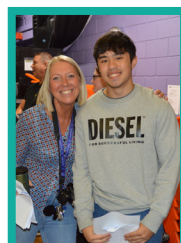
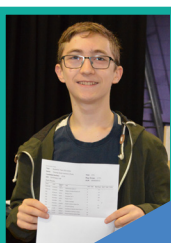
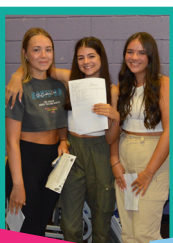
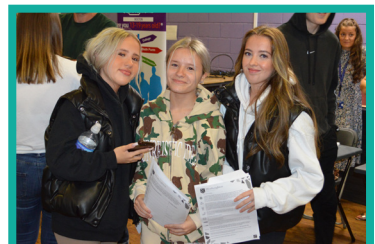


GCSE Results 2022

What an experience our WHS leavers of 2022 had... national lockdowns in their first year of studying GCSEs – they had it. Experiencing virtual learning at the same time as staff learning how to do it, they had it. The first year back of full exams, they smashed it. Additionally, though, were the opportunities in abundance that were opened up in 2022, chances for college trips, experiences at universities and even the long awaited return of the Geography field trip with wellies and waterproofs – a perfect end to Year 11... oh, and an epic prom too. Albeit bittersweet, there was a clear spirit that emerged in many of our 2022 leavers, that of making the most of the opportunities they were given and for that resilience and their decision to thrive in amongst a toughened landscape, we were - and are - incredibly proud!

2022 was the return to the full suite of examinations after two years without them – a tough ask for our students who were so adversely affected throughout their studies but wow, did they do themselves - and us - proud. For most students, the results day collection was met with nervous excitement as envelopes were opened and grades were revealed. Every hour of study, every lesson that they persevered in and every revision session that they chose to partake in helped to create the final result and a smile as they opened the results they had earned. We had a phenomenal cohort of young people leave us in 2022 with 66 grade 9s/D*'s achieved and more importantly, many personal bests achieved with students reaching their own personal targets for their next steps. A life lesson was learnt for many and we have no doubt that the role models amongst the year, notably our senior prefect team, have left an imprint on our younger years still in WHS of what dedication and hard work can bring you; yes, a sense of pride but more importantly a sense of personal achievement in what each young person in our school can positively contribute and can do in our community.

A huge amount of planning and effort went into the studies of our students, both from students, parents and our staff, and we want to thank them all for this dedication. It was lovely to have our leavers back with us to celebrate their achievements at their Senior Presentation Awards event earlier in December.





Charity Fun Run

On Tuesday 4th October our postponed fun run took place in honour of Holly Prince. Students took part in the fun run in allocated slots and an amazing day was had by all - even those who had to run in the rain in the afternoon. As a school community, we have raised a fantastic £6,439 for both charities close to our hearts: Derian House and Children with Cancer. A big congratulations to Noah R, in Year 8, who was our top fundraiser raising a huge £365 winning a £60 Amazon gift card. The fastest female/male runner in each year group have received a prize of a £50 Amazon voucher too. All students who participated in the fundraising and run were entered into a raffle and prizes have been picked at random - a BIG thank you to Air Vault Inflatable and Trampoline Park and Cadent for donating prizes. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part in the race and to all who donated - we greatly appreciate all your support.

Mrs Dignam and Mr Shacklock

Grand totals:

**** £3462.50 Derian House Children's Hospice ** £2971.50 Children with Cancer UK ****





****Reminder****

Spring Term starts: Mon 9th January 2023 - 8.45am

Half Term: Mon 20th Feb - Friday 24th Feb

Rotary Presentation Live Again

Westhoughton Rotary had two reasons to be pleased about this year's Bursary Presentation to the top Westhoughton High School student. After two years of covid restrictions, not only could they meet this year's winner, Tom Jackson, but also the School's Headteacher, Neil Coe, in person for the first time. Mr Coe told an audience of Westhoughton Rotarians and guests what a wonderful role model Tom had been in the school. Not only was he a top performing Triple Science student but also he was a respectful character who always stood up for what was right. In his GCSE results, his grade 9s put him in the top 3% in the country in all but two subjects where he got 8s.

Fourteen years ago, in Westhoughton Rotary's Diamond Jubilee year, the club made its first Bursary presentation in memory of a former member's distinguished service to the club and the community. In telling the audience about Tom, Mr Coe said that he understood that he was joining a long list of worthy winners who had gone on to achieve further success and bring more honour to the school. He was delighted that his mother and stepfather, Alice Rogers and Kenny Pain were able to attend Tom's Award Evening and help celebrate his achievement. Tom is now at Winstanley Sixth Form College studying Maths, Physics and Computer Science so should find the Bursary of a £200 Waterstones Gift Card a real help.

Past President Ronald Bell explained that the Club had wished to inaugurate a special award in the Club's Diamond Jubilee year as part of their celebration of 60 years of service to the town. In conjunction with the High School, it had been agreed to make it an annual award to encourage and celebrate academic success. He welcomed Jeannette Miller and George Davies thanking them for their support over the past 14 years.

