

17 JANUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER

Dear families,

This second week of Term 3 has been action-packed! The Stage Academy delved into the world of filmmaking, while our Scholarship team secured a dominant 7-0 victory in the SCL Development League. Sixth Form Art and DT students also gained valuable insights at a Creative Careers Conference hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University. Read on for more details.

Key Dates:

- 30 January 2025 - Year 9 Parents Evening
- 05 February 2025 - Parent Forum Year 7, 8 and 9
- 13 February 2025 – Year 10 Parents Evening
- 14 February 2025 – Term 3 Ends

Update

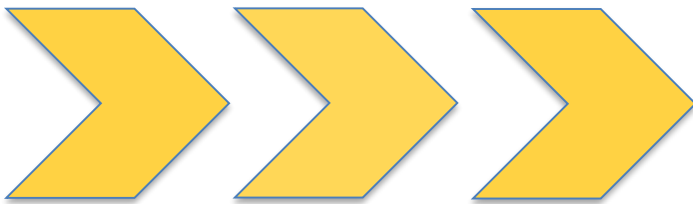
**** PARENT FORUM ****

Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent Forum: 5th Feb, 5:00 PM.

Registration is compulsory for attendance. Please fill in the registration form by clicking on the link below:

[Parent Forum Registration Form](#)

Information for upcoming Parent Forums for Year 10, 11 and 12 will follow.



NEXT WEEK IS WEEK B TIMETABLE



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
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Supporting a Positive Learning Environment - Toilet Use Update

Dear Parents,

As you know, we strive to create a positive learning environment where students can focus on their studies with minimal disruption. Last year, we implemented a policy allowing for more frequent toilet access during lesson times.

While this aimed to address student needs, we've observed an increase in unnecessary requests, impacting both learning time and students with genuine needs. To address this, we're piloting a new approach in Term 4.

Here's what's changing:

- **Increased Availability:** We'll be increasing access to toilets during unstructured times like break and lunch.
- **Structured Access:** Students will be able to use the toilet twice a week during lesson time without a toilet pass. This allows for individual needs while minimizing disruption.

Our goal is to:

- **Maintain a healthy balance:** Ensure timely access for all students while minimizing disruption to lessons.
- **Promote student responsibility:** Encourage students to plan toilet breaks effectively.

We value your feedback!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this new approach, please don't hesitate to contact us at tws_admin@swale.at, **FAO: Mr Scales**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Holmes,
Headteacher



REMINDERS

** Important Notice: Gas Network Upgrade Works & Parking Reminder **

Please be aware that gas network upgrade works are currently underway. To minimize disruption, please plan your child's drop-off and pick-up times in advance, as these works may impact access to the school during this period.

We kindly request that parents park considerately during this time. We have received reports of double parking, which can create safety hazards and obstruct traffic flow.

To ensure the safety of all students and the smooth flow of traffic, we encourage parents to park further away from the school and walk with their child to the school entrance whenever possible.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

** Important Information for Bus 638 Users **

Please note that there will be changes to the **Stagecoach 638** bus service from January 6th. For full details of these changes, please see the following document: [[Stagecoach 638 service](#)]
This information is important for students and families who rely on this bus route.

** Important Vaccination Reminder for Year 10 & 11 Parents! **

Does your Year 10 or 11 child need a Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) or Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio (Td/IPV) vaccination?

We're offering catch-up vaccinations at **The Whitstable School on February 3rd & 4th, 2025.**

Parents will receive more information directly from the school.

For more information, click on the links:

- [Teenage 3 in 1 booster Td/ IPV](#)
- [Meningitis and Septicaemia](#)

** 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.



SIXTH FORM UPDATE

** Scholarship Team Dominates with 7-0 Victory! **



The Scholarship team dominated last week, securing a resounding 7-0 victory against Soccer Elite Academy in the SCL Development League. Alex (Year 12) led the charge with a hat-trick, while Ionut (Year 12) also found the net.

The team showcased exceptional teamwork and skill throughout the match, with some fantastic team goals. This dominant performance sets a high bar for the rest of the season.

Next up, a challenging away match against Welling United in the National League.

** Sixth Formers Explore Creative Careers at CCCU **

This week a group of our Sixth Form Art and DT students attended an insightful Art and Graphic Design Conference hosted by Canterbury Christ Church University. They gained valuable knowledge from industry professionals, learning about the skills and passion required for a successful career in the creative field.



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**** Sixth Form Applications Now Open! ****

Interviews for Sixth Form places at The Whitstable School will be taking place throughout January and February. All communication regarding applications and interviews will be made via Kent Choices.

If you haven't already, please visit our website for more information.

- View [Prospectus](#)
- View [Sixth Forms Pathways](#)
- View [Why Choose Our Sixth Form](#)
- Apply via [Kent Choices](#)

Want to join our successful Football Academy!

➡ Contact Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form.

☎ 01227931300

✉ tws_sixthform@swale.at

We look forward to receiving your application!



THIS WEEK SO FAR...

****TRACK Excellence Raffle Winners Announced! ****

Each Wednesday, the school will run a 'TRACK Excellence' raffle with two 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 **Paddy and Victoria (both Year 7)**



Students with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.



