



# Welcome to Range

# REVIEW

## It's all happening at WRHS



Welcome to the latest edition of our community newsletter. Here you'll find

out all about the fantastic range of opportunities that our students have experienced during this academic year.

Our students continue to impress us with their fantastic attitude, effort, and commitment to their learning. They embrace the enriching opportunities that are made available by our hard working and committed colleagues and they do so with positivity and enthusiasm.

The range of activities that our students have been involved with so far this year is vast and includes theatre visits, our annual Futures Fest careers event, a visit to Oxford University and a photography showcase as well as a wide range of sporting events.

I hope you enjoy reading more about our school.

Mrs J Fahey  
Academy Headteacher



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# TREADING THE BOARDS

*at the*

# Royal Exchange



**Year 10 and Sixth Form students have had the pleasure of attending two theatre study days at The Royal Exchange Theatre in the city centre. Students participated in workshops on scriptwriting, props, acting and costumes, all led by the shows' performers and production teams.**

The first show was an adaptation of 'Great Expectations' with the action transported to India at the time of Partition. We had the honour of working with the play's writer, Tanika Gupta MBE, on our own modern adaptations of classic stories.

In November, we returned for an incredible adaptation of the classic 'Romeo and Juliet', set on the streets of Manchester. Students acted on the stage with the performers in different workshops based on costume and Shakespeare's language, rhyme and rhythm.

**The students had an insightful and exciting time with both plays and are eagerly awaiting the next opportunity to visit the theatre again.**





# Shakespeare

## Schools Festival

This Autumn, Whalley Range students have had the exciting opportunity to perform *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare, at The Contact Theatre, in Manchester City Centre.

Since September, the students have worked tirelessly in rehearsals to develop their characters, memorise dialogue, remember blocking and take on board rehearsal feedback to develop the performance. In preparation for the final performance, a professional actor and director visited Whalley Range to deliver an in-school cast workshop, to offer some techniques and tips. Here's what one of the students thought about the experience...

"When we were working with the director from the Shakespeare Festival company, it helped us to improve our performance work and make the opportunity even more memorable. The facilitator gave us tips on how to use our body and voice to make our characters more realistic and to connect with our roles better. The advice that I found most helpful was when she said "Land your lines" as it made me realise that I wasn't putting enough effort and emotion into my lines and that helped me to improve those parts which I wasn't doing properly. Working with someone from

the Shakespeare Festival company made the cast more excited to perform and made me feel less anxious about performing for the first time on a stage in-front of people.

My favourite activity was when we were doing the voice exercises to make sure everyone in the audience could hear us and understand what we were saying. She helped us to adapt our opening scene into something better than we had thought of and added a new perspective on our performance. Overall, it was a very interactive experience and has really helped us to get the best out of our rehearsals and to put our best work forward for when we do the final play.

I can't wait to turn all the hard work we have put in for our characters into something people will enjoy and remember."

Diya  
Year 10



## Open Evening

# FRENCH

During our school's open evening in September, a group of Year 8 French students volunteered to become waitresses for an evening.

## CAFÉ

They were trained and supervised by Mrs Kamal and Mrs Georgalidou. They welcomed parents and carers in French in the Bistro, took their orders and served them at the tables. They worked really hard and kept their focus and enthusiasm until the end of the evening. They were a real credit to our school. **Bravo!**

"I really enjoyed working in the French cafe it was amazing how we got to say the menu in French and getting to know more people I think we should do it again next year". **Sana**

"I really enjoyed being a waitress and the parents were so friendly". **Fariha**

"It helped me with my communication skills". **Arazw**

"It was so much fun and the parents were so kind". **Jana**

"It helped me expand my knowledge of the French language and practise talking in French". **Khadija**

"The food was nice!". **Nesma**

"The parents were so nice and friendly, and I loved speaking French". **Iqra**



# Spanish

TRIP

## HOME CINEMA REVIEW

On 9th November 2023, to complement their Spanish course, twenty-eight Year 10 students visited HOME Cinema, with Mrs Muños Morales and Miss Sevellec.

