

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2020

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VIRTUAL LEARNING

POETRY BY HEART

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PHOTOGRAPHY

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A FOND FAREWELL FROM OUR ACADEMY HEADTEACHER

As I am retiring at the end of this August, I would like to thank you for all your support during my time as Headteacher of the Whalley Range High School. I have been in this school for 41 years, with 7 of these being as Headteacher. When I started at the school it was on a split site, with the lower school being on Doncaster Avenue and I taught maths. I have had the opportunity to teach many students over the years and this has also included some of the parents. I have seen many changes during my time at Whalley Range and I am very proud of the school and all we have achieved together.

I have been very privileged to be Head of this school and work with such fantastic students' and inspirational colleagues. Teaching is such a wonderful profession where you can make a difference to so many students lives. I have had a long and rewarding career and it is down to all the students, parents and staff who have supported me on this journey.

The school is in a very good position at this moment as we have achieved great results over a long period of time and the school has a great reputation in the community. I am thrilled that Ms Fahey, at present the Deputy Head, will be taking over as Head from September. I know she will do a fantastic job and take the school on the next stage of its journey.

Two other staff are retiring at the end of August, who have given long service to the school. Mrs Lomax, Assistant Headteacher (pictured right) and a great leader of the Sixth Form, who has been in the school for 34 years and Mrs Coles (pictured below), who has been a valued textiles teacher for 36 years. I would like to thank them both for their dedication and commitment to the school and I wish them all the very best in their retirement. I was not expecting my last few months to be running the school remotely, only opening for Year 10 and Year 12 students, for the last few weeks of the term. It has been very difficult for me not to be able to say my farewell to the students in person. However, the most important thing is that everybody is safe and well during this very challenging time.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Partnership News, which captures many of the challenges and work undertaken by students during the lockdown and I wish you and your family all the very best for the future. Take care and keep safe.

Kind regards

Mrs E. Hole

Mrs E. Hole - Academy Headteacher



INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION FINALIST

Year 10 student Manahil was selected from hundreds of entries as a finalist in the University of Manchester China Institute's International Photography Competition. The theme of the competition was 'What Does Family Mean To You?' and I'm sure you will all agree that her portrait of her sister is a powerful photograph. Her work is now being exhibited at the IPF gallery in Chengdu, China!



WELCOMING OUR NEW STUDENTS

It's that time of year when we welcome our new students to Whalley Range for their Transition events. However this year has been a little different with our events moving online. A brand new Transition website was developed <https://wrhs1118.co.uk/transition> with Virtual tours and welcome letters from current Year 7 students. Year 7 students will complete a 'This is Me' booklet over the Summer and we look forward to welcoming them to their new school in September.

THE PSHRE AND FORM TIME.... CONTINUES VIRTUALLY!



During the school closure the school has continued to support students pastorally through a virtual form time programme. Each week two PSHRE activities have been shared with students via emails and using the PSHRE pages in FROG.



The PSHRE activities have been supported with weekly House assemblies sent to all students and supplementary articles and news shared on FROG. Topics covered in the PSHRE programme have included exploring the impact of school closure on students' online lives, the right to student online privacy and mental and physical wellbeing activities.

If you feel like me at this moment in time you will feel as though you have always been switched on, and are struggling to chill outside of your school work. It is easy to switch off when you return home from a day of learning at school. However we are always at home these days!!

It's no wonder many of us have joined the hordes of the "overworked". It is extremely important that in the half term holidays you switch off completely from school work. To help you relax, why not try the following tips, to help you feel switched off.

Ditch the screen!!

This may be a hard thing to do, but limit the time you spend on your phone, tablet or laptop. Hide things that are to do with school life, such as your emails, books etc.

Get some exercise

Although gyms are no longer open, I love to go for a run or a walk, or ride my bike. Why not try something a little different in the half term holidays to help boost your endorphins? Look out for the yoga videos on the PSHRE FROG pages (frog.wrhs.t118.co.uk/psgre) that will be updated each day.

Get a hobby

Painting, building stuff, gardening, cooking – whatever floats your boat, embrace a new hobby. Take an online course on the subject or pick up a paintbrush and go for it. The point here is to move your mind away from your school studies and focus on something creative to relax.

Do some colouring

Colouring isn't just for young children; it's a tremendous meditative and creative activity for everyone too.

Read a book

I'm currently working my way through 'Gotta get Theroux this' by Louis Theroux, and it transports me to another world – one that is utterly different from my own. With so much focus on something else, it's a kind of healthy meditation. Even better, I have no time to think about school life. Aim to read a chapter each night. Opting for a book, instead of another screen, will help you unwind.

