



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
Thursday 18th December 2025

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

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2025. We have finally reached the end of what has been a very busy and varied term. The term began with the news that our class of 2025 recorded the best-ever set of outcomes that our school has ever achieved. As such, unsurprisingly, the school is at capacity again. We welcomed a record number of year 7 students, and we had appeals from over 30 additional families for places, thus demonstrating our reputation and strong standing in the local community.

In September, we hosted a highly successful Open Evening for prospective future students and their families, assisted by lots of our prefects and volunteers. Also in September, we held a Revision Evening for our new year 11 cohort and their parents/carers, with the hope of establishing strong working relationships between school and home right from the start of their final academic year.

Very sadly, a week after the Revision Evening, we heard the tragic news that one of our students, Brody O'Brien had died. At this point, the focus had to temporarily move away from academic matters to pastoral support for both students and staff. Our school community was very fortunate to receive lots of support, which was, of course, greatly appreciated. For me, however, the most heartening thing was seeing how the students and staff supported each other in such a kind and compassionate manner.

We then had to pick ourselves up as a school community, and what better way to do so than with our annual school production, which, as always, was an absolute joy to watch. I'm sure that the students who were involved will have happy memories that will stay with them for many years to come.

So many other things have happened during the term including sports fixtures, theatre trips, careers fairs, European day of languages, year 11 mocks, year 10 mid-year exams, inter form dodgeball, charity bake sales, remembrance assemblies, year 7 settling in evening, Drumbeat charity concert, Christmas concert, even a trip to London. I am grateful to the staff for making these events happen and proud of the students who take part so enthusiastically.

Sadly, when we break up for the Christmas break in December, we will be saying goodbye to three dedicated members of staff, all of whom are retiring:

- Mrs Addy - member of our catering team since 2021.
- Mr Mellor - site supervisors since 2015.
- Mrs Mellor - school business manager and member of the senior leadership team since 2000!

Mrs Addy, Mr Mellor and Mrs Mellor have collectively served our school for 39 years! We are extremely grateful for their long and dedicated service, and we wish them all a long and happy retirement.

School Reports

Please could I take this opportunity to remind Parents/Carers that school reports were released this week for children in years 7, 8, 9 and 11. The reports are available to view in the documents section of Edulinkone. If any parents/carers still don't have access codes and passwords to Edulinkone, please contact Miss Rawstron in the school office. l.rawstron@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk Year 10 reports will be published early in the new year when teachers have had chance to mark their mid-year exams.

Calendar

January
2026

Monday 5th
January
School re-opens

Wednesday 21st
January
Year 10 Parents'
Evening 4.00pm -
6.00pm

February
2026

Wednesday 4th
February
Year 8 Parents'
Evening 4.00pm -
6.00pm

Wednesday 25th
February
Year 7 Parents'
Evening 4.00pm -
6.00pm

Parents' Evening Dates

You may have seen in the news recently that the Department for Education published the findings of the long-awaited Curriculum Review. The findings will significantly affect our school curriculum and many changes will need to be made. These changes will particularly impact our current year 7s, 8s and possibly 9s as they make their option choices and progress into key stage 4. As such, we have switched around some of the parents' evening dates to give senior leaders more time to make sure that we are offering the most appropriate suite of options for current year 9s. Therefore, please could I ask that parents/carers note the following dates:

- Year 7 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 25th February 2026
- Year 8 Parents' Evening - Monday 4th February 2026
- Year 9 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 18th March 2026
- Year 10 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 21st January 2026
- Year 11 Parents' Evening - Wednesday 15th April 2026

Exemplary Behaviour

I am pleased to be able to give some positive feedback regarding the year 10 exams that took place last week. Our exams officer, Mrs Lord, has asked me to share in the newsletter that all students conducted themselves extremely well in the exams. It is vitally important that students get into a good routine in the exam hall so that they can concentrate their efforts on answering questions to the best of their ability. Well done to all of our year 10 students.

In The News

It is great to see that the local press is, yet again, taking note of some of the great things happening at our school at the moment. Our recent Charity Concert to raise funds for Drumbeat was featured on Roch Valley Radio news and our Governors were featured in the Rochdale Observer last week after they were presented with their Governance awards, which I mentioned in my last newsletter.



Civic Carol Service

Our school choir performed at the annual Whitworth Community Carol Service last Monday evening. Miss Genty prepared and conducted our singers, who performed several pieces in front of a packed audience at The Ashcroft. The stand-out piece was one of my favourite Christmas arrangements of 'In the Bleak Midwinter' by contemporary composer Bob Chilcot. It was a pleasure to receive so many emails from members of the public who attended the event, who were all extremely impressed by our students!



Inter-Form Christmas Tree Decorating Competition

Last week we held the Inter-Form Christmas Tree Decorating Competition. This has become a much-loved annual tradition here at Whitworth Community High School. It is a very competitive event, and I'm not just talking about the students. It becomes very clear when we hold this event each year that some of our teachers are extremely competitive! I was given the honour (or should I say thankless task?) of selecting the winning entries this year. The winning form groups in each year group were 7 Ursa, 8 Draco, 9 Draco, 10 Ursa and 11 Pegasus.



Volcano Design Competition

Year 8 students have been exploring plate tectonics in their geography lessons and were invited to take part in a volcano-design competition to showcase their learning. Students produced either detailed drawings or imaginative models, and the results were outstanding. The creativity, enthusiasm, and effort displayed across all entries were truly impressive. All students involved should be extremely proud of the high standard of work they produced.



