

WHALLEY RANGE 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

SPRING 2014

NEWS • REVIEWS • FACULTIES • CHARITY • PERFORMANCE • SUCCESS



STEM WEEK

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

XFACTOR STAR RETURNS

PHONICS INTERVENTION

THE BIG HEALTH CHALLENGE

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR
SPORTS RELIEF!



**ROBOT RACE
CHALLENGE**

SCAN OUR CODE



1 OF THE TOP 100 UK SCHOOLS FOR SUSTAINED IMPROVEMENT 2011 - 2013

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WELCOME FROM YOUR HEADTEACHER



Every school wants to achieve fantastic examination results for its students but Whalley Range is ensuring our students are enjoying a wonderful and rich education. We want our students to leave school as happy and confident young adults, who enjoy working in teams, taking on challenges, coping with some failures and who know how to prepare effectively for success. This magazine is full of their efforts and achievements and successes in so many areas. We are very proud of our students and we hope their will go on to make their mark on our city through living productive and purposeful lives.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Ms. P. Kane M.A - Headteacher

South Manchester Girls Learning Centre

The school has recently set up a new provision at Levenshulme Library. The students who are on roll have already made a massive improvement in their attendance. Their attitude has been fantastic. Ms Sumner has said that it has been a real team effort. The students have worked with each other and the teachers to ensure that things run smoothly. Mrs Hamnett commented,

“The library now glitters with all the fantastic work that the students have done. The girls have really taken the opportunity to get back on track and work towards their goals. Well done girls!”



INCLUSION faculty

Maths Challenge

19 students have completed the Maths Challenge in the last term and the results are really impressive.

The most improved student was Aminah Zaman 7VW1A (pictured below left) and the second highest scores were achieved by Laiba Intisar 7KH1B and Anika Shezan 7 KH2B (pictured below right) both with 92%. The highest score was 95% achieved by Govanda Mousa 7KH2A. Congratulations!

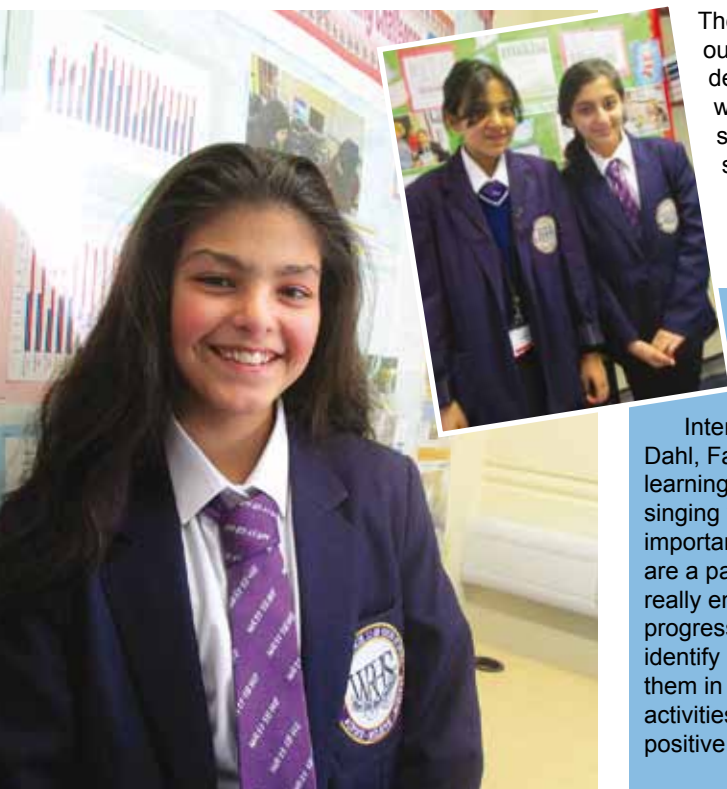


Their Sixth Form and outside mentors are delighted that their hard work has enabled the students to succeed to such a high standard.



PHONICS INTERVENTION

In January, a number of students were selected to be part of Phonics Intervention within their English classes. In addition to exploring the life of Roald Dahl, Fairy Tale Modifications and Greek Myth Adventures, the students have been learning how to blend and segment words and letters to improve their spelling skills, singing vowel sounds to music to practice their pronunciation and understanding the importance of the 5 vowels in our language. And of course the online Phonics games are a particularly popular way for the students to reinforce their learning. They have really enjoyed this different approach to English and as a result have made great progress with their reading and writing. This approach has allowed them to clearly identify gaps in their English skills and they are then therefore motivated to master them in order to progress further. Their enthusiasm and participation in these activities has made them entertaining, exciting and motivating and the students are positive they will continue to make good progress throughout the year. Well done girls!



