



# Newsletter

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**Summer Term 1**  
**Friday 15th May 2026**

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy two weeks since I last wrote. Our Year 11s have now officially begun their final examinations. The season began with Sociology and Drama on Friday 8th May. By the time this newsletter is published, ten further exams will have been sat. The approach of our Year 11 students has been really commendable. They have arrived on time for their exams, fully equipped and ready to do as well as possible. Further to this, their conduct in the exam hall has been excellent.

Many of our students have spoken with great confidence about their performance in the exams that have taken place so far. It has been a pleasure to witness the students coming out of their exams and seeking out their teachers to tell them how well they think they have done. It is clear from these conversations that the working relationships between staff and students are key to the success that we always achieve with the GCSE results at WCHS.

As our Year 11s reach the final phase of their time at WCHS, we begin to look to the future. Therefore, the first article is about our Year 10s stepping up to take on leadership roles in school.

## Senior Prefects Appointments

I am pleased to announce the appointment of our new senior prefect team. Following a challenging selection process, the following students were chosen to be Senior Prefects: Gabriel C-L, Victoria E, Millie H, Harry H, Alyssa L-T, Odhran M, Ella M, Seb M, Murishe M, Ted P, Aimee P, Brogan R-M. In addition, the following head prefect roles were awarded to:

- Head Girl - Millie H
- Head Boy - Brogan R-M
- Deputy Head Girl - Murishe M
- Deputy Head Boy - Ted P

What an amazing group of students. Our senior prefects are a credit to their families and fantastic ambassadors for our school. Congratulations!



## Calendar

**May 2026**

**Friday 22nd**  
After school closure  
- Half Term

**June 2026**

**Monday 1st**  
School Re-opens

**Monday 8th**  
Year 7-10 end of  
year assessments  
commence

**Thursday 25th**  
Y11 Prom

**July 2026**

**Thursday 2nd**  
Y6 Welcome Day  
(Students Only)

Y6 Welcome  
Evening  
(Students, parents  
and carers)  
6.30pm

## Years 7 to 10 End of Year Exams

Year 7 to 10 students will sit their end-of-year exams during the fortnight commencing 8th June. During this week, Mrs Haworth has delivered assemblies to students explaining how they can best prepare in advance for these assessments. Mrs Haworth taught the students about a variety of revision strategies. She also drew their attention to the fact that, as always, subject-specific revision materials are available on the school website. Users of the website simply need to click on the Revision Material tab. If prompted, the username is i.climb and the password is Higher2021 (case sensitive). Please could I urge all parents and carers to encourage your children to begin their preparations for these assessments as soon as possible.

## King's Garden Party Invitation for Mrs Middlemas

Mrs Middlemas, who recently stepped down from her long-standing role as headteacher, was honoured with an invitation to Buckingham Palace to attend the King's Garden Party this week. The prestigious invite celebrated a career dedicated to the service of education, most notably her final 11 years leading Whitworth Community High School. While she has moved on from her permanent post at the school, she hasn't fully retired just yet, as she continues to share her expertise through education consultancy work. Joining fellow guests in the palace grounds, it was a fitting tribute to her ongoing commitment to the profession and a wonderful way to mark this new chapter in her career.



## Learning Walls

Regular readers will know about our ongoing project to have learning walls in every classroom in the school. We began last year with life-sized periodic tables in the science faculty and have slowly worked through the school to create professionally designed wall art that students can refer to in their lessons. The last two classrooms to be completed were Business Studies and Computing. They now have clear, visible displays which include calculations and key words.



## Shared Language CPD

Our teachers have been engaged with some vital CPD this week on the topic of shared classroom language. The idea behind this initiative is to train teachers to use shared key phrases. The use of these phrases allow students with SEND to better understand the expectations of teachers during their lessons. Teaching initiatives such as this are vital to those pupils with SEND but then equally valuable for all. Thanks to Mrs Haworth for designing and delivering this CPD for colleagues in school.

## Minibus Driver

As you will all know, we take our students out of school so that they can take part in various extra curricular opportunities. We sometimes struggle to transport students to these opportunities as we don't have enough qualified minibus drivers in school. We are currently looking to recruit some mini bus drivers who might be able to help us out on a casual basis. To be eligible, you must be under 70 years of age, and hold a clean driving license with category D1 included. If you might be able to help us out, please get in touch with Mrs Ellis. [y.ellis@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:y.ellis@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk)

## Rossendale Finals

So far our students have been involved in two of the Rossendale finals this week with one to go on Friday evening. Our Year 7 boys lost out in a very tight game against BRGS. They played some great football but couldn't quite get the goal they needed to equalise and force penalties. Our under 15 girls won their final by 4 goals to 2. They showed great determination to come back from 2-0 down at half time to win the cup. Some great goals from Annie K, Kacie S and Lois W sealed the win. Mr Cawley said that this was the first time that one of his football teams had played and won a final during which all of the team wore matching ribbons and facial glitter. Good luck to our Year 11 boys who play in their final this evening against their old rivals from BRGS.

