



# WLD HIGH SCHOOL BULLETIN



Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

## Headteacher's Message

I am so sorry that we had to take the decision to close the school yesterday, this was not a decision we took lightly, but we had little choice on the grounds of health and safety. One of the benefits of joining a multi-academy trust is the ability to apply directly to the Department for Education for funding. Whilst there are no guarantees that we would be successful, one of our first bids will be to replace the heating system in school.

With regards to the academisation of Walton-le-Dale High School, I am pleased to be able to give you an update of the exciting plans we have made for the school. You may be aware that since Easter 2023 we have been collaborating with the trust and colleagues from Parklands High School in Chorley in order to assess, evaluate and start the implementation of our plans for the school. We understand that this whole process can be unsettling, but please rest assured that the education, welfare and wellbeing of your children are and always will be at the forefront of our minds, our plans and our discussions.

Please find [attached a letter](#) detailing some of the plans we have moving forward.

We are also recruiting new parent governors. The role of a parent governor is not to speak 'on behalf' of the parent body, but to use your perspective as a parent to help the governing body to understand a parent's viewpoint. This will support governors make good decisions and maintain a link between governance and the parent community. If you are interested in applying for the position of Parent Governor here at Walton-le-Dale High School, please complete and submit the nomination form attached below and is available on the [school website here](#). Completed applications must be submitted by 12noon on Monday 11th December 2023 – applications received after this date will not be considered.

Mrs V Ardern  
Headteacher

## Whole School Messages

### UNIFORM

Unfortunately, over the last couple of weeks we have seen a decline in uniform standards. This is just a reminder of our uniform policy:

- If choosing to wear a skirt this **must be** black knee length pleated skirt – only available from school.
- Tailored black trousers - jeans-style, low waisted, very flared, legging-style, types of trousers **are not allowed**.
- All students **must wear** a grey tie.
- All students **must wear** their blazer.
- All students **must wear** black shoes. Trainers **are not allowed**.

Thank you for your support.

## Whole School Messages

### STUDENT ABSENCE REPORTING

Parents should report any absences or medical appointments only on Classcharts or Schoolcomms **by 9am**. Please ensure that you contact the school on each day of your child's absence. A link to "How to report student absences using Classcharts" can be found on our website.



### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 7th December 2023



We will be taking part in the national Christmas jumper day to raise money for the amazing work of Save the Children. For a donation of at least £2, students are welcome to come to school in a festive jumper along with their normal school uniform. Please be rest assured we do not expect parents/carers to go and purchase a Christmas jumper for this event, anything festive will do. We would much prefer the money to go towards our £500 target for Save the Children.



All you need to do to take part in this day is scan the code with your phone camera to give to the pot and it will go straight to Save the Children

Alternatively, you can visit the JustGiving page directly here:

[Walton-le-Dale Christmas Jumper Day is raising money for Save The Children!](#)

## Whole School Messages – Year 11s

### Year 11 Progress Evenings and Mock Exams

Parents and carers of our Year 11 students are warmly invited to school on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December (4pm-6.30pm)** to receive the first Year 11 report of the year and have conversations with teachers about how their child is getting on in this important year.

Bookings are now live and can be made [using this link](#).

On **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, year 11's will be having their **French and German** Mock Speaking exams respectively. Please see message previously sent out with the specific times.

On **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December**, year 11 **Art class** will be undertaking their Mock exam.

Year 11 students will sit their mock exams when they return to school in January. The mock exam fortnight will run from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024**.

There will then be a second Progress Evening to discuss the mock exam results and revision on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

We look forward to seeing our Year 11 students and parents and carers at these two evenings.



**Could you be boosting your grades?**

**National Tutoring Programme**

With free after school tutoring, you could make an additional 4 months of progress over the course of year 11 in:

- Maths
- English
- Science
- French
- History
- Geography
- RE
- German

**Speak to Mr Moorcroft to arrange a day that suits you...**

Refreshments provided! ☺

ACHIEVING SELF-MOTIVATED POSITIVE IMAGINATIVE RESPECTFUL INQUIRIOUS

To discuss tutoring options for your child, please contact [j.moorcroft-jones@waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:j.moorcroft-jones@waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk)

## Whole School Messages

### A fantastic offer from South Ribble Leisure

The offer is at all sites, Leyland Leisure Centre, Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre, South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre and Penwortham Leisure Centre.

