

# PARTNERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2017

NEWS • REVIEWS • FACULTIES • CHARITY • PERFORMANCE • SUCCESS



featuring....

## NHS BIG HEALTH DAY 2017

VOCAB EXPRESS  
LGBT CLUB NEWS  
AUTHOR VISIT  
SIXTH FORM TRIP  
SCIENCE WEEK  
LITERACY FOCUS

Aspire • Believe • Achieve

HEPBURN

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PARKS

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ANGELOU

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GERMAIN

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FRANKLIN



## WELCOME FROM THE ACADEMY HEADTEACHER

Mrs E Hole - Academy Headteacher    Ms P Kane MA - Executive Headteacher



As you can see from this edition of Partnership News, it has been yet another action packed Summer term with a full range of exams, events, visits and experiences for our students. We have had a big focus this year on health and wellbeing and we are very pleased that our students won first place in 'The Big Health Challenge' and also the school recently won the Manchester Evening News Award for healthy living. The Big Health Day which is reported in the centre of this magazine, was a first of its kind with over 75 visitors from different health professions represented. It was a really inspirational day for our students. Also over half of the Year 10 students have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh expedition during this term. We are very proud of all these achievements.

We hope you enjoy reading all the different articles which give a full flavour of life at Whalley Range 11-18 High School.

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

## Lord Mayor joins Whalley Range LGBTQ Club

Our LGBTQ club were delighted to welcome Carl Austin-Behan, Lord Mayor of Manchester, to discuss some of the key topics in the LGBTQ community.

Upon hearing of the work our students were doing in school surrounding LGBTQ, the Lord Mayor was keen to arrange a visit to come in and see the project for himself. An hour of student-led discussions took place, alongside input from their club co-ordinator Mr Webster and Executive Headteacher Ms Kane.

The Lord Mayor was full of praise for the way that schools are moving forward on the topic. He said:

"It's the younger people of today that need to educate the older people. They can go away and give advice and support to not only mums and dads, but also their brothers and their cousins who may be going through any sort of sexuality and gender situation. It's about them being there to support them and I think what you're doing here is fantastic in the fact that you're raising awareness but in a nice, light-hearted way that doesn't make people feel uncomfortable."

We would like to thank the Lord Mayor for giving up his time to visit the school and wish him all the best for the rest of his term in office.





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 students 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 in various different topics for all motions that were given to them. The girls beat tough competitors in many rounds of the Urban Debate League, and came in the top 50 nationally!

## Macbeth Performance

Instead of taking Year 9 and 10 students to the theatre to watch adaptations of their GCSE Literature texts, we brought the theatre to Whalley Range.

ManActCo came in to perform the eerily Gothic The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde for our Year 9 students and the both tragic and gruesome tale of Macbeth for Year 10.

These performances brought the two complex texts to life and allowed students to envision the fear of a Victorian reader or the horror an Elizabethan audience might have felt. Students were not only able to develop their analysis, they thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

We are extremely grateful for the opportunity ManActCo provided to our students!



## Author visit

### Qaisra Shahraz

It was a delight to host Qaisra Shahraz, for an author event at Whalley Range High School. The literary event linked very well to International Women's week, and being an all girls school, the students learnt a lot from the session. She gave an inspirational talk about her multiple careers in writing, publishing, education, inspection and peace work. In particular, she promoted a love of reading, literature, and raised awareness about women's lives - particularly Muslim women. As an interfaith peace activist, she promoted respect for other faiths and cultures and also talked about what it was like writing her novels and how the process varied from her first and second novels: The Holy Woman, Typhoon, to the negative one of writing: Revolt. The students were in awe of Qaisra and she built a wonderful rapport with the girls. They were lively and enthusiastic and asked lots of challenging questions at the end of the talk.



