



Frantic Drama Worksoop

Yesterday the Year 11 Btec Performing Arts group worked with Jonnie from Frantic Assembly in a physical theatre workshop to support their work on their external assessment. The students engaged fantastically in the workshop tasks and created amazing pieces of work under the guidance of Jonnie. As the Head of Performing Arts, I was exceptionally proud of how our students conducted themselves and used the opportunity to push their ideas forward for their exam piece. A big thank you to Frantic Assembly and Jonnie for the workshop.



WESTHOUGHTON WINNERS IN ROTARY YOUTH SPEAKS

An intermediate team from Westhoughton High School won the Bolton area district heat in this year's Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. Speaker Maeve M, chairperson Alice R and vote of thanks proposer Scarlet H spoke about the importance of girls studying STEM subjects.

They will now go forward to a District Final in March with their subject 'The importance of females in STEM'.

They explained that the subjects were Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and that, traditionally, these had been male dominated topics. Their performance was a demonstration of the way they'd been able to build resilience and confidence from their studies.

In commenting on the extremely high standard of all the teams, the judges were especially impressed both by the strength of the passion of the speaker for their subject and the way the three team members had worked together.

Senior and Intermediate teams from Westhoughton High School were sponsored by Westhoughton Rotary Club to compete in the Bolton Heat of the Northwest Rotary District Youth Speaks. The intermediate team won this heat and will go on to compete against other heat winners in a district final.



Speaker

Chairperson

Speaker

Chairperson

Holocaust Memorial Day

For Holocaust Memorial Day (22.01.25), 31 KS4 students attended a live webcast with Holocaust survivor Mala Tribich. It is difficult to comprehend the vast statistics and find the humanity in 'the six million'. However, Mala's testimony helped us to look beyond the statistics and put a face, name, and voice to the numbers. Some students have even written personal letters to Mala to thank her for sharing her experiences.



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Student Success

Congratulations to Westhoughton High School school students who have had some excellent out of school achievements, we are very proud of you all.

Lana N in Year 9 has had a very successful weekend in her extra curricular activities! Lana was awarded the Club Trophy at their biannual presentation evening for the Ballroom and Latin Award for Atherton Dance Centre! Lana has also been selected for the Leigh Leopards Cheer Team for Gemstone Cheer and Dance. Great achievements Lana well done! Well done to Kira P in Year 9 who has been selected to join Leigh Leopards Cheer Team for Gemstone Cheer and Dance! Great achievement Kira.



Greater Manchester Cross Country

It was an incredibly tough race—muddy, freezing cold and challenging in every way.

Despite the harsh conditions, all three boys competed in their races with determination. Tamer in Y7 finished 54th, Zaki in Y8 came 45th and Kareem in Y10 finished 42nd.

Licia S in Y11 also took part in the Greater Manchester Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday where she represented Bolton Schools and finished 33rd, what a great achievement. Licia gained a place by finishing in the top 12 in the Bolton Championship. Everyone at WHS is extremely proud of them for their perseverance and for not giving up, well done to all of you.

BOLTON SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA



On Tuesday 21st January, 20+ students from Westhoughton High entered the Bolton Schools Swimming Championships at Bolton One. During the event, the WHS swimmers represented themselves and school incredibly with the highest scoring finish in recent history. As part of the event, students competed in 4 different strokes along with Medley and Freestyle relays.

The performance of the team was truly exceptional and individually there were a number of personal highlights with podium finishes for a large number of the group. Below are a few of the highlight performances:

Fraser C - 1st Breaststroke, 2nd Butterfly

Heath M - 1st Freestyle

Jess C - 2nd Backstroke, 2nd Butterfly

Winston C - 2nd Backstroke, 3rd Butterfly

Theo M - 3rd Backstroke,

Georgia C - 2nd Butterfly, 3rd Breaststroke

Eva B - 2nd Breaststroke

Senior Girls - 2nd Medley

Inter Girls - 3rd Medley, 3rd Freestyle

Junior Boys - 2nd Medley, 3rd Freestyle

As a school we are incredibly proud and are already looking forward to next years event.

Well Done!



Matilda C in Y9 has recently been in the musical "Everybody wants to be a movie star" with the Willpower Youth Theatre group, the musical was set in the 60s in the north west of England. Matilda played the role of Kelly, it was an amazing show in Wigan. Well done Matilda.

