

28 NOVEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

Today, we're excited to welcome prospective students and parents to our **Sixth Form Open Evening**. We'd like to thank our staff for their hard work in preparing for this event. Additionally, we've celebrated some fantastic student achievements, including outstanding work recognized in the **Book of Commendation** and impressive progress in **TRACK**.

Key Dates:

- 28 November 2024 – Sixth Form Open 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)

Update

**** Exciting News! ****

Our new **Sixth Form Open Evening is Tonight.**

Scan the QR code below to download a copy of our new prospectus.



We are excited to welcome prospective students and parents to our Sixth Form Open Evening tonight. For more information please visit [Kent Choices](#)



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



Artsmark
Gold Award
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Council England



GOLD
SCHOOL
2020

ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

A member of Swale Academies Trust

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, ME10 2JS

Registered in England No. 07344732

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.

****Christmas Donations****

As Christmas approaches, please consider donating gifts for children in need. Please drop off donations at the school office by December 12th.

****Missed Your Child's Flu Immunisation? ****

The Immunisation Service would like to invite parents to book an appointment at one of their Community Clinics if your child recently missed their Childhood Flu Immunisation on their visit to TWS.

Parents can book an appointment via their website on the link below, and clicking 'Book a Clinic Appointment':

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/immunisation-team/>

This link also provides other useful information regarding vaccinations and the Immunisation Service.

If your child was vaccinated on their recent visit, you are invited to complete the following surveys [Parent / Carer Survey](#) or [Young Persons Survey 11-19 year olds](#)"

THIS WEEK SO FAR...

TRACK Excellence Raffle Winners Announced!

Each Wednesday, the school will run a 'TRACK Excellence' raffle with three prizes for students. To enter, students just have to have seven or more positive signatures over the two weeks.

Students with negative signatures are still able to participate.

This week winners are Henry YR7, Nancy YR7 and Axl YR8.



Henry and Nancy with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.

Are You on TRACK?

TRACK

TOLERANCE
RESILIENCE
ACHIEVEMENT
COURTESY
KNOWLEDGE



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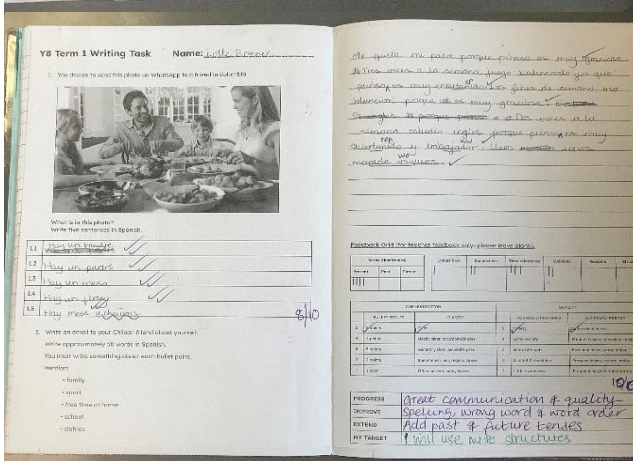
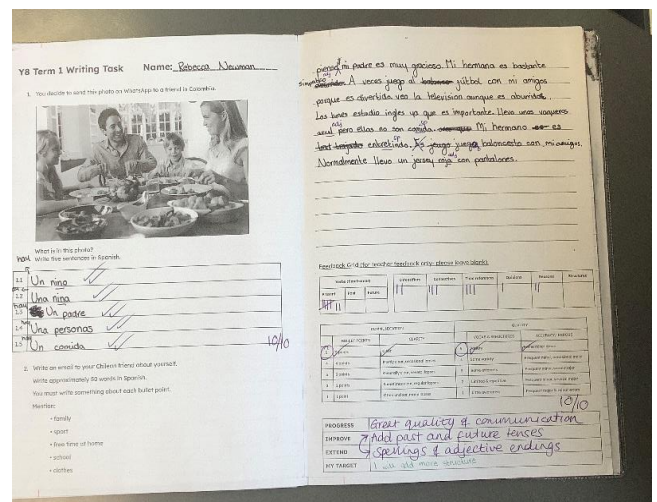
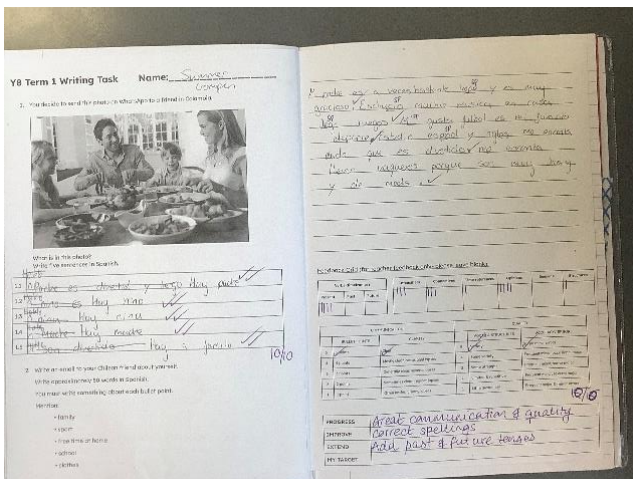
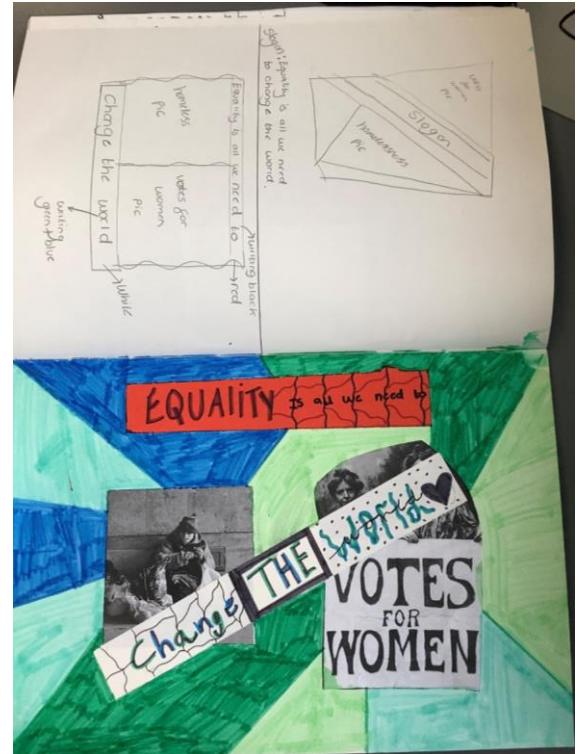
Registered in England No. 07344732