## Creative Writing Club

Eight pieces of creative writing produced by students through Creative Writing Club have been chosen for publication across a range of anthologies. Students have been very busy in Creative Writing Club over the past year, entering many national competitions. Their poems and short stories have been selected for publication on the basis of imagination, perception, expression, creativity and use of language, making this a great achievement for our students to be proud of. Copies of all of these anthologies will be kept at the British Library and other libraries across the UK and Republic of Ireland, providing a lasting record of their achievement.



## ARTs Emergency

The 'ARTs Emergency' programme gave students in Year 9 the opportunity to raise their achievement, experience University art subjects, and increase cultural capital. Students visited the University of Manchester to experience different Arts and Humanities subjects which are not commonly taught before A-level or degree level. The workshops included photography, fashion and a discussion about university life. The students had an amazing experience through a range of art subjects they had studied and received certificates of 'graduation' after the event.





## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

The school's Science Leaders are celebrating a fantastic and successful British Science Week 2017, which ran from 10th -19th March.

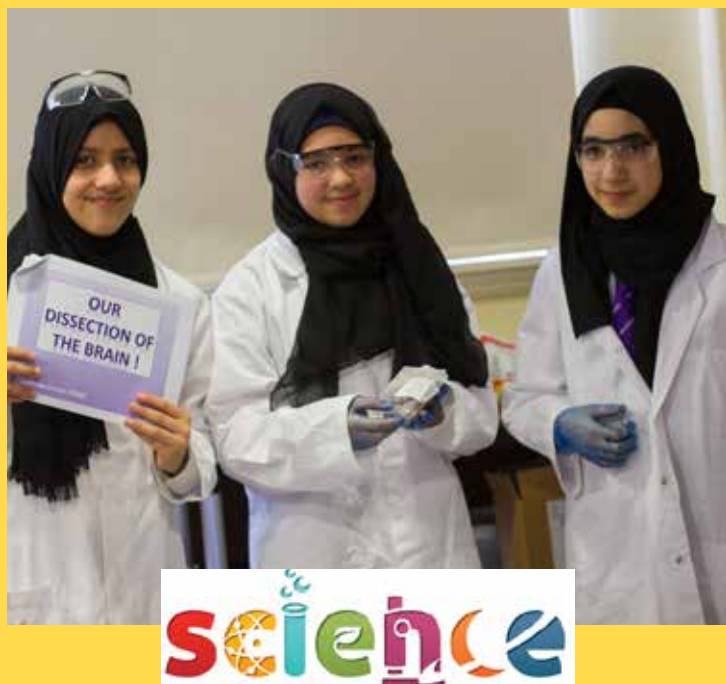
The centrepiece of the week was the school's third Annual Science Fair. Over fifty students in Years 7-10 formed groups to explore questions in Science. The groups spent weeks researching topics, conducting experiments and putting together their findings on large displays for the fair.



Students, teachers and parents who attended the event were fascinated by the variety and quality of the displays and experiments on show and the enthusiasm and knowledge of the groups. The judges- Mr Lea, Mrs Hole and Mr Mycock had a difficult time choosing the winning groups but eventually first prize was awarded to "The Brain" group.

As well as British Science Week, the science leaders have contributed to many other events in school this year, including quizzes, competitions, the Big Health Day and school trips.