Accelerated Reading

34 students have left Intervention Accelerated Reading as they have now achieved their target reading age. More students have now joined us and are hoping to make significant improvements to their reading ages. Our new books have arrived so they have plenty of choice!

Breakfast Reading Club has been taking place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays before school and 11 of the 12 students are now above target. Many thanks to Mr Lazarou and his team for the juice and delicious pastries.



MATHS AND ENGLISH CLUB

The Maths and English Club is still being regularly attended by many Year 7, 8 and 9 students who hope to improve their end of year Maths/English grade. This takes place at lunchtime (Maths/English) and after school (Maths). Attendance for the KS3 clubs has quadrupled over the last term so well done everybody!

All Intervention students and staff are very much looking forward to the Intervention trip and presentation afternoon which we will be organising soon.

KS4 STUDY AREA

Room A1/19 has been open every break, lunch and from 3.00pm for any KS4 student who needed a quiet place to work or revise.

KS4 STUDY SUPPORT SESSIONS

Maths and Science teachers have referred students who would benefit from some extra time spent studying a particular topic in the curriculum. Mr Newton and Miss Abushima have been running Study Support Sessions during lunchtime and after school.

EAL ADULT CLASS

Mrs Bajwa's EAL class is very popular with parents who want to improve their English. She is running classes on Tuesdays after school and on Thursdays from 2pm to 3pm. Recent additions have come from Spain and Italy. All levels of ability can join and it's really fun so any interested parent should contact school and ask to speak to Mrs Bajwa.

Again, we would very much like to thank the Sixth Form and external Mentors who are regularly giving up their time from their own studies, to help the students achieve, believe and succeed.

H. Bajwa, M. Quinn, S. Altaf, J. Walsh, R. Abushima and M. Newton.



WRITING CHALLENGE

Seventeen Year 7 and Year 8 students have nearly finished the Writing Challenge and most are now on or above their target. They have all worked so hard to improve their writing skills and hope to exceed their end of year English target.

DESIGN • CREATE • PROGRAM • BUILD

ROBOT CLUB



ROBOT CLUB IS BACK!

The 'Range Robots' team took part in the FIRST LEGO League regional tournament in January. They did a fantastic job at the tournament, competing against sixteen local schools. The standard was very high, as every other school had competed before. The event gave the students valuable experience of teamwork, working under pressure and problem solving. 'Range Robots' will be back next year! The Whalley Range Robot Club is back up and running for all Year 7, 8 and 9 students to join. This year, students will learn more advanced robotics techniques in preparation for next year's tournament. Students will design, build and program robots to complete tasks. They will be encouraged to come up with their own problems to solve too.



YEAR 7 PRODUCT DESIGN CLUB

Students from Year 7 have been attending Product Design club every Tuesday after school. The students have been learning how to use the laser cutter to design and make their own jewellery, key rings, and door signs. Up next: clocks! The students have developed their ICT skills by learning 2D Design, the design program that runs the laser cutter.

"I love product design because it helped me to develop my ICT skills. We have learnt how to make jewellery using new techniques on the laser cutter"
Hana Ahmed 7OW2b.

Product Design Club is held on a Tuesday after school in G129; if you are interested please see Miss Sutcliffe for more information.



RACING ROBOTS

Congratulations to Williams House on winning the first ever House Robot Race. Robots from each House were programmed by students to finish a gruelling science-themed obstacle course. Only two robots managed to finish, but the other houses got really close. Bumper

crowds witnessed a thrilling close finish. Congratulations to all the students who took part!



BIG BANG FAIR

Year 9 students went to Birmingham to attend the Big Bang Fair. It was a national event involving STEM careers advisors, universities and a variety of firms and STEM stakeholders. The students got to experience opportunities to engage with cutting edge developments in science and learn about a variety of STEM based careers. This gave students who might not have had a STEM career in mind the opportunity to discover possibilities for careers with a STEM based qualification.

