

## SIXTH FORM CHARITY COMMITTEE

The Sixth Form charity committee have been hard at work again this half term raising money for The Teenage Cancer Trust. The Teenage Cancer Trust unit at Christie's Hospital brings teenagers with cancer together so they can support each other along their journey. Alongside this is a medical team of teenage cancer specialists who pool knowledge to create a body of expertise that's second to none. Teenage Cancer Trust units aren't like ordinary cancer wards. Everything about them has been designed to give teenagers the very best chance of a positive outcome.

A number of our Sixth Form students have used the facilities at The Christie and wanted to give something back to the unit. A coffee morning was organised with donations from staff which raised over £200. Well done and thank you for your support!



## Year 12 Higher Education Day

A Year 12 Higher Education Day was the focus for Year 12 students on Deep Learning Day to help them with career decisions for the future.

This was an exciting opportunity for students to attend sessions led by Apprenticeship providers and a range of Universities including Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan, Liverpool John Moores and Bradford University.

They were given an insight into the opportunities that a variety of subjects can lead to once they have completed their time in the Sixth Form. Subject talks included ICT, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Law, Teaching, and Business Management. Also, former students from Whalley Range Sixth Form, Manpreet Kaur and Hajirah Iftikhar delivered sessions on writing personal statements and gave students an insight into their student experiences at university.

*"The day has been really useful and it has given me a good insight into what I need to do to apply for competitive courses."* Shiraz Baqi SF6

The students were keen to learn key information about applying to university and apprenticeships which will help them make informed decisions about their chosen career pathway once they have completed Year 13.



## CHARITABLE WESTWOOD HOUSE

During this academic year, Westwood House have held many activities to raise money for our charity – The Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity for terminally ill children. We organised a Tombola, a Charity Basketball match, a Teddy Bear raffle, as well as participating in many in-house activities such as the WRHS XFactor. Our Westwood House Leaders are fantastic students who help out with these activities tremendously, and the rest of the House students give such great support towards these activities. Westwood House Team would like to say a big THANK YOU to you all! Let's continue to work just as hard next year and raise even more money!

We have to say goodbye to our fabulous Head Girl: Alaina Iqbal. You have been a brilliant Head Girl and excellent leader and role model. We wish you all the best for your future.



## THE BIG HEALTH CHALLENGE

Students from Whalley Range continued their involvement in the 'Big Health Challenge' by creating their own fruit based drink. The aim of this was to replace unhealthy energy drinks. The students developed 'Samba', a mango, apple and lime drink based around Brazil and the World Cup. We're happy to say they beat off competition from 9 other schools to win this task and all of the students received a £10 Love2shop voucher as a prize. Well done to all of the students involved.



WHALLEY RANGE 11-18 HIGH SCHOOL - A MEMBER OF EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP TRUST

# PARTNERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2014 NEWS • REVIEWS • FACILITIES • CHARITY • PERFORMANCE • SUCCESS



## A PROUD PARENT AT THE INTERVENTION CELEBRATION AFTERNOON

ART SHOWCASE

LANGUAGES TRIP TO SPAIN

YEAR 11 SUMMER PROM

YEAR 6 ICT CHALLENGE

OLYMPIC STAR INTERVIEW

CENTRAL LIBRARY OPENING



CAPTIVATING CASTLETON!



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Cover Picture: Tarza Ibrahim 7VW4B with her proud mother, Amina Mustafa

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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.

www.wrhs1118.co.uk

www.wrhs1118.co.uk

## WELCOME FROM YOUR HEADTEACHER



### Living Our Values

It has been another busy and successful year for the school. From September we become part of a new Co-operative Academy Trust with Levenshulme High School and we are sure both schools will flourish and thrive as we share ideas and practice across the Trust. Our students can benefit from this and staff have already held many positive meetings to plan for a successful future. We are delighted that Manchester University Business School, a world class centre, has entered into a formal link with our school and will be helping us enhance opportunities for our students.

May we wish everyone connected with the school a restful and peaceful break over the summer.