They attended a Spanish GCSE study morning, with Dr Carmen Herrero, Principal Lecturer in Spanish Studies and Subject Lead for Languages at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The study session included a screening of the film *Cobardes*, a powerful drama from the directors of *Tapas*. Carmen Herrero introduced the film in Spanish and English, providing relevant historical and contextual information as well as key vocabulary to understand some of the key aspects of the film. The screening was followed by a series of language exercises in Spanish based on the film, its characters, settings and contexts.

**Our students took part in a discussion led by Dr Carmen Herrero and demonstrated their proficient language skills. They were a credit to the school!**



## Languages WEEK

Lunchtime activities



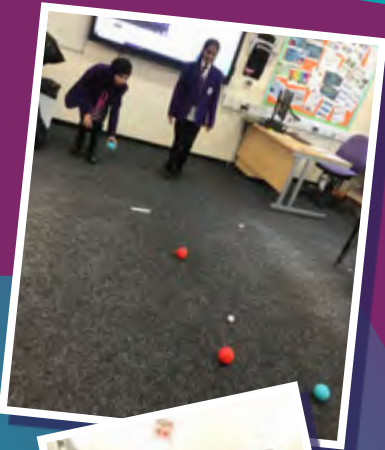
During Languages week from Monday 25th September until Thursday 28th, our World Language Leaders organised and led activities every lunch time which included a treasure hunt and the game of pétanque. Our Year 13 Media students documented the activities!

Year 7, year 8 and year 10 were the most involved in the activities.

World Language Leaders collected the Treasure Hunt papers and selected the best entries to receive prizes which will be given out in our rewards assemblies.

"We arrived 10 minutes early from our lesson, got the cards, and discreetly placed them around C Block, which turned out to be a time-consuming task. Afterwards, we handed out the tickets to the Year 7 students, many of them were so enthusiastic that it made the experience lovely. They actively engaged in searching for answers around C Block, making it a really fun and enjoyable activity."

Huda –  
World  
Language  
Leader





The

# BIG

During Languages Week, every year 8 pupil performed 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman in four different languages.

The performance was repeated in four assemblies in front of at least 1080 pupils and around 50 members of staff! The students started rehearsing in their language lessons in the summer term of Year 7 and their final performance was spectacular.

It was amazing to hear such an uplifting song in French, German, Spanish and English, to see students' confidence grow throughout the week and to see the amazing musical and linguistic talent we have at Whalley Range.

# SING

We hope the current year 7s are excited to start practising their song at the end of this year and we can't wait to hear them.



## GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY SALFORD Quays Visit

We're very pleased to showcase some of the work produced by year 10 & 11 GCSE Photography students on their recent visit to Salford Quays.

The theme for the trip was to highlight the many different buildings which make up our city skyline. Many students had not visited Salford Quays before, or even travelled on a tram. The students showed great work ethic and commitment to the trip, engaging politely with the public; they were a credit to the school.

During half term 3 all Key Stage 4 students in Art, Photography & Textiles will be taking part in further trips outside of the school environment. These trips are key to increasing students' understanding of art within our local communities, as well as improving skills and techniques, which will have a positive impact on their final outcomes as we work towards the start of the exam period in January 2024.

Mr Leigh-Dalton.





**Foundation**

**NEWS**



# MU FOUNDATION BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE

During Black History Month, MU Foundation hosted a 'Celebrating Excellence' event which looked to provide more students from across the Foundation's partner schools with the opportunity to engage with BAME professionals from a variety of sectors including IT, performing arts, armed forces, sports management, youth work, publishing, barbering, music production, animation and video, fashion, sport and leisure, aesthetics, and catering.

On the day, students took part in speed networking style Q&A sessions with the guests. The event aimed to increase students' awareness of opportunities available in a range of industries and offer an insight into each guest's journey into employment. The event acted as a catalyst for further independent and active research into possible career progression pathways.

The students met Manchester United legend, Danny Simpson, who hosted a Q&A on his journey growing up as a young black player in England.

In addition, and much to their delight, students had the amazing opportunity to meet special guest Harry Pinero! The students had a fantastic day and a few of them commented that it was "the best trip they have ever been on".