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As a school we want to celebrate one of our superb year 8 students, Freya O'C, who is not only British Wrestling Champion, Irish Wrestling Champion but has this weekend also won English Champion at under 13 age grade. This is all whilst 12 years old!!

Freya is a very quiet and modest student who you would never guess has such an incredible talent. Freya is always the first to offer to represent school in what ever sporting event she can and has represented school in multiple different sports!!

This is not only a huge achievement personally but also a great opportunity for further progression in her sport. Freya will be entering the European Championships later in the year where we wish her a massive good luck!!



Our girls team topped the group today winning 3 out of 3 games, making it all the way to the final, so unfortunate to narrowly miss out on the trophy losing in the final 3-2. Well done girls! Great teamwork and football skills.

A great day had by all, sat down enjoying lunch now before heading for a guided tour of BWFC's stadium!

Also joined by BWFC royalty in the shape of 3 of BWFC Women's team & Sharon Brittan - BWFC CEO.



Y10/11 Rugby

Yesterday evening was a great evening of rugby down at Bolton Rugby Club where the Y10/11 boys played a great tri-tournament against Thornleigh SC and Rivington & Blackrod HS.

The boys put in two very good performances, including some incredibly big hits, strong running and passing. This ultimately resulted in two very hard fought games, finishing with one loss and one win. We hope that all the Y11's enjoyed what could be their final rugby game for WHS.

A huge well done to everyone involved and thank you again to Sale Sharks Community Foundation and Bolton RUFC for hosting and officiating.

Y8/9 Rugby Union

A huge shout out to the Y8/9 boys who played in three games down at Bolton RUFC.

The team put in a brilliant performance, winning 2 games and drawing one. Some excellent resilience shown even after a few injuries!! Well done everyone and a big thank you again to Sale Sharks Foundation and Bolton RUFC



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Y7 RUGBY

A massive result for the Y7 rugby team who won convincingly at a fixture held at Bolton RUFC. The WHS Y7's have only played together once before and managed to score some incredible tries, combining both rugby experience and new player eagerness! It would be great to see some of the players joining the club to further progress their skill. A special shout out to the boys who offered to play for the opponents to help out with numbers and keep the game equal numbers! True rugby spirit. Thank you to Bolton Rugby Club and Sale Sharks Foundation for their support and hosting. Much appreciated as always.



Year 8 Football Champions

Yesterday, our year 8 football team took on the challenge of competing for the Bolton Schools Cup. The entire squad put in an outstanding performance, giving their all right until the final whistle. Their resilience, teamwork and sheer hard work were on full display throughout the match. I'm delighted to say that we won 3-1 against St James!

We couldn't be prouder of this team and are excited to see what they can achieve in the future!



Penny M-A in Year 9 has had a busy weekend participating in the WUKF karate British Open championships, Penny brought home 8 medals out of 12 matches in kumite and kata, karate sport, with the majority in fighting matches and having as many as 40 contestants! Penny was competing against national and international, world class competitors, this competition places some of the best amongst the best of competitors, a great achievement. Excellent achievement Penny! Well done!

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During Maths Week England, some students from year 7 took part in an online workshop with Museum on the Mound. They were asked to design a new currency and the museum have turned their creations in to badges which they received back today! Well done everyone.



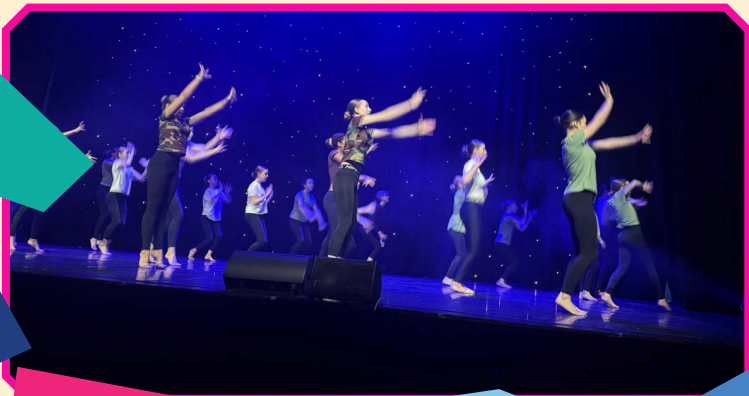
Westhoughton High School Dance Team Shine at the Albert Hall!