Patsy Kane M.A. - Executive Headteacher  
Elizabeth Hole - Associate Headteacher



## REVISION TRIP TO ANGLESEY

The first bank holiday weekend in May, saw the inaugural Year 11 Maths, English and R.E. Revision Trip to Wales. Fifty-three students and six staff waved goodbye to Manchester and set fair for the Conway Centre on Anglesey.

Our first activity of the weekend was to build towers from spaghetti and sticky-tape which at first glance may not have seemed very relevant to the girls but quickly developed into a powerful learning opportunity about resilience, teamwork and motivation. Over the course of the next two days, students engaged with a variety of English, Maths, R.E. and study skills sessions; with enthusiasm, good humour and determination. The teachers were highly impressed by the manner with which the students approached the sessions and their desire to make the most of the opportunities.



The weekend's grand finale involved presentations written and delivered by groups of three students during their social time over the three days. The presentations were on a variety of important topics from English, R.E. and Maths and allowed the students to both consolidate their learning and share their breakthroughs with one another. We finished off by giving a number of awards to students who had made a particular effort, persevered through a challenge or excelled in the classroom or out.

The students arrived home tired from their exertions, but revitalised and determined to make the most of all their lessons in the final push to their exams. They had gained a fresh understanding of the importance of resilience and of their own strengths and challenges. The students who attended the weekend spoke about how valuable the experience was, and their classroom teachers saw a new maturity and fire to succeed. We are already looking forward to next year's trips.



## co-operative Fortnight

Co-operatives Fortnight started on 21st June until 5th July. As a Co-operative Learning Trust school, Whalley Range 11-18 High School supported this event. Mrs Davies, Trust Co-ordinator, arranged a quiz for students to take part in and Trust Champions went into House Assemblies to spread the word about Co-operatives. The Trust Champions were also given the opportunity to become involved in wider promotion of the event. Coop.uk came into school and Trust Champions became part of their National Campaign about Co-operatives Fortnight.

Did you know that there a number of Co-operatives locally? These included Stitched Up, Unicorn Grocery, Edinburgh Bicycle Co-operative and 8th Day Vegetarian Café. Try supporting local co-operatives – it can make a difference.



## BEST EVER ATTENDANCE at Whalley Range!

Congratulations to all for your contribution to helping us achieve our whole school attendance target of 94.5%. This is the best attendance we have ever had at Whalley Range 11-18 High School. National research shows that 73% of students with 96+% attendance achieve 5 GCSEs A\*-C (including English & Maths)

A huge thank you to students, parents/carers and staff, for helping us achieve our target. Good attendance = Good achievement

## Art Showcase 2014

The Art Showcase this year demonstrated the skill, versatility and extraordinary talents of the students at WRHS. It was the first year that the Photography course had been run and there were some exciting and accomplished final pieces from the students. The sketchbook work showed the time and in-depth study that the students have put into their artwork over the last year. It was a pleasure to see so many students and visitors at the event and the Art Leaders showed confidence in their discussions about the work on display.



## PRIMARY ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE CUP

Thursday 19th June saw the dawn of the Year 5 Primary Enterprise Cup. Pupils from surrounding primary schools entered Whalley Range ready to take on the Challenge. St Mary's Primary, Birchfields Primary, Old Moat Primary, Heald Place Primary, Manley Park Primary, Wilbraham Primary School.

Mrs Davies, Enterprise Co-ordinator welcomed the staff and students to the school and Mr Gerry Luczka from Impact Enterprise got the teams straight down to work! The team challenge was to build the highest freestanding tower using only 60 straws and a roll of cellotape. The children were incredibly inventive and creative and we had 2 towers that actually touch the ceiling!



Then it was down to the main event! Mr Luczka set a very topical challenge based on the World Cup. Pupils had to plan, design and create products that could be sold at the tournament. There were streams of bunting, t-shirts, mugs, mousemats and much more. The range of colours, designs and creativity was amazing! It was an extremely difficult competition to judge and St Margaret's Primary school were overall winners on the day. Congratulations to all the schools who took part in an action packed day, which saw pupils using a whole range of Enterprise Skills including teamwork, communication, creativity, planning, innovation, confidence and determination to name but a few.

