

25 September 2025

NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

We are also incredibly excited to be hosting our Open Evening tonight. Please read on for more details and highlights from this week!

Key Dates:

- **25 September 2025** – Year 6 Open Evening.
- **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

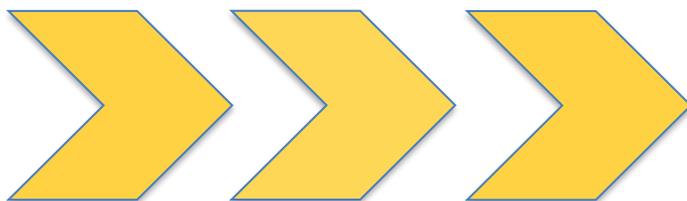
Reminder



Don't miss our Open Evening tonight!

We look forward to welcoming all prospective students and families!

Please remember that tomorrow, the school will be closed for a scheduled Staff Development Day.



**NEXT WEEK IS
WEEK A
TIMETABLE**



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UPCOMING EVENTS

** Open Evening Tonight! **

We can't wait to welcome all prospective students and their parents and carers to our Open Evening. This is a wonderful opportunity to see what makes The Whitstable School so special.

Our 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.

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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.

**** Important: Upcoming Vaccination Dates ****

The Immunisation Team will be visiting our school on **Wednesday, 25/02/2026** and again on **Wednesday, 11/03/2026** for a full-day visit.

The primary focus will be on the Year 8 students. However, students in Years 9, 10 or 11 who have not yet received a dose of the **HPV vaccine** will also be included in the session if they are available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

For more information visit the [Immunisation service](#) website.



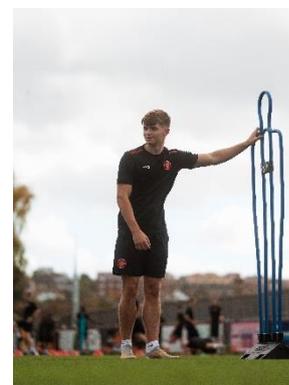
SIXTH FORM UPDATE

** Strong League Start and FA Youth Cup Advancement **



The **Schools Academy League** campaign has kicked off in great fashion with a **4-2 away win** at Canterbury Academy. Despite a slow start that saw us go 1-0 down early on, the team responded brilliantly. Two quick goals from **Charlie (Year 12)** immediately turned the game around, giving us the momentum needed. Further goals from the team sealed a well-deserved victory and a strong platform for the league season.

In the prestigious FA Youth Cup, our Scholarship Squad continued their impressive run last Tuesday evening in the Second Qualifying Round, securing a dominant **5-0 home victory** over Deal Town. **Alex (Year 13)** was in outstanding form, scoring an incredible four goals, with **Ionut (Year 13)** adding another to cap off a fantastic team performance. The squad now progresses to the Third Qualifying Round, where they will face Chatham Town away on Thursday, 2nd October—a brilliant achievement and opportunity for the group to test themselves further!



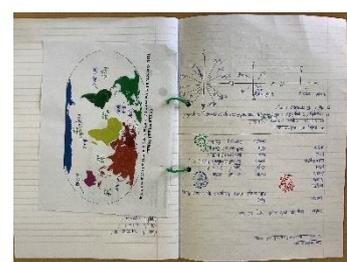
THIS WEEK SO FAR...

** 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.

Geography:

- **Ellis (Year 7)** for great work about compasses in Geography.
- **Henry (Year 9)** for his impressive work in Geography.



Art:

- **Grace (Year 8) and James (Year 9)** for their impressive artwork on using proportions to draw a face.



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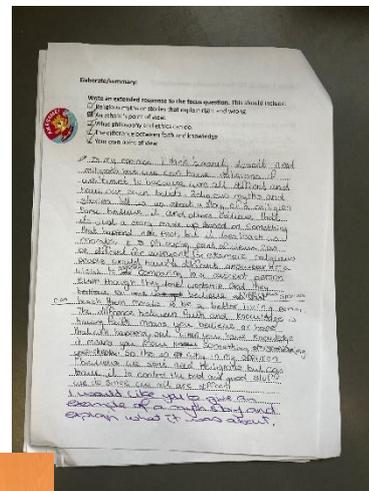
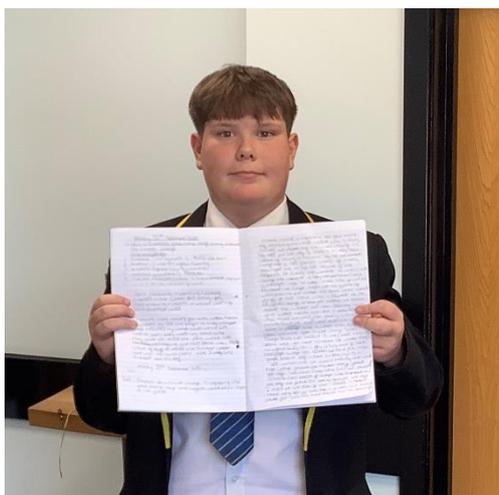
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Religious education:

- **Esha (Year 8) and Lexi (Year 9) were commended for her impressive essays in RE.**



**** 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:
Miles (Year 9)



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



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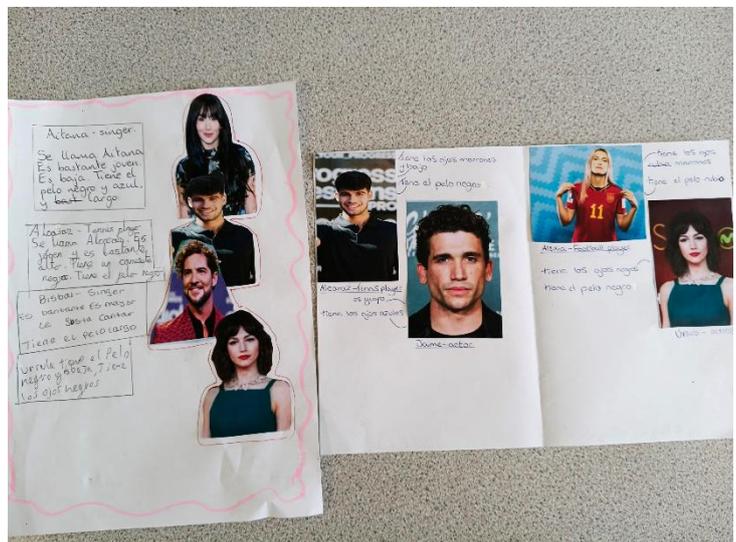


**** Exciting Educational Partnership with The BRIT School! ****

We are thrilled to announce our partnership with The BRIT School! This excellent collaboration will directly benefit our students by securing an annual bursary for one student and reserving an additional place for a student starting next September. This is a fantastic opportunity for our aspiring creative students to access world-class arts education!

**** Spanish Success in Year 8! ****

Last week, our Year 8 students did an amazing job writing about some fascinating Spanish celebrities! They successfully put into practice all the vocabulary and grammar they have been learning over the past two weeks, focusing on the topic "¿Cómo es tu cuerpo?" (What is your body like?). **¡Muy bien, chicos!**



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** Adventure at Nevergong Forest School! **

Last Thursday, a select group of our students enjoyed an amazing, muddy and memorable time at the **Nevergong Forest School** for a special extra-curricular and team-building trip.

This was the first session of a six-week programme designed to help the students build **confidence and resilience** through hands-on, outdoor activities. The highlight of the trip was learning to **fish**, an activity that requires patience and skill—and one they absolutely loved!

The students did brilliantly and are already looking forward to their next trip out to the forest.



NOTICE BOARD

ChatHealth: Confidential text support



ChatHealth is a confidential texting service available to all young people aged 11 to 19. It provides a safe and anonymous way for them to seek advice and support from a qualified member of our team on a wide range of physical and emotional health concerns.

Available: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm

Text: 07520 618850

Health for Teens: Award-winning website

We would also like to highlight our award-winning Health for Teens website, co-designed with young people with young people. It has bite-sized information on a range of physical and emotional health topics including healthy



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eating, body image, managing stress, advice on relationships, puberty and sexual health alongside a directory of local services suitable for 11 to 19-year-olds.

Kent Family has a suite of resources for parents of 0- to 19-year-olds to support their child's development and to help them be happy and healthy.



Polybuzz is a messaging and polling app where users can post anonymous questions, comments, and feedback. It is often used in schools among friendship groups, with users sharing links to invite others to comment anonymously.

Why is it a concern?

While some young people may use **Polybuzz** light-heartedly, the anonymous nature of the app makes it risky. Dangers include:
Cyberbullying – negative or hurtful comments can be posted without accountability.

Peer pressure – students may feel pressured to participate or to post unkind things.

Emotional impact – young people can be left feeling upset, anxious, or isolated after receiving anonymous messages.

Lack of control – once comments are posted, they cannot easily be removed, and conversations can escalate quickly.

What can parents and carers do?

Talk openly with your child about the app and how it works.

Remind them that anonymity online can encourage unkind behaviour and encourage empathy and respect in their digital interactions.

Monitor devices regularly and set clear boundaries around the use of anonymous apps.

Encourage your child to come to you or a trusted adult if they see or experience anything upsetting online.



Canterbury Family Hub - Timetables for the Sept to Oct Term.

[Canterbury Family Hubs](#) | [Canterbury](#) | [Facebook](#)

[Canterbury Family Hubs \(@canterburyfamilyhubs\)](#)

[Canterbury Family Hubs 11-19 \(25 SEND\) \(@canterburyfamilyhubs11to19\)](#)



A nationwide competition working with professional chefs and industry specialists.

School Heat - Wednesday 8th October 3.15pm LZ10

See **Mrs Harvey** to register your interest.

Open to Years 9, 10 & 11

The Task

- Design, prepare and cook a main course for two people
- Should cost no more than £6.50 for both portions
- Cook & present your dish in 1 hour. Produce a costing & method.

School heat is judged by school staff and 2 winners will be selected to progress to the Local heats.

Winners of the Local heats will be paired with a professional chef for mentoring before the Regional and National finals.



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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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar or unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shaped by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity
Community
Wellbeing
Respect

UNCERTAINTY
CONFLICT
FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 38% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone, support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Reining in those moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

@wake_up_weds | /www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

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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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