Have a fantastic week!



In addition staff have been nominating students weekly for the virtual student of the week to celebrate student successes. Each Friday students are sent a 'Friday Creative Challenge' which provides students with weekly creative challenges. These are then shared and celebrated whole school and shown on the PSHRE Frog page.

Within the Form time programme staff were celebrated through the 'Thank a Teacher' initiative. Students nominated a teacher to say thank you for all the amazing hard work and support provided by their teachers which was extremely well received by staff and students.



VIRTUAL INDUCTION DAY FOR YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Although we find ourselves in a challenging situation, the opportunity for students to be inducted in to our Sixth Form was not one that we wanted to let pass by. On Friday 26th June the Sixth Form team broadcast live to Year 11 students via Google meet to induct them in to the Whalley Range Sixth Form family. Alongside the 'live' portion of the day, the Year 11 students had access to a range of digital resources created by our talented and committed Sixth Form staff, including virtual taster lessons, virtual overviews of the pathways on offer at WRSF and virtual input on careers and enrichment at our college.

The event was a huge success and the virtual induction page on the college website has been accessed over 1500 times since it was launched in May. We are really looking forward to meeting our new Year 12s, in person, come September.

Limited places are still available at Whalley Range Sixth Form. For more information please email sixthform@wrhs1118.co.uk

YEAR 10 SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY

Whalley Range Sixth Form is committed to student voice and taking forward the ideas of students which is how the Sixth Former for a day event for Year 10 students started during the week commencing 29th June. Keen to find out more about WRSF, a Year 10 student asked if she could attend the Year 11 induction but instead of this we arrange a bespoke Year 10 event with live virtual input via Microsoft Teams and virtual lessons. There has also been an increased presence of social media with taster lessons being shared on the re-launched Sixth Form Instagram page (www.instagram.com/WRSixthForm).

Over 100 Year 10 students signed up for the event and the feedback was very positive, which was in place of our usual Sixth Form celebration for Year 10 at the July Deep Learning Day.



CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

On the 14th February in the main hall, the World Language Leaders organised and led activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. They offered a Kahoot Quiz to learn about the culture and language, a table to practise writing with ink and brushes, a stall to discover your animal sign and personality, and an origami workshop!

"Ntea and me were on the zodiac animal table and we helped students to found out what were their animal sign. Our table was popular with the Year 7s and about 20 students came. It was fun for us and for the students as many were shocked to see that the zodiac animal qualities match some traits of their personality such as: honesty, courage and kindness. We both enjoyed it and had a great time helping students." Olga El Khayat

"I felt happy because me and two Year 8 partners attracted more than 25 students on the origami table and we all enjoyed it. Also I liked being there because most of the students came to have fun not just for sweets and each one of them acted mature and responsible. It was a positive thing for me because I didn't have to shout out to demonstrate the origami



YOUNG APPRENTICE CHRISTMAS TOY COMPETITION

As part of the National Enterprise Week in November, we decided to launch our very own style WRHS 'The apprentice'. This competition involved Year 9 students to take on a task to create a Christmas toy and to pitch their idea to 3 toy buyers from John Lewis, Argos and SMYTHS. All students put into 100% into their creative and innovative ideas and the buyers were very impressed with the quality they were presented.

There were a total of 5 bonus awards up for grabs, they were and won by:

Best Toy Design - Aseel BASWAIL, Best Pitch - Kushboo Bhatti, Iman Ahmed, Ruby Mckay & Mayar Elhaj, Best Logo - Ayesha Chowdhury, Best Video Advert, Aleesha Akhtar, Heba El-Alej & Mahnoor Hussain & Best Researcher - Iman AZIZ, Sehra BANO, Khadija HASSANALI ,Safeerah MOAZAM-SHAHZADA & Parwa Amin.

The overall JUNIOR APPRENTICE WIINER 2019 were won by 2 teams:

Fiona Jane Baptist & Sharmeen Asif (Let it draw)
Hanna Akhtar Sultana, Maria Ali, Hadia Azimi, Salma Mohamed, Swalha Muhidin & Iram Naveed. (Light Up The Nights).
Well done to everyone who took part, a really great effort!



BUSINESS TRIP & UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

As part of the Year 9 process of picking their GCSE options we took a cohort of students to MMU, who expressed an interest in the business/enterprise GCSE course. The day gave students the experience and knowledge on how exciting and relevant Business and Enterprise is as a subject. It also gave them guidance and support for when choosing their GCSE options.

