

### English in a Flash

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday morning at registration, six very dedicated girls join Mrs Maher and log-on to 'English in a Flash'. This progressive programme is aimed at EAL students and has proven to be extremely helpful. Well done to all the students on the fantastic progress you have made!

### Mentoring for EAL students

Miss Kamesy and Mrs Suleiman have been so impressed with the students who are new to English that they have been mentoring each week. They have been focusing on developing their language skills and improving their confidence so that they can adjust to the new environment that they are in. Students have taken part in various activities and have worked hard to improve their homework and their English skills. Well done girls!



The Craft Club continues to be regularly attended by students from all year groups and A124 is constantly very busy!

Students always enjoy themselves by participating in the organised activities and they are enthusiastic about the fantastic opportunity to make decorations and cards for special occasions such as Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Birthdays, Easter, and Father's Day.

There are some places available for the next school year and Mrs Lordache is looking forward to seeing you.

**Come along to A124 to sign up!**



### LGBT Mentors

In the last couple of weeks we have selected our brand-new LGBT mentors. These students have been chosen from many applications and we are very proud they have made it. These lovely Year 9 and 10 students are going to be trained to be successful mentors by the LGF (Lesbian and Gay Foundation), after which they will be available to mentor and help anyone who is questioning their sexuality or wants to talk about issues relating to that.



The mentors, together with our leaders, will also be planning assemblies and events to raise awareness for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) rights. They also welcome input, so if you have an idea that might work, feel free to speak to any of our members!

### YEAR 5 AND 6 ICT Challenge 2015

Our local Primary Schools were invited to Whalley Range High School to take part in the ICT Challenge run by Mrs Mushtaq. The challenge involved each group of students creating a video to raise the awareness of Internet Safety. All the schools created fantastic advertisements, showcasing their amazing ICT skills and it was great to see fantastic and very important messages being given on how to stay safe online. The Year 5 ICT Challenge took place in April and the winning school was **St Mary's Primary School**. The Year 6 ICT Challenge took place in June and the winning school was **Birchfields Primary School**.



Congratulations to the winning teams and to all students who participated in the challenges. Both days were thoroughly enjoyed by all students who demonstrated their enthusiasm and passion for the subject.

The days ran smoothly thanks to the wonderful digital leaders who were also as enthusiastic as the primary school students for assisting them throughout the day: Noor Sarfraz Hussain (9SW1b), Ruzena Begum (OW3a), Hafza Chowdhury (9OW3a), Zainab Nadeem (9KH5b), Zainab Naveed (8OW1b) and Fatima Naveed (8OW5a)



### IN THIS ISSUE!

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Autumn term starts:  
Wednesday 2nd September 2015



## WELCOME FROM THE ACADEMY HEADTEACHER AND EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

This year has been a special year for the school – our first as a member of a co-operative multi-academy trust alongside Levenshulme High School. The Trust has opened up opportunities for students and staff, with a number of joint projects over the year.



Student leaders have met to plan how we can integrate our co-operative values through the life of the schools. We have strong links with the American Embassy and joint school visits to London and meetings with visitors from London have enriched their learning and understanding of our complex world.

We have also started a link with the Manchester Business School, which is committed to supporting the Trust schools for at least three years. Staff, students and parents have taken part in events and visits with colleagues from the university. We are looking forward to the first leadership lecture for staff from a global expert.

We are very proud of all that our Trust offers its students and staff. We hope you enjoy reading about the huge range of exciting opportunities which help our students grow into confident leaders who are secure in who they are, and in the contribution they make to our school, our communities, our city and our country. They are our inspiration.

Ms P Kane M.A. - Executive Headteacher Mrs E Hole - Academy Headteacher

## Sixth Form

### Visit to the Manchester Business School

Year 12 students attended a visit to The Manchester Business School. Students thoroughly enjoyed experiencing university lectures and seminars on 'Careers in Business and IT', workshops in Social Media and Business, a tour around the University of Manchester and networking with IT and Manchester Business school students. Students gained an excellent insight into university life and were able to get valuable advice and guidance on university applications.