## GCSE PSYCHOLOGY AWARDS



The GCSE Psychology one-year class enjoyed a celebration lunch for all their hard-work and dedication to the course over the past year. They worked tirelessly for both of their recent Psychology GCSE exams. The class have been enthusiastic, inquisitive and have been a pleasure to teach over the past year. They have worked well in all lessons, re-creating experiments and showing off their team-building and acting skills! They have worked relentlessly during their revision, creating huge mind-maps and packs of revision cards. The group gelled so well over the year- always supporting each other. At the celebration lunch, each student in the class was awarded a 'Little Miss ...' award in Psychology, to represent their character in the class. Some of the little Miss Awards included 'Little Miss Competitive', who was always game for a competition in class and 'Little Miss Performer' who was always so animated during acting-out experiments! Here's to some very successful exam results in August!



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**WELL DONE LADIES!!**



## YEAR 6 ICT CHALLENGE



Four local Primary Schools were recently invited to our school to take part in the ICT Challenge. The following primary schools took part in this fun challenge: Chorlton Park Primary School, Wilbraham Primary School, St. Margaret's Primary School and Birchfields' Primary School.

The challenge involved each group of pupils to create and video an advertisement to promote the latest technology product of their choice. All the schools created fantastic advertisements, showcasing their amazing ICT skills. The winning school who created the best video advert was St Margaret's Primary School. Congratulations to the winning school and well done to all the pupils who took part. It was a fantastic day which all pupils thoroughly enjoyed.

Thank you to the four fantastic Digital Leaders: Noor Sarfraz Hussain (8SW1b), Saba Khan (9SW3b), Safa Zaheer (9VW2b) and Elizabeth Morgan (7VW1b) who were a great help on the day.



### Year 7 Quad Kid Athletics

Ten Year 7s students represented the school in quad kids on Friday 13th June at Sports City. All ten students carried out 4 events including long jump, howler throw, 100m sprint and 800m run. All students applied maximal effort and participated amongst 60 other teams on the day. The two teams achieved 15th and 17th place on the day – well done!

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP WEEK

*"It is so exciting to see all of the different leadership opportunities in school; I didn't know there were so many."* Halima Mir OW1A

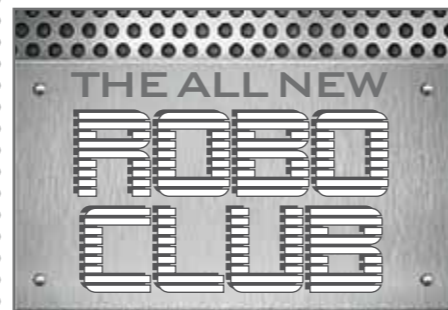
During our first ever Student Leadership Week in June staff and students were involved in a number of activities including a scavenger hunt around the school looking for inspirational leaders. Participation and enthusiasm for the week was outstanding and everyone is looking forward to next year's event. The Learning to Lead Events Team put a lot of effort in to planning different activities over the course of the week and Mr Atkinson is very proud of them and their continued dedication.

## KINGSBROOK FAMILY FUN DAY

Kingsbrook Family Fun Day Committee got in touch with Mrs Appleby recently to find out if Whalley Range Students could once again volunteer to help with the Family Fun Day on June 8th. The students helped sell items to raise money, helped with a food sharing table and supervised the children using the bouncy castle.



Mandy from Kingsbrook sent a lovely e-mail saying they couldn't have done it without the help from our students and sent certificates to congratulate them. Well done girls and I am sure the Kingsbrook committee will be back again next year for your help.



