



# Welcome to Range REVIEW

## Committed to excellence



### Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Whalley Range Community Newsletter.

**As we come to the end of another academic year, I am delighted to reflect on what has been a truly fantastic year for our school community. We are incredibly proud of our students—not only for their academic achievements but also for the enthusiasm and commitment they have shown in embracing the wide range of opportunities available to them.**

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all our students who sat exams this summer. Their dedication, resilience, and determination to achieve their full potential have been truly inspiring. It was a joy to celebrate with our Year 13 students at their graduation and with our Year 11 students at their prom—both events were wonderful milestones marking the end of important chapters in their educational journeys.

This term, it has been especially rewarding to see so many of our Year 10 students successfully complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award, enjoying the challenge of the expedition and the experience of camping. Students across the school and sixth form have engaged with the wide variety of opportunities available to them including careers events, a visit to the University of Oxford as well as the very many extra-curricular clubs on offer. These enriching experiences, along with the various reward trips at the end of term, have added a vibrant dimension to school life.

Our students have also demonstrated remarkable compassion and generosity, raising an impressive £3621.80 for UNICEF's Gaza Appeal: Children in Crisis through their charity efforts. This is a powerful reflection of the values we hold dear as a school.

A sincere thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for the Key Stage 3 celebration assemblies. It was a pleasure to recognise and celebrate the achievements of our students—both academic successes and those who have exemplified our core values of excellence, care, and respect.

**I hope you enjoy reading more about the many highlights of our school year in this edition of the newsletter. Thank you for your continued support, and I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break.**

**Mr M Lea**  
Academy Headteacher



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*Coming together for*

unicef 

# Iftar

**Our sixth form students held their Ramadan Iftar event again this year, a special occasion that brought together students, and staff. The event was a resounding success, offering a night of reflection, unity, and charitable giving.**

The evening was hosted by Aisha, a Year 13 student, who guided attendees through the various activities. The event began with a warm welcome. The menu included a variety of dishes, enjoyed by all present.

Highlights of the night were the Quran recitation by Feryal, a Year 12 student, whose heartfelt recitation resonated deeply with the audience, and an engaging Ramadan quiz.

In addition to the celebrations and activities, the event also served as a fundraising bake sale for UNICEF's Children of Gaza Appeal. Donations were collected throughout the evening, and it was heartening to see the generous contributions of students and staff who were eager to support a cause that helps children who are suffering.



The event would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the entire school team, the site team for their invaluable support on the night, the sixth form volunteers and all staff members who helped put the event together. Their efforts ensured that the evening ran smoothly and was an enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

This Iftar event was a beautiful and memorable occasion, one that brought together people from all walks of life in the spirit of unity, faith, and charity. It is hoped that this will continue to be an annual sixth form tradition, continuing to foster community spirit, and support for those in need.



A

# NIGHT

**Whalley Range**  
Sixth Form College

## TO REMEMBER

### Whalley Range Sixth Form's First Ever Year 13 Graduation Party.

**History was made at Whalley Range Sixth Form as the Student Union hosted the very first Year 13 Graduation Party – a joyful celebration marking the end of an important chapter for the Class of 2025.**

Held shortly after the final exams, the event brought together students and staff for an evening filled with laughter, music, and memories. The Bistro was transformed into a vibrant party space, complete with delicious food, upbeat tunes, and a variety of games – with bingo proving to be a surprise hit!

The celebration was more than just a party; it was a heartfelt send-off for students who have worked incredibly hard over the past two years. It was a chance to reflect on their journey, celebrate their achievements, and look ahead to the exciting futures that await.

A huge thank you goes to the Student Union for organising such a fantastic event. Their dedication and creativity made the night truly special – a perfect way to say goodbye to Sixth Form life.

**Here's to the Class of 2025 – congratulations and good luck on your next adventure!**





# Charity Fashion Show

For unicef 

A team of year 10 students and staff came up with an amazing idea to raise money for Gaza to send through to UNICEF and support children affected by the conflict.

The team organised a Fashion Show, consisting of three themes: sports/casual, comedy and the best yet... the wedding theme. Participants paraded their way down our school hall and showcased their amazing outfits, taking their chosen theme very seriously.

