



Welcome to Range

REVIEW

Amazing Achievements



Welcome to the Spring edition of our community newsletter. This edition highlights the remarkable opportunities our students have experienced during the past term.

I want to take this opportunity to say how very proud we are of our students' performance in the 2023/24 academic results, especially now that we have reviewed our results against the national data. It is rewarding to see that we rank among the top 10 schools in Greater Manchester for the progress our Class of 2024 Year 11 students made. The success continued with our Class of 2024 Year 13 students, who achieved the highest progress in vocational courses compared to all Manchester colleges and sixth forms, alongside exceptional performances in A-level subjects. These results and the life chances they bring for our students are something to be celebrated!



I also want to celebrate our students' and families' generosity in raising funds for UNICEF's Gaza Appeal: Children in Crisis and organising cake sales to add to our total. To date, we have raised £2600. Our outstanding sixth form students contributed to our community spirit by organising an Iftar, uniting our Whalley Range community. It was great to see, staff, students and family members sharing food and precious time together at this brilliantly organised event.

We are fortunate at Whalley Range to have such incredible students who consistently embody our school values of excellence, care, and respect. I look forward to what next term will bring!

I hope you enjoy reading more about our school.

Mr M Lea
Academy Headteacher



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WHALLEY RANGE PRESENTS...

Matilda

2025

What an amazing cast to work with this year for the 2025 school production of Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical. So much fun was had by all involved, and so many very special memories were created. A huge thank you to the cast members for being so dedicated from September to January, giving up their own time at lunch, after school and during the holidays for rehearsals. All their hard work paid off as the show was one of the best yet! Thanks also to all the staff that supported the show this year, their time and energy was much appreciated.

Theatre really does ignite something in all of us, so, if you are a student at Whalley Range, push yourself out of your comfort zone and audition for any future performances... It really is a life changing experience!

Mrs Cartin-Hodge (Drama Curriculum Leader)

Here's what some of our very talented cast members had to say about their experience of being part of the production...

I had one of the best experiences doing Matilda. I became close with all my cast members, and we became one big family. There were challenges but when it came to it, we all came together to put on the best show we could. My highlights are when we did one last run through before the first show, and everything was coming together and it just made me so proud to look at how far we had come. I have also learnt and developed more skills doing Matilda. I have learnt how to persevere and compromise. But I've also become more confident in myself and my abilities. I conquered my stage fright and learnt how to believe in myself. I'm also very thankful to all the teachers involved who did so much work to make it possible, but most of all Mrs Cartin-Hodge who supported us the whole way through and made it truly a wonderful experience. I will be auditioning for the next production and can't wait to be back on the big stage!

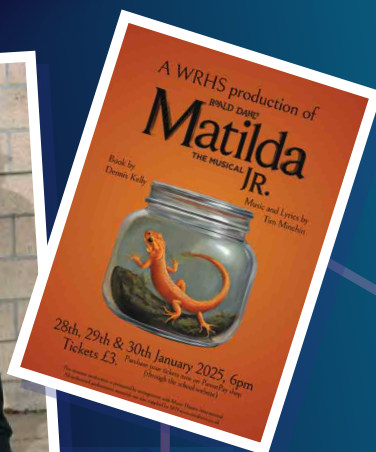
Alice (Matilda)

Rehearsing and, eventually, performing the Matilda play as Ms Trunchbull was a great experience for me. I developed my co-working, listening and, of course, acting skills. I really enjoyed learning some dance moves with the choreographer, Jayne. Also, just being on stage, singing and performing was almost life-changing for me as it gave me a huge boost of confidence. I am grateful to the whole cast and teachers who made it all possible and a wholesome time. I enjoyed drama before but, after this, I'm considering doing it for life.

Serin (Miss Trunchbull)

Being a part of the Matilda cast, was a big part of my life that I will never forget. I got to know new people, make friendships, and feel like an important part in a group. It was like a family, everyone felt comfortable with each other and felt like they belonged. Although it was challenging sometimes, we stuck together and produced an amazing show!

Jeena (Matilda)



STARS OF WRHS SPARKLE AGAIN AT...

Macfest

Since novelist Qaisara Shahraz MBE launched MACFEST, the Manchester Muslim Art and Culture Festival, Whalley Range High school has become a permanent member of its exciting activities. The brilliant performances of our distinguished students secured them a place in the opening ceremonies of the festival on the stage of the prestigious Whitworth Art Gallery.

