



06 DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER



Dear families,

This week has been filled with festive cheer and academic success! We've celebrated outstanding student work, enjoyed a special visit from actor Paul Bullion, and kicked off the Christmas season with exciting activities. Read on for more details.

Key Dates:

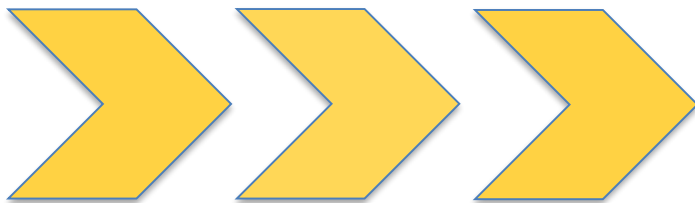
- 17/18 December 2024 - Christmas Variety Show
- 18 December 2024 – Christmas Dinner
- 19 December 2024 – Sixth Form Parents Evening
- 19 December 2024 – Fish and Chips Day
- 20 December 2024 - Non Uniform Day
- 20 December 2024 - Term 2 Ends (Early Finish at 12:45)
- 06 January 2025- Term 3 Starts

Update

**** REVISED TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026 ****

Our term dates for the 2025-2026 academic year have changed. Please click the link below or visit our website for more information.

[Term Dates 2025-2026](#)



NEXT WEEK IS WEEK B TIMETABLE



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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.

****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...

A Day to Remember: Paul Bullion Visits TWS and Awards Ceremony

Our Drama and Film Studies students had an incredible day on Thursday!
They had the privilege of meeting renowned actor **Paul Bullion**, known for his roles in Peaky Blinders, The Witcher, Dune, and many more. Paul shared his insights and experiences and Our Year 12 Film Studies students captured his insightful workshop on camera, creating a fantastic video that will be shared on social media.



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A Night to Remember: Awards Ceremony with Special Guest

Last night, The Whitstable School celebrated outstanding achievement at our Annual Awards Ceremony. The event was made even more special by the presence of Paul Bullion, who presented awards and inspired our students with his words of wisdom.

Keep an eye on our social media and next week's newsletter for more photos and highlights from this incredible day.

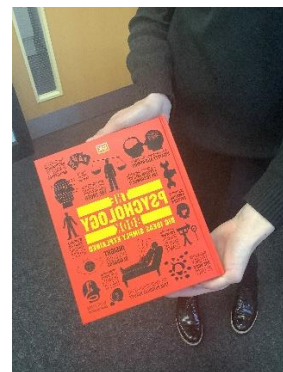
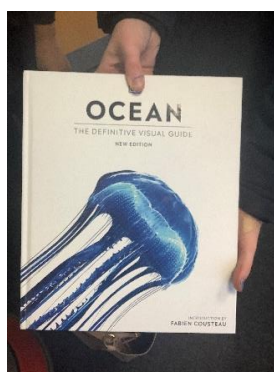
TRACK Excellence Raffle Winners Announced!

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 Isla H (Year 10), Charis, (Year 9), Hetty P (Year 7)



Students with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.

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 **Ruby T (Year 10)**, for impressive annotation in English
- **Sophia W (Year 8)** has been recognized twice this term for her exceptional science work on group elements and allergens, earning her a place in the Book of Commendation.



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The Institute for
Research in Schools



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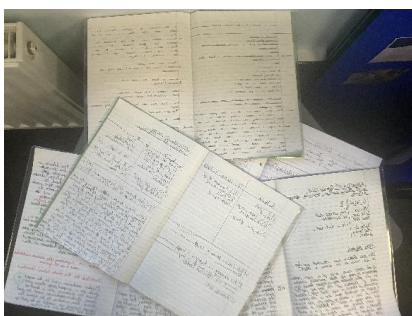
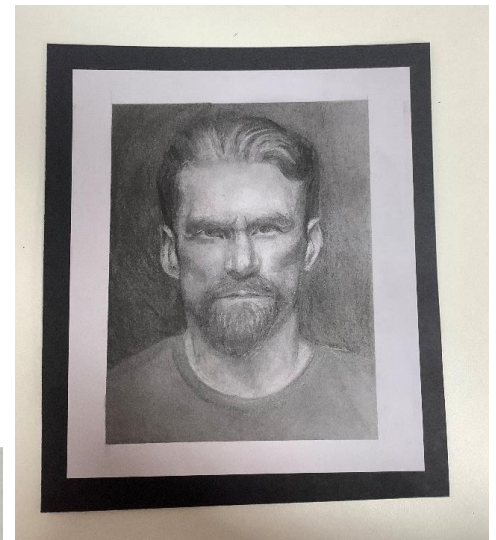
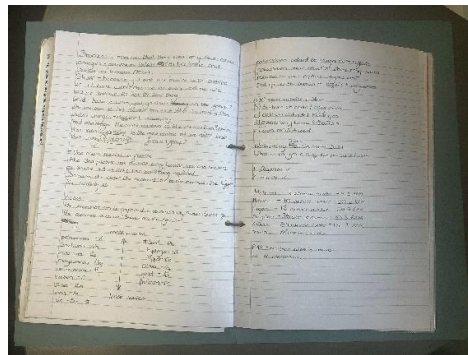
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- **Max D, Bebe B, Sajeeve S, Teddy A, Jasmine E (Year 8)** wrote a lovely comparison between two gothic stories in RE.
- **Sienna K and Pearl H (Year 11)**, not only met **Paul Bullion** but also created impressive portraits of him. They gifted both of their portraits to the actor himself.
- **Harley B (Year 9)**- Great response to the question: "Is religion the only way to stop bad things?"
- **Amy U (Year 11)** – Beautiful poem in English.

