

04 APRIL 2025

NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

What an incredible end to a term packed with unforgettable trips, well-deserved student rewards and remarkable achievements! Read on for all the exciting details!

Key Dates:

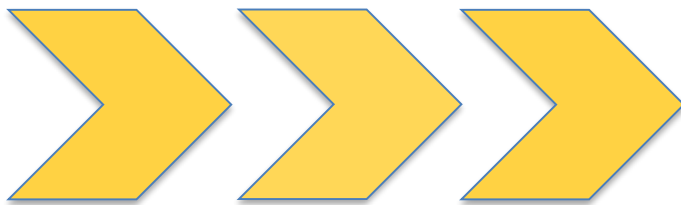
- 22 April 2025 - Term 5 Starts
- 30 April 2025- In- School vaccinations
- 01 May 2025- In-School vaccinations
- 23 May 2025- Term 5 Ends

Update

TWS School Uniform Policy

From September 2025, The Whitstable School will implement specific skirt and sock requirements, return to changing for PE and renovate PE facilities to maintain uniform consistency and reflect our high standards. Maintaining clear expectations regarding uniform is crucial, as it reflects the high standards and excellence of our school.

[Uniform Outcome Letter](#)



**NEXT TERM STARTS
ON 22ND APRIL 2025
WITH
WEEK B TIMETABLE**



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A member of Swale Academies Trust

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

Registered in England No. 07344732

**** Headteacher Message ****

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting term, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the fantastic achievements across the school. So far this academic year, we have run over 80 trips, giving students rich opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Our Pupil Parliament continues to thrive, empowering students to shape their school experience. Both our STEM and Stage Academies are going from strength to strength and we're delighted to have secured new sponsors to financially support even more enrichment activities for our young people. Year 11 have recently completed their mock exams and we are incredibly proud of the way they approached them. The staff continue to work tirelessly to support every student in achieving their best. Across the school, our teachers have focused on increasing opportunities for students to work in pairs and groups, using a range of assessment techniques to capture the voice of the many in each classroom. This is helping to build confidence, encourage collaboration, and improve overall engagement in learning. Thank you for all your support with the changes we've made so far this year as we continue our journey towards excellence. I wish you and your family a peaceful, restful and joyful Easter break.

Mr. Holmes, Headteacher

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.



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SIXTH FORM UPDATE

** TWS Sixth Form Alumni Update **

We are incredibly proud to announce that TWS Sixth Form alumnus Logan has won a Royal Television Society award for his outstanding student film! Fresh from graduating UCA Farnham, Logan's talent has also been recognized internationally, earning him 1st runner-up at a Toronto film festival. We're thrilled to welcome Logan back to inspire our A Level Film students. If you're passionate about film, like Logan, there are still opportunities to join our Sixth Form – apply now via **Kent Choices!**

In other news, **The Whitstable School Sixth Form** is still accepting applications for **September!**

Don't miss the chance to explore our diverse curriculum and innovative sports pathways. Visit **Kent Choices** to view our offerings and apply – we only accept applications through this platform.

Due to an unprecedented number of applications this year, we strongly advise any student hoping to join us to accept our offer and rank us as their first choice.

For any questions or further information, please contact Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form.

- 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



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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:

Harry (Year 8) and Sophia (Year 8)

We've teamed up with local businesses for amazing rewards.

This week's prize is vouchers for local book store **Tales on Moon Lane**.



Students with their prizes in the TRACK Excellence raffle.



**** Exploring Canterbury Cathedral: A Day of Learning and Discovery ****

On Wednesday, the Year 10 GCSE RE class embarked on a captivating journey through Canterbury Cathedral and its precincts. A special film screening provided a historical overview, setting the stage for a guided tour of the cloisters, precincts, and the cathedral itself. Students gained a rich understanding of the cathedral's significance as a centre of Christian culture and its connection to English history. Lunch in the Chapter House, echoing its original purpose, fostered further discussion. The day culminated with students completing engaging booklet tasks, including artistic interpretations of architectural features, showcasing their unique perspectives.



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**** 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:

Art & Design:

- **Aria, Imogen, Morgan (Year 7):** Stunning pictures using point of perspective.
- **Morgan (Year 7):** Creative and functional insect house.

Religious Education (RE):

- **Lorelai (Year 10):** Informative and well-designed poster on Buddhism.
- **Hetty (Year 7):** Thought-provoking poster expressing her view of the world today.

English:

- **Isabella (Year 7):** Excellent work on writing effectively using "what," "how " and "why" as a guide.
- **Laila, Yahya, Henry (Year 8):** Outstanding assessment work.

History:

- **Sophia, Ashleigh (Year 8):** Work on French revolution in English

Science:

- **Sophia and Macey (Year 8):** Detailed and insightful work on food fuel and energy.

Modern Foreign Languages (Spanish):

- **Nancy, Elkie, Mila, Delilah, Holly, Eden (Year 7) and Flo, April, Addy (Year 8):** Impressive posters showcasing Spanish traditions.
- **Sophia (Year 8):** Exceptional revision work.

Canterbury Cathedral Trip (Art/Observation):

- **Mae, Milo, Summer, Bethan, Lola, Sophie, Hollie, Lucy, Lorelai, Stephen, Will, Grace, Evie, Milly (Year 10):** Remarkable drawings of captivating details from their visit.

Special congratulations to our Book of Commendation winners for this term: Hayden (Year 10) and Olivia (Year 9)! They each received a £10 Amazon voucher for their outstanding achievement.

Congratulations to all our commended students!



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



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Title: Sixth Form Reading Buddies & Library Updates



Our Sixth Form reading buddies are making a real difference! These dedicated students, despite their demanding studies, have been trained to support younger pupils who need extra reading practice. We're incredibly grateful for their selfless commitment.

In library news, we have received several inquiries about 'listen along' books with QR codes. These are a fantastic way to engage with reading, and we have a selection available. They also make wonderful Easter presents! You can browse some examples [here](#).

Finally, as you're spring cleaning this holiday, please consider donating any good quality, pre-loved books, magazines or jigsaw puzzles (250 pieces or less) to our library. The puzzles have been a huge hit with students during breaks and lunchtimes. Donations can be dropped off at Reception or the library.

** Outdoor Learning at Wildwood **

Thursday's trip to Wildwood provided Year 8 group with a unique outdoor learning experience. Students engaged in hands-on activities, including dissecting owl pellets to identify consumed animal bones, exploring the wildlife park and observing the owls' Easter display practice. They even braved a rope bridge over the bear enclosure!



**** Mental Health, Wellbeing and Online Safety Resources ****

In our continued commitment to promoting mental wellbeing and online safety, we're sharing valuable resources from KOOOTH. This is particularly timely following the recent 'Adolescence' documentary, which highlighted crucial online safety concerns. KOOOTH offers support and guidance on social anxiety, low mood, and staying safe online, empowering both parents and students. To further support our community, KOOOTH has produced a 15-minute video on staying safe online, a vital aspect of our students' wellbeing. We strongly encourage you to watch this video and discuss its content with your children. Additionally, KOOOTH provides helpful leaflets with information on these topics and how to sign up for their services.

- [15-Minute Social Media and Staying Safe Online Video by KOOOTH](#)
- [Social anxiety](#)
- [Online Safety Guide Kooth](#)
- [Kooth- Navigating Depression and low mood](#)



**** Menu Changes: Concept Weeks Begin After Easter ****

Cucina is introducing a new menu after Easter! We'll be running 'Concept Weeks' (Tuesday-Thursday) featuring 'Wok Pot,' 'Spud King' and 'Caribbean Kitchen' options.

Students can customize their meals with bases and toppings.



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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

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



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NOTICE BOARD

Canterbury City Council, in partnership with Canterbury RFC, is hosting a fantastic FREE event called 'Give It A Go!' This is a brilliant opportunity for everyone to try out a variety of sports and activities, from Football and Rugby to Dance and Judo. There will also be health and wellbeing stalls, plus visits from Kent Police and Kent Fire & Rescue Service. Stay tuned for more details on a free shuttle service from Canterbury City Centre!



FREE FAMILY EVENT

canterbury city council

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 12 July 2025
10am to 4pm
at Canterbury Rugby Club, CT4 7DZ

Your chance to **'GIVE IT A GO!'** with various sports from around the district.

More information coming soon!



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, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about INSTAGRAM

Instagram remains one of the world's most popular social media platforms, especially among teens – with around 70% of 13 to 17-year-olds using it. Owned by Meta, Instagram allows users to share photos and videos, create interactive 'stories', broadcast live, send private messages and follow others. With regular updates and new features, it's essential for parents and educators to stay informed about how children are using the app – and what the risks are.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME**
Instagram's design encourages prolonged use through endless scrolling of trending content and generating a fear of missing out (FOMO). Children can quickly lose track of time browsing posts from friends, influencers and strangers, which may disrupt their day-to-day activities.
- AI CHATBOT CONCERNS**
Meta's AI, which is available on Instagram, allows users to chat with an on-app chatbot. While often helpful, it can blur boundaries for young users, who may ask for or read content that is inappropriate or see it as a real friend or confidante. Privacy issues also arise as conversations may not be as secure or private as children assume.
- RISKS OF GOING LIVE**
The livestream feature allows real-time broadcasting to followers – or anyone, if the account is public. This increases the chance of unwanted contact from strangers and pressure to act in ways that gain attention, including engaging in inappropriate behaviour. Viewers may also post offensive or harmful comments during live sessions.
- THREADS INTEGRATION**
Threads is Instagram's sister app for public, text-based conversations. Posts from Threads appear in users' Instagram feeds and can lead children to view, share, and comment on public conversations with strangers. The content may not always be age-appropriate and can be misleading or false.
- SCHEDULED MESSAGING**
Instagram's newer ability to schedule direct messages means that children could receive messages late at night or early in the morning. This can disrupt their sleep or keep them preoccupied before the school day even begins.
- EXCLUSION AND LOW SELF-WORTH**
Feeling left out online can have a real emotional impact. Being left out of photos, receiving fewer likes, being unliked, or being ignored in chats and comments can leave children feeling excluded, which often feeds as much as real life. There is a risk this can lead to reduced self-esteem and a sense of not belonging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- USE INSTAGRAM'S SUPERVISION TOOLS**
Instagram's built-in Family Centre lets parents monitor how much time their child spends on the app. Specialised 'teen accounts' are private by default and offer controls on who can message them. Make sure that children use their real age when registering their account to ensure they have these protections.
- SET BOUNDARIES FOR THREADS AND AI**
Parental controls on Instagram also apply to Threads. These allow parents to monitor time spent in the app, check follower lists and adjust exposure to sensitive content. Discuss AI features, too, therefore helping children understand that chatbots aren't real people and should be used with care.
- OPEN UP THE CONVERSATION**
Talk regularly to the children in your care about what they enjoy on Instagram – and what makes them uncomfortable. Encourage honest chats about filters, body image, and online approval. Reassure them that they don't need to edit their appearance or pose 'likes' to feel valued.
- BE MEDIA-SAVVY WITH INFLUENCERS**
Parents should follow a few of the influencers their child watches, so they can better understand the content they're seeing. Use this as a springboard to talk about the difference between genuine recommendations and paid promotions – and how online personalities can shape opinions and behaviour.

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

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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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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