



# Newsletter

**Autumn Term 2**  
**Friday 13th December 2024**

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Dear parents and carers,

We are fast approaching the end of term with just a week left in school. Please could I reassure parents that lesson time in the final week of school will be used for educational purposes. Therefore, attendance during the final week is important up to the final day, when all of the end of term awards will be presented to students.

### Mobile phone policy update

Thank you to parents and carers who took the time to respond to the questionnaire about the temporary mobile phone policy. Thanks especially to those who took the time to send in kind and grateful messages of support too. This was much appreciated. The survey was overwhelmingly positive, as were the staff and student responses. I am pleased to say that students have adapted well to the temporary policy and there has not been an increase in mobile phone usage within school. Therefore, Governors agreed to make this a permanent change during their full autumn term meeting last Monday.

### Y11 Parents' Evening Feedback

Thank you to all of you who attended the parents' evening with your children earlier this week. Thanks also for the overwhelmingly positive feedback that you left for us. The majority of parents were glad that we have moved back towards face-to-face events. Additionally, several commented on the innovative use of technology to make the evening run so smoothly. Please could I take the opportunity to thank year 11 parents/carers for your support and remind you that revision resources are still available for students on the web site. Username: i.climb Password: Higher2021 (case sensitive). Also, please could I ask that parents/carers continue to support us by reminding your children to attend intervention sessions when they are invited. These intervention sessions are vital for students to ensure that they achieve the best grades they are capable of in their GCSEs.

### Year 10 Exam Fortnight

The year 10 mid-year exams are now well underway. The revision materials for these exams are still 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 encouraging regular revision. I have pasted an exam timetable below to help parents/carers.

w/c 9/12	1	2	3	4	5
Mon	English			Art Comp Music	Art
Tue	Maths		Business		Biology
Wed	RS		Geography		DT Health&Soc
Thur		English	Spanish Drama	Spanish	Chemistry
Fri	History		Sociology		Spanish
w/c 16/12	1	2	3	4	5
Mon	Maths			History	Physics
Tue			PE	Hosp Cat	

### Calendar

**December 2024**

#### 18th December 2024

Staff versus students (y11)

#### 18th December 2024

Christmas Concert  
6.30pm

#### 19th December 2024

Christmas hat/Jumper Day

#### 19th December 2024

Christmas dinner

#### 20th December 2024

School Closes at 1pm

**January 2024**

#### 6th January 2024

School re-opens



## Sports leaders at TVLA

Our year 8 Sports Ambassadors led the way at the recent Rossendale Sports Hall Athletics Festival. Fourteen of our year 8s took charge at the event which was hosted by TVLA. In addition, 12 of our year 7s competed in the various events that took place on the day. Our ambassadors and competitors did us proud. Congratulations to you all.



## Staff Versus Students 2024

For those of you who were fans of *Saturday Night Takeaway*, you will know about the infamous Ant versus Dec competitions hosted by Stephen Mulhern. At Whitworth Community High School, our very own Mr Cawley is taking on Stephen Mulhern's role as host of Staff versus Students 2024. This is a fun initiative where staff compete against students in a variety of challenges in the hope of winning the coveted annual trophy. The idea behind the initiative is to build positive working relationships between staff and students during what is a very difficult academic year for our year 11s. Several sporting events have already taken place. The student footballers were the victors last week whereas the staff evened the scores after the netball tournament. The final events will all take place straight after school on the evening of 18th December. I will report the final outcome in my final newsletter before we break up for Christmas.



## Youth Proms Success

I am pleased to be able to report the musical success of our very own head boy, Ben who recently performed at the Royal Albert Hall as part of an ensemble called Chords and Fiddles. The performance was part of the Music for Youth Proms, a prestigious concert series to which only some of the best performing youngsters are invited each year. I have it on good authority that Chords and Fiddles 'brought the house down' with their performance. Congratulations to Ben!



## Charity Fundraising

Our Year 10 Enterprise Group have been busy fundraising for the Rossendale Hospice. They have asked me to remind parents/carers about two events taking place next week. On Tuesday, the students can pay to have a photo taken with their teachers who will be in fancy dress. On Wednesday, students can purchase cakes from the bake sale. If you can afford to do so, please send your child in with some cash on these days so that they can support these initiatives. Additionally, any donations of cakes for the bake sale would be appreciated. If you are able to donate any cakes for the sale, please could you include a list of ingredients in case any students have allergies. On a similar theme, please remember that the annual Christmas hat/jumper day will take place on Thursday to raise funds for the Papyrus Suicide Prevention charity.

## Geography Field Trip

90 year 10 students attended a field trip to Manchester City Centre on Friday 6th December 2024 to collect primary and secondary data for their Geography Paper 3 in preparation for their GCSE. Students completed questionnaires, conducted interviews and collected a range of other primary data for their study on Cycles and Flows. When the students returned to school, I asked them to tell me about the most memorable moment of the trip. Naively, I expected them to tell me about the data they had collected in preparation for their Geography exams. I should have known that lunch in McDonald's would have been the real highlight of the trip. Thanks to Mrs Raza for organising the field trip and for completing the required risk assessment paperwork. The students are pictured on the steps of The Arndale Shopping Centre.



## Civic Carol Service

Our school choir performed at the annual Whitworth Community Carol Service on Monday evening. Miss Genty prepared and conducted our singers who performed two pieces in front of a packed audience at The Ashcroft. The stand-out piece was *'Mary Did You Know?'* which included several soloists, all of whom sang clearly and confidently. If you didn't get a chance to hear our singers, they will be performing again on Wednesday 18th December during our annual Christmas Concert. The event will be starting at 6:30pm and should last for just over an hour. Please see the poster at the bottom of the newsletter for more details.



## A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip

What?...Eveleena Scrooge? Yes that is right. A Christmas Carol the musical. On Wednesday evening, Mr Williams and his English Faculty took a trip to the Lowry for this Christmas treat. It was a fantastic show. Amazing vocalists supported by a live band and the lighting and staging was really engaging and immersive. Our children made us proud. Many of them are now well rehearsed in going on trips to the theatre thanks to Mrs White and Mrs Goff who offer so many opportunities. I am sure the general public worry when they see a school party arrive, but we actually set the standard regarding how to conduct yourself during a live performance. This was a genuine Christmas treat for the staff and the children alike.



Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr A Oliver'.

Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher



**Whitworth**  
Community High School



# *Christmas Concert*

***Wednesday 18th December 2024***

***School hall at 6:30pm to 7:45pm***

**Tickets £3**

**Available on ParentPay**



Hopwood Hall College  
& University Centre

Schools Newsletter:  
The T-Levels Edition!

Please find Hopwood Hall College latest school's newsletter via the link below. This newsletter is a special T-Level edition as they celebrate T-Levels week!

The edition contains important information for Y10 and Y11 pupils and families.

They are really looking forward to welcoming our pupils to Hopwood Hall College and University Centre.

Link below:

<https://mailchi.mp/c94d51636b73/news-update-from-hopwood-hall-college-13899260>

# T-LEVELS WEEK 2024



**MOLLY  
SCOTT-SMITH**

**T-Level in Education & Childcare**

**Now: Molly is now Studying  
BA (Hons) Degree in  
Primary Education at  
York St. John University**

**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



Hopwood Hall College  
& University Centre

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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