

NEWSLETTER

Term 4, Issue 5

27 MARCH 2026

Key term dates

13 April 2026 - Start of Term 5
22 May 2026 - End of Term 5

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.

For our new school meals menu, please visit our website:

School Meals



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)

TERM 5 STARTS - B TIMETABLE

Events Schedule (April 13– 17, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of Term 5
Wednesday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Dance Rehearsals 15:10 - 17:00 Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30
Thursday 16 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 Imperial War Museum Trip 09:00 - 16:00 Year 11 Dance Rehearsals 15:10 - 17:00 Stage Academy 15:10 - 16:30
Friday 17 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11 Dance Assessment 08:40- 15:10

Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

Year 7

Sarah- for her outstanding English article about Loki.

Ivy and Sarah - beautiful art work inspired by Hakasai.

Year 8

Louie, Leo and JJ - for their impressive English work on World War II

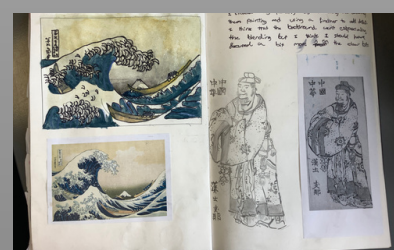
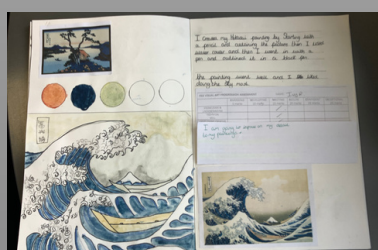
TRACK Winner: Matt (Year 8)

Congratulations to Matt for his outstanding effort this week!

By following our **TRACK values** and earning numerous positive points.

Are You on TRACK?

TOLERANCE
RESILIENCE
ACHIEVEMENT
COURTESY
KNOWLEDGE



Dear Parents and Carers,

This term has, as always, been a busy and productive one for the school, particularly as we prepare for the final weeks ahead for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. I would like to thank parents and carers of students in these year groups for your continued support at home. Ensuring regular and structured revision is taking place will be crucial in helping students achieve their expected outcomes in the upcoming examinations.

Year 10 students have now embarked on their GCSE Statistics course. Early preparation and revision for this qualification will play a vital role in building both confidence and momentum as they move into Year 11.

Across the rest of the school, it has been fantastic to see high levels of engagement and enjoyment in lessons. In particular, the quality of PE provision, as well as the enthusiasm shown in the arts and drama, has been a real highlight this term. Our recent dance show was a wonderful success and showcased the talent and dedication of students involved in Stage Academy.

We continue to emphasise high standards in students' work. Taking pride in presentation, alongside regular marking and meaningful feedback, remains a key focus to ensure all students make strong and sustained progress.

Attendance has improved steadily since Term 2 and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support with this. As we move into term 5, it is vital that students attend school every day as we continue to work towards our goal of 100% attendance. It has been particularly pleasing to celebrate this commitment through rewards such as early lunches, non-uniform days and other incentives.

I will be writing to you next term to outline our key priorities and vision for Terms 5 and 6. In the meantime, thank you again for your continued support.

Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter.

Mr. A Holmes, Headteacher



"Tea-riffic Tuesday!"

A group of students enjoyed a celebratory tea with the Headteacher this week. It was the perfect way to pour out some praise for their recent achievements.

Keep up the great work!

Congratulations to Lily (Year 7) for her outstanding success in the Social Enterprise Kent writing contest! Lily's imaginative tale of Pludifa, a birthday-celebrating alien-human hybrid, stood out among the 'Curious Creatures' entries.

Lily's creativity has earned her a place in The Big Writing Challenge 2026 anthology. She will be honored at a special book launch at Canterbury Cathedral Lodge later this year.

We are incredibly proud of her literary talent!



We are delighted to announce that Mrs Payne, our subject leader for Dance has been shortlisted as a Finalist in the The Award for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School category in The Pearson National Teaching Awards 2026. This is a huge achievement with only an estimated 25 teachers being shortlisted out of 8000 nominations. We will be proudly celebrating Mrs Payne and all our colleagues on National Thank a Teacher Day, June 17th when all the results will be announced. We wish Mrs Payne the best of luck for the next round of judging.

What a fortnight for our dancers!

Last Friday, 60+ students brought "Movie Magic" to life in our first-ever Showcase—the creativity and "goosebumps" were off the charts!

