



Newsletter

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

Autumn Term 1
Friday 6th September 2024

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome To Students

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2024-2025 and my first as headteacher. It was a pleasure to see all our students back in school this week. Thank you so much to parents and carers for sending your children into school looking so smartly dressed in their WCHS uniforms. It has been a particular pleasure to meet our new year 7 students who have really impressed their teachers this week. I spoke to the new cohort about the importance of first impressions and they really stepped up by behaving well, speaking politely and trying hard in their lessons. What a fantastic start!

Building Updates

Lots of work went on in our new school building over the summer break. Secure mag locks were fitted to the fire doors to increase student safety. Additionally, a brand new mass communication device was installed. This allows us to have separate sounds so that staff, students and visitors can clearly distinguish between lesson changeover notifications, fire alarms and lockdown alerts. The first phase of our wall art was successfully installed as were some display boards which celebrate student success. Contractors from Wates spent a lot of time in the building rectifying 45 of the defects. Sadly, there are still 145 defects still to be addressed. Our business manager, Mrs Mellor continues to work closely with the Department for Education and Wates so that we can resolve the remaining defects as soon as possible. It is hoped that phases 4 and 5 of the new building handover will happen before the end of September. This will allow us to take full ownership of the additional car parking, PE foyer and PE canopy.

GCSE Examination Results

Congratulations to our class of 2024 who achieved some really impressive GCSE results. Results Day was a great occasion, full of happy students, parents/carers and staff, and it was really nice to be able to celebrate successes with our students and their families. An impressive 76% of students achieved grade 4 and above in maths, and 77% managed the same in English Language and/or literature. These positive outcomes meant that the vast majority of our students were able to pursue their first choice college courses or apprenticeships. Some have even gone straight into employment. We wish them all the very best in their chosen careers and we look forward to hearing how they are getting on in the next chapter of their lives and to celebrating with them at GCSE Awards Evening on the 6th November.

Welcome To New Staff

As well as welcoming our year 7s, we have also been delighted to welcome several new members of staff who will be joining our fantastic team:

- Mrs Walsh - Teacher of Art
- Mrs Belham - Teacher in Charge of PSHE, Citizenship and RSE
- Ms Stratton - Teacher of English - welcome back!
- Mr Burgoyne - IT Technician
- Mr Hanvey - PE Technician
- Mrs Essien - Teaching Assistant

Calendar

September
2024

9th September 2024

Paris Trip
Parent Meeting
5.30-6.00pm

12th September 2024

Y7 & Y11
School Photographs

19th September 2024

Y6 Open Day
**School closed to
current students**

Y6 Open Evening
5.30-7:45pm

20th September 2024

Inset Day
**School closed to
students**

24th September 2024

Y5 & Y6 Parent/Carer
Coffee Morning
10.00am-12.00pm





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Changes of Roles

As you all know, my role has changed from Associate Head to Headteacher as of this week. There have also been some other significant changes. Mr Kewin and Mr Bland officially begin their new Deputy Headteacher roles. Mrs Craven steps up to be our lead technician. Mr Bradley will be our new Network Manager, a role which he actually started just before the summer break. Mrs Baglow and Mr Heapy will now be full time teachers and Miss Plant who previously taught peripatetic music will step up to deliver some curriculum music lessons in the Creativity Faculty. I'm sure you will agree that we have made some fantastic internal and external appointments and I am pleased to tell you that we are now fully staffed.

School photographs

School photographers will be visiting next Thursday 12th September to take photos of Y7 and Y11 students.

Dates For Your Diary

- Thursday 19th September - Open Day/Evening - school closed to students, apart from those volunteering to help out on the day/evening
- Friday 20th September - INSET day - school closed to all students
- Wednesday 2nd October 6pm - Y11 Revision Evening (for year 11 students and their parents/carers)
- Wednesday 9th October 6pm - Y7 Settling In Evening (for year 7 students and their parents/carers)
- 15th, 16th, 17th October - School Production of Grease

And Finally...

As I said earlier this week in my letter to students, I am incredibly proud to lead this great school, which I have already served for the last ten years. I promise you all that I will do my absolute best to make this school as good as it can possibly be for your children. I will sometimes make decisions that you may dislike or disagree with but I promise that all of the decisions that I make for our school community will be made with good intentions, in good faith and with the students at the centre.

