

PARENT BULLETIN – AUTUMN TERM

DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE NO: 9



DEAR PARENTS AND CARERS,

As the festive season approaches, it is the perfect time to reflect on the achievements of our students and staff this term and to look forward to the Christmas holidays. What a term it has been! I am immensely proud of what our students and staff have achieved so far.

I encourage you to take a moment to read through this autumn edition of our parent bulletin. I am sure you will be interested and impressed with what our students and staff have accomplished this term.

GCSE RESULTS

Hollingworth Academy proudly continues to lead as the top-performing secondary school in Rochdale. It was a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2024 alongside their families at our recent GCSE certificate presentation evening. Once again, I would like to congratulate all the students and their teachers for their hard work and dedication in ensuring the best possible outcomes were achieved.

ATTENDANCE

As with academic success, Hollingworth Academy sits at the top of the Rochdale league in terms of the secondary school with the highest attendance figures. Our students' attendance this term continues to be strong and is significantly higher than the national average. The benefits of regular attendance cannot be overstated - it leads to higher academic performance in exams, improved relationships with peers, and better mental health. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support in promoting good attendance and punctuality to the academy

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD

We were delighted to receive the award for 'Most Inspirational School' in the recent Raising Rochdale Educate Awards at Rochdale Town Hall. This is a result of all the amazing hard work, passion and commitment of everyone associated with Hollingworth Academy.



OTHER SUCCESSES

There are far too many other successes for me to cover in this opening page, however you will see, as you read through the bulletin, that we have lots of success stories, both of individuals and groups.

Finally, all that remains is to say thank you for all your support and your engagement; this makes a big difference. Wishing you and your families a wonderful festive holiday and a happy New Year.

Best wishes

Mr Robert McGinty

Headteacher



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

|                             |                                       |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday 19th December 2024 | School closes at 12.20pm.             |
| Friday 3rd January 2025     | Berlin Trip.                          |
| Monday 6th January 2025     | Staff INSET Day.                      |
| Tuesday 7th January 2025    | School re-opens to students.          |
| Thursday 16th January 2025  | Year 9 Options Evening.               |
| Thursday 23rd January 2025  | Year 11 Parents' Evening.             |
| Thursday 30th January 2025  | Remote Year 11 Parents' Evening.      |
| Monday 3rd February 2025    | National Apprenticeship Week.         |
| Friday 7th February 2025    | Year 7 AW2 Reports to Parents/Carers. |
| Thursday 13th February 2025 | Year 7 Parents' Evening.              |
| Friday 14th February 2025   | School Closes.                        |
| Monday 24th February 2025   | School re-opens to students.          |
| Friday 7th March 2025       | Iceland Trip.                         |
| Friday 14th March 2025      | Year 8 AW2 Reports to Parents/Carers. |
| Thursday 27th March 2025    | Year 8 Parents' Evening.              |
| Friday 28th March 2025      | Year 9 AW2 Reports to Parents.        |
| Friday 4th April 2025       | School Closes.                        |
| Tuesday 22nd April 2025     | Staff INSET Day.                      |
| Wednesday 23rd April 2025   | School re-opens to students.          |

We offer a variety of enrichment/careers events for students during the academy day, and staff will send out more information nearer the time. In the meantime, please keep checking our website for more updates.



## RECENT LETTERS

Kindly click on the link to view the letters or please view them via the academy website.

**New Academic Year - September 2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/4fnysz9j7>**

**Arbor Letter - September 2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/2eck5p23>**

**Attendance - Academic Year 24/25 - September 2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/2vs4aa94>**

**Parking - School Drop Off - September 2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/yev3u5dx>**

**Annual Parental Consent (for outdoor educational activities within the academy's locality) - November 2024 - <https://tinyurl.com/54n3n3t6>**

## TEACHING & LEARNING AT HOLLINGWORTH AUTUMN TERM

What an inspirational start to the 2024-25 academic year!

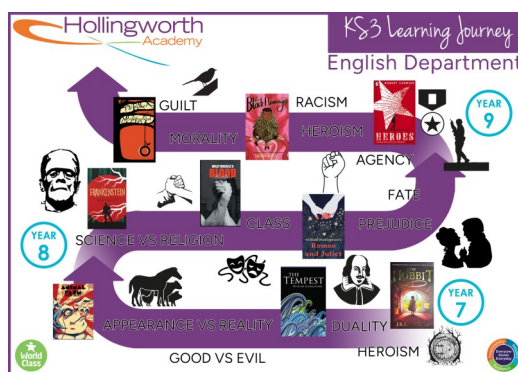
Firstly, it's important that we thank families for ensuring students arrived on day one in September in full uniform and fully equipped ready to learn. It was an absolute pleasure to welcome our students back and to see them taking responsibility from the outset.

Since September, the Curriculum Maps for each subject have been reviewed to ensure that all students have the very best opportunities whilst at Hollingworth; we are committed to fulfilling our vision that students are proactively engaged in memorable experiences and that we prepare them to be successful, thriving members of the community. In order to ensure we provide curriculums that are best suited to our students, we have introduced the BTEC Health & Social Care and BTEC Business & Enterprise courses to our KS4 curriculums this year. We have updated the curriculums in a number of subjects to develop academic rigour and challenge and have developed a carousel timetable for practical subjects to enhance the provision available. All updated Curriculum Maps and Learning Journeys are available for you to access through the following link:

<https://hollingworthacademy.co.uk/curriculum-statement/subjects>

At Hollingworth, we want to develop a truly world class curriculum with high-quality teaching that ensures "Everyone Excels Everyday".