### Memberships or Pay-As-You-Go

High school students have the option of a **reduced price membership from £14.99 per month OR 50% off** a range of pay-as-you-go activities at our centres. Full details can be found here:

<https://www.southribbleleisure.com/students>

### New activities

- **NEW! Social Netball at Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre** - Every Thursday from 8-9pm, it's game time! Gather your squad - all ages, mums, daughters, and everyone in between - for an evening of fun and fitness. Embrace the spirit of teamwork, make new friends, and enjoy the social and health benefits of this fantastic sport. It's not just about the game; it's about the community! Spread the word and let's hit the court together. £3 per person, book online or on our app
- **FREE TRIAL! Tennis Lessons at South Ribble Tennis Centre** - South Ribble Tennis and Fitness Centre has an outstanding tennis programme with spaces available now plus a FREE TRIAL! Led by Lawn Tennis Association qualified coaches, our tennis lessons will help your child keep fit, sharpen their coordination, learn teamwork and decision making. And of course, it's a perfect way to make friends and have fun! <https://southribbleleisure.com/Tennis>
- **NEW CLASS! Les Mills Born to Move at Penwortham Leisure Centre** - a movement class for children aged 13-16 <https://www.southribbleleisure.com/penwortham>

## Interhouse competition – Anti Bullying poem results

Winner – Discovery with a poem by Olivia R (D5)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Challenger with a poem by Finley M (C6)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Apollo with a poem by Chloe P (A5) and one by Ava Grace D (A5)

4<sup>th</sup> Place – Voyager with a poem from V7

5<sup>th</sup> Place – Endeavour with a poem from E6








In a world where kindness should prevail, we stand together, we won't let it fail.  
Bully's grip, we refuse to abide, with love and compassion, we will turn the tide.

Words can hurt, actions too, but we have the power to break through.  
With empathy and understanding, we can create a world that's outstanding.

Remember you are not alone, we'll support you, make it known,  
Together we'll rise strong and true, anti-bullying will see it through.

Finley M (C6)

### Interhouse competition so far this half term

Challenger		18
Apollo		17
Discovery		16
Endeavour		15
Voyager		12



# Online Safety Newsletter



WALTON-LE-DALE  
HIGH SCHOOL



## Online Safety Newsletter December 2023

### Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III

**18**  
www.pegi.info

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare III was released in November and has been rated by PEGI as 18. This means this game is unsuitable for those under the age of 18. PEGI include the following content descriptors:



PEGI state that "this rating has been given because it features graphic violence, violence against vulnerable and defenceless characters, motiveless killing of innocent characters, and use of strong language." You can find out more from PEGI here:

<https://pegi.info/search-pegi?n=call-of-duty>

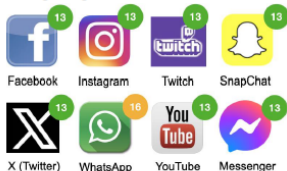
### Toxicity in game play

Safe In Our World and Ubisoft (creators of games such as Assassins Creed) have co-developed the 'Good Game Playbook'. The playbook will be sent to players reporting disruptive behaviour as well as the individual reported. This is to support the person affected as well as to try and educate the person reported about the harm their behaviour might have on others. You can read the handbook here:

<https://safeinourworld.org/news/ubisoft-safe-in-our-world-partner-to-combat-in-game-toxicity/>

### Get to know Age Ratings

Age ratings are in place to help protect your child, so we thought we'd provide you with a little reminder of how important it is to check the age ratings of what your child is accessing online. Here are the age ratings of some of the more popular apps that young people are accessing. Did you know that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16?



Whether your child is viewing films, accessing apps, playing games online, using social media or downloading other apps – check the age rating first to see if your child is old enough. In addition, the likes of PEGI include further content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence if accessing the app/game etc.

It is important to note that whilst age ratings do allow you to see if something may be appropriate for your child, it is also important to review the content yourself. This will allow you to make an informed decision as to whether it is suitable for your child to access and if it would be beneficial to apply further parental controls.

#### Further information

Parent Zone have published this article about why age ratings matter: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/age-ratings>

#### Artificial Intelligence (AI)

It can be difficult to keep up to date with new technologies and to know if there are any related risks that we need to be aware of when using new technologies. AI is being talked about a lot, so it is worthwhile learning more about it now to help support/answer questions if our children show an interest. Twinkl provide a brilliant overview of AI here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/blog/parents-guide-top-tips-for-navigating-generative-ai-safely-with-kids>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date released 1.12.23.

