

03 October 2025

# NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

We've had another successful week! Following our fantastic Open Evening last Thursday, the school has continued to celebrate some truly remarkable student achievements. Please read on for more details and highlights from this week!

## Key Dates:

- **17 October 2025** - End of Term 1
- **03 November 2025** - Start of Term 2
- **19 November 2025** - Year 10 & 11 Parent Forum
- **27 November 2025** - Sixth Form Open Evening
- **03 December 2025** - Year 7, 8 and 9 Parent Forum
- **04 December 2025** - Year 12 Parents Evening
- **09 December 2025** - Flu Immunisations – All year groups
- **11 December 2025** - Year 13 Parents Evening
- **19 December 2025** - End of Term 2 (*Students leave at 12:55PM*)

## Reminder

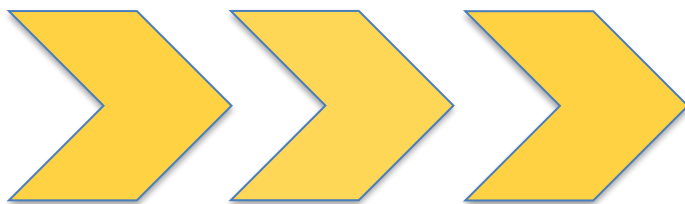


### SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 27 November 2025**

**The event will take place between  
5:30PM and 19:00PM.**

**We look forward to welcoming all prospective  
students and families!**



## NEXT WEEK IS WEEK B 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

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The trustees of the Swale Academies Trust and the Governors of The Whitstable School are seeking views on a proposal to reduce the Published Admission Number (PAN) of the Whitstable School, from 210 to 190 places from September 2027. Further details can be found in the attached letter: [PAN Consultation Letter](#)

You can have your say by:

- emailing us at [TWS\\_admin@swale.at](mailto:TWS_admin@swale.at)
- completing the response form at the back of the letter and sending it to the Chair of Governors at The Whitstable School (you can hand the completed form into the school office).



The closing date for sending your response is **Friday 14 November 2025**. The school are hosting a drop-in session on Monday 3rd November between 5.30pm to 6pm to answer any questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### \*\* 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 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.**



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Bellevue Road | Whitstable | Kent | CT5 1PX

T: 01227 931300

E: [tws\\_admin@swale.at](mailto:tws_admin@swale.at)

[www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk](http://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk)

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

**\*\* Sixth Form Open Evening! \*\***

We are excited to announce our upcoming Sixth Form Open Evening for September 2026 Admissions.

Join us on **Thursday, November 27th, 2025, from 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM.**

This is a fantastic opportunity for families and prospective students 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, and tour our excellent facilities. Advance booking not required.

For more information, please visit our [website](#).

We can't wait to welcome you!



**ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2026**

**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING**

**Thursday, 27 November 2025  
5:30PM- 7:00PM**

New **Football Academy** curriculum pathway.

We look forward to meeting you at our Open Evening. Attendance is open to all and no advance booking is required.



Contact Us  
**01227 931300**



Website Us  
<https://www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk>



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## \*\* 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



**WHITSTABLE TOWN FC ACADEMY**  
FOOTBALL FUTURES PLAY · TRAIN · STUDY

# SCHOLARSHIP RECRUITMENT TRIALS

**20/10/2025**  
AGES 16-18  
**REGISTER NOW**  
@ [WWW.FOOTBALL-FUTURES.COM](http://WWW.FOOTBALL-FUTURES.COM)  
**17:30 - 19:00PM**  
WHITSTABLE TOWN FC STADIUM · CT5 4LN

## \*\* Academy Trial Announced: 2026/2027 Scholarship Intake \*\*

We're excited to announce the first recruitment trial date for our prestigious 2-year full-time **Football & Education Academy Scholarship** programme (2026/2027 intake).

This is a fantastic opportunity for aspiring athletes to combine elite football training with excellent academic pathways, including **25 A-Level options** at **The Whitstable School** or the **NCFE Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport** (based at Whitstable Town FC). Students compete in the highly competitive National League U19 Alliance.

### Trial Details:

- **Date:** Monday, October 20, 2025
- **Time:** 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM (Registration at 5:15 PM)
- **Location:** Whitstable Town FC Stadium, Grimshill Road, CT5 4LN
- **Eligibility:** Open to 15–18-year-olds (Current Year 11, 12, & 13 students).

To register and secure your place, sign up here: <https://football-futures.com/whitstable-town-football-club-sign-up-online/>



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**THIS WEEK SO FAR...**

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

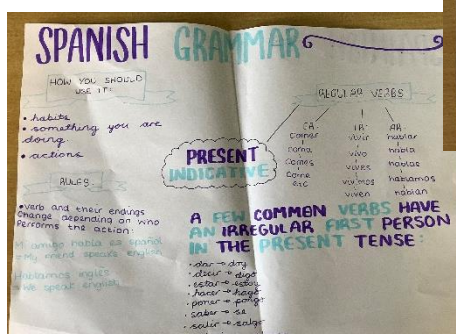
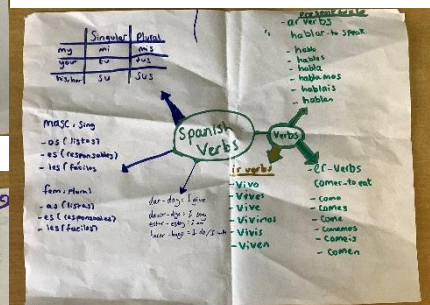
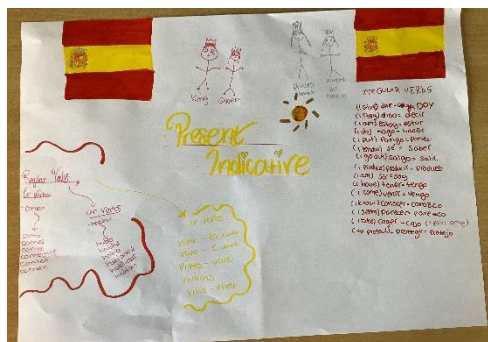
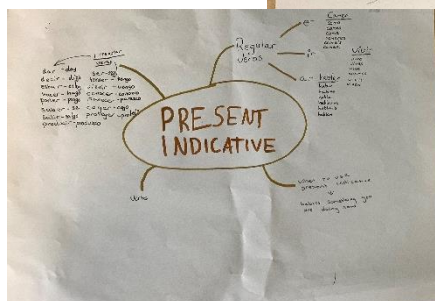
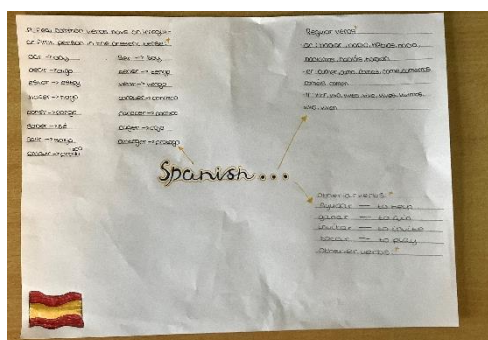
We are pleased to announce the following students have been recognised for their exceptional work and have been added to the Book of Commendation.

**Spanish:**

- **Lia, Amy, Phoebe, Maisy, Tessa, Daisy, Jonny, Teddy, Sam, Jake, Oscar and Hayden (Year10)** for their amazing posters in Spanish.

**Art:**

- **Nancy (Year 9)** for their impressive artwork.



**ON TRACK TO EXCELLENCE**

**\*\* 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:  
**Crystal (Year 8)**

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



**\*\* STEM Racing Team Visits Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) \*\***

One of our STEM Racing teams had the fantastic opportunity to visit Canterbury Christ Church University's Engineering department this week!

The students learned a great deal while testing a range of F1 model cars on the official track. The highlight was designing their final racing car, which **CCCU is now going to CNC machine** for the team.

This was a truly fantastic trip that provided valuable learning as the team makes final preparations for race day in December!



**Get Involved!**

If you would like to join the excitement and take part, the **STEM Racing club** is running:

- **When:** Wednesday lunchtime and Friday after school
- **Where:** LZ2 with Mrs. Newton



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## **\*\* Year 8 STEM Academy: Inspired by an Audio Innovator \*\***

This week, the Year 8 STEM Academy kicked off with a fantastic and highly inspirational talk from **Mr. Brun, a Chartered Engineer and Audio Innovator.**

Mr. Brun spoke to students about the importance of being **resilient** throughout their career pathways. His extensive experience included starting as a cameraman and working for the **BBC for 35 years.** This work eventually led him to become a freelance engineer, even designing innovative **flat-packed radio stations** to be sent to Sudan.

We are thrilled that Mr. Brun will be returning soon to host a hands-on **workshop** with our students where they will **build a radio!**



## **★ What an Evening! Thank You! ★**

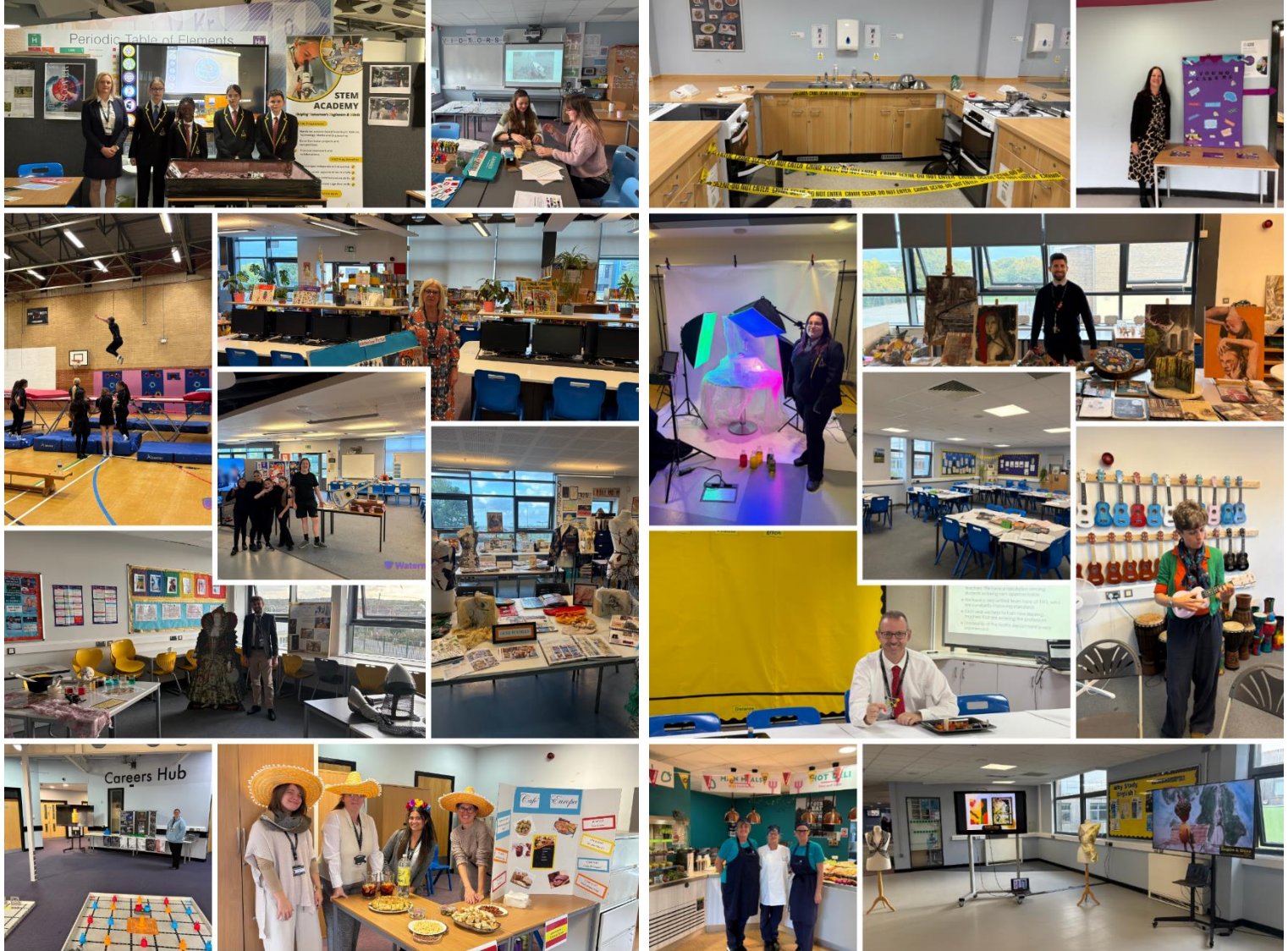
We had a fantastic **Open Evening** last week on Thursday!

A huge thank you to all our **dedicated staff** for your hard work and commitment in making the event such a success.

A special note of appreciation goes to our **Site Team** for their dedication in preparing the school!

The evening was truly brought to life by our amazing student helpers and the incredible performances from our **Stage Academy!**

Finally, thank you to all the **parents and families** who came to visit us. We look forward to welcoming the next cohort of prospective students in September 2026!



**Artsmark Gold Award**  
Awarded by Arts Council England



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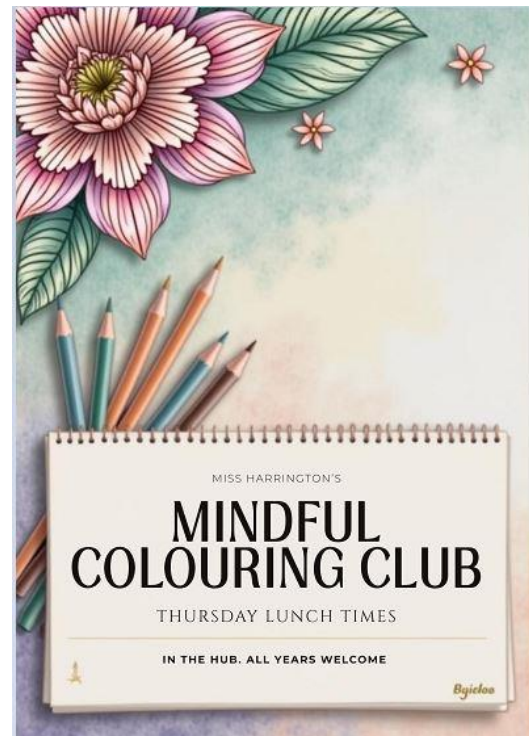
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## NOTICE BOARD



**MODELFEST**  
AT THE MUSEUM 10am - 4pm  
18TH-26TH OCTOBER 2025  
Planes, Trains & Automobiles  
A series of model displays including:  
**WARHAMMER 40,000**  
**BOLT ACTION**  
**SCALEXTRIC**  
& much more!  
Usual Museum entrance prices apply, see webpage for more information  
@RAF Manston History Museum  
if you have any questions, please contact us at info@rafmanston.co.uk



MISS HARRINGTON'S  
**MINDFUL COLOURING CLUB**  
THURSDAY LUNCH TIMES  
IN THE HUB. ALL YEARS WELCOME



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.

2025 winner Carys and her winning dish.



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## Swale Trust Events 2025 - 2026

EVENT	DATE	VENUE
EcoFest	10 <sup>th</sup> October	Peacehaven Community School
Post 16 Conference	13 <sup>th</sup> October	Meopham School
	14 <sup>th</sup> October	The Sittingbourne School
	15 <sup>th</sup> October	The North School
SwaleBot	14 <sup>th</sup> November	The Whitstable School
MicroStem	5 <sup>th</sup> December	The Whitstable School
ArtFest: Life drawing	14 <sup>th</sup> January	The Sittingbourne School
	15 <sup>th</sup> January	The Turing School
Maths Challenge	28 <sup>th</sup> January	The Holmesdale School
World Book Day	5 <sup>th</sup> March	
Swalestock	10 <sup>th</sup> March	Meopham School
Dance Fever	26 <sup>th</sup> March	The Turing School
Swale eSports	6 <sup>th</sup> May	The Turing School (or online)
Interhouse Debating	15 <sup>th</sup> May	The Whitstable School
Swalefeast	16 <sup>th</sup> June	Peacehaven Community School
Swale SportsFest	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026	Peacehaven Community School
Linguafiesta	26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026	The Westlands School
ShakesFest	9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	Birley Centre




TRUST EVENT FOR SECONDARY:  
**ECO-FEST**

**OCTOBER 2025**

Resourceful. Responsible. Revolutionary.  
Keep making the world greener, Eco-Ambassadors!

Hosted at:  
Peacehaven Community School

Swale ACADEMIES TRUST



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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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

#### VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

#### SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

#### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term. If children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

#### LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

#### MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

#### BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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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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