



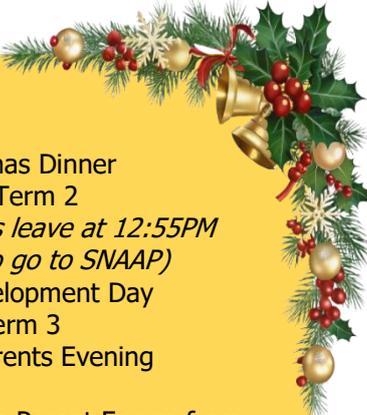
12 December 2025

# NEWSLETTER!

Dear Families,

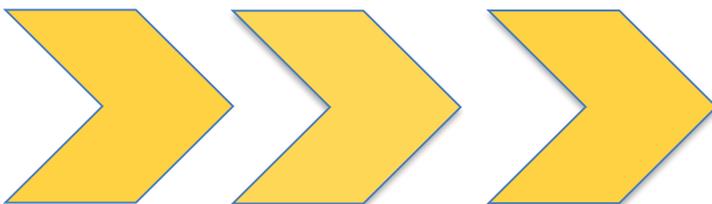
This past week was exceptionally successful and productive, offering many exciting highlights and important details to share. Please read on for more details and highlights from this week.

## Key Dates:

- 
- 17 December 2025** – Christmas Dinner
  - 19 December 2025** - End of Term 2  
*(Non-Uniform day and students leave at 12:55PM  
£1 Donation- All proceedings to go to SNAAP)*
  - 05 January 2026** - Staff Development Day
  - 06 January 2026** - Start of Term 3
  - 08 January 2026** - Year 7 Parents Evening  
Time: 3:30PM – 7:00PM
  - 14 January 2026** - Sixth Form Parent Forum from  
Time: 5:00PM- 6:00PM
  - 15 January 2026** - Year 13 Parents Evening  
Time: 3:30PM – 7:00PM
  - 22 January 2026** - Year 10 Parents Evening  
Time: 3:30PM – 7:00PM
  - 29 January 2026** - Year 8 Parents Evening  
Time: 3:30PM – 7:00PM
  - 05 February 2026** - Year 9 Parents Evening  
Time: 3:30PM – 7:00PM
  - 13 February 2026** - End of Term 3

## Reminder

**Christmas Dinner will be held next  
Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, in our  
restaurant, Cucina. Cost £3.**



**NEXT WEEK IS  
WEEK B  
TIMETABLE**



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2020**

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**A member of Swale Academies Trust**

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

Registered in England No. 07344732

## SIXTH FORM UPDATE

### \*\* Thank you! Sixth Form Applications Now Open! \*\*

We would like to extend a huge **thank you** to everyone who attended our fantastic **Sixth Form Open Evening**. Here are the key details you need to apply for 2026:

- **Prospectus:** Check out our brand-new prospectus. Download your copy here: [↓ Sixth Form Prospectus](#)
- **Applications:** All applications should be made through Kent Choices, where you can peruse our full 2026 course offer. Apply here: [📄 Kent Choices](#)

### Need Advice?

If you or your child would like to speak to Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form, regarding any aspect of the application process, please contact us at [tws\\_sixthform@swale.at](mailto:tws_sixthform@swale.at). We are excited to receive your applications!

### \*\* University Success & Sixth Form Applications! \*\*

Huge congratulations to all our Year 13 students who have attended university interviews this week! We are thrilled to see the offers rolling in, including places for:

- History at King's College London
- Primary Education at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU)
- Illustration and Animation at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA)

It is not too late to apply through UCAS! Please contact Ms. Simons or Mr. Lane for more information and support.

### ➡ Year 11: Apply to Sixth Form!

Interviews for our Sixth Form will begin in January! We urge all Year 11 students to submit their applications as soon as possible to secure an offer on their preferred courses.

If students have any questions regarding applications, Kent Choices for TWS Sixth Form, courses, or student life, please get in touch with Ms. Simons, Head of Sixth Form, at [tws\\_sixthform@swale.at](mailto:tws_sixthform@swale.at).



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 🎁 Donation Deadline: Tuesday, December 16th, 2025 🌲

To ensure every child in need experiences the joy of Christmas, please donate **new Christmas gifts** for the returning **Christmas Gift Grotto** by **Tuesday, December 16th, 2025**.

