



# Welcome to Range

# REVIEW

## Another year of excellence



**As another busy and successful academic year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this latest edition of the Range Review. This year has been rich in achievement, opportunity and growth, and it has been inspiring to see our students thrive across so many aspects of school life.**

Throughout the year, our students have shown great determination in their learning, alongside a willingness to take part in the many wider opportunities that make our school such a vibrant place to be. Whether in the classroom, through enrichment activities, or as part of the wider community, they have consistently demonstrated the values of excellence, care and respect.

I would like to recognise in particular those students who have completed their examinations this summer. Their hard work, perseverance and commitment have been commendable, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements in the coming months. We have already had the pleasure of marking important milestones with our Year 13 leavers and our Year 11 students at their prom, both occasions full of pride, celebration and reflection as they move on to the next stage of their journeys.

Beyond the classroom, students have embraced a wide range of opportunities. From Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to careers events, university visits and work experience placements, there has been a strong culture of participation and ambition across the school. Our extra-curricular provision continues to flourish, offering students valuable opportunities to develop new skills, interests and friendships. We are also incredibly proud of the compassion our students continue to show. Their fundraising efforts for charity, raising thousands of pounds, are a powerful example of their empathy and commitment to making a positive difference beyond the school community.



It has been a pleasure to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our Key Stage 3 celebration assemblies, where we recognised the achievements and contributions of our students. These events are an important reminder that success at Whalley Range is about much more than academic outcomes, it is also about character, kindness and community.

To end the year, we are delighted to be launching our first Whalley Range Festival, bringing students together for a day of celebration and enjoyment. With a range of activities planned, including an open-air disco and other attractions, it promises to be a memorable way to conclude the term and celebrate everything our students have achieved.

**I hope you enjoy reading about the many highlights from across the year in this newsletter. Thank you for your continued support, it is greatly valued. I wish all of our students and families a well-deserved, restful summer break.**



**Mr M Lea  
Academy Headteacher**

**FOLLOW US**



@wrhs1118



whalleyrangehighschool



www.wrhs1118.co.uk

# Multi Cultural

**On Monday 23rd March 2026, our school community came together to celebrate Multicultural Day – a vibrant and memorable event that showcased the diversity, unity, and cultural pride within our student body.**

Throughout the day, students took part in a range of exciting activities designed to honour and share the many cultures represented in our school. The celebrations included fashion shows, where students proudly presented traditional clothing from their cultural backgrounds, as well as cultural dance performances that brought energy, colour, and rhythm to the stage.

Students were given the opportunity to dress in their cultural attire, allowing the entire school to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of the many traditions that make up our diverse community.

The event was a tremendous success. Thanks to the enthusiasm and support from students, families, and staff, we were able to raise a significant amount of money for charity. This achievement reflects the generosity of our community and the positive impact we can make when we come together.

DAY



**Multicultural Day not only celebrates our differences but also strengthens our sense of belonging and unity. We look forward to continuing this tradition in the years to come.**

## Tomí Komoly's

visit to WRHS

**Recently, students had the honour to meet Tomi, a Holocaust survivor, who visited us to share his life story and teach us the importance of remembering the past.**

During his talk, Tomi explained how his mother made a massively brave decision to flee in order to save him from being captured and sent to a death camp. In our history lessons, we learnt that death camps were horrific places where they captured innocents, making them believe they were going for labour, when in reality they were being sentenced to death.

Tomi also spoke of how he came to England to continue his studies. What began as a new chapter in his life eventually led him to settle, where he later met his wife and started a family.

Despite his hardship, Tomi built a successful life.

Students also had the chance to have a Q&A with Tomi, with questions like how he felt having to hide his religion. His story brought history to life in a way that the books couldn't, reminding everyone of the devastating consequences of hatred and discrimination.

Many students found Tomi's visit extremely moving and inspiring. This message of resilience, hope and the importance of how you treat others left a lasting impression on our year group.

Overall, Tomi's visit was an unforgettable experience and a valuable learning opportunity.

We thank everyone who allowed this visit to happen as it was a brilliant lesson for everyone.

