

07 November 2025

# NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

A huge welcome back to all our students! We hope everyone had a truly wonderful and restful half term break. We've had a busy start to the term. Please read on for more details and highlights from this week.

## Key Dates:

**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  
**17 December 2025** – Christmas Dinner  
**19 December 2025** - End of Term 2 (*Students leave at 12:55PM*)

## Reminder

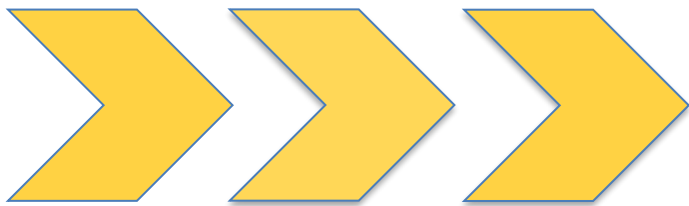


### SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

**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 A 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*

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to warmly welcome your children back to the start of Term 2. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

As we begin this new term, our key focus areas remain attendance and homework. It's vital that every student attends school every day, on time, to make the most of their learning opportunities. Homework continues to play a crucial role in consolidating classwork whether it's set online via Google Classroom or as printed worksheets or book-based tasks, so please do support your child in completing it regularly.

In lessons, we'll be developing students' confidence, communication (oracy) and teamwork through more pair and group activities. These skills are essential in helping them thrive both academically and socially.

We also want to maintain our high uniform standards and your ongoing support with this is greatly appreciated. This term brings many exciting trips, clubs, and enrichment opportunities and I encourage every student to take part in at least one. Being involved in wider school life really helps them develop a sense of belonging and pride in our school community.

For our Year 11 students, I wish you the very best in your upcoming mock exams. Regular revision will make a real difference in achieving the best possible results and securing your next steps after GCSEs.

Finally, please look out for progress checks being sent home later this term and remember our Year 7, 8 and 9 Parents' Forum is also coming up soon. This is a great chance to share feedback or discuss ideas for the continued development of our school.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr. A Holmes  
Headteacher



## ANNOUNCEMENT

The trustees of the Swale Academies Trust and the Governors of The Whitstable School are continuing to seek 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](#).



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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 hosted a drop-in session on Monday 3rd November (5.30pm to 6pm) to answer questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **\*\* 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. Please do look at our fantastic 2026 subject offer which is live on Kent Choices!

You will have the chance to hear directly from our Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form, 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 reminder: Upcoming School Immunisations \*\*****Seasonal Flu Vaccine (December 2025)**

The Immunisation Service will be visiting the school on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025**, to offer the **Seasonal Flu Vaccine**.

**Action Required:**

- Please discuss this immunisation with your child.
- Complete the online consent form at: [www.kentimmunisations.co.uk](http://www.kentimmunisations.co.uk)
- **Deadline:** Please submit your form before **4:00 PM on December 4, 2025**. **School Code is: KT144354**

If your child cannot be vaccinated at school, you will receive an email with a link to book an alternative appointment at one of their clinics.

**HPV Vaccine (February/March 2026)**

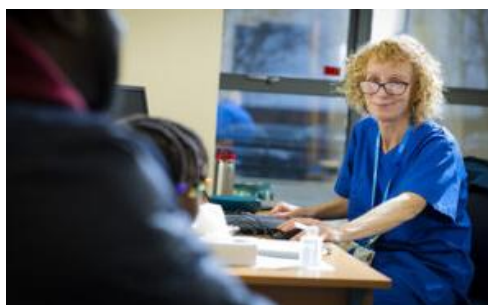
The Immunisation Team has also scheduled visits for the **HPV Vaccine** on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, February 25, 2026**
- **Wednesday, March 11, 2026** (Full-day visits)

The primary focus is **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 these sessions if they are available.

**Further Information & Support**

- **General Information:** For more details on the flu vaccine, visit [vaccineknowledge.ox.ac.uk/flu-vaccine](http://vaccineknowledge.ox.ac.uk/flu-vaccine) or [www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine).
- **General Questions:** If you have questions about the process for the immunisations, please contact the [school office](#).
- **Health Support:** For wider support regarding issues like sleep, behaviour, emotional support, and healthy lifestyles, Kent School Health supports children and young people aged four to nineteen. You can find helpful information at **Kent Family:** <https://family.kentcht.nhs.uk/>



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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 exceptional work and have been added to the Book of Commendation.

#### Photography:

- **Harrison (Year 9)** and for his impressive photography collage.

### \*\* 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.

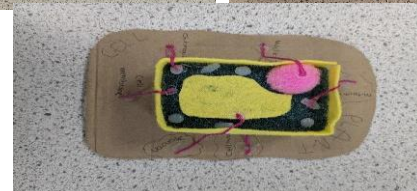
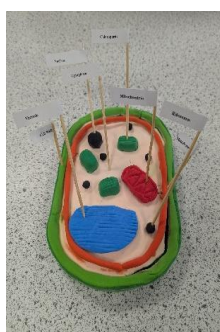
This week's winner is:  
**Rome (Year 10)**

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



### \*\* Year 7 Science: Creative Plant Cell Models! \*\*

Mrs. Aubrey-Killen's Year 7 Science classes have truly impressed us! For their homework, students were tasked with creating models of plant cells. We are incredibly proud of the effort and creativity shown in the models produced. Take a look at some of the fantastic work they have submitted!



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**\*\* Year 8 STEM Academy Visits WIREBELT! \*\***

Before the half-term break, our Year 8 STEM Academy students had a fantastic day out visiting WIREBELT in Sittingbourne!

Students were greeted by the Managing Director in the boardroom, who introduced the company's core values, culture and work environment. WIREBELT then provided a thorough tour across multiple departments, including:

- Engineering
- IT
- Marketing
- Technical Drawing Office
- Sales

This visit offered a real insight into the innovative designs and cutting-edge technology that make WIREBELT a leading, respected, and trusted dynamic company worldwide.



**NOTICE BOARD**

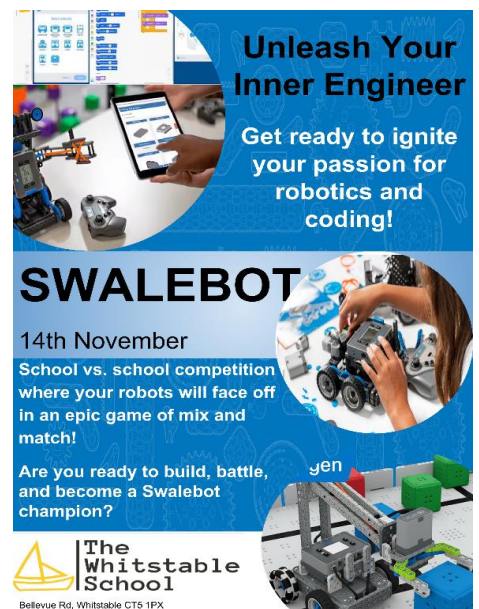
**\*\* Don't Miss Out: SWALEBOT 2025 INCOMING! \*\***

Get ready for the next exciting event: **SWALEBOT 2025!**

This fascinating competition asks students to unleash their inner engineers, igniting a passion for robotics and coding as students build and battle their creations.

The competition will be hosted here at **The Whitstable School** on **November 14th**.

We can't wait to see which school is crowned the SwaleBot Champion. Look out for updates and photos from this epic robotics event soon!




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**\*\* Have Your Say on Policing and Crime! \*\***

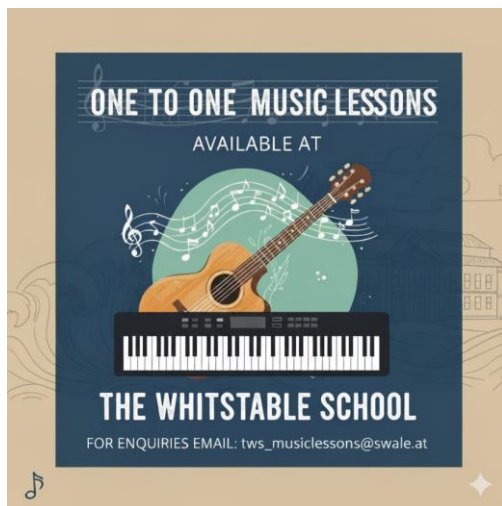
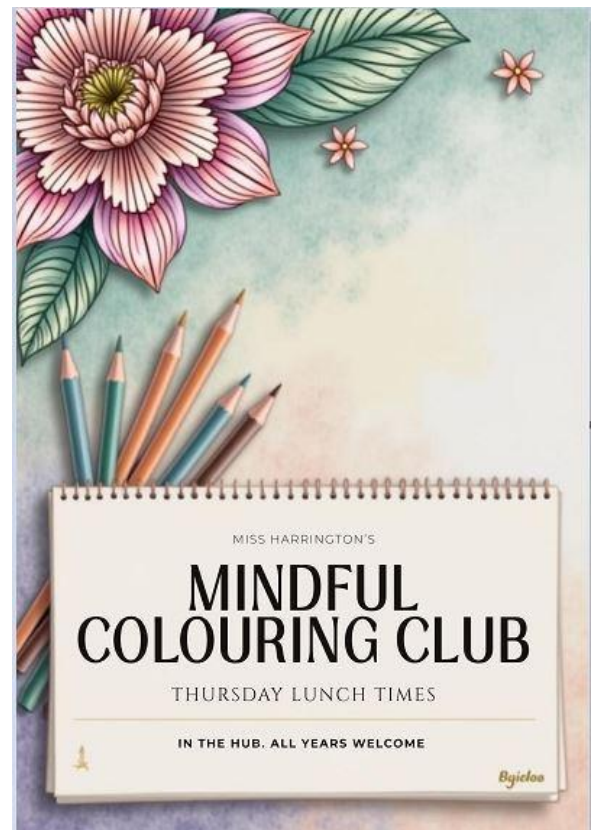
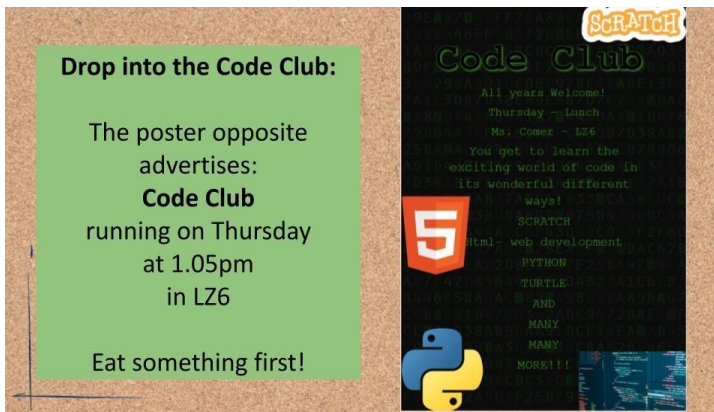
We are sharing an important opportunity on behalf of the **Police and Crime Commissioner's Office**.

They are running their annual survey on policing and public safety to gather crucial feedback from our community. This is your chance to share your views, concerns, and experiences to help shape local policing priorities.

We encourage all **staff and parents/carers** to participate and ensure their perspective is listened to.

Survey Link: <https://www.kent-pcc.gov.uk/get-in-touch/consultations>

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this vital public consultation!



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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
Swalefest	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



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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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators GUIDING YOUNG VOICES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bullying impacts the lives of many young people. In the UK, one in five pupils aged 10 to 15 report being bullied. The effects can be long lasting, affecting mental health, school attendance and self-esteem, and can impact long-term development into adult life. Adults play a key role in building young people's confidence to speak out, support one another, and stand up to unkind behaviour. This guide offers ways to help youngsters make a positive difference.

### 1 CELEBRATE DIFFERENCES

Help young people value diversity by showing that what makes us different is also what makes us strong. Encourage them to learn about different cultures, identities, and abilities through books, films, and conversations. By appreciating uniqueness in themselves and others, children can grow into open-minded individuals who build inclusive and welcoming environments.

### 2 MODEL RESPECT

Children watch and learn from how adults behave. Use respectful language, show patience in disagreements, and treat others with fairness – especially in front of children. By modelling inclusive behaviour and challenging unkindness, adults set a lasting example that respect should be part of every interaction, whether online, at school, or at home. Be the change you want to make.

### 3 SPOT THE SIGNS

Adults and young people should learn how to recognise signs that someone may be experiencing bullying. This might include withdrawal from friends, hobbies or interests, changes in mood, reluctance to go to school, or unusual injuries. Helping young people recognise these clues ensures that support can be offered sooner and problems do not go unnoticed.

### 4 VALIDATE FEELINGS

When a child shares something that worries them, it's important to listen carefully and validate how they feel. Respond with empathy – not judgement – and let them know it's okay to feel upset or confused. Offering reassurance and understanding helps young people feel safe about opening up, and builds the trust needed to talk again in future.

### 5 TEACH ALLYSHIP

Show children how to stand up for others in safe, respectful ways. Allyship might look like sitting next to someone who's been excluded, reporting hurtful behaviour, or speaking up when they witness bullying. By practising these responses together, you're helping children develop the courage to be kind and to take action when it really counts.

### 6 PROMOTE REPORTING

Ensure young people know how to report bullying and feel confident that they'll be taken seriously. Talk to them about who they can speak to and what to expect when they do, such as reporting school incidents to teachers, and out-of-school bullying to parents or teachers. Reassure them that reporting is a brave and helpful choice – not tattling – and that it plays a vital role in keeping everyone safe.

### 7 ENCOURAGE KINDNESS

Everyday acts of kindness can make a big difference in creating safer, happier spaces. Encourage children to look out for one another by being helpful, saying kind words, or including someone who feels left out. These small actions set a strong example that kindness matters, and that it can be a powerful response to bullying.

### 8 USE YOUR VOICE

Encourage young people to speak up for themselves and others. Whether through storytelling, school campaigns, or peer-led projects, children can learn that their voice has power. Support them to express themselves confidently and safely, helping them understand that sharing experiences can challenge injustice and inspire real change in their communities.

### 9 BUILD COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

Children thrive when they feel supported. Help them build strong friendships, join clubs or teams, and connect with trusted adults who care. These networks offer comfort, encouragement, and protection – particularly during challenging times. Remind children that they don't have to face difficulties alone and that support is always within reach.

### 10 SUSTAIN THE CONVERSATION

Bullying awareness shouldn't be limited to one week each year. Create regular opportunities to talk about kindness, respect, and inclusion. Use books, news stories, and personal experiences as conversation starters. Embed anti-bullying initiatives into the school, and make tackling bullying a shared, ongoing commitment.

### Meet Our Expert

Robert Allsop is an experienced pastoral and safeguarding practitioner, specialising in tutorials, behaviour interventions, and attendance management. A recipient of the Dienes Award for Anti-Bullying, he has helped raise standards and improve Ofsted outcomes in some of the country's most challenging schools and colleges.



See full reference list on our website ~

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

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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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