The success continued yesterday (March 26th) as our Senior Dance Company competed at Swale Dance Fever 2026. Not only were they amazing ambassadors for TWS, but they also brought home the "Best Performance Skills" award! Huge thanks to Mrs. Payne for her dedication. We are so proud of you all!



A Visit to Thanet Earth

A group of students stepped into the "future of farming" at Thanet Earth, the UK's largest glasshouse complex. This unique visit brought their studies on sustainable resource management to life!

Students gained a firsthand look at how high-tech climate control and sustainable methods are reducing food miles and carbon footprints right here in Kent. An eye-opening and fascinating day exploring the cutting edge of agriculture!



Food Preparation & Nutrition: Year 11 Success!

A huge well done to our Year 11 Food students for completing their intensive practical exams! The challenge was high-stakes: cooking three complex dishes in just three hours, all while maintaining a professional, tidy kitchen.

Our students rose to the occasion, producing work of exceptionally high quality and technical skill. While JCQ guidelines prevent us from sharing photos of this year's live exam work, here is a look back at some of last year's incredible creations to showcase the level of talent we have at TWS!



Our U13 Girls put on an absolute masterclass this Tuesday, securing a massive 6-0 win against Simon Langton Girls!

Despite playing the entire match with only 10 players, the team showed incredible heart and desire. From an unbreakable backline and a clean sheet in goal to our clinical finishers, every player gave 110%. The teamwork and link-up play were truly next level!

The Scoresheet:

- ⚽ Lily C (2)
- ⚽ Amelia K (2)
- ⚽ Nancy H (1)
- ⚽ Poppy J (1)

Player of the Match: Amelia R for an outstanding performance!

We couldn't be prouder of this group's tenacity. Well done, girls!



Year 10 Rugby: Champions at Ashford 7s!

The Year 10 boys ended their season on a high, dominated the Ashford Rugby Club 7s Tournament to secure a fantastic overall victory!

Fielding two competitive sides, the boys showcased incredible leadership and power. Leo set the tone with an inspired captain's performance, supported by Rogan's electric runs. Meanwhile, Max's squad showed immense character to battle into the final, where the physicality of Josh, Max and Danny proved unstoppable. A relentless team effort and textbook tackling ensured a convincing tournament win. What a way to wrap up the season!



Important School Updates & Reminders

- **Attendance Rewards**

We are incredibly proud of our students' commitment to their learning and their fantastic attendance this week. At The Whitstable School, consistency pays off!

Every Friday, the year group with the top morning attendance is rewarded with an early lunch break.

A huge well done to **Year 8, who secured the top spot this morning.**

Enjoy your well-earned early lunch!

- **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 behaving disrespectfully or 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.

- **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.

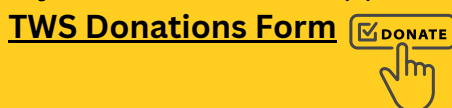
Your contributions will focus on three transformative areas:

- **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



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 themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS

As exam season ramps up, revision often becomes louder, busier, and less effective. Many pupils still rely on comfort strategies like re-reading and highlighting. These can feel productive but rarely build long-term memory. This guide will help you create a low-effort, high-impact revision system that teaches pupils how to revise, rather than merely emphasising its importance.

- DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING**
Before adding more sessions, identify why a pupil is underperforming: knowledge gaps, weak routines, poor choices, or low effort driven by lack of confidence. Treating every issue as 'needs more revision' creates more stress. Use a quick check: do they know what do they misunderstand, what can't they retrieve under pressure, and what do they avoid? Then match revision to the specific problem.
- TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY**
Most pupils haven't been taught how to revise well, so they pick what feels easiest. Build short revision mini-lessons into curriculum time. Cover effective retrieval, spacing, and how to self-check. Model it live, do it together, then gradually hand over responsibility. The goal is independence, not dependency. When pupils understand why strategies work, they're more likely to use them when it matters.
- PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE**
Make recall the default. Use methods such as low-stakes quizzes, flashcards, free recall, blurring, and 'answer then check'. Effective testing helps to measure and strengthen learning. Keep it specific and frequent - small chunks, lots of repetition, and immediate feedback. For parents, the best question isn't 'Have you revised?' but 'What can you remember today, without notes?'
- SPACE IT OUT**
Cramming can boost short-term performance, but it's weaker for long-term retention. Help pupils spread practice across days and weeks, revisiting content after memory has faded. That 'right strategy' is the point. Use a simple system: new learning, next-day retrieval, a three-day revisit, a weekly revisit, and mixed practice before the exam. This turns revision into a routine, not a panic.
- MIX, DON'T BLOCK**
Practising one topic for a long stretch - known as 'blocked practice' - can feel easy, but it can hide fragile learning. Mixing topics, question types, or methods strengthens long-term learning and helps pupils apply knowledge later. For educators, design homework and revision packs so topics reappear in a planned cycle. For parents, encourage sessions that mix two topics rather than focusing on just one.
- USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY**
Revision should feel effortful, not effortless. Durable learning comes from challenging revision techniques: attempting answers before looking, explaining ideas aloud, writing from memory, or tackling unfamiliar question formats. The key is hard, but doable. If a pupil always gets everything right, it's too easy. If they always fail, it's too hard. Aim for productive struggle with quick feedback loops.
- CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY**
Revision fails when pupils waste energy finding resources, navigating platforms, or guessing what matters. Reduce cognitive overload by centralising what they need: a single hub per subject, a clear list of priority knowledge, and a small set of standard task types such as quizzes, flash cards, exam questions, or corrections. Less admin clutter means more working memory for learning.
- PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE**
Strong revision is self-regulated. Pupils plan what they'll do, monitor if it's working and evaluate what to change next time. Use a weekly revision review routine that asks: 'What did I try?' 'What improved?' 'What didn't?' 'What's my next micro-goal?' Post-mock action plans are powerful here because they force honesty about time spent, strategy used, and impact achieved.
- WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY**
Mocks only help if pupils learn from them. Use an exam wrapper approach: before the mock, set strategy goals; afterwards, analyse errors such as knowledge gaps, misread questions, weak methods, and timing issues, then create a targeted re-teach and re-test plan. Parents can support by asking: 'What type of mistake was it, and what's your fix?' rather than 'What grade did you get?'
- MAKE TIME VISIBLE**
Revision becomes real when time is protected and predictable. Help pupils build a timetable that's short, repeatable, and realistic: 30-40 minute blocks, clear start and stop times, and specific tasks, not 'revise science'. Avoid perfectionist plans that look pretty and collapse by Tuesday. Consistency beats intensity. Build momentum with small wins, then build from there.

Meet Our Expert
Amjad Ali is the creator of Try This Teaching and the CPD and Inclusion Lead for the Children Learning Trust. With over 19 years' experience in education, including leadership roles in diverse and high-need schools, he specialises in inclusive, evidence-informed practice. His work focuses on practical, low-effort, high-impact strategies that help students learn more and retain knowledge over time.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

See full reference list at www.nationalcollege.com

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SCHOLARSHIP RECRUITMENT TRIALS

PLAY - TRAIN - STUDY

AGES 15-18 - 15.04.26

GIRLS | 10:00 - 11:30AM

WHITSTABLE TOWN FC - CT5 4LN



SCHOLARSHIP RECRUITMENT TRIALS

PLAY - TRAIN - STUDY

AGES 15-18 - 10.04.26

BOYS | 17:30 - 19:00

WHITSTABLE TOWN FC - CT5 4LN



SPORTS CONNECT

SCAN THE QR CODE TO FIND YOUR SESSION

LIMITLESS is a free programme for 10-19 year olds. Designed to give young people a safe, supportive space during school holidays.

LIMITLESS SPORTS FREE HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

SIGN UP NOW



PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY -



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 Summer 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
Drop In Activities:
 Our drop in activities are available for everybody, no need to book.

13th & 18th April
Wildwood Trips
 We have a number of tickets available for families to enjoy a day at Wildwood, with lunch provided for all young people attending. For 0-19 years (25 SEND). Parents/carers in attendance.
Meet at: 10:00am
 Herne Common, Herne Bay CT6 7LQ

31st March to 30th April
Gym and Swim
 Ready to feel stronger, more confident, and full of energy? The gym is a great place to challenge yourself, learn new skills, and discover what your body can do. No experience needed. It's a space to set your own goals, make new friends, and feel proud of your progress. Come along and give it a go. For young people 14-16 years old (25 SEND)
 Herons Leisure Centre Kingsmead Pools & Fitness Whitstable Pools & Fitness

Fishing Programme with Willowbank Education

A three day programme during the day, with all equipment provided. Whether you've never held a rod before or already know your way around the water, it's a chance to spend time outdoors, learn new skills, and enjoy the thrill of the catch – Big or small. Each young person will leave with a gift that will help them carry on in the sport. You'll need to make your own way to the venue, but if transport is a challenge, just get in touch and we'll see what we can do. Lunch will be provided each day (with allergen options available). For ages 11-19 (25 SEND).

