



Welcome to Our Christmas Newsletter

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As we come to the close of a very successful and productive term, it is a great opportunity to acknowledge all that has been achieved across our school community. This term has been marked by effort, progress and many successes, and I am extremely proud of the way our students have approached their learning, shown commitment, and upheld our school values.

To our students: your positive attitudes, creativity and willingness to get involved have been wonderful to see. You should be proud of your achievements thus far. I hope you enjoy a well-earned break, taking time to relax and return refreshed for the opportunities that lie ahead.

To our parents and carers: thank you for your ongoing encouragement and partnership this term. Your support plays an essential role in your child's learning and personal development, and we are extremely grateful for it.

With the festive season fast approaching, I would like to extend my best wishes to you all for a happy and safe Christmas and a joyful New Year. May the holidays be a time for rest, celebration and quality time with family and friends.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year for another rewarding term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Victoria Walmsley – Head of School



Celebrating Excellent Attendance!

To reward our students for their 100% attendance for last half term, we celebrated their commitment by treating them to a well-deserved, special reward which gave them a break from their usual timetable to enjoy a selection of fun activities of their choice.

From energetic games to relaxing and socialising with friends, laughter and excitement filled the school as students made the most of their celebration time. Their enthusiasm reflected the dedication they have shown to being present and making every school day count.

To further celebrate and acknowledge their attendance, additional rewards were provided, including exclusive VIP passes granting priority access to the lunch queue for the recipient and a friend of their choice. A reward that was well-received by our students.

We are incredibly proud of every student who reached this achievement. Their commitment is a shining example that hard work reaps rewards and that attendance truly makes a difference. Well done and keep up the fantastic work!





Coming Together in Remembrance

Our school community united to commemorate Remembrance Day with reflection, respect, and gratitude. Whether in classrooms or gathered on the school yard, students and staff paused together as *The Last Post* played, followed by a two-minute silence to honour those who served and sacrificed. It was a powerful moment of shared remembrance to show that we will remember them.

As part of Remembrance Day, in their English lesson, our Year 10 students explored the symbolism of the poppy and studied the poignant poem *In Flanders Fields*. Their thoughtful discussions and sensitive responses showed a deep understanding of the meaning behind remembrance and the emotional impact of poetry.

Lastly, a special Remembrance Day service was also held in our Chapel, led by our Governor, Reverend Nicola Butterworth. The school choir filled the space with their beautiful rendition of our school song and hymns, creating a moving atmosphere of unity and gratitude. A heartfelt reading of *In Flanders Fields* further reflected on the profound sacrifices made in the pursuit of peace.

We were honoured to welcome our Trustee and former student, Colin Higham, who recently cycled the Western Front Way in remembrance of fallen soldiers. His reflections and experiences deeply inspired everyone present.

It was a truly touching day, one that reminded us of the importance of remembrance, unity, and hope for peace.



Year 9 Personal Development Day

Our Year 9 students made us incredibly proud during their recent Educate Against Hate personal development day. Throughout the day, they explored sensitive and challenging themes with maturity, respect, and thoughtfulness, demonstrating a real commitment to learning and understanding one another.

Their teamwork did not stop there. With enthusiasm and generosity, the students also organised a cake sale in support of Bolton charity Fort Alice, raising an impressive £126.06.

This fantastic effort showcased not only their kindness but also the strong sense of community within Year 9. It was a wonderful reflection of our school values of respect, belonging, honesty, and support, and a reminder of the positive impact our students can make both in school and beyond.





A Visit from Phil Brickell MP

Rivington and Blackrod High School were delighted to welcome Bolton West MP, Phil Brickell for a special visit to our school. During his time with us, he toured the site, met with students and enjoyed a fantastic presentation delivered by our senior prefects, who represented the school with confidence and pride.

The visit was a great opportunity for students with an interest in politics to gain first-hand insight into public service and leadership. It sparked thoughtful conversations and has already prompted plans for a future visit to Parliament, giving our students an exciting chance to see democracy in action beyond the classroom.



