



# Newsletter

Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale  
Lancashire, OL12 8TS  
Tel (01706) 343218  
www.wchs.co

**Spring Term 1**  
**Friday 16th January 2026**

Dear parents and carers,

After two weeks of term it feels like a lot of time has passed and the Christmas break seems like a distant dream but I would still like to start by wishing a happy new year to everyone associated with Whitworth Community High School.

### School Closure on 7th January

I would like to take the chance to apologise again for the school closure on Wednesday, 7th January. I understand that it may have been surprising to see no snow on the ground and yet learn that the decision was taken to close the school. Unfortunately, conditions on site on that morning were extremely hazardous due to rain that fell overnight and then froze. Cars were sliding around the car park, a delivery van crashed, staff were struggling to walk safely from their cars to the building, and the student pathway from the gates at the bottom of the driveway to the main building was covered in sheet ice. Despite our best efforts, we were unable to grit the site sufficiently to ensure it was safe to open the school. Thankfully, the site team did a great job to ensure that sufficient grit was spread, so that the closure was limited to just one day. I am sorry again for the inconvenience caused by the closure and I thank parents and carers for your understanding.

### Reports

School reports regarding progress in the Autumn term were sent out via Edulink One for students in years 7, 8, 9 and 11 just before Christmas. I have noticed on the Edulink One system that a small number of parents/carers have not yet opened their child's report. If any parents/carers are having trouble opening the report on Edulink One, please get in touch with Miss Rawstron in the school office. [l.rawstron@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:l.rawstron@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk)

The reports for students in Year 10 are released today and are also available through Edulink One. These reports are slightly later than the other four year groups due to the timing of the exams completed in December.

### The Whitworth Whistle

Our team of budding reporters has been hard at work again creating our termly PE magazine. The Whitworth Whistle is a great way of using sport as a stimulus for a literacy project. Nine of our new Year 7s joined the editorial team for the most recent edition. They all produced an article during their Literacy Kicks session. The winning article was written by Jack C, whose work was included in the opening pages. A special thanks must, of course, go to our editors Eva D and Katy P. What a great achievement! An online version of the magazine is available to view on the school website in the News and Events tab.

### Calendar

**January 2025**

### Year 10 Parents' Evening

21st January 2026  
4.00pm - 6.00pm

**February 2026**

### Year 8 Parents' Evening

4th February 2026  
4.00pm - 6.00pm

### After school closure- Half Term

13th February 2026

### Year 7 Parents' Evening

25th February 2026  
4.00pm - 6.00pm



Please follow us on X formerly Twitter: @WCHS\_PE

### From Pitch to the Page

Grant Walker turns on with Whitworth High to report on the...  
Grant Walker turned off our hearing when he wanted to do it...  
Grant Walker turned on with Whitworth High to report on the...  
Grant Walker turned off our hearing when he wanted to do it...  
Grant Walker turned on with Whitworth High to report on the...  
Grant Walker turned off our hearing when he wanted to do it...

### Fantastic Footballing Festival

The Whitworth 15th October 2025...  
After a half day festival, Whitworth and...  
The game was already set to finish...  
The game was already set to finish...  
The game was already set to finish...  
The game was already set to finish...

### Grit and Ground: Cross-Country Athletics Shine

Students from Years 7 to 11...  
The year 7 girls...  
The year 8 girls...  
The year 9 girls...  
The year 10 girls...  
The year 11 girls...

## Welcome to New Staff

On January 5th we welcomed two new members of staff. Miss Liu joined the Admin Team as a business support officer in the main reception. Also, Mr Graham has joined the teaching staff in the Science Faculty.

I would also like to belatedly welcome Miss Braund, who stepped in to help us out when we were short-staffed in the kitchen before Christmas but has now officially started her job as part of the catering team. And finally, welcome to Mr Jenkinson, who transitioned into his Site Supervisor role before Christmas and has now fully joined the team.

## PE Kit Amendment

There will be some subtle changes to the PE kit from September 2026. The main reason for the change is to reduce the number of branded items that parents/carers are required to purchase, thus reducing costs to families.

### Compulsory PE Kit

- WCHS PE top with school logo - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear
- Plain royal blue football shorts (legacy shorts with the school logo will still be acceptable)
- Royal blue football socks or white sports socks
- Sports trainers (with non-marking soles to protect the sports hall floor)

### Optional Items

- WCHS Half Zip Navy Blue Mid Layer Top - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear
- WCHS Leggings - available from Anne's, Ziggy's or Moses Schoolwear

### Phased out Item

- From September 2026, skorts will no longer form part of the PE kit. This decision has been made to reduce costs for families, as skorts are an expensive branded item. Additionally, their length has raised concerns, as they are extremely short and do not always provide appropriate coverage for children.

## Sport Update

So far this term, there is only one fixture to tell you about. Our Year 11 boys B team began the year by taking part in the Rossendale 7v7 Tournament. There were some very competitive games and a brilliant, supportive atmosphere throughout the mini-tournament. Our boys finished in a commendable 4th place.