This year was no exception. On Saturday 22nd of February, the gallery was packed with audiences from diverse communities of Manchester, attracted by the exciting performances and by the slogan of the festival "Spread honey not hate".

Feryal from Y12 and a group of KS4 Arabic language students participated in the MACFEST opening ceremony. They were greeted with applause by the audience for their magnificent Nasheed. Many of the audience commented that their performance was one of the best in the opening ceremony's varied and rich programme, which included multiple talented performers.

Qaisara sent "heartfelt thanks to Whalley Range High School for Girls. Your Nasheed performance was amazing, and we truly appreciate your contribution". Our talented student Feryal also passionately recited the "Damascene Poem" أنا الدمشقي. By the famous Arabic poet Nizar Qabbani as part of MACFEST online event on Tuesday 25th of February, celebrating Global Literary and Poetic Journey.

Her confident, clear and powerful recitation in Arabic and English effectively conveyed the beauty of the meanings of the poem.

Taking part in this Year's MACFEST has been a very enjoyable experience for the participating students. Feryal, who took part in both events said:

"I am truly honoured and grateful to have been chosen to represent Whalley Range High School at MACFEST. This event is a beautiful celebration of our culture. I feel very proud to have become a part of it."

The school is very proud of the talent and effort shown by the students and congratulates them for their contributions to this important festival. Well done girls!



Celebrating Success

Whalley Range Sixth Form's Certificate Afternoon

Whalley Range Sixth Form recently hosted a joyous Certificate Afternoon, where last year's Year 13 students gathered to celebrate their remarkable achievements. We are incredibly proud of our students' outstanding results at Key Stage 5, which reflect their hard work and dedication.

Our students have excelled in both Advanced Level and Advanced BTEC courses, with many moving on to prestigious university programs and apprenticeships. We wish them all the best in their future academic endeavours.

Laiba and Janeah were the proud recipients of the Sixth Form Award for 2024, we are so proud of their achievements.

Key Achievements:

- 34% of students achieved at least one A*/A grade (or equivalent).
- 75% of students achieved at least one A*/B grade (or equivalent).
- 91.5% of students achieved at least one A*/C grade (or equivalent).
- Average grade for BTEC Level 3: Distinction



Congratulations to all our students for their incredible achievements!

WORLD BOOK DAY

6th March 2025

READ YOUR WAY

World Book Day 2025

World Book Day was well celebrated in Whalley Range this year. So many staff took the time to curate amazing outfits that represented different characters from favourite books. Elphaba, Glinda, Cruella De Vil, Frodo, Captain Hook, the possibilities really were endless and really helped enhance conversations about reading with the whole school.

Alongside this, Key Stage Three read a section of Examination Day (a short dystopian science fiction story) in each lesson of the day with their teachers. The shared engagement in a story really helped us celebrate reading properly and supplemented the weekly hour of reading for pleasure we do every week.

Furthermore, there was some fabulous participation in World Book Day Competitions! 10SG2 won the Faceless Reader Competition where forms had to guess which staff member was reading from photographs or recordings and the

book they were reading. Entries were of great quality with knowledge of books just as impressive as the ability to discern their teachers' voices. The Book Clue Treasure Hunt across school had a huge number of entries! Well done to everyone that entered.

Our LRC was busier than ever, the buzz was commented on by all. There was bookmark making crafts, a book ends quiz about famous book characters and more. It was lovely to see students from all year groups celebrate the day by borrowing a book from the great selection available to all students every break, lunch and every day after school.

The theme for World Book Day this year was 'Read your Way' and we encourage all our students to continue to find ways they enjoy reading because it is a wonderful habit that will set them up for personal and academic success.



Sixth Form students leading the way for UNICEF

Our sixth form students' union are always trying to find exciting new ways to raise funds for charity, and this winter was no exception, they helped organise a teacher talent show, to raise money for UNICEF's Children of Gaza Appeal. They gave up all their break times to organise and sell tickets to the students.

The afternoon provided a memorable event with staff stepping up and showing off their amazing talents. We had it all, our Head of Sixth Form was the perfect Robbie Williams, there was singing, keyboard skills, a science magic show, an almost recognisable Mariah Carey, and even middle eastern dancing! Who knew our staff were so talented.

Everyone had a great time, the cheering was louder than a Taylor Swift concert, especially when a human sized turkey got up on the stage!

