Newsletter

Summer Term 2
Friday 17th July 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

I can't believe we're at the end of the year already! This has been a really successful term for our school. Our Year 11s sat their final examinations. They then had their Leavers' Assembly and Prom, both of which were fantastic events. Since the Year 11s have left, all other year groups have completed their End of Term Assessments and we have been busy rewarding all of their hard work.

Awards Evening

Our annual Awards Evening took place at The Ashcroft on Wednesday, 8th July. We had to accommodate lots of students and their families. As such, we had to host the event over two sittings. The first event was for students in Years 7 and 8. The older students in Years 9 and 10 had the later slot. Thankfully, this event didn't clash with any football fixtures, so we were able to proceed as normal.








Lancashire Education and Learning Awards

The awards continued on the very same evening at an event in Preston, during which two of our prefects Sophie B and Alice K won awards that were contested across the county for their contributions towards the arts in schools. I couldn't be in attendance at the ceremony due to a clash with our Awards Evening but I'm told by parents that it was a great occasion and it was wonderful to have our school represented so positively. Congratulations to both girls.




Calendar

September 2026

Tuesday 1st
Inset Day
School closed to Students

Wednesday 2nd
School opens to Students

Thursday 17th
Inset Day - school closed to current students

Y6 Open Day

Y6 Open Evening
5.30pm -7.45pm

Tuesday 22nd
Y5/6 Parent and carer Coffee Morning

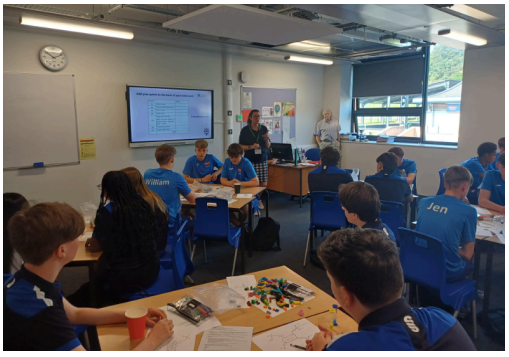
Five other students were nominated for the Lancashire Education and Learning Awards. Sadly, they didn't make the final list of winners. However, they were all sent a letter and certificate in the post to congratulate them for being nominated. Two of the five were in Year 11, so I will make sure their certificates are sent on to them, but three are still in school. Ellie F, Harry H and Mason H are pictured here with their certificates.



On the subject of awards, at the time that this newsletter is being published, I will be presenting the termly commendation stars to hundreds of our brilliant students. The students can earn stars for effort and achievement through nominations from their teachers. Congratulations in advance to all of our commendation star winners.

Year 10 Revision Day with University of Lancashire

On Thursday 9th July, Abi from the Widening Participation visited school to deliver sessions to all of Year 10. The sessions explored challenge, confidence, teamwork and motivation. They were also interactive and thought-provoking. One pupil commented 'I went in feeling semi confident and left feeling SUPER confident - it was a really worthwhile session'. The University will offer a series of further sessions next academic year to students as they enter Year 11 and embark upon their final year of education at WCHS.







Hansel and Gretel Opera Project

On Friday 10th July, our Vocal Group performed in Rochdale Music Service's Opera Project at the Curtain Theatre in Rochdale. This is a large-scale project in which over 900 students from 23 Primary and Secondary Schools took part in performances throughout the week. It was an amazing experience for our students who'd worked really hard over the past few weeks to learn the songs and scenes from Hansel and Gretel. Performing with students from other schools and seeing the whole performance come together after just one rehearsal was just brilliant! Well done to everyone involved.



Vision Dashboards

On Tuesday 8th July, our AGT (Able, Gifted & Talented) group took part in the annual Vision Dashboard activity, led by Miss Grenaghan and Mr Hanif. The morning began with pupils reflecting on their aspirations for the future, thinking about what they want to achieve, the steps they'll need to take to get there, potential barriers they might face, and the support available to help overcome those challenges.

Using these reflections, each pupil created their own Vision Dashboard — an A3 poster filled with images and words that represented their goals and plans. The posters were then displayed in the school library, where Mr Oliver, Mrs Howarth and Mrs Haworth joined the group to discuss the pupils' work, their insights, and what they had taken from the activity. Some pupils gave a short presentation on their poster and what it meant to them and their future plans. Staff were highly impressed by the range of aspirations shared and the thoughtful plans pupils had made to work towards their goals. Each AGT member took their Vision Dashboard home to display as a reminder of the steps they can take over the next year to turn their ambitions into reality.

