



Dear Parents/Carers

End of Half Term 1

I hope that you and your families are well and would like to thank you for your ongoing support. We feel that the ban on the use of mobile phones in school has been a great success and has had a positive impact on the students, thank you for supporting us in implementing this.

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 18th October. **School reopens on Monday 4th November 2024.**

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 I am looking forward to meeting many of our families at the Year 7 Partnership Evening on the Wednesday 6th November. Our Year 12 students have also 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 last half term.

On Thursday 3rd October, we held our Year 7 Open Evening. It was a great event, with lots of prospective Year 7 students coming to visit our school. 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. On the 18th November, we will be having our Sixth Form Open Evening, and are looking forward to seeing lots of our Year 11 students and parents then.

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, during our Languages Week, we 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. Please continue to 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.

After the half term break, students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be undertaking assessments which will follow with Year 11 pre-public examinations (PPEs) beginning on the 22nd November. You can find some very useful information about how to prepare and support your daughter for these assessments and examinations on our school website.

From next half term, pencil sharpeners will no longer be allowed in school along with other bladed articles. This decision was made to ensure the safety of all our students, and I am sure you will continue to support us in this.

As you will be aware, keeping your daughter safe online is a worry that many parents have. Young people are using internet, a platform which was not designed with them specifically in mind and therefore students can easily find themselves drawn into unsafe spaces and situations. This half term holiday, you can help your child being safe online by talking to them and allowing them to show you the apps they use and websites they visit. In addition, the Manchester Safeguarding Partnership is offering free accounts with the parental control app called [Qustodio](#).

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	Mr Kavanagh	Mr Ellis-Scott
Year 8	0161 860 2975	Mrs Lynam	Mrs Mackenzie
Year 9	0161 860 2978	Mrs Kheratkar	Mr Mustafa
Year 10	0161 860 2979	Mrs Saleem	Ms Carr
Year 11	0161 860 2977	Mr Da Silva	Miss Drake Thomas
Sixth Form	0161 860 2984	Mrs Davies (Yr 12) Mrs Maloney-Rock (Yr 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



Mr M Lea
Academy Headteacher

— a member of the **Greater Manchester Education Trust** —