



Newsletter

Spring Term 1
Friday 13th February 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Y8 Parents' Evening

We had yet another successful parents' evening last week. This time it was the turn of our Year 8 cohort. As always, the feedback was predominantly positive, with many parents and carers commenting favourably on the quality of teaching and excellent working relationships between staff and students. Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who attended the event. Your participation in the home/school partnership is vital to ensure student success.

Ski Trip Departure

There has been lots of anticipation and excitement in school this week as final plans have been made for the ski trip which leaves today. Mr Duxbury has been busy making sure everyone has the correct equipment, up-to-date passports, consent forms, medication and everything else needed for what I'm sure is going to be an amazing adventure. A huge thank you in advance to the staff who are giving up their half-term break to accompany the students on the ski trip. It is hugely appreciated.

Year 9 Options

After half-term, Mr Bland will be working hard on the Year 9 options process. In preparation for this task, our Year 9s have filled in a 'straw-poll' to give an informal indication of what they would like to study as their additional option choices alongside the core curriculum. It is important that I point out that the straw-poll does not guarantee that students will get their first choice options. It is simply to help us to block the option subjects in a way that is going to suit the option choices of as many children as possible. More information will follow on this after half-term.

Year 11 Key Dates

A separate document has been sent to Year 11 parents/carers this week. It details how parents/carers can support their children in the run up to the second round of mock examinations. The document contains some key dates. I'm sharing these dates here so as to be sure that they have been as widely circulated as possible.

- **Second Y11 Mock Fortnight:** 2nd March to 13th March 2026
- **Second Y11 Parents' Evening:** 15th April 2026 4pm to 6pm
- **Final Exams:** 8th May to 16th June 2026
- **Contingency date:** JCQ has set a contingency date of 24th June 2026. Therefore, families are advised not to plan family holidays before this date.
- **Prom:** 25th June 2026. Please note that attendance at the prom is a privilege, not a right. Invitations will depend upon each student's individual attendance and behaviour record as set out in the Passport to Prom document. Mrs Turner and the Senior Leadership Team will make the final decisions regarding attendance at this event nearer the time.
- **Results day:** 20th August 2026. School will be open from 9am.

Virtual Careers Assembly - Focus on Apprenticeships

It is vital that students learn about all of the post-16 routes available, other than the traditional A-Level / Technical college courses and university routes. Therefore, on Tuesday 10th February, we had another whole-school virtual careers assembly, hosted by our Careers Advisor, Ms Grenaghan. The live assembly was electronically cast to every classroom in the school so that children in all year groups could gain an understanding about apprenticeships as a valid career option.

Calendar

February
2026

Year 7 Parents' Evening

25th February 2026
4.00pm - 6.00pm

March
2026

2nd Year 11 Mock Exams Start

2nd March 2026

Year 9 Parents' Evening

18th March 2026
4.00pm - 6.00pm

April
2026

2nd Year 11 Parents' Evening

15th April 2026
4.00pm - 6.00pm

Webinar opportunity - could you or your employer offer work experience to our students?

The Lancashire Careers Hub is running a series of free 30 minute webinars for local employers who may be interested in offering flexible workplace experiences to young people across Lancashire. Many parents and carers run or work in local businesses, and these sessions are a great opportunity to learn how easy it is to get involved. Flexible options include:

- A one day project
- A short class visit
- A few hours of workplace insight

Your involvement helps create more meaningful opportunities for young people in our community.

Upcoming Webinar Dates (30 minutes each)

- February: 18th (16:30), 25th (13:30)
- March: 3rd (09:30), 10th (16:30), 1th (13:30), 26th (09:30)
- April: 2nd (16:30), 9th (13:30)

Register here: [Modern WEX: Practical Guidance for Employers — Registration Form – Fill in form](#)

Parents and carers are very welcome to join the Lancashire Careers Hub team at any session to find out more.

Spanish Curriculum Focus

It has been a lively and creative few weeks in the Spanish department!

Our Spanish Club pupils have been exploring festivals from across the Hispanic world, with a particular focus on Carnival. Students have been learning key Spanish phrases to describe how Carnival is celebrated, why it is celebrated, and where it takes place, zooming in on Spain's biggest Carnival in Santa Cruz, Tenerife.

Last week, pupils learned the popular Tenerife carnival song *Chicharrero* and even created their own dance routines to help memorise the lyrics — a fantastic mix of language learning and performance. This week, the creativity has continued with students designing their own Carnival masks in preparation for our upcoming Carnival celebration on the last Thursday before half-term.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 GCSE Spanish students have been developing their ability to talk about relationships with family and friends, putting their newly acquired vocabulary into practice through engaging speaking games that have really boosted confidence and fluency.