Foundation

NEWS

# YEAR 7 ARMY TRANSITION DAY

**In term one, the Army, who are partnered with Manchester United Foundation, delivered an Army Transition Day to all students in Year 7.**

The students took part in a carousel of activities to encourage them to get to know each other. They focused on teamwork, problem solving and team building skills.

The students thoroughly enjoyed their day, and the Army representatives were full of praise for their engagement and enthusiasm.



# YEAR 9 ARMY ENGAGEMENT DAY

**As part of Manchester United Foundation's partnership with the Army, all of our Year 9 students participated in an Army Engagement Day.**

The students had the opportunity to take part in a carousel of activities to encourage them to develop their problem solving and team building skills.

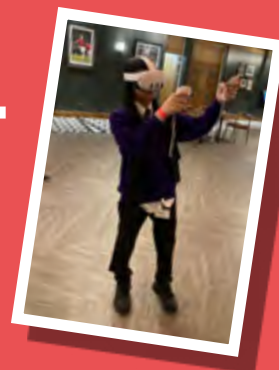


# DXC DIGITAL FUTURES ACADEMY

**DXC has teamed up with Manchester United Foundation to inspire and enable young people to become the next generation of leaders.**

Engaging with young people, the partnership will help shape the future of work by developing their key digital and social skills.

Seven of our Year 9 students are part of the DXC Digital Futures Academy, a partnership that will last four years. Throughout the programme, the students will be working with DXC to learn all about, Security, Virtual Reality, Personal Development, Automation, Big Data, Emerging Tech, and Programming.





Foundation

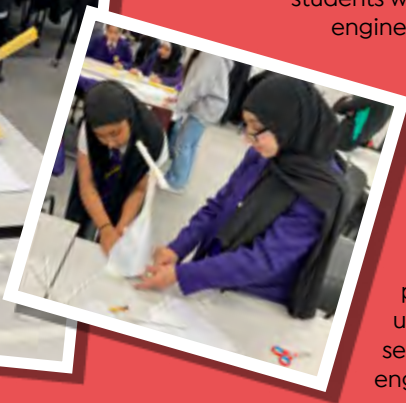
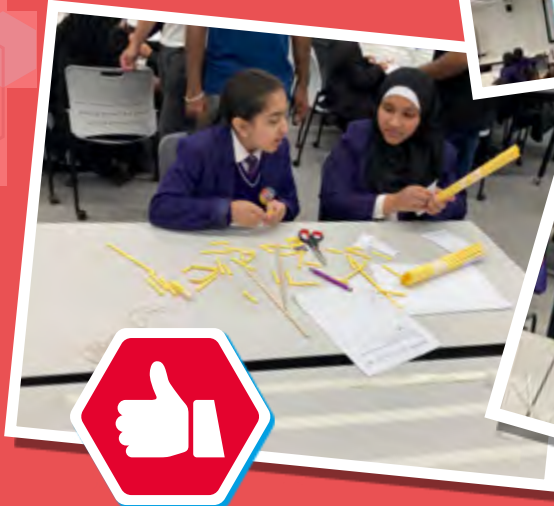
NEWS

# MU FOUNDATION ENGINEERING EVENT



A group of Year 8 students attended the University of Manchester recently, where they took part in various activities around engineering within the Lunar STEM.

The day involved two hands-on team challenges where students were able to improve their knowledge of engineering as well as have the opportunity to develop employability skills including teamwork, communication and problem solving. Students learnt all about structures and why they're crucial to engineering in our cities! Students worked in groups to build and test models of a structure used on railways. They also built and raced model rovers using basic materials. The sessions were led by engineering professors along with University of Manchester undergraduates, giving students the chance to see the campus and find out what it's like to study engineering.



# MU FOUNDATION ECO REDS

Four of our Year 8 students are now officially Manchester United Foundation Eco Reds! The students visited Old Trafford Stadium for the launch event and had the chance to meet their fellow Eco Reds from the other MU Foundation Partner Schools, they also took part in several workshops.

