



Newsletter

Autumn Term 2
Friday 9th October 2026

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Dear parents and carers,

Inclusion Audit

The fortnight began with an Inclusion Audit conducted by the education team from the Local Authority. A team of five auditors spent the day at Whitworth Community High School to assess the strategies and provisions in place to support students with special needs, disabilities, looked after children, those from low income backgrounds and any other children identified as being vulnerable. The audit was a resounding success; it was great to have the opportunity to have our practices reviewed and to be given some ideas regarding how we can make our provision even better in the future. The lead auditor said "it was an absolute pleasure to be in your wonderful school".

Year 11 Revision Evening

Thank you so much to all of the parents and carers who attended the GCSE Revision Evening with your children last week. I was really pleased to see such a high turnout, which demonstrates the collective ambition that we all have to help our young people succeed in their final academic year at high school. I have reviewed the feedback from the evening, and it is clear that the vast majority of parents and carers found the event to be of great use. Some parents requested copies of the Google Slides presentations, which I have added to the revision section of the school website. To find these resources, please go to www.wchs.co, click on Students, then Revision Material, and select Year 11.

Launch of The Year 11 Study Lounge

During the Year 11 Revision Evening, Mrs Haworth officially launched our brand new study lounge. Traditionally, we have offered a very structured intervention timetable where students are allocated to specific subject areas after school to continue to build knowledge, skills and to revise. This year, we have made some changes. The new offer has been carefully designed to bridge the gap between gaining subject knowledge and/or skills and then applying them to the actual exams.

The Study Lounge will be open every Tuesday and Thursday between 3pm and 4pm. A number of rooms on the first floor have been especially allocated for quiet study and some 1-2-1 mentoring for those pupils who need that extra guidance about how to plan their revision. The sessions are focused more on revision rather than reteaching of subject content.

Every student who attends the study lounge will get a brew or hot chocolate and biscuits and a reward stamp each time they attend. There are also prizes for those who attend a full study session.

Visit by Local MP, Andy McNae

Also last week, we were pleased to receive a visit from our local Member of Parliament, Andy McNae. This is the second time Andy has visited our school and it was my pleasure to introduce him to our newly formed Politics Society and recently elected School Council. During his visit, Andy McNae presented our new School Council members with their badges to proudly wear on the lapels of their blazers. He also took part in a debate hosted by Molly B from the Politics Society regarding the safe, effective and environmentally friendly use of Artificial Intelligence in schools. Before he left, Isabelle B and Anastasia M presented Andy with a letter inviting our new Prime Minister, Andy Burnham, to visit our school.

Calendar

**October
2026**

20th-22nd
Autumn Show

Friday 23rd
After school closure
- half term

**November
2026**

Monday 2nd
Y11 Mock Exams
commence

Wednesday 11th
GCSE Awards
Evening at the
Ashcroft

**December
2026**

Wednesday 2nd
Y11 Parents'
Evening & Y11
Term 1 Reports
home



Get Singing Event

On Friday 25th September Mrs Goff took a group of 30 of our students to a BBC 'Get Singing' event at Media City. It was a fantastic event, in which students learnt vocal warm up techniques and learnt to sing two new songs alongside 300 students from other North-West schools. The students were led by the leader of the Halle Youth Choir and professional singers from the BBC Singers. Grammy-winning artist, composer, and producer Jacob Collier serves as the official ambassador and advocate of the scheme, which aims to inspire group singing, build teenage confidence, support mental wellbeing, and boost participation both inside and outside the classroom. It was an amazing experience for the students and their conduct was exemplary, as always.



Whole-School Virtual Careers Assembly

I mentioned in my previous newsletter that preparations are underway for our annual Careers Fair which is due to take place on October 15th. I also appealed for parent volunteers who might consider giving some of their time to speak to our students about their careers. Any further offers of support would be greatly appreciated. Please get in touch with l.grenaghan@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk if you can help.

Whilst the staff have been busily trying to muster up support from the community, the students have been doing their own preparations for the event. The preparations began with a virtual whole school assembly during which the students were encouraged to plan ahead for the event rather than just turning up without a plan. The idea behind encouraging students to plan ahead will hopefully enable the students to have a more useful and meaningful experience when the day of the Careers Fair arrives.

Rewards

Regular readers of my newsletter will know that I place a great emphasis on giving regular rewards for the students for their efforts and achievements in school. Every Friday afternoon, I go into every classroom in the school to distribute chocolates to the students in each year group who have earned the most achievement points. Already this year, several students have been presented with their first 'reach for the stars' postcards. Further to this, we have now had three Headteacher Hot Chocolate Fridays. We have focussed so far on the students in years 9, 10 and 11 who have been nominated by their teachers as having made a particularly impressive start to the academic year. Students were rewarded based on either their positive attitude to learning.



Year 7 Settling In Evening

Just one week after welcoming our oldest students and their families, it was the turn of our youngest learners to shine. Building a strong partnership between home and school is incredibly important to us, and our annual Year 7 Settling In Evening provided the perfect opportunity to begin the partnership.

The evening was a success, allowing parents and carers to catch up informally with form tutors and members of the Senior Leadership Team. More importantly, it gave our new Year 7s a proud moment to introduce their new school friends to their own parents/carers. We also took the time to celebrate the achievements of our newest year group, handing out certificates and prizes for their efforts and efforts since joining us.

Our Year 7 students have made a truly brilliant first impression. We are incredibly proud of how quickly and confidently they have settled into life at Whitworth Community High School, and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead together.

