Work Hard. Model Kindness. Aim High.

WHITCLIFFE MOUNT
A SHARE Academy

Monday, 26th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of our first half term of the academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy, positive and rewarding eight weeks at Whitcliffe Mount Academy.

There is so much to celebrate, and I am immensely proud of what our students, staff and wider school community have achieved together. As we continue to embed our values of **W**ork Hard, **M**odel Kindness and **A**im High, it has been wonderful to see these becoming increasingly evident in the everyday life of our school.

A fantastic start – attendance and behaviour

One of our biggest successes this half term has been our outstanding attendance. I am delighted to share that WMA has been the highest-attending secondary school across SHARE Multi-Academy Trust throughout Half Term 1, with our attendance almost 2 percentage points higher than at the same point last year.

This is a tremendous achievement and one that deserves real recognition. Every day in school matters, and this improvement represents more students accessing more learning, building stronger routines and making the most of the opportunities available to them. Thank you to parents and carers for your continued commitment to ensuring your children attend school regularly and on time. Your support really does make a difference.

We have also seen some excellent examples of positive behaviour, kindness and hard work across the academy. The vast majority of our students continue to demonstrate our high expectations every day, and I am particularly pleased to see our WMA values becoming embedded in the way students conduct themselves, approach their learning and treat one another.

Of course, there are always areas where we can improve, and we will continue to address these with consistency and determination. Our ambition remains clear: to create a calm, purposeful and positive school environment where **teachers can teach and students can learn**.

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Thank you for your engagement and partnership

One of the real highlights of this half term for me personally has been the opportunity to meet and speak with so many of you.

Our Headteacher Coffee and Cake sessions have provided some fantastic opportunities for open, honest and constructive conversations. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing your experiences, listening to your suggestions and discussing ideas about how we can continue to make WMA even better. At the beginning of Half Term 2, I will share a summary of the feedback received, alongside the actions we intend to take as a result of these discussions.

I would also like to thank everyone who has signed up to our new Parent Partnership Forum. This is an exciting opportunity for parents and carers to become involved in strategic discussions about the future direction of our school and to help shape our ongoing improvement journey. The deadline to sign up is **today**, Friday 23rd October, so there is still time for anyone wishing to get involved. I will contact everyone who has registered after the half term break with details of our first meeting. WMA Parent Partnership Forum 2026/27 – Fill out form

Our best-ever attended Open Evening!

Another particularly proud moment this half term was our Year 5 and 6 Open Evening, which was our best-attended Open Evening ever, welcoming an incredible **1,113 visitors** through our doors!

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, and it was wonderful to see so many prospective families exploring our classrooms, meeting our staff and students, and experiencing the energy and enthusiasm of WMA.

What pleased me most was that visitors were able to see our school as it really is: a community full of talented young people, dedicated staff, exciting opportunities and genuine ambition. Our students were outstanding ambassadors for the academy, and I could not have been prouder of the way they represented their school.

Celebrating student achievements

There has been no shortage of reasons to celebrate our students this half term!

Our recent GCSE Performance Showcase was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the achievements, hard work and talents of our young people. Events like these remind us that success comes in many forms and that every achievement deserves recognition.

Behind the scenes, rehearsals are well underway for our upcoming school production of Annie, and excitement is building as students prepare to bring this much-loved musical to life. Meanwhile, our staff and student pantomime rehearsals are also in full swing, with lines being learnt and plenty of laughter along the way! Further information about both productions, including ticket sales, will be shared in due course.

A special congratulations must also go to Freddie in Year 7, who became our very first Star Prize winner, taking home a fantastic Marlin Trek 7 bike! Well done, Freddie! I would also like to congratulate every student who earned a place in the prize draw through their fantastic effort, achievements and positive

contributions this half term. We love being able to recognise and reward students who consistently make the right choices and demonstrate our school values. And the good news is that there will be another Star Prize up for grabs in Half Term 2!

We will shortly be sharing our updated rewards offer for the next half term, outlining the many exciting opportunities for students to earn recognition and celebrate their successes.

Enrichment – opportunities beyond the classroom

We are delighted to have launched our new WMA Enrichment Offer, providing students with a growing range of opportunities to explore new interests, develop talents, build friendships and get involved in activities beyond their usual lessons.

We want every student to find something they enjoy and feel part of, whether that is through sport, creativity, academic interests or trying something completely new.

You can view our two-week enrichment timetable via our website here: Whitcliffe Mount, A SHARE Academy - Enrichment

Please encourage your child to explore what is available and get involved. A strong school experience is about so much more than what happens in the classroom.

Returning ready for Half Term 2 – Monday 2nd November

Whilst we have much to celebrate, I also want to be clear about the importance of maintaining our high standards as we move into the next half term.

Towards the end of this half term, we have noticed that uniform standards have begun to slip for a small number of students. Some families will therefore receive personalised letters identifying specific uniform issues that must be addressed before students return on Monday 2nd November.

I would ask all parents and carers to use some time during the half term break to check that their child is fully prepared for their return to school. In particular, please ensure that your child has:

- The correct school uniform, including appropriate footwear.
- A suitable school bag to carry their belongings and equipment.
- All required stationery and equipment, including spare pens and pencils.
- Everything they need to arrive at school organised and ready to learn.

When we return, we will be undertaking a whole-school routines reset, reinforcing our expectations around uniform, punctuality, behaviour, equipment and conduct. All students will also receive a fresh printed copy of their timetable to support them in starting the new half term positively. Our message is simple: we want every student to return ready to hit the ground running, with no avoidable excuses or barriers to learning.

Your support in preparing your child for this is greatly appreciated. The small things matter, and when we get these right, we create the conditions for every student to thrive.

Finally, thank you

As I reflect on these first eight weeks, what stands out most is the strength of our school community and the collective ambition we have for our young people.

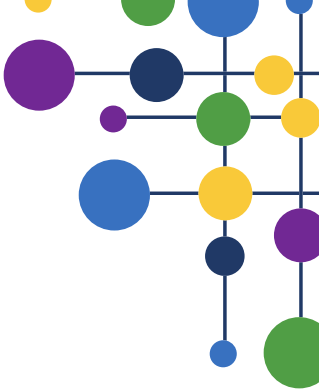
There is a real sense of momentum at WMA. We have made a strong start, we have much to be proud of, and we know there is still plenty of work ahead. I am determined that we continue building on the positives, addressing the things that need to improve and ensuring that every student receives the very best educational experience we can provide.

Thank you to our staff for their hard work and commitment, to our students for the energy, character and enthusiasm they bring to school each day, and to you, our parents and carers, for your continued trust, encouragement and support.

I hope you and your families enjoy a restful, happy and well-deserved half term break.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on **Monday 2nd November**, with Breakfast Club opening as usual at **8.00am**.

Warmest wishes,

Zoe Ali

Headteacher