Sara Waseem 9RP3b and Attia Akhter Sultana 9RP4a

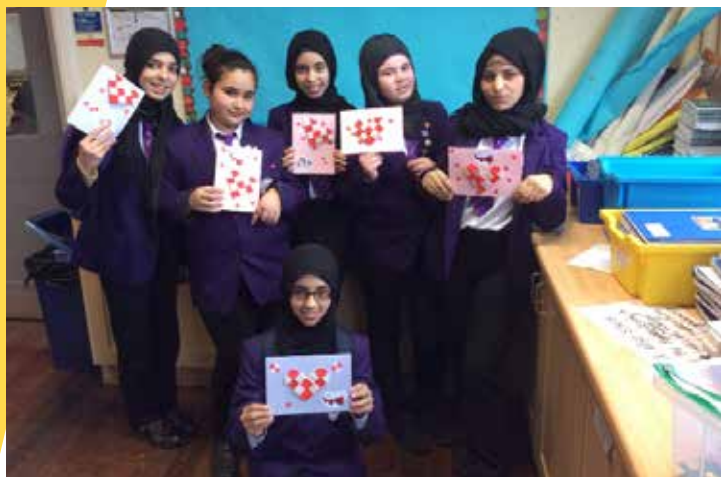
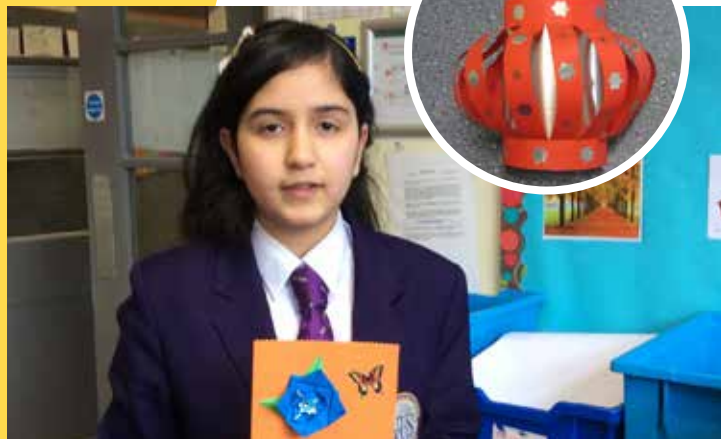


## CRAFT CLUB .....

For anyone, origami is something fun to learn and it can be an incredibly rewarding activity. Our Craft Club activities, based on origami, keep young hands and minds working and creative.

You don't need expensive materials, equipment or prior experience, simply folding a flat sheet of paper can transform it into a sculpture. Use your imagination, artistic skills and play with colours and shapes to create perfect gifts for the most special people in your lives. A piece of origami is a wonderful handmade present, which you can make unique. People will appreciate your gift more because you spent your time on it and they will feel loved and important.

Do you want to make a special gift even more special? Then what are you waiting for? Come along to A124 on Friday Lunchtime Craft Club to learn how to use origami techniques to make attractive objects!





## TMT Challenge Finalists

Five Year 13 students from Whalley Range Sixth Form College travelled down to the Deloitte Offices in London on Monday 20 March 2017 to take part in the final of the TMT Challenge.

Alaina, Najmudini, Noora, Fatima and Aaliya were victorious in the regional heats of Deloitte's Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) Predictions Schools Challenge back in February, earning their place in the grand final (and final three). Their project, 'teachAfrica', proposed ultra-fast connectivity to establish an interactive and mobile school network in Sierra Leone and other poor and remote areas around the world. The girls presented their project proposal in the Deloitte Auditorium with confidence and real passion. They finished off as overall runners up in what was a very challenging, national competition.

Mrs Lomax, Head of Whalley Range Sixth Form College, said:

**"The girls were a real credit to themselves and the school. Their mentors from Deloitte, Mr Petty and Mr Fadil, were immensely proud of the students and acknowledged the journey they have been on."**

**Deloitte** At the end of the presentations Deloitte arranged for the students to have a ride on the London Eye, which rounded off a fantastic day for the students.



# Social Skills Programme

So far 28 students have completed the 12 week programme to improve their social skills with Miss Butters. At the moment the “6 Princesses Who Rule the World” and “Miss Butters Super Team” are learning how to make new friends and work well together. The most important part of our intervention is to have fun and try something new.

Students have grown in confidence throughout the programme learning how to overcome difficulties and develop a network of friends. Our weekly leaders take turns in leading the group giving everyone a chance to be the boss (and choose the music!). Team games and activities give students chance to work in a team, developing essential communication skills they can take back into lessons.

Everyone who has completed the social skills programme felt they had made new friends, were happier in school and had lots of fun!