The girls were given a snap shot of university life and how it feels to be a university student. This was a great day filled with amazing activities, which the girls hugely benefitted from.



IDEA AWARD

During lockdown the Year 9 students have been completing the iDEA Award. This award allows students to develop their talents and gain all important knowledge and information about the digital world. The activities are fun and engaging, allowing students to win badges and gain industry-recognised awards which will help our students stand out from the crowd.

Students have been building their record of achievement which they can show in college or at work. The record of achievement allows students to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold. We hope all our students achieve the highest award they can as this will allow them to develop excellent skills which will benefit them in the future.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

As part of the National Literacy agenda, Woman in Leadership is a 3 pronged project designed to equip women with the skills and language needed to work in leadership.

Stage 1 - the Year 12 BTEC Level 3 students attended a workshop at L'Oréal, Trafford Park where they met leading people from the cosmetics industry. Those people talked about their career route and worked with the girls on introduction, interview and body language techniques.

Stage 2 - theory-based activities carried on in BTEC lessons with staff using dedicated resources provided by Women in Leadership.

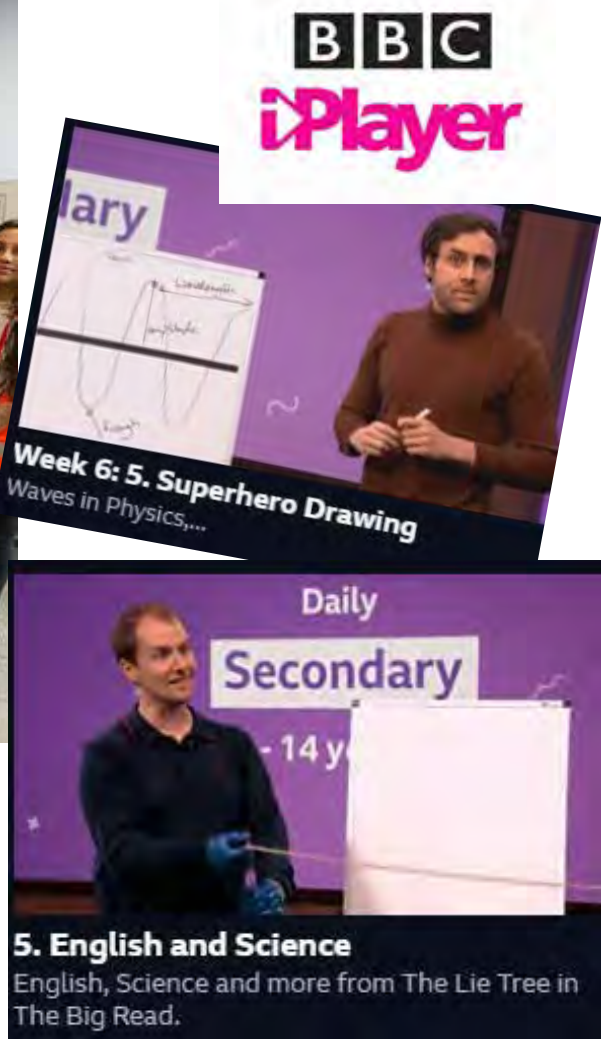
Stage 3 (didn't happen due to lockdown) - external speakers who are successful leaders in their field to come into school for a full morning to talk to the students and hear their pitches about why they want to succeed.

The girls found the trip and the workshop itself at L'Oréal really useful - they especially loved their free makeup!



MR AL-SAMMARI & MR MYCOCK BBC BITESIZE DAILY

During the lockdown the BBC launched their largest ever education offering and two Whalley Range teachers were at the forefront presenting on Bitesize Daily to a national audience. Filming took place at BBC Studios in Salford with Mr Al-Sammari & Mr Mycock sharing their science knowledge with Katie Thistleton and Nihal Arthanayake. **Check them out on BBC iplayer.**



WORLD LANGUAGES CINEMA TRIP

In February, World Languages had the pleasure of taking Year 11 Spanish and German groups to HOME cinema for a GCSE study day.

The German class watched a thriller called "Balloon" detailing the struggles of a family escaping East Germany in a hot air balloon (this really happened). This helped to deepen their understanding of the cold war and provided some fantastic material to discuss in class.

The Spanish class enjoyed watching a thought-provoking Latin American film "Rara" which explored LGBTQ+ issues. I know students and staff appreciated the film and had some really interesting discussions afterwards. Fingers crossed, we will be back at HOME cinema again next year for more fabulous events!



READ ALL ABOUT IT!