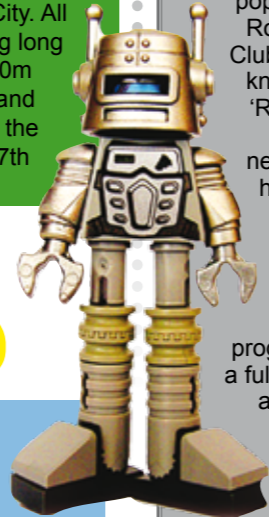
Students from Year 8 have come up with a new name and identity for the ever popular Robot Club. Now known as 'RoboClub',

the group now have new badges feature a striking hand drawn robot design by Abeera Bilal 8VW5a.

This term, the challenges have had a sporty theme. Students have been programming the robots to run a full lap around the classroom, and getting four robots to 'hand over the baton' in a relay race. The current challenge shows that even robots have World Cup fever – teams of robots are playing football! This is the hardest challenge yet, with the robots having to figure out where the ball is, where they are on the pitch, and where the goal is.

If you fancy joining in with the challenges, there are still places left for Year 7, 8 and 9 students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

**Come along to room B0/08 on Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes to find out more and join RoboClub!**



# INCLUSION FACULTY @ WRHS

Well, it's nearly Summer and the academic year is nearly over. The Intervention Team have been working hard as usual; over 107 students took part in a Maths Challenge, 43 in a Writing Challenge, 103 in Accelerated Reading and 141 students attended our Breakfast, Break, Lunch and After-school Clubs. They have all achieved or even exceeded their target grades. 51 Sixth Form Mentors, 29 KS4 Mentors, 7 Manchester University Mentors and 4 outside Mentors helped our students to succeed and we are very grateful.

If anyone is interested in mentoring next year, please email Mrs Bajwa; hba@whalleyrange.manchester.sch.uk



### MATHS CHALLENGE

107 students have completed the Maths Challenge over the last year and the results are really impressive.

Nouf Almagushi 8KH2A is our first student to achieve 100% in the Maths Challenge! Very well done Nouf!

Muqaddas Kanwal 8KH2A got the second highest score of 97%. Congratulations!



### ACCELERATED READING

103 students have taken part in Intervention Accelerated Reading and 96% improved their reading age. 5 students improved their reading age by 2 years! Well done girls!



“

Again, we would very much like to thank the Sixth Form and outside Mentors who are regularly giving up their time from their own studies, to help the students achieve, believe and succeed. A special mention should go to Katherine Phipps (pictured), from Manchester University who even won an award for the amount of time she has dedicated to volunteer work.

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### INTERVENTION CLUBS

Our clubs have been regularly attended throughout the year with 141 KS3 students coming to A1/19! We hope to see them all again next year so that they can achieve their target grades with a little help from us!

### ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE - ADULT CLASS

Mrs Bajwa's EAL class has proved to be very popular again with parents who want to improve their English. Classes have been on Tuesdays after school and on Thursdays from 2pm to 3pm. All levels of ability can join and it's really fun so any interested parent should contact the school and ask to speak to Mrs Bajwa.

### WRITING CHALLENGE

43 Year 7 and Year 8 students have 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 most have reached or even exceeded their end of year English target.

### KS4 STUDY SESSIONS

Rooms A1/19 and A1/10 have been open every break, lunchtime and from 3.00pm for any KS4 student who needed a quiet place to work or revise. English, Maths and Science teachers have referred students who would benefit from some extra time spent studying a particular topic in the curriculum. The sessions have been a great success.

### CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION AFTERNOON

The KS3 Presentation Afternoon took place in Range Stadium on Tuesday 24th June and was well attended by many parents who took time to come and support their daughters. Many certificates were presented and it showed us all just how much hard work has been done this year.



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



# Global Awareness

## The Quay To Our Learning

In May two groups of Year 9 students embarked on a brand new field trip to Salford Quays. The trip was based around a new scheme of work based on the regeneration of Salford Quays.

