Newsletter

Autumn Term 1
Friday 23rd October 2026

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www.wchs.co

Dear parents and carers,

We've eventually made it to the end of a very long but highly successful half term. Here's a summary of all that has been going on at school during the last fortnight.

Careers Fair

Our annual careers event was a resounding success, filled with vibrant discussions that will help shape our students' future pathways. Our guest exhibitors and visitors consistently commented on the fantastic questions, high levels of engagement, and exemplary behaviour shown by students in all year groups. This outstanding showcase of our school values is a direct result of the thorough preparation, encouragement, and high expectations set by both our dedicated staff and families at home.





Events of this scale require a massive team effort and create quite a bit of disruption to the usual school day. I want to extend a huge thank you to our wonderful staff for their hard work behind the scenes, especially the form tutors who have been preparing our students for this day so that they can glean as much as possible from the opportunity. Thanks also to Miss Grenaghan who works so hard to create meaningful careers opportunities for our students.











Calendar

November 2026

Monday 2nd
School re-opens

Y11 Mocks - 2 weeks

Wednesday 11th
GCSE Presentation Evening - The Ashcroft

December 2026

Wednesday 2nd
Y11 Parents Evening

Wednesday 9th
Y7 Panto Trip

Wednesday 16th
Christmas Hat/ Jumper Day

Y8 Masterclass

A group of our Year 8 Academically Gifted & Talented (AGT) students embarked on an exciting journey last week! On Thursday 15th October, a small group of students attended the launch of this year's prestigious AGT Masterclass Programme at the recently restored Rochdale Town Hall. The inaugural session focused on English Literature, challenging our students to engage with advanced texts and develop high-level critical thinking skills. This session marks the beginning of a year-long initiative designed to stretch and inspire our students.

Moving forward, the cohort will attend monthly masterclasses spanning a diverse range of academic disciplines. The programme will culminate in June with a brilliant opportunity: an academic visit to the University of Oxford, where students will experience life at a world-class university firsthand.

Year 11 Study Lounge - Up and Running

Our brand new Study Lounge is officially up and running, and the response from our Year 11 students has been fantastic! I am thrilled to report an average attendance of 45 students per evening across our Tuesday and Thursday sessions. It is wonderful to see so many pupils taking control of their exam preparation, utilising the quiet study spaces on the first floor, and engaging with our 1-2-1 mentoring team to sharpen their revision plans. Of course, the free hot chocolates, brews, biscuits, and reward stamps have also been a massive hit. A huge well done to all the students who have attended so far. Let's keep this incredible momentum going as we head further into the term.

Reminder: The Study Lounge is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm to 4pm. We look forward to seeing as many Year 11s as possible there next week. If parents require any further information, please get in touch with Mrs Haworth (Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning) in school.







Hallé Orchestra Trip

On Friday 16th October, Mrs Goff led a student trip to Manchester's Bridgewater Hall for a special concert by the Hallé Orchestra. Designed by the Hallé education team, the performance helped GCSE and A-level students prepare for their upcoming listening and appraising exams. Students journeyed through the musical ages—from the Baroque works of Corelli and Bach and the Classical eras of Haydn and Mozart, to the modern 20th-century scores of Herrmann and Zimmer. The afternoon perfectly blended education with entertainment.





Cadets Remembrance Service at Rochdale Town Hall

Also on Friday 16th October, I was really pleased to hear that several Whitworth Community High School students represented the Cadets in the Rochdale Festival of Remembrance at the Town Hall. The event included military band music, acts of remembrance, a minute of silence and historical reflections on Rochdale's wartime efforts. Miss Davies happened to be in attendance at the event and was really proud to see our students in their smart military uniforms behaving respectfully and getting involved in such a positive community event.



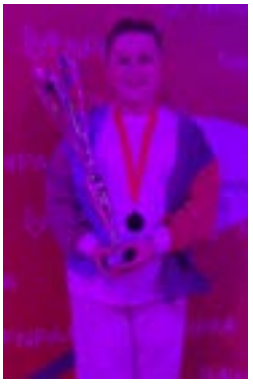


NPAA Success

I am really pleased to celebrate the recent achievement of Louisa C and Henry H, Logan L and Lacey L who recently competed at the National Performing Arts Alliance (NPAA) Gala in Oldham. This competition is strictly by invitation only, making selection to perform a particularly impressive honour in itself. Louisa performed a monologue in the competitive acting section, whilst Henry performed one of the pieces from his recent singing examination. Louisa and Henry both delivered outstanding performances that impressed the judges and secured first place for them both in their respective categories. Leo P and Logan L competed in one of the singing categories and came joint second. Last but not least, Logan's younger sister Lacy took part in the acting section; she also achieved a second place finish. What a great night for Whitworth Community High School.