I wish you and your children the very best for this academic year and I hope that you will work in partnership with me and my colleagues so that we can provide the best educational outcomes for the children of Whitworth Community High School.

Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

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Celebrating students' successes




One of our lovely students Isla Baron has had a fantastic summer. She was crowned Champion at the local yard Summer Show, Tong End Farm for the second year running. She also qualified for the annual Pony Club Regional Dressage Event at Kelsall in Cheshire, she placed 5th individually and her team placed 4th out of hundreds of junior riders.




However, the icing on the cake was for last weekend. She travelled to Lincoln Showground for the National Riding Club Competition. With competitors from all over the UK, Isla and her horse Bernie were on top form winning 1st place in both Dressage P7 and P12 Riding Test. (The Riding test is judged on the rider position and skill where as the Dressage is judged on the combination and partnership). In addition, due to her high scores she was ultimately crowned as National Junior Dressage Champion 2024 for British Riding Clubs.

Mum said 'This an amazing honour and all the family are so incredibly proud of her and Bernie. She works really hard with her 'boy' Bernie aka Sycamore Charm everyday and the love she has for him is just wonderful. They have an incredible bond and we can't wait to see what comes next!'

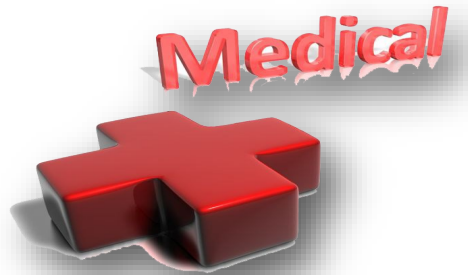


Come and join in our PE after school clubs

 **Extra-Curricular Timetable- Autumn Term 1** **Physical Education Only**

| AFTER SCHOOL 3pm- 4pm | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|
| SPORTS HALL | BADMINTON Yr 8-11 Mrs Belham  | NETBALL Yr 7 & 8 Miss Mcvarish Mrs Belham | GCSE TABLE TENNIS GCSE Only Mr Cawley Mr Harvey | NETBALL Yr 9-11 Miss Mcvarish | FOOTBALL Staff vs Yr 11 Mr Cawley |
| FITNESS SUITE | FITNESS Yr 7 Mr Harvey | FITNESS Yr 8 & 9 Mr Harvey | FITNESS Yr 10 & 11 Mr Harvey | |  |
| FIELD | BOYS FOOTBALL Yr 8 Mr Cawley | BOYS FOOTBALL Yr 7 Mr Cawley |  | BOYS FOOTBALL MATCH NIGHT Yr 9-10 Mr Harvey GIRLS FOOTBALL Yr 7 & 8 Mr Cawley | |

PLEASE BE AWARE CLUBS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION FOR SCHOOL FIXTURES OR WEATHER



Prescription medication

If your child has a medical condition that requires medication while they are in school then the following procedures should be followed:

- A consent form to administer medication must be completed by a parent/carer (this is available from the school reception)
- Any prescription medication must be brought into school in the original box with a pharmacy label that has your child's name on. We are unable to store medication which is not in its original packaging.

If your child suffers from **asthma** then please ensure they have an inhaler with them whilst in school. If you would like us to keep an emergency inhaler in the medical cabinet then please make sure the inhaler is in its original packaging, has a pharmacy label on with their name, as well as a medical consent form. We are unable to accept medication for your child if it's in a different name.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your child's medication is with them in school. All medication will be locked away in the school's secure medical cabinet, as stated in the school's medical policy.

Non-prescribed medications

We are not authorised to store or administer any non-prescription medication unless it is an exceptional circumstances and is for no longer than 48 hours.

**SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS
SECONDARY**

APPLY NOW!
at lancashire.gov.uk/schools

School and Academy places September 2025

You must apply if your child is in their last year of primary school (year 6) from September 2024.

You must apply even if an older brother or sister is already at the school.

If you're a non-Lancashire resident apply through your own local authority.

Please read the admission criteria for your chosen schools on the website or get a copy from them.

CLOSING DATE
31 OCTOBER 2024

lancashire.gov.uk



School transport



Need transport to school? Please don't forget to check your eligibility for free transport. Search 'school transport' at lancashire.gov.uk or scan the QR code.





It's not ok to be away!

