

Autumn Term 2
Friday 29th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the next edition of the Whitworth Community High School newsletter. As always, there is lots to report. I have also included some key information towards the end of the newsletter that will be useful for parents/carers in the run up to Christmas.

University Masterclasses

This year, a new programme has been introduced, offering students the opportunity to attend monthly masterclasses with university academics and industry representatives. The first session took place on 19th November. The focus for the first session was English and the guest speaker was Dr Scott Annett, Senior Tutor of Studies in the Faculty of English at Robinson College, Cambridge University. The students will continue to take part in further workshops throughout the academic year, all delivered by academics from top universities across the UK. Well done to Bailey, James, Samuel, Alice and Arabella for representing our school so positively.



Hot Chocolate Fridays

Our emphasis on rewards continues with Hot Chocolate Fridays. During the last two weeks we have focussed on students from year 7 and year 8 who have made a particularly great start to the academic year. Each faculty was only able to nominate two students. Therefore, there was much competition for the places. Congratulations to all of the students who were nominated for your great efforts in lessons.



Blood Brothers Theatre Trip

On Wednesday evening, 30 of our drama and performing arts enthusiasts went to the Palace Theatre in Manchester to see Blood Brothers. Blood Brothers is a musical by Liverpoolian playwright Willy Russell which revolves around twin boys (Mickey and Edward) who are separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city. Our students enjoyed the experience and conducted themselves very well.

Climbing higher!

Calendar

December
2024

4th December 2024

Flu Immunisations
All Year Groups

4th December 2024

Y11 Parents' Evening
4.00-6.00pm

18th December 2024

Christmas Concert
6.30pm

19th December 2024

Christmas hat/Jumper
Day

20th December 2024

School Closes at 1pm



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Thanks to Mrs White for organising the trip which was particularly useful for the Drama GCSE students as Blood Brothers is the set text. What a brilliant way to consolidate learning from lessons.



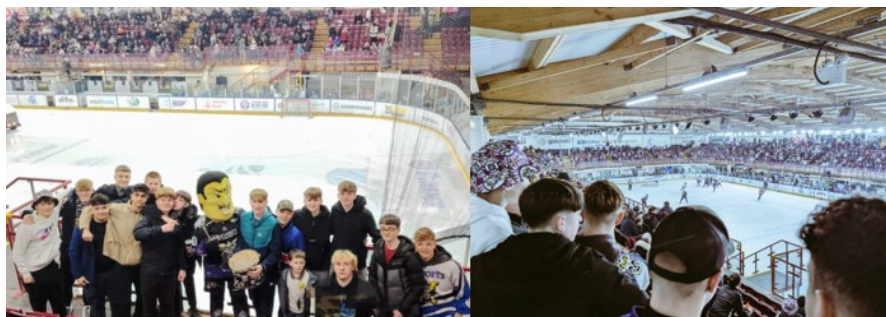
STEM Club Returns

STEM club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) was back with a bang this week. The students learnt about how sparklers are made, including how different colours are produced. The activities were enjoyed by all of the students and they learnt a lot in the process. The students were even allowed to set Miss Badley's hands on fire!! The science staff have assured me that all safety procedures were followed.



Ice Hockey

Last Friday night a group of our year 11 students went to watch Manchester Storm versus Dundee Stars Ice Hockey. The game was played at Altrincham Planet Ice Arena. They saw Manchester Storm win the game. Some of our students said that the team success was down to the cheer leading by our students who managed to commandeer a drum to lead the supporters to an uncharacteristically fun atmosphere. The positive behaviour of our students was commended by several other spectators and by the head steward who said that WCHS would always be welcome back to future events. Thanks to Mr Cawley, Miss Shepherd and Mr Lawrence who gave up their Friday evening to accompany the students on the school trip.



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Year 10 Exam Fortnight

The year 10 mid-year exams will begin on the 9th December and will finish on the 19th December. Mrs Haworth presented an assembly last week for our year 10 students during which she talked students through various revision strategies. She particularly highlighted the importance of having a clear revision timetable. 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 three weeks leading up to these exams.

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

Sporting Success

Four of our year 9 students played for the Rossendale School's District Team against Chorley in the first pre-season friendly. Sadly, they lost the game but were playing against Chorley who were the Lancashire Champions in 2023. Well done to Jayden, Caden, Jacob and Harrison for representing our school so well.

Earlier this week, 91 of our year 7 students stayed behind after school to take part in the Great Inter-Form competition. It was fantastic to see so many of our new cohort of students getting involved in the extra curricular life of the school. Form 7 Orion were the winners, closely followed by 7 Pegasus and 7 Ursa. Draco were the winners of the year 8 competition on Tuesday evening with an impressive 78 students taking part. Let's hope the year 9 and 10 events are equally as successful.

Congratulations also to our year 11 footballers who have won all of their games so far this season. They have now beaten Haslingden, TVLA and most recently Alder Grange. Our boys will be facing BRGS and All Saints next and will go into these matches full of confidence. They are clearly doing much better than my beloved Manchester City.

Christmas Charitable Giving



The School Council have selected a charity called Papyrus to receive any money raised from the Christmas Jumper/Hat day which is due to take place on 19th December. POPYRUS (Prevention of Young Suicide) is a charity dedicated to the prevention of suicide and the promotion of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people.

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www.wchs.co

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On the 19th December, students can opt to wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blazer. Alternatively, they can choose to wear a Christmas hat. Please note, there is no obligation for families to donate and there is certainly no obligation for parents/carers to purchase jumpers especially for this event. I am well aware of the financial difficulties that some families face and as such the event is completely optional.

Proceeds from other fundraising initiatives during December will be given to The Rossendale Hospice. There will be a variety of other events arranged by the year 10 Youth Enterprise Team including glow in the dark dodgeball and a staff raffle.



Christmas Activities / Dates

- **Geography Field Trip to Manchester (year 10)**
 - Friday 6th December
- **A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip (year 10s and 11s)**
 - Wednesday 11th December (evening)
- **Staff Versus Students (year 11s only)**
 - Wednesday 18th December 3pm
- **Christmas Concert**
 - Wednesday 18th December 6:30pm
- **Christmas Dinner**
 - Thursday 19th December
- **Christmas Jumper / Hat Day**
 - Thursday 19th December
 - Donations on ParentPay
 - Please don't buy expensive jumpers especially for the occasion (no hoodies please)
- **School Closure for Christmas**
 - Friday 20th December 1pm

Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

SNAP STREAK
97
DAYS

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.11.2024



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The poster background is a light blue gradient with white snowflake patterns. It features musical notes and staves in blue and white, along with images of a trumpet, saxophone, and candy canes. The school logo is centered at the top.

Whitworth
Community High School

Christmas Concert

Wednesday 18th December 2024
School hall at 6:30pm to 7:45pm

Tickets £3
Available on ParentPay