Well done to the Whalley Range community for raising over £800 for such a worthy cause. As expected, our Sixth form students are already planning their next charitable event, so watch this space!



unicef 
for every child



ACTION FOR CONSERVATION

TREE

Planting

PROJECT

A workshop organised by the charity Action for Conservation provided Year 9 students with an opportunity to explore and understand the significance of taking care of the environment. Working together, they developed ideas to address environmental issues within their own schools.

One of the key initiatives was the planting of trees to create a 'green wall' around the school to enhance biodiversity. Inspired by their participation in a conference last year with other schools, where they discussed their efforts to impact both their own school and local environment, the students decided to move forward with a tree planting project. After receiving approval from teachers, the school ordered over four hundred trees from the Woodland Trust.

The planting process, carried out by Year 10 & 11 students, and staff, included a diverse selection of species such as Hawthorn, Wild Cherry, Silver Birch, and Rowan. This variety not only helps reduce air pollution from nearby busy roads but also attracts more wildlife, fostering the ecosystem of the school grounds.

The hard work and dedication the students have put into bringing this project to life has led to an extremely positive impact on the school environment. The aim of the tree planting is to allow a 'green wall' of trees to grow around the school, making the school eco-friendly and more biodiverse. Beyond benefiting the school, the project also contributes to improving the local environment.

By Reema Year 11



Hardwick Hall

History trip



Year 11 Historians visited Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire across two dates in February and March. Although the weather was slightly better on the first excursion, we were lucky to avoid the rain both times! Hardwick Hall is the historic environment which students need to study for their GCSE AQA History examination this year. Students enjoyed looking inside the manor house and views of the beautiful Derbyshire countryside.

One student claiming it was her "favourite trip ever" with another commenting that "it really helped them imagine what it would have been

like in Elizabethan England." All noticed how different this area was from the city we live in.

Hardwick Hall 'more glass than wall' began construction in 1590 at a time when windows were a huge status symbol and extremely expensive to obtain. Bess of Shrewsbury who built Hardwick (hence the ES initials at the top of the building) wanted Hardwick Hall to be an enduring testament to her prosperity. Bess epitomises the rise of the gentry during this time, increasing from a lowly farmers daughter to the second richest woman in England.

Members of the public commented on how excellently behaved our students were and the trip was enjoyed by all.

Mrs Callaghan



STUDENT

Flag

REACHES ANTARCTICA!

Each year, the UK Polar Network runs an exciting competition, giving students the chance to learn more about Antarctica and design a flag to be sent to the icy continent with a team of polar researchers. This initiative aims to inspire young people about Antarctic exploration and celebrate Antarctica Day. We ran the competition with a Group of Year 8 students. This year's winning student was Year 8's Noran, whose incredible flag design made its way to Antarctica! She was awarded a certificate in recognition of her achievement and had the amazing opportunity to see her flag displayed in the Antarctic.

Congratulations to Noran on this fantastic achievement!





Foundation

NEWS



CYBERFIRST TRIP

Ten of our Year 8 students visited HOST in Media City which is Home of Skills and Technology with a unique environment that helps students learn, grow, and succeed.

Students had an amazing day experiencing HOST and took part in a range of activities including: -

- A discussion about the future of technology and Artificial Intelligence
- AI image and prompt battles and an AI ethics debate
- Digital detective
- VR Cyber challenge
- E Sports
- Sphero Bolts

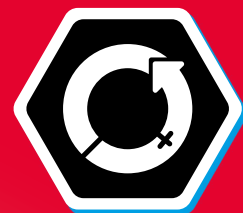




Foundation

NEWS

MANCHESTER UNITED FOUNDATION CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Nine of our Year 7 students visited Old Trafford Stadium to celebrate International Women's Day hosted by Manchester United Foundation.

This was an educational career networking event to celebrate female leaders across different industries, empower females, raise awareness and challenge attitudes on women and girls to achieve gender equality. Students engaged with females from different careers such as the Army, doctors, marketing directors, social media, DJ's and many more.

The students also had the amazing opportunity to meet and talk to some of the ex-women's players of The Corinthians who were a pioneering ladies' football team that defied the FA in 1971, playing football to tens of thousands and who are now in the process of bringing out a film about how they broke down barriers.