| YEAR 7 ENGLISH CURRICULUM MAP  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>PRIOR LEARNING AT KEY STAGE 2</b><br>Students should have a solid understanding of spelling and archetypal characters such as heroes and villains. Most students will have experience of writing a variety of different forms and have a knowledge of grammar. Their reading focuses mostly on comprehension and basic inference. Understanding of fiction is shown through decoding words and finding meaning within their independent reading of the texts. |   |
| <b>WHAT IS BEING TAUGHT</b>  | <b>KEY QUESTIONS WE WILL ASK</b>  |
| <p><b>HT1 - THE HOBBIT</b></p> <p><b>HT2 - THE HOBBIT</b></p> <p><b>HT3 - THE TEMPEST</b></p> <p><b>HT4 - THE TEMPEST</b></p> <p><b>HT5 - ANIMAL FARM</b></p> <p><b>HT6 - ANIMAL FARM</b></p>  | <p>Where do our ideas about archetypal heroes originate? What is morality and how does it develop? Why do writers juxtapose protagonists and antagonists? What is a gender stereotype? How do I structure a narrative autobiography? How can I use my own experiences to write a narrative? Can we always trust our protagonists to be good? (Concept of manipulation) What is the supernatural? How do writers structure descriptive writing? How do I craft figurative techniques and devices to make my writing interesting? How do I achieve the concept of cohesion in my writing? What is a political ideology and class? (Communism) How do tyrants manipulate and corrupt others? What is a writer's intention? How do writers use satire and symbolism to create meaning? What is persuasive language? What makes a good reader? How do I use these ideas in my own writing?</p> |
|  | <b>ASSESSMENT</b><br>Each topic is assessed regularly so that progression can be seen in writing. The progress made will be used to inform the next stage of learning and to ensure that all students are challenged and supported. The use of a variety of methods such as peer review, self-reflection and individual writing to assess student learning.   |
|  | <b>IMPACT</b><br>The impact of learning in Year 7 is to ensure that students have a solid understanding of the foundations of writing and to ensure that they are confident and competent in their writing. The impact of learning in Year 7 is to ensure that students have a solid understanding of the foundations of writing and to ensure that they are confident and competent in their writing.  |



Please do use these online documents to engage in positive conversations with your child about what they are studying. There are questions available on these documents if you want to add some competitive quizzing at home!

During the first two half terms, students at Hollingworth have had the opportunity to engage in a wide range of memorable learning experiences. Our GCSE Triple Science students embarked on an exciting trip to CERN, Switzerland, where they explored the world-renowned facilities housing the large Hadron Collider. GCSE History students completed their fieldwork at Hardwick Hall, whilst GCSE Art students visited the Northern Quarter and Piccadilly Gardens to inspire their creative work.

Looking ahead, early January will see History students travelling to Berlin and later in the term, we have a KS4 Geography trip planned to Iceland. We are proud to be able to provide so many cultural experiences for our students and we hope they have all thoroughly enjoyed them so far.



Within the academy subject teams have been working hard to build secure systems for feedback and assessment. Research shows that effective feedback is one of the most influential factors on a student's progress and so we've renewed our systems and frameworks in order to maximise opportunities in every lesson. All students will now also complete a 'formal formative assessment' during each topic (or once per half term as a minimum) in each subject area; the purpose of this is to address misconceptions, mistakes or gaps in knowledge before the final summative assessment at the end of the topic. By formalising this process, subject leaders are able to look at one student against the rest of the year group studying the same subject and compare performance to their peers. This will allow us to spot where a student needs more support or intervention, or where the curriculum needs to become more bespoke and responsive, and will therefore generate more progress. It also, of course, allows us further opportunities to celebrate success and to acknowledge students who excel everyday.

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

To support our students with weaker reading skills, we have developed a comprehensive programme of literacy interventions with various pathways to ensure we are closing gaps as early and as efficiently as possible. We currently have 186 students accessing one of eight different literacy intervention programmes. These students have been identified through the NGRT reading test and then have been through further diagnostic assessment in order to ensure the appropriate programme has been selected for them. We look forward to the results at the end of programme testing and will share the results of this with you in our next parent bulletin.

We are continuing to embed PRIME Learning and World Class Learning strategies into our every day teaching; these have now been rolled out amongst all year groups. Leaders have routinely visited lessons in all areas and are continuing to see students excel everyday. The inclusive classroom strategies launched by the SEND team have been hugely successful; the strategies are being consistently embedded and resources and tasks are being scaffolded effectively to enable learning.

Kind regards,

Miss A Eves  
Senior Assistant Headteacher

## ACADEMIC NEWS

### YEAR 11

**This term our Year 11s have taken their first big steps towards success this upcoming summer. Here is what has happened so far:**

- Around 500 students and their parents and carers attended our Year 11 Strategy Evenings. This was an invaluable opportunity to highlight the role we all will play this year in supporting our Year 11s. If you were unable to attend please access the academy website for key information. <https://hollingworthacademy.co.uk/curriculum-statement/year-11-strategy-evening>
- The first of three Year 11 reports have been sent out to parents and carers before the end of this term. These contain the students A2L, A2H, mock grade achieved in the recent mocks and a forecast predicting what the students will likely achieve in each subject at the end of Year 11 based on their current progress and effort.
- Look out for the second Year 11 report, which will be sent out week commencing 24th March 2025 via email.
- Several subjects have already begun rolling out their revision schedule. Please keep your eye on your emails for more information over the coming months.
- During tutor time, students were given mock exam preparation guidance to support them in preparing for their mock examinations.
- Students sat a series of mock examinations. This has given them an opportunity to experience what it will be like in the summer term, whilst also giving teachers and students the opportunity to check on their progress.

Based on the mock examinations, students will also receive Question Level Analysis (QLA) for each subject; this will give them a clear picture of what areas they are doing well in and what areas are in need of strengthening. Parents and carers will also receive copies of these at the Year 11 Parents' Evening, on **Thursday 23rd January 2025**. Below are some key dates for your diary.