## Getting Creative with Words

**MANCHESTER**  
1824  
The University of Manchester

 There has been a real buzz around the corridors and classrooms in Whalley Range 11-18 High School recently! Ms Fahey was excited to launch a poetry competition open to students. This was no ordinary poetry competition! Students needed to create their poems on the theme of Identity and submit them, but it didn't end there. We are pleased to say that a number of students from the University of Manchester who are studying for a PhD in Creative Writing then analysed the poems and met with students to give constructive feedback. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students, to meet with and speak to experts in creative writing and get some guidance on how their writing should develop. After receiving the feedback, students were then encouraged to redraft their poems and resubmit them. The highlight of the competition is a celebration event which is being held at the University of Manchester where Lemn Sissay, famous poet and Chancellor of the University of Manchester will announce the winner.

Ms Fahey, Deputy Headteacher said **"We have had an amazing response to the competition and are very proud of the poems that our girls have written. Congratulations to all of our entrants!"**.





# WRHS BIG HEALTH DAY

Our Big Health Day saw over 70 healthcare professional in school to work with our students. The aim of the day was to show students the wealth of different careers that are available in health care and saw surgeons, midwives, radiographers, podiatrists, GPs, paramedics and a whole host of other professionals represented. We were delighted to be able to welcome Julia Bridgewater, Chief Operating Officer of Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to open our event.



**"Totally brilliant! As a lecturer from a university, I don't think I've ever seen such enthusiasm from such bright students, and the questions they've been asking are amazingly detailed. The students have shown that they love the opportunity to find out more about the healthcare system, even if they're unsure about their future."**

Gilly Mehraban, Director of Admissions,  
School of Health Sciences, University of Salford





**"The speakers were inspiring, and the wisdom, the life experiences from everyone who attended today have helped everyone in some way or other. We deeply appreciate all the staff who've taken the time to come in and talk to our students. Thank you very much for joining and participating in our Big Health Care Day"**

Patsy Kane M.A - Executive Headteacher



Students not only listened to presentations from healthcare professionals, but were also able to develop some hands-on skills such as suturing and resuscitation, as well as visit numerous careers stalls to speak to professionals and find out about their careers. The day was truly inspiring and with over 1,400 students being involved we hope that we have inspired some of our students to become healthcare professionals of the future.



**"Today was an amazing event and a fantastic opportunity for both students and staff, to explore the opportunities that the health field holds for those who may not have even thought about a career there! Today makes them realise that the NHS is not just doctors or nurses. It's engineers, researchers, gardeners, charity workers and hundreds of other roles that are all just as important."**

Julia Bridgewater, Chief Executive of Central Manchester University Hospitals



## Student Council

The Student Council is as active as ever and working hard to improve the lives of fellow students at Whalley Range 11-18 High School.

There are 2 main projects that they are currently working on. One is relating to the issue that we have with parking around the school entrance, particularly at 3pm. Representatives from our student council have met with members of the student council from William Hulme Grammar School, to try and come up with some ideas and initiatives which will help encourage parents to be more considerate with their parking for the safety of our students.

The second one is the Big Health Challenge. This is delivered through Voicebox, which is a meeting of student councils from Manchester Schools. The challenge is to promote resilience in school, and they are focusing particularly on exam stress. They are looking at ways in which we can get students to 'dig deep' and carry on in times of stress. Not easy but they are focused, creative and hard-working and are coming up with some great ideas!

Watch this space for feedback on these projects in future editions of Partnership News!



## Young Scientists in the Making!

16th March brought great excitement at Whalley Range 11-18 High School. It was time for the Year 6 Science Cup to be battled out! A number of local primary schools sent a team of 5 potential young scientists to represent their school. The girls were given the task of designing, costing and building a creation that would successfully keep an egg safe when dropped from a large height! Some of our own Year 9 students were there for help and advice. The ideas soon started flowing and the range of products created was amazing! Then came the time to test them out! Eggs were carefully placed in each of the objects and dropped from the balcony in the hall - don't worry a large plastic sheet had been put down! The results were egg-ceptional! Lots of eggs landed safe and sound! Whilst the judges deliberated to decide the winners, the pupils were treated to a mini science show from Mr Daly, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Eventually the results were in, well done to Wilbraham Primary School, their attention to detail on their planning sheets and costings won it for them in the end. A big Well Done to all the primary schools that took part and we hope to see you again next year to battle it out.