On January 21st, the Westhoughton High School Dance Team proudly performed their inspirational dance piece, Rescue, at the iconic Albert Hall in front of a wide audience comprising schools from across Greater Manchester.

The learners captivated the audience with their emotional performance, which explored the challenges faced by asylum seekers who leave war-torn countries, often feeling as though they have nothing left. Through their artistry, the team showcased a sensitive understanding of the political and emotional issues associated with seeking refuge and aimed to bring these stories to life on stage.

With the guidance of Mrs. Welsh and Mrs. Hughes, the students created a poignant and impactful choreography. Their powerful performance carried a resonant message about the responsibility and compassion nations can show towards those seeking sanctuary. The depth of emotion conveyed by the dancers brought many in the audience to tears, leaving an unforgettable impression.

This marks the first time Westhoughton High School has performed on such a significant platform, and the team's immense talent was clear for all to see. The experience has inspired them to continue pushing boundaries, with new pieces already in development for their highly anticipated summer show. Well done to our incredible dance team, your performance was a shining example of empathy and excellence!



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Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Students spent the day at The Diana Award Anti-bullying Ambassador training day at Kirkham Grammar. They got involved in a variety of workshops and are now beginning their journey to achieve the Inclusion badge. Students represented WHS and did us proud!



Kindness Award

We were so proud to see some of our kindest students enjoying breakfast with Mr Coe yesterday! It really is fantastic to see so many of our students being nominated for being kind, day in day out! They all received their kindness certificate and specially made pocket hug! All students nominated will be put forward for our very special Morgan Emma Davies Memorial Award at the end of the school year! Well done to everyone! You are shining stars!

Youth Civic Award

Huge congratulations to Katie S in Year 10 who was presented with the Youth Civic Award by the the Mayor of Bolton, the Mayor of Westhoughton and Phil Brickell MP on Friday. Katie undertakes lots of community work in and out of school and her dedication to her charitable causes and kindness has been recognised by this prestigious award. Well done Katie.



Bring the Spring

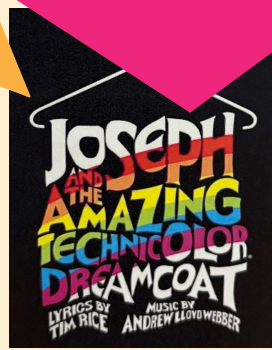
324 chocolate Easter eggs donated from students, parents and staff were delivered this week to many of our senior friends in the local area. Thank you to Wingates Residential Home, Woodlands Dementia Care Home and Senior Solutions for letting us visit, which marks the end of our 'Bring the Spring 2025' celebration.' We particularly loved the inscription on the wall at Senior Solutions:

"Welcome, may all who came as guests, leave as friends"
Friendship in a month closely associated with giving. So, whether you shared Ramadan with a class-mate, team-mate, your students or colleagues, or donated an Easter egg, or had the opportunity to deliver it, or chatted with one of our students who came to visit or gave just one of the £398 donated to support the wonderful work of the Bereavement Cafe in our school and beyond...

Thank You!



- WHS NEWSFLASH -



The full cast of our summer production 'Joseph and the amazing technicolour dreamcoat' met with the director Miss Gough, it was the perfect time to get a group photo. Rehearsals start in March, we can't wait to see the show in July.

Thriving Minds.

Students travelled to Liverpool College to participate in the Thriving Minds conference. At this event students attended lectures by Oxford University professors about philosophy, ethics, and nanotechnology and participated in group discussions and debate. They represented the school beautifully, and two other members of staff at the event commented on how brilliantly behaved the Westhoughton team was!



Runshaw College Visit Year 10

A group of Year 10s were invited to Runshaw College to experience Masterclasses in their chosen fields. They delved into the Sciences, Law and Politics, Geography, History, Maths and Further Maths, English and computer science. Along with the opportunity to sample college life and food outlets. They were amazing ambassadors for our school. Well done from the Year 10 team.



RHS Bridgewater

Some of our students had the opportunity to visit RHS Bridgewater last week, they had chance to plant their own Nasturtiums seeds and also took their own cuttings from a Rosemary bush. We had a great time exploring the grounds and Mrs Brodmann and Miss Taylor were very proud of all the students attitude and engagement on the day!

