



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.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025.**

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/4nW6tdUP8Z>.

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 teamwork and I am looking forward to meeting many of our families at the **Year 7 Partnership Evening on Wednesday 5th 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 this half term.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, we held our Year 7 and Sixth Form Open Evening. It was a great event, with lots of prospective Year 7 and 12 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.

## Staying Safe

In light of recent local, national and international events, we have been made aware that a few of our students have experienced racist or hateful comments while travelling to and from school. This is deeply concerning and absolutely unacceptable.

While we continue to work hard to ensure our students feel safe and supported, we kindly ask that you speak with your daughter about how she can keep herself safe during her journeys.

If your daughter experiences or witnesses anything that causes concern, we encourage her to report it to school. She can speak directly to a trusted member of staff or use our online reporting system. All concerns will be followed up sensitively and appropriately:

## [Safeguarding and Reporting Concerns - WRHS](#)



You can find more information and support through the following links:

[Report a crime | Greater Manchester Police](#)

[Submit a Report of Harmful Content for Review](#)

[Stop Homophobic, Transphobic, Racial, Religious & Disability Hate Crime - True Vision](#)

[CEOP Safety Centre](#)

## Social media – the more time online exposes kids to more risks

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 daughter 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](#).

Qustodio – All in one parental control to be able to monitor and control what your daughter is doing online.

## Reading

Throughout the curriculum and in school, reading is a priority. This is because we understand the positive impact it can have on exam results and students' wellbeing. As students head into the half-term break, it is crucial that this focus on reading is not lost. Your daughter should have the opportunity to read as often as possible and, as parents, 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). Perhaps she could borrow a book from the local library?
- 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.

## Assessments

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 **17<sup>th</sup> 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: [Revision Strategies - WRHS](#)



## Free School Meals

If you think your daughter is entitled to free school meals but you have not applied for them please follow the link [Is your Child Entitled to Free School Meals? - WRHS](#) on our school website.

## Traffic complaints

We have a very serious, and at times dangerous, traffic situation on the roads and pavements surrounding our school which is caused by some of our parents and carers dropping off and collecting their daughters. The issues include vehicles:

- driving onto pavements, giving no consideration to pedestrians including our own students
- blocking the driveways of local residents, restricting access to their properties
- stopping in traffic to let students out of vehicles, endangering students and restricting the flow of traffic
- blocking cycle lanes including where students are exiting vehicles and opening doors into the cycle lane. This specific issue resulted in an injury to a cyclist recently who required hospital treatment
- parking on double yellow lines and school keep clear markings

Please could I ask all parents/carers to park well away from the school and drive safely at all times near our school to keep our students and local community safe. Please encourage your daughter to walk to school wherever possible.

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

| Year:      | Contact number: | Head of Year:                                  | Year Co-ordinator:                             |
|------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Year 7     | 0161 860 2976   | Ms Lawson                                      | Mrs Dutton                                     |
| Year 8     | 0161 860 2975   | Mr Kavanagh                                    | Mr Ellis-Scott                                 |
| Year 9     | 0161 860 2978   | Mrs Lynam                                      | Miss Drake Thomas                              |
| Year 10    | 0161 860 2979   | Mr Da Silva                                    | Mr Mustafa                                     |
| Year 11    | 0161 860 2977   | Mrs Saleem                                     | Ms Carr                                        |
| Sixth Form | 0161 860 2984   | Mrs Maloney-Rock (Yr 12)<br>Mrs Davies (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