The English Faculty has been making sure students can still experience the world of arts and culture during lockdown with the Culture Club Gazette. Each edition has opened the doors to some of the world's most prestigious galleries, museums and theatres. Students have been able to take a virtual tour of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, watch a theatre production from the Globe Theatre and learn how to write and make their own book with the British Library. Closer to home, students can research the local history of the area they live in through Manchester's Central Library or learn about the female activists from Moss Side who were fighting the Black Lives Matter cause in the 1970s.



ENGLISH

POETRY BY HEART

All students are invited to participate in this year's Poetry at Heart Summer Challenge. Pick a poem that you love from the Poetry by Heart website, learn it, perform and film it and send it Miss Vickers (kvickers@wrhs1118.co.uk).

Winners will be announced in September and have the chance to represent the school in a national poetry competition. Have a look at the poster above for more details.

HOW TO AVOID THE 'SUMMER SLIDE'

Lockdown home learning has been a challenge for all of us and with summer around the corner, it's important to keep reading in order to maintain and improve this vital skill.

The 'Summer slide' is a term used to describe the loss of academic skills that may occur to students when school is not in session; this is attributed largely to the lack of reading. This phenomenon may become amplified this year due to the early closing of schools, in response to the current coronavirus epidemic.

Just like exercising keeps muscles in shape, reading keeps the brain in shape. If you don't exercise, you lose muscle, and if a child doesn't read, they will lose literacy skills. This is why summer reading is so essential. Not only will it support a child's ability to retain subject knowledge learnt the previous year, but also to grow in knowledge and critical thinking skills for the coming year.

It is common knowledge that students who read more are better readers. It has also been shown in numerous studies that student academic success is defined by a student's ability to read fluently and skilfully. Therefore, we must encourage our students to read as much as possible both in school and outside school and summer is an excellent opportunity to reading for pleasure.

At Whalley Range we believe it is necessary for our students to read on a daily basis for at least an hour. This means taking time out to read a book for pleasure – not reading an Instagram post (it doesn't count!). We are very lucky at Whalley Range to have a fabulous set of resources to support reading for pleasure.



Ways you can support your daughter's reading skills:

- Download the 'Borrow Box' app. This is an app that allows you to sign up to your local library remotely and download audiobooks and ebooks. You could go for a walk whilst listening to your favourite audio book or have a routine of reading for an hour before bed to improve your sleep and encourage your daughter to do the same. If children see adults reading they are more likely to read themselves.
- Check out the virtual LRC page on Frog. This page has great book recommendations if your daughter needs some inspiration and you can also take part in book review competitions.
- Free book. If your daughter is in year 7/8/9 then they will have received a free book with the KS3 work pack. It would be good to ask them to read the book aloud to you or alternatively they could read to an older or younger sibling or family member.
- Book quizzes. Asking your daughter questions about her book and talking about the characters and their dilemmas helps children understand relationships and discuss difficult issues. You could try asking your daughter to give you a review of the book or talk about their favourite character.

Borrow, download and enjoy here
Your library in one app.



CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION: CELEBRATION

The English and Communications faculty launched a creative writing competition last half-term which was centred around the theme of celebration. Congratulations to the following students who won their respective year groups:

- Year 7 - Imaan
- Year 8 - Juliette, Maria and Amna
- Year 9 - Zainab and Alaa
- Year 10 - Rabia and Hafswa
- Year 11 - Eryn and Fatimah



Miss Walker, Teacher of English, said:

"My favourite thing about judging the competition was the diverse array of responses, given that you all started with the same stimulus. This goes to show how powerful, transformative and individual creative writing can be!"

We received some incredible pieces and everyone who entered should feel very proud of themselves. The following poem was written by Amna in Year 8, who was inspired to explore and challenge the very essence of what it means to celebrate and is a timely reminder to savour the present moment. All the winning entries have been used to create an anthology, which is available on the school website and we hope you enjoy reading it!

Amna – Year 8 (Miss Vickers' Class)

Celebration.
What is it?
Is it being happy for something?
Or is it not wanting it to end?
Is it preservation?
Or is it desperation?

Is it the beauty of the sun rising?
Or is it the ache of the set?

Are you happy because it happened,
Or are you clinging to a thread?

Is it the day one was born,
Or a year closer to death?

So, I ask you, friends,
What are you celebrating?

Why are you living in a moment, when there are more to be had?

YEAR 11S ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER BUSINESS STUDIES SESSION



12 students from Year 11 who are interested in studying Business Studies at A Level or at some stage in the future were invited to attend a workshop session at The University of Manchester. The workshop gave them an insight into what Business-related courses are available at the University and the types of careers and jobs that they would feed into.

The students were then set a challenge of creating a 'Welcome' magazine which would be given to freshers as they arrive for their first year at University. To do this they had to go off around the University and look at the facilities on offer for both leisure and study as well as finding out about the wealth of courses the University has to offer. They really got on board with the challenge and spent time talking to current students about student life.

We all left excited about the opportunities that going to The University of Manchester offers and with many career questions answered.



WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORDS

Has all the time indoors got you in a state of macabron? Feeling a bit koggy? Longing for some zillet? Or perhaps you are just a bit confused by all these strange, unfamiliar words? During this period of school closure, the English Leaders have kept their Weekly Word Imposter competition running and the response has been amazing. Each week, students from all year groups have invented their own definitions for a range of weird, wonderful and totally made-up words. A huge well done to the winners Myar Al Bhar, Jallah Lalzoy, Aleena Ansari, Meeraib Khan and Aesha Shaneen for their thoughtful, imaginative and sometimes truly bizarre definitions!

VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY



Staff and students have been busy at home challenging themselves with our 8 Sports Day events. All events were created so that they could be done at home with no equipment (or something as simple as a pair of socks!)

PE staff created videos for staff and students to follow. The events ranged from: Star Jumps, throw and catch a pair of socks, clap as many times as you can after you throw a pair of socks, doing a figure of 8 around your legs with a drinks bottle, hopping on one leg, holding the plank position, jumping over a shoe and kick ups with a toilet roll.

Staff and student then had to input their scores on the FROG forms provided. It has been great to see so many people getting involved and PE staff hope that it has help to lift people's spirits and boost positivity in such an uncertain time!

VIRTUAL SPORTS PRESENTATION EVENT

Recently we shared the Whalley Range High School Virtual Sports Presentation Event on the school website and on FROG. Please take some time to view this. Although our year was cut short our superheroes haven't let us down in bringing some excellence into our school sport. There is the usual 'Review of the Year' video- which showcases the many, many events, teams, results we managed to cram in before lockdown - and of course there are winners to award!

We have sent out E-Certificates for our Sports Day and Sports Presentation winners and of course the most-anticipated Best Sporting House of 2020! A massive congratulations to these winners and to all of our students whom regularly take part in the extra-curricular and sports team events - you have helped make it possible to put this virtual event together which will hopefully bring a much needed smile and reminisce about the school year that was!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH WITH A DIFFERENCE

Due to the Coronavirus and subsequent lockdown it could have put a real dampener on the Year 10s completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. However both the award and the student have been thinking out of the box to complete the sections of their award.

All students have to complete three months learning a new skill, taking part in physical activity and volunteering.

During lockdown Students have been completing new things that they could do at home often helping out their family. This has included learning to bake, helping with homeschooling a younger sibling, and regular walking or cycling at home or completing home work outs. This has then been evidenced on their electronic accounts with regular photographs and updates.

This all being promoted as **#dofewithadifference** and if the Year 10s complete all their sections this year they will receive the 2020 DofE certificate of achievement. So fingers crossed we will still have lots to celebrate in September.



- Running Mentoring DIY Cooking
- Yoga Photography Wii Fit Coding
- Guitar playing Knitting Cycling
- Sign language Gardening Walking
- Painting Circuits Quizzing Jogging
- Campaigning Money management
- Vlogging YouTube fitness Dancing
- Helping neighbours Dog-walking
- #DofEWithADifference Languages
- Tutoring Singing Martial arts Sewing
- Pilates Crafting Blogging App design
- Filmmaking Combatting loneliness
- Cyber safety Family tree research
- Online learning Foodbank collection
- Website building Book reviewing
- First aid Aerobics Driving skills
- Programming Skateboarding

Speak to your Leader or visit DofE.org/DofEWithADifference for activity ideas you can do whilst social distancing.

Change your activities in the DofE app or eDofE.



#dofewithadifference

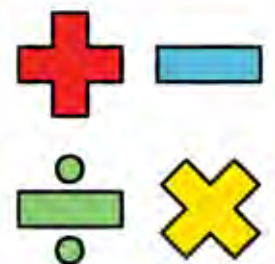
WEEKLY MATHS QUIZ

During this half-term Mr. Cleasby has sent out via email a weekly maths quiz for students in Years 7-10 to complete. Each week the students tackle problems such as the question below from Maths Quiz 4.

A prize of a Love2Shop voucher & a certificate are sent out to the winners.

Question 3 :

At the zoo, the ratio of the number of giraffes : lions : penguins is 3 : 5 : 11
The total number of legs that these animals have all together is 108.
How many lions are there at the zoo?



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.

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