NSEW EVENT

Key Stage 3 students attended a STEM fair and other events organised by the University of Manchester to broaden their horizon in STEM subjects. They accessed career information and advice and spoke to scientists who are leading exciting research and development projects in the university. The students also interacted with student ambassadors and could find out the routes into various courses at the university. This is part of WRHS's commitment to improving the access students have to course and career information. It was a real opportunity for the girls to make informed choices in their selection of GCSE courses at the end of Key Stage 3.



Recently the school held an X Factor style singing competition that was open to all students within the school and included a week of heats featuring each House. Ex-student 'Rielle Carrington fresh from her appearance on this year's actual X Factor as part of girl group Miss Dynamix agreed to be part of the judging panel.

Students who attended school every day and on time during the last week of term were put into a lottery draw to win a place in the audience for the final and 250 lucky students were chosen. After a fantastic final where every student sang their hearts out, the eventual winner chosen by the judges was Sanna Nejmeddin who won a voucher for £50. 'Rielle thanked the students by performing a stunning acoustic version of the Emelie Sande hit, 'Clown'.

The finalists from this year have also been entered into the School Idol competition and will be competing against each other again in the forthcoming School Idol competition for 3 places in the North West heat! Look out for dates and ticket information on the school website!

GOOD ATTENDANCE = GOOD ACHIEVEMENT!



"I wanted to organise 'The X Factor' here at Whalley Range to give girls of all ages and backgrounds a chance to show off their voices and it has certainly done that! I wasn't sure what the response would be, being a new teacher to the school, however it was absolutely fantastic! The audiences were so supportive and well behaved and each house was represented by some excellent singers." Mrs Black - Head of Music





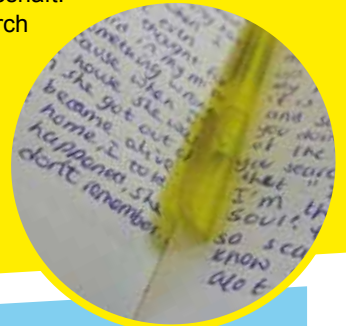
BBC School Report

School Report is back for another action-packed year of making the news with young people around the UK. At Whalley Range a group of Year 8, 9 and 10 students have been learning the reporting ropes in order to create their own report, which will be available to watch nationwide on the BBC website. One of the most important days in the School Report calendar is the annual News Day, which will be on 27th March 2014. All of the hard work that the students have put in will lead up to this day - an exciting opportunity for the young reporters to showcase their newsgathering and reporting skills. Last year's News Day was a great success, but we are hoping that this year it will be even better!

PRIMARY CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Local primary schools have been putting pen to paper to battle it out for the chance to win the 'Primary Creative Writing Competition' set up by Whalley Range High School. Year 6 students have had the option to complete one of two scary short stories using their active imaginations and descriptive features learnt in a session with Miss Shakeshaft. The deadline for entries is at the end of March where the English Faculty and English Leaders will decide on the winning entries.

Some of these winners could be attending WRHS in September so watch this space!



GMP PROJECT



A group of Year 9 and 10 students are working with Greater Manchester Police to help them to create a new website: 'YouSafe', which is being designed by young people from Manchester. All of the information is being written by young people and our students are taking part in producing video and photography content for the website. So far we have recorded various drama pieces, reconstructions and discussions about areas of crime that affect young people today.

The website will be launched later this year.

Spelling and Punctuation Club

Spelling and Punctuation Club is back after a successful half term. KS3 students have been invited to attend the club to improve their Spelling and Punctuation. Students who have attended the club have made vast improvements in their SPaG skills and those who have attended 5 times have won prizes!



mosi YOUNG JOURNALISTS

This March, students from Whalley Range Sixth Form went along to the Young Journalists' Conference at the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry to learn about careers in journalism and the media. There were discussions on the future of journalism in a digital age, press ethics and celebrity privacy. Our students asked questions to journalists from the Sun, the Times, the BBC and the Guardian about which stories they were most proud of and the responsibilities of a journalist reporting difficult stories. They also heard lots of behind-the-scenes stories about interviewing Sir Alex Ferguson, One Direction and Prince Charles. They received plenty of advice about a career in journalism and thoroughly enjoyed the day.





**THE DIRECTOR OF BBC RADIO
Helen Boaden chats to Year 11**



Inspirational Message

In October, we were very pleased to host a talk from the Director of BBC Radio, Helen Boaden. Seventy Year 11 students listened attentively as Helen shared her wealth of knowledge and experience about both the BBC and careers in media and journalism. She answered a wide range of questions about the roles and opportunities for women in the media and about her own personal journey to become the first female Head of BBC Current Affairs and now Director of Radio. Helen was also interviewed by specially selected students in Range Radio.