'This visit has really helped me to decide which course I want to apply for at university and it has allowed me to gain information about my future career'.  
Ansa Hameed SF3

The students also had the opportunity to work with Manchester Business School students and lecturers on an Interactive Social Media presentation. The students delivered some excellent presentations and impressed the university students and lecturers!



## WRHS Mock Election

### Politics comes to life!

On Thursday 7th May 2015 the nation entered small rooms around the country to cast their vote in the General Election, people across the country hoping for different outcomes depending

on what they believed in. Here at Whalley Range we had our own Mock Election which really brought politics to life for the students, giving them a range of ways to get involved. There were four main parties all standing for election and delivering outstanding presentations to the school in the week leading up to the general election, clearly outlining their beliefs and what they stand for.

On the day of the election, over 1400 students piled into the hall one by one to cast their vote in our secret ballot, the hall buzzing with excitement as they did so. There was much anticipation throughout the day as to which way the vote would go, some predicting a marginal Labour win, others predicting a surprise victory for the Green party. All the votes were counted and in stark contrast to the actual General Election the Whalley Range polls resulted in a Labour landslide with 92% of the overall vote, winning by a large majority in every year group.

The Mock Election excited many of the students and brought to life what was a really important issue at the time. All those involved in campaigning took a lot from it and did a wonderful job at not just teaching the students a thing or two about politics, but also many of the teachers as well.



## Tales from Lands afar

For the last year, a Year 9 German class have been taking part in a scheme run by the University of Manchester, entitled "Adopt a third year student". We were lucky to be linked with Lauren Evans (pictured right), a Languages student, who has been spending the year in Germany and China. The class met her at the end of Year 8 and this year she has written a regular blog to tell them about her experiences in Frankfurt and Beijing.

In Frankfurt, she worked with a recruitment agency, where she learnt about business practice and developed her spoken German. She had a wonderful time finding out about local culture and customs, and shared her enthusiasm with the class. They learnt about the sights of Frankfurt, the Festival of Lanterns, and the Christmas markets. She also sent them a Christmas parcel, and did a December video diary, which she put on YouTube.

In January, she visited them in school, before she flew off to Beijing. She is improving her Chinese at the University and has sent us some beautiful pictures of the places she has visited, including the Great Wall and the Olympic Park.

Lauren has shown what fantastic experiences you can have learning languages.

Her blog is available to read at:  
<https://talesfromlandsafar.wordpress.com/2015/06/06/meine-familie>



## La fête de la musique

To celebrate the first day of summer, French people have created "La fête de la musique". On 21st of June, French and now also various European towns, cities, villages vibrate to the sound of live music.

This year, the Music and World Language department decided to celebrate this happy event together by creating La fête de la musique!

Congratulations to Winnie Chand and Cora Zhou who sang a lovely lullaby in Chinese, a song usually sung for Mother's day. Merci to Olivia Carter, Samra Khan, Faith Chamapiwa and Ricceeta Minott who beautifully interpreted a French song from India.

*"When I sang the song, I felt very happy because it meant something to everyone and the song shows that you love your mum! It was also nice to share my language with others that don't know how to speak it."*

Winnie Chan

*"At first, when Ms Boulesteix asked us to sing in French, we thought it would be so difficult! But after working closely with music teachers and in French, it became easier and a lot of fun! I loved every minute of it!"*

Faith Chamapiwa



## Reward Trip for Year 8 Restaurant Côte Brasserie

As reward for Attitude to Learning and excellent attendance, the World Languages Department arranged a visit for 20 Year 8 students to the French restaurant Côte Brasserie, where the students had the opportunity to try French food. The girls loved the French delicacies, behaved impeccably and they even spoke to the waiters in French!



## MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE



19 students entered the Mother Tongue Other Tongue competition in Spanish, Urdu and Arabic. The best three poems received gift vouchers! Well done to Myesha Alam VW1a, Attia Akhtars OW2a and the group led by Seher Ahmed VW3a.

