



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
Friday 25th September 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Anti-Bullying Assemblies

Last week, Mr Kewin hosted a series of vital anti-bullying assemblies, reinforcing our school's unwavering commitment to a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everyone. He spoke passionately about our strict zero-tolerance approach to bullying of all kinds, with a particular emphasis on challenging racism, sexual harassment, and homophobia. Students were reminded that they have a collective duty to act as 'upstanders rather than bystanders', and must report any bullying behaviour they witness within our school community through the Speak-Up app. The assemblies clearly outlined the serious sanctions that will be enforced for bullying, while also refocusing everyone on our golden rule: that we should always treat others exactly as we would like to be treated ourselves.

Open Day and Evening

On Thursday 17th September, we hosted a highly successful Open Day and Evening, showcasing the very best of our school community to prospective families. During the day, we welcomed visiting Year 6 students for an exciting taster day of lessons, where they were brilliantly supported and guided by our wonderful prefects. The activity continued into the evening as the children returned with their parents to listen to a series of addresses from myself, our head students, and some of our brave new Year 7 students, before embarking on a tour of our facilities. I am really pleased to report that the feedback forms completed by our visitors were overwhelmingly positive, reflecting the warm and inspiring atmosphere of the event. An evening of this scale relies entirely on the dedication of our community, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to our transition leader, Mrs Cawley, our staff for working such a long day, as well as to the phenomenal group of over 150 student volunteers who gave up their time to represent our school with such pride.

Cambridge University Visit

After a disappointing postponement due to June's extreme heatwave, seven of our most academically able Year 10 students finally made a trip to the University of Cambridge last week. Thankfully, the weather was much more cooperative this time around. The bespoke visit gave our students a genuine taste of life at one of the world's most prestigious academic institutions. From exploring the historic campus to taking part in a lecture and tutorial, it was an incredible opportunity. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to raising aspirations and encouraging students to 'climb higher'. I am incredibly proud of how well our Year 10s represented the school, and grateful to Miss Robinson for accompanying them.



Calendar

**September
2026**

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

**October
2026**

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

20th - 22nd
Autumn Show
7.00pm

**November
2026**

Wednesday 11th
**GCSE
Presentation
Evening - Ashcroft**
6.30pm

Contacting School

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed that some parents and carers have been unsure about exactly who to contact at school for different situations. This uncertainty has led to some families sending the same message to every available contact on their EduLink One account, which unfortunately creates a duplication of work as multiple members of staff look into and respond to the exact same message. To help streamline this process, the Parent/Carer Handbook has been updated to include a comprehensive guide detailing exactly who to contact for specific queries or situations. These updated handbooks will be sent home with children next week, and a digital copy will also be published on the school website for quick and easy reference. We kindly ask that you review this guide so we can ensure your queries are directed to the right person and resolved as efficiently as possible.

Facilities Update

If you have visited the school recently, you will have noticed that the overflow car park has been cordoned off and that there is currently a lot of activity from contractors on site. Work is finally underway to lay a high-quality, safe playing surface, which will provide our students with a much-needed extra sports field. While the groundwork should be completed within the next few weeks, it will frustratingly take approximately 12 months for the grass to fully establish before the field is operational and ready for student use. This issue has been an ongoing challenge for the school ever since the building was handed over by Wates back in 2023. Whilst I am relieved that the field is eventually being sorted out, I share the community's frustration that it has taken so long. I am even more disappointed that Sport England blocked our plans for an AstroTurf pitch, which would have been a truly fantastic resource for both our students and the wider local community.



Careers Fair Help Required

On Thursday 15th October, we will be hosting our annual Careers Fair, and we are reaching out to our parent and carer community to help make the event a success. We rely on your diverse expertise to inspire our students, and we are looking for volunteers to come into school and spend the day speaking with them about your respective industries, roles, and career pathways. We typically host between 30 and 50 exhibitors on the day, but this invaluable experience is only possible with your vital support and participation. Whether you are a business owner, an employee, or a freelancer across any sector, please consider giving up your time to represent your profession and help shape the futures of our young people. If you can offer any time on this date, please let us know: l.grenaghan@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk

School Council Elections

We officially changed our School Council constitution to make it fairer and more representative, replacing the old system where members kept their seats forever with new annual elections. To qualify for this ambassador role, applicants had to meet strict standards from the previous academic year, including over 150 achievement points, fewer than 15 behaviour points, and over 90% attendance. The only exception was made for our Year 11s, who automatically kept their places to ensure vital leadership continuity during their final exam year.

Because we received an overwhelming amount of interest that exceeded four applicants per year group, we held a school-wide vote on Thursday. This election served as a fantastic way to celebrate and practise democracy as one of our core British values, giving students the power to choose their own representatives. A massive well done went to every single student who put themselves forward, and special congratulations went to the successful candidates who were selected to represent their year groups.

College Open Days/Evenings

It is that time of year when our Year 11 students begin looking ahead to their post-16 education and next steps. To support families with this transition, I have listed several upcoming open events below. We hope that exploring these exciting opportunities for further education, training, and employment will inspire and motivate students as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE exams.