The audience were enthralled, the show even featured staff members dressed in their finery which made for even more entertainment. All was in good spirits and the students cheered their teachers on, bringing a great deal of joy to the team who co-ordinated this brilliant event.

We're very proud to say that through this event, we raised **£327.95** for UNICEF to support the children of Gaza. Every penny counts, and knowing that this money will help provide food, shelter, or medical aid made all their hard work worthwhile.



# UK MATHS CHALLENGE

**UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) organises Mathematics Challenges for 11-18 year old students.**

The UK Maths Challenge is a one hour long, paper & pen exam, with 25 multiple choice questions. Over 700,000 young people take part in maths challenges each year all over the world. To recognise the highest performers in the challenge, UKMT awards the top-scoring 50% of participants bronze, silver and gold certificates in the ratio 3:2:1. Students that are 'Best in Year' or 'Best in School' will also receive a badge to denote this on their certificates. Students not amongst the high scorers receive a Certificate of Participation.

55 of our Year 10 students took part in this year's intermediate level challenge in January. Congratulations to Faiza and Rafia who achieved Gold Certificates and Maaria with a Silver Certificate!

**Well done to the other 12 students who have achieved Bronze Certificates!**





# Poetry

## COMPETITION

Three talented students from our school triumphed at the University of Manchester Schools' Poetry Competition earlier this month. The competition, held annually by The Centre for New Writing and Creative Manchester, encourages children to use poetry as a means of self-expression.

The theme of this year's competition was Connected Science. Students from four schools participated: Whalley Range High School, Stretford Grammar School, Levenshulme High School, and Manchester Secondary PRUs. The judges assessed the poems and were looking for unique takes on the theme, effective imagery, innovative use of form, and creative command of language.

Hajrah won the Year 9 prize, while Sumaya from Year 10 secured her category's prize and was also named the overall winner for Whalley Range. Meanwhile,

Students Shine in University of Manchester Poetry Competition.



Year 7's Yashfa achieved the highest honour as the overall competition winner.

At the awards ceremony on Saturday, 14th June, the students read their thought-provoking poems, captivating the audience with their unique takes on science through verse. Their success highlights how poetry and scientific ideas intertwine, demonstrating both intellectual depth and creative talent.

**Congratulations to Hajrah, Sumaya, and Yashfa on this incredible achievement! Their work has made our school proud and will no doubt inspire others to explore the power of poetry!**

## Manchester Outdoor Education strategy session

### DEBDALE PARK

On Friday 27th June, ten Key Stage 3 students took part in a feedback session with Team Manchester to help to steer the new Outdoor Education strategy for Manchester.

They were keen to hear the opinions of our students including what outdoor and adventurous activities students had tried and enjoyed. They also looked at why they thought it was important to have these opportunities and where they could take part in them in Manchester. As a thank you for their great feedback they then enjoyed a taster session of paddle boarding.

**They all really enjoyed the session including some of them cooling off in the Lake!**



## EXPLORING

# University Life



Twelve enthusiastic Year 12 students from Whalley Range Sixth Form recently had the exciting opportunity to visit Corpus Christi College, part of the University of Oxford. The trip offered a valuable glimpse into university life and inspired many to think about their future academic journeys.

**Year 12 Visit to Corpus Christi College**

The day began with a guided tour of the beautiful college campus, where students explored historic buildings, tranquil courtyards, and modern study spaces. This was followed by a delicious lunch in the college's traditional dining hall – a true Oxford experience!

Students then took part in an academic taster session, giving them a feel for the kind of learning and discussion that takes place at university level. They also had the chance to meet and chat with student ambassadors, who shared their experiences and answered questions about life at Oxford.

A highlight of the day was meeting Whalley Range alumna Noor, who is currently studying Medicine at St Hugh's College. Noor's journey from Whalley Range to Oxford was both inspiring and encouraging, showing students that with hard work and ambition, anything is possible.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity to explore higher education in a real-world setting and left students feeling motivated and excited about their futures.