#### How You Can Help:

- Donate Gifts: Your donation can be a new toy, books, clothing or any other gift you feel would delight a child (or a gift they can give to their family).
- Drop-Off Location: Please drop off the presents at the school office or the safeguarding office.

#### "All Wrapped Up" Programme (Food Vouchers)

In addition to the Grotto, Miss Crocombe is overseeing the 'All Wrapped Up' programme. We can confidentially refer families in need who will receive a food voucher to help towards Christmas expenses.

**If you are aware of any families who would benefit from this programme, please let Miss Crocombe know. Thank you for your incredible generosity.**

#### \*\* Christmas School Bake Sale\*\*

Next Monday, December 15th, at break time, there will be an event outside the stage, which will be **cash only**.



GET READY FOR FESTIVITIES!

## Christmas School Bake Sale!

**WHEN:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> of December  
At break time

**WHERE:** Outside the stage

Cash only!

**RAFFLE**

There will also be a raffle!  
50p per entry  
lots of exciting christmas prizes to win!





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**The Whitstable School**

**Non Uniform Day!**  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
£1  
All proceeds to go to SNAAP




**Who are SNAAP?**

SNAAP – Special Needs Advisory and Activities Project – are a local (Herne Bay) Charity, who support families across the Canterbury District to navigate the Special Needs world.

SNAAP informs, encourages and supports families, enabling them to provide the best possible help to their children via a range of services.

- Help with form filling
- Stay & play sessions
- Age related Clubs
- Support with food and Clothing
- Emotional support
- Advocacy Support

SNAAP doesn't require a diagnosis & you don't need a professional referral.





*We are raising money for SNAAP because they are a vital resource for many of the TWS community & they recently admitted that if they don't get donations they will have to close. Let's not let that happen!*

**\*\* Important reminder: Upcoming School Immunisations \*\***

**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 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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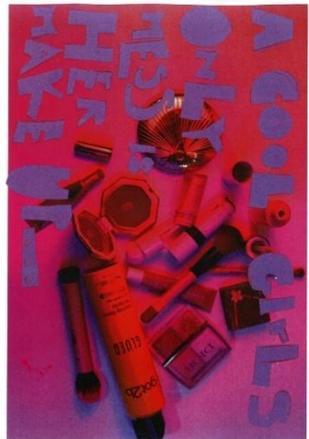
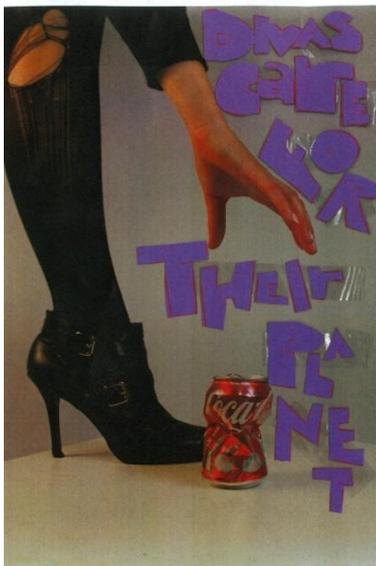
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**THIS WEEK SO FAR...**



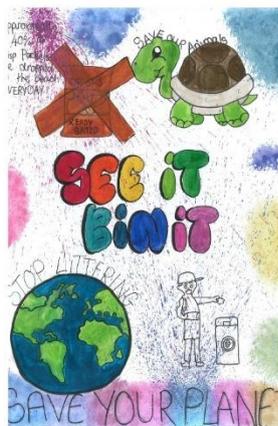
**\*\* See it, Bin it Competition Winners! \*\***

Thank you so much to all those who have entered our recent See it, Bin it poster competition, encouraging students to raise awareness of the consequences of litter dropping.

Congratulations to **Lily-Mae (Year 12)**, **Amelia (Year 7)**, **Maelie (Year 7)** and **Maisie (Year 11)**

The winners will shortly see their posters displayed around the school and will be awarded a voucher each by our Head Teacher, Mr Holmes.

Other student posters will also be part of displays, encouraging students to **'See it, bin it!'** around our School.



**\*\* Sixth Form Artist Selected for John Downton Awards! \*\***

We are announcing that Year 13 student **Esther** has had her A Level coursework painting selected for exhibition at the prestigious **John Downton Awards** at County Hall, Maidstone!

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the exhibition, and Esther's beautiful still life painting can win a prize.

Congratulations to Esther, who will be continuing her Art education at university in Canterbury.