**By, Emaan and Layla**



# ANTARCTIC

## Flags Project

Two students at Whalley Range High School have received exciting news after taking part in the UK Polar Network Antarctic Flags Project.

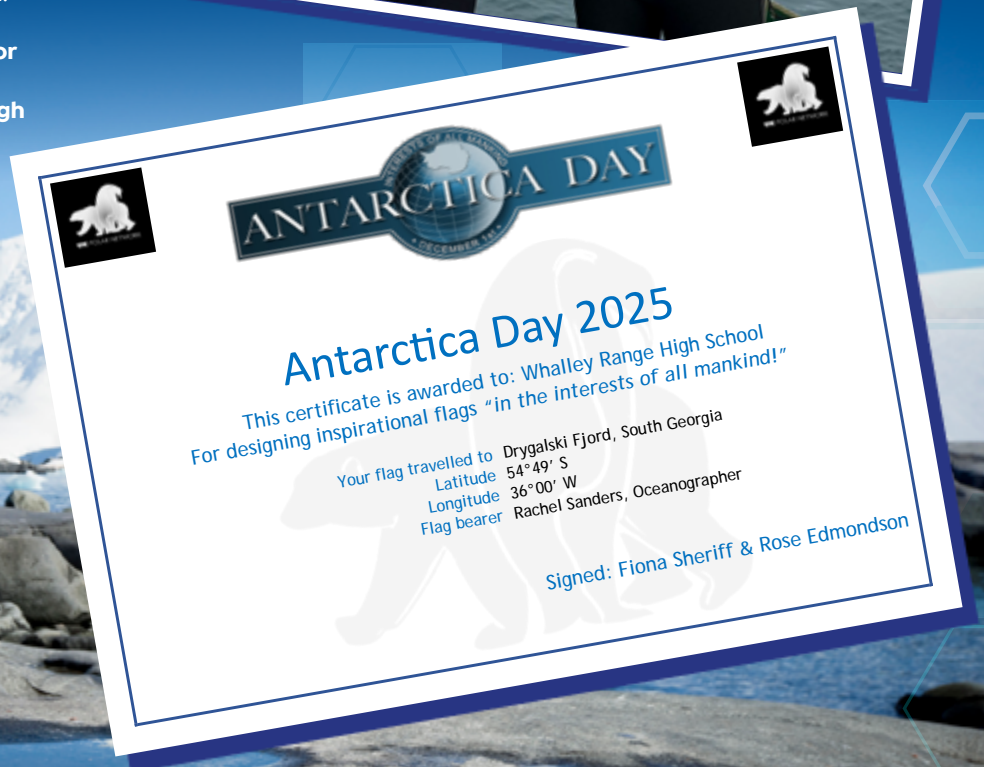
The Antarctic Flags Project helps students learn about polar science, exploration and the importance of Antarctica in understanding global environmental change. It also encourages creativity by allowing students to design their own flags to represent this unique place.

Earlier this year, the school ran a competition inviting all WRHS students to design a flag for Antarctica and we had over 50 amazing entries. Two winning entries were selected: one by Falak in Year 7 and another by Arisha Year 10.

The winning designs by Falak and Arisha made the journey to Antarctica aboard the RRS Sir David Attenborough and were displayed by oceanographer Rachel Sanders, who is involved in scientific research in the polar regions.

As part of the project, the students received photographs and certificates showing their flags in Antarctica, providing a unique opportunity to see their work displayed on an international scientific expedition.

We are proud of Falak and Arisha for their fantastic achievement and for representing Whalley Range High School on a global stage.



UK JUNIOR

# MATHS

## CHALLENGE

The UK Junior Maths Challenge 2026 proved to be a huge success for our school, with 60 enthusiastic Year 8 students taking part in this national competition. The challenge encouraged students to test their mathematical thinking, problem-solving skills, and logical reasoning against pupils from schools across the country.

Our students worked extremely hard to complete a range of challenging questions, many of which required creativity and careful thinking rather than straightforward calculations. Their dedication and determination paid off with some excellent results.