# THE POLITICS PROJECT

## YEAR 9 STUDENTS MEET LOCAL POLITICIANS AS PART OF CITIZENSHIP LESSONS

As part of their Citizenship lessons, Year 9 students recently had the exciting opportunity to meet two important local political figures: Councillor for Moss Side Ward, Professor Erinma Bell MBE and MP for Manchester Rusholme, Afzal Khan. The visit was organised through The Politics Project, a programme designed to give young people the chance to engage with their politicians.

Half of the year group met Councillor Bell in person, while the other half joined a live Teams meeting with MP Afzal Khan. In the weeks leading up to the visit, students prepared by learning about the roles and responsibilities of politicians, discussing the issues that matter most to

them, and working together to come up with thoughtful questions.

During the in person and online meetings, students listened to the politicians speak about their work in local councils and national government. They also learned about the career paths that led each of them into politics. Afterwards, students were able to ask their own questions on topics they care about. Topics included community safety, education and equality.

The experience helped students deepen their understanding of politics but also see how their ideas and concerns can influence real change. The visit inspired many students to think more deeply about their role in society and the importance of staying informed and involved so that they can be active, thoughtful citizens.



# FIELD

TO

# Fork

GROWING PROJECT



Since January, the Environmental Leaders and Garden Club have joined forces to work on a food growing project called Field to Fork with funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The students are learning about the processes that go into growing our food. As well as learning how to grow vegetables the group is learning about caring for our environment and how small changes can make a big difference.

Our food-growing project aims to encourage positive climate action within our school community. We did some research about where our food comes from and found that some of our food travels thousands of miles. We learned that if people can grow some of their own food, we can reduce the need for transport and packaging, cutting down on carbon emissions.

Through hands-on experience, we've gained new green skills such as sowing seeds, transplanting seedlings, composting, and caring for plants. We are currently growing leeks, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, strawberries and a variety of herbs!

We have also learnt that gardening offers more than just food as it brings people together. As we work in the garden, we're building teamwork, confidence, and a stronger sense of community. We hope this project inspires others to grow more produce, both in school and at home. We're looking forward to harvesting our crops in the autumn term and cooking up something delicious with the fresh produce we've grown ourselves!







# DENTISTRY TRIP

In the summer term, a group of Year 10 students attended an NHS Dentistry trip at Altrincham Health Centre in partnership with Manchester United Foundation.

The event was attended by students studying triple science who have a strong interest in pursuing careers in dentistry. The visit provided them with valuable insights into the diverse range of careers within the profession and offered guidance on the available career pathways.

The students took part in the following workshops:

- Dentistry clinical skills
- Dental nursing
- Dental therapist – oral hygiene
- Orthodontics
- Infection control/prevention



## CYBER EXPLORATION

For Year 8 computing stars

As part of their computing studies, ten year 8 pupils visited the Cyber UK conference at Manchester Central to take part in a range of exciting digital activities.

They used their problem-solving skills to decipher codes and programmed Sphero robots. Alongside this, they had the opportunity to hear from leading cyber experts! An excellent experience for our digital wizards.



trip to the

## GCHQ

YEAR 9 STUDENTS  
VISIT GCHQ  
FOR LANGUAGE  
OUTREACH DAY

Led by Mrs Georgalidou, the World Languages Department organised a memorable trip to GCHQ (Government Communications Headquarters), the UK's intelligence, security, and cyber agency.

GCHQ has been inviting schools from the Manchester area to its offices in Albert Square as part of its outreach work. Earlier this year, a group of Year 9 students from our school had the exciting opportunity to take part in a Language Outreach Day. Students took part in a range of language-based activities, including decoding secret messages, learning about the advantages of studying languages, and exploring how language skills are used in real roles at GCHQ. It was an inspiring experience that showed students the power of languages beyond the classroom.



### Quotes from students



'The staff were nice. I enjoyed doing all the activities, they were fun.