## Scholars Programme Launch

On Thursday, we had the annual launch of our Year 10 Scholars Programme (previously known as The Brilliant Club). This is an initiative which is designed to encourage further academic study at a young age so as to promote aspirational career choices for some of our most academically able students. The topics covered in the first session included: identifying a suitable university, financing a degree, understanding the university experience, and how university education can benefit future pathways.

## PE and Creativity Extra Curricular Timetables

Mr Cawley and Mrs Goff have asked if I would include the new PE and Creativity Extra Curricular timetables in the newsletter. Please could I ask parents/carers to bring this to the attention of your children and encourage them to attend. There are lots of different activities on offer, so hopefully, there is something to suit everyone's preferences.

Physical Education		Whitworth Community High School				Extra-Curricular Spring Term 1	
AFTER SCHOOL 3pm- 4pm	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
SPORTS HALL	TRAMPOLINING, BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS GCSE PE Only Mrs Belham	TRAMPOLINING, BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS GCSE PE Only Mrs Mcvarish	BADMINTON & TABLE TENNIS GCSE PE Only Mr Malik	TABLE TENNIS Year 7-9 Mr Malik	FOOTBALL Staff vs Yr 11 Mr Cawley		
FITNESS SUITE	FITNESS Year 7-9 Mr Malik	FITNESS Year 7-9 Mr Malik					
CLASSROOM	Duke of Edinburgh Year 10- 1D Mr Towers						
MAIN HALL	DANCE Team Practice Samba Dance						
<b>PLEASE BE AWARE CLUBS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION FOR SCHOOL FIXTURES OR WEATHER</b>							

Creativity		Whitworth Community High School				Extra-Curricular Spring 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		
After-school (3pm-4pm)	Art Club (all years) - Art Studio	Drama Club - Drama Studio KS4 Art Club - Art Studio		Spanish Club - OB KS4 Art Club - Art Studio	Vocal Group - Music Room Rock Bands - Guitar Room		
<b>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</b>							

## Hot Chocolate Rewards

I haven't reported about our Hot Chocolate reward winners recently. The initiative is still ongoing every Friday. Students can be nominated by their teachers for a variety of reasons that range from classwork contributions, home learning effort, participation in an extracurricular event or even representing the school in the community. This week, the students were selected for having the most commendation nominations in their year groups during the previous term. It is great to be able to take the opportunity to congratulate our students for their amazing achievements on a weekly basis. I would go as far as to say it is my favourite part of the week.



## Music Exams

A huge congratulations to our talented students who all passed music exams at the end of last term. Well done to Sophie L and Alice K who passed their flute exams, Isabelle B and Mille J, who passed their flute exams with distinction and Logan B, who passed his drum exam, also with distinction. We are very proud of our hard-working musicians and these fantastic achievements.

## Student success

As always, it is great to hear about students who have had successes outside school. Our most recent student to celebrate is Alice Kowal. I'm pleased to report that Alice recently won the Guide section of the Girlguiding North West England talent competition. Alice sang God Bless the Broken Road by Rascal Flatts and competed against other Guides from across the North West. The Region Commissioners loved Alice's cover of the song and admired her dedication and confidence to sing a solo. A special mention must go to the staff at Samba Dance who have worked with Alice to develop her singing skills, and of course to Miss Genty and Mrs Goff for all the opportunities with the vocal group in school, which Alice has been given.





## Shawforth Mural Project

We are delighted to have recently been asked to play a part in a council-funded street art project intended to brighten up an area of nearby Shawforth. The project is being led by Amy Callaghan (Whitworth alumni and owner of 'Pigs in Mud' studio), who is quickly becoming known for her large scale murals - including the one I'm sure you will have seen on the tunnel entrance in Waterfoot. Ten of our very own Year 9 and 10 artists have been selected to attend workshops led by Amy and play a role in researching content for the six-by-ten metre mural and designing it. The process began on Saturday, 10th January, when pupils met at the Whitworth Heritage Museum and conducted research into the history of Shawforth. The second design stage will take place in school next week.



## Passport to Prom

There was much excitement in the Year 11 assembly when Mrs Turner officially launched the 2026 Passport to Prom. Students at Whitworth Community High School know all too well that attendance at the annual Year 11 Prom is a privilege, not a right. Students must earn their place at Prom by attending regularly, behaving appropriately, upholding the school's good name, keeping on top of their work and generally being respectful members of our school community. The date for the prom is Thursday, 25th June.




### Passport to the Prom 2026

You need to have from January

- Good attendance =>90%
- No suspensions
- No directions to another school
- No more than 50 behaviour points from January onwards
- No more than 10 unauthorised lates to school
- No more than 3 times in Reflect for behaviour
- No members of staff strongly objecting to you going due to behaviour
- Uphold the school's good name in the community
- Complete the school year (no study leave)

**Note - you will not be allowed to attend if staff do not trust you to behave appropriately on the evening, even if you have met the criteria set out above.**



## Year 11 Supported Revision

I am pleased to share that from Tuesday, 20th January, then each week until the final GCSE exams, there will be supported revision sessions available in the library from 3 - 4.30pm. These will be 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 focused revision done in school with support available if needed.