*"This half term the Language and the English Department launched a competition called "Mother Tongue Other Tongue" in which we had a choice to write a poem in our favourite foreign language. I found this competition really interesting and thought that it was a great way to develop our skills into learning another language. I would like to thank Miss Boulesteix and the Language Leaders who introduced me to this competition!"*

Alisha Yaqub

# UK Junior Maths Challenge 2015

40 of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in the national UK Junior Maths Challenge in April this year. With around 3700 schools taking part, our students achieved some outstanding results, with many of them making the top 40% to earn gold, silver and bronze awards.

Miss Yang, Maths Teacher and organiser, had this to say about the event: **"A huge thank you to all 40 Year 7 and Year 8 students who have put a lot of effort into the UK Junior Maths Challenge! Congratulations to those who have achieved excellent results!"**



## MATHS Reward trip to...



On 1st April the Maths department took 90 Year 8 students to Chester Zoo to complete the maths trail there. All 90 students have met the highest standards in Maths this year. When we took them on the trip they were all on or above target and were meeting the WRHS high standards of behaviour, punctuality and homework completion.

We had a great day exploring the zoo, seeing the baby tigers and elephants, travelling by monorail and boat, and braving the bat house! We are already looking forward to next year's trip.

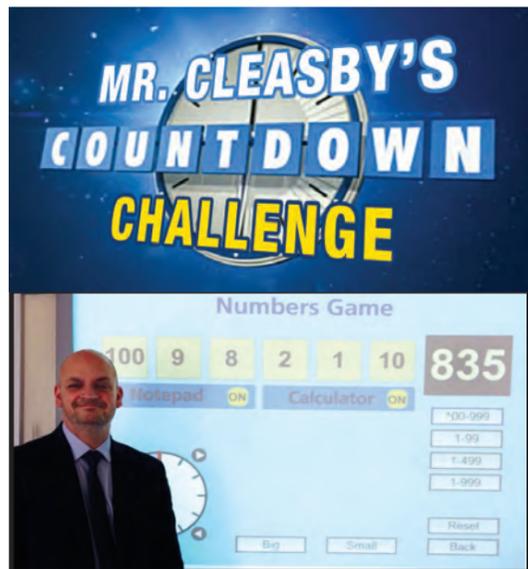


## YEAR 5 PRIMARY MATHS CHALLENGE

The Year 5 primary Maths Challenge took place on the 25th June, 2015 and what a Challenge it was.

The competitive spirit in the young is very much alive and well. Four teams made up of five students from Birchfield's, Heald Place, St. Margaret's and Wilbraham took part. The students were so enthusiastic and determined to win the coveted trophies and the title of Maths Champions that they worked tirelessly throughout the day. The pace was fast and furious and each member of the team had to make a positive contribution. A team effort all round. Lots of fun, laughter, number crunching and right and wrong answers led to St. Mary's being awarded the title.

Well done St Mary's but, also well done to all participants for a fast paced and exciting finish!



Welcome to Mr. Cleasby's Countdown Calculation. The problem this issue is to make 835 using 100, 10, 9, 8, 2 and 1. You can only use add, subtract, multiply and divide and you can use brackets if you wish. You cannot use a number more than once and you cannot put two numbers together to make another number, like '2' and '1' making '21'.

If you manage to achieve the target number then write your solution on a piece of paper with your name and tutor group and hand it in to the Maths office B109. A winner will be chosen at random from all the correct entries. The answer will be in the next issue!

The closing date is 15th September 2015

# INTERVENTION

We've all been working really hard here in the Intervention Team with 203 students taking part in the different Challenges and Intervention clubs. All those taking part have succeeded in reaching or even exceeding their target grades with the help of KS4 students, Sixth Form and outside mentors from Manchester University. Anyone interested in mentoring next year should email Mrs Bajwa: [hba@whalleyrange.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:hba@whalleyrange.manchester.sch.uk)

## MATHS CHALLENGE

101 students took part in the Maths Challenge under the guidance of Mrs Bajwa and all made a significant improvement to their target grades with 91% reaching their target and 15% achieving above their target. Well done to everyone who took part especially Henna Malik 7PR1B who achieved an impressive 95% and Baran Ibrahim 7VW3A who managed to get 92% and is above target in both English and Maths. She has also increased her reading age by two years. Congratulations!