We are delighted to announce that our students achieved:

- 3 Gold Certificates
- 13 Silver Certificates
- 19 Bronze Certificates

In addition, two students performed so well that they qualified for the next round of the competition – an outstanding accomplishment that highlights the exceptional mathematical talent within our Year 8 cohort.



These results are a fantastic achievement and reflect the commitment shown by all students who participated. Taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge is not only about winning certificates, but also about developing confidence, resilience, and a love of mathematics.

The Maths Faculty would like to congratulate every student who entered the competition. A special well done goes to those who achieved Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards, as well as the two students who progressed to the next round for their outstanding performances.

We look forward to even more success in future maths competitions and hope that even more students will take part next year.

# JODRELL BANK

VISIT



In February, Year 8 students visited Jodrell Bank, a world-renowned scientific centre owned by The University of Manchester. This incredible site is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recognised for its important role in helping scientists understand the Universe.

During the day, students had the opportunity to walk around the famous Lovell Telescope, one of the largest radio telescopes in the world. It has been used for many years to explore space by collecting radio waves from distant stars and galaxies.

Students began their visit with an exciting Space Dome show, where they explored the Solar System in an immersive, planetarium-style experience. This helped bring their learning in science lessons to life and gave students a deeper understanding of space and the origins of the Universe.

Throughout the day, groups explored a range of interactive exhibitions, learning about stars, galaxies and space exploration. They also took part in a telescope talk, where they discovered why the Lovell Telescope was built and how it continues to contribute to modern scientific research.



The students were enthusiastic and engaged throughout the day, asking thoughtful questions and making excellent connections to their classroom learning.

# CORAM SHAKESPEARE SCHOOL FESTIVAL

**Our Whalley Range thespians hit the Contact Theatre stage again with what was said to be...**

**“An emotionally compelling Romeo and Juliet, delivered by a disciplined and hard-working company”**

In the words of Lisa O’Hanlon, our festival appraiser, our dedicated and talented students “connected with Shakespeare’s language with maturity and skill, allowing the emotional intensity of the text to resonate clearly. This was an emotionally compelling Romeo and Juliet, delivered by a disciplined and hard-working company. Performances like this show us that Shakespeare can live on, in the hands of young people, in fresh, exciting and reimagined ways. You presented a strong understanding of the text, using projection, pace, and tone with intelligence and control, resulting in expressive and well-defined character work. Vocal clarity was excellent, diction was precise, and you embodied the language physically, demonstrating a confident grasp of both text and subtext. From the outset you presented as a united and supportive ensemble, and your teamwork was evident in the kindness, respect, and encouragement you offered one another on and off stage.”

## **Nasreen’s (Juliet) experience**

“Getting the amazing opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful experience as performing Romeo and Juliet is something I’m sure I won’t forget for years to come. Looking forward to seeing what character you got, the anticipation of upcoming rehearsals, knowing the fact you’ll have a chance to perform in a professional theatre and then eventually facing the last-minute nerves that disappear as soon as you step on to the stage, makes auditioning for the play really worth it. The cast became a family I knew I could always have a laugh with but also, count on when I needed them.



The teachers involved with the show were the most supportive people you could ever need. Drama has been something that has given me purpose and joy that other things can’t top. Especially

for me as a Muslim you hardly see any representation in performing arts, so the school allowing me to achieve something many people can’t has been a dream come true. Playing the emotionally demanding role of Juliet taught me valuable skills that I will carry with me for years to come. It challenged me, helped me grow in confidence, and allowed me to explore emotions in ways I never had before. The show was spectacular and I appreciate everyone that made it what it became: A TRUE SUCCESS”

Teachers, parents and carers are so proud of the cast of Romeo and Juliet. Productions like this require months of dedication and commitment and all your hard work paid off. You all contributed to executing a superb show on a professional stage, I’m sure the memories will stay with you.

