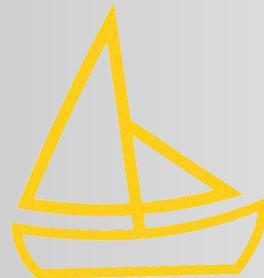




Swale
ACADEMIES
TRUST



PROSPECTUS



The
Whitstable
School



WARM WELCOME

Welcome to the Whitstable School, the highest performing non-selective school within the district, recently graded Good in all areas by Ofsted in 2024.

The Whitstable School is a passionate, purposeful, and progressive place to study: our students foster a deep love for learning and continually strive to reach their full potential. As part of the highly successful Swale Academies Trust, we offer an excellent education for our students, promoting the enjoyment of academic enquiry and debate.

We acknowledge that curiosity, creativity, and diligence are fundamental components that contribute to student advancement. We take great pride in our exceptional academic accomplishments and are honoured to possess the highest GCSE results in the district among non-selective institutions. Our students consistently excel across all subjects, setting new benchmarks for excellence and demonstrating the effectiveness of our comprehensive educational approach. Year after year, our students achieve top grades, with a significant number gaining the highest possible marks.

The majority of our students complete their studies with the EBACC qualification, having engaged in language studies alongside science and humanities. Our students frequently earn recognition in various academic competitions, including science fairs, performance contests, and mathematics challenges, all of which highlight their knowledge, creativity, and problem-solving abilities.

Our established history of outstanding academic results and our commitment to student development ensure that every student not only meets but exceeds their potential. We firmly believe that every student possesses the potential for greatness, and we are dedicated to fostering an environment that nurtures their talents and supports their academic endeavours.

“Academic excellence is not just a goal; it’s a standard”

- Mr A Holmes, Headteacher



MR A HOLMES

**HEADTEACHER
BA (Hons), MA, NPQH**



OUR VALUES

We intend for every student to leave as a confident, principled, respectful individual with exceptional exam results.

Our **TRACK** values of **Tolerance, Resilience, Achievement, Courtesy, and Knowledge** are embedded throughout the school and embraced by students and staff. Our strong pastoral ethos ensures that every student is well cared for and develops as an individual. We teach Personal Development by examining a range of different areas to enlighten students about the ever-changing world. This subject is designed to hone life skills which will support our students to become confident adults.

Our teaching pedagogy promotes adaptive teaching strategies to meet the needs of all learners, including any SEND support. Teachers give **TRACK** points which can be used to purchase items in our reward shop and we celebrate achievement in weekly assemblies. Students can showcase their work to the Headteacher for an entry into the Book of Excellence and be invited to a special reward lunch. Postcards and positive phone calls home are actively encouraged and we believe this positive feedback adds to the well-being of both staff and children.

Our excellent pastoral and safeguarding care is at the heart of our commitment to each student's well-being and success. Every student is assigned a dedicated Pastoral Support Manager who provides daily support, ensuring that students feel cared for and understood throughout their school experience. In addition, students meet weekly with their **TRACK** mentor, who offers personalised guidance and support, helping them navigate both academic and personal challenges. Overseeing this comprehensive support network is the Head of the Year, who closely monitors each student's progress and overall well-being, ensuring that their needs are met both in and out of the classroom. Our commitment to safeguarding extends beyond the school day, with a dedicated team focused on ensuring the safety and security of our students. Through this robust and attentive system, we ensure that every student is supported, safe, and empowered to thrive.

“As a parent, I am incredibly impressed by the strong values upheld at the school. The emphasis on respect, kindness, and responsibility is evident in everything they do“

-Year 8 Parent





TRANSITION

Our school provides an exceptional transition experience from primary to secondary education, designed to ensure that every student feels supported, confident, and prepared for the next stage of their academic journey.