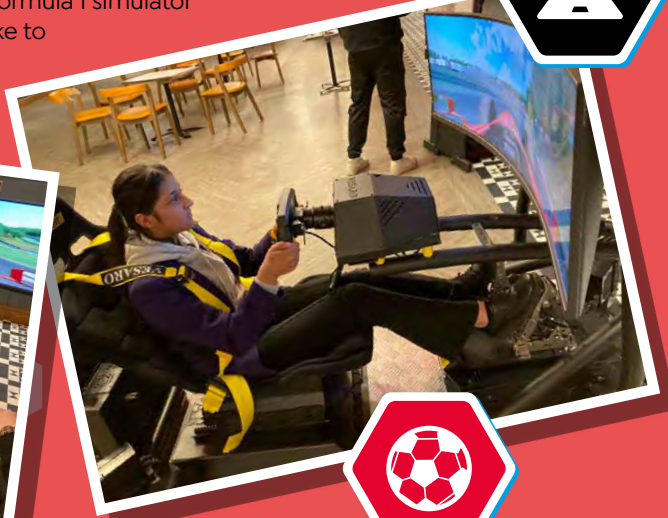


DXC DIGITAL FUTURES ACADEMY

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

Engaging with the young people, the 4-year partnership programme will help shape the future of work by developing their key digital and social skills. Seven of our year 10 students are a part of the DXC Digital Futures Academy.

The students attended a session which involved learning about VR (virtual reality) and MR (mixed reality). They had the opportunity to go on a Formula 1 simulator experiencing what it is like to drive an F1 car with the motion and controls.



WORLD



Languages

Àma Gloria at HOME cinema

On Tuesday 21st January, a group of Y10 students, accompanied by Miss Boulesteix and Miss Sevellec, enjoyed a trip to HOME cinema to see Àma Gloria, a French film by Marie Amachoukeli.

“Cléo (an exceptional performance by six-year-old Louise Mauroy-Panzani) loves her nanny Gloria more than anything. When Gloria suddenly has to return home to Cape Verde to look after her own children, Gloria invites Cléo to visit her and the two have to make the most of their last summer together.”

The film was shown as part of an interactive French Study Morning delivered by Isabelle Vanderschelden, a researcher in French cinema Translation Studies. Mrs Vanderschelden led our students through a series of introductory exercises and post-viewing conversations to analyse the plot, characters, themes and atmosphere of the movie. She spoke both in French and English and encouraged attendees to participate in the conversation. Our students took this opportunity to practise their listening and understanding skills, as well as their ability to use different sentence structures and vocabulary to describe characters and the various aspects of the film. Students were also encouraged to comment on the film's style and express critical opinions.

I liked the message of the film; it explored the idea of missing someone that you can't go back to. I also liked how the teacher was interacting with the audience before and after the movie.

Maheen

I liked it because it showed the little girl's emotions through many different ways and showed different perspectives. It was good to learn about the director's backstory which made the film more realistic, this actually happened to someone.

Awadia



I liked the animation in the movie, and the different viewpoints on the story. The booklets did help with our knowledge, and the teacher came round to ask if we needed anything explaining. It helped us with thinking about our answers to the questions.

Aaliyah



I personally really enjoyed the cinema trip. I learned quite a lot of new French vocabulary. The movie was really enjoyable and entertaining. From it, I discovered daily words in French and how daily conversations in French were spoken.

Charlotte



WORLD

Languages

Spanish Home cinema trip

In January 2025, Miss Sevellec and Mrs Muñoz Morales took a group of Year 9 and 10 students who are studying Spanish to the Home Cinema. They watched La Suprema which is a movie by Felipe Holguín set in Colombia.

As part of the study morning, the students watched the film, and they discussed different aspects of it. The discussion was led by Doctor Carmen Herrero who is a lecturer in Spanish Studies at the University of Manchester and is the director of FLAME (Research Group for Film, Languages and Media in Education). Pupils were able to discuss the main topics of the film, the language used by the characters and the shots used in the film.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience that enriched their linguistic ability and their cultural awareness of a Spanish speaking country.



Urdu Cinema Trip

On Thursday 30th January, a group of students from year 10,12, and 13, alongside Mrs Aamir, visited HOME cinema to see the movie called English Vinglish. The movie followed a woman trying to learn English and you could connect with her struggles and growth, the film was directed by Gauri Shinde.

Shashi Godbole, who struggled with speaking English feels embarrassed as her family didn't support her. Despite being treated less importantly because of her language barrier, she's determined to improve herself. She is strong and confident and wants to gain respect, as she learns English. Eventually she earns the respect of her family and realises her own strength, showing that it's never too late to change and grow.

The film was inspirational and relatable as it was about learning and gaining confidence. It offers a refreshing perspective on self-development especially in a world where language and communication often shape's how we as humans are viewed. The students were very engaged and took this opportunity to improve their listening and understanding skills, as well as their ability to speak with others and used different vocabulary in conversations. Students were encouraged to comment on the style of the film and share their opinions. They were provided with booklets and engaged with answering the questions.

