

NEWSLETTER

Term 5, Issue 1

17 APRIL 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: tws_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: tws_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

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Term 5. It has been great to see students return settled, focused and working hard.

A particular mention to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are now fully engaged in revision as they prepare for their upcoming GCSE and A-Level exams this term. We wish them every success.

This year has already included over 70 trips, with a further 20 planned, alongside enrichment activities and our upcoming Presentation Evening; an opportunity to celebrate student achievements.

Our key focus this term is attendance, with a target of 97%. Regular attendance is vital for both academic success and wellbeing and we appreciate your continued support with this.

Homework also remains a priority and rewards can be viewed daily via the My Child at School app.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to a successful Term 5.

Mr. A Holmes, Headteacher

Events Schedule (April 20– 24, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 20th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFL Spanish GCSE Speaking Exams Monday 20th - Thursday 23rd April 2026
Wednesday 22nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 7 Brockhill Trip 8:40 - 15:10 • Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30
Thursday 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drop down event -International Womens in Engineering day- Year 7,8 and 9 08:40 - 15:10 • Stage Academy 15:10 - 16:30

Silver Success

We are incredibly proud to celebrate Aliyah (Year 11), who has officially achieved her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. As the only student in her year group to pursue this level, Aliyah showed exceptional independence and bravery, completing her training and expeditions alongside students from another school. This required immense self-motivation and grit. We are delighted to see Aliyah wearing her Silver badge with pride—a well-deserved reward for her dedication!

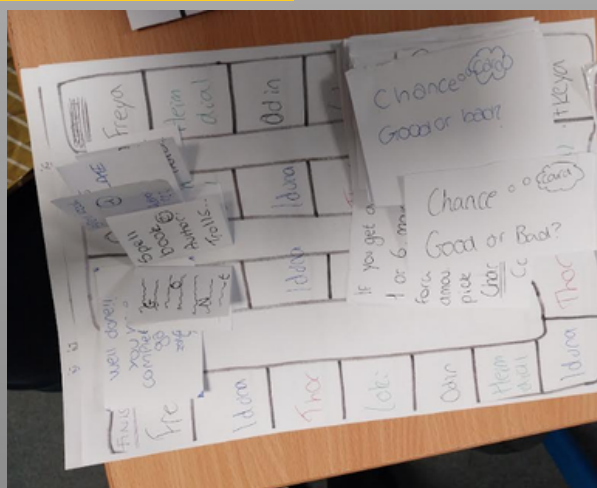
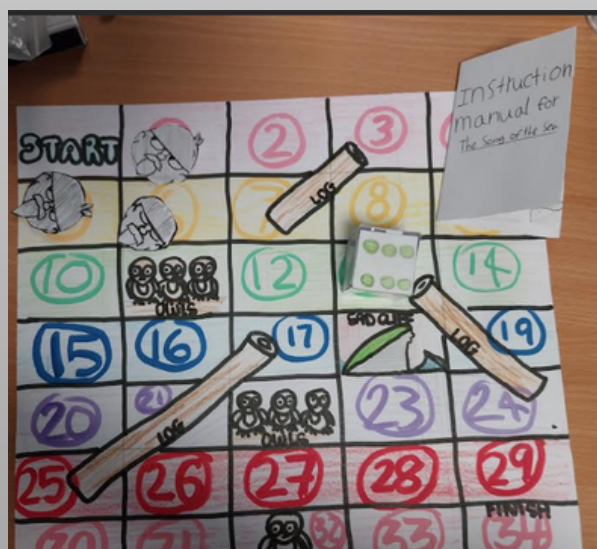


TRACK Winner: Katie R (Year 7)

Congratulations to Katie for her outstanding effort this week! By following our **TRACK values** and earning numerous positive points.

Mythical Fun in Year 7

Our Year 7 students brought ancient tales to life this term through their creative holiday homework. The classroom was transformed into a gaming hub as pupils played board games they designed based on Myths and Legends. From dodging Loki's tricks to gaining Odin's favor, the students brilliantly translated stories of luck and chance into interactive challenges. It was a fantastic way to blend literary study with creative play!