Sports update

Over the past few weeks, students have played football matches that count towards the Rossendale School Sports Leagues. We have had great success and are now well-positioned for the final part of the season, which will take place when (if) the good weather resumes. As always, students have conducted themselves exceptionally whilst playing some great football.

Year 7 Boys League Match TVLA 1-3 WCHS

Year 8 Boys Friendly WCHS 1-1 TVLA

U15's Girls League Match TVLA 0-4 WCHS

Year 11 Boys League Match WCHS 5-2 All Saints



Staff versus students

The final rounds of our Staff versus Students competitions took place on Wednesday evening. I can now tell you that the champions for 2025 are the Staff! Our year 11 students and staff had a fantastic evening of competitions with activities including anything from table tennis to cake decorating. The evening concluded with takeaway pizza for all.



Christmas Concert

Straight after the Staff versus Students competitions ended, we went into our annual Christmas Concert, which was a fantastic evening. There was a variety of sacred and secular music and there was most definitely something to suit everyone's tastes. The highlight as always was our school wind band which goes from strength to strength under the direction of Mrs Goff. The band were joined by our beginner ensemble which bodes well for the future of our musical tradition here at Whitworth Community High School. Thanks to all staff and volunteers who helped during the evening and congratulations to all of our students who performed so successfully.

Christmas Dinner

Also, yesterday was our annual school Christmas Dinner. Somehow, our amazing catering team managed to provide Christmas-themed lunches for over 550 students and staff within the space of 90 minutes. What an incredible achievement. It was particularly great to see lots of our students getting into the festive spirit with their Christmas-themed jumpers and hats. All money raised will be donated to the Rossendale Hospice.



Rewards

I'm sure that the regular readers of my newsletters will know how important I believe it is to reward students for their hard work and achievements. As such, we have been doing this in abundance during the last two weeks of school. Last week, our Heads of Year hosted their own mini Rewards Assemblies to praise the students for their efforts. In addition, the Hot Chocolate Fridays have continued, but with a different theme each week. The culmination of the rewards programme, however, is the Commendation Assemblies which traditionally take place on the final day of each term. During these assemblies, students can be rewarded bronze, silver or gold stars, depending on how many teachers nominate them. Effort is valued as highly as attainment at WCHS. Therefore, anyone, regardless of their academic ability, can be nominated, as long as they try hard in school. Well done to all of our award winners, especially our year 7s who had their first ever Commendation this morning.

And finally

Just a quick reminder that school reopens at the normal time on Monday 5th January 2026. All that remains is for me to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

Service List- Christmas 2025/26



Children and Family Wellbeing Christmas Opening Times

Rawtenstall Family Hub

The Old Fire Station,
Rawtenstall
BB4 8EW
Only Open— 22nd, 23rd Dec
29th, 30th and 31st Dec then closed till
5th Jan

Haslingden Family Hub

Bury Road
Haslingden
BB4 5PG
Only Open— 22nd, 23rd Dec then closed till
5th Jan

The Maden Family Hub

Rochdale Road
Bacup
OL13 9NZ
Only Open— 22nd, 23rd Dec
29th, 30th then closed till 5th Jan

Burnley General Teaching Hospital

Lancashire Women and Newborn Centre,
Casterton Ave, Burnley, BB10 2PQ
24 hours
01282 425071
Burnley Birth Centre- 01282 803434

Rossendale Birth Centre

Rossendale Primary Health Care Centre,
Bacup Road, Rossendale, BB4 7PL
24 hours
01282 803434

Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital

Royal Blackburn Teaching Hospital, Haslingden
Road, Blackburn, BB2 3HH
24 hour
01254 263555
Blackburn birth centre - 01254 733434

Pharmacies

Asda Pharmacy

Christmas Eve: 10.00am– 4.00pm
Christmas Day: All Stores Closed
Boxing Day: 9.00am– 6.00pm
01706 242410

Bacup Pharmacy

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm
Closed Bank holidays and
weekends
01706 876201

Rowlands Pharmacy

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm Closed
Christmas bank holidays
01706 215654

Cohens Chemist

Monday to Friday 9-5.30
Closed bank holidays
01706 873155



Lloyds

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm
Closed Bank holidays.
Online Doctor Care

A.J Nuttall

Christmas day / Boxing Day/
New Years Day – CLOSED



Doctors/Emergency

Emergency call 999 (Ambulance/Fire/police)

Non-emergency police need 101
Non-emergency medical need, including dental
111

Social Services

Out of Hours
Emergencies—0300 123 6722

Domestic Abuse Helpline

24 Hours
08082000247

Food

Salvation Army

01282 415840
<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/>

Trinity Baptist church

01706 597376

The Lighthouse

lighthousefoodshare@gmail.com
07922951096

Positive Start

Only contactable through Facebook
[Positive Start | Facebook](#)



Together Housing

Our phone lines are open 24/7 for
emergency repairs and calling us
is the fastest way to get a response
in an emergency.
0300 555 560

Mental health Crisis

Crisis Team—Night and Bank Holidays

5.00pm-9.00pm
01254226074

Housing

Be - with- us

Most of our Partner Organisations will
be closed over the Festive period, and
reopening on January 2025.
0300 123 2200

Shelter

Lancashire County Council –
Crisis Support Scheme
0344 515 1831



Rossendale Borough Council

Futures Park, Bacup, OL13 0BB
0300 222 5946

