



21 May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Half Term 5

I hope that you and your family are well. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to parents, carers, students and staff for their ongoing hard work and support.

School closes for the half term at 2.45pm on Friday 23rd May 2025 and we return to school on Monday 2nd June 2025.

We have had a very busy half term since returning to school after Easter.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are currently sitting their public examinations and students in Years 12 and 13 are completing their BTEC and Applied General courses. Our students are working hard to achieve the best results in order that they progress on to college, apprenticeship or University. Over the half term holidays there are some revision classes. If your daughter has been invited to one of the classes, please ensure that she attends as this extra support will be most helpful to her.

We are proud of everything that our Year 11 and Year 13 students have achieved, both in their academic studies, as well as in their contribution to the life of our school community and wish them all well in the examinations and in their future careers.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

It has been great seeing our year 10 students out on The Duke of Edinburgh's Award practice expedition this half term in Rivington. Their final expedition will be taking place in July. The students were a real credit to the school as they navigated their way across the countryside.

Manchester University Poetry Competition

Manchester University held a Schools Poetry Competition, and we are delighted to have had a number of winners; Yashfa Azamzaheer was the Year 7 winner and the overall competition winner, Hajrah Akmal was the Year 9 winner and Sumaya Qalib was the Year 10 winner. Congratulations to these students on their Poetry Awards.

Charity

Our students continue to be committed to raising money for charity. We have now raised **£3,657** for UNICEF's Gaza Appeal: Children in Crisis. The Sixth Form held 'Sip and Paint' event and Year 10 organised a fashion show at the end of this half term. Our Year 9 students also raised **£698** from organising events as part of our multicultural day.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us improve student attendance this half term. Your encouragement has made a real difference. We're proud to share that the school has received the National School Attendance Award, placing us in the Top 25% of all secondary schools and the Top 10% of schools in similar circumstances across England.



We're also excited to let you know that over 150 students have received rewards, including Amazon and Love 2 Shop vouchers, for their excellent attendance and punctuality. We've been celebrating their efforts each week during form time and assemblies, and we will continue recognising students with prizes and have some exciting reward trips planned for the final half term.

Daily attendance and being on time are key to helping students succeed. Please keep encouraging your child to come to school every day and arrive on time.

Uniform

As always, we thank you for your support with regard to student uniform. Students must ensure that they wear their lanyard and blazer, white school shirt and black skirt or school trousers, along with their school tie. A school bag is also an important part of our school uniform so that students have a way of carrying their books and equipment to and from school.

Reading

Throughout the curriculum and in school, reading is a priority. This is because we understand the positive impact it can have on exam results and students' wellbeing. As students head into the half-term break, it is crucial that this focus on reading is not lost. Your daughter should have the opportunity to read as often as possible and, as parents, there are lots of things that you can do to support your daughter's enjoyment of reading:

- Encourage your daughter to read a book for pleasure (this can be fiction or non-fiction). Perhaps she could borrow a book from the local library?
- Model reading aloud to your daughter
- Encourage your daughter to read aloud to you and ask her questions about the story and characters
- Encourage your daughter to create storyboards or reviews of books that she has enjoyed
- For parents of year 7 students, you could also encourage your daughter to become one of our 'Bright Sparx', engaging with the wide range of fiction texts available through our new reading platform, Sparx Reader.

Just setting aside 30 minutes each day for your daughter to read for pleasure could have a dramatic impact on her enjoyment of reading and her literacy skills.

Traffic and Parking concerns

I am sure you are aware of the traffic and parking issues when you drop your daughter off to school or pick her up. The issues include:

- driving onto pavements, giving no consideration to pedestrians including our own students
- blocking the driveways of local residents, restricting access to their properties
- stopping in traffic to let students out of vehicles, endangering students and restricting the flow of traffic



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mr M. Lea

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- blocking cycle lanes including where students are exiting vehicles and opening doors into the cycle lane. This specific issue resulted in an injury to a cyclist recently who required hospital treatment
- parking on double yellow lines and school keep clear markings

Please could I ask all parents/carers to park well away from the school and drive safely at all times near our school to keep our students and local community safe. Please encourage your daughter to walk to school wherever possible.

Forthcoming events

- **Year 7 Parents Evening - Monday 16th June**

You can find the school calendar dates for 2025/26 by clicking on [Calendar - WRHS](#).

If you would like to speak to someone about your daughter's progress, personal development or have any concerns, please contact her Year Office on one of the numbers given below:

	Head of Year	Year Co-ordinator
Year 7 0161 860 2977	Mr Kavanagh	Mr Ellis-Scott
Year 8 0161 860 2976	Mrs Lynam	Mrs Mackenzie
Year 9 0161 860 2975	Mrs Kheratkar	Mr Mustafa
Year 10 0161 860 2978	Mrs Saleem	Ms Carr
Year 11 0161 860 2979	Mr Da Silva	Miss Drake Thomas
Sixth Form 0161 860 2984	Mrs Davies (Head of Year 12) Mrs Maloney-Rock (Head of Year 13)	Miss Smith (Sixth Form Admin/Pastoral Support)

I would like to thank you again for your continued support and I hope that you and your family enjoy the half term break.

Best wishes

Mr M Lea
Academy Headteacher
Whalley Range 11-18 High School

a member of the **Greater Manchester Education Trust**