## Snapchat

### What is Snapchat?

Snapchat is a social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. You must be 13+ to sign up. Users can send messages (snaps) to others that can only be seen for a set time e.g. 10 seconds and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.



### What should I be concerned about?

There are risks to using Snapchat, including the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for them, location sharing and contact from strangers.

### Family Centre features

Family Centre includes features such as allowing you to see who your child is friends with, who they are communicating with (not the contents of conversations though) and who your child has sent messages, photos or videos to in the last week. You will also be able to report any accounts that you are concerned about as well as restrict sensitive content. Snapchat have also published a safety checklist to help support conversations about how to use Snapchat safely:

- <https://parents.snapchat.com/en-GB/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

### New safeguarding features

Snapchat have recently announced their newest features to help protect 13-17-year-olds. The first feature is in-app warnings so a pop-up warning will now be displayed if someone tries to add them as a friend that they don't have mutual contacts with, or the person isn't in their contacts.

The second feature is 'stronger friending protections.' Currently 13-17-year-olds must have several mutual friends in common for that user to show up in search results or as a friend suggestion, but this number has been increased. These two features are available to users aged 13-17-year-olds, this is one of the reasons why it is always important for your child to sign up with their correct date of birth, so they can benefit from any such features.

- <https://values.snap.com/en-GB/news/new-safeguards-for-snapchatters-2023>

### Safety tips

Please make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up on Snapchat and your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

- <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/privacy-settings2>

### More information

- <https://www.virginmedia.com/blog/parental-controls/snapchat>

## Fake Profiles and Cyberbullying

Setting up a profile impersonating somebody else with the intention of being unkind to others/to cause embarrassment to the individual is a form of cyberbullying.

If your child has set up a fake profile, talk to them about how this is a form of bullying and therefore not acceptable.

It is important that we talk to our children about the issue of cyberbullying and let them know that if they are ever a victim of it then it is not their fault, and they should tell you (or a trusted adult) straightaway. Talk to your child about reporting and blocking tools on social media or online games and show them how to use them to report any form of bullying.

You can read more about cyberbullying here:

- <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/types-bullying/bullying-cyberbullying/>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/>

Additionally, Report Harmful Content have listed how you can report impersonation accounts on the different social media networks here:

<https://reportharmfulcontent.com/advice/impersonation/>



## Homework

Please be aware that homework will be set on Classcharts.

In order to aid transition for our Year 7 students, we have reduced the number of subjects setting homework for the first term to English, Maths and Science. Of course, when students have assessments, they will be asked to revise for them - regardless of the subject.

For students in Years 8 to 11, the following guidelines will be followed.

	KS3	KS4
	30 mins per subject	1 hour per subject
<b>Weekly</b>	English Maths Science Geography History	English Maths Science Option A Option B Option C Computing
<b>Once every 2 weeks</b>	Music (A) Computing (A) RE (A) Languages – French and/or German	
<b>Every 5 weeks</b>	Technology (or at the end of each rotation)	
<b>Every half-term</b>	Art Drama	

**Homework Support: Monday to Friday in D4 and the Library**

## Homework



### Homework Champions

Homework is an important way of students learning how to study independently and also of consolidating their learning.

- Each week, Mrs Long (DHT) will award an SLT Classcharts badge for the most homework submitted for students in each year group; these students will also receive a 'golden ticket' for the dining room (HALs will give these to students in assembly).
- **Certificates** will be awarded in our awards assemblies for homework, as this shows your dedication to your studies and learning.
- Before Christmas, there will be a **reward activity** – off-timetable- for those completing their homework (Miss Rowson will provide more information).
- Each week, Mrs Long will award an **SLT Classcharts badge** for the most homework submitted

## Homework Champions for Last Week Are...Year 8!

Year 7	Daniella N (A7) Jasmin T (D8)
Year 8	Aaron W (V5) Pawel S (V5)
Year 9	Caleb T-W (C5) Olivia R (D5) Piotr S (E1)
Year 10	Oscar G (D6) Kevin L (E2)
Year 11	Colin M (A5) Jack M (E1)

You are all golden ticket winners AND in the running for the end of term reward event!