Alpine Adventures: Les Deux Alpes Ski Trip 2026

What a week! Over the Easter break, 67 pupils and 8 staff members swapped their school blazers for salopettes and headed to the breathtaking heights of Les Deux Alpes, France. From the moment they caught sight of the snow-capped peaks, it was clear they were in for an unforgettable experience.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the trip was seeing the incredible range of talent on the slopes. We had a diverse group, including:

- The Trailblazers: Our complete beginners who were just learning to find their "ski legs." By the end of the week, they were confidently navigating blue runs with smiles on their faces.
- The Pros: Our experienced skiers who took full advantage of the glacier, carving through powder and tackling some of the resort's more challenging terrain.

Regardless of ability, the progress made by every single student was remarkable. It wasn't just about the skiing, though—it was about the resilience shown after every tumble and the cheers of encouragement heard across the mountainside.

The skiing conditions were perfect all week, with crisp bluebird skies and snow down to resort level that made every run feel like a postcard moment.

After long days on the mountain, the group retreated to some truly excellent food. Whether it was a hearty French breakfast to fuel the morning, an all you can eat buffet lunch or delicious evening meals that brought everyone together, the catering was better than anything we have experienced on any ski trip. There is nothing quite like a warm meal and a shared story to end a day on the slopes!

Beyond the physical skills, the trip was a masterclass in camaraderie. We are proud of how the pupils conducted themselves, representing the school with spirit and kindness.

A huge thank you to the staff who made this possible and to the students for making it such a joy. We're already counting down the days until we can hit the slopes again!

If you are interested in the ski trip in February 2027 please get in contact with the school.



A huge congratulations to Albie (Year 11) and his teammates at Maidstone United FC for their fantastic victory in the Boys Kent Cup Final! In a highly competitive match at Whitstable Town FC, the team secured a well-deserved 3-1 win against Cray Valley, cheered on by a great crowd of supporters. To celebrate their achievement, the squad was invited to perform a lap of honour at the Gallagher Stadium on Easter Monday, receiving a warm round of applause from a packed house during the first-team match. Well done, Albie!



Join the BioBlitz: A Celebration of Nature!

We are excited to invite students and families to the University of Kent's BioBlitz on Saturday, 30th May. Hosted by the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), this free, interactive day brings together wildlife experts and the community to record as many species as possible on campus.

From Nature Detective trails for younger children to expert-led surveys with the RSPB and Kent Wildlife Trust, there is something for everyone!

When: Saturday, 30th May (Surveys run 8:00 AM – 9:30 PM)

Where: Colyer-Fergusson foyer, University of Kent

Cost: Free (Registration via Eventbrite is required)



The BRIT SCHOOL
Canterbury College
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Westminster Kingsway College

BRIT KIDS

SATURDAY COURSES
IN CREATIVE, MEDIA
& PERFORMING ARTS
FOR 7-18 YEAR OLDS
AT CANTERBURY,
KINGS CROSS AND
CROYDON

WHAT DO WE DO?
MORE THAN YOU
CAN IMAGINE

TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO
BRITKIDS.ORG

FOLLOW US ON:  



Important School Updates & Reminders

- **Health & Immunisations:**

A reminder for Year 9 parents to submit your Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccination consent or decline via kentimmunisations.co.uk by April 27th, 2026. School URN: KT144354

This session will also include Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccinations and catch-up doses for students in Years 10 and 11 who may have missed previous dates.

- **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)

- **Investing in Excellence: Support TWS**

We are launching a community initiative to modernise our facilities in Technology, Sports and Literacy. Every donation directly impacts our pupils' daily experience.

If you would like to support our students, please complete and submit our our donation form. We sincerely appreciate your generosity!