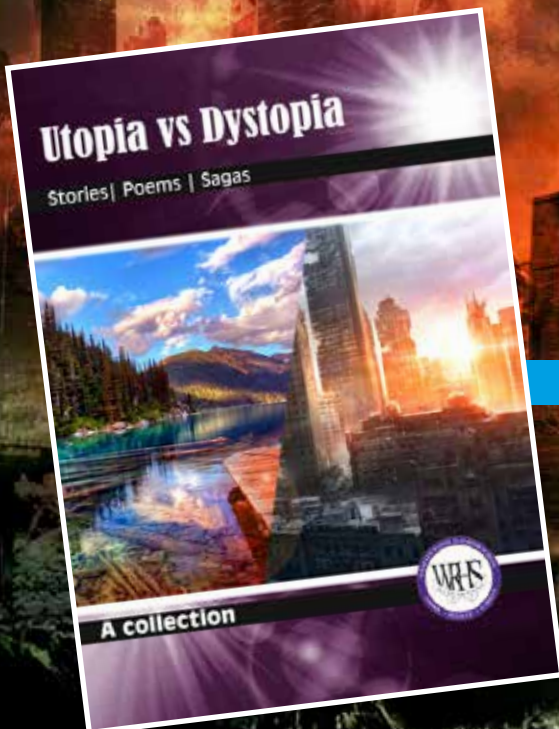


## LITERACY NEWS

### Amazon Young Story Teller

The National Literacy Trust joined forces with Amazon to launch Young Storyteller, a project that supports the publishing of students' writing. The project enabled us to publish an anthology through Amazon's Kindle Direct Publishing service. Our anthology is called: Dystopia vs Utopia and sees entries from our Creative Writing Club on the theme mentioned. This will be available to buy as an eBook!

You can buy your copy here: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B06XYTMFD5>



## WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day 2017 saw the whole school 'drop everything and read!' Both staff, and students participated in a 6 Minute Read, which saw the whole school join together at the same time, and enjoy reading a book of their choice!





It's almost time for our holidays and the school year is nearly done. We've all been working really hard here in the Intervention Team with 239 students taking part in the Maths Challenges, Writing Challenges, Catch Up Literacy, First Class Numeracy, Success @ Arithmetic, Maths Intervention and our breakfast, break, lunch and after school 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 the University of Manchester.

## MATHS CHALLENGE

78 students have completed Maths Challenge with Mrs Bajwa and several have even achieved full marks! According to Student Voice, they have all enjoyed it and appreciated the extra help.

New mentors from the University of Manchester and our Sixth Form have volunteered their free time to work with our students to make sure they achieved their maths target. We welcomed a parent who had also volunteered her services.

Marwa Al Safani in SF7 said, **"Maths Challenge training has helped me to clearly understand Year 7 learning. It has taught me how to use several different ways to explain the many concepts of Maths Challenge. I enjoyed helping out and hope Year 7 do amazingly well in maths."**

## REWARDS!!

45 students who have good attendance, punctuality and behaviour, will get the opportunity to go on a trip to the Odeon Cinema in July. Staff are also really looking forward to the well earned treat!!

All students, together with their parents and carers, were invited to our Presentation afternoon on 3rd July.



## EAL ADULT CLASS

Mrs Bajwa is joined by several adults on a Tuesday evening, to improve their English. Some are parents of students in Whalley Range. They all have fun and think that their English speaking skills are now so much better. Anyone interested in joining the group next year should contact Mrs Bajwa.

We would like to thank all our mentors who have given up their free time to support our students. We are very grateful.

