

15 NOVEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

This week, we were impressed by the fantastic work produced by our students, which was celebrated in our Book of Commendation. We also took a moment to reflect and remember on Remembrance Day, with a one-minute silence and our Sixth Form students took part in a wreath-laying ceremony.

Key Dates:

- 18-19 November 2024 - Childhood Immunisation programme
- 20 November 2024 - Year 10 Aspire Evening
- 29 November 2024 - Staff Development Day
- 17 and 18 December - Christmas Variety Show
- 18 December 2024 - Christmas Dinner
- 20 December 2024 - Non Uniform Day
- 20 December 2024 - Term 2 Ends (Early Finish at 12:45)

Staff Update

**Miss Barrett- English is now Mrs Rosa.
Congratulations on her recent marriage!**

Staff Leaving

- **Mr Bills - Maths**
- **Mr Williamson- English**

 The Whitstable School
LEARN LOCALLY, THINK GLOBALLY



**SIXTH FORM
OPEN EVENING
28 NOVEMBER 2024
5.30PM - 7PM**

Bellevue Road,
Whitstable, Kent CT5 1PX

TELEPHONE: 01227 931300
WWW.THEWHITSTABLESCHOOL.ORG.UK



We are excited to launch new A Levels in History, Physics and Biology as well as a unique **Golf Academy** in partnership with **The Cave in Faversham**.

We are now accepting applications to our Sixth Form ahead of our open evening on the 28th of November. For more information please visit [Kent Choices](#)



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Registered in England No. 07344732

SCHOOL NEWS

Let's bring Padel to our school! 🎾

We're exploring the possibility of adding Padel courts to our school. To ensure we make the right decision, we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Please take a few minutes to complete our survey:

[Padel club at TWS survey.](#)

Your feedback will help us shape the future of our school sports facilities.



Inspire and Shine: Celebrating Student Excellence!



The Inspire and Shine Initiative celebrated exceptional student work across all subjects and all year groups completed since September. Students were nominated by teachers for outstanding achievements, and their work was showcased and rewarded.

You may have seen on social media a small sample of this work - but now you can see in this attached slideshow a much greater range of the work that was celebrated. This work will be displayed internally on our TV screens throughout Term 2, providing a shining example of the standards that all students should strive for. This initiative highlights the school's commitment for students to be inspired creatively and become confident, principled, and respectful individuals with exceptional outcomes. Click on the link to view the slideshows: [TWS Inspire and Shine](#)

Kindness Matters

This term, we're focusing on the importance of kindness. We've held assemblies and TRACK periods to explore the value of kindness for both the giver and the receiver.

Students have been encouraged to consider their own kind actions, to notice kindness around the school, and to reach out to those who may need support. At the end of term, we'll recognize outstanding acts of kindness that have impressed us or touched the lives of others in our school community as part of our reward assemblies.

Our simple message for this term: **Show up (on time). Try hard. Be kind!**



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REMINDERS

**Engines Off * **

To help reduce air pollution, noise levels, and respect our neighbour's, please remember to turn off your engine while waiting to drop off or pick up your child. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fish and Chips Day

Please note that Thursday 28 November 2024 will be Fish and Chips Day due to Staff Development Day on Friday 29 November 2024.

Year 7 Trip

Year 7 is heading to the Science Museum on December 9th. Please pay through Parent Pay

THIS WEEK SO FAR...

TWS Students Join Forces for Environmental Action

Last Friday, we joined forces with other schools for the launching of **SWALE ECOFEST!**

Our students worked together to create stunning and thought-provoking art pieces using recycled materials.

We're proud of their creativity and commitment to sustainability.

For more information, please visit our website: [Swale Ecofest](https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/swale-ecofest)



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Remembering the Fallen: A Mark of Respect

On Monday, we observed a minute's silence to commemorate **Remembrance Day**. Additionally, four Sixth Form students represented our school at the Whitstable War Memorial, laying a wreath in honour of all British and Commonwealth service members who have sacrificed their lives.

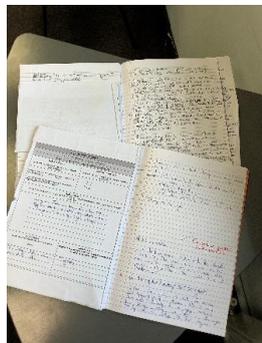
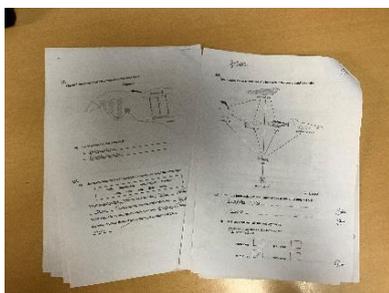


Year 12 Football Academy Secure Thrilling Away Win! 🏆

Huge congratulations to our **Year 12 Football Academy national league team** which won 3-2 away to Worthing in Brighton. It was a very tight game with both teams displaying excellent passing throughout. Whitstable scored to make it 2-1 at half time. After some great football resulting in over 15 passes, Whitstable were awarded a penalty. Luca Year12, calmly slotted the ball home from the spot to give Whitstable a 3-2 lead with 10 minutes to go. After some great defending, Whitstable held strong to take a brilliant 3 points away at a strong Worthing side. A superb win for the team!