President Stuart Bailey congratulated Tom on his success and then presented him with the Waterstones Gift card, a Rotary Certificate and a mini trophy. He wished him well in his present studies and in his planned future career in Engineering. Stuart said how Rotary valued their continued contact with the high school and was delighted that Mr Coe was continuing the school's interest in the award. Mr Coe then addressed the audience saying how important it was to him that the high school was at the heart of the Westhoughton community. Having introduced Tom, he now introduced himself and spoke about what he was doing at the school. He'd brought several objects to illustrate his educational vision. They included the diary he'd kept of his first 100 days at the High School which contained reflections on daily events and progress made. He'd also brought a hi viz vest saying that he'd asked all of the Senior Leadership Team, and staff to wear them so that students would always be able to spot staff if they needed help. A book about Toxic Childhood Stress represented the need to remember that some children came from very difficult home backgrounds. In the lockdowns this had meant that they had had little opportunity to escape adverse conditions caused e.g. by violence or alcohol which

could affect behaviour and progress in school. He read a moving letter from two parents who expressed their gratitude that the school hadn't given up on their child and, by concentrated help, had enabled him to continue his studies and give him the chance of a better future. One size could never fit all in education and the high school staff were determined to meet the individual needs of all students. The president thanked Mr Coe for his speech and for all he was doing for local students.



*The presentation photograph shows:
WtonRty-TonyBuddBursary2022
(L to R); Neil Coe, Westhoughton High School Headteacher;
Tony Budd Jubilee Bursary Winner Tom Jackson
and Rotary President Stuart Bailey.*



Geography Trip

A selection of students from Year 7, 8 and 9 were able to enjoy a fieldwork trip to Blue John Cavern in October, a great time was had by all, it was great to see trips running again in KS3. We are looking forward to more fieldwork trips in 2023. #geography #caves

French Rugby League World Cup team

A few students from Year 10 studying GCSE French were invited to attend a question-and-answer conference with players from the French Rugby League World Cup team. The students prepared their questions in advance and practiced pronouncing them before the event. They were nervous but they had no need to be! They spoke clearly and with a good accent and they really listened to the responses (which were all in French). Some of the answers were translated into English, which gave the students the chance to check their own understanding. At the end, one of the players spoke passionately about the importance of learning other languages. It was an inspirational for our students and they thoroughly enjoyed it.



Health and Social Care Trip

Some of our Health and Social care students were able to attend a NHS careers event at Manchester Royal Infirmary. The students really enjoyed it, particularly a few getting their arms put in plaster. Students got to talk to people from different areas of the NHS. The students represented the school so well and were polite to everyone they came across.



- WHS NEWSFLASH -



Year 11 Mock Interviews

A big thank you to all the interviewers who attended and gave up their time to offer our Year 11 students this opportunity.

BBC Careers Event

All KS3 students were invited to a special assembly by the BBC. To mark its centenary in 2022, the BBC launched 'Share Your Story'. They were special interactive assemblies per year group. The BBC and 'Share your Story' brought a variety of people to share their stories of their personal journeys, setbacks and successes from school/college to their chosen career. Students asked questions and were really engaged with the speakers.

Thank you to the BBC and the speakers who visited and to Mr Downs for organising this great event for the students.



Celebration of Christmas

We held a fabulous festive evening for our Celebration of Christmas event at St Bartholomew's Church. Well done to all the students who performed and to all the students who read at the front of church. It was a very special night thank you to everyone who attended.





Christmas card competition winners

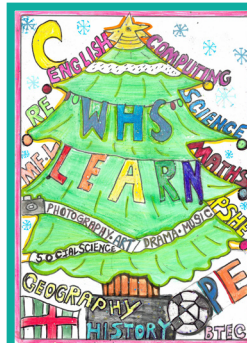
Thank you to all the students for their Christmas card competition entries. There were lots of brilliant designs and all very festive. It was a hard decision but 1st place went to Liyana M in Y8, 2nd place went to Charlotte S in Y9 and 3rd place was Madison G in Y11.

Eshal J in Y7 also received a special mention for her fantastic pop-up card entry. Well done to all of you.

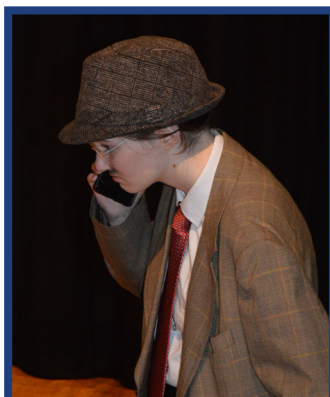
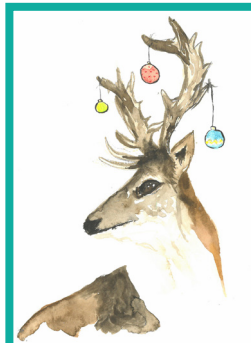
1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Through the Queen's Decades

Another fabulous Christmas show was put together by the Performing Arts Department.

We had singing, dancing, monologues and extracts from shows covering all of the 'Queen's Decades.' The show was a sell out on both evenings and deservedly so as there were great performances from all involved. We were also able to hold two matinee performances for Year 5 students from local primary schools which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thank you too all the staff and students involved both on and off the stage.



Remembrance Day 2022

A group of Year 7 students - Lana N, Rebecca P and Bobby H visited the cenotaph in Westhoughton, cleared the area and placed crosses in preparation for Remembrance Day. We then observed the two minute silence in school on Remembrance Day.

#lestweforget2022



WHS Anti-Bullying Conference

We held our first Anti-Bullying Conference in November where students from each year group came together to share ideas about what bullying is and how to be an 'upstander' against it in our school. Teachers ran different sessions highlighting the different varieties of bullying that can happen and how to make a stand against it. Students are now able to educate their peers about it. It was a great day and fantastic to see students openly discussing issues and ideas with each other.



BE THE UPSTANDER

NEW WAY TO BE AN UPSTANDER

- Scan our **NEW QR code** on your phone to report any bullying anonymously

