

14 FEBRUARY 2025

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

We had a fantastic final week before the half-term break! Some of our students set off today on a much-anticipated ski trip – look out for highlights when they return! We also celebrated some excellent student work this week, particularly in Geography and other impressive achievements. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday, February 24th.

## Key Dates:

- 14 February 2025 - Term 3 Ends
- 24 February 2025 - Term 4 Starts
- 26 February 2025 - Parent Forum KS4
- 06 March 2025 - Year 9 Options Evening
- 13 March 2025 - Year 8 Parents Evening
- 13 March 2025 - Careers Fair
- 27 March 2025 - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 04 April 2025 - Term 4 Ends

## Update

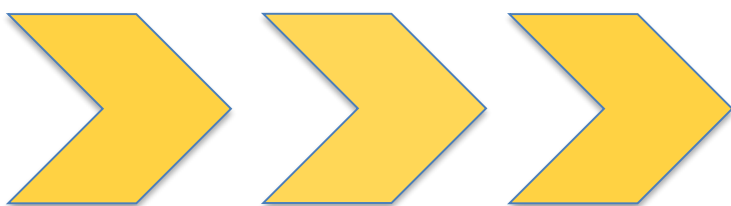
**\*\* PARENT FORUM \*\***

**Year 10 and 11 Parent Forum  
26th 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](#)

Thank you for your support.



# TERM 4 STARTS WITH WEEK B TIMETABLE



**Artsmark  
Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
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**GOLD  
SCHOOL  
2020**

**ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE**

**A member of Swale Academies Trust**

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## REMINDERS

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



Please be aware that gas network upgrade works are currently underway on **Millstrood Road**, which will last for approximately **12 weeks**.

**Important Note:** During this period, **there will be no access to Bellevue Road from Millstrood Road.**

To minimize disruption, please plan your child's drop-off and pick-up times in advance, as these works may significantly impact access to the school.

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.

### \*\* 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.

### \*\* Catch-Up Immunization Clinics This Half Term\*\*

The Immunisation Team would like to invite parents to book an appointment at one of their Community Clinics this half term if your child missed their vaccinations during the scheduled school visit. Parents can book an appointment via the website on the link below: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/imms>

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



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## SIXTH FORM UPDATE

### \*\* 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 Sixth Form Pathways?

➡ Contact Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form.

☎ 01227931300

✉ tws\_sixthform@swale.at

### We look forward to receiving your application



### \*\* Football Academy Students Learn About US Scholarship Opportunities\*\*

The Whitstable School Football Academy recently hosted a talk from Elite Scholarships about opportunities for USA college football and academic scholarships. This is a fantastic pathway for our talented players to pursue a degree while playing full-time. Interested in joining our Football Academy? We still have places available!



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## 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's winners are:  
**April and Jack (Year 8)**



Students with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.



### \*\* Year 11 Student Wins Kent Girls' Schools Table Tennis Tournament! \*\*



The Whitstable School is proud to announce that **Chloe (Year 11)** has won the Kent Under16 Girls' Schools Table Tennis Tournament. Chloe's dedication and skill were evident as she progressed through each round, culminating in a 3-2 win in the final. She has now qualified for the National Schools Tournament in Wolverhampton this April, where she will represent Kent.

We extend our congratulations to Chloe and wish her success in both the national competition and the Youth British Club League finals in Derby this weekend.



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## 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.