Book of Commendation- Celebrating Student Success

Our Year 9 students have had a fantastic week, producing impressive science posters and outstanding end-of-term assessments. Their hard work and dedication have been rewarded with entries into the Book of Commendation and reward cards. Well done to all!



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TWS VEX Robotics Team Shines in International Competition!

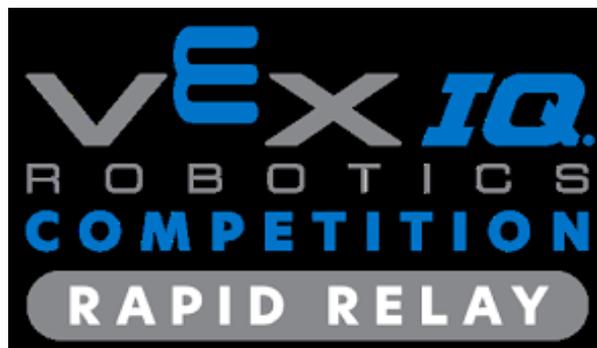
We are thrilled to share the exciting journey of our school's participation in our second qualifying tournaments in **VEX Robotics** at Simon Langton Grammar School in Canterbury.

This tournament we welcomed three teams from Turkey, which we teamed with during an alliance main event game. The students did an excellent job working with them and overcame the language barrier. Our team and theirs utilised technology and creative communication strategies to effectively work with their Turkish counterparts and learned some Turkish during the event in addition. The experience not only fostered strong international bonds but also sharpened our team's problem-solving and adaptability skills. The team's impressive performance led us to victory against strong opponents from grammar schools to private schools, including teams from Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys, North London Collegiate School, and Haileybury School to mention a few.

We secured a commendable 16th place competing against seasoned veteran teams with extensive national and world championship experience. This was a great learning experience for all teams and allowed us to see what is needed to take our robot to the next level to compete. As we gear up for upcoming qualifying tournaments, our team is determined to build upon these experiences and strive for even greater achievements.

We are proud of our student's achievements and grateful for the support of our community.

If you feel that you may wish to sponsor our VEX robotics team, please get in touch with Mrs Donovan-Bayley.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme 2024/25

The Childhood Flu Vaccination Programme 2024/25 is due to take place on 18 and 19 November 2024. Please click on the links below for more information regarding this from the Immunisation Service.

- [Protecting your child against flu. Information for parents and carers.](#)
- [OV Flu Vaccination Guidance](#)

Exciting News

Our Christmas show is back this year! Expect festive cheer, unforgettable performances and holiday magic. ✨

Tickets can be purchased via [Ticketsource](#)



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MacMillan Coffee Morning

Today we're hosting a Macmillan Coffee Morning! ☕🍰

During break time, students will have the chance to contribute by buying cakes and other baked goodies. It's a wonderful opportunity to take a little break, indulge in some tasty treats, and support an amazing cause. All funds raised will go directly to Macmillan Cancer Support, helping them provide essential services to those affected by cancer.

If you would like to support and give an online donation, please click the link or scan the QR code.

<https://cm24.macmillan.org.uk/fundraising/CM24076336>



Give a gift this Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, we are dedicated to ensuring that every child experiences the joy of Christmas, especially those in need. To achieve this, we are reaching out to our wonderful parents for support.

We are kindly requesting donations of Christmas gifts that we can distribute to children who may otherwise not receive gifts this year. Any contribution, whether large or small, will bring happiness and a sense of belonging to these children during this festive season.

Your donation can be a new toy, books, clothing, or any other gifts you feel would delight a child. If you would like to participate in this initiative, please drop off the presents at the school office.



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NOTICE BOARD

Message about Reward Shop Points

When pupils spend positive points in the reward shop, this will show as a negative labelled 'reward shop'. This is to ensure pupils are spending their positive points to buy rewards and therefore will be deducted from the positives. This is not a behaviour issue, just a deduction in points. Any negative points which have been spent in the shop will show as '- reward shop'.

Young Carers at the Whitstable School

Did you know that The Whitstable School now has a Young Carers Support Group running every Wednesday lunchtime in GZ27?

