

NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Issue 2

06 MARCH 2026

Key term dates

- 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.

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) TWS School Calendar](#)

[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) 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_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_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

Events Schedule (Mar 09 – 13, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 09 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 7: SMASHED Event 13:30 - 15:10 Year 11: CCCU Sports Lab Trip 09:00 - 15:10
Tuesday 10 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swalestock- Trust event at The Meophan School
Wednesday 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HPV vaccinations Yr 8 Catch up for 9, 10 & 11 Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30 Ski Trip parents meeting 17:00 - 18:00

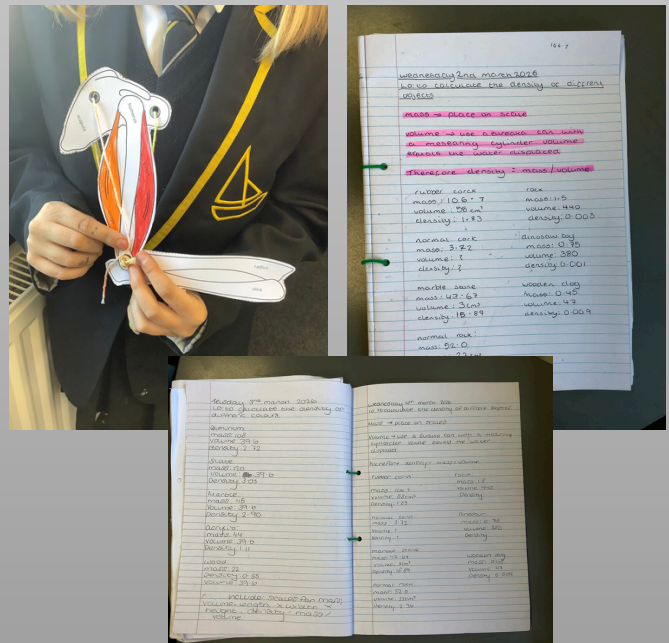
Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

Year 7

Lilly - for impressive paper cut-out design on muscle work in Science.

Year 10

Thea, Konnie and Neve for their outstanding written work on density in different objects in Science.



TRACK Winner: Harley (Year 7)
 Congratulations to Harley for his outstanding effort this week!
 By following our **TRACK values** and earning numerous positive points.



Yesterday's TWS Career Fair was a hit!

A heartfelt thank you to our local partners for sharing your expertise. The variety of fields represented was world-class, leaving our students feeling informed, motivated, and ready for what's next.

We couldn't have done it without our incredible community!



We would like to extend a huge thank you to Miss Middleton and Mrs Marwaha for their incredible hard work in organising this year's Careers Fair.



Magic in the Air for Year 10 & 12

From the heights of the Eiffel Tower to the drops of the Tower of Terror, our Year 10 and Year 12 trip to Paris was a resounding success!

After a scenic journey through France, students spent Tuesday exploring Disneyland and attending a high-level Psychology Conference. They delved into the science of dopamine and the portrayal of psychopathy in cinema, linking their classroom learning to the world around them. Whether they were screaming on Hyperspace Mountain (we saw you, Ms. Simons!) or taking notes at the conference, fun was truly had by all.



World Book Day Highlights

What a fantastic World Book Day! Here's a look at how we celebrated:

The Big Read: The whole school was gripped by Ray Bradbury's *The Fog Horn*, as teachers revealed this atmospheric story of isolation and mystery bit by bit throughout the day.

Expert Workshops: Year 7 students worked with Ben Crystal, exploring the "Original Pronunciation" of Shakespeare and taking part in a thrilling Traitors-themed oracy session.

Student Leadership: A huge thank you to our Year 7 Reading Ambassadors for their brilliant support during the event.

