

NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Issue 1

27 FEBRUARY 2026

Key term dates:

- 05 March 2026 - Year 9 Options Evening
- 11 March 2026 - HPV vaccinations
Year 8 Catch up for 9, 10 & 11
- 27 March 2026 - End of Term 4

Stay Up to Date

For a full breakdown of daily activities and club timings, please visit our website.

[🔗 TWS School Calendar](#)

[🔗 TWS Extra-Curricular Clubs](#)

Note: For detailed weekly event schedules, please refer to the dedicated section later in this newsletter or check the school website.



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](#)

NEXT WEEK - B TIMETABLE

Welcome Back to Term 4

I would like to welcome everyone back to Term 4 and hope you all enjoyed a well-deserved break. We have started the term with a positive review from the Trust, which highlighted the high quality of our teaching and learning. It was excellent to see our strategies such as the use of mini-whiteboards, effective questioning and oracy being recognized as key drivers for student progress. Furthermore, our students' engagement in lessons was praised as excellent.

Our Focus for This Term:

As we move forward, we are addressing two specific areas to ensure our school remains a focused and high-achieving environment.

- **Uniform Standards:** We are taking steps to ensure our uniform policy is consistently applied. I would like to thank you in advance for your support at home in ensuring your child meets these expectations before they arrive at school.
- **Attendance:** This remains a primary focus for us. We have noted a concerning trend where absences rise to over 100 students on Fridays, compared to approximately 50 on other days. Every day in the classroom counts, and I ask for your continued support in ensuring your child is in school, ready to learn, every single day.

Finally, we remain fully committed to enhancing our enrichment clubs, ensuring there are ample opportunities for all students, alongside our ongoing work to keep every lesson as interactive and engaging as possible.

Thank you for your continued partnership and cooperation in ensuring the best outcomes for our students.

Mr. A. Holmes
Headteacher

Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

Year 8

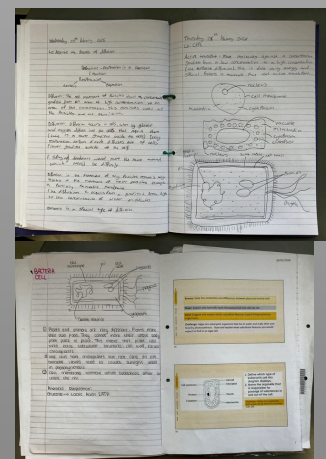
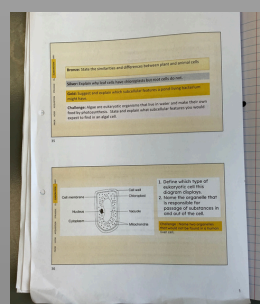
Florence and Isabella - for winning art prizes from the Whitstable Lion's Club. Their stunning Peace Posters were recognised for their creativity and beautiful designs.

Year 10

Sunnee, Kika and Ella- for their outstanding written work on bacterial cells. Their attention to detail and clear explanations in Science were truly impressive.

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

Are You on TRACK?
TOLERANCE
RESILIENCE
ACHIEVEMENT
COURTESY
KNOWLEDGE



Events Schedule (Mar 02 – 06, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 2nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8: Understanding Career Pathways 08:40AM - 15:10PM • Disneyland Paris Trip
Tuesday 3rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10: 7's Rugby Tournament 09:30PM - 3:30 PM • Disneyland Paris Trip
Wednesday 4th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 11: CCCU Sports Lab Trip 09:00AM - 15:10PM • Shakefest 15:10PM - 16:30PM
Thursday 05th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers Fair 08:30AM - 15:10PM • World Book Day Trust Event The North School 09:00AM - 15:10PM • Stage Academy 15:10PM - 16:30PM • Year 9 Options Evening 17:00PM - 18:30PM

Kent 7s Rugby: Silverware for Eltham!

The atmosphere was electric at this year's Kent 7s as Eltham College fielded one of its strongest squads in recent memory. Competing fiercely through the round-robin stages, the boys showed incredible grit in several "down-to-the-wire" fixtures.