Minibus Fundraising

The Colour Run seems to have become an annual tradition here at Whitworth Community High School. The students and staff had a lot of fun on the school fields, overcoming obstacles and hurdles whilst having canons of colour thrown over them. As well as having lots of fun, the students and staff raised well in excess of £4000, which will be put towards keeping our current minibus on the road and eventually helping us to purchase a new one. Thank you to all of the parents/carers who donated towards this fundraiser. Your contributions are very much appreciated.






Not to be outdone, the staff also held their own fundraising initiative to keep our minibus on the road. Five mystery members of staff raced on the school fields dressed in some very unusual outfits. This created a lot of amusement but also brought in some much-needed funds. Thanks to the staff for being such good sports!





Sports Update

In football, our Under-13 and Under-15 boys B teams played in the Rossendale finals last week, thus demonstrating our school's commitment towards inclusive sporting participation. The students did brilliantly to reach their respective finals. The Under-13s won 5-1 whilst the Under-15s lost 2-1, both vs Alder Grange.





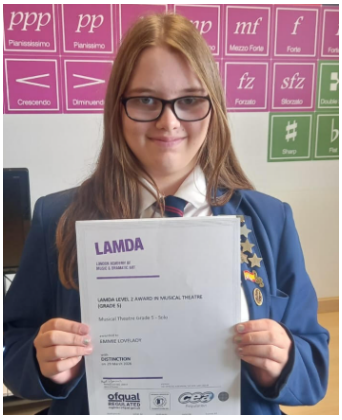

In Cricket, our Under-14s celebrated a brilliant victory against All Saints, winning by 130/1 to 61/4 in a match defined by high-quality batting and bowling. Unfortunately, they could not replicate this form in their following fixture against Alder Grange. Despite a tough battle, our team was bowled out for 61, while Alder Grange secured the win with an impressive 128/1 off 15 overs.





Emmie Lovelady

Congratulations to Emmie Lovelady, who has recently passed her Grade 5 LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) exam. For the exam, Emmie sang ‘I’m not that girl’ from Wicked the musical, and ‘How to be not alone’ from Maybe Happy Ending. She also had to speak “Poor Unfortunate Souls” from The Little Mermaid as a monologue. Emmie sat the exam all the way back in March but has only just received the outcome this week. I’m pleased to report that she scored 80 marks out of a possible 100, meaning that she achieved a distinction grade!



Summer Concert

We finally hosted our Summer Concert on Wednesday evening, following several postponements due to England’s match fixtures. It was a truly special evening that gave many of our talented students the chance to showcase their musical skills. During the event, we also took the opportunity to celebrate our departing Year 11 students, who have contributed immensely to the music department over the last five years. It goes without saying that we wish them the absolute best for the future. I hope that the musical skills they have developed in school will give them great memories, but also act as a lifelong passion and a foundation for future success.






Staff Farewells
Sadly, we say fond farewells to three members of staff today.

Firstly we wish Miss Genty the very best of luck in her new role at CAPA College in Wakefield. Miss Genty has been musically directing our choir and providing singing lessons for the last 2 years. We have been so lucky to have her working with our students and she has undoubtedly enhanced the quality of our school choir, which under her leadership recently won the Rochdale School Choir of the Year competition.

We also wish Mrs Thoppae well as she prepares to take up her new post at Wardle Academy. Although Mrs Thoppae has only been at WCHS for a year, she has made a big impact and has really inspired several students due to her kind, calm and nurturing teaching style.

Today, we say a huge thank you to Mr Lister for his 22 years of dedicated service to our school. Mr Lister is a true legend among both students and staff. While he is widely known for his quirky sense of humour, he is even better known for his unique ability to make maths lessons fun, engaging, and enjoyable. Having taught thousands of students during his time at WCHS, there is no doubt that every single one of them was incredibly lucky to have had him as a teacher. We wish Mr Lister the very best of health and happiness in his retirement, during which he can now drink Irn-Bru to his heart's content! Mr Lister, you will always be welcome back to visit us.



And finally…
That's all for this academic year. I look forward to seeing Year 11 students and their parents at 9:00am on Thursday 20th August for GCSE results. For everyone else, I look forward to welcoming you back on Wednesday 2nd September. Wishing you all a happy and safe summer break.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher