

19 September 2025

NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

This week has been full of remarkable student achievements, both inside and outside the classroom. We are proud to highlight their passion and success, from inspiring talks to creative accomplishments. Please read on for more details and highlights!

Key Dates:

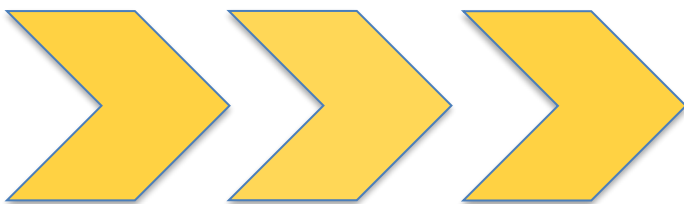
- **25 September 2025** – Year 6 Open Evening.
*(Students leave school at **12:55**. Snacks and lunch will be available for all students during break time at 10:45 in our restaurant.)*
- **26 September 2025**- Staff Development Day.
(School closed)
- **29 September – 02 October 2025** - Open Morning Tours. *(Booking essential)*
- **17 October 2025**- End of Term 1
- **03 November 2025**- Start of Term 2

Reminder



We kindly request that parents and carers inform the school of any **allergies or intolerances** your child may have. This information is essential for our kitchen staff to ensure we can cater to all students safely and effectively.

Please send an email with the details to tw_admin@swale.at.



NEXT WEEK IS WEEK B TIMETABLE



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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**.

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!



2025

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 25 September 2025
6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Headteacher talks at:
6:00 PM, 6:45 PM and 7:30 PM

*Booking for Open Evening not required.
Free parking available on site.

 **The Whitstable School**
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**** 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.

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.

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.

English:

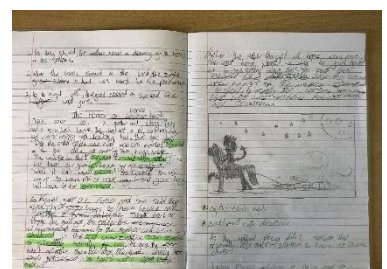
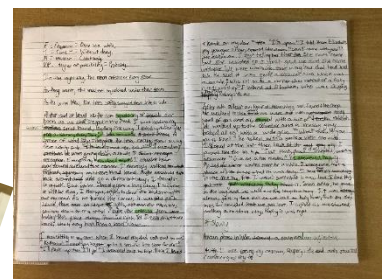
- **Zachary and Anna (Year 7)** for beautifully written English work.

Art:

- **Lily-Grace (Year 7)** for their impressive K-Pop poster in Art.

Mentor time:

- **Michael (Year 9)** was commended for his impressive talk on flying an airplane.



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

Each Wednesday, the school will run a 'TRACK Excellence' raffle for all students. To enter, students must have seven or more positive signatures over the two weeks. Students with negative signatures are still able to participate.

This week's winner is:
Matt (Year 8)

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



This week's raffle winner.



**** Water Fun with Duke of Edinburgh ****

Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh students recently enjoyed a full day of water sports, including kayaking, canoeing and paddleboarding. They tackled challenges and games, learning how to stay safe while having fun on the water—with most of them even deciding to jump in at the end!



There's still time for other Year 9 students to join the **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award**, so it's not too late to sign up!



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**** In the Classroom: A Touch of History ****

This term, Year 9 history classes are delving into the Great War. A huge thank you to Harrison, who kindly created a fantastic display for the department. He shared his personal collection of WWI artifacts and replicas, demonstrating a wonderful passion for history and a generous willingness to share it with his classmates.

**** Creative success and The Canterbury Festival ****

A huge congratulations to Gabi (Year 10), who received a special mention in The Canterbury Festival's poetry competition. Gabi's beautiful and moving poem, titled 'Rather,' will be published alongside the poems of other selected students.



**** Flying High and Inspiring Students ****

This week, Michael in Year 9 shared his experience of flying an airplane, giving an inspiring talk during mentor time with Mr. Williams's class. He was commended in the book of commendation for his passion and for inspiring his classmates.



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**** Leaders in the Making ****

Two of our Year 11 students from The Whitstable School had the incredible opportunity to attend a Student Leadership training event hosted at The Holmesdale School. The school library was buzzing with student leaders from all nine secondary schools across the Swale Academies Trust, making for a truly fantastic and inspiring day for everyone involved.



NOTICE BOARD

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



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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.**

Join us for the Knitting and Crochet Club!

We meet every Tuesday lunchtime in the library.

All skill levels are welcome!



TWS GIRLS FOOTBALL

WANT TO BE THE NEXT LIONESS SUPER STAR?

Every Tuesday

3:10 - 4:10 AFTER SCHOOL

FIXTURES - YET TO BE CONFIRMED

WANT TO JOIN? GO FIND MISS FINN!



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




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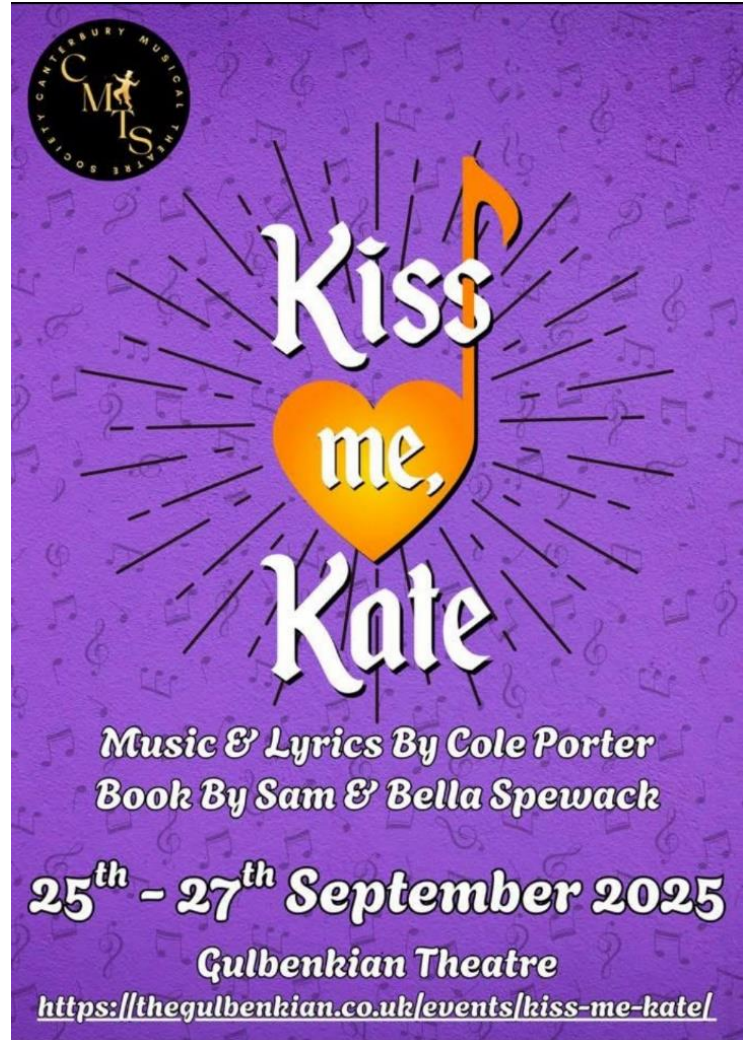
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**LEGO
CLUB**

Every Monday & Tuesday lunch
Year 7 & 8
Location: The Hub (Lower Global)

Any questions come find Mrs James & Miss Sheehan



**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/>



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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 SNAPCHAT

SNAP STREAK 97 **AGE RESTRICTION** 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 📧 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXUATION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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

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

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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



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