadership masterclasses, progress reviews, university visits, enterprise challenges and involvement in Rochdale Sixth Form's Scholars' Programme.



Home Learning

At Whitworth Community High School

Home learning plays a crucial role in reinforcing the learning that takes place in the classroom. It helps to build essential skills such as independent study, time management, and personal responsibility. By engaging with home learning, students deepen their understanding of key concepts, preparing them for future academic success and life beyond school.

SUPPORT

We understand that some students may find managing their homework challenging, and we are here to support them. Our Homework Club provides a quiet and structured environment where students can complete their assignments with guidance from staff. We encourage your child to make use of this valuable resource. In addition to this, some of our students who really struggle with their home learning routines are assigned a mentor who will meet regularly with them to offer assistance, advice and words of encouragement.

EXPECTATIONS

Home learning is a fundamental expectation: it is not a choice. While we are committed to supporting students who are struggling with homework routines, sanctions, including detentions, are issued to those who do not complete their work. This is to ensure all students take responsibility for their education and have the skills and resilience to 'climb higher'.

YEARS 7 AND 8

Each week, students are set home learning in English, maths and science as well as two non core subjects which are set on a rolling programme. English, maths and science is set through the online learning platforms of SPARX (maths) and SENECA (English and Science).

Non core work is set in a home learning booklet which they have a week to complete. Students must read the knowledge organisers in the booklet, answer the questions based on the information in that and then spend time practising and testing themselves on this knowledge. At the start of the next lesson, students will be expected to return the question and answer sheet and then will be tested on their knowledge learned.

YEARS 9, 10 AND 11

As students progress through school, the structure of the home learning booklet is removed. Students are expected to be more self reliant and resilient in their approach. Therefore, a weekly task is set for each subject studied.





Enrichment

At Whitworth Community High School

We encourage and expect all students to participate in the exciting range of enrichment and extracurricular activities on offer at Whitworth Community High School. We want our students to have fun, to build self-confidence and resilience, to develop social and citizenship skills and to become leaders. We know that learning beyond the classroom promotes healthy lifestyle choices, teamwork and develops the key social values of fair play, respect for others and self-discipline.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Our broad range of sporting activities includes trampolining, rugby and handball alongside football, netball, cricket, badminton, table tennis and karate. Additionally, students love our indoor climbing walls and fitness suite. Our students regularly take part in sporting competitions across the district, county and country.



CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

All students are encouraged to play a musical instrument and to join one of our musical groups such as the wind band and choir. Musicians benefit from our visiting team of instrumental peripatetic teachers with whom we provide subsidised lessons. We have an active art club where students can continue to develop the skills that they have learnt in their lessons. Our annual school productions involve a cast and production team from across year groups, overseen by drama staff but supported by staff from across the school.

OTHER ENRICHMENT INITIATIVES

We have a whole range of enrichment activities to choose from, including Coding club, Maths support, Technology club, Charity group and Spanish club. We are a Duke of Edinburgh Award accredited centre and many students each year are involved in the physical, volunteering, skills based and expedition challenges required to achieve this award. Cultural capital is enriched through theatre experiences, visits to galleries and museums, and through trips further afield such as our regular ski trip, usually to Austria, and football/netball trips to top European sporting cities.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

We want our young people to be the leaders of the future and we provide many leadership opportunities in school. We develop students' skills and confidence by giving them the responsibility and privilege of taking on roles such as Sports Ambassadors, Expert Readers, School Council members, Mental Health Ambassadors and Prefects - and we ensure they begin their leadership journey early in their school careers. Our students contribute to decision making, and school improvement through student voice.



Expectations

At Whitworth Community High School

Expectations are unashamedly high at Whitworth Community High School. Everything that we do is underpinned by our 7 Expectations, which have become known amongst students as our Seven Respects. By promoting a respectful ethos, we are able to commit to a culture of excellence in all areas of school life so that students can 'climb higher' towards their full potential.