## Year 11 REACH Points

On a similar theme, from Wednesday, 14th January, Year 11 students can be awarded REACH points by their teachers. REACH points are designed specifically to reward students for showing resilience, putting in a lot of effort or simply for having an excellent attitude to their learning in the final few months leading up to their final GCSE examinations. There will be prizes for the students who have earned the most REACH points each week. There will also be free prom places for the boy and girl who have earned the most REACH points between now and the date of the leavers' assembly.



**REACH POINTS**

- Resilience
- Effort
- Attitude
- Climbing
- Higher

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REACH points are designed specifically to reward students for showing resilience, putting in a lot of effort or simply for having an excellent attitude to their learning in the final few months leading up to your final GCSE examinations.

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There will also be free prom places for the boy and girl who have earned the most REACH points between now and the date of the leavers' assembly.

**Whitworth**  
Community High School

Resilience, Effort and positive Attitude to learning enabling you to **Climb Higher.**

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher

# CAFÉ & CONNECT AT TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

## COMMUNITY DROP-IN!

WE ARE JOINING UP WITH  
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH!



DROP IN FOR A CUPPA, A BITE, AND  
A CHAT WITH FELLOW PARENT,  
CARERS AND LOCALS IN YOUR  
COMMUNITY.

SEEK **ADVICE AND GUIDANCE** FROM  
ROSSENDALE FAMILY HUBS AND, WHERE  
POSSIBLE, LOCAL PROFESSIONALS AROUND  
HOUSING, ENERGY, MENTAL HEALTH,  
EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT AND SO MUCH MORE.

**HAVE YOUR SAY - TELL US WHAT YOU  
WOULD LIKE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!**

**ENQUIRIES?**

**Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk**

**FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
10-12PM**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT TRINITY BAPTIST COMMUNITY DROP-IN WILL  
CONTINUE TO RUN WEEKLY ON THURSDAYS 10-12PM.**

Scan here for more information



# What's on at our centres?

2026



## Haslingden Family Hub

**Monday** Baby & You 1-2:30pm (05.01-23.03)  
Move & Groove 3:30-4:45pm (05.01-23.03)

**Tuesday** Development Matters 9:30-11am (06.01-24.03)  
Inside Out 3:30-4:45pm (24.02-24.03)

**Wednesday** Parents 2 Be 1-2pm (11.02)

**Thursday** Mini Move & Groove 9:30-11am (08.01-26.03)

## Whitworth Library

**Wednesday** Development Matters 10-11:30am (07.01-25.03)

### Community Settings

**Monday** Development Matters - Balladen Community room 9:30-10:30am (05.01-23.03)

Mini Move & Groove - Bacup Nursery 9:30-10:15am (12.01-09.02)

**Thursday** Cafe & Connect at Trinity Baptist Church 10-12pm (08.01, 05.02, 05.03, 02.04)

**FRIDAY** Infant Massage 9:45-10:45am (09.01-13.02)

## Rawtenstall Family Hub and The Zone

**Monday** Childminders Drop In 9:30-11:30am (05.01-23.03)

**Wednesday** Speech and Language Drop In 9:30-11:30am (07.01, 28.01, 25.02, 25.03)  
Parents 2 Be 1-2pm (14.01 & 21.01)

**Thursday** Friends of the Hub - Parent & Carer Forum 3:30-4:30pm (29.01, 26.02, 26.03)

**FRIDAY** Baby Sensory 10-11am (27.02-27.03)

**SATURDAY** Family Fun Events 10-12pm (07.02 & 07.03)

SCAN HERE



To see What's on and BOOK!

We also run the Freedom Programme and Freedom for Children Programme - Enquire today!

## Maden Family Hub

**Tuesday** Infant Massage 9:30-10:30am (13.01-10.02)  
Home Start Play group 1-2:30pm (06.01-24.03)

**Wednesday** Parents 2 Be 1-2pm (11.03 & 18.03)

**Thursday** Development Matters 1-2pm (08.01-26.03)  
Colourful Footsteps 3:30-4:45pm (08.01-26.03)  
Inside Out 3:30-4:45pm (08.01-12.02)  
Inside Out Together 3:30-4:45pm (26.02-26.03)

**FRIDAY** Childminders Drop in 9:30-11:30am (09.01-03.04)  
SENDIAS & Parent Carer Forum 9:30-11:30am (16.01, 13.02, 13.03, 10.04)

Move & Groove After School Club 3:30-4:30pm (27.02-27.03)

### Referral Only- Speech, Language and Communication Play group

You can self-refer or professionals can refer. 6-week targeted play group for all speech, language and communication needs. Email: [Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk)

### February Half Term

We will be running Family Fun Events for families with children aged 0-11 years, keep an eye on our Facebook and Events Booking Page to book! Some groups will run during half term week, please contact us to find out!

Enquiries?

Email: [Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Rossendalefamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk)

or

Phone: 01772536873

Children and Family Wellbeing Service

LANCASHIRE FAMILY HUBS NETWORK

Lancashire County Council