**A huge thank you to the team of teachers who supported the cast throughout their journey from auditions to the final show night at The Contact Theatre: Ms Malik (Costume designer), Ms Varughese and Ms Walker as well as the teachers and parents who came to watch the evening performances. It’s much appreciated and means so much to the students.**

**Mrs Cartin-Hodge**

*Sixth Form Visit...*

# Corpus Christi College

*Oxford University*

Twelve committed Sixth Form students began their journey at 6am for an inspiring visit to Corpus Christi College at the University of Oxford. During the trip, students enjoyed a personal tour of the college, gaining an insight into student life at one of the world's leading universities.

Students also had the opportunity to dine in the historic college hall before exploring some of Oxford's most famous landmarks and learning more about the city's rich academic history.

A highlight of the visit was meeting former student Noor, who is currently studying Medicine at Oxford. Noor led an insightful Q&A session, sharing advice on preparing a strong Oxford application, interview tips and her own experiences of university life. Students found the session incredibly motivating and valuable.

**The visit was a highly inspiring experience, helping to raise aspirations and encourage students to consider applying to top universities in the future.**

Corpus Christi  
College Oxford



*YEAR 12 VISIT*

# NORTH WEST UNIVERSITY AND APPRENTICESHIP FAIR



All Year 12 students recently visited the North West University and Apprenticeship Fair at Old Trafford to explore the many opportunities available after Sixth Form.

Students had the chance to speak with universities, employers and apprenticeship providers from across the country, gaining valuable advice about courses, careers and degree apprenticeships. The trip helped students to begin thinking about their next steps and future ambitions.

**Staff were extremely proud of the enthusiasm shown by all students throughout the day.**

Sixth Form Community unites for annual

# Iftar

unicef 

£442.96  
raised so far!

On Thursday 5th March, the Sixth Form community came together for the annual Iftar, organised by the Sixth Form Student Union and coordinated by Mrs Abdul Salam.

Students, staff and families shared a meal to mark the breaking of the fast during Ramadan while raising money for the UNICEF Children in Gaza Crisis Appeal.

A highlight of the evening was the student-led quiz, with staff once again claiming victory for the second year running.

Thanks to the generosity of all who attended, the event raised an impressive £442.96 for UNICEF's appeal.

Assistant Headteacher & Head of Sixth Form Mr Mycock said:

"Our Sixth Formers continue to demonstrate incredible empathy and initiative. This event wasn't just about sharing a meal—it was about coming together as a community to make a meaningful difference."



Mrs Khaleel writes her own student guide!

A New Lens on the

# Arab WORLD



Arabic A-Level students have found the study of political culture in the Arab world more accessible and engaging thanks to a newly introduced student guide written by our very own Mrs Khaleel!

Complex concepts are brought to life through clear explanations, thoughtful examples, and a rich vocabulary bank.

More than just a revision resource, the guide supports all key language skills reading, writing, listening, translation, and effective dictionary use helping students develop both their linguistic confidence and cultural understanding.

The result has been deeper classroom discussions, greater independence, and a renewed enthusiasm for learning.



# Language

# CINEMA

## TRIP

### FRENCH FILM: **SAUVAGES**

2024 Animated movie

This session was led by Isabelle Vanderschelden, Independent film scholar and Educator, co-founder of Filta (Film in Language Teaching Association).

This study day offered students the opportunity to see a recent film illustrating the diversity of French cinema. Isabelle introduced the film in a mixture of French and English, providing relevant information on the contextual background, themes and production. She also introduced key vocabulary/phrases relevant to the screening.

The screening was followed by a range of language exercises in French around the main characters and plot as well as themes of childhood, family and ecological issues.

### GERMAN FILM: **PHOENIX**

2014 German melodrama film directed by Christian Petzold

This session was led by Sebastian Truskolaski, Lecturer in German Cultural Studies at the University of Manchester. The day included an introduction from Sebastian, providing contextual information and key words. Sebastian led a series of exercises exploring themes and topics covered on the German GCSE syllabus.

### SPANISH FILM: **20,000 SPECIES OF BEES**

2023 Spanish Drama

The session was led by Dr Carmen Herrero, Reader in Hispanic Studies and Innovator Educator Scholar at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is actively involved in film and language education through workshops for students and language teachers. She is the co-founder and co-director of FILTA (Film in Language Teaching Association).