Kind regards,

Mr K Clark  
Assistant Headteacher



### IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Year 11 Parents' Evening</b>                        | Thursday 23rd January 2025                      |
| <b>Compulsory after school revision sessions begin</b> | After February half term                        |
| <b>Be the Best Week</b>                                | Monday 10th to Friday 14th February 2025        |
| <b>Mock Exams</b>                                      | Monday 24th February to Friday 14th March 2025  |
| <b>GCSE Examinations begin</b>                         | Monday 5th May 2025 to Wednesday 25th June 2025 |



World Class Schools | WORLD CLASS LEARNING IS "PRIME" LEARNING

**P** **PREPARE FOR THE POWERFUL STUFF**

- The "Powerful Stuff" is in your Knowledge Organiser! Use it!
- Always use your Knowledge Organiser to complete your homework.
- Link what you have learnt in lesson to your Knowledge Organiser and go over your learning at home. This helps you check what you have learnt in lesson and makes the "Powerful Stuff" stick in your head.

**R** **RECALL & RETRIEVE**

- The "Do Now" activity gives you the chance to check what you know. Get stuck into these activities every lesson!
- Show resilience by looking back in your book or checking your Knowledge Organiser when you are unsure.
- If you don't remember things, fill in the gaps with your green pen.

**I** **INFORMATION GIVEN IN SMALL CHUNKS**

- Too much information is hard to take in, so always ask your teacher if you are unsure or if they are going too fast! Trust your teacher - they are experts!
- Always take responsibility and try your best when practicing new skills.
- Be resilient and never give up! Have a routine for your homework and revision.
- Do your homework and revision in small chunks and take breaks.

**M** **MISTAKES HAPPEN! THEY HELP US TO LEARN AND IMPROVE**

- Accept that we learn when we struggle or get things wrong. Remember your teacher and LPA are there to help you. Always try your best!
- Think carefully about the feedback you have received from your teacher and act on it.
- Always use green pen to show improvement in your work.

**E** **EXTEND AND INCREASE INDEPENDENCE**

- As you gain more knowledge, be ready to apply it. Show what you can do! You have so much potential.
- Plan your responses to more challenging tasks and extend further by using recommended texts.
- RISE to all challenges; hard work and resilience will always be rewarded.

## EDUCATIONAL NEWS

### BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES AT HOLLINGWORTH AUTUMN TERM REVIEW

Hollingworth Academy prides itself on being an environment where everyone excels everyday. This is because of the outstanding behaviour and attitudes of our students. We have routines and expectations that are underpinned by our three core values of **RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY** and **RESILIENCE** and these routines and expectations allow our student body to thrive.

Over 50% of our students hold a clean sheet, meaning that they are yet to receive a single FALL point. These students will be entered into our termly "clean sheet raffle" with a number of prizes set to be given out on the last day. All students with a clean sheet will receive a term one clean sheet postcard for you to proudly display at home.



## CELEBRATIONS

Our annual Winter Ball took place on Tuesday 10th December and it is always a joyous opportunity to end the calendar year on a high. Students who have consistently met our standards and contributed positively to academy life were invited to the event to celebrate with their friends and teachers.

After the Christmas break we will start to plan our end of year rewards trip, so keep your eyes on our social media platforms for more information!

## ATTENDANCE

This term we have run two attendance challenges, 'No Days Off November' and 'December Attendance Advent'. Both were exciting initiatives to celebrate students' effort around attendance with the top prize given out being a Carrera Mountain Bike. There are 75 more students with 100% attendance compared to the equivalent period last year, we are in the top 20% of schools nationally for attendance and this is down to our students and families demonstrating high levels of resilience.

Attendance matters and not only will it ensure academic success but it also helps to instil a sense of belonging and community. If you need any support with attendance please reach out to your child's respective year team.



*Congratulations to our No Days Off November winners: (left to right) Ronnie N 8S2, Hollie H 7S1, Maisy H 7, Fatimah K 8O1, Bobby H 9S2, Isla A 9O3, George N 10A1, Verity C 11JM, Mia R 11SS, Aamina S 11HF & Sean H 10O3.*

## Hollingworth Academy students take pride in their presentation.



**GREY SCHOOL BLAZER**  
(with academy logo.)

**PLAIN BLACK 'V' NECKED JUMPER**  
(optional)

**BLACK PLEATED SKIRT OR TROUSERS**  
(Permanent pleats, with the hem of the skirt on the top edge of the knee. Trousers must not be skinny or cropped but a standard tailored style and fabric.)

**PLAIN WHITE BLOUSE OR SHIRT**  
(tucked into trousers/skirt with top button fastened.)

**SCHOOL TIE**  
(with the Hollingworth logo visible, purple for Y7,8 & 9, purple striped for Y10 & 11)

**PLAIN BLACK HIJAB**  
(if appropriate)

**PLAIN BLACK ANKLE SOCKS OR BLACK TIGHTS**  
(No embellishments such as embroidery, patterns, brands, logos or bows. Ripped tights must be removed.)

**PLAIN BLACK FLAT SHOES**  
(Trainer or sports styles will not be permitted, no embellishments such as embroidery, patterns, logos, athletic style airholes or bows.)

### JEWELLERY

(Students are only permitted to wear a wristwatch (smart watches are not permitted) and one pair of stud earrings, no more than 5mm in diameter, 3D pearl style earrings are not permitted. All other jewellery is not permitted.)

### MAKE-UP

(Make-up is only permitted for Y10 and Y11 students and must be subtle. This also applies to semi-permanent make up such as tinted eyebrows. Fake eyelashes, false tan and artificial nails are not permitted.)

### HAIR

(Hair should be in a naturally occurring style and colour. Should not be shorter than O1 and should not have any patterns shaved or dyed in. Bows, hair ties and headbands etc. should be black in colour and be no bigger than 5cm in diameter.)



As always, I would like to recommunicate our standards around uniform, dress and appearance. Our expectation is that our students present themselves in a professional manner and we thank those of you that continue to support us in preparing the children for their next steps when they enter the world of work.