Our Eco Reds leaders will work through a digital booklet to complete several tasks in their school and local community throughout the academic year, these include clothes swaps, preventing food waste and walk to school week. As part of the programme, these students will also develop and build on their leadership and communication skills.

The workshops the Eco Reds participated in were:-

- **Rich Holmes;** guidance on how to create an action plan
- **University of Manchester;** clothing recycling
- **Adidas;** recycling of materials
- **Manchester United;** sustainability



WELL DONE GIRLS



# SIXTH FORM

# STUDENT

Union

The Sixth Form student union has been immersed in planning engaging activities in support of the sixth form community. Ranging from fundraising events to sports tournaments, we strive to enhance the Sixth Form experience.

Recently, we have collected donations to support the education of Moroccan teenage girls, following the earthquakes.

Our basketball rematch between the Year 12s and Year 13s will take place soon, leading to the forthcoming sports day.

To mark the end of this term, we hope to host a Christmas movie night.

Additionally, our Year 12 team are planning exciting activities and we'll be decorating the common room for the final week of term.



We'll keep you updated with our activities in the next edition.

# Oxford University

## OPEN DAY

In September, as part of our Oxbridge Pathway Programme, five year 13 students attended the University of Oxford Open Day with Mr Mycock.

They gained a valuable insight into what life as an Oxbridge student is like, which will support their applications. Students had the opportunity to meet with current Oxford University students and have a tour of their linked colleges.

This opportunity supported four of our students to make an application to Oxbridge Universities this year.



# Deloitte

# VISIT

Through our amazing link with Deloitte, eight of our Year 9 students were given with the opportunity to visit Deloitte's London office.

Students travelled to London by train and took part in a full day of activities. These included finding out about the wide range of opportunities in the film, TV and gaming industries and learning about eco investments.

The trip ended with the group visiting BAFTA's headquarters to watch The Marvels film a week before its UK release!



Students Aim High at

# FUTURES

# FEST 2023

SIXTH  
FORM

COLLEGE

APPRENTICESHIPS

Earlier this school year, Whalley Range 11-18 High School hosted **Futures Fest**, offering students the chance to meet a wide range of colleges, training providers and universities to explore their future options.

The annual event saw educational institutions and training providers from across Manchester and the Northwest share important information to allow students to make informed decisions on their next steps.

All students in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 were given time to explore their options and chat with staff about their considerations for education, training or employment. Students also had the opportunity to receive impartial advice and guidance from our careers advisor during the event.

On behalf of the school, we would like to thank all of the visitors who came in to speak to our students and hope to welcome everyone back again next September.

"This year was our biggest and best Futures Fest to date. We welcomed over 30 exhibitors and the students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. From our student voice, 66% agreed that the event had made them consider options for their future that they hadn't previously. Thank you to all of our visitors for making that happen."

Mr Corney, CEIAG Coordinator

TRAINING

EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY





*Media Students Uncover the Magic of*

# Harry Potter

**On 28th September 2023, a group of enthusiastic media based students departed on an unforgettable journey to the magical world of Harry Potter in London.**

The highly anticipated visit was an opportunity for both the Creative iMedia and A Level Media Studies students to explore the enchanting sets and learn about the behind-the-scenes magic of one of the most beloved films in the world.

“The trip to Warner Bros Studio really exceeded my expectations. Magical and nostalgic, a place where everyone was able to come together under one world. Truly a fantasy brought to life.”

**Menaal, Year 13 A Level Media Student**



“The visit to Harry Potter World in London was an unforgettable experience for the students. It provided them with a true insight into the world of film production, set design, and storytelling. They were involved in a workshop on arrival of the majestic world of Harry Potter, whereby camera angles and techniques were discussed in detail. This allowed the media students to gain an insight into how films are produced and edited, and also helped the A- level Media students to gain inspiration for when it comes to creating their Non-Exam Assessments.”

**Holly, Year 13**

“This trip was a fantastic experience as we got to see the behind the scenes of the Harry Potter movies, which gave us an insight as to how media producers work and helped me in my studies.”