Representing The Region

Yet more student success to celebrate. This time it is the turn of Harrison W in Year 11. Recently, Harrison has been attending North West Region Amateur Boxing Association training days. At the most recent training days, the selection coaches have been in attendance. They were particularly impressed with Harrison's abilities. As such, he was invited to represent the North West Region in a fixture against the Isle of Man. After a late Friday night ferry, an early morning weigh-in and a competitive bout, Harrison achieved a unanimous win. What an achievement for a young man who always behaves as a role model for other boys in school.

Parent Pay Reminder

The finance team have asked me to remind parents and carers that goods and services (including uniform, revision guides, music lessons etc.) can only be released once payment has fully cleared. When using the 'One-Click Payment' option, transactions take several days to clear and frequently fail if funds are unavailable at settlement. To avoid delays or failed orders, please select the 'Pay by Card' option at checkout, which clears instantly. If you need any help with Parent Pay, please contact a member of the office team. office@whitworth.lancs.sch.uk

Sports Update

Our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team secured their first win with a 4–2 victory against All Saints in a friendly fixture on Thursday 8th October. Despite a delayed kick-off due to temporary traffic lights between the two schools, our girls showed enthusiasm, with several girls proudly making their debut for the school.

Our Year 9 boys' football team also clinched a thrilling 4–3 win against All Saints on Thursday 15th October in a true game of two halves. The boys put on an amazing performance in the first half to storm into a commanding 3–0 lead by half-time. All Saints fought back fiercely after the break to level the scores at 3–3, but a dramatic late goal from Wade H sealed a win for our team.

Sadly, our Year 10 boys couldn't emulate the success of the Year 9s in the league this week. However, they were only narrowly beaten 3-2 away at Haslingden. Despite the loss, an off-the-cuff comment from one of our most experienced local referees really lifted everyone's spirits. He noted that having officiated ten Whitworth games over the last two years, every single age group works tirelessly, presses the ball fiercely, and plays excellent football the moment they win it back.

The last game to report on is the year 8 B team away fixture which took place yesterday evening. All Saints were short of two players, so we had to send Oskar M and Alfie T out on loan. Sadly, these two boys had the best game of their lives and contributed really well, meaning that we lost this fixture by 3 goals to 2. A big shout out must go to Olivia T who refereed the fixture; this was the first full match that she has officiated.





PE Hall of Fame

Regular visitors to our PE department will notice that our high-level sports display has been freshly updated! We proudly showcase photos of students who compete at a county level or equivalent in their chosen sports. Mr Cawley has recently refreshed the display with pictures of our current crop of talented athletes, celebrating their hard work and achievements. New to the wall are:

- Lottie H - Horse Riding Supreme Champion
- Leo F - Lancashire Inter League Cricketer
- Holly W - World Muay Thai Champion
- Ellie C - Great British Ski Champion
- Harvey W - 65cc British Motocross Champion
- Freddie F - British & World Muay Thai Boxing Champion
- Ellie F - North West & European Dance Champion
- Lillie T - World Dance Champion
- Leo P - European Dance Champion






Back To The 80s

What better way to end the half-term than with our annual school production? As always, it was an absolute treat, especially for those of my generation who thoroughly enjoyed the nostalgic journey down memory lane. The students and staff have worked incredibly hard to put this show together. Despite some tired faces, it was clear to see they had a fantastic time collaborating, building lasting friendships and a wonderful sense of camaraderie along the way.

I had the privilege of watching the final performance on Thursday evening, and it was an absolute joy to witness. A huge thank you to Mrs Coleman, Mrs Goff, and all the staff who supported the students in bringing this production to life. I know these students have made memories that will last a lifetime.













Frozen

Sticking with the performing arts theme, I would also like to take the opportunity to mention two current students who have had success on the stage this week. Madison D and Victoria E were not able to take part in Back To The 80s as it clashed with the HeyKids performance of Frozen which is taking place at the Middleton Arena this week. They are pictured here, alongside former WCHS head girl, Charlotte E, in their costumes ready to perform.



