

12 September 2025

NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

Welcome back to our TWS students! We hope you had a restful summer break and are ready for a new academic year. We have some important updates about the start of our new term. Please read on for more details and highlights!

Key Dates:

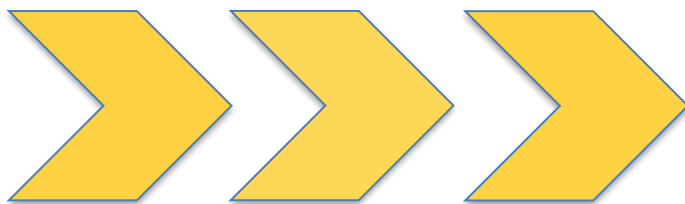
- **25 September 2025** – Year 6 Open Evening. (Students leave school at 12:55)
- **26 September 2025**- Staff Development Day. (School closed)
- **29 September – 02 October 2025** - Open Morning Tours. (Booking essential)
- **17 October 2025**- End of Term 1
- **03 November 2025**- Start of Term 2

Update

Extra-Curricular Activities

At The Whitstable School, students are encouraged to get involved in a range of extra-curricular clubs and activities to develop new interests and skills. These clubs are run by teachers and full timetable can be downloaded from our website:

[Extra-Curricular clubs](#)



**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

Dear Parents,

It's been a great start to the new academic year. The students have been settling in well and are getting back into their routines. While the weather has been challenging, it was wonderful to see some sunshine this week and watch the students enjoying the many activities we have on offer during break and lunch. We look forward to sharing a list of everything available to your son or daughter over the coming week.

➤ **The Importance of Attendance**

The government has placed a great deal of emphasis on attendance, encouraging all students to attend 100% of the time. Our recent GCSE results show that students with attendance rates **above 95%** were the most successful in achieving their goals, with the majority getting a 5+ grade in their core subjects. Being in front of their teachers on a regular basis is crucial for successful learning.

➤ **Homework and Academic Success**

We will be sharing a new homework calendar with everyone soon. It is important to build a culture of doing a little work every day at home. This practice will reinforce their knowledge when they return to the classroom and prepare them for upcoming tests and exams. Please encourage your child to complete their homework regularly.

➤ **Staying Connected**

If you want to get in contact, please don't hesitate to email us at the usual TWS_admin@swale.at. Information about our upcoming parent forums will be sent out shortly. Your feedback is valuable and helps us better support your child's education.

We also look forward to seeing many of you at our curriculum evenings, which will take place after our **Open Evening on September 25th**. This will be a great opportunity to speak with the senior team and see the work your child has been doing in their core and science subjects.

Mr A Holmes
Headteacher



The Whitstable School

ENROL NOW



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk

tw_s_admin@swale.at

01227 931300



**SPACES AVAILABLE
SEPTEMBER 2026**



**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

UPCOMING EVENTS

** Open Events for September 2026 Admissions: Current Year 6 Pupils! **

We are excited to announce our upcoming open events for current Year 6 pupils considering admission to our school in September 2026. This is a fantastic opportunity for families and prospective pupils to get a real feel for our school community.

You will have the chance to hear directly from our Headteacher, meet our dedicated staff and current pupils, tour our excellent facilities and even visit subject classes in action!

Open Evening:

Join us on **Thursday, September 25th, 2025, from 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM**. Headteacher talks will be held at: **6:00 PM, 6:45 PM and 7:30 PM**.

Open Morning Tours:

Our Open Morning tours will run from **Monday, September 29th until Thursday, October 2nd 2025**. We will have two tours each morning:

- **First tour:** 9:00 AM - 9:40 AM
- **Second tour:** 10:00 AM - 10:40 AM

Advance booking is required for all Open Morning tours. Please note that **each parent will need to book an individual ticket**. One child is permitted per parent, and tickets are not required for children.

To book one of our Open Morning Tours please scan the QR code or go to:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/tws-open-events>

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk/about-us/news/open-events-september-2025>

To download copy of our prospectus, click here: [TWS Prospectus](#)

We can't wait to welcome you!



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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

** Join Us for Our Curriculum Evenings! **

We are excited to invite all parents to attend our upcoming **Curriculum Evenings**, a fantastic opportunity to learn more about your child's academic journey.

These evenings are designed to provide you with valuable insights into the curriculum, learning expectations and how you can best support your child's success. You will have the chance to meet the Headteacher and ask any questions you may have about the subjects your child is studying.

Please note, this is not a parents' evening. Those are scheduled for later in the academic year to give you an opportunity to discuss specific progress with your child's teachers.

Schedule of Events

- **Year 9:** Monday, September 29th | 3:20 PM - 4:20 PM
- **Year 10:** Wednesday, October 1st | 3:20 PM - 4:20 PM
- **Year 7:** Monday, October 6th | 3:20 PM - 4:20 PM
- **Year 8:** Wednesday, October 8th | 3:20 PM - 4:20 PM

Information has been sent out from the school office with a link to confirm your attendance.

We look forward to seeing you there and working together to support your child's education!

Reward Shop Opening soon

Our school's reward shop will open on **Monday, September 29, 2025**. It's a great opportunity for students to spend the rewards they've earned. All profits from the shop go directly toward funding fun equipment for break and lunchtimes.

Opening Hours:

- **Monday:** 12:55 PM - 1:30 PM (for Years 7 and 8)
- **Wednesday:** 12:55 PM - 1:30 PM (for Years 9-11)
- **Friday:** 12:55 PM - 1:30 PM (open to all year groups)



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

SIXTH FORM UPDATE

** Leyla's Historical Achievement **

A huge congratulations to **Year 13** student **Leyla**, who has received a commendation for her entry into the 2025 Julia Wood History Essay Competition, hosted by St Hugh's College, Oxford University. Leyla's essay, titled "Accuracy in the age of Entertainment: Exploring the implications of historical adaptations in modern media on our perception of medieval figures and their legacy," earned her an invitation to afternoon tea at the college to celebrate her accomplishment.

** Football Academy's Impressive Start **



We also want to congratulate our **Football Academy** on a commanding start to the 2025/26 season! The National League squad kicked off their campaign with an impressive 4-2 home victory. The team quickly established a 4-0 lead within the first 30 minutes, which included a goal from **Alex, Year 13**. The players demonstrated dominant, eye-catching football, maintaining control of possession and showcasing their strong footballing intelligence throughout the first half. It was a truly great start to the season!

THIS WEEK SO FAR...

** 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:

- **Jacob, Harrison, Selina, Bebe, Poppy, Didem and Imogen (Year 9)** for their creative artwork.

Mathematics:

- **Camille, Holly and Amelia (Year 8)** for their impressive maths work.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



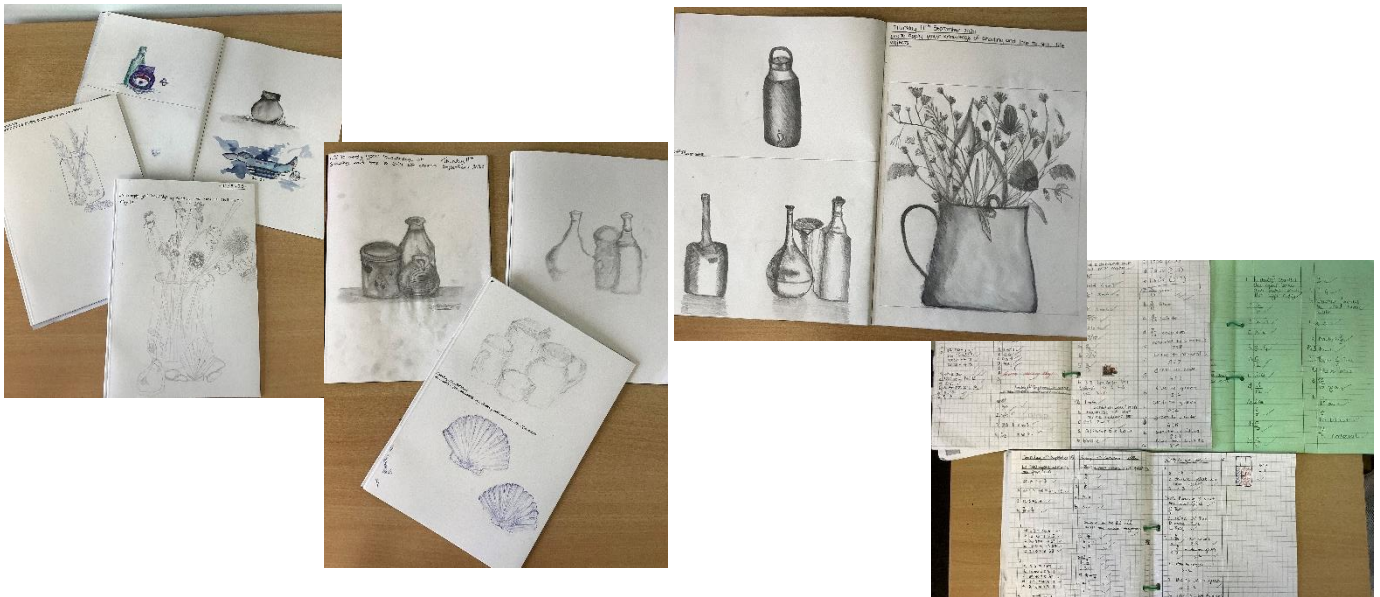
GOLD
SCHOOL
2020

ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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

Registered in England No. 07344732



**** The Whitstable School Leads on Smartphone Safety ****

Last week, The Whitstable School was proud to join a powerful roundtable discussion with educators from across Canterbury. The focus of the meeting was to tackle the urgent issue of unregulated smartphone use in childhood. We are excited to work together and see Canterbury lead the way in protecting our young people.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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

Registered in England No. 07344732

**** Year 10 Food Prep: A Fantastic Start! ****

Year 10 GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition students have made a fantastic start to the year! They produced excellent quality Chow Mein, focusing on precision, accuracy, multitasking and speed.



NOTICE BOARD

**** School Restaurant Update ****

Our school restaurant offers a variety of healthy options for breakfast, break and lunch. We are currently serving the same menu from last term, but a new menu will be available starting in October. Be on the lookout for more details about our upcoming themed days! For more information, please visit our [website](#).





Artsmark Gold Award
Awarded by Arts Council England



ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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

Registered in England No. 07344732

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 GZ2?

This group is 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


SUPPORT FOR PARENTS/CARERS

We offer face-to-face and online support for parents/carers including...

- Webinars covering a range of topics
- Face-to-face workshops
- Therapy services - speech & language therapy, occupational therapy, counselling
- Outreach support such as de-escalation techniques to be used at home
- Help parents and carers support children with school anxiety

Scan the QR code for more information on our website

If you would like any further information please email: rmsolutions@i-t.org





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



ART CLUB!

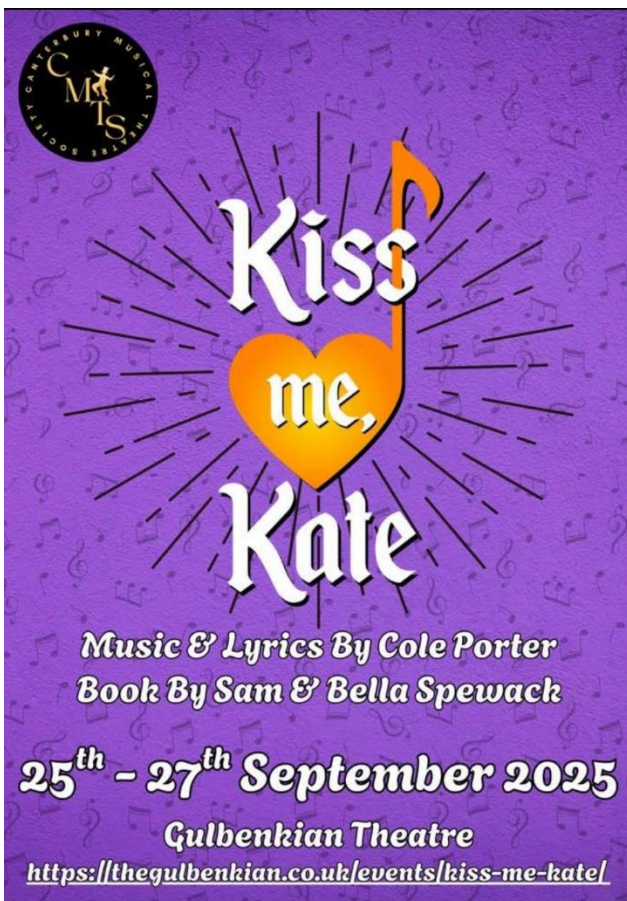
EVERY TUESDAY LUNCHTIME IN CZ24

Debating Club - KS3.

Are you interested in **debating and getting your voice heard?**

We will be running **Debate Club from 3:10-4:10** after school **every Tuesday in LZ7.**

You will also be invited to take part in the **Trust Debating Competition for years 7-9 in April 2026.**



Kiss me, Kate

Music & Lyrics By Cole Porter
Book By Sam & Bella Spewack

25th - 27th September 2025

Gulbenkian Theatre

<https://thegulbenkian.co.uk/events/kiss-me-kate/>

Join us for the Knitting and Crochet Club!

We meet every Tuesday lunchtime in the library.

All skill levels are welcome!



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST CLUB

Start Your Day Right

Come to the Restaurant from 8:20 - 8:35 everyday

Bacon or sausage rolls, croissants, waffles, pain au chocolate and pain au raisin Prices from £1.55

Free porridge available to all students everyday




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



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 CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.09.2025



Artsmark Gold Award Awarded by Arts Council England



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:** Please remember that many individuals with disabilities may not show outward signs.
- **Permits must be displayed:** If you have a valid permit, please ensure it is clearly visible in your vehicle's windscreen. Some individuals may have valid permits that are not always displayed.
- **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.

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



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