It's been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, creativity and communication in Spanish lessons and clubs — ¡enhorabuena a todos!



Hospitality & Catering PE Assessments

Year 11 GCSE preparation really ramped up last week when all of our Hospitality and Catering students completed their practical assessments. There were four days of assessments in the food classroom, which all seemed to go extremely well. Students were expected to produce two 'street food' dishes. Some images of their final culinary creations are shown below.



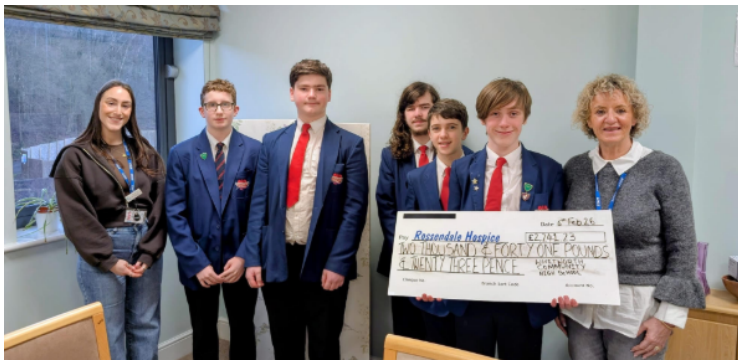
Geography Inter-form Quiz

As part of the ongoing inter-form activities, Mr Towers organised a geography-based quiz in which each form worked collaboratively to test their knowledge. The quiz covered a range of topics, including national flags, country outlines, and physical features such as mountains and rivers.

The activity highlighted the students' impressive breadth of knowledge, with many forms achieving full marks. This resulted in the competition being decided by a tie-breaker question: "What is the population of the UK today?" Congratulations to the forms that gave the closest answers and demonstrated excellent teamwork and geographical understanding.

Youth Enterprise Success

An amazing group of our Year 10 students have been busy organising events over the last few months to raise funds for the Rossendale Hospice. This is part of an annual competition between all of the Rossendale high schools, where students are given £50, which they have to grow using their best entrepreneurial skills. Our students took their earnings to the hospice last Friday. Some of them are pictured below, handing over a cheque for £2241.23. Huge congratulations to our Youth Enterprise team and thank you to Mrs Belham, who mentored the team. The team will be attending a much deserved celebration event hosted by Alder Grange High School on the evening of 3rd March.



Year 8 Pantomime Scheme of Work

Our Year 8 students are currently working their way through the Pantomime scheme of learning... oh yes they are! Students have been learning about stock-characters, audience interaction, gender role reversal, slapstick and script writing. This is always one of the most popular schemes in the Drama curriculum and the students have been enjoying getting into character as you can see from the picture, below:



PE Assessments

Our Year 11s have also been involved in practical PE assessments. Last week, it was the turn of our Year 11 girls who competed against All Saints RC High School netball team to gather sufficient evidence for their portfolios. Our girls had a very impressive 14-2 win, which should influence their overall GCSE grades very strongly. The trampolining assessments are due to take place on the first week back after half-term. I'm sure there will be plenty of ups and downs when this takes place.



Sports Update

There have been so many fixtures in the last fortnight, it is difficult to know where to begin. I'll start with our Year 8 boys, a team who lost 4-1 in the football semi-final of the Rossendale Cup to Alder Grange. The Year 8 B team finished 3rd in the 7v7 football tournament, whilst the Year 7 B team finished 4th in their equivalent tournament. The WCHS under-15 Girls won their quarter-final on penalties after a 2-2 draw; they will go on to play Haslingden High School in the semi-final in March. By the time this newsletter is printed, our Year 9 boys will have played in the Rossendale Cup Semi-final against Alder Grange; I wish them well.

As well as all of the competitive fixtures, it was great to see our Sports Ambassadors in action again this week. They officiated the Year 5/6 Primary Dodgeball tournament on Wednesday evening. The sports ambassadors were a credit to our school and they received many words of praise for their efforts.



Finally, I wish all of our families a happy and safe half-term break. School reopens at the usual time on Monday 23rd February.

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher



Enquiries - Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk

MALE CARERS & KIDS Breakfast Club

WITH FUN, ACTIVITIES & GAMES AND FREE
BREAKFAST!!!

Are you a dad, grandad, uncle, or male carer?

Join our Male Carers & Kids Breakfast Club!

Enjoy a FREE breakfast, meet other carers, and spend
quality time with your kids.

**FIRST SATURDAY OF THE
MONTH 10-12PM
7TH FEBRUARY 2026
7TH MARCH 2026
MORE TO BE CONFIRMED!
WHERE: RAWTENSTALL
FAMILY HUB AND THE ZONE**


BOOK
HERE