**Fiza, Year 13 A Level Media Student**

PE

# SPORT

REPORT

**A very warm welcome back to the new academic year from WRHS PE Department. We have a jam-packed year ahead filled with fun, exciting, enjoyable lessons, events, competitions and trips and we look forward to sharing lots of memories, successes and results with you throughout the year.**



Firstly, I would like to congratulate our 2023 PE leavers who attained excellent results in their Vocational Certificate in Health and Fitness. All students achieved their best grade in their PE course and deservedly met or exceeded their target grades. This made a huge overall difference to the school's Attainment 8 score. Congratulations and well done to these students and thank you to the staff involved in encouraging them to aspire, believe and achieve!

The PE Curriculum plans 2023-2024 can be found on the school website. All students across Key Stage 3 and 4 will be taking part in a range of activities as part of their curriculum with emphasis on key concepts such as teamwork, leadership, practical performance and successful application of skills, rules and tactics.

## PE VISION

**Physical activity is the beating heart of the PE curriculum. Students develop and apply their knowledge through a wide range of health, well-being and practical activities.**

**We empower our young women to be strong and confident through the development of physical, social, and emotional well-being, promoting a life-long love of physical activity.**



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

**We have already launched our Year 8 Duke of Edinburgh's Award Cadets programme and students are already carrying out skill, physical and volunteering activities for homework to show dedication and responsibility in preparation for their DofE Bronze Award Programme in Year 10.**

We currently have over 170 Year 10 students signed up to completing the full DofE Bronze award. Half of the course takes place in PE lessons where students train for their expeditions and keep themselves physically active to ensure they will be able to cope with the demands of walking 20km over two days. Some classes have also started studying a First Aid certificate so students feel equipped to diagnose, treat and care for anyone that may get injured on expedition. In their own time students have begun setting up their volunteering and skill work to develop a range of attributes that will help them be successful in their course. We look forward to reporting back on their successful practice expeditions in term 2.

Furthermore, we look forward to seeing our current Year 11 students awarded their DofE certificates this term, welcoming parents, carers and North West DofE regional staff into school for a special celebration assembly.

At Key Stage 5 we have the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the Sports Leaders UK Level 3 Award set up with 30 students accessing these enrichment courses to develop their employability skills and earn themselves extra UCAS points.



A new PE kit poster has been designed to encourage students to wear the most appropriate and uniformed clothing for their lessons as well as following whole school rules. The new emphasis here is on the need for headscarves and hair to be tied back, secure and not an obstruction for hindering performance and/or creating a hazard or risk in the lesson.



PE

# SPORT REPORT

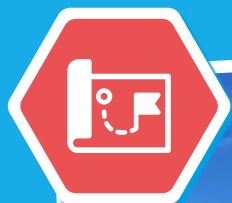


## DUKE OF EDINBURGH 'BEYOND THE CV' CONFERENCE

On Friday 20th October, thirteen of our year 12 students attended a fantastic event at the Etihad Stadium hosted by the Duke of Edinburgh award.

All students are a part of this year's Silver Award cohort in Whalley Range Sixth Form. They took part in three workshops all looking at developing employability skills alongside academic qualifications. The sessions were delivered by a range of employers including IBM, Google and BBC presenter Chatan Pathak. The sessions looked at working with people with different personalities, positive body language and posture, and finding jobs with the right balance for them. There were additional talks on applying for jobs, interviewing skills and different employment routes, there was something to inspire all students! The day concluded with a great speech from Ex Manchester City player Nedum Onuoha who now works as a community ambassador for the club. The students came away from the event inspired for their future.

## SILVER DOFE PRACTICE EXPEDITION



22 students from Year 12 and 13 have boldly committed to completing their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award.

They have started the course by selecting their Physical, Skill and Volunteering activities and are now building their navigation skills through their practice expedition. They will be undertaking 3 days of hiking and navigating around the Edale Valley in the Peak District enabling the students to build up their navigational and observational skills in readiness for their final expedition.

They will be self-sufficient and we are looking forward to their culinary skills too. We look forward to celebrating a successful trip in the next edition.

PE

# SPORT REPORT



## FOOTBALL TEAM NEWS

Our Key Stage 3 football team took part in the first round of football fixtures at St Paul's where they had the opportunity to play three competitive matches against local Manchester schools.

