

Spring Term 1
Friday 31st January 2025

Dear parents and carers,

It is difficult to believe that we are already a month into the new year and only two weeks away from the next half-term break and the much anticipated PE school trip to Lisbon, Portugal. There is, as always, lots to report about activities taking place in school.

Pantomime Trip

On 22nd January, WCHS students made their annual trip to the Whitworth Amateur Dramatics Pantomime. This year's production of *Alice in Wonderland* was nothing short of spectacular! Students had a fantastic time, laughing and cheering as the talented cast brought the magical story to life.

Adding a touch of school pride to the performance, maths teacher, Miss Sladen, wowed the audience as part of the "Flowers Quartet." Her blossoming stage presence didn't go unnoticed! Meanwhile, Mrs. Wilson's artistic flair shone brightly as she created the stunning scenery artwork that transported everyone to Wonderland. The show had students shouting "Oh, yes it is!" and laughing at every "Oh, no it isn't!" moment. It was a tea-rific afternoon full of energy and excitement. The students left saying it was a day to remember, with plenty of grins—some as wide as the Cheshire Cats!



Student Leadership

On the morning of Friday 24th January, all of our student leaders were invited to an extraordinary assembly to recognise and reward their outstanding contribution to school.

In total, we have over 200 students who undertake various leadership roles in school which is definitely something for us to celebrate. In the assembly, we had Prefects, Reading Leaders, Expert Readers, Creativity Leaders, Sports Ambassadors and Drama Directors, to name but a few. During the assembly, the students were reminded about the importance of leadership skills in preparation for their future careers. They were also given individualised certificates to recognise their personal contributions.

Student Engagement with Staff Training

Many thanks to the students who helped Mrs Haworth and the staff CPD session on Wednesday 15th January. Pupils sat with small groups of staff and provided feedback about a number of teaching strategies. The feedback was useful and pupils were articulate, helpful and humorous. The evening was a great success and staff believed the feedback to be of use. The pupils involved were - Isabelle B, Emmie L, James P, Gabriel CL, Sophie L, Katie H, Liam J, Francesca R and Jon B.

Calendar

**February
2025**

5th February
Drama Theatre Trip

14th February
Lisbon Trip

14th February
School closes for half
term break

24th February
School reopens

26th February
Y7 Parents' Evening
4pm to 6pm

Reading Leaders and Expert Readers

The Reading Leaders programme is designed to train young people from Year 9 to help students in Y7 become confident and competent readers. At the same time, reading leaders develop skills and qualities which enhance their CVs in readiness for future job applications or entry into further and higher education. Congratulations to the following Y9s who have recently been appointed as Reading Leaders and taken part in their training: Sophie Lyons, Joseph Anderson, Millie Hastewell, Amelia McNinch, Oliver Riley, Liam Shea, Christopher Mills, Millie Hastewell, Ella Mitchell and Murishe Mutandwa. We look forward to seeing you encouraging and guiding our Y7 students with their reading.

Expert readers have also been appointed to lead during form-time reading and help drive our reading culture by being good role models. They are students who read regularly and independently and they will assist their form tutors during Register and Read for example in making sure books are given out in a timely fashion, summarising the plot so that everyone knows where the class have read up to and by volunteering to read.

Badges will be distributed to all students involved as soon as they arrive.

Science Celebration

It was a pleasure to welcome Mrs Middlemas back into school this week as our guest of honour in one of our Hot Chocolate Fridays. This week was the turn of our scientists who were recognised for their efforts and achievements in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The students are pictured here alongside Mrs McNiven (Director of Learning for Science), Mrs Reed (Assistant Director of Learning for Science) and of course, our former Headteacher Mrs Middlemas.



Sport Update

Our sports teams have continued to represent the school well. Our year 7 footballers scored six goals and conceded none to TVLA last week. A special mention must go to Mason Hardaker who scored 5 goals and Riley Ormerod who kept a clean sheet in goal. Also in the league, our year 8s were 6-4 victors in a highly competitive fixture against Alder Grange. The boys worked very hard out of possession to win the ball back and score some excellent goals. In a 7-a-side tournament, our year 10 students came second place with an impressive 12 point tally. They were narrowly beaten by Haslingden High who won the event by just one point. Our Sports Leaders continue to impress by hosting a variety of events. This week they hosted the year 3 and 4 athletics tournament. The event was a great success and the students were a credit to our school.



Focus Week

As a school, we are very proud of our respectful ethos and calm learning environment. I know that many parents choose our school for their children because they share my view that well behaved students can learn more and succeed with their education. Sadly, in the last few weeks, a small group of year 9 students have fallen short of our high expectations and have disrupted the learning of others. Therefore, the decision was taken to withdraw these students from their lessons for a full week. They were taught all elements of the National Curriculum by Senior Leaders in a separate space away from their peers so that all others could get on with their learning without distractions. The initiative was very successful and a strong message has been sent to all students. We will be re-running this initiative again in the near future if any poor behaviour continues. The success of the majority has to come first.

Youth Enterprise Celebration Event

One of the highlights of this week was the Youth Enterprise Celebration event hosted by Alder Grange High School. Students from all high schools in Rossendale were invited to this event to celebrate all of the work that the Youth Enterprise teams put into raising much needed funds for the Rossendale Hospice in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Our team did extremely well and came in 2nd place overall but won the prize for Best Presentation. £11,873 was collectively raised by young people from the Rossendale High Schools. Congratulations to all of the teams from every school across the valley.



Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher



Whitworth
LEISURE CENTRE
Fit For The Community

1ST

ANNIVERSARY

To celebrate being open for a year we're opening
our doors on

**SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
10AM - 5PM**

On the day we'll be offering taster sessions for most of what
we currently offer, and some of what we're about to offer.

**TURN UP AND TRY FOR
FREE !**

Come along to a spin class for free.

Have a gym session for free.

Fancy a Pilates session ? Turn up and try it for free.

No catch, we just want to give back to the community.

On the day, filming will be taking place for promotional use. By taking part in activities on the day you consent to your images being used.