This study day included a screening of the film 20,000 Species of Bees. Carmen Herrero presented the film in Spanish, providing relevant information on the film and its literary, social and political contexts, as well as introducing key vocabulary on these topics. The screening was followed by a series of language exercises in Spanish including film analysis and discussion of the main themes in the film and its characters.

At the beginning of the year, groups of French, German and Spanish students took the city bus to go to Home cinema to attend GCSE study morning sessions. They saw a film in target language and were able to discuss it after with other schools!

"It was a very nice experience to watch a fully French film"  
Shrooq

**SAUVAGES**  
UN FILM CLASSEMENT

**PHOENIX**  
FILM

"The movie was pretty fun to watch. I loved the art style used as it shows how dedicated and passionate they were toward the project. Nice message and nice monkey!"  
Annaliece

**20,000 SPECIES OF BEES**  
FILM

"The cinema was very big and nice, even if you were at the back, you could see clearly. The film helped with learning French"  
Zoha

"The movie was interesting, quirky and funny. I found it entertaining because it was different from what I usually watch. The trip was very fun and I enjoyed listening to the woman talk about the entire process of the movie."  
Maryam

# Shining Stars



# of Poetry

at Whalley Range Sixth Form

Like shining stars illuminating the sky, Fatimah and Rubab, two talented students from Whalley Range Sixth Form, captivated audiences at the MACFEST online youth-led panels, celebrating the **Global Literary & Poetic Journey: Young Voices from the UK and Beyond**. Our students showed their passion for poetry and language.

With grace and confidence, Fatimah brought Arabic poetry to life through her presentation of I Am Sorry (Ana Mota 'Assef) by the renowned Palestinian poet Sameeh Al-Qasem. By sharing both the original Arabic verses and their English translation, she enabled the audience to appreciate the poem's powerful message beyond linguistic boundaries. Her expressive delivery beautifully showcased the richness, rhythm, and enduring beauty of the Arabic language.

The event also featured a moving recitation of Urdu poetry by the exceptional Rubab who also passionately recited the "Mard-e-Muslim Poem (A True Muslim) By the famous Pakistani Poet Allama Muhammed Iqbal. Rubab. Through her eloquent performance and thoughtful interpretation, she highlighted the depth and elegance of

Urdu literature, captivating listeners with the language's lyrical charm and emotional resonance.

Together, their outstanding performances celebrated creativity, cultural heritage, and the unifying power of poetry. Through their words, they demonstrated that language is more than a means of communication, it is an art form that connects people across cultures and generations.

**We proudly applaud these young ambassadors of literature for representing our school with brilliance, confidence, and heart.**

## Talent & TRADITION

**The Key Stage 3 Arabia's Got Talent club enjoyed a vibrant and inspiring Term 2, bringing students together through music, movement, and cultural exploration.**

Meeting every Thursday lunchtime, students immersed themselves in a variety of enriching activities, including soulful Nasheed performances, traditional Arabic songs, and captivating Arabic folklore Dabke. The club provided a welcoming space for students to discover new talents, build confidence, and deepen their appreciation of the rich traditions and artistic heritage of the Arab world.

**Through shared experiences and creative expression, students celebrated culture, strengthened friendships, and created lasting memories in a positive and supportive environment.**



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD CONTINUES TO THRIVE

**The Duke of Edinburgh Award has gone from strength to strength this year. In January, we were delighted to present award certificates to our current Year 11 students, while also celebrating our own important milestone – this year marks 10 years of our school offering the award to all Year 10 students.**

April saw the first of two practice expeditions, with over 100 students successfully completing their training walk in the Rivington area. A second group of 60 students took part in May, and our Year 10 participants are now making their final preparations for their qualifying expeditions in June and July. We wish them every success, along with plenty of good weather!

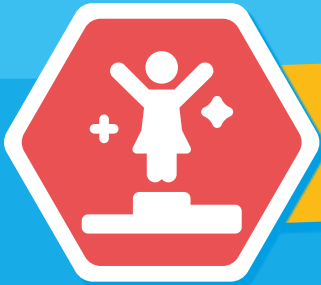
A huge thank you must also go to our dedicated staff, who generously give up their weekends to support students throughout the expedition programme. Their commitment and enthusiasm play a vital role in helping our young people achieve this prestigious award.