From the outset, we engage with both students and their families through an extensive orientation programme that includes school tours, information sessions, and meet-the-teacher events. During October, we host our open events. Here, Senior Leaders and students are available to talk through the exciting and diverse learning opportunities that we offer and during our Open Evening, current students will be available to share their experiences of The Whitstable School. As the summer term draws to a close, we invite Year 6 students to spend time at our school, participating in a comprehensive induction programme and at the beginning of Year 7, we hold a settling-in evening, providing an opportunity for parents to meet with mentors and the Head of Year 7.

Additionally, we offer taster days where students can participate in secondary-level classes and activities, helping to ease any anxieties and build excitement for the move. These initiatives help students familiarise themselves with the new environment, meet key staff members, and understand the academic expectations of secondary school. To further support a seamless transition, we place a strong emphasis on individual care and attention. Each student is paired with a dedicated transition mentor who guides them through their first year, ensuring they receive personalised academic and pastoral support.

We establish strong links with primary schools to understand each student's strengths, needs, and learning styles, enabling us to tailor our approach and ensure continuity in their education. This understanding allows us to customise our educational approach and maintain continuity in their learning journey. Through a combination of thoughtful preparation, personalised support, and ongoing communication, we create an enriching and smooth transition experience that sets students up for success in their secondary education.

Choosing to become a part of our community at The Whitstable School is a significant step, and we dedicate ourselves to ensuring this transition is as enriching and positive as possible.

“The transition to Year 7 was amazing- the teachers and older students made me feel welcome right away, and quickly felt like I belonged. “

-Year 7 Student





PATHWAYS

Unlock your full potential with the TWS Grammar Stream Pathway, a programme designed to challenge and inspire our most academically gifted students.

Joining our Grammar Stream Pathway, is more than just a programme; it's a journey of intellectual discovery and personal development. Our **STAGE** and **STEM** Academy curriculum pathways offer an extraordinary opportunity for students to dive deeper into their passions, whether they are budding performers or future innovators. These pathways provide additional lessons and students stay after school once a week to work on exciting, hands-on projects that go beyond the standard curriculum. Whether your child is interested in the arts or science and technology, these programmes are designed to ignite their curiosity, creativity, and ambition.

This pathway provides a rigorous and enriching educational experience, fostering intellectual growth and preparing students for success in higher education and beyond. The pathway offers an accelerated curriculum that covers advanced topics and concepts allowing students to engage in a faster-paced learning environment that encourages deep understanding and critical thinking.

During their **TRACK** periods, students gain from the specialised knowledge of academic mentors who offer personalised guidance and support tailored to each student's distinct educational path. They engage in leadership workshops, community service initiatives, and extracurricular activities that foster confidence, accountability, and collaboration, all aimed at equipping students for entry into prestigious universities.

Students are presented with opportunities to tackle real-world issues, working collaboratively on projects that enhance their abilities and expand their creative thinking. They also benefit from the exceptional opportunity to interact with industry professionals, including business experts and performance artists, who pass on their insights and experiences, motivating students to chase their aspirations.

Whether engaged in a theatrical performance or showcasing an innovative **STEM** project, your child will acquire invaluable experience and a profound sense of achievement. These pathways not only bolster their academic and creative competencies, but also foster essential life skills such as collaboration, problem-solving, and effective communication.

Choosing the **STAGE** or **STEM** pathway provides your child with a chance to flourish in an environment that cultivates their talents and equips them for a promising future.

“The grammar stream has really challenged me academically, and I've seen huge progress in my learning since joining. “

-Year 11 Student





STEM ACADEMY

- Engage in hands-on, project-based learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.
- Develop critical problem-solving skills and explore future career opportunities.
- Participate in extra-curricular projects and competitions.

STAGE ACADEMY

- Immerse in performing arts with specialised lessons in Drama, Music, and Dance.
- Perform in school productions and showcases.
- Collaborate with experienced professionals and peers to hone your craft.



OUR CURRICULUM

At The Whitstable School, we strive for academic excellence through a creative, dynamic, and captivating curriculum.

