



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mrs J. Fahey Executive Headteacher: Dr J. MacKinnon PhD



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Dear Parents/Carer

Spring Half Term

As we approach the end of this half term, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. This half term has seen students work from home and also return to school for face to face teaching. We are so proud of the way in which students have managed their learning, both at home and school.

Over the next few weeks we will share with students, parents and carers our plans for the return of any iPads or laptops which were loaned out over lockdown.

Expectations

We have very high expectations of our students both in lessons and around school. It is important that students show self-responsibility in their day-to-day life in school and keep to our high standards in terms of behaviour, uniform and completion of homework. Please ensure that your daughter comes to school with her blazer, lanyard, school bag and stationery every day as this ensures a smart start to learning.

Parking and student drop off

Please could I ask all parents/carers to put student safety first when parking or dropping off students. It is important to park well away from the school and drive safely at all times near our school. Please encourage your daughter to walk to school wherever possible.

Links with University Academy 92

There have been a wide range of virtual events which have happened this half term with our partners, UA92. Colleagues from UA92 have presented whole school assemblies throughout International Women's work with a wide range of women sharing their experiences of their employment journeys. Also, we were thrilled that Gary Neville presented a whole school assembly reiterating the importance of our school values of teamwork, self-reliance and determination.

Year 7 Exams

This year's Year 7 examinations start on 7 June 2021 and run for a period of 2 weeks. Further details of the exact dates of assessments will be provided at the start of May. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use the range of different resources to support her home learning, many of which can be found on our school website and Virtual Learning Environment (FROG).

Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening

Our Year 8 Student Led Academic Tutorial and Parent Partnership Evening will be held virtually this year. Year 8 students will be asked to reflect on their progress and attitude to learning across all their subjects and discuss this with parents/carers at home. Resources to support our students' progress will be added to our school website and we would encourage parents/carers to review these with your daughters.

Year 8 Exams

This year's Year 8 examinations start on 7 June 2021 and run for a period of 2 weeks. Further details of the exact dates of assessments will be provided at the start of May. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use the range of different resources to support her home learning, many of which can be found on our school website and Virtual Learning Environment (FROG).

Year 9 Exams

This year's Year 9 examinations start on 7 June 2021 and run for a period of 2 weeks. Further details of the exact dates of assessments will be provided at the start of May. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use the range of different resources to support her home learning, many of which can be found on our school website and Virtual Learning Environment (FROG).

Year 10 Parent/Carer Evening

We are changing the date of the Year 10 Parents/Carer evening from Monday 26th April to Tuesday 29th June and will be in contact with parents and carers with more details nearer the time.

Year 10 Virtual Work Experience Week

During the week commencing 12 June, our Year 10 students will have their virtual work experience week, where they will be able to experience a range of different opportunities including keynote speakers and employment related activities to further prepare them for their college application process which will start in September 2021.

Year 10 Exams

This year's Year 10 examinations start on 21 June 2021. Please continue to encourage your daughter to use the range of different resources to support her home learning, many of which can be found on our school website and Virtual Learning Environment (FROG).

Sixth Form updates

Whalley Range Sixth Form has continued to recruit for September 2021 and the team have conducted over 200 interviews since the start of January, with many being conducted virtually. All colleagues involved in the interview process have been very impressed with the calibre of the applicants and we are looking forward to doing further work with these students over the remainder of the academic year.

In order to further support students interested in highly competitive courses, such as medicine and dentistry, the Sixth Form team have launched the revised and updated medicine programme and

details of the support your daughter will find at Whalley Range Sixth Form can be found on our website <https://wrhs1118.co.uk/sixthform/collegelife/wrsf-medical-and-dentistry-programme>

Through these most challenging of time, we are proud that our Sixth Form is able to further support students via the extension of our bursary programme, which has been open to applicants since March 2021. Details of the updated criteria which will be in place for September 2021 are available on our website <https://wrhs1118.co.uk/sixthform/collegelife/bursary>

In our Sixth Form we are proud of the partnerships that we have with UA92 and Deloitte and over this half term we have been able to offer our students great opportunities to engage with our partners, including daily speakers for International Women's Week from UA92, a special motivational assembly from UA92 founder, Gary Neville, financial literacy support for Level 1 / 2 Vocational students from Deloitte and a careers talk on law from the Deloitte that was available for students in Years 10,11,12 and 13.

Reading

As KS3 students have returned to school, we have enjoyed reading and listening to their reviews of the reading for pleasure books loaned to them during lockdown. Students have now been provided with a new book (please ask your daughter to return her previous book, if she is yet to do so) and are now enjoying the benefits of reading for pleasure during the school day. In our recent literacy survey, many of our KS3 students said that although they enjoyed reading in school, they weren't really reading at home. The attached leaflet will give some guidance on how you can further support your daughter's reading development.

Sixth Form

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Whalley Range Sport Centre

We are delighted to be able to share information from our partners at the Whalley Range Sports Centre. Thanks to funding from Manchester City Council Whalley Range Sport Centre has received over £160,000 of investment. There have been a wide range of improvements and renovations including:

- Upgraded cardio and resistance equipment
- 18 stations of new Technogym gym equipment
- New functional equipment
- An improved layout
- Upgraded audio visual provision
- Refurbished changing rooms
- A new series of dedicated Women Only and Whalley Range High School sessions

We will share information about access and membership once the centre has re-opened.

Key Contact Information

If you would like to speak to someone about your daughter's progress, personal development or have any concerns, please contact your daughter's Year Office on one of the numbers given below:

Year 7 (0161 860 2976)

Head of Year – Miss Culkin-Smith
Year Co-ordinator – Mr H Mustafa
Year Admin – Mrs Booth
SLT Link – Mr Mycock

Year 8 (0161 860 2975)

Head of Year – Miss Bakare
Year Co-ordinator – Mr Ellis-Scott
Year Admin – Mrs Khaliq
SLT Link – Mrs Zarar

Year 9 (0161 860 2978)

Head of Year – Miss Oliver
Year Co-ordinator – Mrs S Mackenzie
Year Admin – Mrs Hannan
SLT Link – Mrs Barnes

Year 10 (0161 860 2979)

Head of Year – Miss Costello
Year Co-ordinator – Mrs Carr
Year Admin – Ms Carroll
SLT Link – Mr Parker

Year 11 (0161 860 2977)

Head of Year – Miss Wicikowski
Year Co-ordinator – Miss Ennis
Year Admin – Mrs Luker
SLT Link – Mr Lea

Sixth Form (0161 860 2984)

Head of Year 12 – Mrs Maloney-Rock
Head of Year 13 – Mrs Z Davies
Assistant Head of Year (Sixth Form) – Mr Da Silva
Sixth Form Admin – Miss Smith
SLT Link – Mr Atkinson

I would like to thank you again for your continued support, especially at this challenging time and I hope that you and your family enjoy the Easter break.

I am including the holiday dates for the rest of the academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Fahey
Headteacher

Term dates for the Academic Year September 2020 - July 2021

Autumn Term

- **Half term holiday:** Monday 26th October 2020 – Friday 30th October 2020
- **Term ends:** Friday 18th December 2020
- **Christmas holiday:** Monday 21st December 2020 – Friday 1st January 2021

Spring Term

- **Term starts:** Monday 4th January 2021
- **Half term holiday:** Monday 15th February 2021 – Friday 19th February 2021
- **Term ends:** Thursday 1st April 2021
- **Easter break:** Friday 2nd April 2021 – Friday 16th April 2021

Summer Term

- **Term starts:** Monday 19th April 2021
- **May Day holiday:** Monday 3rd May 2021
- **Half term holiday:** Monday 31st May 2021 – Friday 4th June 2021
- **Term ends:** Friday 23rd July 2021

Teacher Training Days – school closed to students

- Monday 30th November 2020
- Friday 29th January 2021
- Thursday 13th May 2021

- Friday 14th May 2021

Public Holidays

- Christmas Day – Friday 25th December 2020
- Boxing Day – Monday 28th December 2020 (in lieu of 26 December 2020)
- New Year's Day – Friday 1st January 2021
- Good Friday – Friday 2nd April 2021
- Easter Monday – Monday 5th April 2021
- May Day – Monday 3rd May 2021
- Spring Bank Holiday – Monday 31st May 2021

Leave of absence in Term Time

If your daughter has time off before or after any school holiday, her absence will be classed as Unauthorised Absence and the Local Authority may issue a penalty notice. (You should also be aware that if her absence exceeds 20 days, her name may be removed from our register).

Any leave of absence in term time must be applied for at least 10 days in advance. Official forms for this purpose are obtainable from Student Services. I would also advise you that any Unauthorised Leave taken during term time may incur a penalty fine from the Local Authority. The fine will be £120 per parent per child reduced to £60 per parent per child if paid with 21 days.