Anyone interested in mentoring at WRHS next year should email:  
Mrs Bajwa - HBajwa@wrhs1118.co.uk



## FIRST CLASS NUMERACY AND SUCCESS AT ARITHMETIC

Miss Altaf has worked with some Year 7 and 8 students to improve their Maths grade. This is a new scheme aimed at revisiting and improving basic skills.

## INTERVENTION KS3/4 CLUBS

All Clubs take place before school, lunchtime and after school and have been regularly attended by many Year 7, 8 and 9 students in A1/17 and A1/19. Miss Abushima is to be found in A0/25 every registration and after school for KS4 students. Hopefully, their end of year grades will reflect everyone's hard work.

## WRITING CHALLENGE

This year a group of students took part in the Writing Challenge and worked really hard to get back on target. The majority of students achieved this and several are now working above target.

## CATCH UP LITERACY

74 students took part in Intervention Catch Up Literacy this year and 95% are now on or above target. Laiba J Akhtar in Year 8 achieved the highest score and improved her reading age by 4 years! Well done to Laiba and everyone who worked so hard!!





With a whole school focus on raising awareness of mental health, That's Manchester TV visited WRHS to video a Year 8 mindfulness lesson and to interview teachers and students. They aimed to highlight to their viewers the importance of young people's mental health in schools and the impact mindfulness sessions have on students' well-being. Students at WRHS experience sessions in relaxation techniques, deep breathing, visual imagery, yoga and muscle relaxation. That has the overall aim to equip them with the knowledge of how to look after their mind in and out of school when it is most relevant to them. The video clip can be found on YouTube, 'Whalley Range High School puts mental health at the top of the timetable'.



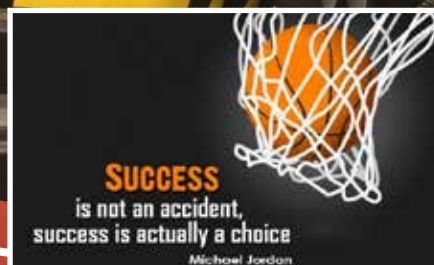
## Football news

Congratulations to the KS4 football team, who got through to the finals of the Manchester Girls' KS4 league. A fantastic achievement. The team have demonstrated resilience and perseverance. Games have been tough, but students have powered through, demonstrating excellent communication and team work. A massive well done to all involved. The final was close with Wright Robinson taking the lead with Fray Bidounga scoring the equaliser. The final whistle blew, leading into extra time. The score remained 1-1 with penalties deciding the winner. The team showed composure with penalties but unfortunately the scores never went our way with Wright Robinson clinching the win. Congratulations to all students in being runners-up in the plate competition.



## NETBALL REWARDS TRIP

As the KS3 Netball teams were in the top 3 in the Manchester league, we wanted to give them the opportunity as a reward to go and watch a netball game. Therefore, a group of 25 students went to watch Manchester Thunder vs The Wasps at Wright Robinson Sports College. All students were excited to watch the game and were all astonished at the advanced skills and fast pace of the game. After the game, students commented on how much they were looking forward to getting back into the netball season.



The beginning of 2017 saw a kick start to the new Whalley Range Boxing Club. Numbers have been consistently impressive ranging from 12 to 20 students per session.

The girls have developed vastly over the months and can now successfully demonstrate a wide range of skills such as stance, guard, footwork, combination punches and a good defence.

All students have grown in confidence and in their ability to defend themselves as well as developed their overall fitness. A massive well done to everyone that has taken part so far!

If you wish to be a part of our ever growing boxing team then come along every Thursday after school!

*"The pain of the process is only temporary but the feeling of achievement lasts forever"*

**BOXING CLUB**  
WRHS

Fitness  
Discipline  
Self-defence  
Dedication  
Confidence  
Friendship

Every Thursday after school from 3.15pm - 4.15pm  
See Mr Singh-Hamilton for more details





The World Language Leaders organised the Chinese New Year Fair 2017. It took place at lunch time in the Hall, Friday 27th January with a total of 65 students participating. Germain House won with 17 participants, followed by Hepburn and Parks with 13 each. Angelou and Franklin had 11 students each.