The girls showed great character, resilience and determination during their matches and they played some brilliant football and ultimately scored some great worked goals.



## PRIMARY FOOTBALL

Our sports leaders have represented the school on two occasions now, leading the primary football events here at Whalley Range.

They help to register schools, officiate the games, record the results and ensure all schools are enjoying the event. Our leaders have received fantastic feedback, from not only the PE department here at school, but also from the staff attending from local primary schools.



## INTERHOUSE FOOTBALL

In October, we ran the first Interhouse competitions of the year.

This term's sport was football; we saw a week of fun and competitive games where every student in the school participated in the events.

**Congratulations to the overall winning house: Franklin!**

There are still four events and Sports Day to look forward to. The competition is far from over!



**SUPERB SKILLS!**



# SPORT REPORT



## NETBALL

**We have had an impressive start to netball recruitment this year, with around 50 students attending netball training since September.**

The teams have worked hard, engaging in drills, and playing fun games to improve their fitness levels and skills; they are also developing their knowledge of the rules of the game and enjoying some match practice.

Last month, the team from Parrs Wood High School travelled to Whalley Range to play the first Year 10 match of the season. This match was always going to be a challenge for the girls as Parrs Wood are a strong team. The experience was a positive one, despite the loss, it provided good experience for the team ahead of for their upcoming fixtures. The girls showed great sportsmanship and really gave it their all!

The focus for this half term will be on ball handling skills, attack and defence and individual tactical roles. Training is really helping the players refresh their 'netball brains' ready for the season ahead.



## BADMINTON

**On Monday 16th October, Whalley Range High School hosted the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Girls' Badminton Doubles.**

We entered teams in both competitions. The students performed exceptionally well enabling our Key Stage 4 team to secure second place and Key Stage 3 achieving fourth place. The girls are very enthusiastic for their next badminton fixture, continuing to show determination and commitment by having 100% attendance to badminton club on Wednesday's after school.



**AMAZING EFFORT GIRLS!**



## CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE



**In September, the Cross-Country team took part in the Manchester Schools' Cross Country League held at Wythenshawe Park.**

This was a fantastic experience for all the students who competed. Everyone managed to complete the tough course and a special congratulations to Poppy, who ran the course in a qualifying time.

PE

# SPORT REPORT



## CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IN SPORTS STUDIES

**We have had such a fantastic start to the year with our new Year 10 Cambridge National (CNAT) Sports Studies class!**

All of the students have been highly motivated in their learning, both practically and theoretically. They have shown enthusiasm, curiosity, cooperation, and a commitment to deeper study. Many of the students have attended extra-curricular clubs to form part of their practical assessment and allow them to develop their practical skills even further. We have recently been analysing individual strengths and weaknesses in different sports and the students have been thinking of ways in which they can improve their own performance by planning personalised and progressive drills and practices to support this. Thank you for such a great start, Year 10.



Year 11 CNAT have made a great start to the year, evaluating their trip to Chorlton Water Park for their orienteering course and researching regional and national centres for a variety of outdoor adventurous activities ready to complete the final sections of their coursework! They have also started completing retrieval tasks on their exam unit in preparation for their upcoming PPE assessments.



## SPORTS LEADERS REWARDS TRIP

INFLATA NATION

**Our Sports Leaders cohort volunteered in a large number of events last year and Miss Neal and Miss Lawson took a lucky few to Inflata Nation as a reward and big thank you for all of their hard work and effort. What a trip!**

Everyone had a fun-filled evening whizzing down slides, battling on the dual station, playing in the ball pit and drinking slushies. We cannot wait for our next rewards trip in the summer.



## GLL FITNESS



**Year 10 students have had the opportunity to use the GLL fitness suite for their PE lessons.**

Students have completed fitness tests in lessons and compared their results to the national averages to identify their areas for improvement. They have then been given the time and support to plan a 6-week training programme.

Students were given an induction in the GLL gym and have been shown how to use a range of free weights, strength and cardio machines, which they now have the opportunity to use on a weekly basis to try to work on their chosen areas.