## EQUIPMENT

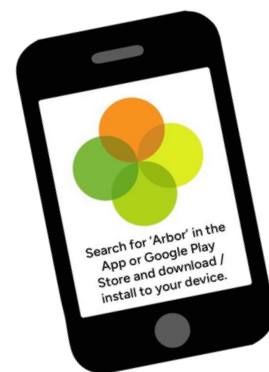
I would like to take this opportunity to reshare our list of equipment that students are expected to bring to the academy every day.

**ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:** School bag (rucksack/backpack style), a pencil case, 3 x black pens, 1 x green pen, 1 x pencil, a ruler, a highlighter, a pencil eraser and a scientific calculator.

**DESIRABLE EQUIPMENT:** A maths set (compass, protractor etc.), a reading book and a water bottle.

## ARBOR - (MIS SYSTEM)

If you have not already done so, I urge you to download and install the Arbor App (free of charge), so that you receive the most up to date information in a timely manner. Arbor is our primary source of communication, so it is a valuable tool for families to track student conduct and progress. If you have any issues installing and logging into Arbor, please do not hesitate to contact [eseddon@hollingworthacademy.co.uk](mailto:eseddon@hollingworthacademy.co.uk). In your email query, please include your child's name and tutor group.



## PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

For those of you who would like more information regarding behaviour and standards at the academy, I urge you to make contact with your child's year team or form tutor. We pride ourselves on a strong parent partnership and feedback and collaboration is something that we welcome. This is a key term in the year because Year 11 students begin to embark on their formal examinations, which means that every other year group make the transition to the year group above. It is imperative that lines of communication are direct, collaborative and clear. For your information I have included a list of the year teams below. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the coming weeks.

Kindest regards,

Mrs B Robinson  
Senior Assistant Headteacher

### YEAR TEAM (PASTORAL)

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| Y7  | Mrs Keen (HOY) & Mrs Doran (Teaching HOY)     |
| Y8  | Mrs Watson (HOY) & Mr Smith (Teaching HOY)    |
| Y9  | Miss Pearson (HOY) & Mr Powell (Teaching HOY) |
| Y10 | Mrs Begum (HOY) & Mr Livesey (Teaching HOY)   |
| Y11 | Ms Hartley (HOY) & Mrs Wright (Teaching HOY)  |



Hollingworth Academy Careers events that have taken place this autumn term.

## BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT & NETWORKING EVENT



Rochdale  
Development  
Agency

**BAS**  
Bayman | Atkinson | Smythe

Rochdale's First Business Engagement & Networking event was a huge success! We were thrilled to see local businesses come together to pledge their support to students across Rochdale, creating much needed employer engagement and experience of the workplace opportunities. A special thanks to the Rochdale Development Agency who supported the event, Claire Bayman from BAS Recruitment for sharing her insights as an Enterprise Advisor, and our students who spoke to our guests about the impact employer engagement has had on their future aspirations.

## EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT PLEDGE

Employers play a critical role in preparing our students for future success. We are always looking for opportunities to ensure we are able to provide enough opportunities for students to engage with employers, be this a workplace experiences or an encounter that helps students envision their future selves.

**We have 8 ways that you can get involved:**



**Assembly (Virtual or In-Person):** Deliver a 10-minute talk about your industry/company and career journey to inspire students.



**Careers Fair:** Spend the day hosting an exhibition stand, showcasing your company and speaking with students about career opportunities.



**Q&A Within A Curriculum Area:** Join a class to provide real-world examples that relate to their current lessons.



**Mock Interviews:** Spend a morning along side other business volunteers to conduct 10-minute interviews with students to help them practice interview skills and provide constructive feedback.



**Event:** Deliver an event that will include a presentation, activity, and Q&A for students interested in your industry (one to three hours).



**Workplace Experience:** Offer students a tour of your premises, speed networking with key staff, and a hands-on task for valuable industry insights.



**Project Support:** Help set up and support an after-school club or project, engaging with learners during key milestones.



**Group Mentoring:** Spend an hour on a Tuesday mentoring small groups of students to boost their aspirations and engagement.

We look forward to working with you to build a brighter future for our students.

Follow the link to pledge your support:

<https://forms.gle/cbk1U3e4pTvB3cMH9>

Or for more information, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Leader, Cate Calveley via email at [ccalveley@hollingworthacademy.co.uk](mailto:ccalveley@hollingworthacademy.co.uk)

**"EVERYONE EXCELS EVERYDAY"**



## 'THINK LIKE A LINGUIST'

Our talented Year 9 students had the incredible opportunity to present their outstanding work from the 'Think like a Linguist' project at The Queen's College, Oxford. This event was the culmination of their dedication and hard work in Year 8, where they explored the world through the lens of a linguist. Our students joined peers from a number of Rochdale schools to showcase their ideas to esteemed university academics and were invited on stage to graduate.



## YEAR 11 MOCK INTERVIEWS



A huge thank you to the 33 local business volunteers and Further Education providers who dedicated their time and expertise to support our Year 11 Mock Interviews. Mock interviews are an invaluable opportunity for our students, giving them a chance to develop confidence, practice professional communication, and receive constructive feedback from industry experts. The insights and encouragement you provided have left a lasting impact on our students, helping them take one step closer to their future goals. We couldn't be more grateful for your support and commitment in preparing the next generation for success.



