



Newsletter

Autumn Term 1
Friday 11th September 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2026/27 academic year. We've had a great start to the term, which began with the news that our class of 2026 achieved some brilliant GCSE results, which will enable them to go on to their preferred college, apprenticeship and employment routes. It goes without saying that I wish them all the very best as they progress with their studies and future careers.



It has been a pleasure to meet our new Year 7 cohort who have made excellent first impressions upon their teachers and teaching assistants. Equally, it has been great to welcome back our existing students as they progress through the year groups in school.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome some new members of staff. We have two new teachers joining our maths faculty, both of whom are familiar faces. Miss Lomax and Miss Grey both undertook teacher training placements at WCHS last year and I am delighted that their placements were so successful that they applied to join our team permanently as fully qualified teachers. We also welcome Miss Lawrence who will be working as a teaching assistant in our SEND department. Finally, I would like to welcome back Mrs Shepherd and Miss Badley who have returned to school following their respective maternity leaves.

The Three Rs



The term began with welcome assemblies for all year groups during which I launched the Three Rs: **Ready, Respectful, and Responsible**. Moving forward, these values will guide everything we do.

Calendar

**September
2026**

Thursday 17th
Year 6 Open Day
9.30am - 3.00pm

&

**Year 6 Open
Evening**
5.30pm until
7.45pm

Wednesday 30th
**Y11 Revision
Evening**
5.30pm - 6.30pm

**October
2026**

Wednesday 7th
**Year 7 Settling In
Evening**
5.30pm - 6.30pm

To help our students achieve their absolute best and match the incredible success of our outgoing Year 11s, I am asking everyone to be **ready** every single day. This means having the right kit, arriving on time, and bringing a positive attitude to lessons. I also emphasised that being **respectful** is just as important as getting top exam grades. I pride myself on our school being a community where kindness, courtesy, and dignity come first. Lastly, I am encouraging everyone to be **responsible** for their own actions. By doing the small things right, like keeping our site tidy and behaving impeccably both in school and out in the community, I know we can make our school an even better place to learn and grow.

Teaching and Learning Assemblies

Following on from my assemblies, Mrs Haworth also spoke to the students about classroom expectations and learning routines. During her assemblies, she emphasised the need for students to have the correct equipment, including their 'ready to learn' packs. She also reiterated the school expectations regarding home learning, resilience and aspirations. Ultimately, students were reminded of all the things that they need to do in school and at home so that they can 'climb higher' with their learning journey.

Safety in School

As we launched into the first week of the new school term, ensuring the safety and well-being of our school community was a top priority. To ensure our high standards are maintained from day one, all members of staff completed comprehensive, up-to-date safeguarding training alongside targeted training on safer working practices and the government's Prevent duty to protect our young people from harm. Alongside preparing our staff, we also focused on practical safety measures for our students; our new Year 7 cohort successfully completed their first fire drill practice, helping them familiarise themselves with our evacuation procedures and ensuring they feel confident and secure in their new environment.

Year 11 Parents - Post-16 Options

If your child is now in Year 11, please check your Edulink messages for the brilliant resources Miss Grenaghan sent out on the 3rd September. This included a fantastic guide on post-16 options with general advice on how you can best support your child as they make decisions about their next steps. The message included a comprehensive list of college and sixth form open events taking place throughout September, October and November. We strongly recommend you attend as many as possible to help your child make an informed choice. There was also a link to a Padlet which contains all the information you and your child will need this year. Year 11 will be having one-to-one advice sessions with Miss Grenaghan this term, so please chat to your child about their plans to help them prepare: they will complete a questionnaire in school next week, which will be used as a basis for this advice session. And finally, if you have any questions, Miss Grenaghan is here to help so please get in touch with her via edulink. Information for parents of students in Years 7 - 10 will follow very soon.

Some Very Special Guests

Last week, I had the privilege to take some very special guests on a tour of our new(ish) school building. Mr and Mrs Hobson were part of our school community for a very long time and they were both instrumental to the early success of Whitworth Community High School. Mr Hobson was the original PE teacher when our school first opened and he was the first person to introduce O Level PE to our curriculum. Mrs Hobson gave 31 Years of dedicated service to our school as a member of the office team. Prior to her retirement, she held the very important position of school bursar. During their tour, Mr and Mrs Hobson were highly impressed with our excellent facilities but more importantly, they were blown away by the excellent behaviour and attitude to learning of our brilliant students.



Week 2

No time has been wasted at all in the first fortnight. Clubs have re-started, including the wind band, rock band, Spanish club, drama rehearsals and sports practices. It has been brilliant to see so many students getting involved, learning new skills, making new friends and most importantly, developing a sense of belonging in school. In addition to this, we have already begun some of the cognitive ability tests (CATs) with our new Year 7s. Furthermore, the Year 7s have had their professional photographs taken and the Year 11s have had their pictures renewed wearing their smart grey blazers. We are now busily preparing for the open day and evening which is due to take place on Thursday 17th September. Please could I take this opportunity to remind parents that there will not be an INSET day on Friday 18th September. School will be open as usual.

