

NEWSLETTER

16 JANUARY 2026

Issue 2

Key Term 3 Dates:

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

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

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



[@TheWhitstableSchool](https://www.facebook.com/TheWhitstableSchool)

NEXT WEEK - A TIMETABLE

Next Week's Event Schedule (Jan 19 – 23, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performances: A Christmas Carol & Macbeth 8:40am – 3:10pm • GCSE Food Practical Assessment 1:30 – 3:00pm
Tuesday 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spark 2 Life Intervention workshop 8:30am – 3:00pm • GCSE Food Practical Assessment 1:30 – 3:00pm
Wednesday 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spark 2 Life Intervention workshop 8:30am – 3:00pm • Shakefest 3:10 – 4:30 PM
Thursday 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage Academy 3:10 – 4:30 PM • Year 10 Parents Evening 3:30- 7:00 PM

Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

Year 7

Jude & Freddie: For their impressive culinary skills and delicious fairy cakes.

Faith and Demian: For their creative work in Geography.

Year 8

Shekiha, Amelia G, Amabel, Amelia O, Charlie, & Juno: For demonstrating fantastic progress and commitment in Mathematics.

Louie, Mat, Ted, & Ephraim: For an outstanding and high-energy dance performance.

Collum: For his hard work in Science.

Year 9

Olivia & Sophie: For their consistent hard work and excellent results in Mathematics.

Year 11

Milo: For showing great leadership and initiative in delivering revision session for her peers.

TRACK Winner: Grace (Year 8)
 Congratulations to Grace for her outstanding effort this week! By following our **TRACK values** and earning numerous positive points.



New Extra-Curricular Timetable

Our latest extra-curricular timetable is now available to view on the school website.

Download [here](#):

Support Our Students: Donation Appeal

The Whitstable School is seeking community support to upgrade our facilities, from sports equipment and library resources to essential technology. Your generosity directly enriches our students' educational experiences and we are deeply grateful for any contribution you can provide.

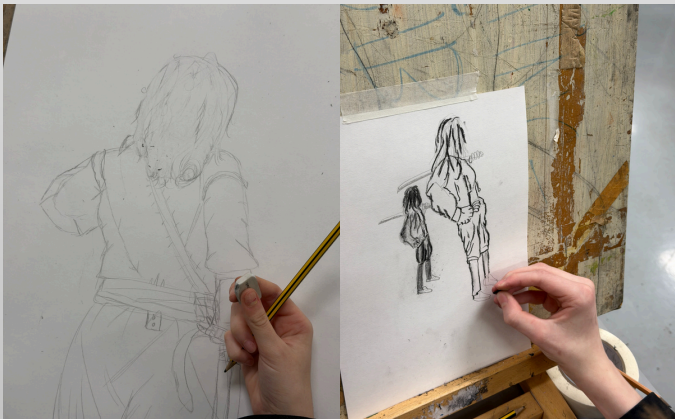
[↓ Donation Form](#)



Year 9 Artsfest: Mastering Life Drawing

Our Year 9 artists recently visited Sittingbourne School for a professional life drawing workshop. Working from a live model, Ava, Harrison, Beau, Bebe, April, and Jack demonstrated impressive maturity and developed fantastic new technical skills.

Their stunning sketches are now on display in the Art Department—well done to all involved for their excellent effort!



Sixth Form Visit CCCU Film Conference

Despite the snow, our Film Studies students visited Canterbury Christ Church University for an immersive Production Conference. Our group explored industry-standard facilities and met with professionals to learn about career pathways in the UK's £124 billion creative sector.

It was wonderful to see our students so engaged with their future careers! Many thanks to Ms. Harrington and Mr. Branson for their support.

Interested in Film Studies? Contact Ms. Valentine for more information.



STEM Highlights at The Whitstable School

Last term, we were proud to host two major events for students across Kent and East Sussex. From the high-energy SwaleBot Regional Competition to the MicroSTEM showcase—where students used a portable Hitachi Scanning Electron Microscope—it was a term of incredible discovery.

Our young innovators truly unleashed their inner engineers and scientists! A massive thank you to Mrs. Donovan-Bayley (SwaleBot) and Ms. Dash (MicroSTEM) for their tireless work in organizing these world-class opportunities.

Check out the highlights in our videos below!

SWALEBOT 2025

MicroSTEM 2025





Football Success: U19s Start 2026 with a Win

Our U19 Academy team secured a dominant 5-1 away victory against Archbishops School this week. Despite a challenging pitch, the team started at a high tempo with early goals from Jack YR 12 and Zian YR13, followed by strikes from Josh YR12 and Alex YR 13.

A fantastic second-half header from Dylan YR 12 sealed the win, capping off a superb team performance. It is wonderful to see the players' development continue to go from strength to strength as they head into the new year!

Midlands & North:

- Nottingham Trent University
- University of Salford
- University of Worcester

East of England:

- Anglia Ruskin University

Kent and Canterbury:

- CCCU
- University of Kent
- University of Creative Arts

London:

- Kings University
- Queen Mary University
- Royal Holloway University
- UCA
- London Metropolitan

South/South East:

- University of Surrey
- University of Sussex
- University of Brighton

West Country & Wales:

- University of Bristol
- University of South Wales

The Whitstable School

Year 13 University Offers 2025/2026

Celebrating Our Year 13 Success

We are absolutely thrilled to see university offers arriving in ever-increasing numbers for our Year 13 students. 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**

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](#)

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk

Important Update Regarding the School's Social Media Presence

Please be advised that The Whitstable School has made its **X (formerly Twitter)** account **inactive**, effective immediately. This decision has been made as part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding the school community.

To stay up to date with the latest news, please follow us on our remaining official channels or visit our website.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- SLEEP DISRUPTION**: Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or require emotional support for poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.
- ONLINE PEER PRESSURE**: Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behavior to gain approval.
- CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE**: Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.
- REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**: Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.
- EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION**: Fast-paced digital content can overwhelm young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.
- PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS**: Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behavior.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**: Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g., classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Try a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.
- ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE**: Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.
- MODEL HEALTHY HABITS**: Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.
- PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY**: Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert
Adam Gillist is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Paristone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for MindEd Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds | Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege | Instagram: @wake.up.wednesday | TikTok: @wake.up.weds

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Kent Family Hub

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!
www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub
 Only a few clicks away to book:
 • Activities and Groups
 • Activities in family hubs
 • Canterbury district family hub activities
 • Whitstable Family Hub - Time To Shine

canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk

Visit your local Family Hub today
www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

Kent Family Hub

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>