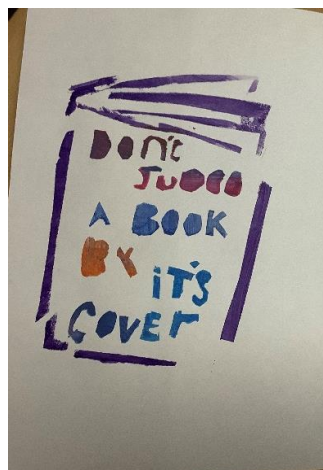
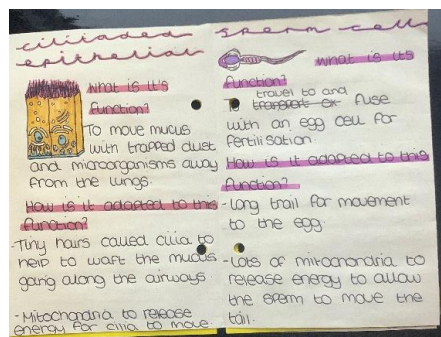
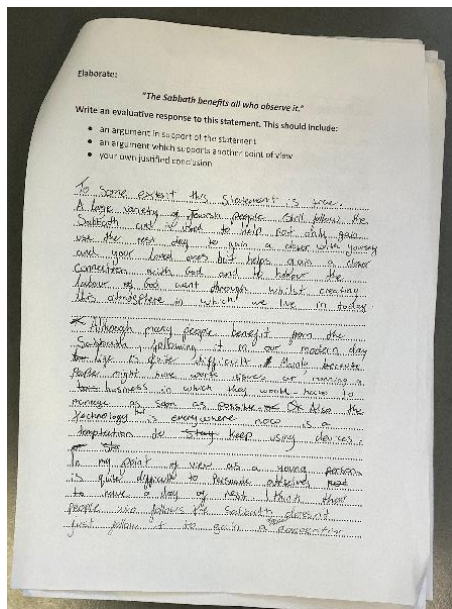
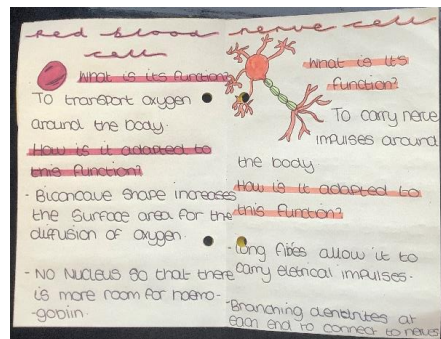
We are also thrilled to announce:

- **Florence (Year 7):** Impressive castle made of cake.
- **Hayden (Year 10):** Insightful RE assessment on Judaism.
- **Vinnie and Joseph (Year 8):** Amazing art posters.
- **Olivia (Year 9):** Well-written and presented science booklet on cell adaptation.
- **Ava, Keshini, Evan, Evie, Mylie, Susie, Skye (Year 7):** – Beautiful poems in English.
- **Ella, Tegan, Ava, Bella, Amy, Kit, Lola, Stanley, Alfie (Year 9):** Thought provoking posters during PD on teen mental health and social media.



We also extend a special thank you to **Teagan (Year 11)** for her outstanding contribution to Parents' Evening. Her professionalism and dedication were invaluable.

Congratulations to all our commended students! See some of their amazing creations below!



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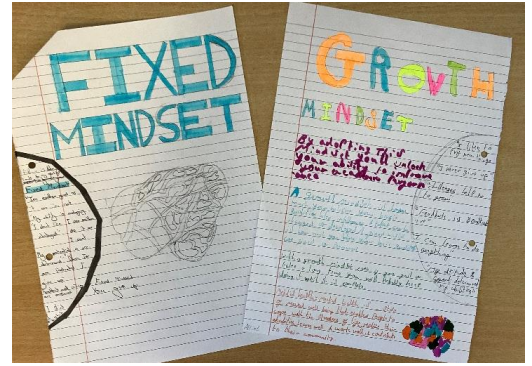
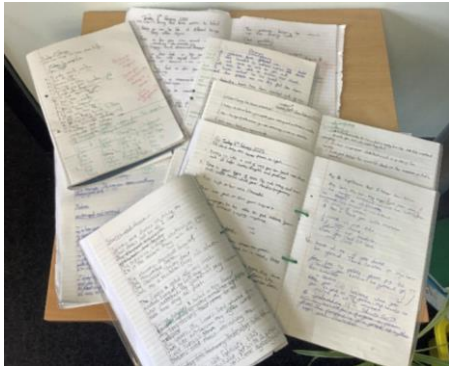
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## \*\* Year 7 Geography: Exploring Erosional Landforms in 3D\*\*

Miss Lodge's Year 7 Geography students recently took on a creative challenge: building 3D models of erosional landforms related to the Kent Coast. The results were fantastic, with students using a variety of materials and techniques to bring their models to life. Check out some examples of their impressive work!