Spotlight on the Spanish Department

It has been a fantastic start to the year in the Languages Department, with our students getting involved in competitions, clubs, cultural celebrations and plenty of speaking activities!

European Day of Languages

On Friday 26th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages with a day full of fun, languages and European culture. Our day began with a surprise as Amy, our tannoy system, invited some of her European friends to make our school announcements. Students had to listen carefully and identify the different languages they could hear. Congratulations to Chris M in Year 10, who identified the most languages correctly!

Students also took part in a European Day of Languages Form Quiz, testing their knowledge of languages, Europe and the countries where different languages are spoken. Forms battled it out over questions ranging from identifying languages and flags to discovering interesting facts about the many languages spoken across Europe.

At break time, our language teachers were inundated with students wanting to "Chat for a Chocolate". Students shared words and phrases from different languages and enjoyed discovering just how many languages are spoken across Europe and beyond.

Build a European Landmark Competition

We were also amazed by the creativity shown in our Build a European Landmark Competition. Students produced some fantastic models and designs, combining their artistic skills with their knowledge of European culture. ¡Enhorabuena to all our winners!

1st – Leo W: Leaning Tower of Pisa, a castle and Stonehenge

2nd – Tyler D: The London Eye

3rd – Lillie-Mai D: Tower Bridge

Our Group Entry winners were Georgia M and Madison M with their impressive design of The Louvre.

We also awarded a special Cultural Champion Award to recognise a student who had gone above and beyond in exploring the cultural background of their chosen landmark. Congratulations to Lucia Clarke, whose beautiful Čičmany House design was accompanied by lots of fascinating cultural information.

A special mention must also go to Mrs Coleman's 7O and Mrs Murray's 10U, who entered the competition as whole forms!



Spanish Club: ¡Bienvenidos!

Our extracurricular language clubs have also started the year with a bang!

Our lunchtime Blooket Clubs have been particularly popular, with students returning week after week for some very competitive vocabulary challenges. It is fantastic to see students choosing to practise their language skills in their free time — and we can already see this enthusiasm paying off in the classroom!

Our Tuesday evening Spanish Club has also welcomed lots of enthusiastic students. We have been building confidence through fun speaking games based around likes and dislikes, and have now started a cultural project exploring the Mexican festival of Día de los Muertos.

Students are creating an “ofrenda” for our Spanish classroom and are learning about the traditions and cultural significance behind this colourful celebration.



Speaking Spanish with confidence

Across KS3, students have been developing their speaking skills through a variety of games, challenges and interactive activities.

- Year 7 are learning to introduce themselves and describe their personalities.
- Year 8 are talking about their families and describing people.
- Year 9 are discussing what they like to do on their phones, the music they enjoy and their favourite TV programmes.

From competitive Blooket battles to speaking games, cultural projects and European celebrations, there is plenty happening in Languages at WCHS! It has been wonderful to see our students becoming more confident, enthusiastic and willing to have a go in their language lessons. ¡Bien hecho, WCHS!

Sports update

Our year 7 boys footballers got the chance to take part in their first competitive fixture last week. Despite losing to Alder Grange by 4 goals to 1, it was a great fixture which allowed our new year 7 cohort to show off their sporting abilities. Sadly, our year 9s suffered exactly the same fate, also losing by 4 goals to 1 to Alder Grange. Mr Cawley was insistent that interventions from the wind were contributing factors that led to a flattering scoreline for our opponents.

The year 7 boys team competed in their second fixture in the space of a week. Sadly, they were beaten again. Mr Cawley took full responsibility for the defeat after rotating the squad too often. However, the rotation did mean that 22 students had the opportunity to represent school and enjoy taking part in a competitive sporting fixture.

On a brighter note, our year 11 boys had a really positive start to the season. After going a goal down away to Haslingden, they showed determination and resilience to win by 3 goals to 1. Mr Cawley was really impressed with the positive attitude of the team and the sportsmanship displayed.



Student Success

Whilst the boys have made a good start to the football season, one of our girls has been busy too. I'm not surprised to report that Anastasia (Annie) K has been selected to represent Burnley Under-16s. This is very well deserved as she has worked really hard on developing her footballing skills from a very young age.



Parent Governor Applications

We currently have a vacancy for one parent governor and are seeking nominations from enthusiastic and committed parents to join the Governing Board. The deadline for nominations is 9am on 21st October 2026. If there are more nominations than vacancies an election will be held with a closing date of 20th November 2026. For further information and the nomination form please visit the Governor page on our school website.

School Production - Back To The 80s

The excitement is growing in school about our forthcoming production of the musical Back To The 80s. Students have been busily rehearsing and preparing props and costumes for what I'm sure will be another brilliant school show. Show dates are: Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd October (7pm start). Tickets can be purchased from: <https://stagestubs.com/whitworth-community-high-school/back-to-the-80s>



Alumni News

It is always great to hear about former students who have gone on to be successful beyond their days in school. On the 25th September, Amber J (pictured in the centre) received her Bsc in Indie Games and Development. Her older sister, Summer (pictured on the left) received her degree on exactly the same date a year earlier in 2025. Their younger sister Teagan (pictured on the right) now has a lot to live up to, but I have no doubt she will do just as well after securing an excellent suite of GCSEs this summer! Congratulations to you all.



We love hearing about the achievements of our former students, especially when they have graduated from their apprenticeships or further education courses. So, please get in touch with the school if you are aware of any alumni successes so that we can celebrate them here in our newsletter.

Best wishes

Mr A Oliver
Headteacher