



# Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mrs J. Fahey



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Dear Parents/Carers

## End of Half Term 6 letter

As we come towards the end of our year school year I want to write to thank you for your ongoing support. Our students have returned to school with such a positive mindset, they have made great progress with their academic studies and have really got themselves involved in the wider life of the school and a whole range of extra-curricular clubs, trips, visits and opportunities. We are very proud of all of our students.

Our Year 11 and 13 students have now completed their formal examinations in GCSE, BTEC, Applied Generals and A levels. The students worked really hard and we are eagerly awaiting our results days on the 18th August for Year 13 and the 25th August for Year 11. All of our other year groups have also completed their end of year assessments; a huge "Well Done" to all of our students.

Our Year 11 Prom was held at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays at the start of July with the students and staff dressed up in their finery to celebrate Year 11 successes.

It has been lovely to welcome our parents and carers into our two parental events this half term. Parents and carers were delighted to find out about the progress of their daughters in Year 8 at our Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening and it was wonderful to be able to meet the parents and carers of our Year 7 September 2022 intake at our Transition Evening, following two fantastic days in school with Year 6 students.

Our September 2022 Year 12 students had their Transition event in half term 6, with students from Whalley Range and many other schools across the city meeting for the first time to find out about our Sixth Form, courses being studied and opportunities for enrichment.

Our Key Stage 3 Graduation last week was a super celebration of engagement and achievement for students in years 7, 8 and 9 with Bronze, Silver and Gold Graduation certificates being awarded as well as some special Platinum certificates from faculties. We were delighted that Mrs Hole, our previous headteacher, was our guest speaker and that she could award the Elizabeth Hole award for outstanding contribution to school life.

Our Year 9 have had two fantastic opportunities to learn more about democracy and the political process as part of their Citizenship course with two virtual visits from Afzal Khan MP and Bev Craig, Leader of Manchester City Council.

Our students continue to pursue their sporting endeavours with teams playing in competitions across Manchester, our Sports Day and Sports Presentation afternoon were also held this half term. This half term has also seen almost 200 Year 10 students complete their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award by hiking for two days and camping out overnight.

Our musicians and singers, from all year groups, have put on a number of performances this half term at social times and we held a wonderful concert after school to celebrate our students' musical talents.

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Two of our Year 9 students have won prizes in a national competition with GCHQ, Sara was the winner and Meerab Khan was a runner up. A number of our students also entered the Schools' Poetry competition with Hadiya and Amel in Year 7 and Rafia in Year 9 all winning with some beautifully written poetry.

Two of our Year 11 students are through to the last 500 in RISE, a global competition with 170000 entrants. The programme is delivered through our partner, the Manchester United Foundation and offers lifelong support to 100 young people. We are very proud of Anisa and Gaismin and are looking forward to finding out, in October, whether they are part of the winning group.

A number of colleagues will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. Some of whom are retiring after many, many years of dedicated service to the Whalley Range family. I would like to thank Mrs Schenk, Mrs Haidinger, Ms Peters, Mrs Lordache and Mrs Maher who are retiring after long careers at our school. Thanks also go to Mrs Ellicott, Ms Allen, Mrs Greenwell, Ms Kelly, Mr Bence, Mr Pindar, Ms Oliver, Mr Forman and Mr Beaudon who are moving on to new schools and careers. We wish them all the very best in their new ventures and hope that they remember us as we will remember them and their massive contribution to the lives of the young women of Whalley Range High School.

I am sure that you will agree that it's been a busy half term and a busy year. We, as always, are enormously grateful for the dedication of our staff who support the learning and enrichment for our students and to our families for their ongoing support.

We have been asked by Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to share the following information about keeping young people safe in warm weather. Over the weekend there have been a number of incidents with young people getting into difficulty and needing rescuing from open water. The message is "Cold Water Shock Can Kill" and information about this campaign drowning can be found here [Water Safety](#).

Our school closes for the summer on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July at 1:15pm and reopens to students on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8:30am for new Year 7 students and at 10:50am for those in Years 8 – 11. Students in years 8 – 11 should go straight to their social zones for break.

When students return to school they should enter via the following entrances:-

Year 7	Queen's gate and then via main reception
Year 8	School's main gate and through the student services entrance
Year 9	The small gate via B/C Block entrance (with 6th Form)
Year 10	School's main gate and enter via the staff entrance
Year 11	Small gate via B/C Block entrance (with 6th Form)

I wish you a restful summer break and very much look forward to welcoming our students back into school in September.

Best wishes

Mrs Fahey  
Academy Headteacher