



# NEWSLETTER

09 JANUARY 2026

Issue 1

## Key Term 3 Dates:

**14 January 2026 - Sixth Form Parent Forum**

**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**



## CONTACT US

**Email: [tw\\_s\\_admin@swale.at](mailto:tw_s_admin@swale.at)**

**Telephone: 01227 931300**

**Option 1 - Attendance**

**Option 2 - Pupil Admissions**

**Option 4 - Main Reception**

**To report an absence or other attendance enquiries:**

**Email: [tw\\_s\\_attendance@swale.at](mailto:tw_s_attendance@swale.at)**

**Stay informed, follow us for weekly updates, school news and student highlights.**



**@TheWhitstableSchool**



**@TheWhitSchool**

**NEXT WEEK - B TIMETABLE**

# Welcome Back: Term 3 Updates

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful and restful break. It is a pleasure to welcome the students back for the start of Term 3.

A key focus for us this term is parents' evening. We are committed to providing you with clear, actionable feedback to help support your child's continued progress. Open communication between home and school is the foundation of student success and we value your partnership immensely.

In the classroom, we are placing a special emphasis on oracy and collaboration. By developing paired and group work, we aim to build the confidence and communication skills that are so vital for post-16 study and future careers.

Finally, a quick thank you for your continued support with attendance. Consistency at school is the greatest contributor to both academic achievement and student wellbeing.

I look forward to a productive and positive term ahead.

Best regards,  
A. Holmes



## Next Week's Event Schedule (Jan 12 – 16, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday	Yr 11 GCSE Food Practical 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Tuesday	Yr 11 GCSE Food Practical 1:30 – 3:00 PM
Wednesday	Artsfest Y9/10( All Day) 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM/ Shakefest 3:10 – 4:30 PM
Thursday	Stage Academy 3:10 – 4:30 PM Yr 13 Parents Evening 3:30 – 7:00 PM
Friday	Yr 12 Care Home Visit 1:30 – 3:10 PM

## School Meals Reminders

We want to ensure all students are well-fed and ready to learn.

**Free Porridge:** Available to all students with honey every morning at 08:20.

**Free School Meals :** Eligible students receive:

- Breakfast (08:20–08:40): A pastry or half-baguette plus a drink.
- Lunch: A full meal served with water.

**Important: Free school meals allowance is dedicated to breakfast and lunch and it cannot be used during mid-morning break. Questions? Please contact the school office.**



**Free Breakfast Porridge for ALL TWS Students. We are pleased to offer free porridge with honey to every student, regardless of meal eligibility.**



A huge thank you to our students and families for raising **£428.91 for SNAAP** during our non-uniform day on 19th December! **SNAAP** provides vital support and services for children with disabilities and their families. To learn more, visit [snaap.org.uk](http://snaap.org.uk).

## Year 10 GCSE Citizenship Court Visit

Our **Year 10 Citizenship** students recently visited the Crown Court to see the justice system in action. They witnessed a range of criminal proceedings, including the swearing-in of a jury, a guilty plea and the cross-examination of witnesses by prosecution and defence barristers. Our students were exemplary representatives of the school—highly engaged, respectful and fascinated by the legal trials they observed.

ONCE THE JURY GOES INTO THE DELIBERATION ROOM TO DECIDE THEIR VERDICT, THEY ARE LEGALLY FORBIDDEN FROM SPEAKING TO ANYONE ELSE ABOUT THE CASE—INCLUDING THEIR FAMILIES!



**DID YOU KNOW?**



## Scholarship Squads: A Winning Finish to 2025!

A Winning Finish to 2025! Our football scholarship squads ended the year in fantastic form with two major away victories. A dominant 3–1 win over XG Whyteleafe (goals from **Dylan Y12, Oliver-Luis Y12 and Zerich Y12**) moved the SCL squad to joint 3rd in the league. Meanwhile, a gritty 2–1 victory against Canterbury Academy, featuring strikes from **Charlie Y12 and Josh Y12**, secured our place in the Quarter-Finals of the U19 Schools Academies Cup.

As we head into 2026, the National Squad sits top of their league, while our SCL and Schools squads both hold impressive top-three positions. Congratulations to all our players on a brilliant first term!

**Kent:**

- CCCU
- University of Kent
- University of Creative Arts

**London:**

- Kings University
- Queen Mary University
- Royal Holloway University

**The Whitstable School**

## Year 13 University Offers 2025/2026

### Celebrating Our Year 13 Success

We are thrilled to see university offers arriving for our Year 13 students. From the historic halls of Cambridge to the creative studios of UCA and the campuses of London and Bristol, reaching this milestone is a testament to your hard work. You should be immensely proud of this next chapter.

**Still thinking about your next steps?** It is not too late to apply. For guidance or to book a careers interview, please contact **Ms. Simons - [tws\\_sixthform@swale.at](mailto:tws_sixthform@swale.at)**

**Sixth Form applications should be made through Kent Choices, where you can peruse our full 2026 course offer.**

Apply here: [Kent Choices](#)

Download copy of our Prospectus here: [Sixth Form Prospectus](#)

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.org](http://nationalcollege.org).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**  
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and avoid topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**  
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and what it's safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**  
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**  
When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**  
With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**  
Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information on screens online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**  
Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**  
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**  
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report content in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**  
Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and COP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

**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 improving compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](http://ourwebsite)

**#WakeUpWednesday** The National College

[@wakeup\\_weds](https://www.wakeupweds.com)
[www.thenationalcollege.org](http://www.thenationalcollege.org)
[@wakeupwednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wakeupwednesday)
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# Time To Shine



A group for neurodivergent young people in school years 7 - 9 to socialise and learn new skills in a safe, relaxed environment. This group is for young people who may find it difficult to access mainstream groups and would like some support to build their confidence.

**DATE:** Starts Thursday 15th January 2026 for 6 weeks  
**TIME:** 5:30pm - 6:30pm  
**VENUE:** Whitstable Family Hub, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ

**BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW:**

Only a few clicks away to book:

[www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub](http://www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub)

- Activities and Groups
- Activities in family hubs
- Canterbury district family hub activities
- Whitstable Family Hub - Time To Shine

[canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk)

Visit your local Family Hub today  
[www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub](http://www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub)



## Parking & Environment Reminders

Please reserve designated accessible parking spaces for permit holders. Remember that not all disabilities are visible, so kindly ensure your permit is clearly displayed in your windscreen. Additionally, help us reduce noise and air pollution by turning off your engine while waiting to drop off or pick up your child.

**Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school accessible and respectful of our neighbours.**

 **Explore Our Website**

It's the best place to find the latest term dates, discover our extra-curricular clubs and important information.

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