7th April
 10:00am - 2:30pm
 Willowbank Education, Nethergong Hill, Canterbury, CT3 4DN

8th April
 10:00am - 2:30pm
 Willowbank Education, Nethergong Hill, Canterbury, CT3 4DN

9th April
 10:00am - 2:30pm
 Willowbank Education, Nethergong Hill, Canterbury, CT3 4DN

13th April
Story Sacks
 Come along for a fun filled session of story telling and crafts, creating own props to bring stories to life to take home and share with others. For children 3 to 8 years old. Parents/carers in attendance.
 11:00am - 1:00pm
 Wincheap Family Hub, Hollowmeade, Wincheap, Canterbury, CT1 3SD

14th April
Rivals Social
 Smash strikes on their AR-powered bowling lanes for a futuristic spin on classic competition, fire up your skills in Hot Shots and then step into The Arena, an immersive game zone designed to throw you straight into the action. For young people 11-16 years old.
 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Rivals Social, 4a Simmonds Road, Canterbury, CT1 3RA

14th April
Cooking
 It's a chance to get hands-on in the kitchen, learn and discover skills that will actually come in handy—whether you're cooking for yourself, your family, or just want to impress your friends. You don't need any experience. Come along, get creative, and let's serve up something amazing! For young people 11-16 years old.
 12:00pm - 3:00pm
 Whitstable Family Hub, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ

Canterbury Family Hubs

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 To register your interest, please email: canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk
Drop In Activities:
 Our drop in activities are available for everybody, no need to book.

14th April
Rocket Making
 Come along to design, construct and decorate your own pop bottle rockets and paper planes. We'll be learning about the principles of flight and rocket propulsion in a hands-on way. Suitable for children aged 3 to 11. Parents/carers in attendance.
 10:00am - 12:00pm
 Whitstable Family Hub, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ

14th April
Family Swim
 Free Family Swim session. Meet us at Kingsmead Leisure Centre reception for your 1 hour swimming ticket and healthy snack bag (12.15-1.15pm). For families with children 0-11 years, parents/carers in attendance. *One family swim ticket entitles 2 adults and 2 children.
 12:15pm - 1:15pm
 Kingsmead Pools and Fitness, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury CT2 7PH

Parenting Support Advice Drop-Ins

Drop in for friendly advice on any parenting questions (0-19 years). No booking needed.

14th April
 9:30am - 11:30am
 Whitstable Family Hub, Tower Parade, Whitstable, CT5 2BJ

15th April
 9:30am - 11:30am
 Herne Bay Family Hub, Memorial Park, Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5RG

15th April
Spring Crafts and Activities
 Spring Crafts and Activities, including paper crafts, painting, baking and planting seeds. For children aged 0-11 years. Parents/carers in attendance.
 11:00am - 3:00pm
 Herne Bay Family Hub, Memorial Park, Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5RG

16th April
Story Sacks
 Come along for a fun filled session of story telling and crafts, creating own props to bring stories to life to take home and share with others. For children 3 to 8 years old. Parents/carers in attendance.
 12:30pm - 3:00pm
 Briary Family Hub, Greenhill Road (West), Herne Bay, CT6 7RS

16th April
Roller Skating
 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 0-19 years (25 SEND). Snack bag provided for all children and young people who attend. Parents/carers in attendance.
 1:00pm - 2:30pm
 Bay Sports Arena, Bullockstone Rd, Herne Bay, CT6 7NS

17th April
Sports Day on the Green
 Please join us for a day of family fun. Bring the whole family and enjoy lots of games and fun sports activities. Feel free to bring along a picnic rug as all children with receive a free healthy lunch box (allergen options available). For 0-19 (SEND) with parent/carers in attendance.
 10:30am - 12:30pm
 Kingsmead Playing Field, Broad Oak Rd, Canterbury, CT2 7PW



April 2026 Timetable

All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	6 April 10am
School Anxiety	6 April 7pm
Facing Defiance	7 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	7 April 7pm
Anxiety Explained	13 April 10am
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	13 April 7pm
Introduction to OCD	14 April 10am
What is ACT?	14 April 7pm
Decreasing Depression	20 April 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	20 April 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	21 April 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	21 April 7pm
FREE Decreasing Depression	23 April 7-8pm
Improving Family Communication	
Autism: Improving Communication	27 April 10am
Supporting a Child with ADHD	27 April 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	28 April 10am
	28 April 7pm