## YEAR 11 PATHWAYS INFORMATION EVENING

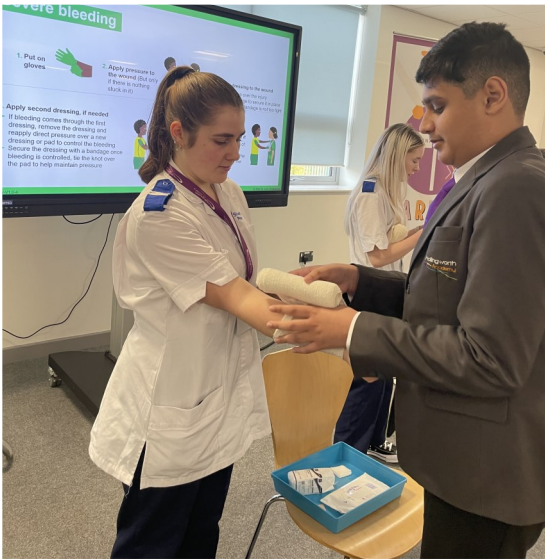


This term, we welcomed Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our annual Pathways Information Evening. We explored a wide range of post-16 options, with valuable insights shared during the presentation. A big thank you to our visiting further education representatives for hosting an information fair and supporting students with their course choices and application queries. It's fantastic to see our students planning their next steps with confidence!





## FIRST AID WORKSHOP



A small group of our students had the incredible opportunity to learn life-saving skills during an Introduction to First Aid workshop, delivered by student nurses from the University of Bradford!

The session covered vital topics including:

- How to call for help.
- Recovery position techniques.
- Performing CPR.
- Effective use of a defibrillator.
- Managing allergies and using EpiPens.
- Treating bleeding.



A huge thank you to the University of Bradford for equipping our students with these essential skills.



## DIGITAL DAY 2024

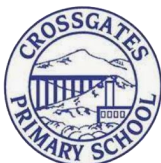
For Digital Day 2024, our Year 8 Digital Literacy Champions had an incredible experience working with Deloitte on an exciting one-day challenge, developing digital solutions for the RSPCA. A big thank you to Fiona and Mella from Deloitte, for inspiring our students as they designed and pitched their ideas with enthusiasm and creativity!

## CAREERS EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Hollingworth proudly hosted a Careers-Related Learning Network Meeting at Crossgates Primary School, bringing together representatives from 18 primary schools across the Rochdale area. This event provided a valuable opportunity to:

- Network with colleagues.
- Share good practice in careers-related learning.
- Collaborate to develop or launch careers programmes with schools at varying stages of their careers education journey.

The meeting was a fantastic platform for mutual support and inspiration. At Hollingworth, we're passionate about building connections that empower young learners from the earliest stages of their educational journey. Together, we're shaping the future!



## NATWEST WORKSHOP



NatWest

Thank you to NatWest for delivering an inspiring workshop on growth mindset and entrepreneurial skills to every student in Year 9. Employer engagement events like this are vital for developing our students' employability and preparing them for the future.



"EVERYONE EXCELS EVERYDAY"



## YEAR 8 ACTING MASTERCLASS

We were thrilled to welcome Lee Otway, star of Hollyoaks, The Crown, and Heartbeat, for an acting masterclass with our Year 8 students. Lee shared his inspiring career journey, highlighted the transferable skills drama develops, and demonstrated script work techniques alongside Mrs Kirkpatrick to support our up and coming Blood Brothers topic. Students also enjoyed an interactive movement activity, sparking creativity and confidence.



## TALK THE TALK WORKSHOP



A group of our Year 9 students took part in an inspiring Talk The Talk workshop on confident communication. Through the 'Talk About Communication' session, students enhanced their oracy skills, learned to structure short talks and presentations, and mastered persuasive language techniques—all key skills for future success in education and employment.



## STEM ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE

Some of our Year 8 students took part in the Enterprise Challenge; a numeracy-focused STEM workshop, delivered by The Talent Foundry and sponsored by M&G plc. Students became event organisers, planning a music concert for 10,000 young people! Using maths by stealth, they worked on:

- Budgeting to hire artists.
- Designing stage layouts.
- Planning catering.

Building key transferable skills like teamwork, communication, and resilience. What a fantastic way to link maths to real life!



# CAREERS NEWS



## THE CASEY GROUP

We were delighted to welcome The Casey Group to Hollingworth Academy! They provided valuable insights into apprenticeship opportunities within the construction industry, inspiring our students to explore the diverse career pathways this dynamic field has to offer.



## AVECC - CYBER SECURITY

The Year 8 students who are participating in the AVECC Academic Enrichment Programme took part in a session with Lancaster University's Cyber Works Team at Rochdale Town Hall. Students involved explored AI and Cyber Security through an interactive Cyber Security LEGO Game.



## LINDSEY COULSON VISIT



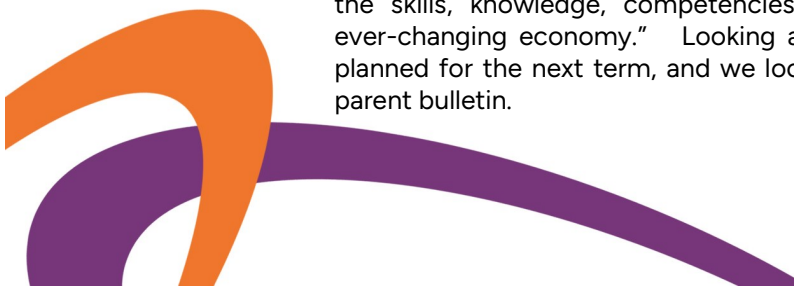
We are thrilled to finally announce that we welcome the incredibly talented Lindsey Coulson to Hollingworth Academy back in March 2024! As part of her exciting new role as the Headteacher on BBC's Waterloo Road, Lindsey visited our academy to immerse herself in the inner workings of academy life and met with our Headteacher Mr McGinty to discuss daily operations.

Whilst here, she took the time to meet with a group of Performing Arts students to discuss careers in acting, sharing invaluable insights into the world of television and theatre. Our students were inspired by her experience, and we couldn't have asked for a more fabulous, insightful afternoon!



At Hollingworth, we are proud of our Careers Programme, which plays a pivotal role in shaping our students' futures. Our exceptional provision has contributed significantly to our accreditation as a World Class School. This prestigious quality mark celebrates schools that provide "a breadth and depth of opportunities that go beyond the expectations of state schools, specifically in developing the skills, knowledge, competencies, and characteristics young people need to thrive in an ever-changing economy." Looking ahead, our Careers Programme has many exciting initiatives planned for the next term, and we look forward to sharing these with you in the next issue of our parent bulletin.