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Additionally, Year 8 geographers have been exploring climate change, and their work this week is truly impressive! Check out these examples of their projects.



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## **\*\*Unleash Your Inner Poet: "Poetry By Heart" Competition Coming Soon! \*\***

Get ready to ignite your passion for poetry! The English Department is thrilled to announce a new competition launching early next term: "Poetry By Heart."

**What is it?** It is a national poetry speaking competition for schools in England. It is open to young people in Key Stages 2-5. Pupils choose a poem, learn it by heart, and perform it. You may wish to perform solo or as a group. The competition revolves around students learning and reciting a poem. There are two different categories which offer pupils opportunities to either submit their own creations or innovative renditions on classics that they have learnt. Those who are successful get to visit the Globe Theatre!

**How can I get involved?** Get active in your English lessons and learn the poems you are studying. There will be an initial meeting/drop in next Thursday 13th at lunchtime in GZ21. Please see Miss Sunny if you are interested



## **\*\* Safer Internet day 2025 \*\***

This past Tuesday, we recognized Safer Internet Day! This year's theme, "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online," is crucial for everyone.

We're teaching students how to spot, respond to and report online scams, which can target anyone.

Remember these key tips:



- Enjoy online time together and talk about your family's online lives; use strong, separate passwords and parental controls;
- Be wary of anything that seems too good to be true, unexpected contact, or requests for money/personal information; understand that anyone can be a scam victim and talk openly about it; and know where to get help (Action Fraud, 0300 123 2040).

For more information, please click the link:

[Safer Internet Day 2025](#)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \*\* 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: [tws-workexperience@swale.at](mailto:tws-workexperience@swale.at)



**Attention all business owners and employers**



Are you able to support a Year 10 or 12 student develop valuable employability skills?

We are seeking work experience placements for our students during the week of **Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July 2025.**

We manage our Work Experience program through Unifrog, which handles all the necessary administration, including risk assessments, health and safety policies, and parental/carer consent. If you can offer a placement during this week, we would be incredibly grateful.

Please complete the short form to express your interest or scan the QR code:

Form: [Work Experience Placement Form](#)

Alternatively, you can contact us directly at: [tws-workexperience@swale.at](mailto:tws-workexperience@swale.at)

We thank you in advance for any opportunities you are able to provide



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**\*\* Calling all local businesses! \*\***

Join The Whitstable School **Careers Fair on March 13th, 2025.**

The aim of the fair is to provide students with valuable career guidance through engaging discussions with local employers. Last year's event was a huge success, and we're aiming even higher this year!

Contact [tws\\_admin@swale.at](mailto:tws_admin@swale.at) or 01227 931300 to participate.




**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 [tws\\_careers@swale.at](mailto:tws_careers@swale.at)




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

A big thank you to the parents who have already nominated some of our staff for the Kent Teacher of the Year Awards. Your comments are so kind! If you wish to nominate a member of staff, there is still time to do so:

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

Remember there are lots of different categories across all staff groups! Thank you for your support with this.

**Nominations close February 28th, 2025!**



**\*\*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

## NOTICE BOARD

### \*\*Scholarship Trials \*\*

Upcoming scholarship trial for boys and girls will be held on:

**Date:** Friday, February 21st

**Time:** 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

**Location:** Whitstable Town FC Stadium, Grimshill Road, CT5 4LN

This is a fantastic opportunity for talented young players to showcase their skills and potentially earn a scholarship. We encourage all interested boys and girls to attend.