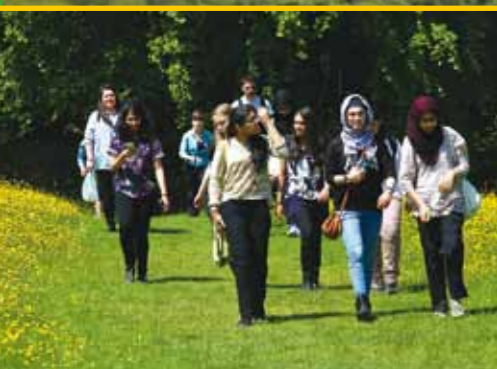
Students collected their own research data and were taken on a guided tour around the area. Students started off at The Lowry Centre, and were taken all around the major sites of Salford Quays including; The Imperial War Museum North, Coronation Street, Media City UK and The Lowry Outlet. Students were a credit to the school and we look forward to next year's trip!



Year 8 Geography students went on their annual fieldtrip to Castleton in the Peak District on 12th and 13th June. It began with a walk up part of Mam Tor where students learnt that the Peak District was covered by a warm shallow sea over 300 million years ago. They also searched for fossils (the dead plants and animals from this sea) in the surrounding limestone rock.

In Castleton village 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 students and staff.

## CAPTIVATING CASTLETON!



## Wondrous Weather!

Year 7 students have been studying weather and climate over the last few weeks culminating in a weather project in the grounds of the school. Students investigated microclimates in order to decide the best location for an outdoor swimming pool. Students also went to four sites around the school and measured the wind speed and temperature using thermometers and anemometers. They all assessed the areas for shade, shelter and nearby buildings and this gave them a real hands on experience of measuring the weather using weather instruments.

This activity brought students' fascination with the weather to life. Learning outside the classroom enthused and engaged all students, deepening their understanding of weather and climate.

# World Languages Faculty

## Santander Culture Trip - May 2014

On the 21st of May 2014, 33 of our students left Manchester to travel to Santander in Spain for 6 days by coach. Crossing the Channel, driving through France, they finally arrived at the Hotel Campomar on the Cantabria coast. In those few days, our students were given an insight into Spanish culture including visits to: Santander, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Magdalena Peninsula, Santillana del Mar, Museo de Altamira. They also learnt about themselves and how to look after one another. So many places, so many languages spoken and so many unforgettable memories!

*"The Spanish trip was an experience I will always remember even though it was quite long, it was worth it. I loved it when we played on the beach and when we got to explore the local areas."* Saba Khan



## La fête de la Musique - June 2014



To celebrate the first day of summer, French people have created "La Fête de la Musique" celebrated on the 21st June in French towns, cities and villages. Atiya, Yusra and Javeria thought it would be a good idea to share this tradition by hosting their own event in the music room and special thanks to Mrs. Black for letting us experiment with many musical instruments.

To try an instrument the girls were asked to make a small donation to the NSPCC. For each instrument tried, they were given a sticker by our language leaders. At the end, the girls with the most stickers won a prize. Welcome summer! Vive l'été!

*"We can't really play live music, but we will try! Let's celebrate summer the French way!"*

Language Leaders created the Easter egg decoration competition to encourage students to celebrate Easter and learn more about world traditions.

We had 4 beautiful entries and it was difficult to choose the best one. Leaders also organised raffle tickets and bought the main prize for the winner to help raise money for Breast Cancer research.



## Easter Around the World Event - April 2014



## GEN Y RAIL EVENT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

A small group of students were invited to discover the wide and diverse range of career opportunities on offer in the innovative and dynamic rail industry.

They were given the opportunity to:

**Compete with their peers developing solutions to engineering challenges faced by the industry and present to a Dragons' Den style panel of judges.**

**Engage with local and national employers, colleges and universities.**

**Interact with young graduates and apprentices working in the rail industry today.**

Gen Y Rail consists of engineering and design competitions for 11–19 year olds. Young apprentices and postgraduates already working in the rail industry also gave presentations to inspire and engage our students.



## STEM CHALLENGE DAY

In May, a 12 strong team of our best potential Scientists, Mathematicians and Engineers in Year 8 and 9 took part in a series of challenges at the University of Manchester. They programmed robots, created e-fits using specialist software, built miniature cars and bridges.