And finally…

While this half term's official efforts are now complete, the hard work continues for many Year 11 students as they busily prepare for their upcoming mock exams. They have the school's full support and best wishes with their personal studies over the break.

I wish a safe and happy trip for the students and staff embarking on their journey to Paris this Sunday. Finally, may the entire school community enjoy a relaxing and restful break. It will be a pleasure to welcome everyone back when school reopens on Monday 2nd November.

Best wishes



Mr A Oliver
Headteacher

Creative Futures

A creative skills programme for young people in Rossendale to explore new ideas, build practical skills and discover where their creativity could take them.

'Creative Futures' are offering a series of workshops on Saturdays in November.

If you are interested, please visit the website below to find out more information and book yourself a place!

https://investinrossendale.com/creative-futures/

Creative Futures



01

PAPER PUPPETRY & CARDBOARD CREATIONS

Sunday 1 November · 10am–4pm

Join puppeteer Thomas Byrne for a day-long introduction to the wonderfully weird world of puppetry.

Learn the core principles of puppetry movement, manipulation and direction, before creating your own cardboard puppet using simple, accessible materials such as newspaper and brown paper.

Then let your creativity run wild and bring your bizarre cardboard creations to life!

Where
Horse and Bamboo, 679 Bacup Rd, Waterfoot, Rossendale, BB4 7HB

Creative Futures

02

PRINTING: MARKS, SHAPES & TEXTURES

Saturday 14 November · 10am–3pm

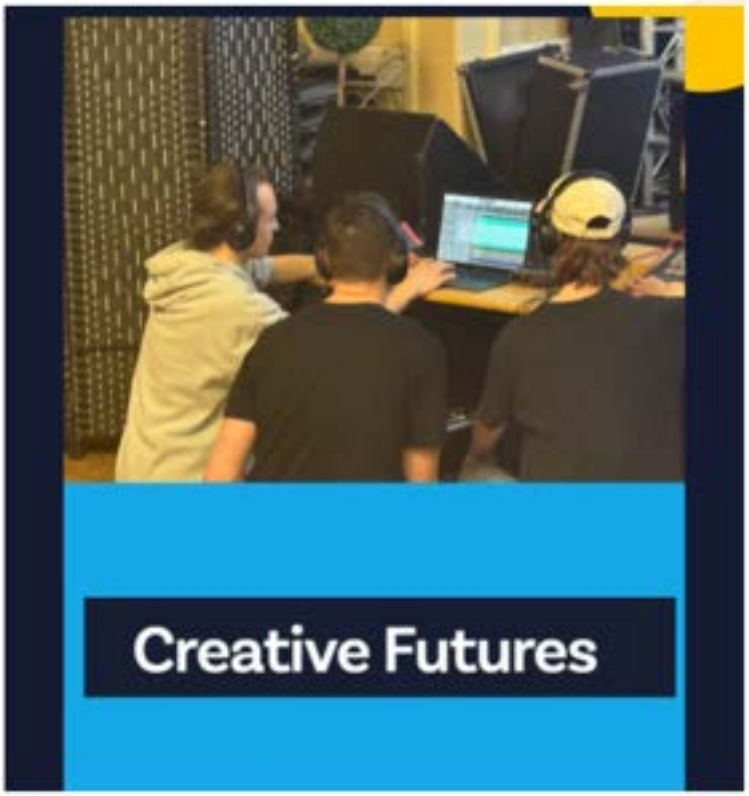
Explore printmaking through a creative session inspired by The Whitaker's collection and the unique architecture of the museum.

Use images, shapes and details from the building as inspiration to create your own monoprints, before experimenting with drawing, painting, mark-making, texture and pattern.

Where
The Whitaker Museum and Art Gallery, Haslingden Road, Rawtenstall, BB4 6RE

AGES 11–18 · ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED





Creative Futures

03

GIG IN A DAY

Saturday 28 November · 10am–4pm

Budding sound engineers and performers — come and join us at the White Horse Project to put on a gig in a day.

During the day you'll build your skills in:

- Live sound engineering
- Performance
- Working with other musicians and technicians

Then put your new skills to work as friends and family come to watch your gig — with live performances and sound engineered by you!

Where
The White Horse Project, The Old Newchurch Methodist Church, Turnpike, Waterfoot, BB4 9DU

AGES 11–18