We have a strong creative curriculum that fosters innovation and critical thinking by integrating artistic and academic disciplines, encouraging students to explore and express their ideas in diverse ways. It cultivates a love for learning by making education more engaging and relevant, allowing students to make connections across different subjects and develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

At Key Stage 3 students can study subjects like Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, and Dance which are often only offered at GCSE level for most schools. These subjects provide creative outlets and help build important skills such as problem-solving, self-expression, and collaboration. Early exposure to a variety of disciplines also broadens students' perspectives and can guide them toward future passions and careers.

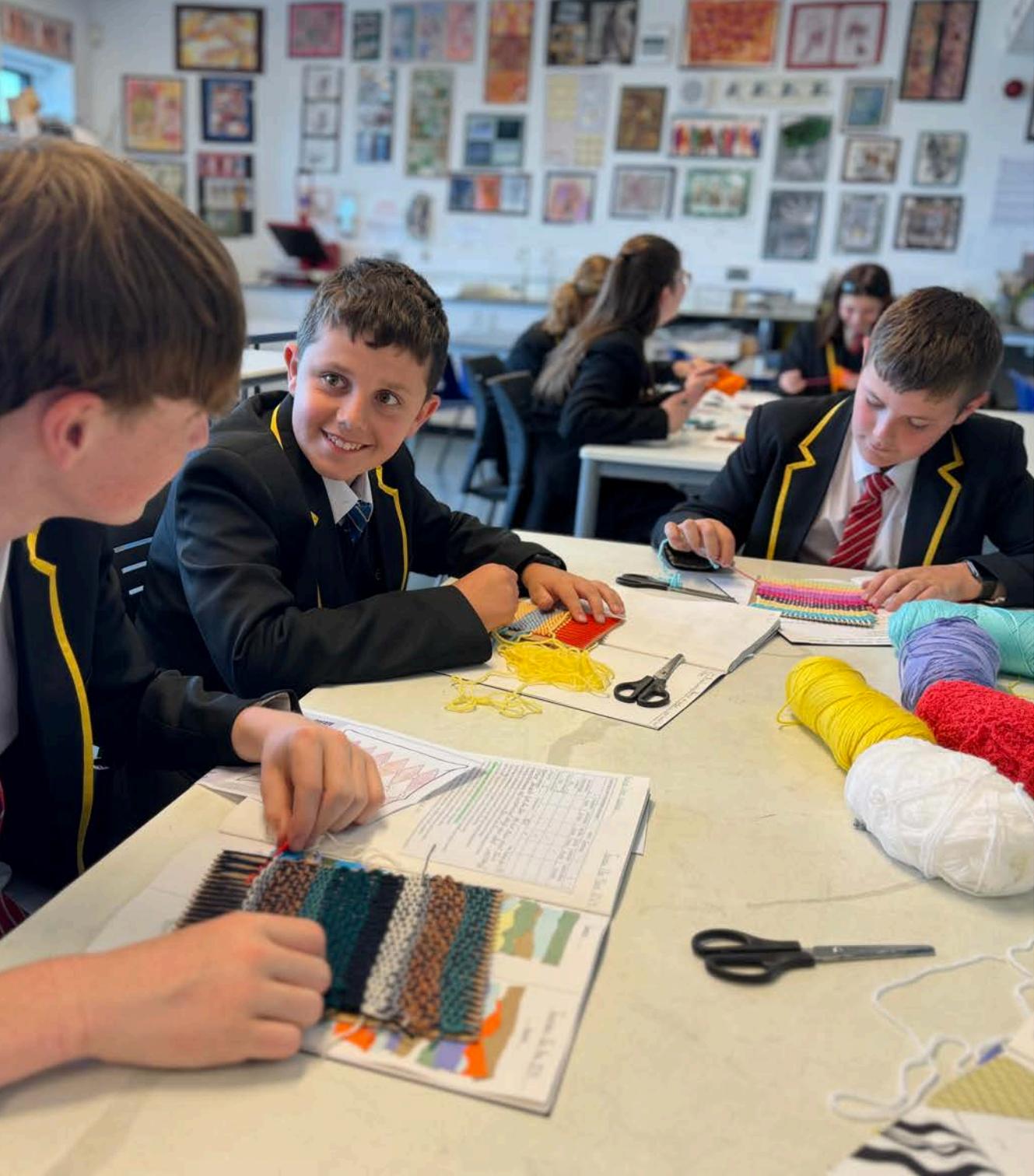
In Years 10 and 11, they continue to study core curriculum subjects: English literature and language, Mathematics, Statistics, Science, Spanish, and Geography or History alongside their optional choices totaling 10 GCSEs. Students also have Religious Studies, Physical Education and Personal Development lessons each week. GCSE option subjects include Visual Arts (Textiles, Photography and Fine Art), Music, Drama, Dance, Construction, Health and Social Care, Sport, Design Technology, Food Technology, Business, Computer Science, Citizenship, Ethics & Philosophy, and a variety of additional subjects.