They really excelled and grabbed the opportunity to develop new skills, making not only Whalley Range 11-18 High School proud but girls everywhere who are underrepresented in STEM fields.

## NATIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WEEK

The members of STEM club jumped on the chance to show off all of their amazing practical skills to everyone in the school when they hosted an event for National Science and Engineering Week. The STEM girls invited their peers to get involved with analysing skittle colours, creating marshmallow and spaghetti towers, making fool's gold and slime, and many more activities.

*"Me and Govanda were in charge of the marshmallow and spaghetti challenge. We helped people by showing them what to do. They built high towers, most of them fell down and we got very messy. We told them to give it a go and not give up."*

Maria El-Ghazze PR2A

*"Science and Engineering week was great fun. Lots of people turned up and they tried many experiments. I was running an experiment and it was really nice looking at people participating. I really enjoyed trying different experiments and helping others with theirs. I told many people about it and they said they loved it."*

Sana Ahmed OW4A



On the 13th of June 2014, two Year 7 students and two Year 8 students from the Science Gifted & Talented programme were selected to take part in the Salter's Chemistry Challenge:

**Roma Shahzad, Ava Micklewright, Rosie Ostle, Helen Francis**

The four girls who were selected were fantastic ambassadors for the school. The day comprised of three parts. The first part was the Chemistry Challenge, the second part was the University Challenge, and the last part was a Flash Bang Chemistry show.

The students came 2nd in the Chemistry Challenge! As this was the main part of the day this was a fantastic achievement.

Our students were in stiff competition with eighteen other schools across Greater Manchester. In the Chemistry Challenge they had to impress the judges with their teamwork, practical skills and accurate report writing. Judges commented on the excellent teamwork of the girls and they very nearly won first place! Well done girls!



# Arabian Nights Prom



The annual Year 11 Summer Prom was, once again, held at the Britannia Country House Hotel in Didsbury, on Thursday 26th June. The theme this year, as voted by the Prom Committee, was Arabian Nights which saw the venue filled with lanterns and fairy lights. Awards on the night were presented for Best Entrance, Best Hair and Make Up, Best Dressed and Prom Queen which went to a Prom Committee member and a Head Girl; Ama Appiah.

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

## Manchester Art Gallery

On the 3rd July 2014 a group of Year 10 and Year 12 Art and Design students visited Manchester Art Gallery. They were guided round the permanent exhibition spaces within the gallery undertaking a variety of drawing workshops as they discussed the artwork. The students then had the opportunity to experiment with mono-printing techniques in the Education area. The students produced a great deal of experimental work during the visit and were a credit to the school in terms of their behaviour and responses to the workshop. Well Done!

## SIXTH FORM ALTON TOWERS TRIP

June 2014

Over 100 Year 12 and Year 13 students attended the annual Sixth Form trip to Alton Towers. Despite the rain, students and staff had a fantastic, adrenaline fuelled day on all of the rides and visiting the main attractions, which included the world's first 14 loop roller-coaster! It was a great way to celebrate the end of the academic year and all of the students' hard work. On behalf of the students, Miss Fadra would like to thank all the staff involved with trip for their support.



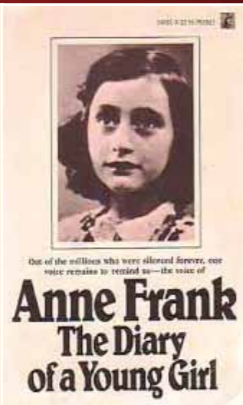
**Creative Writing Club**

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

This term we have written poems, short stories, riddles and entered the Mother Tongue Other Tongue Competition 2014. Prizes have been won this term through the Creative Writing Club's half termly competitions and nationally!

**Anne Frank Exhibition and Workshop**

Two Year 8 classes visited Manchester Metropolitan University during half term four to take part in the workshop based on one of the most famous texts written during the 20th century: 'Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank. Students explored how writing can be used to provide freedom of thought and expression in the most oppressive of climates, as they learnt about Anne's experiences during the holocaust. They also produced their own creative responses at the event in which they related what they had learnt to modern 'freedom writers' such as Malala Yousafzai. Overall students developed their understanding of the power of the written word and what it can achieve.