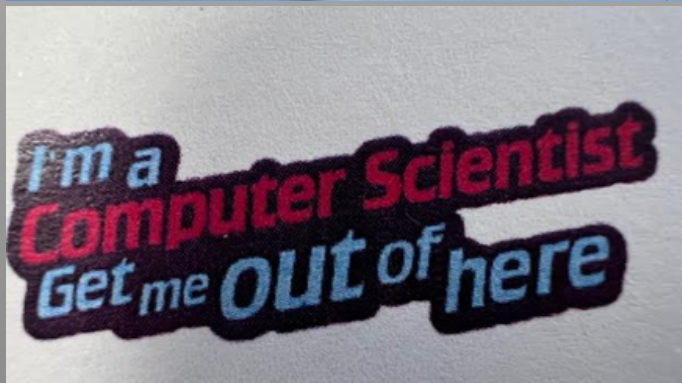
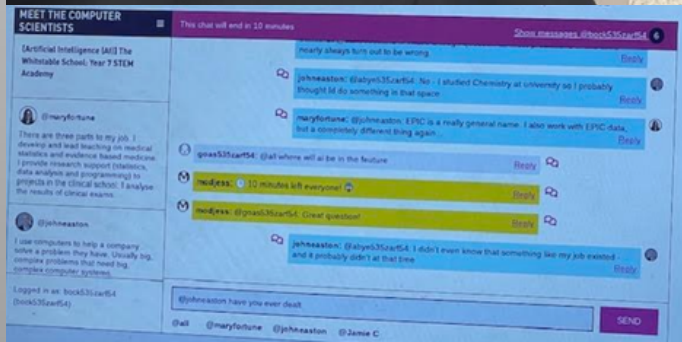
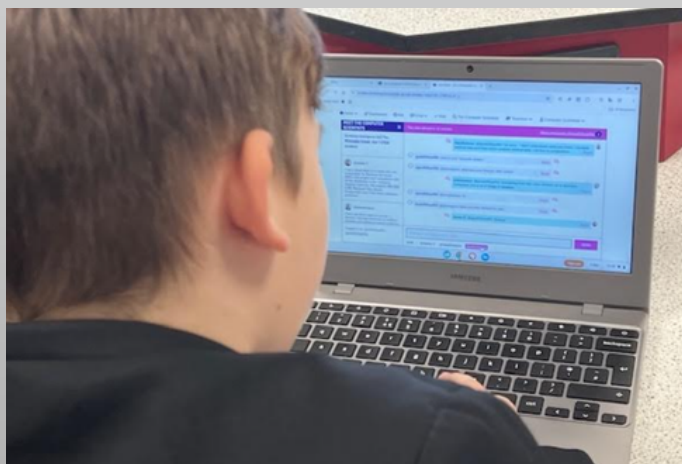
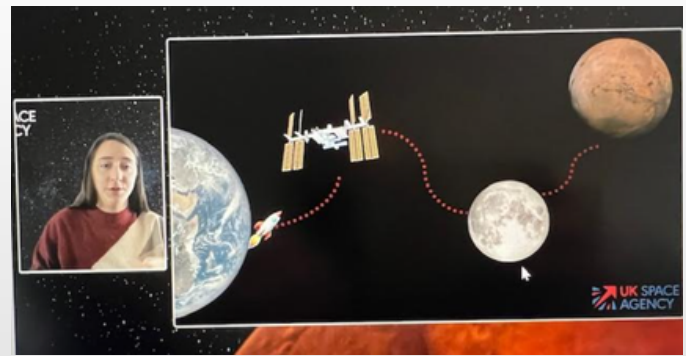
Library Joy: It was wonderful to see so many students visiting the library to claim their book vouchers and share their latest recommendations!



🚀 From the Classroom to the Red Planet: Mars Day

On 3rd March, our students had an "out-of-this-world" experience participating in #MarsDay. Joining thousands of others for an incredible live event hosted by ESERO-UK, our budding explorers had a front-row seat to the future of space travel.

Students engaged directly with real-life scientists and engineers, discussing everything from the mechanics of Martian rovers to the search for extra-terrestrial life. Seeing their faces light up as they realised they could be the ones to take the next "giant leap" was a true highlight.



👤 In the "Hot Seat": STEM Academy & AI

Our STEM Academy students recently put an IT Programmer, a Hardware Developer, and a Biomedical Statistician in the "hot seat" to explore careers in code. The session provided a deep dive into the world of Artificial Intelligence and high-level data, covering:

Hardware Engineering: How specialised chips and GPUs manage the intense computational demands of AI.