## EAL ADULT CLASS

Our Mrs Bajwa has been delivering English to parents who want to improve their writing and conversation skills. The end of term party is also a big attraction! It's been very popular and takes place on Tuesdays after school and Thursdays at 2pm. All levels of ability can join and it's good fun so any interested parent should contact school and speak to Mrs Bajwa.



## WRITING CHALLENGE

43 Year 7 and 8 students took part in the Writing Challenge with Mrs Quinn and have really worked hard to improve their writing skills. 94% of the students either reached or exceeded their target. Well done girls!

## KS3 REWARD TRIP

45 students, who had taken part in the Challenges and clubs and with good attendance and behaviour, came with us to the Trafford Centre on the 9th June. We went to see Cinderella and even managed a little shopping too. A good time was had by all!



## ACCELERATED READING

91 students took part in Intervention Accelerated Reading with Miss Altaf and 96% of the girls improved their reading age. 5 students improved by two years. Fantastic work!!

## KS4 STUDY SESSIONS

Room A025 has been hectic this year with lots of Year 10 and 11 students asking Miss Abushima, Mr Newton and Miss Shahid for help with

classwork, homework and revision for GCSEs. Teachers have referred students who would benefit from a quiet place to work, spending extra time on a particular English, Maths or Science topic. The sessions have been well attended and hopefully, the GCSE results in August will reflect all their hard work.

## INTERVENTION CLUBS

Room A1/19 has been regularly attended by KS3 students who needed help with classwork, homework or projects. Staff are always happy to help at breakfast, break, lunch or after school with any subject and we hope to see you next year so that you can all achieve your best.



## CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION AFTERNOON

The KS3 Intervention Presentation Afternoon took place in the stadium on Wednesday 24th June at 2pm. It was very well attended and it's lovely to see so many parents turning up to support their daughters. So many certificates were presented which just goes to show how much work everyone's done this year.



We'd just like to again thank all the mentors who give up their free time, away from their own studies, to help our students. It makes a huge difference and we are very grateful.

H. Bajwa, M. Quinn, S. Altaf, R. Abushima, Y. King and M. Newton.

## Duke of Edinburgh

Big congratulations to 37 Year 10 and 11 students who have now completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition! The girls embarked on their 30km journey on the 13th & 14th of June. They carried everything they needed to be self-sufficient over the 2 days including tents and sleeping bags! The walk was tough but the girls showed excellent teamwork, dedication and effort. Well done to you all!



## Karate Club

A new karate club has recently started on a Monday lunch time which is being run by an external coach. 30 Year 7 girls have been learning self-defence through some pretty impressive moves! Their maturity and self-discipline is a credit to see and I hope the girls keep it up!



## International Basketball Success

Congratulations to Khia Lee who travelled to Copenhagen to represent England basketball at a tournament from the 18th- 21st June. Khia travelled to be member of the u15 team there.



## GEOGRAPHY

### Field-trip to the Peak District

Year 8 Geography students went on their annual field trip to Castleton in the Peak District on 10th and 11th June.

It began with a walk up part of Cavedale. This was a fantastic opportunity to see the true beauty of nature. Students walked along an ancient river bed, whilst being taught about the origin of the Peak District 300 million years ago. Students then searched for fossils in the surrounding limestone rock, and heard the eerie whistling sounds coming from deep below the Earth's surface. On the way back to Castleton village our breath was taken away as we came over a hill and saw the Hope Valley in its true glory.

In Castleton, students assessed the impact of tourism in the area by conducting people surveys, litter counts and environmental surveys. The sun was shining on both days which only enhanced the beauty of the countryside. It was an enjoyable and memorable day for both students and staff.



## BMX Sessions

On Friday afternoons Miss McLoone has been taking a selected group of students to the Platt Fields Park BMX Track to participate in free sessions put on by the Velodrome Cycling Centre staff. This has been a great experience for our students who have really enjoyed participating in this novel activity. Although they were quite wobbly and anxious at first, with the slopes and turns of the track looking very daunting, the girls are now very confident and ambitious during their sessions.



## TV Stars!

The school were privileged to have CBBC Newsround visit them during the FIFA Women's World Cup 2015. The presenters from the programme came to see the school's interpretation of the World Cup Competition and interview five of our students about the inspiration of the global tournament for female players and ask their thoughts on the success of the England team. Well done to Omaymah El-Habti 10PR4a, Amelia Merali 10KH2b, Isatou Nyang 10OW1a, Maimunna El-Fakhri 8PR1b and Fatma Shami 7SW2b who displayed excellent presenting and communication skills to sound professional for their slot on the TV programme.



## Football News

Congratulations to the Key Stage 3 Football team for finishing in their best ever league position to date! They finished 3rd place in the league of 24 teams, and just lost out on winning the league by 1 point.

## Football World Cup

In line with the FIFA Women's World Cup in Canada. Whalley Range held their own tournament, with 10 teams representing some of the countries. The event was played all week, with girls showing great teamwork and sportsmanship. The main contenders of the competition where, Brazil and USA, who held it out in a tough final, with USA taking the overall winners title, scoring in the last 30 seconds, to make it 3-2.



## Rounders News

During the summer term, Year 7, 9 and 10 students participated in the rounders season, where they played in several friendly matches against other schools. The Year 10 team did particularly well as they won all of their friendly matches. The girls were attending rounders practice on a regular basis to develop their skills for the upcoming tournaments. All 3 teams did themselves proud at the tournament by showing excellent teamwork and communication skills.



## Basketball success!

Over this year both the KS3 and KS4 basketball teams have gone from strength to strength. This has been finished off in dramatic style with both teams making the final 4s competition for their league. This was due to the KS3 team finishing 2nd in their league and KS4 coming joint first in their league.

## Kellogg's 'Make It Enterprising'

On Wednesday 24th June 8 excited Year 10 students boarded a minibus to take them to the AJ Bell Stadium to take part in the Kellogg's 'Make It Enterprising' challenge. On arrival, the girls were a little worried as there were 11 other teams there representing high schools from across the Greater Manchester area. Students had to create a new, innovative, exciting cereal for Kellogg's. Not only that, but they had to create and design the factory that was going to make it. They had tight deadlines and budgets to stick to. It took a lot of team work, communication, creativity and ideas to come up with their final product. The team worked tirelessly throughout the day, embracing each part of the challenge and throwing themselves into it. The day ended with a presentation to the 4 Dragons – and the girls blew them away!

Mrs Davies, who accompanied the girls, said, 'I am very proud of the girls. They showed determination and organisation as well as being creative and thinking outside the box'. Summaya Saadi, SW3b, was Project Manager for the team and did an amazing job ensuring her team were on task, keeping to deadlines and leading on the presentation. The Dragons who were judging also thought the same as Summaya was given the outstanding student of the day award! Then to top a fantastic day off the whole team won the overall event, becoming Greater Manchester Champions! Next stop the Grand Final at Manchester Airport in September!



## The co-operative

22nd June saw the start of Co-operatives Fortnight. Mrs Davies and her Co-operative Business Leaders went into assemblies to deliver the message to the students of Whalley Range 11-18 High School. Students were told about the Big Co-op Clean-up and encouraged to empty their wardrobes of unwanted clothing and give them to charity or spend some time tidying up their local area. Co-operatives have grown by 20% since the credit crunch – there's one near you – why not support it and at the same time you will be putting money back into the local economy.





### Family Day at MOSI

Students from a Year 8 group working with Kings College London had the chance to give their families a tour of the Museum of Science and Industry this half-term. Students gave a tour of the exhibits, encouraging their parents and siblings to think about the science concepts behind them and also had a chance to share the videos that they had made on a previous trip.



### Year 8 Energy Project

Year 8 students recently took part in an exciting engineering project with EON and the Smallpeice Trust to research and build model replicas of power stations. 60 students worked in teams to build their power stations with a strict budget, and were set tasks including building a hub and turbine blades to generate the power.



Miss Bird, STEM Lead and Science Teacher commented:

*"We were delighted to work with EON and the Smallpeice Trust on this project. The students enjoyed using their STEM skills to create their power stations, and also learnt a lot about different careers in Engineering. We are dedicated to promoting careers in Science and Engineering to our students, as this is an area in which woman are currently underrepresented."*



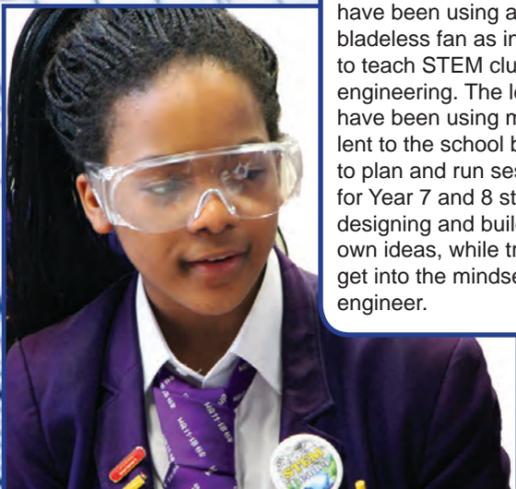
### Siemens Engineer Talk

On Thursday 23rd April students from all year groups were given the opportunity to talk to an engineer. Alexandra Wnuk, Thameslink Sustainability Manager, spoke about women in the rail and engineering industries, and students had a chance to ask her questions about that career pathway. Students said that she challenged their ideas of what an engineer looks like, and showed them that there are many different pathways into these careers.



### Dyson Project

Year 9 STEM leaders have been using a Dyson bladeless fan as inspiration to teach STEM club about engineering. The leaders have been using materials lent to the school by Dyson to plan and run sessions for Year 7 and 8 students designing and building their own ideas, while trying to get into the mindset of an engineer.



### National Women in Engineering Day

Students in Year 8 took part in a number of different activities on 23rd June to celebrate National Women in Engineering day. Students tried their hand at virtual welding, built paper RAF gliders, programmed robots and tried their hand at recreating the world's tallest building out of paper. They also interviewed a number of female engineers, including one ex-student of Whalley Range.

Mahima Asif said:

*"We had to work as a team and share our ideas to build a tower"*

### Year 11 Prom 'Eternal Elegance'

The annual Year 11 Leavers' Prom was held at The Macdonald Hotel, Manchester, on Wednesday 1st April. It was a record breaking turn out with nearly 200 students and over 50 staff attending.

Awards on the night were presented to Maria Javed (Holmes House Prom Queen), Malyun Omar (Radcliffe House Prom Queen), Cynthia Nkomo (Westwood House Prom Queen), Radia Ahsan (Williams House Prom Queen), Yasmin Shiekh (Winfrey House Prom Queen). Students and staff also voted for The People's Choice Prom Queen which went to Kainat Maqbool. Congratulations to all the students!

The night was a huge success and all of the staff and students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Here's to next year!



Prom Queen 2015 - Kainat Maqbool!



Best Mascot – Radcliffe House  
Best Banner – Holmes House  
Best dressed – Westwood House  
(Asimah Motin and Safa Zaheer)

### SPORTS DAY 2015

After a glorious week of sunshine it was inevitable the heavens would open for Sports Day, and boy did it rain! However, the weather will not prevent a Whalley Range Sports day! The morning started out on the field where spectators sported their house colours and the wonderful posters and banners set the field ablaze with colour. Rory Radcliffe paraded around as the Radcliffe house mascot cheered the students on. The competitors took to the field in full voice and even higher spirit. Each race ran smoothly with competitors displaying courage and determination.

In the afternoon we moved to the stadium where the atmosphere was superb. To the delight of their Head of House Mr Atkinson and House Coordinator Ms Barnes, it was a WINFREY WIN. A big well done to all competitors and thank you to all spectators for the support. It was a fantastic day enjoyed by all!



## DEBATE MATE

This year's Debate Mate has been an exciting time for all the girls involved in Urban Debate League competitions. The girls were involved in a series of challenging debates against pupils from other schools in Manchester. During the debates and competition all girls had the opportunity to showcase the excellent skills and understanding they have developed during their Debate Mate sessions, and did so with impressive confidence.

Mentors have commented on how well the girls had researched the topic, worked really hard and enhanced their knowledge into various different topics for all motions that were given to them. The girls beat tough competitors in many rounds of the debate league, and came in the top 50 nationally!