Year 7 have moved into second place! Well done!

## Rewards

### Attendance awards

House with Highest Attendance			Apollo		
Form with Highest Attendance	<b>Challenger</b> <b>C5</b>	<b>Apollo</b> <b>A7</b>	<b>Endeavour</b> <b>E1</b>	<b>Voyager</b> <b>V2</b>	<b>Discovery</b> <b>D1</b>
100% Attendance Golden Ticket	<b>Challenger</b> George R (C5)	<b>Apollo</b> Maizie N (A6)	<b>Endeavour</b> Alexi B (E5)	<b>Voyager</b> Emily Y (V5)	<b>Discovery</b> Ben H (D3)

### Classcharts Awards

House with Most Positives			Challenger		
Form with the most Positives	<b>Challenger</b> <b>C5</b>	<b>Apollo</b> <b>A7</b>	<b>Endeavour</b> <b>E3</b>	<b>Voyager</b> <b>V3</b>	<b>Discovery</b> <b>D1</b>
Kindness Golden Ticket	<b>Challenger</b> Caitlin H (C2)	<b>Apollo</b> Harry S (A4)	<b>Endeavour</b> Annabelle T (E6)	<b>Voyager</b> Alex B (V3)	<b>Discovery</b> Aydan A (D8)
Most Positives Golden Ticket	<b>Challenger</b> Owen C (C2)	<b>Apollo</b> Enny F-D (A7)	<b>Endeavour</b> Lucas M (E2)	<b>Voyager</b> Pawel S (V5)	<b>Discovery</b> Jessica S (D5)
Most Homework Positives Golden Ticket	<b>Challenger</b> Ethan R (C4)	<b>Apollo</b> Colin M (A5)	<b>Endeavour</b> Kevin L (E2)	<b>Voyager</b> Aaron W (V5)	<b>Discovery</b> Harry S (D5)
Most Improved Student	<b>Challenger</b> Andrew N (C4)	<b>Apollo</b> Ben B (A2)	<b>Endeavour</b> Jack A (E2)	<b>Voyager</b> Evie W (V6)	<b>Discover</b> Sam H (D2)



## HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

We would like to say congratulations to the students who took part in the cross-country competition.

**Billy Y; Mikey F; Frankie S-S; Vinny R; Ava E; Josie C; Daniella A; Harry S; Wing Lun Y; Verity P; Evan L; Jack S; Emily B; Alexander B; Summer H; Jasmine C**

## Rewards

### PE Awards of the Week

<b>Year 7 Awards</b>	
7WA	Nataniel K (A7)
7WS	Josie C (C7)
7WP	Connor H (E7)
7DI	Khaleesi A (V7)
7DR	Vinny R (E7)
7DE	Josie –Jay Y (D8)
<b>Year 8 Awards</b>	
8WA	Nevaeh M (A3)
8WS	Joe M (E4)
8WP	Shaun A (A2)
8DI	Abigail C (E5)
8DR	Kayden M (C2)
8DE	Brayden M (C2)
<b>Year 9 Awards</b>	
9WA	Madison D (D3)
9WS	Jack S (V6)
9WP	Caleb T-W (C5)
9DI	Lailee R H (E2)
9DR	Thomas P (V4)
9DE	Jack R (D4)
<b>Year 10 Awards</b>	
10WDA	Reece B (C5)
10WDS	Xain A (D3)
10WDP	Austina K (D6)
10WDI	Robyn K-M (C3)
10WDR	Jasmine C (C6)
10WDE	Henry B (D5)
<b>Year 11 Awards</b>	
11WDA	Eva W (V3)
11WDS	Corey H (C2)
11WDP	Katie L (A4)
11WDI	Max W (D3)
11WDR	Ethan H (V3)
11WDE	Nicole W (D3)
<b>GCSE PE Awards</b>	
10A PE 1	Henry B (D5) Ivy M (E6)
10A PE 2	Jacob P (A5)
11A PE 1	George R (C5) Maizie N (A6)

## Careers Messages

Please see this week's copy of [Careers News](#). Of particular note is the fantastic opportunity for any students wishing to pursue a career in early years education. Ashbridge Independent School and Nursery group are looking for a cohort of 15-20 school and college leavers to join their accredited apprenticeship scheme, allowing them to earn while they learn, and kick start their career in childcare. For more information see page 16 of the newsletter attached.