Celebrating Success Beyond the Classroom

This half term has been a fantastic reminder of the power and importance of extracurricular activities in our school community. Taking part in clubs, teams and enrichment opportunities gives students the chance to develop character, confidence and resilience beyond the classroom. Whether through sport, science or teamwork, these experiences help students build self-belief, learn how to handle challenge, and discover new passions.

We have had some incredible successes this half term. Our U13 girls football won the Utilita Cup delivering a thrilling performance. They secured three wins and two draws before clinching the title in a nail-biting final, triumphing in an intense penalty shootout. An outstanding achievement and a true display of determination and teamwork.

Our Year 9 girls netball team were equally impressive, dominating the Bolton Netball League by playing and winning six games in one evening. Their commitment, skill and teamwork shone throughout the competition.

It was also an exciting milestone for our Year 7 boys rugby team, who took part in their first-ever tournament. The boys were fantastic, showing enthusiasm, courage and sportsmanship. We look forward to seeing how this promising team develops over the rest of the academic year.

Beyond sport, our Science Club offered students a hands-on opportunity to explore real-life science. Students observed living Daphnia under microscopes, measuring their heart rates and investigating how substances such as caffeine and aspirin affected them. The session sparked curiosity, careful observation and critical thinking. We are incredibly proud of all the students involved and look forward to even more successes next term.





Inspiring Visits to the University of Cambridge

Recently, some of our Year 10 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit the University of Cambridge, where they enjoyed a guided tour of the stunning grounds and learned first-hand what life is like as a Cambridge student. The visit was both eye-opening and inspiring, with students leaving the visit feeling motivated and excited about the possibilities of university in their future. We are very grateful to the University of Cambridge for hosting such a memorable experience.



Our Year 12 students also enjoyed a brilliant day at St John's College, University of Cambridge, where they were welcomed for a special event designed to give them a real insight into university life. During the visit, students met and chatted with current undergraduates, took a guided tour of the College, attended an informative presentation on the admissions process, and took part in an engaging higher education activity.



These visits were invaluable opportunities for our students to explore what studying at Cambridge could be like and to start imagining their own futures in higher education.

Green Careers Week

As part of Green Careers Week, our KS3 students took part in an inspiring and informative visit to Vital Energi. The experience gave students a valuable insight into the growing world of green careers and the vital role sustainable energy plays in our future.

During the visit, students had the opportunity to meet apprentices and staff, tour the company's head office and learn how sustainability is embedded into real-world engineering projects. They also enjoyed an exciting hands-on engineering task, allowing them to put their problem-solving skills into action.

Throughout the day, our students impressed staff with their thoughtful questions, enthusiasm and genuine curiosity about sustainable energy and future career pathways. The visit was a fantastic opportunity to see green careers in action and inspired many students to think about how they could contribute to a more sustainable world.





Kindness at Christmas

As the festive season approaches, our school has been filled with the spirit of generosity and kindness. Since the launch of our school's Shoe Box Appeal, aimed at collecting gifts for those in need, our Christmas tree in the school reception was filled with impressive stacks of Christmas shoeboxes, generously donated by our students. The sheer number of boxes collected was truly remarkable and a powerful reminder of how passionate our students are about giving back at this special time of year. Their generosity is a real credit to them and to the families who support and encourage them every day.

We have also enjoyed another proud moment through our partnership with Bolton Wanderers in the Community. Our students were given the opportunity to choose a charity for their Christmas collection, and they thoughtfully selected the Destitute Animals Shelter in Bolton. What followed was nothing short of amazing. Students donated an incredible amount of animal food, toys, and comforting items, showing compassion not only for people in need but for animals as well.

Watch the video below to see the remarkable donations from our students.