**\*\* Year 8 Parliament Debates Migration! \*\***



Some Year 8 students participated in a fantastic and engaging classroom debate this week, focusing on the **positive and negative impacts of migration to the UK** (both legal and illegal).

To prepare, students conducted extended research to represent their cabinet positions. They were assigned key areas related to migration (such as education and housing) and tasked with collecting evidence.

In the following lesson, they delivered well-researched speeches arguing their points, followed by strong counterarguments from the opposition, which led to a lively question session. Students were incredibly **articulate, considerate and respectfully presented their findings**—a truly excellent display of citizenship and critical thinking!



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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 **Tyler (Year 8)** and prize is lunch voucher for our restaurant Cuccina.



**\*\* 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.

**Art:**

- **Holly and Millie (Year 7)** were commended for their excellent work on their portrait of the late Queen.

**History:**

- **Isabella, Crystal and Aria (Year 8)** were commended for their history exercise about the Stono Rebellion, 1739.

**English:**

- **Faith and Bella (Year 7)** were recognised for their fantastic drawing related to *Coraline*.

**Food and nutrition:**

- **Kaiden, George and Sam (Year 7)** for their amazing Romeo and Juliet performance.

**Maths:**

- **Nancy, Elkie and Annabel (Year 8)** were recognised for their outstanding revision pages.



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**\*\* GCSE Art, Photography & Textiles Exhibition! \*\***

The GCSE Fine Art, Photography, and Textiles students are showcasing their wonderful coursework in an end-of-term exhibition!

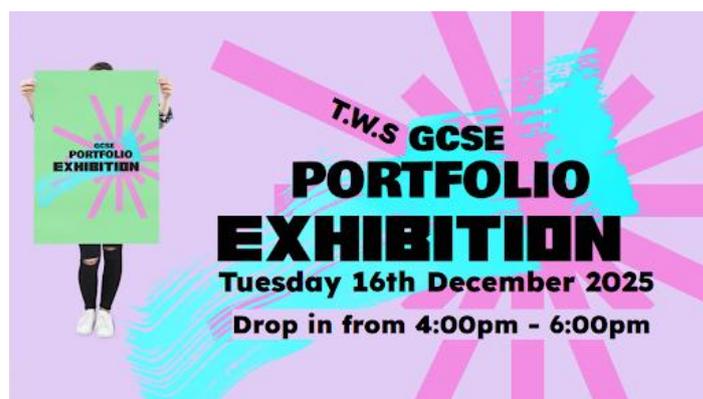
Students and staff are all welcome to view the incredible artwork displayed around the Art department until the end of term.

**Private View Invitation for Year 11 Parents**

Parents of **Year 11 students** are specially invited to come and celebrate the success of the students at our **Private View!**

- **When:** Tuesday, December 16th, 2025
- **Time:** 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

We hope to see you all there! — Mrs. Connell

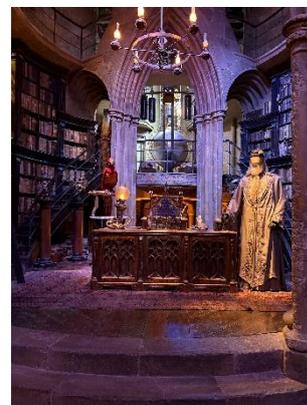


**\*\* Harry Potter Studio Tour Trip! \*\***

Last Friday, 30 pupils from Years 10, 12, and 13 had an incredible opportunity to visit the **Harry Potter Studios** and experience 'walking in the footsteps of Harry Potter and exploring the wonders of the Wizarding World.'

The students began with an hour-long lesson focused on **Mise-en-scène**, where they got an up-close look at the actual costumes, props, and set designs. This was followed by three and a half hours of exploring the fascinating making of the Harry Potter films.

It was a truly great learning experience and the pupils got a huge amount out of the trip!



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**\*\* A Week of Scientific Exploration: Electron Microscopy! \*\***

Wow, what a week of scientific exploration it has been!

Students across the Trust had an unforgettable experience as our A-Level groups, Year 7, 9, 10, and 11, along with other schools in the community, delved into the microworld using a cutting-edge electron microscope!

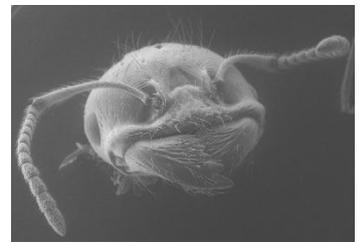
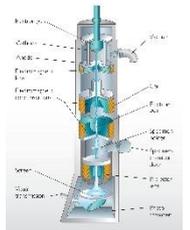
Shutterstock

We used this incredible high technology to:

- Scan Electron Images: Capture breathtaking, high-resolution views of specimens that are invisible to the naked eye.
- Chemical Analysis: Collect detailed data on the chemical composition of the samples.

It was an inspiring week of hands-on learning, showcasing how high-tech tools are used in real-world science. Future scientists in the making!

Transmission Electron Microscope



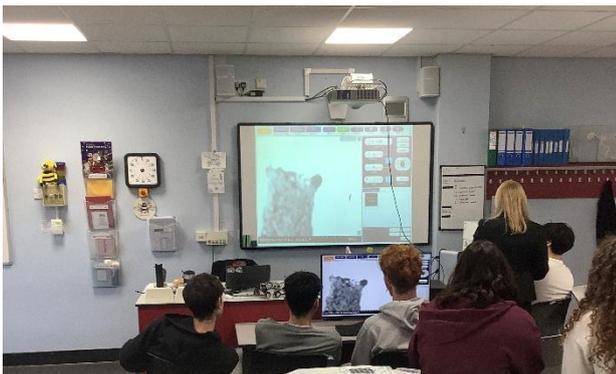
**Ants head**



**Butterfly tongue**



**Moth antenna**



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## \*\* Elf on the 'Reading Shelf' Challenge! \*\*

Our reading challenge is in full swing, with pupils successfully finding our elves hidden on the shelves throughout the week!

It's currently neck and neck between Mrs. Rosa's Year 7 group and Miss O'Flaherty's group—but the elves will be hiding (and reading!) next week too, so it's all to play for!

Yesterday, the elves enjoyed reading a book by Sophie Kinsella, a tribute to the popular children's author whose book, 'Finding Audrey', is one of the library's favourites.

If you are looking for a festive book for your child, please pop into the library for ideas, or follow the link below for a great list:



[The ultimate Christmas book list - updated for 2025 | Books to Read | National Book Tokens](#)

Remember, your child's English teacher monitors their reading via our popular reading 'padlets'—do ask your child to show you their padlet for further inspiration!

## \*\* Consistent Attendance: The Cornerstone of Success and Wellbeing \*\*

Attendance isn't just about learning in class; it's your **all-access pass** to everything exciting happening at The Whitstable School! We believe that the incredible clubs, trips and competitive events are the best reasons to keep school attendance at 100%.

We offer **over 30 extra-curricular clubs and activities** that turn a regular school week into something epic.

### Activities Include

- Cross Trust events
- STEM clubs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)
- Visitors talk
- Competitions
- Trips, and much more



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## Next Week's Key Events (Starting Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>)

Here are the key events and dates scheduled for the upcoming week:

Day	Event	Time	Location	Details
Monday, Dec 15th	Year 12/13 London Trip (V&A East)	8:00 AM – 6:00 PM	V&A East (ANE)	Trip
Tuesday, Dec 16th	STEM Racing Regional Final	8:30 AM – 4:30 PM	CCCU (ANE)	Trip
Wednesday, Dec 17th	Christmas Lunch	Lunch Break	Cucina Restaurant	Festive lunch break to celebrate the end of term.
Wednesday, Dec 17th	Shakefest	3:10 PM – 4:30 PM	CZ1/Stage	Weekly drama competition
Thursday, Dec 18th	Christmas Show	6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Kings Hall, Herne Bay	Enjoy student Christmas performances and festive entertainment.
Friday, Dec 19th	Year 11 Festive Karaoke	R2L Time		Year 11s celebrate the end of term with karaoke and nibbles.

## Encouraging Student Responsibility

We are actively encouraging participation in existing roles designed to build student confidence and responsibility, such as:

- **Year 7: Attendance Runner** (Once a term for two periods on a chosen day)
- **Year 8: Student Runner** (Once a term for the whole day)

Students who participate in these roles will receive positive points on their Track cards!

**Remember:** We have exciting opportunities available every week within the school and consistent attendance is essential for students who want to participate and get involved!