PE

# SPORT

REPORT



## SPORTS LEADERSHIP

**What a remarkable year it has been for our dedicated and hard working Sports Leaders. Throughout the year, they have demonstrated outstanding commitment, enthusiasm, and leadership, making a significant impact both within school and across the wider community.**

We are incredibly proud to have been recognised for our contribution to community sport and our commitment to girls' football. Our Sports Leaders have successfully delivered a range of sporting events and opportunities for both primary and secondary schools, while also supporting staff and inspiring younger students through their excellent leadership skills. In recognition of their achievements, some of our leaders will be presented with Greater Manchester School's: Made for the Game Trophy later this term.

Fourteen Sports Leaders completed Panathlon Leadership Training before going on to facilitate two highly successful events for local primary and secondary schools. Their dedication and professionalism were recognised through the presentation of certificates and leadership badges.

In addition, 18 Sports Leaders completed the Leading Girls into the Game Cricket Leadership Award. Having successfully qualified, they went on to lead a variety of primary and secondary cricket events throughout the year. Staff from the Lancashire Cricket Foundation praised our students, describing them as "the best" group they had worked with while delivering the course.

As a result of their exceptional efforts, students received special awards and were invited to an exciting coaching opportunity through Chance to Shine at Old Trafford Cricket Ground. There, they further developed their cricket leadership skills and had the unforgettable opportunity to meet Natalie Sciver-Brunt, captain of the England Women's Cricket Team. To commemorate the occasion and recognise their hard work throughout the year, each student received a signed cricket bat as a special keepsake.

To celebrate the commitment and enthusiasm shown by members of the Sports Leadership Club, students were rewarded with a trip to Total Ninja. This recognised their valuable support in delivering a variety of primary school basketball, football, and netball events throughout the year.

Our Sports Leaders continue to play an essential role within the school community and are now helping to prepare for the successful running of Year 6 Transition Day and Sports Day. Their dedication, positivity, and leadership have made this an outstanding year for school sport.



WELL DONE EVERYONE!

PE

# SPORT REPORT



## GHYLL HEAD ADVENTURE

**My amazing unforgettable Ghyll Head Adventure  
by Alaa Year 9**

On Friday 16th January, I was lucky enough to be one of ten students from Whalley Range High School who attended a three-day residential trip to Ghyll Head with Miss Clarke and Miss Blick. After arriving and settling into the beautiful surroundings, we took part in a challenging night hike. Using maps and compasses to navigate in complete darkness was exciting and helped us develop teamwork, communication and navigation skills.

Saturday brought our biggest challenge – climbing the Old Man of Coniston. The hike tested our resilience as we faced steep terrain, freezing temperatures and icy conditions. Although we were unable to reach the summit due to safety concerns, we still reached an impressive height and enjoyed memorable moments in the snow. Back at Ghyll Head, we completed a fun engineering challenge that required creativity, teamwork and problem-solving.

On our final day, we took part in activities including canoeing, rock climbing and orienteering, earning points through teamwork and determination. The trip was filled with adventure, laughter and new experiences, helping us develop confidence, independence and resilience. I would like to thank our instructors, Miss Clarke and Miss Blick for making the weekend such an unforgettable experience.

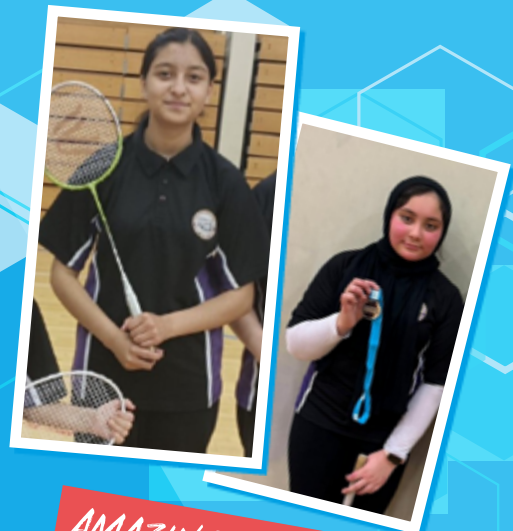
We have since discovered that we won the Kath Fry Award for the best teamwork over this weekend and will receive the trophy from the Lord Mayor of Manchester soon.