[TWS Donations Form](#)



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 thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IMAGE-ALTERING FILTERS

From playful puppy ears on Snapchat to 'beauty mode' on TikTok, image-altering filters are now a routine part of how young people communicate online. While many are harmless, others subtly reshape people's faces and bodies. This can blur the line between reality and edited content, potentially influencing how children and young people see themselves and others.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ALTERED BEAUTY STANDARDS

Many 'beauty' filters smooth skin, reshape facial features, or adjust body proportions. Over time, repeated exposure to these filters can shift a child's idea of what is 'normal' or attractive, creating unrealistic expectations about their own and others' appearance.

PRESSURE TO LOOK PERFECT

Filtered images can often attract more 'likes' and positive comments. This can encourage children and young people to rely on editing tools to gain others' approval, rather than feeling confident in their natural appearance.

LOW SELF-ESTEEM

Regularly viewing heavily filtered content can lead to comparisons with unrealistic images. This is linked to body dissatisfaction and reduced self-esteem, particularly among children and teenagers.

HIDDEN ADVERTISING

Some filters are linked to beauty products or trends, subtly promoting third-party brands. Children and young people may not recognise this as advertising, while also sharing personal data - such as facial images and usage habits - with apps and third parties.

BLURRED REALITY

As filters become more advanced and natural-looking, it can be difficult for children and young people to distinguish edited content from real life, especially when filters are used in everyday photos and videos.

SEXUALISED EDITS

Certain tools can make users appear older or more sexualised. This may attract unwanted attention, increase the risk of images being shared without consent, and expose young people to unsafe interactions.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly about filters, such as how they work and why people use them. Ask the children and young people in your care how filtered images make them feel and encourage honest discussion without judgement.

REINFORCE WHAT'S REAL

Help children and young people understand that filtered images are digitally altered and are not an accurate reflection of real life. Emphasise that they don't need to meet these artificial standards.

CHALLENGE 'PERFECT' POSTS

When viewing content together, gently point out the signs of editing, filters, or posing techniques. This builds critical thinking and helps children and young people question unrealistic images.

PROMOTE OFFLINE CONFIDENCE

Encourage activities that build self-worth beyond appearance, such as sports, hobbies, friendships and creative interests, so that confidence isn't tied solely to online validation.

Meet Our Expert

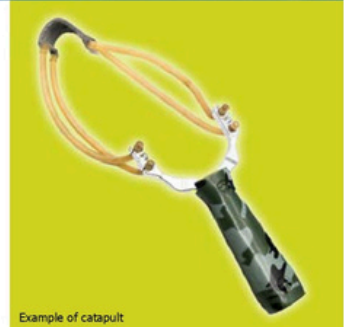
Farven Kaur is a digital parenting expert and founder of Kids N' Clicks, a platform dedicated to helping parents navigate the online world alongside their children. She is an expert contributor for Internet Matters, offering practical guidance on emerging online safety issues. Her insights have been featured by the BBC, The Telegraph, TalkTV, and other major media outlets, supporting families across the UK.

See full reference list on our website
[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds.com) [/www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.tiktok.com/@wake.up.weds)
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.04.2025

Catapults – Know the law

Catapults can be classed as offensive weapons.

If you **carry one in public** without a reasonable excuse, you could face up to **four years in prison**.



If you use it to **threaten** or **injure someone**, or **damage property**, the penalties could be even higher.

Is it worth it?

Remember – A criminal record can change your life.

- You may not be offered a college or university place.
- Getting a job will be more difficult.
- It can even prevent you from travelling to some countries.



Report a non-urgent crime online www.kent.police.uk/report
 Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7 www.kent.police.uk/contact
 In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger call **999**
 If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone service **18000**.
 Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the emergency SMS service.
www.kent.police.uk [f](https://www.facebook.com/kent.police) [i](https://www.instagram.com/kent.police) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@kent.police)

E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?
No, it's illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?
No, it's illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?
The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



Think before you buy:
 The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.
 For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit www.kent.police.uk/road-safety