"EVERYONE EXCELS EVERYDAY"



## ART & DESIGN NEWS

### ARTIST OF THE TERM

'Artist of the Term' is our way of recognising and celebrating the hard work, creativity, and passion our students bring to the subject of art.

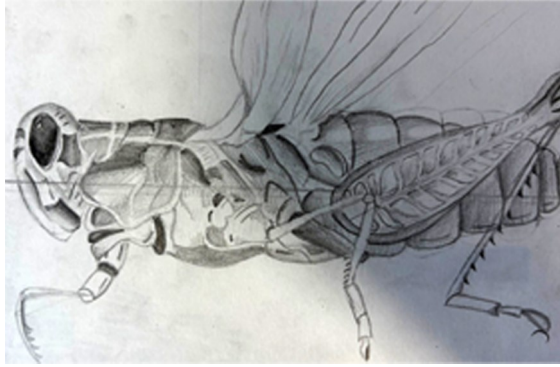
In Year 7, students learn fundamental skills of art, including how to use line, shape, tone, pattern and colour, which they continue to use throughout Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4.

As demonstrated in the showcased artwork, each student has skilfully applied one or more of these essential techniques to create pieces that are truly worthy of celebration.



**Reggie L 7P1**

Reggie works incredibly hard each lesson and is keen to develop his skills in Art & Design.



**Millie P 8P2**

Millie has shown renewed focus in Art & Design this term, drawing with great accuracy and detail.



**Amelia T 9O3**

Amelia is an enthusiastic student who gives 100% effort in class.

## BETA GROUP NEWS

### TEAMWORK SKILLS

During this term, 8P1 focused on enhancing their teamwork skills as part of their Life Skills lessons.

For their final challenge, the class worked collaboratively in teams to design and build the tallest and strongest structure using only spaghetti and marshmallows.



## CONSTRUCTION NEWS

### PLASTERING ASSIGNMENT

Huge congratulations to our Year 11 Construction students who completed their first plastering assignment at the beginning of this term. Throughout the project, they learned key skills including; mastering plaster mix ratios for a smooth, durable finish; working with the trowel & hawk; including keying the hawk; understanding the core principles of plastering to create perfect surfaces; and successfully applying 2 coats of skim plaster to their stud partition walls. Fantastic work, Year 11!



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## ENGLISH NEWS

### ENGLISH MASTERCLASS

Our Year 8 students attended an inspiring English Masterclass at Rochdale Town Hall, led by Dr Scott Annett of Robinson College, Cambridge University. Focusing on Medieval Literature and works by Chaucer and Shakespeare, this session marks the start of their academic enrichment journey through the Atom Valley Education Challenge Consortium (AVECC) initiative.

## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### SNAP CIRCUITS WORKSHOP

In Design Technology, our Year 7 students got involved in an exciting Snap Circuits workshop with Equans. The session brought electricity to life, helping students explore how it's sourced, how it powers our world, and even how to create their own circuits. Through teamwork, problem-solving, and practical activities, they developed skills in energy awareness, communication, and confidence. A big thank you to Equans for an electrifying experience!



## FOOD TECHNOLOGY NEWS

### GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

Our Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition students have been busy in the kitchen! They were set the task to create a Caribbean dish, and here are some of their delicious creations.



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## HUMANITIES NEWS

### GRASMERE, EASEDALE



Our GCSE Geography students had a fantastic day in Grasmere, immersing themselves in the natural beauty of Easedale Beck while gaining valuable insights into tourism in the area. A huge shoutout to the students for their excellent work and outstanding behaviour throughout the day!

### HARDWICK HALL



Year 11 History students enjoyed an unforgettable experience at Hardwick Hall, Chesterfield, where they stepped back in time to explore the grandeur of Elizabethan England. The visit included a fully guided tour of the historic house and its stunning gardens, offering a vivid glimpse into the past. This fantastic trip brought history to life, providing valuable support for their GCSE studies and deepening their understanding of the era.

### BATTLEFIELDS TRIP



In September, we took 45 Year 9 students on a visit to the key battlefield sites of Ypres in Belgium and the Somme area in northern France. The trip was curated to complement their studies of World War I in History and the broader themes of war and conflict in English.

Over the course of three days, students visited a range of significant and thought-provoking historical landmarks. These included the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Tyne Cot British Cemetery (the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world), and Langemark German Cemetery. Other key sites visited were Thiepval memorial site, to commemorate victims of the Battle of the Somme, Newfoundland Canadian Memorial Park, Sanctuary Wood (featuring preserved British trenches), and Talbot House. Students also enjoyed some leisure time, exploring the charming town of Arras and shopping for Belgian chocolates in Ypres.

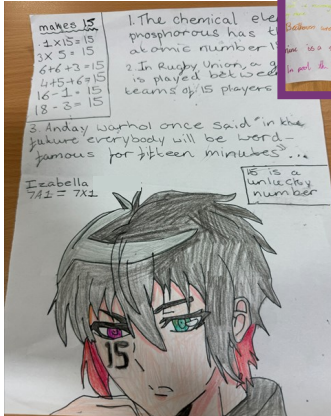
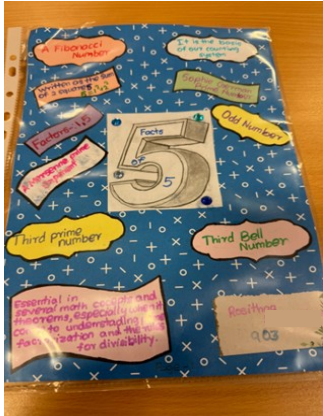
A standout moment from the trip was the opportunity to participate in the moving 'Last Post' ceremony at the Menin Gate, a memorial dedicated to British Commonwealth soldiers. This solemn and memorable experience left a lasting impression on our students and staff. Students involved were a credit to the academy and their families, making memories that will stay with them forever.