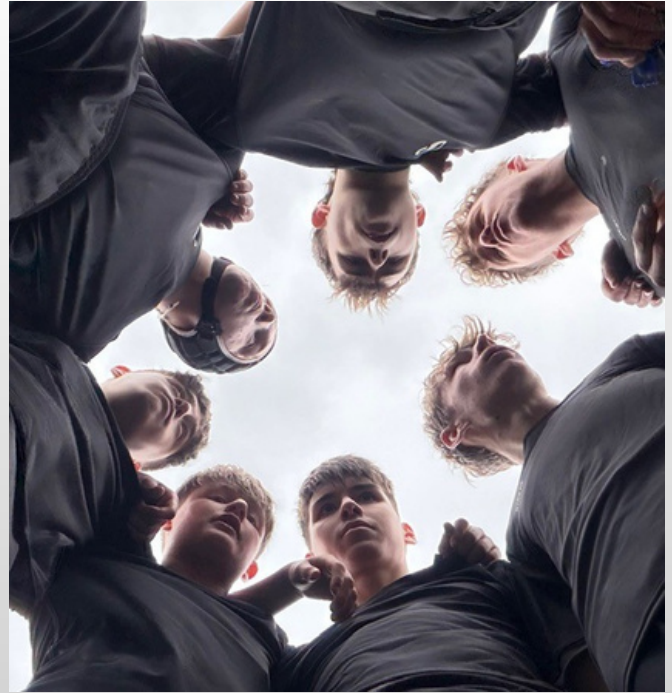
That persistence was rewarded in the knockouts. The team rallied together to win the Bowl Cup, a fantastic achievement in such a prestigious field.

Standout Performances:

Leadership: Captain Max and Vice-Captain Bruce were instrumental in keeping the squad focused during the day's toughest moments.

Player of the Tournament: Sam, whose incredible versatility and work rate across multiple positions made him the day's standout performer.

The coaching staff couldn't be prouder of the character shown by the entire squad. This victory provides a brilliant foundation for the rest of the season. Well done, boys!



World Book Day Thursday 5th March

Your child will be given their World Book Day voucher from their English teacher. As a school, we will be reading a short story over the course of the day with a slow reveal in each lesson. The library will be running competitions so keep your eyes peeled for ideas, themes and clues for our story.



Careers Fair

Running alongside our World Book Day celebrations on Thursday, 5th March, we are excited to host our annual Careers Fair. This is a great opportunity for students to engage directly with local and national businesses. Through these interactive sessions, students can explore diverse industries, network with professionals and gain invaluable insights into the skills and qualifications needed for the modern workplace. We hope this day sparks inspiration as our students begin to consider their own professional journeys.

The Whitstable School Careers Fair

Thursday 5th March 2026

The Aim:
To engage pupils through displays and discussions.
To provide the pupils with information on different career paths
To show the pupils a range of different careers and industries

09:00-15:10PM
Location
Bellevue Rd, Whitstable
CT5 1PX

To join us and get a stand at our event please contact the careers team on the below email.

01227931300 tws_careers@swale.at

InvestIN: Free Careers & Post-18 Workshops

Students can gain industry insights and certificates through free online "How to Become..." workshops (10th-12th March), while parents are invited to a specialised guide on navigating the modern graduate job market and apprenticeships on Tuesday, 17th March.

Click [here](#) to explore the timetable and register for your free sessions.



Sixth Form Updates

Whitstable School Football Academy: Weekly Roundup

Our SCL Youth Development squad kicked off the new term in spectacular fashion with a clinical away performance on Wednesday, 25th February.

The match was effectively decided in a whirlwind first half, where Whitstable's dominance yielded five superb goals. The team moved the ball with pace and precision, showcasing the high level of technical quality we have come to expect from this group.

Goal Scorers: Dylan, Zerich, Cian

It was a total team effort from start to finish, marking a perfect start to the term's fixtures. Congratulations to the whole squad!



Pre-Employment Workshop: Preparing for the Professional World

As part of our commitment to providing top-tier post-18 support, our Sixth form students took part in a Pre-Employment Workshop this week designed to bridge the gap between education and the workplace.

This session was a vital milestone for students planning their next steps—whether that's a career start or a high-level apprenticeship. The goal was to ensure every student leaves the workshop feeling competitive, confident and "career-ready."

What the Workshop Covered:

The "Recruiter's Perspective": Direct insight into what HR professionals actually look for in a modern application.

CV Optimisation: Turning academic achievements into a professional narrative.

Interactive Coaching: Master the art of competency-based questions and professional etiquette.

Branding: How to effectively market unique skills and experiences to stand out.



Important Reminders for Parents & Carers

Health & Immunisations: HPV & MMR Update

The Vaccination Team will be returning to the school on Wednesday, 11th March for Day 2 of the HPV delivery.