## BADMINTON

**Both the KS3 and KS4 badminton teams have demonstrated exceptional commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm throughout the season.**

They have actively participated in all competition formats, including singles, doubles, and team events, consistently representing the school with pride and professionalism. Their willingness to compete across multiple disciplines highlights not only their passion for badminton but also their determination to develop their skills and support one another as teammates. Their performances in competition have been a true reflection of their hard work, perseverance, and positive attitude, serving as a testament to their dedication to the sport and their commitment to achieving their best both individually and collectively.



**AMAZING EFFORT!**

# SPORT REPORT



## ATHLETICS

**The athletics teams have enjoyed a highly successful year competing in the Manchester Schools athletics events held at SportCity. Well done to all students who represented the school throughout the season. With two remaining Year 7 competitions to come, there is plenty to look forward to before the year concludes.**

A special congratulations goes to the following students for their outstanding achievements:

- **Alaa (Year 9)** Bronze medal in Shot Put with an impressive throw of 6.80m
- **Judy (Year 7)** Bronze medal in Shot Put with a throw of 6.4m
- **Maria (Year 7)** Bronze medal in Long Jump with a jump of 2.7m
- **Aisha (Year 7)** Gold medal in High Jump with an excellent jump of 1.7m

These achievements are a testament to the dedication, determination, and talent of our athletes. Congratulations to everyone involved!

### Interhouse

Throughout the academic year, students in Key Stage 3 have been competing enthusiastically to earn points for their houses in a series of exciting interhouse sporting events. Congratulations to Franklin, who currently lead the table with an impressive performance throughout the year.

With Sports Day marking the final interhouse competition of the season, the anticipation is building: will Parks successfully defend their title, or will a new champion emerge?



## BASKETBALL

*SUCCESS ACROSS KS3 AND KS4*

**This year has once again seen fantastic commitment from our KS3 and KS4 basketball teams. Throughout the season, students have represented the school with pride in a range of tournaments, demonstrating increasing confidence, teamwork, and skill as the year has progressed.**

Special recognition goes to Aisha, Alaa, Feyi and Alice, who have all represented both the KS3 and KS4 teams despite only being in Year 9. Their dedication, talent, and willingness to compete at a higher age group have been outstanding.

Congratulations also to Aisha, who has successfully completed her Official Basketball Referees Course. This is a fantastic achievement, and we look forward to seeing her take to the court in her new role as an official in the near future.



## NETBALL

**This year has been a fantastic season for our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 netball teams, with students from Years 7 through to 11 showing great commitment and enthusiasm.**

All teams trained weekly throughout the year, demonstrating excellent dedication and a willingness to improve. Many of our players were new to netball at the start of the season, but they embraced the challenge, quickly developing their understanding of the game and working hard to build their skills.

Throughout the year, the teams represented the school in a number of fixtures against other local schools, as well as taking part in the end-of-season tournament. While results did not always go our way, the players showed resilience, teamwork and a positive attitude in every match.

What stood out most this season was the students' enthusiasm, determination and support for one another. Their effort and commitment have laid strong foundations for future success, and we look forward to seeing their continued progress next year.



*WELL DONE TO ALL PLAYERS INVOLVED!*



## ROUNDERS

**The students who have participated in the Rounders Club have consistently demonstrated a high level of commitment, enthusiasm, and a genuine eagerness to develop their understanding of the game.**

Throughout the year, they have approached each session with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn and refine new skills. Their dedication to regular practice and active participation has resulted in significant progress in both their individual abilities and overall game awareness. As a result, there has been a noticeable improvement in their confidence, teamwork, decision-making, and technical execution during matches and training sessions.

Their continued effort and determination have greatly enhanced their performance, and they should be commended for the excellent progress they have made.