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# MATHEMATICS NEWS

## MATHS HOUSE COMPETITION



Students were asked to get creative and 'draw their favourite number' for the first maths House competition of the year.

We had a large number of fantastic entries, with numbers drawn like animals and anime characters and from these we had a hard choice for who would win. The entries pictured showed both creativity and gave us lots of mathematical facts! Congratulations to Rosithaa S 903 (1st place), Imaan S 702 (2nd place) and Izabella K 7A2 (3rd place).

## RISE NEWS



### NO MORE KNIVES TOUR

We had the honour of hosting the No More Knives tour, brought to us by The Message Trust, a Christian charity dedicated to inspiring change. The event shed light on the pressing issue of knife crime, delivering a powerful message through an engaging mix of music and storytelling. Their heartfelt performance included songs that highlighted the dangers of knife crime, leaving a lasting impact on all students who attended. It was a fantastic experience, encouraging teenagers to choose peace and positivity in our communities.



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our incredible students. Stay connected and be the first to hear about the academy's latest exciting news by following us on social media.



Hollingworth Academy



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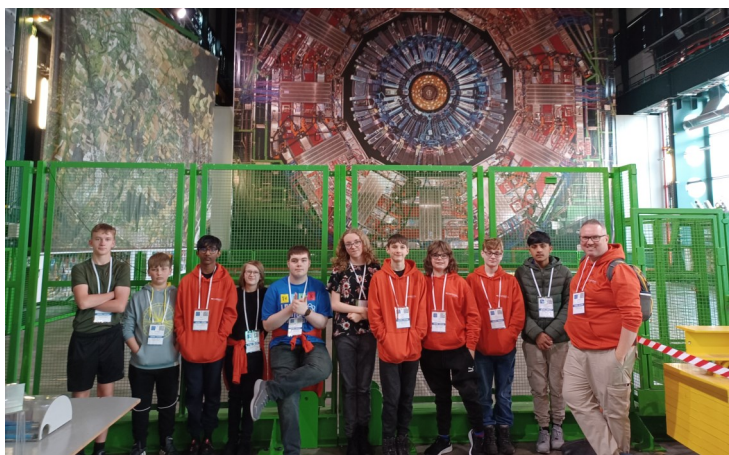
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## SCIENCE NEWS



### SCIENCE VISIT TO CERN, GENEVA



This term, the Science Department took 30 Year 10 and 11 students to CERN, Geneva. As the world's foremost particle physics research facility, CERN provided a fascinating insight into the mysteries of the Universe. Students had the opportunity to meet scientists from around the globe, who explained how the 16 mile long tunnel under the Alps is used to smash particles together at 99.9999991% the speed of light. This groundbreaking research has revealed insights into the Big Bang, dark matter and the fundamental forces that control the whole Universe. CERN is also famous as the birthplace of the Higgs Boson discovery, a Nobel Prize winning discovery also known as the "God Particle", and it still continues to lead the way in physics research.

We were also lucky enough to visit the Swiss Plasma Research Centre in Lausanne; scientists here are finding out how we can harness nuclear fusion to provide almost unlimited energy without the issues caused by fossil fuels and traditional nuclear fission power stations. A highlight of the visit was seeing an experimental fusion reactor in action, operating at temperatures of nearly 100 million degrees - this was an unforgettable experience!

Whilst in Switzerland, we enjoyed a traditional Swiss fondue night and even had time for an evening of ten-pin bowling. A huge thank you to the staff and students who made this trip so memorable. Who knows? Maybe we've inspired some future Nobel Prize-winners from Hollingworth Academy?

## STUDENT FUNDRAISING

### CHILDREN IN NEED 2024

We are thrilled to announce that we have raised an incredible **£924.50** for Children in Need! To show our support, both students and staff wore yellow, and we also held an exciting House competition to see who could raise the most funds. It was fantastic to see everyone's enthusiasm and teamwork for such a worthy cause.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated, supported, and helped us reach this amazing total. Your generosity will make a real difference in the lives of children who need it most.



A big thank you to our six Pudsey Bear donation collectors - Mr Powell, Mrs Walmsley, Mrs Robinson, Mrs Smith, Miss Slide and Mr Harwood.

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## CENTRE POINT - CHRISTMAS CARDS



The BETA and ARCH groups have been hard at work designing, creating, and packaging their charity Christmas cards. All proceeds from the sales will go directly to support Centre Point, a Manchester-based charity dedicated to helping homeless youth.

## HOUSE BAKE SALE COMPETITION



The penultimate week of term was filled with delicious treats and friendly competition! Each House hosted a bake sale during break time, all in support of the Cash4Kids charity.

A special congratulations to Altair, who were crowned the Bake Off champions! Thanks to the generosity and support of our students and staff, the bake sale raised an impressive total of **£582.68**.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and donated!

## DONATIONS TO ROCHDALE FOOD BANK



On Thursday 19th December 2024, we are requesting that students bring a donation for the Rochdale Food Bank. These will be collected in the morning and then delivered to the food bank to help support those in need in the Rochdale area. Please only donate tinned and dried food goods – no fresh or perishable items. In recent years, parents, staff and students have been incredibly generous in helping local residents in need of help at this time of the year.

## JOHNNY ALFREY MUSIC MEMORIAL



Freya C-K participated in a half-marathon walk for charity. The walk was in memory of her cousin Johnny, a previous Hollingworth student who tragically passed away in June 2022, at just 22 years old due to a misdiagnosed heart condition. The walk, held in Anglesey, Wales, brought together 44 family members and friends to honour Johnny's memory. In his name, a charity has been established that combines his passion for music with a mission to support young people.