Many thanks to Mrs Appleby for helping to arrange this fascinating and motivating opportunity to meet this inspiring woman.

Creative Writing Club

Year 7 and 8 students are enjoying developing creative writing skills in the LRC on Wednesday lunchtimes. Students are examining diverse themes and topics for story writing and poetry. Additionally, students have, enthusiastically, entered two competitions. Power of Poetry has been very successful and 25 of our students have got through to the final stage of the competition. WICKED, the musical has attracted interest and students have been working really hard on their entries for the Young Writers Award. This prestigious award involves writing 750 words in story or poetic form. The students enjoy combining their imagination and ideas to create fantastic stories and poems!



Creative Writing Club is on Wednesday lunchtimes in the LRC

WRHS SPORTS UPDATE WRHS

SPORTS LEADERS PRIMARY BASKETBALL

Sports Leaders recently delivered 3 primary school basketball tournaments in our stadium. When carrying out these tournaments they completed a range of roles and responsibilities from scoring to timing and refereeing the games. They displayed outstanding leadership skills such as communication, organisation and teamwork. The staff from the visiting primary schools complimented our girls on their outstanding leadership qualities and professionalism. Well done to all of our Sports Leaders keep up the good work!



INTER-HOUSE BASKETBALL

Well done to all the participants in the Inter-House Basketball. All 5 Houses competed to earn a place in the final. Westwood and Winfrey were the two teams that made it through. After playing a fantastic game the overall winners were Winfrey! Well done to all the girls who took part.



Manchester Citywide Badminton

KS3 and KS4 students competed recently in the Manchester Citywide Badminton Tournament held at Cedar Mount High School. Three WRHS students made it to the quarter finals winning the most games in the heats. In KS4 Monesha Manboard achieved 3rd place and Shruti Khanal achieved 4th place. In KS3 Khaiza Blackwood Brown achieved 4th place. All students displayed impeccable behaviour and two of our students also helped to umpire games due to their excellent knowledge and understanding of the scoring systems. A huge congratulations to all students who competed.

Year 7 Athletics

Well done to the Year 7 athletics team who finished a brilliant 6th overall in the City-Wide athletics competition.



GIFTED & TALENTED ATHLETICS

KS3 students have been attending athletics workshops with some of the best athletics coaches in the country. The coaches from Sale Harriers put the students through their paces, working on triple-jump, sprinting, long jump and shot-putt.

THE BIG HEALTH CHALLENGE

Eight students from Whalley Range are taking part in "The Big Health Challenge" against numerous schools in Manchester. The task involves students competing to create advertising campaigns looking at the health implications caused by an unhealthy diet. Their focus for this term has been energy drinks, raising awareness of the extremely high levels of sugar in each of the branded drinks.



Drop the Drink!



1 Can of Red Bull
contains
27grams of sugar
which is the same as putting
8 teaspoons of sugar
in your tea!

Energy drinks in general lift your heartrate due to the high levels of caffeine and are not recommended to be consumed by children.

Some known health issues which can result from regularly consuming energy drinks include:
obesity, sleep disorders, tooth decay, mood disorders, high blood pressure, anxiety, headaches, hyperactivity

The group have named themselves Hygeia after the Greek goddess of health. Mrs White and Mr Corney are assisting the group with their expertise and the winning school will be rewarded with some special prizes.

Good luck to all of the students involved!

World Languages Faculty



KARNEVAL 2014

With the help of Miss Callicot, Irsa Ahmad and other leaders prepared a presentation to show students how Karneval was celebrated in Germany. We cut out masks and decorated them. We listened to music and watched videos about the festivities in Germany before our lessons. It was an amazing way of learning how countries have different activities for festivals.



VALENTINES DAY EVENT

For this lovely event, leaders invited students and members of staff to make origami heart pins. Suki Chen was very patient and showed us step by step how to fold our little piece of red paper to make it into a heart. Ayfer Shah had kindly brought some pins so we could wear our heart on our blazer. We also learned how to say Happy Valentine in French and Spanish!



CHINESE NEW YEAR

To celebrate Chinese New Year, leaders organised an amazing event! Suki Chen and Aqsa Alam invited their friend Jian Hua Mu. They taught Chinese calligraphy to students and members of staff and we had a go at writing with brushes and ink! Jian Hua also cooked some delicious dumplings that she shared with us. During the event, Nuha Kamal and other leaders collected money for a cancer charity while giving out Chinese cookies. We learned how to guess the meaning of Chinese pictographs and say the numbers. We had such a good time!