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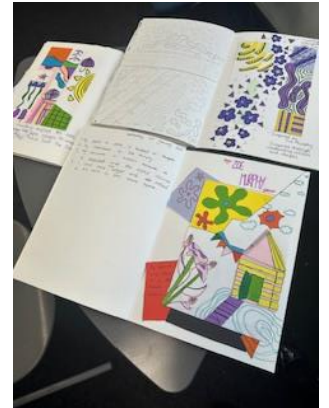
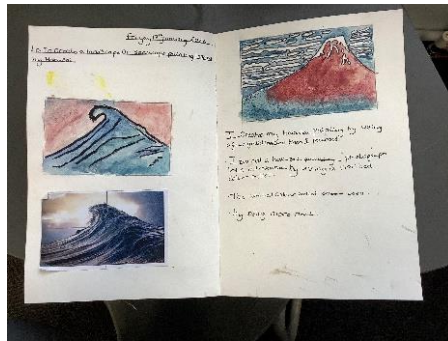
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** Book of Commendation Highlights **

We're thrilled to recognize the outstanding achievements of our talented students:

- **Charlie (Year 12):** Congratulations on your exceptional essay. [Link to read it](#)
- **Cabi, Daisy and Molly (Year 9):** We are incredibly impressed by your inspiring work based on the artist Zoe Murphy.
- **Elkie (Year 7):** For beautiful artwork created using the four grid method.



Well done to all! We're incredibly proud of your hard work and dedication.

** Exciting News: Basketball Super League Playoff Finals Tickets Available **



Mr. Lightfoot has secured 40 tickets for the thrilling Super League Playoff Finals at The O2 Arena on Sunday, May 18th. This all-day event will feature both the women's and men's finals.

Tickets are priced at £50 per person.

Don't miss out!

Sign up now to secure your place: [Basketball sign up](#)

**** Lights, Camera, Action!**** 🎥

The Stage Academy had a fantastic first week back! Last week, students got the chance to explore the world of filmmaking with Tony Greenlaw from PQA. Tony expertly guided students through the art of acting and directing for the camera. They even got to experiment with lighting and camera equipment, creating their own short films!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

****Celebrate Our Amazing Staff! Nominate a Teacher of the Year! ****

Do you know a superstar teacher or staff member at The Whitstable School?

We believe our staff are all incredible, and we're asking for your help to nominate them for the Kent Teacher of the Year Award!

Why nominate?

- Recognize the positive impact teachers have on students' lives.
- Motivate educators and foster school pride.
- Celebrate everyone who makes a difference in our children's education.

Who can be nominated?

- Teachers
- Support staff
- Early career educators
- Non-teaching staff
- Volunteers



How to nominate:

Simply tell us what makes your nominee stand out! Use this link to submit your nomination:

[Kent Teacher of the Year Nomination Form](#)

Nominations close February 28th, 2025!

Let's show our amazing staff how much we appreciate them.



****Calling Young Artists! ****

This free exhibition showcases the incredible talent of young artists aged 4-18 across the UK. Want to participate?

- **Students:** Speak to Miss Butler to learn how to submit your artwork through the school.
- **Teachers & Parents/Guardians:** You can also submit artwork on behalf of students.

A panel of esteemed artists and arts professionals will judge the submissions. Selected artworks will be displayed both online and at the prestigious Royal Academy of Arts.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity!

Submission Deadline: March 5th, 2025.



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** Important Work Experience Dates for Year 10 **



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

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.

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



 **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



✦ Get Career Ready! ✦

Our **Careers Fair** is coming up on **March 13th!** Exciting opportunities and valuable insights await. Stay tuned for more details!



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NOTICE BOARD

** Face Family Advice **

FACE provides essential support to parents and professionals who work with children and teenagers. For more information and to view the latest newsletter, please click on the links below.

[FACE February Newsletter 2025](#)
[FACE Parent Talks](#)



Family Advice - Communication - Education

** 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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, 'Ghost' considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from hashtags selected by the user, a child's feed can be heavily influenced by the app's algorithm. The app could potentially show something inappropriate to a child who is using the app, even if they are not following any inappropriate content. TikTok's algorithm is designed to show a mix of content, but it is not clear how it filters out inappropriate content. A small amount of inappropriate content may be visible through the app.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES
TikTok is a hub for body image challenges, where users are encouraged to post videos of themselves in a certain way. These challenges can be harmful to young people's self-esteem and mental health. Some challenges are dangerous, such as the 'ice cube challenge' where users are encouraged to eat ice cubes. TikTok has taken steps to remove these challenges, but they continue to reappear.

IN-APP SPENDING
TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy virtual coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Content creators can earn up to \$100,000 per year from the app. TikTok's policy is that users under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it is possible to bypass this with a fake birthday.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the app is a hub for contact from strangers. It is not clear how well the app's safety features protect users from contact with strangers. TikTok's safety features are designed to protect users from contact with strangers, but they are not perfect. TikTok's safety features are designed to protect users from contact with strangers, but they are not perfect.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION
Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more lighthearted than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence a person's opinion. TikTok is a hub for misinformation and radicalisation. TikTok is a hub for misinformation and radicalisation. TikTok is a hub for misinformation and radicalisation.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN
With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young users. TikTok is a hub for addiction. TikTok is a hub for addiction. TikTok is a hub for addiction.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING
Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's. This allows parents to manage their child's account settings, including the content of videos they can see, screen time limits, and whether children can follow other users without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING
If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can turn their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We recommend enabling this feature, as it can be useful for young people to spend a significant amount of their money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS
If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Discuss with them both an honest view of potential information, and that they know to ask for a trusted adult if they're worried by information on the app. With many users using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

READ THE SIGNS
If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags. It's helpful to compare homework or ongoing projects. Sometimes the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechCrunch, The Verge, and The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

Wake Up Wednesday | The National College

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Ever thought about volunteering as a school governor?

Want to know more? Scan the QR code to check out our website now!

We believe that effective governance is best delivered when school leaders are held to account and challenged on pupil outcomes as well as the quality of education provided.

You do not need to be from an education background - we value what people from outside the sector can offer!

Now considering becoming a school governor? Get in touch!

We'd love to hear from you.

hello@swale.at
01795 905989

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



ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Artsmark Gold Award | Ofsted Graded Good 2024 | GOLD SCHOOL 2020

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