**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 effect young people today.



**CENTRAL LIBRARY GRAND RE-OPENING**

When the incredible Central Library held its grand reopening in March, Whalley Range 11-18 High School was honoured to be asked to attend the special day.

A group of Year 9 students had the amazing opportunity to explore the library before its opening to the general public. The day started with a lively and interactive performance from the poet, Craig Bradley. We then toured the library, interacting with characters along the way, such as a World War I soldier, a suffragette and a Victorian benefactor.

The girls then had free time to explore the newly refurbished main Reading Room, complete with film archives, ancestry searches and electronic postcards (as well as the books themselves!)

The highlight of the day was meeting the ceremony's guest of honour, Maude Ball. She is an ex-Whalley Range pupil, who had been at the original opening ceremony for Central Library in 1934. She was delighted to meet students from the school and encouraged them to continue reading, saying:

**"Books can take you to an entirely different place, where you can just immerse yourself"**

**"It's so important that we treasure this pastime. For people like me it helps to keep you young. I really believe that keeping interested in the world around you is the key to staying fit and healthy."**

Maude Ball



**YEAR 8 STUDENTS INTERVIEW**

**ELLIE SIMMONDS**

At short notice on Friday 6th June, three Year 8 students: Jade Rose, Lois Clements and Chelontae Witter were offered a fantastic opportunity from the BBC School Report team. Paralympian Ellie Simmonds will be launching the 2015 UK School Games which are due to take place in Manchester in September and our students grabbed the opportunity to prepare some questions for her to answer. The Q+A article has been featured on the BBC website so well done girls!

If you want to read the Ellie Simmonds Q&A, you can follow this link: [www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/27764073](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/27764073)



**MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE**

This year in Creative Writing Club, a group of KS3 students entered MOTHER TONGUE OTHER TONGUE 2014 which is a National Multi-lingualism competition celebrated through poetry.



This multi-lingual poetry competition has given young people across the country the opportunity to celebrate their home languages and also to get creative in other languages they are learning at school.

The competition was created by Manchester Metropolitan University and was piloted last year in schools in Manchester. It was such a success that Britain's Poet Laureate, Carol Ann Duffy has adopted this project as a UK Laureate Education Project and is encouraging all young people across the whole of the UK to get involved.

Taha Haque 70W5b was awarded the 'Highly Commended' Prize for the Year 7, 8 and 9 category. She attended the National Celebration Awards on 27th June where she read her entry and collected her prize!

**WORDSMITH WINNERS!**

Talented Year 12 and 13 students entered the prestigious Wordsmith Poetry Slam competition in April. The poet and novelist Desiree Reynolds (pictured left) came in to train and mentor them as they created wonderful poetry on the theme of war. On the night of the final, our students won, beating Xaverian College!

**Huge congratulations to Aisha Khan, Maimuna Kamal, Hannah Ghafoor, Ayeesha Shah and Ammaarah Al-Khalifa.**

Here is an extract of Hannah Ghafoor's poem:



**AUTHOR VISIT**

Visiting author Deborah Ellis (pictured left) talks to Year 8 students about her novel 'My Name is Parvana'.

Two Year 8 classes were lucky to meet the famous author Deborah Ellis during half-term four. Deborah gave a fascinating talk about the inspiration for her novels, mainly focussing on her time spent with communities in Afghanistan. Her novels mainly deal with the lives of young women growing up in this country, and students showed empathy and engagement by asking thoughtful questions about what had inspired Deborah and how they could develop as writers themselves. In addition, 10 lucky students also won signed copies of the novel for their enthusiastic participation.



**WORD WARRIORS**

Word Warriors (previously known as Spelling and Punctuation Club) is continuing after another successful half-term. KS3 students have been invited to attend the club to improve their Spelling and Punctuation, play word games and take part in the Boggle Championships! Students who have attended the club have made vast improvements in their SPaG skills and those who have attended 5 times have won prizes!