International Christmas

The World Language Leaders invited students to learn about how Christmas is celebrated around the world. Some leaders prepared a presentation followed by a quiz where students won prizes for their good answers. We opened crackers, made cards and wished each other a Merry Christmas in various languages!



BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND EMPLOYABILITY

CAREERS AMBASSADORS

NorthStar Guidance and Whalley Range have just recruited five Year 10 Careers Ambassadors – one from each House. These students have got an exciting chance to learn more about careers and will represent the school at future career events, learn about important skills in the work place and champion our v-Inspired programme to their peers. I am sure we will hear more about the Careers Ambassadors' work over the coming school year and their first task was to attend the International Womens Day Event at the RBS Group Building, Spinningfield Square in Manchester where they listened to inspiring speakers and met the members of the first Manchester UN Womens Network Committee. Mrs Appleby and Ms Browne both said that Malyun Omar, Jomana Abedi, Raynes Owen, Neha Biben and Zara Howard were fantastic representatives for our school.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight began straight after the half-term break. This was launched by students watching an entertaining but very informative video about Foncho, a banana grower, for whom Fairtrade had made a huge difference to his family. Mrs Davies and the Trust Champions also delivered assemblies in each House to raise awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight and Mr Lazarou, School Catering Manager, kindly agreed to only sell Fairtrade drinks during this period. There were quizzes and competitions in school which students eagerly took part in. Congratulations to Namra Durrani SW2a and Faiza Manzoor PR5b who were the first prize winners of the Foncho Banana Quiz!

Fairtrade Tea & Coffee

On Friday 28th February 2014 staff at our school were invited to a Fairtrade Tea & Coffee Event at Lunchtime in G113. Staff were treated to a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee and some Fairtrade biscuits as part of the activities to raise awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight. Staff who attended were given a raffle ticket with the opportunity to win a bag of Fairtrade goodies. Well Done to Miss Parry who was the lucky winner!



ENTERPRISE MARKETHALL

The Enterprise Markethall continues to thrive. The number of stall holders is increasing and Mrs Davies has almost run out of bronze and silver badges to award to students! There is a wide variety of items on sale, including jewellery, stationery, phone cases, make-up, books and DVDs. Some of the Houses are also making use of the Enterprise Markethall, using it as a way of making money for their chosen House charity. So come along on Monday Lunchtime to G207 to see what's happening – you never know what you may pick up!

CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS LINK

Earlier this year, Rachel Vorberg-Rugh of the Co-operative College visited WRHS to deliver an inspiring talk to students in a Westwood House assembly. Rachel shared with our students information on her career and personal life and how she came to be where she is today. She encouraged the girls to aspire, believe and achieve in their goals no matter what setbacks they have in life or what personal circumstance they may endure. VW's Head Girl, Alaina Iqbal and the Business Link leaders then interviewed Rachel further in the school's Range Radio Station, where they had the opportunity to ask more specific questions that students in the House wanted to know.

CO-OPERATIVE STORE VISIT

On Thursday 6th March a group of Year 7 & 8 students, who are also Trust Champions, were given the opportunity to visit the Co-operative Store on Withington Road, Whalley Range to take part in some Fairtrade activities and research. They started off with a Fairtrade Treasure Hunt – where they had to search the store for as many Fairtrade products as possible. The four teams were extremely competitive and determined to track down as many products as possible. They discovered tea, coffee, biscuits, flowers, honey, cotton wool and many more! After this the students were given the opportunity to speak to customers about Fairtrade Fortnight and tried to encourage them to swap one item of their shopping for a Fairtrade product. They also got to do some Fairtrade food sampling, tasting Fairtrade chocolate and biscuits! They had a fantastic time while at the same time developing their knowledge of Fairtrade. Thanks to Hazel Remeika, Regional Co-operative Membership Manager and Store Manager Dave Green, for giving us this great opportunity.

The co-operative

SIXTH FORMERS

COMPASSIONATE ABOUT FOOD!