## MANCHESTER DAY

Students from Whalley Range High School have been invited to take part in this day which is the launch for the Manchester Children's Book Festival. The event will be attended by Year 10 students and Year 8 Creative Writing Club at Manchester Metropolitan University which will give students a taster of university life. Amongst various engaging events, the highlight will be poetry recitals from the English Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy and award winning poet Imtiaz Dhaker. These renowned poets will also be joined by one of our own year 11 students Mariam Ghori, who will also recite a poem as a prize for her participation in the Poetry by Heart competition.

## WORD WARRIORS

KS3 students have been invited to attend the club to improve their spelling, punctuation and grammar. The students complete many exciting SPaG activities, play word games and take part in Boggle Championships! Students who have attended the club have made good progress in their SPaG skills. Also students who attended 5 times have won prizes and have been able to lead one of the SPaG club sessions!



## THE WOMAN IN BLACK THEATRE TRIP

Forty students went to see the live theatre performance of The Woman in Black which they had been studying in their English lessons.

Combining the power and intensity of live theatre with a cinematic quality inspired by the world of film noir, students were transported into a terrifying and ghostly world. The Woman in Black was one of the most exciting, gripping and successful theatre events we have had the privilege of going to. The students were extremely well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



## CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

KS3 students are enjoying developing creative writing skills, on Wednesday lunchtimes. Students are examining diverse themes and topics for story writing and poetry.

So far this term we have written a variety of poems, a mini saga and some scary ghost stories. We have also entered four national poetry competitions: Poetopia Competition 2015, Ghost Stories Competition 2015, Grim Tales and World Book Day 2015.

Prizes have been won this term through the Creative Writing Club's half termly competitions and we hope to win national awards following on from the success of last term!



## ARTS EMERGENCY

The 'ARTS Emergency' programme was an 8 week programme that built on the skills necessary to succeed in English and across the curriculum here at Whalley Range. Twenty-four lucky students were given the opportunity to experience different Arts and Humanities subjects which are not commonly taught before A level or degree level. Such subjects included: sociology, criminology, politics and philosophy, journalism, economics and anthropology. The workshops they attended also included University application processes and discussions about University life. After their successful completion of the course, the students attended a 'Graduation' ceremony at Manchester University which celebrated the students' hard work over the 8 weeks.

## RANGE OF WORDS 2015

Following on from the success of the Wordsmith Poetry Competition in December, the Year 9 winning team have recently produced a collaborative radio show exploring the popularity of the competition with Chris Jam, the Artistic Director. The radio show, hosted by the Year 9 students, looks back at the 2014 competition held across Manchester. The students interviewed a range of people including the Headteacher of Burnage Academy, Mr Ian Fenn and also asked students from Burnage Academy, Xaverian and Loreto College about their personal experiences of taking part in the competition, why poetry is such an important part of their lives and the skills that they have gained through taking part in this project. The theme of the 2014 poetry competition was Life and Legacy and the show explores the life of Nelson Mandela and features poems by Maya Angelou.

Follow the link below to listen to the show in full:



<https://www.mixcloud.com/wrws1118/the-wordsmith-poetry-show-2015>

## CLASS OF THE YEAR?

We have received exciting news that one of our excellent Year 7 English classes has been shortlisted for a 'Manchester Evening News' award for 'Class of the Year'. Miss Mason will be taking two of her students from the fantastic 7b/En1 to a ceremony at the Hilton Hotel on the 10th July to hopefully scoop the top prize!

The girls were nominated by Miss Mason for their consistently amazing attitude and effort in English during their first year at Whalley Range. Many of them have also eagerly dedicated their time in many a range of cross curricular opportunities during the course of the year and should therefore be extremely proud of their achievements.



## OUTDOOR THEATRE REWARD

On Friday 3rd July, 50 Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to watch an outdoor production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' which took place at The Grosvenor Theatre in Chester. Year 7 were rewarded with this trip for all of their fantastic effort and input into their English studies this year, as well as taking a keen interest during our study of 'Shakespeare's Baddies'! This was the first time that many of our students had seen a live performance, and it had such a positive effect on their understanding of Shakespeare which will help them throughout the rest of Key Stage 3.

# ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATIONS