

14 MARCH 2025

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

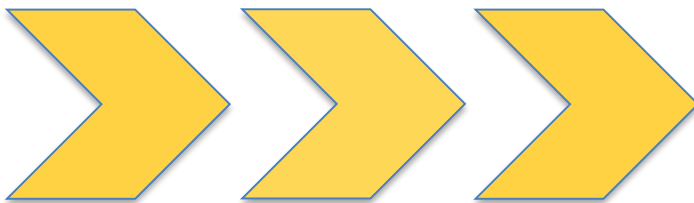
A week of diverse accomplishments at The Whitstable School! From our bustling careers fair and student commendations to impressive sporting victories, there's so much to share. Read on for all the exciting details!

## Key Dates:

- 27 March 2025 - Year 7 Parents Evening
- 04 April 2025 - Term 4 Ends
- 22 April 2025 - Term 5 Starts

## Update

We'd like to thank everyone who attended our KS4 Options Evening! We hope you found it both informative and helpful in your discussions with subject leads about course choices.



## NEXT WEEK IS WEEK A TIMETABLE



**Artsmark  
Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts  
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

### \*\* Respecting Accessible Parking Spaces \*\*

We kindly remind all parents and visitors to respect our designated accessible parking spaces. These spaces are reserved for individuals with disabilities who require close proximity to the school entrance.

Please remember:

- **Not all disabilities are visible.** Some individuals may have valid permits that are not always displayed.
- **Permits must be displayed.** If you have a valid permit, please ensure it is clearly visible in your vehicle's windscreen.
- **Cooperation is key.** We rely on everyone's cooperation to ensure these spaces are available for those who need them.

We understand that parking can be challenging, but we ask that you be considerate of others and refrain from parking in accessible spaces unless you have a valid permit.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in making our school accessible for everyone.

### \*\* 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

### \*\* 8-0 Victory! Academy Triumphs \*\*


What a performance! Our academy team secured an impressive **8-0 victory** against Charlton Academy on Wednesday. **Alex (Year 12)** was on fire with 4 goals and **Spike (Year 12)** added 3! A truly dominant display with excellent football and goals. We're excited for our next National League match away to Ebbsfleet United on Wednesday, March 19th.

**Applications for our Sixth Form Football Academy are still being accepted.**

- View [Prospectus](#)
- View [Sixth Forms Pathways](#)

**Want to join our Sixth Form Pathways?**

 Contact Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form.

 01227931300

 [tws\\_sixthform@swale.at](mailto:tws_sixthform@swale.at)



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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 **Bronwen (Year 8) and Camille (Year 7)**

We've teamed up with local businesses for amazing rewards. This week's prize is vouchers for local café **Revival**.



Students with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.

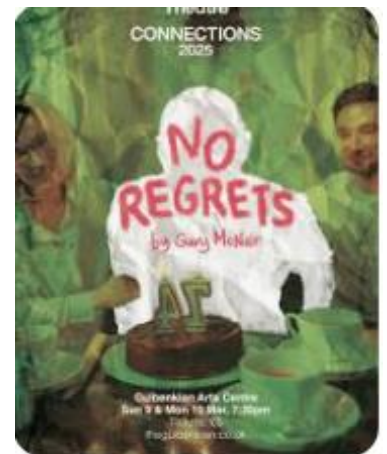


### \*\* Book of Commendation- Celebrating Student Success! \*\*

We are pleased to announce the following students have been recognised for their exceptional work and have been added to the Book of Commendation:

- **Holly and Georgina (Year 9):** Mastered tone and shading in Art.
- **Jacob, Preston and Lucy (Year 8):** Created impressive Spanish menus in their Spanish lesson.
- **Mason (Year 11):** Developed a personalised and effective science revision method.
- **Lily (Year 8):** Produced a detailed write-up of an acid science practical.
- **Matt (Year 7):** Crafted excellent English work describing Oden.
- **Liadain (Year 11):** Liadain's hard work with the National Theatre Youth Group culminated in an outstanding performance in **'No Regrets' at The Gulbenkian**, a poignant ensemble piece exploring life's regrets.

Congratulations to all our commended students!



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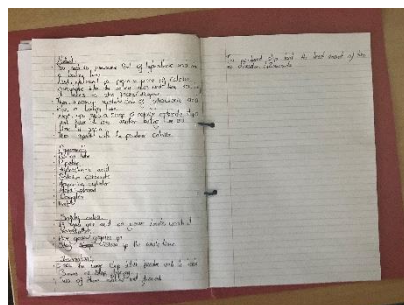
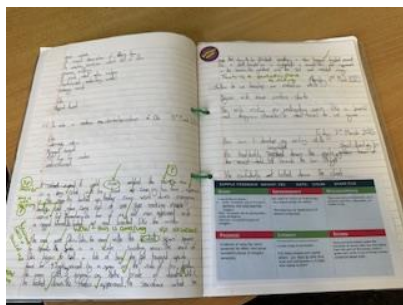
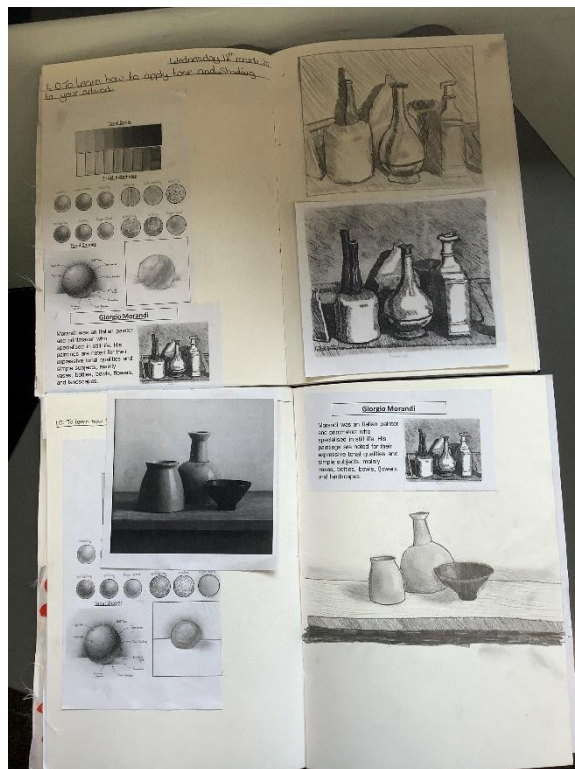
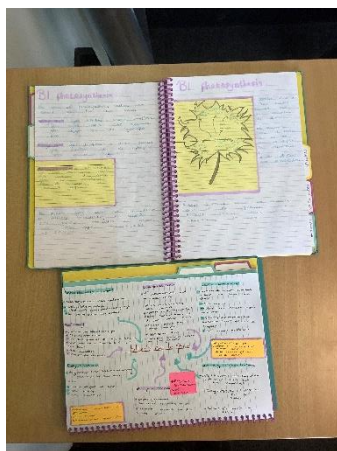
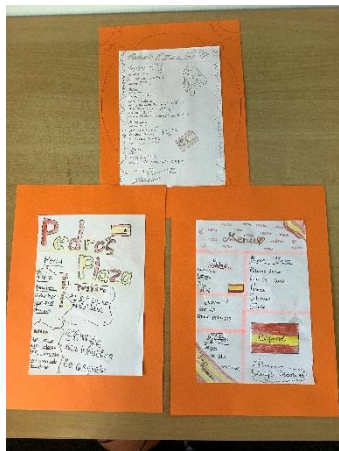
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**\*\* World Book Day \*\***



For World Book Day, students joined **Mrs. Day** and **Mrs. Prebble** at a Trust-wide event in Sittingbourne, where they participated in a powerful workshop led by writer and rapper **Testament**. Through beatboxing, performance and guided writing exercises, **Testament** helped students craft spoken word pieces based on meaningful personal moments. **Evie (Year 7)** delivered an exceptional performance, capturing the 'consciousness of planet earth,' and all students represented the school admirably.



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**\*\* Harry Potter Studios Trip: Year 10 & 12 \*\***

Last week, 31 students from Year 10 and 12 embarked on a magical journey to Warner Bros. Studios for the Harry Potter tour! Film Studies, Drama, Textiles, and Art students were immersed in the wizarding world, enjoying a 'Mise-en-scene' lesson and exploring the incredible behind-the-scenes of the films. A fantastic and educational day!



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## \*\* Incredible Sunday at Twickenham! \*\*

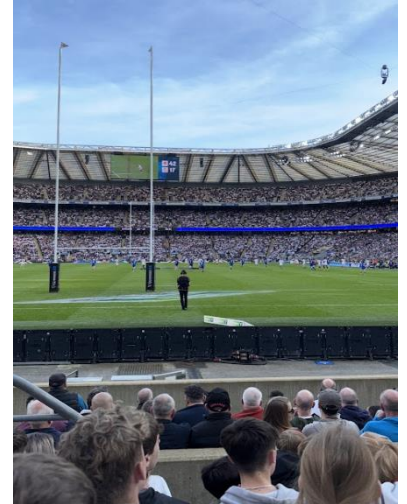
Fifty of our students, accompanied by **Mr. Lightfoot and the PE Department** had the privilege of watching England take on Italy in the Six Nations. The atmosphere was absolutely electric as England secured a thrilling 47-24 victory!

This trip was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to experience the excitement of a live international rugby match, cheering on their national team in a legendary stadium.

This is the second of three major sporting events organised by the PE Department this year, following our successful trip to Wembley for England football.

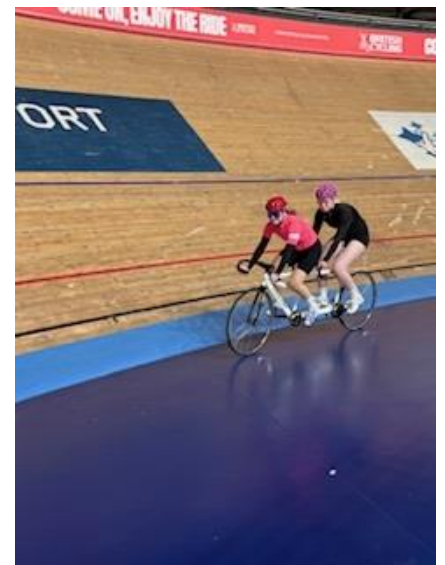
We're now looking forward to our next adventure: The Super League Basketball finals at the O2 Arena in May!

A huge thank you to everyone who made this amazing day possible.



## \*\* Ella's Paralympic Achievement \*\*

**Ella (Year 9)** hard work and dedication were rewarded last week! She was chosen to participate in a Paralympic Trail ID event in Manchester. This is a significant achievement and a testament to Ella's commitment to her sport



**\*8 Careers Fair Success \*\***

Yesterday's Careers fair was a resounding success, creating a vibrant and engaging atmosphere for our students. We were delighted to see such enthusiastic participation as students connected with a wide variety of employers, representing diverse industries and career paths. The event provided an invaluable opportunity for students to explore potential future careers, ask insightful questions and gain first-hand knowledge from professionals. The energy in the room was palpable, with students actively engaging in conversations and demonstrating a keen interest in learning about different career opportunities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all the employers who generously gave their time to participate and share their expertise. Their presence and willingness to interact with our students made the event truly impactful. A special thank you is also due to our dedicated **Careers team- Miss Middleton and Mrs. Marwaha**, whose tireless efforts and careful planning ensured the smooth running and overall success of the fair. We are incredibly proud of our students' engagement and the positive interactions that took place and we look forward to building on this success in future careers events.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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](mailto:tw_s-workexperience@swale.at)

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



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: [tw\\_s-workexperience@swale.at](mailto:tw_s-workexperience@swale.at)



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## NOTICE BOARD

### \*\*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

### \*\* Cucina Restaurant\*\*

Dear Parents, just a reminder that even as we head into the summer term, your children can still enjoy **free porridge** at breakfast in our Cucina Restaurant.




Cucina IFG

## Ramadan GRAB BAG

DURING THIS RAMADAN CUCINA ARE OFFERING GRAB BAGS FOR YOU TO TAKE AND ENJOY AT HOME TO BREAK YOUR FAST

EACH GRAB BAG INCLUDES:

- Dates
- Apple & Mango Juice
- Vegetable Samosa

AVAILABLE EVERY SCHOOL DAY FROM THE FIRST DAY OF RAMADAN UNTIL EID AL FITR COLLECT YOURS AFTER SCHOOL FROM THE RESTAURANT!

£ 2.70

\*All Grab Bags are available at the price of a free school meal.

COMING UP... CELEBRATE EID AL FITR WITH US THIS MARCH!



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We are excited to support **Red Nose Day** and encourage our community to join us in making a difference. If you would like to donate and contribute to this wonderful cause, please follow the link provided: [Donations comic relief](#)



**PERFORMING ARTS WEEK**

**WEDNESDAY 19th MARCH PS&G**  
**Performing Arts Sharing** COMEDY IMPROVISATION PERFORMANCE/DANCE PERFORMANCES

**FRIDAY 21st MARCH PS&G**  
**Karaoke Party!** TAKE ON TEACHERS AND FELLOW STUDENTS IN A SINGING BATTLE. PRIZES FOR BEST AND WORST

YOU CAN JOIN IN EITHER OF THE EVENTS ABOVE IN EXCHANGE FOR A DONATION TO COMIC RELIEF. DETAILS TO FOLLOW ON PARENT PAY



**\*\* Timetable & Family Hub Information \*\***

"Timetable information and details about our local Kent Family Hub can be found here: [Kent Family Hub](#)



**STAGE COACH**  
 Stagecoach Performing Arts Whitstable and Faversham

**EASTER WORKSHOP**

THE WONDERFUL LAND OF **OZ**

Venture to the land of Oz in a three-day fun filled performing arts workshop  
 singing - dancing - acting

**WHEN? 7th/8th/9th April**  
**WHERE? Swalecliffe Community Primary School**  
**WHO? Children aged 5-18**



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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 and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, [visit our site](#), please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a sandbox title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
PEGI 7

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for malicious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

#### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can contact with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

#### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offer on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

#### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or enticing mechanics that keep players coming back - or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. In most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an obsessive need to remain online for long periods of time.

#### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pence up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a bit of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to wind up out of pocket.

#### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the type of game a child or irresponsible player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

#### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how moderation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works. Then sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

#### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your device profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

#### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

#### Meet Our Expert

Dan Upcombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 16 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them on @DanUpcombe.

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[#WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

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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