Biomedical Statistics: Using algorithms to analyse biological data to track diseases and improve patient outcomes.

Career Pathways: The mathematical foundations and qualifications needed to lead the AI revolution.

It was an inspiring week of learning, proving that the skills our students are building today could lead them to the forefront of the tech industry tomorrow!

TWS Football Academy Update

Our National League squad delivered a true five-star performance this week, dismantling Tonbridge Angels in a commanding 5-1 victory. The scoring opened after a brilliant solo run from Alex, who set up Teddy for a clinical finish. Alex then doubled the lead himself with a stunning free kick that found the bottom corner. After the break, the momentum continued as Jake provided a clinical finish for the third, followed by an ice-cold penalty from Mattias. Fred put the game out of reach with a superb header at the back post to complete the scoring. This vital win moves Whitstable three points clear at the summit of the National League with only four matches remaining.

We are in a prime position to be crowned champions, so let's get behind the boys for this final stretch!



Support Our Student: Albie Year 11 in the Kent Cup Final

Huge congratulations to Albie in Year 11! His team, Maidstone Under 16s, have officially reached the Kent Cup Final for the third year running. This is a massive achievement and we want to show our school's support as they head into the big game.

The match takes place on Sunday, 29th March at 10:30 am, hosted at Whitstable Town Football Club against Cray Valley. We would love to see a sea of support for Albie and his teammates as they look to bring home the trophy. If you'd like to attend and support the squad, tickets are available to purchase [here](#).

We are so proud of your hard work, Albie!

Important School Updates & Reminders

Immunisations: HPV & MMR Update

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

- Action Required: If you missed the previous deadline, the parent consent portal has been reopened at kentimmunisations.co.uk.
- Deadline: Please submit your consent or decline by 4:00 pm today, 06/03/2026, when the portal will close.
- Who is it for? This session is a catch-up for Year 8 students who were absent during the first visit. Additionally, catch-up doses for HPV and MMR are available for students in Years 9, 10, and 11 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 parents and carers 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 very seriously; any students identified dropping litter, inside or outside of school grounds, will face appropriate sanctions and negative behavior points. We expect all students to represent our school with pride and respect for our neighbours.

Lost Property

Our lost property cupboard is currently overflowing! If your child is missing any items of uniform or coats, please ask them to check at Reception before the Easter break.

Please Note: After Easter, all unclaimed uniform items will be moved to our pre-loved uniform cupboard and any unclaimed coats will be donated to charity.

Allergen Awareness

The safety of our students is our top priority. While it is impossible to guarantee a 100% allergen-free environment in a busy school, we strive to be as allergen-aware as possible. We kindly ask for your support by ensuring packed lunches and snacks do not contain:

- Packaged nuts (peanuts, tree nuts, etc.)
- Nut-based bars (cereal, granola or chocolate bars)
- Spreads (Peanut butter or chocolate-hazelnut spreads like Nutella)
- Sauces (Peanut-based sauces like satay)
- Sesame (Seeds, hummus or sesame crackers)

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

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



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 8- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2026. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1. VALUE ALL READING**
When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than to help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading day? Ask them to discuss this with them, by doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to reading.
- 2. WIDEN THE SELECTION**
Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop online, magazines, the library and a bookshop, and consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider how you might broaden their reading choices, as all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3. GIFT A BOOK**
One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's on a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4. CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.
- 5. BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6. TALK BOOKS**
There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.
- 7. RECOMMENDATIONS**
As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading and how we read it. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.
- 8. GO DIGITAL**
With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like Polydora and eggs like Goodreads for older children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9. RECONNECT**
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear. It does not mean it's gone forever. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their way theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support this reconnection.
- 10. LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children: reading matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert
Carl Pattison is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Free Creative Opportunity: National Saturday Club in Margate

We are excited to share a fantastic free opportunity for students aged 13-16! The National Saturday Club is inviting young people to join their Art&Design Club at The Margate School. Running from 7th March to 30th June (10:30 am-1:00 pm), this club offers a welcoming space to build creative skills, gain confidence and explore future careers.

<https://saturday-club.org/club/the-margate-school-art-design/>