A huge thanks to Mr Cawley who has prepared all of our students for these finals and who has given so much of his own time this week to accompany the students and manage the teams. Thank you also to all of the local businesses who have sponsored the finals. Your support has enabled the organisers to ensure that there have been referees at each match, medals for all competitors and trophies for the winners.





# Champions Cup Finals 2026

Mon 11th May-	Yr 7 Boys Rossendale PVC Systems Cup	ko 3.15	Whitworth	0-1	BRGS
Tues 12th May-	Yr 8 Boys M.Ashworth Contracting Cup	ko 3.15	Alder Grange	1-0	Haslingden
Wed 13th May-	Yr 9 Boys Joshua Laws Butchers Cup	ko 3.45	Alder Grange	vs	Haslingden
Thurs 14th May-	Yr 10 Boys Inspire Sport Cup	ko 3.45	Alder Grange	vs	BRGS
Fri 15th May-	Yr 11 Boys Inspire Sport Cup	ko 4.00	Whitworth	vs	BRGS
Mon 11th May-	U15 Girls Jute Sports Cup	ko 4.45	TVLA	0-5	BRGS
Tues 12th May-	U15 Girls Jute Sports Cup	ko 4.45	Alder Grange	2-4	Whitworth

Venue: Whitworth Valley FCMedal Sponsor: Ormerod Plumbing & HeatingTrophy Sponsor: Muldoon Financial Planning





## Mayoral Awards

I was very honoured to be invited to the annual Mayor of Whitworth awards yesterday evening to see two of our students being presented with Young Achiever Awards. Harry H from Year 10 was nominated for being an excellent role model for other youngsters in school and for the leadership role that he played in the recent Youth Enterprise Project. Alice K was also recognised for all of her many contributions to the school and local community. Most notably for her role as a volunteer young leader with the Rainbows. It goes without saying that Harry and Alice are fantastic ambassadors for our school and that we are extremely proud of them.



## School Games Gold Award

It will come as no surprise to you all that Whitworth Community High School has, yet again, been awarded the Sports Mark Gold Standard for the fourth year in a row. This was awarded for the commitment and engagement in the 2025/26 school games. Mr Cawley has asked me to pass on his thanks to students and parents for all the hard work and dedication at the various events that have taken place throughout the year.



## Crisis and Resilience Fund

Please see a poster below my signature with details of a Crisis and Resilience Fund for families on low incomes who are experiencing financial hardship. There is a web link and a QR code for the application process.

As always, I wish you and your families a good weekend. Let's hope the weather warms up soon!

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver  
Headteacher

**Rosendale Borough Council**  
**Communities Team**  
The Business Centre  
Futures Park  
Bacup  
Lancashire  
OL13 0BB

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Dear Headteacher / Bursar,

I am writing to let you know that Rosendale Borough Council is now delivering support through the **Crisis and Resilience Fund**.

The Fund is intended to support residents on a low income who are experiencing financial hardship or an urgent crisis. Its purpose is not only to respond to immediate need, but also to help reduce repeat hardship by linking residents to wider support where appropriate.

As part of this, families may be able to apply for **Crisis Payment** support where they are facing immediate financial difficulty. This support will also include referrals for further advice for anybody struggling with debt or benefit issues.

The application form can be accessed using the following link and QR code:

<https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/benefits-1/crisis-and-resilience-fund/2>

We would be grateful if schools could help raise awareness of this support with families who may be struggling.

Please note that this is not a direct replacement for the previous free school meal holiday voucher scheme and there is no automatic entitlement. Applications will be considered on the basis of individual circumstances, evidence of need, and the funding available.

If your school is aware of families who may need support, you can use the following referral link: <https://www.rossendale.gov.uk/xfp/form/10610>. Alternatively, you can email the applicant's contact details to [crisisandresilience@rossendalebc.gov.uk](mailto:crisisandresilience@rossendalebc.gov.uk).

Thank you for your support in helping us reach families who may need assistance.

Yours faithfully,

**Communities Team**  
Rosendale Borough Council