BEHAVIOUR

Many parents/carers choose our school due to our high behavioural standards. It is absolutely essential that behaviour is good so that teachers can teach and students thrive in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. Behavioural issues are addressed constructively, helping young people grasp their mistakes, understand the underlying problems, and learn how to make improvements. We will offer encouragement when necessary, show empathy when appropriate, and uphold high standards through suitable sanctions to ensure that students can learn and thrive.

UNIFORM

Our school uniform is really important; it creates a sense of belonging and identity for the students; it promotes equality and reduces bullying and teasing whilst simultaneously removing potential peer pressure for students. Most importantly, our uniform encourages professionalism and enhances our working environment. It is essential that parents who choose Whitworth Community High School for their children are fully supportive of our uniform policy, details of which are available on the school website.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Good attendance leads to good outcomes. It is no coincidence that our attendance is excellent, which correlates directly with our brilliant GCSE results. Our attendance is good because our curriculum offer is strong and engaging. Children enjoy coming to school here and they feel safe. We don't authorise term time holidays because we need students to be in school every day so that they can learn. Students also need to be in school on time. This is necessary because our school day is designed so that every minute is used for educational benefit. This includes form time during which students in years 7 to 9 improve their reading skills with their form teachers through our Register and Read initiative whilst students in year 10 and 11 receive additional English and Maths intervention.

PARENTS

It is really important that children see parents/carers working as a team with school staff. Ultimately, students whose parents and carers work with us and support the school - they are the students who thrive and succeed in all aspects of school life. Therefore, it is imperative that parents/carers read and understand our policies and practices as set out on our website prior to applying for a place for your child so that you can make an informed choice.



Transition

At Whitworth Community High School

We want to ensure your child settles easily into life at Whitworth Community High School and participates in everything our school has to offer. The move to secondary school is an exciting transition and we make sure academic, pastoral and social elements combine to challenge and support our new students.

TRANSITION DAY / EVENING

Staff from our transition team aim to meet with all students before they join us. Students are introduced to the school on Year 6 Welcome Day during which they meet with form tutors, prefects and their peers. They begin to learn their way around the building. We also extend an invitation to all families to attend our July Year 6 Welcome Evening to get a clear understanding of our high expectations, to meet key staff and to discuss any remaining concerns about transition.

SUMMER SCHOOL

One of the ways in which we try to make transition seem less daunting for the children is to invite them to at least one day of our summer school, which usually takes place during the first week of the summer holidays. This is a very popular initiative as it often helps to ease any anxieties that children have about high school. In addition to the summer school, academic continuity is supported by our reading initiative which promotes and challenges ongoing learning during the summer break.

GROUPING

Educational research regarding grouping students is very conflicting and often depends on the subject being taught. Therefore, different strategies apply across the six faculties at our school. The Maths and Science faculties teach in traditional sets based on ability, whereas the English faculty teach students in broad ability 'bands'. A combination of mixed ability and banding is used in the Creativity, Humanities and Innovation faculties.

PARENTS/CARERS

We acknowledge that transition can be daunting for parents too and we know that parents/carers can sometimes feel out of the loop after being so intrinsically involved at primary level. We use Edulinkone to communicate with parents and we advise you to be active with this app so that you can feel fully informed about all that is going on.

NEXT STEPS

Our admissions criteria is based on the Lancashire model, which is fully detailed on their website and overseen by the Pupil Access Team. Please note that our geographical priority area changes every year based on the number of first choice applicants. Sadly, this means we are not able to say with confidence if your child will be successful when applying for a place based on your address.



CLIMBING HIGHER : ACHIEVING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

We hope this prospectus has given you a flavour of the ethos and values of our school so that you can make an informed decision about where to send your child. If you need to know anything else, there is further information on our website but please do not hesitate to get in touch. Alternatively, parents/carers can book a place on one of the headteacher coffee mornings.



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