



# Newsletter

Hallfold, Whitworth, Rochdale  
Lancashire, OL12 8TS  
Tel (01706) 343218  
www.wchs.co

**Autumn term first edition  
Friday 11 September 2015**

Dear parents and carers

Welcome back .... or just welcome... to Whitworth Community High School's newsletter. The term has got off to an excellent start, our young people are smiling, smart and studious and our new Y7 students are settling in well. Photograph Day for Y7 and Y11 ran very smoothly with our photographer complimenting our young people on their friendliness and good manners.

As you will have seen in the press, our 2015 GCSE results were our best ever, with 63% of Y11 achieving at least 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. This is an increase of 15% on last year's results, puts us above last year's national average, and reflects the commitment and enthusiasm, high quality teaching and learning, and strategic intervention which characterised the year. A huge congratulations to all involved and a thank you also to parents for their ongoing support.

Our top attainers were Lorna Wesley, Ella Headland, Anya Law, Lauren Lomax, Ayrton Bagshaw, Lewis Gooding, Elizabeth Nuttall, Zoe Wright, Nicola Howorth and Caitlin Chippendale who between them scored over 60 \*A/A grades and an impressive 113 A\*-C grades. Many of our students have started at Rochdale Sixth Form, whilst others have gone to other local sixth forms, and into colleges and apprenticeships. Lorna Wesley has already started work at a local solicitor's where she will pursue a legal career - initially through a high level apprenticeship, gaining invaluable experience from the outset, whilst Zoe Wright is off to spend a year in Norway on a scholarship to the Manger Folkeshogskule where she will be solo horn on their renowned brass band course.

Summer School was a resounding success with over 100 of our new Year 7 students enjoying the opportunity to work together on a variety of exciting activities culminating for some in an overnight stay at Waddow Hall. One of the many highlights of the Summer School was the forensic science days delivered by Sci-Hi from whom we have had an email praising our staff and students and commenting on how, as visitors, they gained 'a very real sense of the go-ahead spirit and strong ambition at the school.' More about Summer School in a later edition!

We have a busy start to the term with our Open Evening aimed at Year 5 and Y6 families on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. You will no doubt see publicity about the event on hoardings, in the press and on the backs of buses in the next two weeks, but please also make sure that family and friends with Year 5/6 children have the date in their diaries. Our Y6 Taster Day is also on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, and any families who are not connected to one of our partner schools but would like their child to attend should contact school to book a place. We also have Coffee mornings between 10.00am and 12 noon on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 when families can tour our school during a normal working day.

To conclude the half term we have Y7 Settling-in, Information and Cheese and Wine Evening on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October which is an opportunity for parents and students to meet form tutors to check progress, to meet the school leadership team and senior prefects, and to share some refreshments.

Best wishes for a successful term.

*G Middlemas*

Mrs G Middlemas

Headteacher

## Calendar

### September 2015

**14.09.15**

School Council elections week

Prefect training

**18.09.15**

Pendle Hill 'Climbing Higher' Challenge 1

**22.09.15**

School Council P1 Parent/carer Coffee Morning for Y5/6 10am—12 noon.

**23.09.15**

USA trip meeting for parents 6pm—7pm

**24.09.15**

Y6 Taster Day  
Y6 Open Evening 6pm—8pm

School closed—INSET (School open only to students helping with Y6 Taster Day ).

**25.09.15**

School closed—INSET

**Week 28.09.15**

Headteacher Coffee Mornings for Year Councils

### October 2015

**01.10.15**

Parent/carer Coffee Morning for Y5/6 10am—12 noon.

**02.10.15**

Pendle Hill 'Climbing Higher' Challenge 2

*climbing higher!*



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**USA Visit 22nd October - 29th October 2015.**

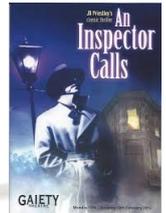


Staff and students are growing in excitement for the forthcoming visit to New York and Washington. The once in a lifetime itinerary is being finalised and the countdown has begun!

The USA Parents Meeting will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 6pm-7.30pm in the school hall. It is vitally important that students and their parents taking part in the visit attend.

## **An Inspector Calls—A Revision opportunity not to be missed for students in Y9-11**

Don't miss a brand new adaptation of An Inspector Calls, which is one of our key texts, being shown on BBC1, at 8.30 pm on Sunday 13th September. This would be extremely useful for students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who are studying this play.



## **Access to policies on the school website**

Parents and carers are reminded that the Behaviour for Learning policy and the Uniform policy can be viewed on the school website. These policies can be found by clicking on the 'Information' option followed by 'Policies' and selecting the appropriate policy you wish to view/download.

## **Home Learning Club**

With the very successful use of the Home Learning booklets in Years 7-9 Home Learning Club has become very popular. From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September entry to the club will only be on the production of the booklet that is going to be worked on. If a student is unable to produce the Home Learning they may not be able to use this after school

## **Year 7 CAT tests**

In the week commencing Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September Year 7 will be carrying out a computer based assessment known as Cognitive Ability Tests or CATs. The tests cover different areas including:

1. Verbal – thinking with words.
2. Quantitative – thinking with numbers.
3. Non-Verbal – thinking with shapes.
4. Spatial Awareness – thinking with space.

These tests help us as a school identify possible areas where your child may be struggling and also areas where they may excel. It will enable us to set the correct learning for your child and also offer support where needed. No additional revision or preparation is needed for the CATs.

## **Reading Club**



From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, students will be able to access our reading room during lunch time in order to read their own book, or borrow one from our library.

To take part, students need to sign up in the base from 8.20am – 8.40am and collect an early dinner pass, should they require one.

Numbers will be limited so it is important that students sign up on the day they would like to attend. The club will run between 1.30 and 2.00 pm every day and will be supervised by Mrs Maddock.

## **Summer Reading Challenge**

Entries are in from our Summer Reading Challenge. Thank you to all students and staff who have taken part. Winners will be announced soon!

## **Current Vacancies at WCHS**

Site Supervisor—Full Time

Attendance Co-ordinator—Part time

Further information can be found on the school website.

**School Website :** [www.wchs.co](http://www.wchs.co)



**@WhitworthHS**

*climbing higher!*