[Destitute Animal Charity Collection.mov](#)

These acts of kindness highlight the empathy, generosity, and community spirit that shines so brightly within our school. We are immensely proud of our students for the care and consideration they have shown, reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

In further acts to spread joy and kindness this Christmas, our students also took time to think of others within our local community. They wrote thoughtful Christmas cards, filled with warm messages and festive cheer, which were delivered to the residents of Rivington View Nursing Home, helping to brighten their holiday season and bring smiles to their faces. In addition, students and families generously donated tins for the Urban Outreach tin collection, supporting individuals and families in need at this challenging time of year. Also, our student leaders visited Urban Outreach and successfully packed 400 hampers which will be distributed to families this Christmas. These heartfelt gestures further demonstrate the compassion, generosity and strong sense of community that our students continue to show, making us incredibly proud and perfectly capturing the true spirit of Christmas.





A Christmas Celebration

Our school was filled with warmth, joy, and festive spirit during our Christmas Celebration 2025, an evening that will be remembered by all who attended. Students, families and staff came together to enjoy a truly magical event that captured the heart of the Christmas season.

The celebration featured a wonderful variety of readings, carols, and performances. Our choir set the tone beautifully, their harmonies filling the room and creating a sense of peace and togetherness. The drama club then brought the story of Mary's journey to life through moving and thoughtful performances, while the dance club delighted the audience with a lively and expressive routine inspired by The Polar Express.

Throughout the evening, it was lovely to see the whole community joining in singing along to familiar carols, sharing smiles and celebrating together in such a joyful spirit.

We were also honoured to welcome Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Middleton, whose inspiring reflection added depth and meaning to the evening and reminded us of the true message of Christmas.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended and to all the students and staff who worked so hard to make this celebration such a memorable and special occasion.



The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe

Our Year 7 students had an unforgettable day out at The Lowry Theatre, where they were transported into the magical world of Narnia with the performance of The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.

From the moment the Pevensie children stepped through the wardrobe, our students were captivated by the enchanting sets, stunning costumes and thrilling performances. There were gasps of surprise, bursts of laughter and cheers as the adventure unfolded on stage.

The trip was a wonderful opportunity for our students to experience live theatre and share the magic of storytelling together, creating memories they won't forget!



Winterfest 2025

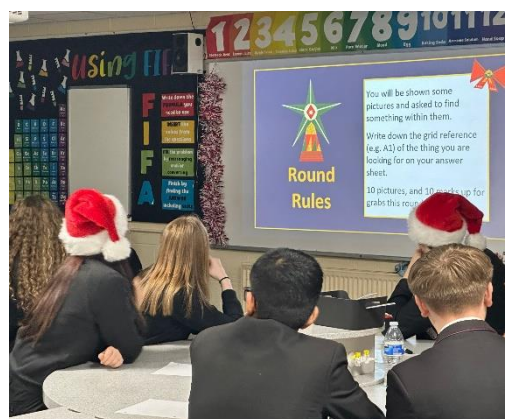
The anticipation had been building across the school as students and staff eagerly awaited our fun-filled, festive Winterfest celebration. When the day finally arrived, it certainly did not disappoint.

Winterfest was packed with exciting and engaging activities designed to bring our school community together. Students enthusiastically took part in department-themed Christmas house competitions, showing great teamwork, creativity and school spirit. Laughter and friendly competition filled the halls during Christmas bingo and the ever popular "Finish the Lyrics" challenge, which had everyone singing along.

A particularly meaningful part of the day was our charity and gratitude sessions. Students spent time writing Christmas cards for members of the local community, spreading festive cheer beyond the school gates. These sessions concluded with thoughtful learning and reflection around charity and collective responsibility, with students setting personal pledges for 2026.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, students and staff also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner together, sharing time with peers and teachers and strengthening the sense of community that makes our school so special.

Winterfest was a fantastic way to reward our students for taking part, working hard and doing the right thing throughout the first school term. It was a wonderful celebration of effort, kindness and togetherness. A memorable way to end the term on a positive note ready for a new year ahead!



*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*