We want all students to have the chance to discover and develop their unique talents and our curriculum is designed to incorporate career education at every stage, helping your child make informed choices about their future.

By connecting their learning to real-world opportunities, we inspire students to pursue their passions with purpose and equip them with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in today's ever-evolving job market.

*"There are high expectations for what every student in this school can achieve "
- Ofsted 2024*





SPECIAL APTITUDE

At The Whitstable School, creativity is central to our school curriculum and extracurricular provision.

At the Whitstable School, we offer 10% of our admission places each year to children who demonstrate an aptitude for Music, Drama, Dance, or Art & Design. Students will hone their skills under the tutelage of our excellent teachers, using our state-of-the-art facilities and always learning and developing in a safe and supportive environment.

Students can take advantage of our strong connections with the performing arts sector at both local and national levels. They have the opportunity to engage with visiting artists who provide masterclasses and exceptional creative experiences. Additionally, students are presented with a variety of opportunities to participate in arts-related performances, productions, educational excursions, residential programmes, and international trips. Any parents or carers who have a child in Year 6 can apply for a Special Aptitude place providing that their child can demonstrate an aptitude for one of the four subjects.

Students who wish to be considered should fill out the Local Authority's 'Common Application Form', in addition to the 'Supplementary Information Form' which can be found on our website under Admissions. Applicants are invited to an assessment event during November and take part in a workshop selection process in their chosen discipline.

During our admissions process, we encourage prospective students and parents to book a tour to explore our facilities and meet our faculty. Open evenings and events take place in October and give the opportunity to hear from the Headteacher, meet staff and current students, tour the school facilities, and visit subject classes.

To book a place on one of our open morning tours please contact main reception on 01227 931300 or email tws_admin@swale.at

“As a parent, I was so impressed with how smoothly the transition to Year 7 was handled—the school’s support made my child feel confident and excited about starting secondary school”
- Year 7 Parent





OUR COMMUNITY

We celebrate the voices of our parents and students through a variety of initiatives, designed to foster active participation and collaboration.

Our Curriculum Evenings, open-day tours, and weekly newsletter keep families informed and engaged with our educational programmes. The Parents' Forum and Headteacher review evenings provide platforms for sharing feedback and suggestions, while our student parliament and community events ensure that everyone has a voice in shaping our school life.

At The Whitstable School, every student is assigned to one of our two Houses: Endeavour or Victory. This House system promotes a sense of community, belonging, and encourages healthy competition among students. By organising students into one of two Houses it encourages camaraderie, leadership, and teamwork across different age groups. House activities, such as sports, academic challenges, and charity events, enhance school spirit and provide students with opportunities to develop interpersonal skills and resilience. This House System also provides the pastoral support, academic challenge, and sense of belonging that are essential in developing our students into young adults. Students feel a sense of pride in their House and are given opportunities to represent them in sports, drama and music competitions, as well as academic work.

Within the House System, students are in small mentor groups and they will meet daily to follow a tailored programme that develops them beyond the classroom. Our programme is unique in its provision of termly exhibitions. These events are led by students and serve as a demonstration of the learning they have achieved in different subject areas. We believe these termly exhibitions are an outstanding way of sharing, celebrating, and articulating students' work and we encourage them to develop and demonstrate their oracy skills in front of parents and special guests.