### \*\*Emotional Wellbeing/Support Workshops (Feb-Mar 2025) \*\*

Boost your family's emotional wellbeing! We've got a fantastic line-up of workshops designed to support parents and children. Check out the links to the posters for more information and registration details:

- [Less Stress Guide in Exams](#)
- [Understanding ADHD](#)
- [All online workshops](#)



EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM KENT  
EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TEAM  
MEDWAY



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**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS**

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS**  
A message arrives saying "have you seen this 'faked' message" or "posting about a celebrity that's been shared on social media." This kind of "hook" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.
- SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS**  
Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such posts often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.
- YOU'RE A WINNER!**  
This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or contests. A message claiming we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and so on. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.
- FALSE FRIENDSHIPS**  
Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense level) of secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats of blackmail.
- PANIC MODE**  
To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.
- FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS**  
Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for services, or invest in "opportunities" or "invest in cryptocurrency schemes" – all of which are false or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies, social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

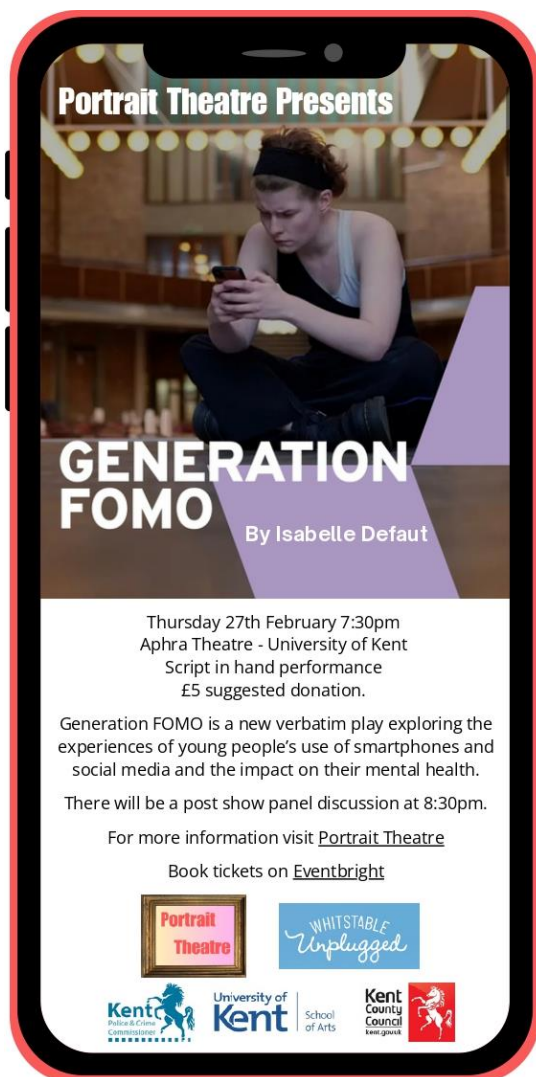
- STAY INFORMED**  
Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. Set up email alerts for news and media sites of interest. Keep up with young people's digital lives. Talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their teenage users.
- TALK TOGETHER**  
Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't judge. Listening to the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.
- ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM**  
Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our common fears – whether that's a kind of internet scam, help others, and so on. Make it clear, avoid looking out or to become something we really want. Encourage children to recognize that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.
- BE PROACTIVE**  
Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and more. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, fake information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child might be asked to act online. Firstly, ensure that they're aware of the support services available to them (as a child).

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Holly Presser-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](http://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.

Source: See full reference list on [www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/guides/fake-news-and-scams](http://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/guides/fake-news-and-scams)

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**Portrait Theatre Presents**

**GENERATION FOMO**  
By Isabelle Defaut

Thursday 27th February 7:30pm  
Aphra Theatre - University of Kent  
Script in hand performance  
£5 suggested donation.

Generation FOMO is a new verbatim play exploring the experiences of young people's use of smartphones and social media and the impact on their mental health.

There will be a post show panel discussion at 8:30pm.

For more information visit [Portrait Theatre](http://Portrait Theatre)

Book tickets on [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite)

Logos for Portrait Theatre, Whitstable Unplugged, Kent Police & Crime Commissioner, University of Kent School of Arts, Kent County Council, and all together.

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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