Book of Commendation- Celebrating Student Success!

This week, our students have produced some truly exceptional work, which has earned them well-deserved recognition in the Book of Commendation.

- Well done to Lotte, Rebecca, and Summer for their fantastic results in the Year 8 Spanish test! ¡Muy bien hecho!
- Gabi YR7 and Sophia YR8 have created a fantastic Equality poster together. Well done to them for their creativity and hard work!

Check out some of their amazing creations!



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Our Year 9 basketball stars 🌟🏀

Some huge congratulations to Caitlyn, Noah, Monty and George (Year 9) who were all integral in the defeat of both The Thanet Lions and Folkestone Saints, in two fantastic U14 basketball games last weekend. They all played for Herne Bay Basketball team, and represent The Whitstable School.

Despite facing larger teams, they showcased exceptional skills, determination, and sportsmanship, leading our team to impressive wins.



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Student Photos to Feature in 2025 Wildwood Calendar!

We're thrilled to announce that our Year 11 student, Sienna's, stunning animal photos have been selected for the 2025 Wildwood Calendar! This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to her talent.



UPCOMING EVENTS

🌲 Exciting News 🌲

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

Tickets can be purchased via [Ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk)



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.



Our Christmas Menu is Coming Soon! 🌲

Our restaurant will be launching its delicious festive menu this December. Keep an eye out for more details!



Careers Fair

Date 13th March 2025
Time 9:00-2:30pm

We would like to invite you to our Careers Fair 2025!!

Aims of the event:

- To engage the students through interactive displays and discussions
- To provide the students with information about different career paths
- To inform the students about a range of new careers and industries

For further information on how to get a stand at our event please contact us on 01227 931300 or tw_s_careers@swale.at



****Save the Date!**** 📅

Our Careers Fair is coming up on 13th of March 2025. Keep an eye out for more details!

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'.



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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!

What is a Young Carer?

Young Carers provide unpaid care for a family member or friend with an illness, disability, mental health issue, or addiction. They support the cared-for and other family members with practical tasks, physical care, and emotional support, whilst at the same time trying to live their own life.

Do you think that your child is a Young Carer? Please contact Mrs James for more info or give Kent Young Carers a call on 0300 111 1110, email youngcarers@imago.community or take a look at the Kent Young Carers website www.imago.community



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/>



At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health, wellbeing, and climate change. Material is endorsed by National Grid ESO. This guide is for advice only and does not constitute a further guide, terms and conditions. Please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2020, Snapchat added a 'chatbot' function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the bot does not have the ability to understand context or nuance, and has a significant risk of providing incorrect or misleading information. It has already been the subject of numerous reports of young users turning to it for medical help and advice, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages for example, telling users they have missed photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had reported being stalked or harassed online. This is partly helped by 'Snapmap' - a feature which highlights your recent positions in real time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only', users can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can also lock it by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This means you can 'hide' photos and videos from your phone, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat promotes user engagement, with features like streaks (sending the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has features called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the user, so even an innocuous search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing message' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or messages - so setting boundaries to be risk-associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the beauty effects can have a negative effect on children's self-esteem. The app's 'disappearing message' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images or messages - so setting boundaries to be risk-associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's Family Center lets you see the details of the child's account, their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week - and report any concerns. You must enable the Family Center for them to use. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Hide My Location' and 'Hide My Location' and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does a search with a child's name and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, messages to send explicit images or send social images to them, the child can tap the 'report' icon on the person's profile and report to Snap. There are options to see why they're reporting that user - such as sending explicit messages, spamming or harassing the user.

MEET OUR EXPERT

Dr Claire Dymally is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written several guidance papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See all reference list on page 20 at: <https://nationalcollege.com/builders/0603-22-23/>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21/12/24

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 deo-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



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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