Bury Grammar School (Independent fee paying)	26 th September 2026	10am -2pm
Nelson and Colne College	26 th September 2026	10am - 2pm
Oldham Sixth Form College	26 th September 2026	10am – 2pm
Accrington and Rossendale College	1 st October 2026	5.30pm – 7.30pm
Bury College	3 rd October 2026	10.30am – 1.30pm
Holy Cross Sixth Form College	3 rd October 2026	10am – 1pm
Myerscough College	3 rd October 2026	10am – 1pm
Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School	11 th November 2026	6pm – 8pm

MIDDLETON



ROCHDALE

OPEN DAYS AT HOPWOOD HALL COLLEGE

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER
10am - 1pm

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER
4:30pm - 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
4:30pm - 6:30pm

SCHOOL LEAVERS | ADULT LEARNING | APPRENTICESHIPS | ACCESS TO HE | HIGHER EDUCATION

Friday's



OPEN EVENTS

BOOK ONLINE
WWW.ROCHDALESFC.AC.UK

OPEN DAY
Saturday 17 October
10am-2pm* *Last entry 1.30pm

OPEN EVENING
Thursday 19 November
4pm-7pm* *Last entry 6.30pm

Sport Fixture Update

Our Year 8 boys' football team took part in the first competitive sports fixture of the new academic year. What an amazing start it was! Our boys won the fixture against Alder Grange convincingly after scoring seven goals and conceding only one. What a great start. Well done to all the team.



Politics Society

I am really pleased to inform parents and carers about the latest addition to our extra curricular programme. Mr Khan has recently launched what we believe might be the first ever WCHS Politics Society. The aim is to engage in debate about current issues and to encourage them to engage positively with our democratic systems. Two of our students have taken the decision to write to our new Prime Minister to inform him about the launch of the society. Let's hope they get a prompt response.

Allergy Safety

Student safety remains one of our top priorities, and we have recently been working hard to ensure our school is fully aligned with the latest allergy awareness standards and legal requirements. In light of the critical changes brought in by Natasha's Law and the new statutory guidance known as Benedict's Law, we have updated our protocols to ensure the highest level of protection for children with serious allergies. To support this, Mr Crook has delivered comprehensive, face-to-face training for all members of staff, which has been further reinforced by the whole team completing the online Lancashire allergy training modules. This vital training ensures that everyone in our school community is fully equipped to recognise symptoms, mitigate risks, and respond swiftly and confidently in an emergency. Thanks also to Mrs Jones who has launched a poster campaign in school so that we all know what to do in an emergency.



ALLERGY SAFETY IN SCHOOL
Keeping everyone safe

Schools have a statutory duty to follow the Department for Education (DfE) guidance on allergy safety and to have appropriate arrangements in place to support pupils with allergies.

OUR SCHOOL WILL:

- Have an Allergy Safety Policy**
We will have a clear policy setting out how we manage and reduce allergy-related risks within school.
- Have an Allergy Safety Lead**
A senior member of staff will oversee allergy safety across school and ensure appropriate procedures are followed.
- Ensure staff are trained**
Staff will receive appropriate allergy awareness and emergency response training so they know how to recognise and respond to an allergic reaction.
- Provide Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)**
Pupils who require individual support to manage their allergy will have an appropriate Individual Healthcare Plan in place.
- Ensure emergency medication is accessible**
Where required, spare, in-date adrenaline auto-injectors and inhalers will be readily accessible and available for use in an emergency.
- Learn from incidents and near misses**
Serious allergic reactions and near misses will be recorded and reviewed so that we can learn from them and improve our safety arrangements.

WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY
If you think someone is having an allergic reaction:

DO NOT IGNORE IT.

- 1** Tell a member of staff immediately.
- 2** Stay with the person and keep them safe.
- 3** Staff will follow the pupil's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) and emergency procedures.
- 4** Emergency medication will be used where appropriate.
- 5** Emergency services will be contacted when required.

REMEMBER: ALLERGIES CAN BE LIFE-THREATENING.
Taking allergies seriously, knowing the signs and acting quickly can help keep our school community safe.

Further information | The DfE's statutory guidance and resources for schools are available here: [Allergy Safety in Schools - GOV.UK](#)

Student Success

Congratulations to Josh S for an outstanding performance in the Oldham Cup final on Tuesday 15th September. Josh, who has played for Saddleworth Rangers for eight years and regularly plays a whole year above his age group, helped the Under 12s Raptors secure a fantastic 16-4 victory over Rochdale Mayfield to lift the trophy. Showing incredible grit and determination, Josh put in some amazing tackles to stop the opponents from scoring, alongside delivering some great kicking, including a tricky conversion that ultimately secured the game.



Not to be outdone, Year 7 student Sienna B put in a fantastic performance in the Bury Junior 2.5k run on Sunday 20th September. Competing in a field of around 250 children aged 9–14, Sienna crossed the finish line in an impressive 12 minutes and 8 seconds, placing 16th overall and an incredible 5th amongst the girls. Alongside her racing success, Sienna has been a dedicated fundraiser, taking part in the Pretty Muddy races every year since 2023 to raise over £500 for Cancer Research UK. Now aged 11, she is already training hard for the Heaton Park 5k this October to raise vital funds for Alzheimer's charities.



Best wishes

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

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher