



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mrs J. Fahey

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Friday 17 February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your family are well. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to parents, carers, students and staff for their ongoing hard work and support.

School closes for the February half term holiday at 2.45pm on Friday 17th February 2023 and we return to school on Monday 27th February 2023.

We have had a very busy half term since returning to school in January.

It was lovely to see our parents and carers at the two Parent/Carer evenings that have happened this half term. Parents and carers of our Year 11 students were able to discuss progress, exam feedback and revision techniques with teachers in preparation for the GCSE exams in the summer. Parents and carers of our Year 9 students, met with teachers and confirmed their option choices for Year 10. Thank you to all our parents and carers for your attendance.

During this half term we have continued to interview Year 11 students from our school and from schools across the city for places in our Sixth Form. We are delighted that once again this year, we have had very large numbers of applications to join our sixth form. Over 500 students have registered via our online 6th form application system. Any remaining Year 11 students who wish to apply, will need to complete a Late Application and should contact the 6th form as soon as possible.

More of our Year 13 students than ever, have applied for University via UCAS and are currently receiving their offers for future study from universities across the country.

As well as the hard work that is ongoing inside the classroom, we have continued to offer a wide range of trips and visits for our students to take part in. Trips have included students attending Languages Days at the University of Manchester, the Royal Navy Catering Team have supported our Year 10 Catering students, all our Year 12 students spent the day at Old Trafford to help them prepare for their university studies and students have been able to go to see the Lion King. Last week, all our Year 11 students were able to watch a live performance of Macbeth in school to help them with their GCSE English studies.

Our Year 11 students are arranging events to raise money for their Prom at the end of the academic year. Amongst the activities the Year 11 have arranged has been a fantastic talent show where many of our students showcased their talents.

We have also been continuing with our charity work this half term. Some of our Year 7 students have been bag packing at a local supermarket to raise funds for the Wood Street Mission and students from across the school have been donating money to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

Key Stage 3 students will be looking forward to the launch of their graduation after February half term. Students will be working on providing evidence towards their Bronze, Silver or Gold graduation over the next two half terms. We look forward to inviting parents and carers into school for our Graduation ceremonies in July.

Reading continues to be at the heart of everything we do at Whalley Range. Students across all year groups have had the opportunity to read different texts for both pleasure and progress, which has been demonstrated by the fact that most students' reading ages have increased faster than students' actual ages.

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However, it is crucial that all the fantastic enthusiasm and enjoyment that our students have shown for reading over the last few months is not lost over the half-term break. Your daughter should have the opportunity to read as often as possible and, as parents and carers, there are lots of things that you can do to support your daughter's enjoyment of reading:

- Encourage your daughter to read a book for pleasure (this can be fiction or non-fiction)
- Model reading aloud to your daughter
- Encourage your daughter to read aloud to you and ask her questions about the story and characters
- Encourage your daughter to create storyboards or reviews of books that she has enjoyed

Just setting aside 30 minutes each day for your daughter to read for pleasure could have a dramatic impact on her enjoyment of reading and her literacy skills.

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

	Head of Year	Year Co-ordinator	SLT Link
Year 7 0161 860 2976	Miss Costello	Mr Mustafa	Mr Parker
Year 8 0161 860 2975	Mrs Saleem	Miss Kanor	Ms Zarar
Year 9 0161 860 2978	Mr Da Silva	Mr Ellis-Scott	Mrs Barnes
Year 10 0161 860 2979	Mrs Collings	Miss Ennis/Ms Carr	Mrs Plews
Year 11 0161 860 2977	Mrs Witt	Mrs Mackenzie/Ms Carr	Mr Lea
Sixth Form 0161 860 2984	Mrs Davies (Head of Year 12) Mrs Maloney-Rock (Head of Year 13)	Miss Smith (Sixth Form Admin/Pastoral Support)	Mr Mycock

I would like to thank you again for your continued support and I hope that you and your family enjoy the half term holidays.

Best wishes

Mrs Fahey
Headteacher