Dear parents and carers

Happy New Year! This is the first time our newsletter will be delivered electronically via the text to parents and carers with a link to access via the school website. We will still be printing a number of paper copies, so if you do not have access to email, please ask your child to collect a copy from the school office – we will notify students when the next Newsletter is going out.

2018 got off to a focused start, with Y9 and Y10 students immediately into examination week. Students will receive their examination results from subject teachers over the coming weeks, and that will be an important time for students to reflect on their revision strategies and celebrate successes. We set high targets for all our students and their flightpaths as they move through school reflect this – so please ensure your child is not prepared to settle for a Grade 4 if their target for the end of the year is Grade 6.

Year 10 Parents’ Evening is on Wednesday 24th January and, taking into account parent/carer feedback from our Y11 Parents’ Evening, we have decided not to operate an appointments system this time. It’s important to note that some teaching colleagues have significant numbers of Y11 students – in excess of 50 for Mr Oliver and Mr Watson – and it is therefore not possible for them to meet every family within the 2 hour Parents’ Evening slot. Please prioritise which staff you wish to meet with, be aware that some meetings may of necessity be brief, and do not hesitate to leave your name if you are unable to see a particularly busy member of staff in order that they can provide you with an update on progress by email or telephone.

2018 is likely to bring a visit from Ofsted, as it is now 3 years since our last full inspection. Students have had an Assembly informing them of the process an inspection may follow and were reminded of the positive statements Ofsted made about our school in December 2014, for example: ‘They (students) demonstrate a real care for one another and their teachers … they demonstrate excellent British values, particularly in tolerance and respect for each other and behaviour is good.’ ‘Students achieve well across the school.’ ‘Progress is good.’ ‘Teaching over time is good and has driven the secure improvements in students’ learning.’

We are determined to demonstrate to Ofsted that as a school we have undoubtedly continued to improve since December 2014 and since our Safeguarding visit in December 2015, and that our focus on ‘Climbing Higher’ is impacting in a very positive manner on outcomes for students and on their future opportunities; and on the success of the school in general. Parents and carers can indicate their views of the school by completing the 10 statement ParentView survey via our website. Please be aware that the survey does not offer an opportunity to comment, and that if parents / carers have any concerns regarding their child, or staff who they wish to highlight as being particularly supportive, then of course they should contact school directly.

We have had much to celebrate already this term! Our students in each year group who gained the most Achievement points last term were invited to a Headteacher’s Coffee Morning. Congratulations to: Karris Wright, Daniel Kershaw, Troy Swanick, Lucas Thomas, Zack Lester, Samuel Booth, Jamie-Lee Davies, Poppy Yeomans, Jessica Fitzpatrick-Smith, Jessica Leigh, Declan Larkin and Katie Bray. Our Y7 football team, who won their match at Thirsk and are now through to the last 16 teams in the English Small Schools Cup and will play away at Blackpool in the next round; our Y7, Y8 and Y9 AGT students, who have had Headteacher’s Coffee Mornings along with the singers who represented our school at the Whitworth Civic Carol Service in the very busy final week of term; the English Faculty, who took 60 students to see ‘A Christmas Carol’ at Bolton Octagon. We also welcomed a new teaching colleague: Mr Warke in MFL, and welcomed back Ms Scott to Science. It’s hard to believe we have only been back in school for two weeks!

Best wishes

Headteacher

climbing higher!

School Website: www.wchs.co
Excellent week for Y7 football team.

The Y7 football team had an excellent three days last week. On Tuesday they competed in the Rossendale 7 a-side competition at Fearns and finished 3rd, beating both Fearns and All Saints. They narrowly lost to Haslingden and BRGS. On Thursday this was followed with an excellent win in the English Schools Cup against St Francis and Xavier High School. They took an early lead through Sam Wellington and battled against a good side to come in at the break 1-0 up. In the second half they played some great football with Jake Brearley scoring two goals, another from Sam Wellington and a late goal from Ben Lord meant they won 5-0. The students have now progressed to the last 16 in England where they are one win away from the quarter finals. Whitworth will play away at AKS Lytham before half term. Good luck to the team and please follow the school PE page on Twitter @WCHS_PE to receive all the latest information.

Purchase of dictionaries from school

The English faculty have ordered a stock of English dictionaries to help students with their studies across school. The dictionaries can be bought for £4 each using ParentPay. If you don’t have ParentPay, please request a barcode from Mrs Lord in the main office. Once payment is confirmed, a dictionary will be given to your child during form time.
Christmas festivities
Students and staff were involved in a variety of activities in the last week of term including providing food, entertainment, a raffle and a quiz for our local senior citizens’ Christmas party, Christmas Lunch and Christmas jumper day to name but two. Everyone at the Christmas party had a great time and enjoyed the dancing and musical entertainment provided by students and staff.

Romi Leigh singing to the guests.

Mr Clayton, Georgia Prince, Jaydan Hanson-Beech and Mr Crook leading the singalong

Y11 students and their form tutors enjoying their school Christmas lunch and enjoying being waited on by other members of staff.
Commendation Assemblies at the end of term
Students nominated by their subject teachers received stars and certificates. Here are the gold star students from each year group with their certificates and selection boxes.