**"I went to the Chinese New Year Fair. This year was the year of the rooster. I really enjoyed the fair because there were a lot of activities such as making lanterns, speaking Chinese, writing in Chinese and also guessing the order of the Chinese zodiac animals. I really enjoyed this fair and I am really looking forward to another amazing one like this!"** Marya Abuarqoub

**"I was helping out in speaking Chinese with two other students. It was great fun as I could help others learn Chinese"** Emily Chan

**"I was helping with the Lantern making...quite a few people were interested in making paper lanterns and it was fun helping them do so. It was a very successful event and everyone had a lot of fun."** Simran Pathan



## VOCAB EXPRESS COMPETITION

### League of Champions'



The World Languages Faculty are excited to announce a new Vocab Express competition, which will be launched in the new school year on 28th September 2017. The competition will be open for 5 days and students can access the online learning platform via the World Languages website on Frog, or by downloading the app.



Last term it was great to see our students' competitive side, and the fun they had in lessons using Vocab Express to learn languages. Remember there are prizes on offer for the winning class, so make sure you log in at home or school!



Farhana Ahmed

Further details are available on Frog!



## MENTORING SCHEME

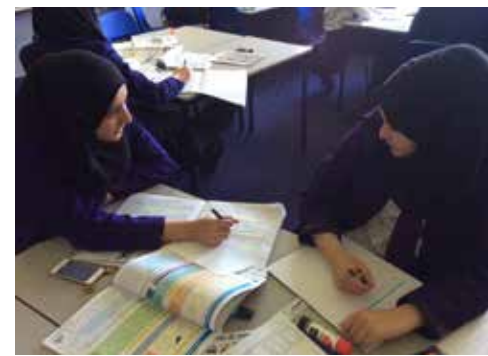
Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes in C203, a Team of Year 11, 10, 8 and a Year 7 native French speaker were here to support language students with homework, grammar, and preparation of tests. Year 11 have left now but we still have a solid team of Year 10 to help you with your French and Spanish. Come along!

### MENTEES

**"Hi, I'm Sophiya and I go to French mentoring every Tuesday lunchtime. When I go, the mentors help me revise and memorise vocabulary. They also help you for upcoming assessments. This has really helped me because I was able to seek help from the mentors if I did not understand a word or phrase in French."** Sophiya Mccourt-Farooq

### MENTORS

**"I think that being a French Mentor is very beneficial to me, as I can teach others as well as being able to improve my own understanding. I mentor students who need help with their work so that they can learn from their mistakes and then improve their knowledge. This means that they are more confident with what they are doing, so that they are ready to move on."** Sana Ahmed



Mother Tongue Other Tongue is a multilingual poetry competition to celebrate diversity. It is officially endorsed by Malala Youzafzai, youngest Nobel peace prize winner and education activist.

Twenty six students at WRHS entered the competition. Ten for Mother Tongue, and sixteen for Other Tongue. The competition was judged by Manchester Metropolitan University and Route for Language and we are proud to announce that Farhana Ahmed from Year 9 won the overall national competition. Congratulations!



Since September the Year 10 students have again been working towards completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The number of students opting for the course has risen again, with over 160 students set to complete the full award. During April and May this year all DofE students attended their first, practice expedition spending two days walking and one night camping in Rivington, Bolton. The students demonstrated excellent resilience, teamwork and skills in completing the difficult task of carrying their rucksacks for 10km a day, and the more complicated and cautious tasks of cooking on stoves and setting up tents! With the blisters and sore shoulders now a distant memory the students are excitedly preparing to do it all again with less supervision as they tackle the challenge of their final expedition. It is superb that so many of our students are taking on this life experience seriously and with outstanding maturity, teamwork and leadership.



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@wrhs1118.co.uk](mailto:head@wrhs1118.co.uk).

**Whalley Range 11-18 High School - Wilbraham Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, M16 8GW t: 0161 861 9727**