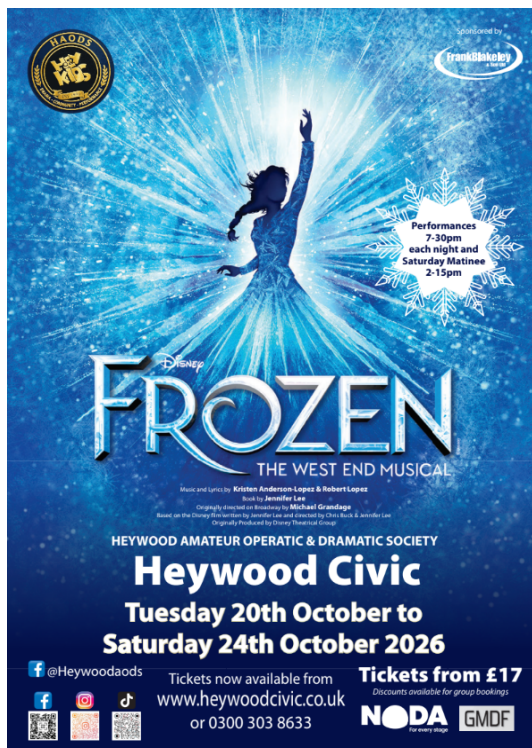
High School Musical at The Lowry

The Creativity faculty wasted no time at all by running a departmental trip in the second week of term to watch High School Musical at the Lowry theatre in Salford on Wednesday evening. I've been told that it was a really high quality performance of a very popular show but that Jason Donovan's dancing didn't quite hit the mark. Thanks again to Mrs Coleman (formerly White) for organising this trip for the students. This is a perfect opportunity to congratulate Mrs Coleman and her new husband, who were married in Las Vegas during the summer holidays.



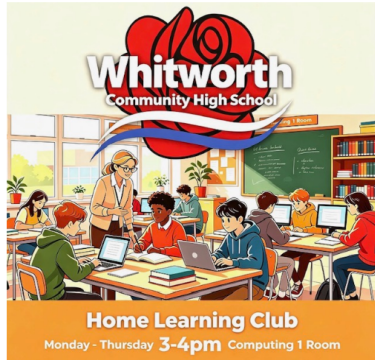
Student Involvement in Local Production

I've been informed that several of our current and former students are involved in a Heywood Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society performance of Frozen which will be taking place at the Heywood Civic in October. I have put a copy of the poster here which contains ticketing information. Wishing the very best of luck to all WCHS students and alumni who are involved with this production.



Home Learning Support

I am aware that many children struggle to complete their home learning at home. This could be for a variety of reasons including not having a suitable space to work, not having computer access, or simply because they simply like to try to separate their school and home lives. One of the ways in which we try to help students in these situations is to provide a supervised home learning club which is free of charge for all students. The home learning club runs from 3pm to 4pm Monday to Thursday and is based in the Computing classroom. Please encourage your child to attend this provision if you think it might help them to develop good home learning habits.



Governor Thanks

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Danny O'Mally for his incredible 20 years of dedicated service as a school governor. The role of a school governor is vitally important to the success and direction of our school, yet it is a commitment that often goes unseen behind the scenes. It is a responsibility taken on entirely by kind, community-minded volunteers who generously give up their own time to support our staff, students, and wider school family. Danny's unwavering dedication, wisdom, and support over the past 20 years have left a lasting impact on our community, and we wish him all the very best for the future.

Budding musicians

It is always a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of our students within the wider community. Last weekend, four of our students, Joe, Dexter, Thomas, and Logan, achieved notable success performing at the Party on the Pitch event hosted by Whitworth Valley FC. Performing under their band name, Pickeater, the students delivered an excellent set to the local crowd. The school extends its warmest congratulations to the band members on a successful performance and looks forward to supporting their future musical endeavours.



And finally...

To finish this newsletter, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our parents and carers who have been so supportive of school standards in the first two weeks of term. You have backed up our high behaviour standards and have supported us by ensuring that your children have been dressed in the correct school uniform and provided with all the required equipment. I wish you all a good weekend.

Best wishes

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

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

Extra-Curricular- Autumn Term 1



Physical Education Only

AFTER SCHOOL 3pm- 4pm	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SPORTS HALL	BADMINTON Yr 7-8 Mrs Belham	BADMINTON Yr 9-11 Mrs Belham	GCSE TABLE TENNIS BADMINTON GCSE Only Mr Malik		STAFF VS STUDENTS Yr 11 Only Mr Cawley Mr Khan
FIELD	Yr 9-10 BOYS FOOTBALL MATCH PRACTICE Mr Malik Mr Cawley	Yr 7 BOYS FOOTBALL PRACTICE Mr Cawley Mr Malik		GIRLS FOOTBALL Yr 7-9 Mr Cawley Yr 8 BOYS FOOTBALL PRACTICE Mr Malik	
NETBALL COURTS	NETBALL Yr 7-8 Miss Mcvarish	NETBALL Yr 9-11 Miss Mcvarish			

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

Creativity



Extra-Curricular Autumn Term

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Before school				Wind Band and Beginner Band - Hall / Music Room 8:30am	Flute Group - Keyboard Room
Break-time	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room	Keyboard Club - Music Room
Lunch-time		Blooket/Duolingo Club - Y8 OB		Ukulele Club - Y7 / Y8/10 - Music Room	Blooket/Duolingo Club - Y7/9 Computing 0
After-school (3pm-4pm)	Back to the 80's rehearsals -Drama studio & Hall	Vocal Group - Music Room Back to the 80's rehearsals -Drama studio & Hall KS4 Art Club - Art Studio Spanish Club - OB		KS3 Art Club (starting Autumn 2) Back to the 80's rehearsals -Drama studio & Hall	Rock Bands - Guitar Room Back to the 80's rehearsals -Drama studio & Hall

**Y11s - Please check the intervention timetable for your intervention sessions.
Music Practice Rooms are available to book at break-time / lunch-time and after school - please see Mrs Goff**