Sixth Form students have been working in conjunction with the Social Sciences Faculty to collect food parcels for Compassion Food Bank in Moss Side. Compassion Food Bank is an independent Food Bank which provides a food source for people in need as well as a drop in facility for ex-offenders and the wider community. They offer free food parcels containing enough food for the provision of three meals per day for three days for each user and each of their family members. The students in Years 12 and 13 collected food from a variety of sources including extra tins and packets from home and staff were also encouraged to bring in food items to contribute to this worthy cause.



The overwhelming response took the Social Sciences Faculty by surprise, **“Our students at WRHS have embraced Compassion Food Bank as ‘their’ charity. They understand the importance of supporting families in need and helping people in our wider community. The efforts of our students have gone above and beyond anything we expected and it has been wonderful to see them so enthused about a charity”** said Mr Atkinson.

The founders of Compassion Food Bank in Moss Side, Michelle Welch and Elaine Leveridge (pictured), collected a car full of food this week from the school and were happy to meet some of the girls involved and chat to them about the charity’s rewarding work. The Social Sciences Faculty hopes to expand this support further by involving the whole school for the next collection which will enable more vulnerable people to have free food in the local area.



Five teams from Whalley Range took part in the National Cipher Challenge. This is a competition for budding code breakers run by the University of Southampton, with over 1000 teams taking part across the country. Defending school champions, the Purple Ninjas (Alishba Chohan, Jessica Ta, Moshtaha Afana, Hamda Shahzad and Hannah Idriss) came first in the school and each received a £10 voucher. We are also very proud to have our first ever winner in the national competition, Fasiha Arshad in Year 8, who won £25 for her solution to challenge 7a. Well done to all the students who took part and we hope you will take part again next year.



The AS Religious Studies Sixth Form group recently made its way to London to attend a revision conference held in Bloomsbury Baptist Church, complete with English philosophers, educators and internationally renowned scholars! We had an excellent time, consolidated our knowledge of a variety of philosophical and ethical issues, challenged ourselves with new ideas and realised that we already actually knew a lot too. The event has really helped us think about exam preparation and where our revision needs to be focused. A big thank you to Mrs Sniadek and Mrs Schenk for taking us on such a worthwhile trip.

YEAR 6 ART COMPETITION

‘WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL WORLD?’

We were absolutely thrilled with the number and quality of the entries for our Ideal World Competition. In fact we had over 150 fantastic entries from Birchfield’s, Chorlton Park, Manley Park, St Margaret’s, St. Mary’s and Wilbraham Primary Schools. The students showed their imagination and creativity by producing wonderful pieces of art using pencil, paint, crayons, collage and recycled materials. The end result was an interesting and inspiring display of paintings, line drawings and 3D models. A big thank you and well done to all those students who took part!



IN SUPPORT OF SPORT RELIEF

SPORT RELIEF 2014

GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR CHARITY!

For Sport Relief 2014 on Friday 21 March staff and students did their bit to raise money and awareness by running a mile on the outdoor running track.

Money raised by Sport Relief is used to change lives at home and abroad. In the UK it helps give shelter to young people living on the streets and to help those who are living with domestic abuse. Across the world the money helps children in education and provides fresh water and life saving vaccines for those who desperately need them.

Mile runs took place throughout the day with different year groups taking part during each period and at lunchtime. There were plenty of staff runners spotted too amongst the students!

As well as running a mile we also raised money by selling socks, pin badges and wristbands.

We managed to raise a grand total of £250.20 for this great cause.



INCLUSION Faculty

VALENTINES FAYRE



On Friday 14th February the Inclusion Leaders held a Valentines Fayre to raise money for Francis House. Throughout the week the students took a cuddly bear and a jar of sweets around the school and for a 20p donation they got to guess the name of the bear and the number of sweets in the jar.

On the day of the fayre, room A124 was buzzing with excitement to see who had won the goodies. In total the students raised an impressive £63 for this local charity. Well Done Inclusion Leaders!



YEAR 11 PROM

This year's Year 11 Prom is on Thursday 26th June at the Britannia Country House Hotel in Didsbury. The theme decided by the committee is Arabian Nights. Tickets are £22 each and can be bought from the Finance Office. Get yours before they sell out!

To attend the prom you must attend school regularly.



www.youtube.com/wrws1118



[@wrws1118](https://twitter.com/wrws1118)



www.wrws1118.co.uk

DISCLOSURE:

If at any time you would like to withdraw permission for your daughter's image to appear in our school magazine, "Partnership News", please contact the Headteacher through our main school number 0161 861 9727 or via email on: head@whalleyrange.manchester.sch.uk.