There is no entitlement in law for term-time extended absences, whether these are to visit relatives, attend weddings or funerals, or just for a holiday.

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|---|------|---|--------------------------------|
| 0 missed lessons | ← | 0 days off a year | ← | 100% | → | Perfect! |
| 20 missed lessons | ← | 4 days off a year | ← | 98% | → | Very good |
| 40 missed lessons | ← | 8 days off a year | ← | 96% | → | Good |
| 50 missed lessons | ← | 10 days off a year | ← | 95% | → | Improvement needed |
| 55 missed lessons | ← | 11 days off a year | ← | 94% | → | Concerned |
| 95 lessons | ← | 19 days off a year | ← | 90% | → | Very Concerned |
| 145 lessons | ← | 29 days off a year | ← | 85% | → | Significant impact on learning |

The impact on your child...

Your child misses out on valuable learning when they are absent, which may never be made up. This is true for children at nursery, throughout primary right up to the end of secondary school.

Children with **good** attendance perform better than those with **poor** attendance.

Your child's Primary education is just as important as their Secondary Education. Early Years lay the foundation.

Taking your child out of education teaches disrespect for the importance of learning.

Children often have social difficulties when they return after an extended absence. Friendships may have moved on and their self-confidence and well-being can be affected.

Please support your child's future by ensuring you do not take them out of school during term time.



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Important Update – Changes to Education-related Penalty Notices Information for Parents

You may be aware that the Department for Education has recently announced national changes to penalty notices issued for unauthorised absence in term time. These changes will come into effect on 19 August 2024.

The changes to be aware of are:

- Penalty notices issued for offences that take place after 19 August 2024 will be charged at a new rate of £160 per parent per child. This can be paid at £80 if paid within 21 days.
- Any second penalty notice issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period will be issued at the rate of £160 to be paid within 28 days with no option for a discounted rate.
- The threshold at which a penalty notice **must** be considered is set at 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10-school week period¹. This may include absences as a result of arriving late after the register closes. The 10 school weeks may span different terms or school years.
- A maximum of 2 penalty notices may be issued to a parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, so at the 3rd (or subsequent) offence(s) another course of action will need to be considered (such as prosecution or one of the other attendance legal interventions).
- Only penalty notices issued for absences taking place after 19 August 2024 will count towards the above thresholds.

Absences can have a lasting effect on learning

Missing a week of school means your child will miss around 25 hours of learning
This creates gaps in their knowledge and could mean they will not meet their full potential

LOST PROPERTY

Our lost property box is now placed in the pastoral office. If you think your child has lost something then please ask them to come and check.



Celebrating students' successes



We are always looking to celebrate our students' successes in and out of school.

We work closely with the press, and it would be lovely to share some stories/ student achievements with our local community.

Why not email in at office@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk



Pass masters take step nearer to dream careers

BY CATHERINE SMYTH
rochdaleobserver@manmedia.co.uk
@RochdaleNews

PUPILS at Whitworth Community High School celebrated their outstanding GCSE results and are looking forward to their further studies and taking steps towards their dream careers.

Retiring Headteacher Gill Middlemas said: "Congratulations to all our Year 11s on their examination results.

"Many of our students have gained some excellent GCSEs and VCert qualifications which are very well deserved.

"Many of them have made fantastic progress from their starting points, and this is down to their own hard work and effective revision and because of the high-quality teaching they received throughout their time at Whitworth Community High School.

"Thank you to teaching and associate staff for their amazing commitment and expertise, and to families for their ongoing support.

"We are delighted that so many of our young people will now progress to fantastic destinations to study A level and vocational courses, to apprenticeships and into the workplace and we wish them all every success in the future."

Individual stories from Whitworth High include:

LUCY LORD
STUDENT Lucy Lord has set her sights on Oxford University after a brilliant set of GCSEs.

Lucy said: "I am most proud of my Grade 9 in Chemistry and I also got a Level 2 Distinction VCert in Health and Fitness, the highest you can get."

In Year 11 she was fortunate to visit Oxford University with school.

At Rochdale Sixth Form, where she will be studying A levels in Biology and Chemistry, with a third still to be determined, Lucy will go onto college's Oxford programme.

She gained three Grade 9s, five Grade 8s and a 7 along with the VCert.

Lucy, from Bacup, said: "I want to do research chemistry and pharmacology."

She fought back tears as she praised the help and support she had received

from high school.