Portal Reopened: If you missed the previous cut-off date, the parent consent portal has now been reopened. Please submit your consent or decline as soon as possible via kentimmunisations.co.uk.

Catch-up Session: This visit is specifically designed to vaccinate students in Year 8 who were absent or missed during the first visit.

Years 9, 10 & 11: Catch-up doses for HPV and MMR vaccinations will also be available for students in these year groups who have not yet completed their course.

Parking & Student Safety

To ensure the safety of our students and maintain accessibility for all, please do not park in designated disabled spaces or block school parking gates. We kindly ask that you park further away from the school entrance to keep the area clear and safe for pedestrians.

Community Respect & Litter

We have received reports of littering and disrespectful behavior toward local residents. The School takes these reports seriously. Students identified dropping litter, inside or outside of school grounds, will face appropriate sanctions and negative behavior points. We expect all students to represent the School with pride and respect for our neighbors.

Investing in Excellence: Support The Whitstable School

At The Whitstable School, we are dedicated to providing an outstanding learning environment where every student can thrive. To ensure our pupils have access to the best possible tools for success, we are launching a community investment initiative to modernize our facilities.

Your contributions will focus on three transformative areas:

- Technology: Upgrading hardware and software to prepare students for a digital future.
- Sports: Enhancing equipment and facilities to promote physical health and teamwork.
- Literacy: Expanding our library and classroom resources to foster a lifelong love of reading.

Every donation, regardless of size, directly impacts the daily classroom experience and helps us build a brighter future for our pupils. We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our community.

How to Donate

If you would like to support our students, please complete and submit our

[TWS Donations Form](#)



Working Together for an Allergen-Aware School

At the Whitstable School, the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority. While it is impractical to enforce a strictly "allergen-free" environment, we aim to be as allergen-aware as possible to protect students with severe sensitivities.

We kindly ask for your support by avoiding the following high-risk items in packed lunches or snacks:

- Packaged nuts (peanuts, tree nuts, etc.)
- Cereal, granola, or chocolate bars containing nuts
- Spreads: Peanut butter or chocolate-hazelnut spreads (like Nutella)
- Sauces: Peanut-based sauces, such as satay
- Sesame: Sesame seeds and products containing them (e.g., hummus or certain crackers)

For more information, please refer to our [Pupil Allergy Policy](#) available on our school website.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep all our pupils safe.

★ Free Local Family Hub Support

Access a wide range of free groups and workshops from 23rd February – 2nd April 2026 designed to support TWS families:

For Parents: Workshops on Strengthening Family Relationships, "Ready for Baby" sessions, and specialist advice on Supporting Your Teen's Mental Health.

For Youth: The Compass program (11+) for wellbeing and Speak Out youth groups. Practical Help: Jobcentre Plus sessions for budgeting/employment and parenting advice drop-ins.

Early Years: Baby Massage, Stay & Play and infant feeding support.

[View full timetables and book online: www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub](http://www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub)

FRIDAY 20TH MARCH 2026

MOVIE MAGIC DANCE SHOWCASE



With music masterpieces from your favourite motion pictures, witness the talents of TWS' dancers!

Doors open 5:45pm
Curtain 6:00pm

TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA TICKETSOURCE.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or over-relied on. Inappropriate comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or offering young users a revealing security code. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential risks.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content for age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others to track their movements. To track someone's whereabouts, also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant - Meta AI - across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location, and review their privacy settings and group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something makes them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone, and then know that privacy shouldn't mean secrecy.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wakeup.wednesday @wakeup.weds

What does caring look like for you?



MY MUMS DISABLED SO I DO EXTRA CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE, HELP TO COOK MEALS, AND HELP HER TO GET DRESSED AND OUT OF BED

My brother's autistic and sometimes needs help to calm down at night time when he gets angry

I help my Dad take his medication as he has MS. He's in hospital a lot so I worry about him and what he would do if I go to university

MY SISTER HAS MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AND CRIES A LOT OF THE TIME. MY PARENTS HELP BUT I LIKE TO TALK AND HANG OUT WITH HER TO HELP CHEER HER UP

What is a Young Carer?

A young person under 18 who provides emotional or practical support to a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health challenge, or substance misuse issue.

Our support group meets every Wednesday lunchtime in GZ2 Led by Mrs. James, it is a welcoming space for all young carers to chat, share experiences or simply relax with peers who have similar responsibilities.