'It's reassuring to know that my child is part of a community that truly cares about character development as much as academic success.'

- Year 10 Parent





PROGRESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

At our school, we are committed to challenging all students and ensuring they make exceptional progress by providing a tailored, high-quality education that meets individual needs.

Situated in Whitstable, a vibrant artistic community with excellent connections to London, we are able to provide experiences and opportunities that foster our students' resilience and creativity, broadening their perspectives on the possibilities available to them. Through the utilisation of data-informed assessments, we are able to recognise the individual strengths and growth opportunities of each student, which allows us to formulate ambitious yet realistic objectives.

Our tailored teaching methodologies and individualised learning plans guarantee that each student remains engaged and challenged, irrespective of their initial capabilities. During their **TRACK** periods, students receive the benefit of academic mentors who offer personalised guidance and support, catering to each learner's distinct educational path.

Beyond the academic endeavours, our extracurricular programme presents a wide variety of opportunities. Students can engage in numerous clubs, including Climbing, Art, Music, STEM, Dance, Chess, Drama, History, and many more.

Additionally, Swale Academies Trust facilitates a broad spectrum of inter-school activities for students, including the literary event 'Shakesfest' and the dance competition 'Swale Dance Fever,' among others. We are also actively involved in district competitions across all mainstream sports and our Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme commencing in Year 9, is well-established.

Our Creative Arts department takes great pride in its Artsmark status and maintains a robust programme, providing numerous opportunities for students to display their work through exhibitions and performances within the local community.

We are excited to announce a new initiative called 'Audience with . . .' featuring distinguished individuals who share their experiences with our students. Our past guests have included Hollywood actors, World War II veterans, Ice Maiden explorers, and celebrated authors.

Furthermore, we organise excursions to theatres, museums, exhibitions, and universities to broaden students' understanding of the world beyond the classroom. Participation in these clubs and events cultivates a sense of accomplishment and pride among our students and we believe that regardless of your child's abilities, interests, or passions, they are sure to discover activities that enhance their experience at The Whitstable School.

*"The school ensures all students feel confident and happy in school,
finding their area of excellence."
- Ofsted 2024*





MOVING UP AND MOVING ON

Our younger years aspire to join our highly successful sixth form where we encourage academic excellence and personal growth to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

The Whitstable School prepares students for future employment and continued academic success by encouraging initiative, confidence, and compassion. We highly value the support we provide to help them attain their highest potential. We take a unique approach by centering our curriculum on the individual needs of our students and provide a full range of vocational and academic courses, including traditional A-levels and Level 3 vocational qualifications. Our commitment to the personal development and overall well-being of each student is evident, as we emphasise experiential learning, complemented by the support of a dedicated pastoral team.

The sixth form fosters a true sense of camaraderie and community, featuring a dedicated study space within the school premises. Students act as outstanding role models for their younger counterparts and contribute significantly to the lower school by engaging in various leadership activities. Our sixth form also offers The Whitstable Town Football Academy in partnership with Football Futures.

This is a full-time educational programme, which provides students with the opportunity to access professional standard football training alongside a structured educational route to meet their needs. Students have the opportunity to complete qualifications; A Levels, L3 vocational, and GCSE resits, as well as the opportunity to access football coaching with UEFA-qualified coaches who have both professional and semi-professional club connections. Students on the programme will train around 8 hours a week at the Whitstable Town Football Club and then will be based at The Whitstable School for all studies.

Students can also study our new Accelerate Programme designed to equip them with the confidence and qualifications needed to progress onto a Level 3 apprenticeship or course.

This exciting pathway equips students with the required level of English, Maths and digital literacy. We build teamwork, communication and employability skills with bespoke work experience placements

*“The school has produced an ambitious and broad curriculum that runs right through to the sixth form.”
- Ofsted 2024*







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