Check out some of their amazing creations!



Her Expulsion

August 22nd 1996.

Mockers mimic my life: day in, day out.
My life, where there is no she, no he,
no she,
no he.
Yet why is there no she?
Mother please: punish them,
for all they do is mock.

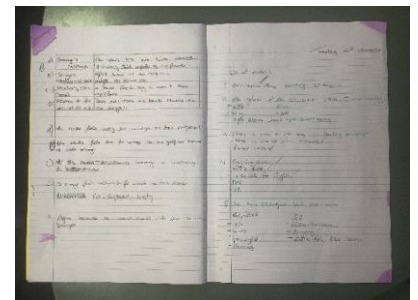
How could they not be crowned with guilt?
Where they have made land barren
to breathe. Where no arms of the can wrap
around my lady,
solace to my troubled-trapped thoughts,
Yet they are embraced by he.
Not her. Not me. But He...

September 11th 2001.

Troops trample upon her ground,
trailing scars and stripes behind them.
Hope destroyed, no longer found.
Even they knew it could not be prolonged,
the sweet but bitter shortness was
glutinous. The banishment of hope sliced
the souls of every sound. Silence,
Eyes glossed with dew like drops,
which dropped like...

You
The youth cling to their mothers as though
they were unborn.
Their mothers which must disappear in
His eyes.

She is exile. Are you?



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Year 10 Students Culinary Assessment

Year 10 have recently completed an assessment planning and cooking their own choice of dish suitable for a sporty teenager. They also had to produce a written justification for their choice. They have been working hard on improving presentation skills and produced some amazing complex dishes! Here is a brief selection of their excellent work. Well done!



Get Creative! English Department Launches Writing Competitions

The English Department has just launched 3 exciting writing competitions! These include:

KS3 - Christmas Poetry contest (deadline **Wednesday 18th December**)

KS4 - A Timeless Tale (deadline **Friday 31st January**)

Wholeschool - The Page is Printed (deadline **Monday 13th January** submissions entered to national competition).

Please see Miss O'Flaherty for more information regarding any of the competitions.



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A TIMELESS TALE

Write a short story (no more than 500 words) set in a different time era and setting to our own.

Some inspiration...

- Victorian London
- Medieval knights and horses
- Greek Mythology
- Cowboys in the Wild West

Please hand in entries to Miss O'Flaherty (GZ22) by **January 31st 2025**

1st place - £10 Amazon Voucher + Headteacher's Commendation

2nd place - Box of chocolate + Headteacher's Commendation

3rd place - Headteacher's Commendation

CHRISTMAS POETRY CONTEST

Can you rhyme
During this festive time?



Or do you prefer free
Verse - forget the rules and rhythm?

A mountain of presents,
As tall as a tree
Time to create
A christmas poem littered with
metaphors and similes!



Please hand in entries to Miss O'Flaherty (GZ22) by **Wednesday 18th December.**

1st place - £10 Amazon Voucher + Headteacher's Commendation

2nd place - Box of chocolate + Headteacher's Commendation

3rd place - Headteacher's Commendation

The Page Is Printed

Unleash your creativity and let your imagination run wild... Whether it's poetry that stirs the soul or even a list that surprises and intrigues - the possibilities are endless.

No more than **one side of A4 paper!**

Prize: £25 book voucher

Possible forms of creative writing:

- Prose
- Poetry
- Script
- A confession
- A love letter
- A list...