Johnny was a talented musician, and the Johnny Alfrey Music Memorial (JAMM), is a non profit organisation of people involved in local live music and event production. The charity is already funding accommodation and musical equipment to enable young people to have a rehearsal space to play and compose music. Many talented children lack access to rehearsal facilities or instruments, and this initiative offers them opportunities to collaborate, perform, and grow creatively.

If anyone would like to support this wonderful initiative, donations can be made via the JustGiving page: <https://tinyurl.com/2sehn5ks>



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*Celebrating the success and sporting moments of our students.*

**ROCHDALE SCHOOLS' CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

It was great to see our cross country teams compete in the Rochdale Schools' Cross Country Championships earlier this term. Well done to all those who competed and particularly the medallists listed below.



Ollie B (7O2) - 1st Place, Y7 Boys



Alice H (8A2) - 3rd Place, Y8 Girls



Annabel H (9P2) - 2nd Place, Y9 Girls



Year 7 Girls Team - 1st Place



Year 7 Boys Team - 3rd Place



Year 8 Boys Team - 1st Place



KS3 Girls Team - 3rd Place

**YEAR 7 & 8 DODGEBALL**

Well done to all four dodgeball teams for their fantastic effort against strong competition! The Year 7 girls secured 4th place, while the Year 7 boys finished in 5th. The Year 8 girls put in an impressive performance to claim 3rd place, with the Year 8 boys also earning 5th place.



Year 7 Girls Dodgeball Team: Lola W, Lola B, Annie, Huma, Isla.



Year 7 Boys Dodgeball Team: Logan, Robson, Ali, Reed, Alex and Newton.



Year 8 Boys Dodgeball Team: Alfie, Dylan, Leo, Filip, Harry and Toby.

Year 8 Girls Dodgeball Team: Sophia, Shannon, Amelia, Sienna and Bethany.

**YEAR 7 BOYS FIVE-A-SIDE**

The Year 7 boys five-a-side was a fantastic competition run over two



evenings. The boys progressed to the Finals night with a 100% win record; this continued in the first two games of the evening. This resulted in a final game showdown against Newhouse Academy, who had also won both of their opening fixtures that night. Unfortunately, the boys came up short losing 3-2, after taking the lead twice in the game. Brilliant effort from all the boys involved over both nights.



## YEAR 7 GIRLS FIVE-A-SIDE

The Year 7 girls have trained every Wednesday after school and have been committed throughout the half term. They competed in the qualifying round at Edgar Wood Academy in November and played some good football. Defensively they were tight and distributed the ball from the back and held possession well. They finished second in the group stage and progressed to the Finals night at St Cuthberts in December. There were some strong players from each school, we just struggled to take shots and were unfortunate not to score many goals. The girls enjoyed the experience and are looking forward to the outdoor seven-a-side league later in the year.



## YEAR 7 NETBALL

Well done to the Year 7 netballers. A high proportion of Year 7 girls had not experienced any netball at primary school, so it was a pleasure to get a team together. They listened carefully and worked hard to learn the positional roles and the basic tactics. They performed well in the opening qualifying night and progressed to the top league. On the second night they met some tough opposition but played well, showing respect for the opposition and resilience but unfortunately did not finish in the top 3.



## YEAR 8 NETBALL

Congratulations to our Year 8 netball team for coming 3rd place in the recent Rochdale Schools' Netball Tournament. Special shoutout to our players: Myla T-G, Isabella K, Zainab A, Teegan G, Frankie M, Skye G, Hattie A, Lorna H, and Tillie N.



## YEAR 9 NETBALL

Congratulations to the Year 9 netball team who finished third in the



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Rochdale Schools' netball tournament. The fixtures were played over a series of tournament nights, and they conducted themselves really well. They worked exceptionally well as a team and showed respect for each other and the opposition. They are a talented group of girls who work hard and listen carefully, applying different strategies in their game play.



## YEAR 11 NETBALL

Congratulations to our Year 11 netball team on your amazing final matches representing Hollingworth Academy. "It's been an absolute pleasure taking you all to netball tournaments over the years, watching your skills and teamwork grow. I hope you all continue to play and enjoy the game in the future" - Mrs Thomas.





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the success and  
sporting moments  
of our students.

**AGRIA ROYAL INTERNATIONAL  
HORSE SHOW**

Harlow D (7P1) competes at County level in the Show Hunter pony 123cm class. In July she took part in the Agria Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead, and finished in 4th place. This qualified her for the Horse of the Year Show. Harlow finished in 3rd place. This is a truly outstanding achievement, you can see how proud she looks in the official photos taken on the day.



Scarlett D (10S2) is a talented and committed rider who has been riding since the age of 2. Scarlett started riding her new horse Stanley Grange Taittinger in January and has shown resilience to develop a strong partnership. She competed at the Agria Royal International Horse Show at Hickstead in July and finished in 5th place which is an amazing achievement. The show is considered the highlight of the summer season at one of the most famous showgrounds in the world.



**WESTMORLAND COUNTY  
SHOW**

Tillie G (7P1) finished First in class at the Westmorland County Showground which qualified her to compete in the Horse of the Year show in Birmingham in October. The experience was amazing and one which inspires her to keep training for her future events.



**ROCHDALE AFC**

Congratulations to Chase W (701) who is training and representing Rochdale Ladies AFC each week. The team had an exceptionally successful season last year winning the Spring Cup, Winter Cup and League Cup.



**SAILING SUCCESS**

Huge congratulations to Millie (11HF) and Annabel H (9P2). Millie is the Northwest Junior and Youth Traveller Series champion, and Annabel is the U:14 Northwest champion in the Topper class. Both girls are training and competing with the British Youth Sailing Team; this is testament to their hard work and commitment.



**WARRINGTON WOLVES**

Congratulations to Kylah H (1001) and Abbey B (10P1) who have both signed for Warrington Wolves. They are both part of the Pathway 2 Performance 2024 Programme. The girls hard work and commitment has been rewarded as they continue to excel in their rugby league.