- **For more information, please visit our website:**

[TWS Extra- Curricular](#)



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## NOTICE BOARD

### 100 FREE FAMILY TICKETS – THIS CHRISTMAS AT WHITSTABLE TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB!



We're spreading some festive cheer! Whitstable Town Football Club are giving away 100 free family tickets to our local schools for our upcoming Christmas fixtures — once they're gone, they're gone!

To claim yours, simply head to our online Box Office, choose either: Saturday 20th December or Saturday 3rd January

At checkout, enter the code FreeTickets (case sensitive) and your tickets will be reduced to FREE.

Up to 4 tickets per family Limited to 100 total — first come, first served!

Book now via our Box Office:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wtfc>

Join us at The Primcura Healthcare Stadium, The Belmont, this festive season — bring the family, enjoy the football, and be part of the Christmas atmosphere!



**Herne Bay**  
CREMATORIUM & MEMORIAL GARDENS

## Christmas Carol & Memorial Service

**Friday 19th December, 6pm**

Join us at this service to:  
 Leave a personal message on our Christmas tree using one of our tags  
 Write a Christmas card for your loved one and post it in our memorial post-box  
 Light refreshments will be provided

To book a place to attend our service please call 01227 201 961 or email [hernebay@westerleighgroup.co.uk](mailto:hernebay@westerleighgroup.co.uk)

If you cannot join us for the live service, you can watch it from home via:  
<https://christmas.obitus.com> using  
 Username: HerneBay Password: robin

Watch again service will be available via the same link from Mon 22nd Dec available for 28 days following the service.

Herne Bay Crematorium & Memorial Gardens  
 Bullockstone Rd, Herne Bay CT6 7NF  
 fb: [www.facebook.com/hernebaycrem](https://www.facebook.com/hernebaycrem)  
 ig: [www.instagram.com/westerleighgroupuk](https://www.instagram.com/westerleighgroupuk)  
 t: 01227 201 961  
 e: [hernebay@westerleighgroup.co.uk](mailto:hernebay@westerleighgroup.co.uk)  
[www.hernebaycrematorium.co.uk](http://www.hernebaycrematorium.co.uk)

westerleigh GROUP



## Young Cooks!

**Do you have what it takes to be crowned the next Young Cooks champion?**

Are you **aged 6 - 18?**  
 Do you have a flair for flavours and a passion for cooking?

You are invited to take part in our **Young Cooks cookery competition** with the winners receiving a share of £500

In addition, a finalist will be selected to cook at a **Showcase Lunch** at The Dog in Wingham and may have the opportunity to attend a **master class!**

**Closing Date: 31st January 2026**

Scan or visit for more details & entry

[sekgroup.org.uk/support/sek-schools/young-cooks-competition](https://sekgroup.org.uk/support/sek-schools/young-cooks-competition)




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**The  
Whitstable  
School**



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**



# Christmas Tree Festival

JOIN US FOR PEACE & JOY

**Free entrance but please give a donation to the Pilgrims Hospice Canterbury as you arrive or leave  
No tickets or prebooking - just come along!**

**Friday 19th, Saturday 20th, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2025  
2pm to 6pm (last entrance 5.45pm)**

**ALL SAINTS WHITSTABLE Church Street Whitstable  
CT5 1PG**



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## Half Term Programme

Canterbury  
December 20th, 2025 -  
January 2nd, 2026

### Our Activities

- Wildwood Trips
- Roller Skating
- Table Top Gaming
- Family Swim
- New Years Eve Party
- Pantomime: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs



Contact us  
CanterburyFH@kent.gov.uk

Find us on Facebook or  
Instagram at  
Canterbury Family  
Hubs

Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

## Canterbury Family Hubs

### Information:

#### Booking Activities:

Families of children aged 4 to 16 years, who are in receipt of benefits related to free school meals can access our winter holidays Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in Kent focuses on children's physical health and wellbeing by providing healthy food and exciting activities for children and young people during the school holidays. To register your interest, please email: canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk

### 20th & 22nd December

#### Wildwood Trip

We have a number of tickets available for families to enjoy a day at Wildwood, with lunch provided for all young people attending. Time slot booking required for Santa's Grotto. For 0-19 years (25 SEND). Parents/carers in attendance.

#### Meet at: 10:00am

Herne Common,  
Herne Bay  
CT6 7LQ



### 20th December

#### Roller Skating

Get ready to glide, spin, and groove! Join us for an awesome afternoon of roller skating and music. No experience? No problem! Skates will be available. Bring your energy and have some fun. For 11-19 years (25 SEND).

#### 1:00pm - 2:30pm

The Bay Sports  
Arena,  
Bullockstone  
Rd, Herne Bay,  
CT6 7NS



### 22nd December

#### Table Top Gaming

Ready to roll the dice and dive into epic adventures? Come along for an afternoon of fun, strategy, and great company! Whether you're a seasoned gamer or just curious to try something new, everyone is welcome. Bring your favourite game or join in on ours—let's make it a night to remember! For 11-19 years (25 SEND).

#### 1:00pm - 5:00pm

The Long Rest,  
8 Butchery  
Lane, Canter-  
bury, CT1 2JR



### 30th December

#### Family Swim

Free Family Swim session. Meet us at Kingsmead Leisure Centre reception for your 1 hour swimming ticket and healthy snack bag (2:30pm - 3:30pm). For 0-19 years (25 SEND), parents/carers in attendance.

\*One family swim ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children.

#### Meet at: 2:15pm

Kingsmead Leisure Centre,  
Kingsmead  
Road,  
Canterbury,  
CT2 7PH



### 31st December

#### New Years Eve Party

Come along for our New Year's Eve family celebration. We'll be counting down to 12 noon with music, games and entertainment. Aimed at 0-11 but open to all ages.

#### 10:30am - 12:30pm

Herne Bay Family Hub,  
Memorial Park,  
Kings Road,  
Herne Bay,  
CT6 5RG



### 2nd January

#### Pantomime

We have a number of tickets available for families to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Healthy snack bags will be available. Please note, this performance includes the use of haze, smoke, pyrotechnics, streamers and sudden loud noises. For 0-19 years (25 SEND).

#### 2:30pm - 5:00pm

The Marlowe Theatre,  
The Friars,  
Canterbury,  
CT1 2AS



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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 TOY SCALPING, FAKES & SCAMS

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### FINANCIAL PRESSURE AND MANIPULATION

Scalpers create artificial scarcity by buying up large quantities of stock before the public has a fair chance to purchase. This drives up demand and pushes prices to extreme levels. Young people may feel intense pressure to spend more than they can afford for fear of missing out entirely.

#### EXPLOITATION OF FANDOMS

Scalping often targets popular releases with strong fan bases, knowing that loyal followers are emotionally invested. Children and young people may place huge value on owning certain items linked to their favourite artists, sports teams or games, making them more likely to accept unfair prices or questionable sellers.

#### ACCESSING UNSAFE WEBSITES

In the rush to secure rare items, young people might click through to unverified sellers, online marketplaces with little consumer protection, or even sites designed specifically to harvest personal and financial data. This can expose them to fraud, malware, and identity theft.

#### NORMALISING UNETHICAL BEHAVIOUR

Some influencers and online communities present scalping as a clever money-making scheme rather than an exploitative one. This can normalise dishonest behaviour and blur the line between legitimate business and opportunistic profiteering for younger audiences.

#### RISK OF SCAMS OR COUNTERFEIT GOODS

Not every high-priced resale is legitimate. Fraudulent sellers may take payment for goods they never send, or ship counterfeit versions of branded items. In some cases, the product may look authentic in photos but turn out to be of poor quality or completely different from what was advertised.

#### REINFORCING INEQUALITY

Scalping makes already expensive items even less accessible, particularly for lower-income families. Children may feel excluded from trends or shared experiences with friends if their family cannot meet the inflated prices, which can lead to feelings of isolation and disappointment.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE FAIRNESS

Use scalping as an opportunity to discuss fairness, consumer ethics, and how some people exploit markets for profit. Encouraging children to think critically about whether they truly need an item – and at what cost – can help them make more considered decisions.

### ENCOURAGE PATIENCE OVER IMPULSE

Teach young people to wait for official restocks or future releases instead of paying over the odds. Many products come back into circulation, and patience can save significant amounts of money while reducing the likelihood of falling victim to scams.

### SUPPORT INFORMED PURCHASING

Show children how to check seller credentials, read independent reviews, and verify whether a site is secure before making any payment. Knowing how to spot red flags, such as unrealistic promises or missing contact details, can prevent costly mistakes.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Establish clear rules for online spending, including limits on prepaid cards, gaming gift cards, and online wallets. Discuss the real-world value of money spent on digital or collector's items so children understand the long-term impact of their purchases.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at

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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 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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