Also, I loved learning Chinese by talking and writing my birthday.' **Kawtar**

'It was a great opportunity and eye-opener on how languages can open many doors for you in terms of future careers.' **Renad**

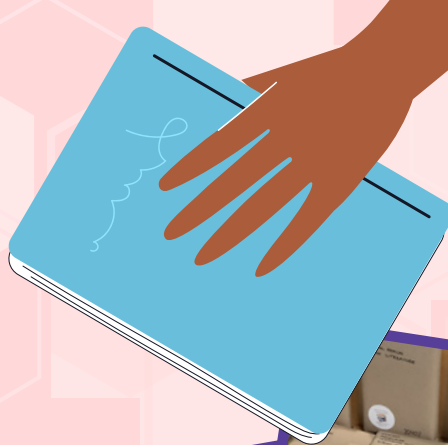
'It was a fun trip. I really enjoyed doing the activities. I got to know about lots of things and the importance of languages in life. I loved the coding games.' **Yeshita**





Blind date with a

# Book



**On Monday 23rd June, the ever-popular Blind date with a Book took place in the Learning Resource Centre. Students had the opportunity to choose a book without being influenced by the design of the cover or the blurb.**

The books were tastefully wrapped in brown paper and some general clues to what the story was about were written on the front. Students made their selection then unwrapped the book to see the surprise that lay inside. One student, Khadija, said 'I am so excited to choose a book like this – I have never done this before and hope I get something I enjoy!'

The buzz in the LRC at lunchtime was simply wonderful! Lots of students were considering the clues and trying to make good choices. Mrs Davies, LRC Manager, added 'This is always a popular event, and is a great way to get students to read an author or genre of book that they wouldn't normally go for'. It was a very busy lunchtime, but a great atmosphere! Remember, no cover, no blurb, no judgement.



## GAMELAN

### at Whalley Range

**Gamelan has arrived at Whalley Range 11-18 High School!!**

We are very lucky to have been given a Gamelan set from the University of Manchester, there are only a few sets in the country.

Gamelan is a genre of traditional music that originates from Java and Bali. It consists of metallophones and gongs, singing and drumming.

**Dr Jackson looks forward to creating a student ensemble to start using these wonderful instruments.**







# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## Y10 BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD EXPEDITION

**Well done to the 90 Year 10 students who completed their Bronze DofE Expedition from Monday 30th June to Tuesday 1st July!**

Students went out to the Rivington area on one of the hottest days of 2025, laden with their rucksacks and maps for a 10-kilometre trek across the countryside. Whilst the sun beamed down students successfully navigated themselves and their groups across a variety of routes showing determination, teamwork and support for each other, and without complaint. After a few hours of hiking, students finally made it to Bibby's Farm Scout Camp, their home for the evening, and soon found renewed energy to pitch their tents, cook on their stoves and engage in some camp games. It was an enjoyable evening with students demonstrating continued excitement for the expedition.

It was a pleasure to see so many students enjoying their camping experience on a wonderful summer evening, many of them sitting quietly watching the sun set over the Bolton hills. It was a slow start to day two with students feeling very tired and daunted by the thought of a second 10-kilometre trek but nonetheless, students packed up and set off albeit with some trepidation. Tuesday was a cooler day which students were thankful for and as a result most groups navigated their way to the end point with haste, again showing their superb resilience and encouragement for each other.



All 90 students successfully completed their expedition and should be so proud of themselves. Lifelong memories made, new friendships established, and strength of character proven. A Duke of Edinburgh expedition pushes many students out of their comfort zone and for them to take on the challenge they should be applauded. Behaviour, attitudes and engagement were so positive and productive, possibly the best group we have ever taken out in the last 10 years of running the DofE course. You are all amazing!



## YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Once again, this year we have had an excellent commitment from year 10s choosing to complete their full Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. Before half term nearly 200 year 10 students completed their practice day walk around the reservoirs of Rivington.

They put into practice the knowledge that they have gained in their expedition training in school to navigate one of four routes in the area.

They came prepared with all their equipment to mimic their final expedition and equipped themselves ahead for the hot weather that was forecast. During the practice they were accompanied by staff members who gave up their weekend to support the students (thank you!).

PE

# SPORT

REPORT



## SPORTS LEADERS COURSE

Students enrolled in the Sports Leaders courses within PE have been working hard to complete their booklets ahead of moderation.

Having now led their practical sessions and successfully delivered their planned events, each student has demonstrated significant growth in their leadership abilities.

“It’s been fantastic to see their confidence develop over the course, and they should all be proud of how far they’ve come since the start of the programme.”