This is an external creative writing competition and the deadline is **Mon 13 January 2025.**

Judges will be looking for something that dares to be different and most importantly something that comes to life when it is read aloud.

See Miss O'Flaherty (GZ22) if you'd like to discuss!

Join Our Spanish Christmas Lottery

The MFL department has been thrilled with the initial response to our second annual Spanish Christmas lottery! It has been wonderful to hear the whole school community conversing in Spanish. For more information (and a chance to win some fabulous prizes!) watch this [video](#). ¡Buena suerte a todos!



El Gordo (The Big One) 2024

Click the link above to watch the video!

Spain is famous for having the longest-running national lottery in the world. The first draw took place in 1812!

Following the huge success of last year's Christmas lottery, El Gordo is back!

- Get a ticket from the MFL department and team up with others
- Collect stickers by asking your teachers **¿Cuándo es tu cumpleaños?** and interpreting their answers
- Post the completed ticket in the MFL hub



The Grand Draw will take place on the last day of term
TOP PRIZE- 2 tubs of Celebrations
2ND/ 3RD PRIZE- 1 tub of Celebrations
LA PEDREA (5 prizes)- Large chocolate bar
 ¡Buena Suerte!



Celebrate the Season with Our Christmas Dinner! 🌲

Our Christmas dinner is now available on ParentPay and students can choose from both vegan and non-vegan options.

The Christmas dinner will take place on the 18th December in the restaurant and all ParentPay payments need to be completed before the 13th December 2024. Those who receive free school meals will have received a google form via email to complete (if you have not please contact tws_admin@swale.at).

Please be aware that limited other meal choices will be available on the day from our Grab and Go pod.

This month students can also enjoy our festive menu, gingerbread biscuits, hot chocolate, and more.



FANTASTIC FESTIVE FOOD

Menu

Roast Turkey, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Roast Potatoes & Gravy
or
Vegan Soya Bean & Cranberry Wellington, Roast Potatoes & Gravy

Followed by

Traditional Christmas Pudding with Vanilla Sauce
or
Festive White Chocolate Confetti Cookie

IT'S BEGINNING TO TASTE A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS



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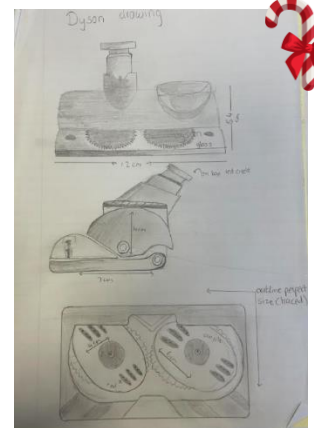
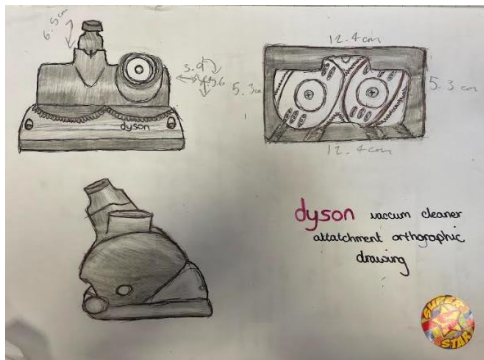
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Year 10 Students Dive into Engineering with Dyson

Year 10's have recently looked into the work of James Dyson and were able to take apart a vacuum cleaner using the Dyson Engineering box. From this, they had to produce orthographic drawings and life-size moving prototypes to improve their drawing and 3D skills. Well done



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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/the-whitstable-school/e-bvaveq)



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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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

Important Work Experience Dates for Year 10

- Week of: June 30th - July 4th, 2025 (5 days)

What is Work Experience?

Work experience is a valuable opportunity for you to:

- Gain exposure to the professional world and explore different career paths.
- Develop essential skills desired by employers, such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Boost your confidence and build your personal and social skills.



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Finding Your Placement:

You are responsible for finding your own work experience placement. This allows you to explore your interests and connect with potential career fields. We will be providing support through Unifrog, a platform that helps you track and manage your placement search.

Have Questions?