Overall, all the students adored the film and were very inspired.



PE

SPORT

REPORT



ATHLETICS TEAM NEWS



The athletics teams had a busy start to the school year, competing in the Manchester Schools Athletics Events at Sport City.

The Year 10 team had a fantastic experience, competing in the Year 11 competition and learnt a lot to prepare them for their event in the summer.

The Year 8 and 9 team had many successes, with Luna winning gold medals in the long jump and 60m sprint and Hala and Arazw winning bronze medals in the shot putt and 200m sprint respectively.

The Year 7 team competed in their first event for the school, an exciting experience for them all. A special congratulations to Award for winning Gold in the shot putt; Jeena for winning Silver in the long jump and Georja winning bronze in 60m sprint.

We look forward to the summer events and winning more medals! Miss Neal and the PE department are very proud of all the competitors.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!



BADMINTON

In October 2024 students were entered into the under 14 and under 16 badminton doubles and they worked incredibly hard.

On completing this event our students in Key Stage 4 achieved third place out of several schools, receiving a bronze medal. In Key Stage 3 the students secured first place, achieving a gold medal. The effort and dedication of the students was a testament to their own hard work and commitment. Well, done girls.

More recently we had several students participate in the badminton single finals from both Key Stage 3 and 4 which took place on Tuesday 28th January at school. We entered two students from each key stage. One of our Key Stage 4 students came second place, gaining a silver medal which was truly deserved with the amount of dedication and commitment shown by the pupil.



CONGRATULATIONS

PE

SPORT REPORT



FOOTBALL

The KS3 football team have taken part in three rounds of football fixtures against local Manchester schools.



During this time, they have worked hard at improving their technical skill and tactical ability on the pitch.

In their most recent round of fixtures, they went unbeaten in 4 games, which is a fantastic achievement!!



CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL STUDENTS SET FOR SUCCESS

Our Cambridge National students are gearing up for their upcoming exam after two years of dedication, hard work, and perseverance. Their commitment to their coursework has been outstanding, with all students demonstrating resilience and a strong work ethic throughout their studies.



From tackling challenging assignments to developing key skills, these students have consistently gone above and beyond. Their enthusiasm for learning and willingness to engage in each lesson has been inspiring. They have not only gained valuable knowledge but have also shown determination in overcoming obstacles and striving for success.

As the exams approach, we want to congratulate them on their efforts so far and wish them the best of luck. The dedication they have shown will undoubtedly stand them in good stead, and we have every confidence in their abilities.

Good luck to all our Cambridge National students – your hard work will pay off.

The 2024/25 netball season has recently ended and our teams have demonstrated resilience, dedication, teamwork and sportsmanship to compete in a series of league matches since September.

Using Tuesday after school practices, all squads developed their netball abilities and cohesion as a team to participate successfully in an extensive programme of competitions against other Manchester schools.

A special mention to the Y8 and Y11 teams, who finished second in their divisions and progressed to the Semi Finals of the League Cup. The Y8 team lost a closely fought match against Cooperative Academy North Manchester by only two goals, 4v6, with Alaa Gedal getting player of the match. Similarly, the Y11 team just missed out on making it to the League Cup Finals, conceding to Trinity, with Kayla being awarded player of the match in this game.

All students should be so proud of the way they conducted themselves as mature, responsible, supportive sportswomen – you are all winners at WRHS!

NETBALL SUCCESSES



TRULY AMAZING!

PE

SPORT REPORT



SPORTS LEADERS



Our Sports Leaders have been thriving at several recent primary school events, where we have welcomed over 200 students to Whalley Range High School.

Our young leaders have really shone this term, developing and applying their skill. We have hosted three primary football events and two primary basketball events.

The events would not be able to run so smoothly without our wonderful leaders, well done!

To recognise their hard work, we invited all our current Young Leaders, Level 1 and Level 2 onto a reward trip to Ninja Warrior.

WELL DONE!

In January, two teams from Year 7 represented Whalley Range in the Greater Manchester Panathlon challenge.

They took part in a number of small accessible activities against 5 other teams. They did an amazing job, one team came runners up and the second team won the event!

This means that a team of 8 students will now be going forward to represent Whalley Range and Manchester in the County finals at the end of March.

Well done girls and good luck!



GREATER MANCHESTER EXTEND PANATHLON



SUPERB EFFORT