This group will be run by Mrs James and is open to all Young Carers (registered or non-registered) caring for a family member with; a long term illness, disability, poor mental health or substance misuse.

Whether it is to just sit and listen, talk and share or just be in the company of other young people with caring responsibilities, we are here!



Walking Home Alone

Strut Safe is a nationwide phone line which is run by volunteers to keep you company and help you feel safe on your walk home. For more information, please visit: <https://strutsafe.org/>



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10 Top Tips For Parents and Educators TEACHING CYCLE SAFETY

Cycling is an amazing way to spend quality time together as a family, as well as keeping everyone healthy and active – and it's an excellent exercise, whatever the age of your children. Having attended our courses for fun, learning, and there are obvious safety concerns over youngsters who are still getting used to the bike – so follow our top tips to help you ride with confidence.

- CONSIDER CYCLE TRAINING**
Consider the possibility of the children taking a cycle training course. This will give them the confidence and skills to be able to handle their own bikes safely. There are many courses available, including the National Cycle Training Scheme, which is a free of charge course for children aged 5-11.
- USE A SUITABLE BIKE**
Use a bike that is the right size for the child. A bike that is too big or too small can be dangerous. Check the child can reach the handlebars, the ground, and the pedals. Consider a bike with a step-through frame for easier mounting and dismounting.
- TRY A CARGO BIKE**
Cargo bikes are a great option for families with children. They have a large front basket for carrying children and gear, and a smaller front wheel for better stability. They are also easier to maneuver than traditional bikes.
- INSPECT YOUR CYCLE**
Check the bike regularly for any signs of wear or damage. Make sure the brakes, tires, and lights are all working properly. A well-maintained bike is a safer bike.
- BRING SUITABLE GEAR**
Encourage your child to wear a helmet and appropriate clothing. A helmet is essential for safety. Consider reflective gear for visibility, and a first aid kit for emergencies.
- STICK TO FLAT TERRAIN**
Stick to flat, open areas for practice. Avoid busy roads, steep hills, and rough terrain. This helps build confidence and control.
- STAY ALERT AND IN SAFE FORMATIONS**
Stay alert and aware of your surroundings. Use a safe formation when riding with others, such as a line or a staggered line. Avoid distractions like mobile phones.
- AVOID PARKED CARS**
Avoid riding between parked cars. This is a common area for accidents. If you must ride between cars, do so with caution and at a slow speed.
- START A 'BIKE BUS'**
Cycling to school with other families is a great way to encourage cycling and build a sense of community. It's also a fun way to get to school. Consider starting a 'bike bus' with other parents.
- HAVE FUN!**
Remember to have fun! Cycling should be a positive experience. Encourage your child to explore and enjoy the outdoors. Celebrate their achievements and progress.

Meet Our Expert: @twaskip_sends, @wakeupwednesday, @twaskip_sends

Reverse Advent calendar

Help us get ready to help people this Christmas!

Simply add one item each day to a Bag For Life during the month of November, and please consider sharing the list with your colleagues and friends

1 box of cereal	2 long life milk	3 tuna	4 tin of ham	5 dried pasta (500g)	6 Christmas chocolates
7 baked beans	8 tooth paste	9 tin of fruit	10 washing up liquid	11 biscuits	12 peanut butter
13 tin of carrots	14 crisps	15 coffee	16 shower gel	17 tin of peas	18 dog/dorant
19 pasta sauce	20 tin of soup	21 shampoo	22 tea bags	23 mince pies	24 Christmas pudding

We will have collection points in early December, so keep an eye on our social media. If you have collected a lot with your school/group/workplace and would like us to collect, call our Operations Manager on 01227 936450 (option 4) or email warehouse@canterburyfoodbank.org.

If you need support, please call 01227 936450, WhatsApp @01227 501944 or email info@canterburyfoodbank.org
canterburyfoodbank.org



WHITSTABLE Unplugged

Join us and power off

23 NOV **Smartphone-free childhood event**
1.30pm Guest speakers discuss the impact of smartphones
3pm Live performance of *Generation FOMO*, a verbatim play by Isabelle Defaut about young people's use of smartphones and social media (for age 12+), post-show Q&A (4 - 4.30pm)
Liz Atkin will be running a free collaborative mindful art workshop for all ages in the Hub (3-4pm).

24 NOV **Smartphone-free detox day**
Get unplugged and join Whitstable's first 24-hour digital detox challenge.

Book your ticket on the QR code below



FOLLOW US @WHITSTABLE_UNPLUGGED FOR UPDATES

For more updates and events, please visit our website and follow us on X and Facebook.

- <https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/TheWhitstableSchool>
- <https://x.com/TheWhitSchool>

Best wishes
The Whitstable School Team



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