



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
Friday 21st November 2025

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Dear parents and carers,

Remembrance

Our annual remembrance assemblies took place in the main hall on the morning of Tuesday 11th November. The assemblies included some famous war poetry, interspersed with video clips and readings, one of which was written by former student James Taylor. Students who are involved with local uniformed organisations led our assemblies and laid a poppy wreath at the front of the hall. Students in all year groups behaved respectfully and acted with reverence, especially as the names of the fallen soldiers from the Whitworth area were read out.

It is always great to hear when our students have been involved in acts of remembrance beyond the school day. I have heard about several students who took part in a variety of local services and marches during the weekend. Our Head Girl, Grace W and Deputy Head Boy, Liam J are pictured below, laying a wreath at the Whitworth Memorial Gardens on behalf of WCHS. Hannah H and Luke T are featured here as they were leading the music in Rawtenstall for the Remembrance Parade. Our school was also very well represented at Rochdale Town Hall too. I'm told it was a beautiful service and the Marine and Sea Cadets did themselves proud, marching perfectly on such an important occasion of remembrance.

A special mention must go to Deputy Head Boy, Liam J and Senior Prefect Luke T, both of whom played The Last Post during ceremonies on the 11th November. Liam played in all of the school assemblies and Luke played for the Northern Primary service, the conditions for which were very wet and windy. Liam and Luke have done us proud!



Calendar

December 2025

Wednesday 3rd December
Y11 Parents' Evening 4.00pm - 6.00pm in school

Wednesday 17th December
Christmas Jumper/Hat Day (£1 donation)

Christmas Concert 6.30pm

Thursday 18th December
After school closure - Christmas Break

January 2026

Monday 5th January
School Re-opens

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)

Last week, all year groups had assemblies presented by the Mental Health Support TEAM (MHST). Students were given ideas about how to look after their own mental health. The ideas were based around five key themes: Connecting, Giving, Being Active, Taking Note and Continuous Learning. Students were told that from now onwards, a MHST practitioner will be based at school for one day per week. Students were encouraged to reach out to a member of staff if they feel they need a referral to access support. The support will either be delivered through individual or group sessions.



Youth Enterprise - Rossendale Hospice Fundraising

Our Youth Enterprise Team held their first fundraising event last week. They hosted a bake sale in the assembly hall to raise funds for the Rossendale Hospice. This initial event was a great success and was a catalyst for further fundraising initiatives over the next few weeks, leading up to Christmas. The team then spoke in assemblies to all year groups to explain why they are raising funds for the hospice.

GCSE Presentation Evening

On the evening of Wednesday, 12th November, we held our annual GCSE Awards Evening at the Ashcroft. It was a joyful, celebratory evening during which we publicly recognised the achievements of our most recent alumni. It was a pleasure to welcome Councillor Janet Whitehead, Mayor of Whitworth, who presented the subject award winners with their prizes. We also welcomed Mr Karl Smith, Principal of Rochdale Sixth Form College, as our guest speaker. Mr Smith also presented our major award winners with their trophies. Thanks to everyone who was involved, especially Miss Rawstron and Mrs Robinson, who did all of the preparatory work for this event.



Frantic Assembly Theatre Trip

On the evening of Thursday 13th November, Mrs White took a group of Year 9, 10 and 11 students to see a Frantic Assembly production of Lost Atoms. Lost Atoms is Frantic Assembly's electrifying new play, a whirlwind journey through a relationship that changes everything. Raw, physical, and unflinching, Lost Atoms pushes the boundaries of storytelling in true Frantic Assembly style - where love, truth, and memory collide on stage. The students and accompanying staff had a great evening at The Lowry. Thanks yet again to Mrs White for offering such amazing opportunities to our students.



Year 7 Settling In Evening

Just a week after welcoming our oldest students and their parents/carers, it was time to host our youngest cohort. One of the key ways we build a strong partnership between home and school is through our annual Year 7 Settling In Evening. This event provides parents and carers with the chance to chat informally with their child's form tutor and members of the School Leadership Team. Most importantly, it allows our Year 7 students to proudly introduce their new friends and their friends' families to their own parents and carers.

The evening also celebrated the achievements of our new Year 7s. Many received certificates and prizes in recognition of their excellent work since joining the school. They have made a fantastic start to their time at Whitworth Community High School, and we are incredibly proud of how well they have settled in.

Year 11 Mock Examinations and Y10 Mid-Year Exams

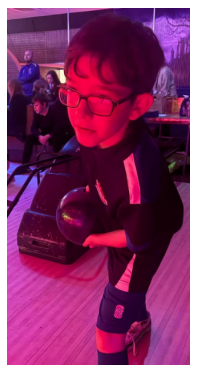
Our current Year 11s have now completed their November mocks. We have all been impressed by the diligent preparation that our students have put into these examinations. It has been good to see such determination, resilience and brilliant behaviour in the exam hall. It is hoped that this process will help our students to overcome their worries about external exams in the future. I look forward to sharing their progress with parents/carers on the evening of 3rd December.

The Year 10 mid-year exams will begin on the 8th December and will finish on the 17th December. The revision materials for these exams are available on our website. The username required to access the revision materials is i.climb and the password is Higher2021 (case sensitive). Parents/carers are urged to support their children by helping them to make a revision timetable in the weeks leading up to these exams.

Sport Update

Our under-15s girls team got their league campaign underway with a draw against Alder Grange last week. Annie K scored all three goals for WCHS, two of them from outside the box. Well done to our girls.

Also, a group of our students took part in a very inclusive event recently. The event was called PAN Bowling. 15 schools were in attendance and although our students didn't win any prizes, they all had a great time competing.



Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

NHS
Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

East Lancashire Young People's Mental Health

**Concerned about your Mental Health?
Are you under 18 or concerned about
someone under 18?**

Advice sessions are available on-line via

'Attend Anywhere'

Delivered by CYPMH East

tinyurl.com/ELCAS-LSCFT



Enter the word "CYPMH East" as the first name and "drop in" as the second name followed by your date of birth.

You will then enter our virtual waiting area where we will collect you.

Wednesday 3rd December 25

1pm – 3pm

Wednesday 10th December 25

3pm – 5pm

Wednesday 17th December 25

5pm – 7pm