



# Newsletter

**Spring Term 2**  
**Friday 20th March 2026**

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Dear parents and carers,

## Music For Youth

In my last newsletter, I reported that the WCHS Wind Band were preparing to perform at the National Music for Youth Festival at the Rochdale Town Hall. Our band have now completed their performance and I can confidently report that their performance was a resounding success. The adjudicator for the event, Kate Jones, commented on the band working as a 'homogenous unit' with a 'superb brass tone'. She also mentioned stand out performances from kit player Dexter S and our principal cornet players Luke T and Liam J. Overall, our band represented our school really professionally and I was proud of all our musicians.



## Rossendale Dance Competition Winners

Huge congratulations must go to our amazing Dance Team who triumphed at this year's annual Rossendale High Schools Dance Competition. Every year, our dance team seems to grow in numbers and improve in quality. The team performed in the Blackburn Empire Theatre last night in front of a team of adjudicators who chose WCHS as the overall competition winners for the first time ever. What an amazing achievement. A special thanks must go to Sally Anne from Samba Dance who helped to prepare our students for this event. The team will now perform in the final in Blackpool.



## Calendar

**March**  
**2026**

### After school closure

Friday 27th March -  
Easter Break

**April**  
**2026**

### School reopens

Monday 13th April

### 2nd Y11 Parents'

#### Evening

Wednesday 15th April  
4.00pm - 6.00pm

**May**  
**2026**

### May Bank Holiday

4th May - One day only

### GCSE Exams Commence

Tuesday 5th May

## RMS - High School Choir of The Year Winners

Our winning streak continued last week when our school choir were also victorious in their respective competition. The adjudicator in the annual Rochdale Music Service High School Choir Competition stated that the WCHS choir had an excellent start to their repertoire, good harmonies and well-blended voices. The alto section was noted for their contribution, which helped the choir to achieve a 'superb balance' with dynamics adding to the expression. The choir are pictured here whilst being presented with their well-deserved trophy. A special mention of thanks to Miss Genty, who prepared the choir for this event.



## The Grandfather Clock

As you know, our Year 11s are busy preparing for their final examinations, which include preparations for all of the practical assessments too. In the drama GCSE class, two of our students required a Grandfather Clock that they could fit inside. Needless to say, this requirement was unusual even by Mrs White's standards. Thankfully, Mrs Wilson stepped up and offered to make the required Grandfather Clock out of cardboard and paint. She was kindly assisted by several of our younger students, notably Levi H, Jaxon W, Lewis N, Harvey B, Tegan P, Ellie H, Oliver Y, Lola S.



## Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week, our Year 7, 8, and 9 students put their engineering skills to the test with a series of hands-on physics challenges. Activities included constructing towers from spaghetti and marshmallows, designing marble runs and creating parachutes to allow eggs to be dropped from the balcony without smashing. The interform quiz included questions like how many bones does an adult human have? (206) and what metal is found in the compound natron used in ancient Egyptian mummification? (sodium). We have yet to judge the name of the skeleton competition, but the bone puns have been very humorous (sic).





### **Year 9 Parents' Evening and Options Process**

Our Year 9 options process is now well underway. Mr Bland has already spoken to students in a number of assemblies about how this will work. A few weeks ago, the students completed an unofficial straw poll to help Mr Bland determine what their initial preferences might be. The straw poll will help Mr Bland to formulate the option blocks so that the preferences of as many children as possible can be accommodated. Sadly, due to the nature of school timetables, not all students will get their first choices, but I can reassure parents/carers that we are doing our best to satisfy as many of our learners as possible.

The Year 9 parents' evening, which took place on Wednesday evening was a great opportunity for students and their parents/carers to speak to their teachers about which subjects they would like to study at key stage 4. The event was really positive and there was a lot of useful dialogue. Thanks to all parents/carers who were able to attend the event with your children.

### **Year 7 to 10 Reports**

We are fast approaching the end of this relatively short term. Normally, we would send out electronic reports via Edulinkone during the last week of term. However, several families have asked if we could send a paper copy of the reports alongside the digital versions. We have taken this feedback on board and will endeavour to do so. The additional administration to make this happen will mean that reports will be published in the first week of the summer term. Please could I ask parents/carers to keep an eye out for Edulink notifications about this.

### **Year 11 Reports and Parents' Evening**

Our Year 11 students have only just finished their second round of mock examinations and their teachers are busy marking these assessments. As such, it will take a little bit longer to publish the Year 11 reports. These will be released on the 15th April, which coincides very fortuitously with the next Year 11 parents' evening. Hopefully, the releasing of the information on the same date will allow for some really constructive conversations on the day.

### **Fame At Last for Ms Thompson**

One of our TAs has recently joined a community choir called Local Vocals. The choir were asked to perform backing vocals on a track that was due to be used for a new record celebrating the talents of local musicians called Kenion Street: Music Stories. Ms Thompson's track is the first one on the album. She is pictured below with a copy of the album and I'm sure the students will be queueing up for autographs soon!



## And finally


As you can see, this has been a brilliant fortnight for our school with so many successes to celebrate. Thanks to all of the students for their participation, to the staff for their organisational skills and to parents/carers for your support.

I would like to send my best wishes to all of the Muslim families associated with our school who are celebrating Eid today. Also, as this is my last newsletter prior to the holidays, I would also like to wish a happy Easter in advance to all of our Christian families. I hope everyone enjoys their respective celebrations.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher



### What is 'In the know'?

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- Your local Coffee with a cop information
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