If you have any further questions about work experience, please don't hesitate to contact:

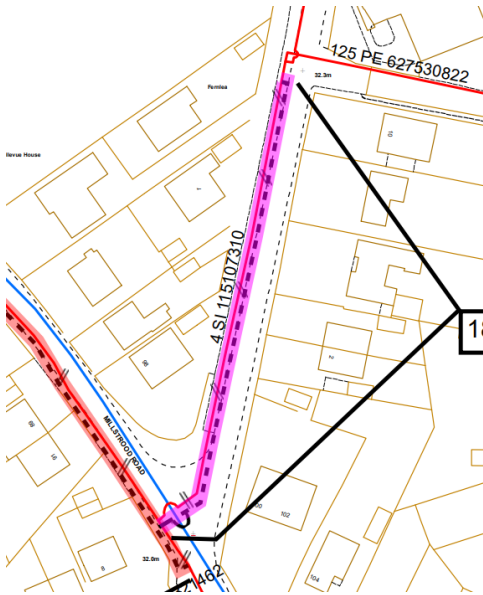
- Email: tw_s-workexperience@swale.at



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'.

Important Notice: Gas Network Upgrade- Bellevue Road/Millstrood Road, Whitstable



Please be aware that gas network upgrade works will begin in early January 2025 and are expected to last approximately three weeks. To minimize disruption, please plan your child's drop-off and pick-up times in advance, as the gas network upgrade will impact access to the school during this period.



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Young Carers at The Whitstable School

Did you know that The Whitstable School now has a Young Carers Support Group 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 you want to 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 while trying to live their own lives. Do you think that your child is a Young Carer? Please contact Mrs. James for more info or give Kent Young Carers a call at 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/>



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The Whitstable School

Bellevue Road | Whitstable | Kent | CT5 1PX

T: 01227 931300

E: tws_admin@swale.at

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk



Headteacher: Mr A Holmes BA (Hons), MA, NPQH

Canterbury Winter Activities

December 23rd - January 3rd, 2024

Our Activities

- My Pet Star at The Marlow Theatre
- Family Food and Fun
- Dance Workshop with Hasland Dance
- Djembe Drumming Workshop
- Family Board Game Afternoon
- Graffiti Workshop

Canterbury Family Hubs

Information:

Booking Activities:

All activities that require booking are only available to children and young people in receipt of Free School Meals. To book on, please contact us: canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk

Drop In Activities:

Our drop in activities are available for everybody, no need to book.

23rd December

My Pet Star - Marlowe Theatre

Based on the book by BAFTA-winning writer Corinne Averis and award-winning illustrator Rosalind Beardshaw, this original Marlowe Theatre production is now adapted for stage. Packed with original songs, My Pet Star is the perfect introduction to theatre, for the whole family to enjoy. For 0-19 years (25 SEND). Parents/carers in attendance.

Meet at: 12:45pm

The Marlowe Theatre
The Friars
Canterbury
CT1 2AS



2nd January

Herne Bay Family Food and Fun

Drop in to enjoy a range of seasonal arts and crafts activities led by our Family Hub team and enjoy a warming meal. To make your time with us even more special please book into one of the two workshops we have on offer led by partner organisations during the event. For 0-19 years (25 SEND).

10:00am - 2:00pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Herne Bay,
CT6 5RG

2nd January Dance Workshop

Led by local partners Hasland Dance, an opportunity for beginners or those with more experience to learn a new routine and develop your dance skill. For 8-11 years.

10:00am - 12:00pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Herne Bay,
CT6 5RG



2nd January Djembe Drumming Workshop

Make some noise with our long term partners The Rewards Project and learn how to play a Djembe hand drum during this two hour workshop. For 8+ years.

12:00pm - 2:00pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Herne Bay,
CT6 5RG



3rd January Family Board Game Afternoon

Drop in and see us to enjoy a cozy afternoon of board games and a communal warm lunch cooked with fresh ingredients. To make your afternoon even more special book into the Graffiti workshop led by The Rewards Project. For 0-19 years (25 SEND).

12:30pm - 4:30pm

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ



3rd January Graffiti Workshop

Take a board and a spray can and develop your art skills in this creative workshop led by the Rewards Project. Wrap up warm for this one as it will take place on our outside games area due to the nature of this activity. For 11+ years.

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ



Healthy Child Clinics and Breastfeeding Support Groups

A drop in clinic for you to come along, have your baby weighed and speak to a member of the Health Visiting Team. Breastfeeding information, advice and support is also available. Please arrive no later than 15 minutes before the end of the clinic.

Tuesdays

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,
Memorial Park,
Herne Bay,
CT6 5RG

Thursdays

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Kingsmead Family Hub,
Kingsmead Road,
Canterbury,
CT2 7PH

Fridays

9:30am - 11:30am

Whitstable Family Hub,
Tower Parade,
Whitstable,
CT5 2BJ

Contact us

CanterburyFH@kent.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook or

Instagram at
Canterbury Family
Hubs



Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

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 Tea



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