WELL DONE EVERYONE!



## CRICKET

### Sports Leadership Event for the Manchester Primary School Finals

We are proud to announce that 10 of our students were selected to represent the school at a prestigious leadership event hosted by Lancashire Cricket. The students attended a Cricket Officiating Course, where they became qualified referees.

“Not only did they gain valuable skills, but they also played a key role in setting up and running the event for eight primary schools.”

Their hard work and dedication were met with glowing feedback from both the primary schools and Lancashire Cricket. Well done to all involved for their outstanding contributions!

CONGRATULATIONS



Lancashire  
Cricket





PE

# SPORT REPORT



## INTERHOUSE SPORTS COMPETITION

### A Celebration of Team Spirit and Fun

All students have enthusiastically taken part in this year's Interhouse Sports Competition, showcasing their skills, teamwork, and school spirit. Events included football, dodgeball, handball, basketball, and a variety of team-building challenges. The atmosphere was filled with energy, enjoyment, and friendly rivalry as students gave their all in every event.

### Here are the results so far:

1st Place	Parks	1256 points
2nd Place	Franklin	1247 points
3rd Place	Angelou	1207 points
4th Place	Germain	1177 points
5th Place	Hepburn	1147 points



It is a very close race, with just 9 points separating first and second place! The excitement isn't over yet! **The grand finale—Sports Day—took place on Wednesday, 9th July.** This much-anticipated event will determine the overall winner of the competition. We can't wait to see which house will take home the trophy!

WELL DONE!



### Athletics Success Across the School!

This year, students from Years 7 to 11 have taken part in seven athletics events, proudly representing our school with determination, talent, and sportsmanship. Over 30 students have competed, acting as fantastic role models for their peers.

### We're thrilled to celebrate some outstanding individual achievements:

Award (Year 7)	Gold in Shot Putt
Jeena (Year 7)	Silver in Long Jump
Georja (Year 7)	Bronze in 60m Sprint
Luna (Year 9)	Gold in Long Jump x 2
Hala (Year 9)	Bronze in Shot Putt
Arazw (Year 9)	Bronze in 60m Sprint

A huge well done to all our athletes for their hard work and dedication. Miss Neal and the PE Department are very proud of your achievements.

## ATHLETICS



TRULY AMAZING!



PE

# SPORT REPORT



## ROUNDERS

**Our Year 7 & 8 Rounders Teams have shown great dedication in attending practice on Tuesdays after school with Mrs Davison.**



They are such an incredible bunch of students who show great competitiveness; endeavour to improve; and demonstrate excellent teamwork in organising themselves. Because of this, they were successful in their first fixture against Trinity High School. The Year 8 team drew, and the Year 7 team won. Such opponents have been difficult to beat in previous year's and it was a pleasure to see such amazing students perform so well.

**WELL DONE!**



## CRICKET

### Under 15's Manchester Cricket Event

We are excited to share that nine of our students were selected to represent the school as part of the Under 15's cricket team. Over the course of 6 weeks, they demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment, attending after-school training sessions in their own time to develop their skills.

The team went on to compete against schools from Manchester, where they showed impressive determination, a positive attitude, and some incredible cricketing talent. Their efforts were evident as they hit several brilliant 4's and 6's, showcasing their hard work and skill. Well done to all players for their outstanding performance!



## T1 RUGBY FESTIVAL

**On Thursday 3rd July, nine Year 7s went to Broughton Park Rugby Club to compete in a T1 Rugby Tournament with 13 other school teams.**

This Festival was to introduce more girls to Rugby Union especially in the lead up to England Hosting the Women's Rugby World Cup this Summer. Manchester will be hosting four games at the end of the summer at the Salford Community Stadium.

The girls enjoyed playing a range of games during the day, each one building up their range of skills in T1 Rugby. They also got to meet the Mayor of Manchester who came down to watch the festivities and met two of the Sale Sharks Women's team who play in the English premiership. Look out for the Women's rugby world cup event in Manchester at the end of the summer. If you are interested in trying rugby speak to Miss Clarke who can direct you to your local club.



**SUPERB EFFORT**