Lucy said: "The teachers at Whitworth have been the most supportive ever; I don't think I could have got the grades I did without their help.

"They have been just amazing."

CHLOE WALKER

A CAREER in medicine is the plan for Chloe Walker and she has given herself the best start achieving four Grade 9s and four Grade 8s and a Level 2 Distinction in Health and Social Care.

She said: "I did a lot of revision, every single day. I couldn't believe how much I did.

"I kept everything and I filled the recycling bin there was so much paper.

"I was so scared when I arrived at school and got the envelope, I didn't want to open it and I just stared at it for a while; when I saw my results I was completely over the moon."

Chloe, from Bacup, who also got a Grade 7 and Grade 6 GCSE, is going on to study A levels at Rochdale Sixth Form in Chemistry, Biology and Psychology.

She said: "Chemistry and Biology are my favourite subjects.

"I think Whitworth High was the best place for me because my brother came here and all the teachers have been so supportive and I could not have done it without them."

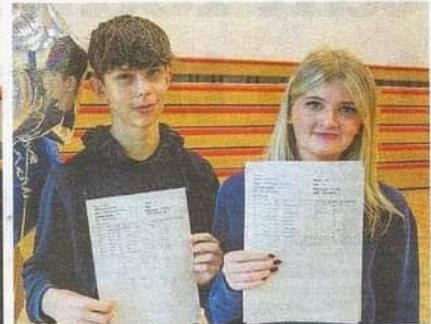
CHARLIE PALLISER

A CAREER in the finance sector is where Charlie Palliser is planning his future.

The student from Rochdale will be studying Maths, Business and Economics at Rochdale Sixth



● Lucy Lord with her dad, Joe and mum Claire



● Spencer Skerritt with Harriet Shore



● Charlie Palliser is proud of his results in Combined Science



● Eva Firth spent break, lunchtime and after-school time working on her GCSE Art portfolio



● Chloe Walker is going to Rochdale Sixth Form College

Form after achieving great GCSE results.

He said: "I was only scraping Grade 4 in English.

"But my mum sorted me a tutor and that helped me so much I got a Grade 7 in my mocks and then I got a 5 and a 6 in English Language and Literature in my GCSEs.

"I am most proud of my highest results in Combined Science where I got a Grade 9 and 8 and I also got Grade 8 in my Maths.

"I made the best of my time at Whitworth High; I

worked hard in lessons and made some really good friends and they are going on to college with me."

SPENCER SKERRITT

BUDDING architect Spencer Skerritt said spending the first two high school years at home learning because of Covid restrictions was tough.

Spencer, from Whitworth, said: "Online learning was hard because the Wifi kept lagging as everyone was logging on at the same time.

"It was so much harder to focus at home looking at a screen and we didn't get properly back into school until Year 9.

"I am most proud of my Grades 8 and 7 in Combined Science because I thought my Physics mark would bring me down.

"I also felt I had misunderstood my English Language exam, but I still got a 7 and I am really proud of my Art as I got a 9.

At Rochdale Sixth Form, Spencer will study A levels in Art, Geography and Maths.

HARRIET SHORE

WHEN Harriet Shore started Year 11, she was offered the chance to step up and study all three sciences and her hard work paid off.

She said: "In Year 10 I was doing Combined Science and then at the start of Year 11, I changed to taking three separate sciences.

"My mocks had predicted I may get 5s or 6s and so I never expected to get Grade 8s in Biology and Chemistry and a Grade 6 in Physics."

Harriet is now looking forward to accelerating her plans to become a psychologist by studying Chemistry, Biology and Psychology at Rochdale Sixth Form College.

She also achieved a 9 in Geography and 8s in English Language and Literature.

EVA FIRTH

DEDICATED Eva Firth spent break, lunchtime and after-school time working on her GCSE Art portfolio and it paid dividends when she got a Grade 9.

Eva will be starting Rochdale Sixth Form where she will study A levels in Art, Philosophy and English Literature.

She said: "I was expecting a Grade 7 in my Religious Studies, but I got a Grade 9.

"I really liked my teachers and they gave me a lot of help and I made the most progress because of them - the teachers went the extra mile, especially in English, History and Art.

"I don't know what I want to do but I have been talking about possibly doing journalism as I enjoy writing and I find it interesting."



● Students from Whitworth Community High School on GCSE results day