



Whalley Range 11-18 High School

Academy Headteacher: Mrs J. Fahey

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Friday 20 October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and would like to thank you for your ongoing support. I write to you at the end of our first half term as we break up for the half term break at the end of the day on Friday 20th October. **School reopens on Monday 30th October.**

As always, we are keen to hear your views about school. It would be very much appreciated if you could take a moment to share your views by completing the following form <https://forms.office.com/e/N7LYv6DTXF>

Our new Year 7 and Year 12 students have settled in well to life at Whalley Range. Year 7 have had some exciting experiences as part of their Induction Programme, with sessions on team working from the Manchester United Foundation and it was lovely to be able to meet many of our families at the Year 7 Partnership Evening in September. Our Year 12 students have had a productive Induction Programme and have settled well into the rigour of post 16 study and again, it was lovely to meet parents and carers of our Year 12 students at the Sixth Form Partnership Evening.

On Thursday 21st September we held our Open Evening. It was a great event, with lots of prospective Year 7 and Year 12 students coming to visit our school and sixth form. We had a large number of students who acted as Open Evening leaders, guiding families around our site. They did a fabulous job, and we are very proud of them.

As well as the great engagement that our students have displayed across school, we have been able to arrange many trips and visits for our students this half term. A group of our sixth form students visited Oxford University, Key Stage 4 and 5 students met employers, apprenticeship providers and further education representatives at our Futures Fest event and our Year 11 Geographers completed their field trip. In addition, students have visited the Warner Brothers' studio and our Languages Week saw students from across school engaged in the "Big Sing" event as well as a whole range of different language related activities.

Students at Whalley Range have started the year well with their reading. All students have had the opportunity to select books to read for pleasure and students have responded well to the different reading expectations for their different subjects.

Strong readers are more likely to perform better in exams and are more likely to be happier, with improved wellbeing. Support your daughter's reading by allowing her to read for at least 30 minutes every day and ask her about the book that she is reading.

Our students have already shown great generosity by raising money for UNICEF and next half term we will be raising money for the Penny Appeal to build a well in memory of our Year 11 student.

After the half term break, students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be undertaking assessments and then year 11 pre-public examinations (PPEs) will begin week commencing 27th November. You and your daughter will find some very useful information about how to prepare for these assessments and examinations on our school website.

As you will be aware keeping your daughter safe online is a worry that many parents have. Young people are using an internet that was not designed with them specifically in mind and too easily students can find

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themselves drawn into unsafe spaces and situations. This half term holiday you can help your child manage themselves online by talking to them and getting them to show you the apps they use and sites they visit. In addition, the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is offering free accounts with the parental control app [Qustodio](#).

There are lots of useful articles available at the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership [Online Safety Hub](#), such as the article from Jeremy Browne (Online Safety Expert)

We continue to be concerned about traffic safety and pollution outside school at the start and the end of the day and we would ask all parents/carers to help us with this issue. Please encourage your daughter to walk to school if you live nearby. If you do drop off your daughter by car, please park well away from school and be mindful of our neighbours and pedestrians, as we continue to receive complaints about dangerous parking and driving. Please also note that traffic enforcement officers are now regularly in attendance outside school.

Should you wish to contact your daughter's year office, please find below the contact details:-

	Head of Year	Year Co-ordinator
Year 7 0161 860 2976	Mrs Lynam	Mrs Mackenzie
Year 8 0161 860 2975	Miss Forster	Mr Mustafa
Year 9 0161 860 2978	Mrs Saleem	Ms Carr
Year 10 0161 860 2979	Mr Da Silva	Mr Ellis-Scott
Year 11 0161 860 2977	Mr Kavanagh	Miss Drake Thomas
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)

I hope that you have a restful half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mrs Fahey
Academy Headteacher