



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

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Dear Parent/Carer

I know the last few weeks will have been very difficult for you all at this very challenging time, and I hope that you and your family have managed to stay well. First of all, I would like to congratulate all the students, as the staff are telling me that most students are working hard and completing the tasks set. I know many of you have been getting in touch with the staff where students have had problems accessing the resources, if you still have any problems, then please contact your daughters' house e-mail addresses, which are at the end of this letter.

It has been especially difficult for students who were due to do exams in the Summer Term, as these exams have now been cancelled and we are waiting further information from the exam boards about the awarding of grades. We will let you know as soon as we get the latest information. We are being given assurance that this will not affect the students progress on to the next stage be it college, University or an apprenticeship. Year 11, and the sixth form students conducted themselves extremely well on the last day under these very difficult circumstances. It is important they use this time well in preparing themselves for the courses they will undertake next year, and Mrs Lomax and Mr Lea have sent out a whole range of resources for them to use.

Staff are regularly sending e-mails to different year groups with various updates on the work they can undertake, and it is important that the students are regularly accessing their e-mails as this is the main form of communication with them. We will be taking a break setting work over the Easter holidays as we expect students to take a break, but there will be more work set at the start of next term.

As ever it has been a very hectic term with a whole range of learning and enrichment opportunities for the students in school. Year 11, 12 and 13 received their PPE results in January and have worked extremely hard this term on the targets set, and this will help them on the next stage of their career.

Year 10 students had a very successful work experience week, and I have received many wonderful employer reports praising the students on their work in their different placements, and I would like to congratulate the students on being such wonderful ambassadors for the school.

The year 9 students have been very mature working through the options process preparing for their GCSEs. They have asked many sensible questions about their future education. I would like to thank you for all your support in helping your daughters make the best choices for them.

Year 8 students took part in a light oracy project which was prepared in both Science and English lessons. There were some fantastic presentations and year 8 should be very proud of what they achieved.

Year 7 have settled in well and have been on a range of trips on Project day to support their learning. The tour of Manchester has been greatly enjoyed by the students, and it showed them the wealth of cultural and creative opportunities there are, in our city.

I am always very impressed by our school community and the richness of the experiences that are enjoyed by the students. These involve a whole range of activities, events, visits and competitions, which are too many to mention here.

World book day was celebrated in school with a whole range of activities to support the importance of reading. In these challenging times reading is one activity that you can enjoy with your family. There are also some Easter activities on the website that you can do together over the holiday period.

If you are on Free school meals please look at the up to date information on the website on how you can access extra support. There will be further information about a new government scheme soon.

During these unprecedented times, online safety has never been more important. It is likely that any screen time limits may have to be relaxed during the next few weeks as students try to complete work remotely from home, as well as looking out for news and entertainment, but parents are worried about how to keep their children safe whilst they are online.

To support you with this we have put together some resources for parents here <https://wrhs1118.co.uk/parents/esafety> and tried to pick out some useful links and videos.

Through the 'Digital Parenting' link, we have looked at 6 key questions:

1. [Do you know what your child is doing online?](#) – where we have given you some links to help you understand the apps and sites they are on
2. [Are there rules about when they can use their device?](#) – where we have suggested some family agreements and some tools you may want to use
3. [Do they know what to do if something goes wrong?](#) – where we have put some links to some help reporting your concerns
4. [Can they keep themselves and their information safe?](#) - where we have help on privacy settings
5. [Are they careful about their own digital reputation?](#) - where we have posted some video content about how you child needs to think about the digital trail they are leaving behind
6. [Do they know how to decide if something is true or if someone is genuine?](#) - where we have posted some ideas about exploring the topic of 'fake news'.

The most important part of online safety is for you to have the conversations with your daughter on a regular basis and encourage her to share her concerns with you.

I am very proud and delighted that yet again we have won the SSAT award for outstanding progress in last year's GCSE results. This is testament to the hard work of both students and staff in the school

Finally, I would like to thank you for all the support you have given to the school over this last term and particularly over the last few weeks, when it has been very difficult and challenging for us all. Please look after yourself and keep safe.

Take care.

Yours sincerely



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