

NEWSLETTER

Term 5, Issue 4

08 MAY 2026

Key term dates

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- Term 5

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_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](#)

NEXT WEEK - B TIMETABLE

Events Schedule (May 11 – May 15, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 11 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams
Tuesday 12 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams
Wednesday 13 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30
Thursday 14 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams Stage Academy 15:10 - 16:30
Friday 15 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams London Zoo Y12 Trip 7:00– 17:00 Sexual Health Outreach Nurse Assemblies 08:55- 12:55



Are You on TRACK?

TRACK

TOLERANCE
RESILIENCE
ACHIEVEMENT
COURTESY
KNOWLEDGE

TRACK Winner: Amelia (Year 7)

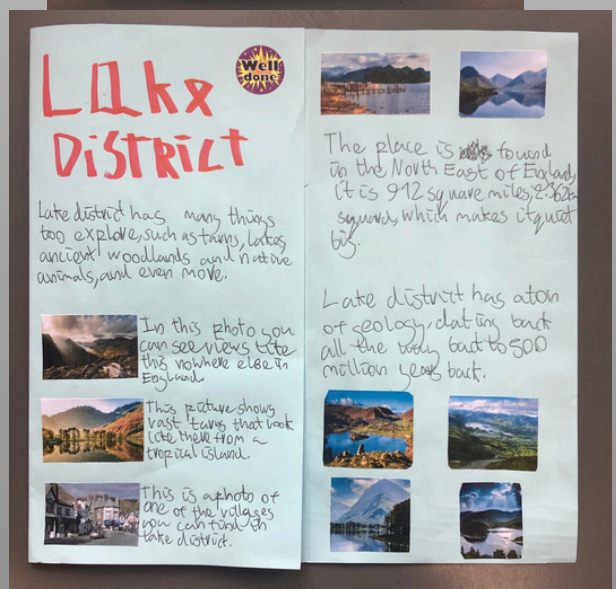
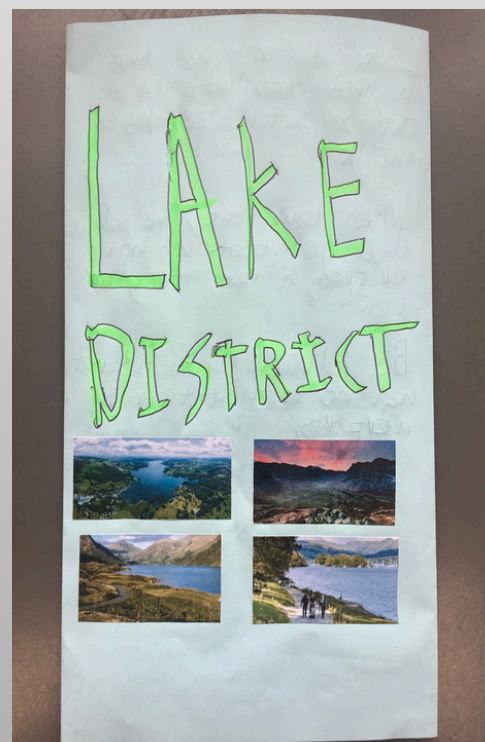
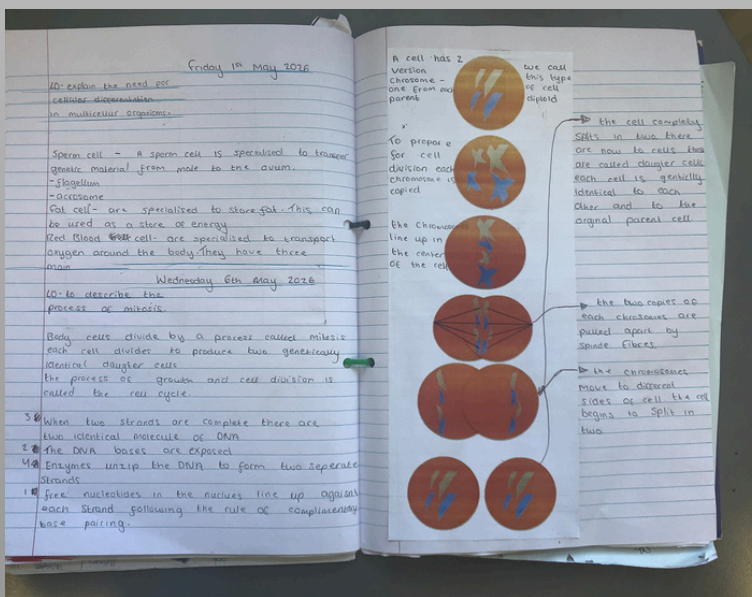
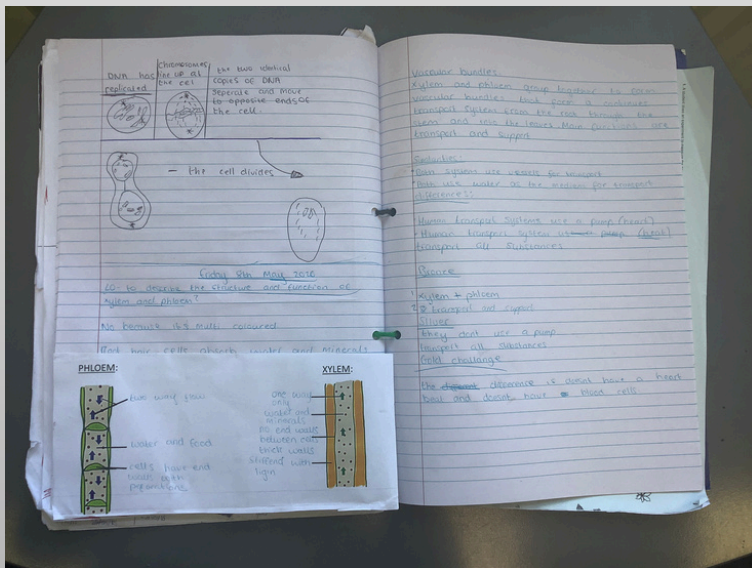
Congratulations to Amelia for her exceptional commitment this week! By consistently demonstrating our TRACK values and accumulating an impressive number of positive points, she has truly set a fantastic example for her peers.

Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

Year 9

James S - for producing an exceptionally high-quality leaflet on the Lake District, showcasing both deep geographical knowledge and impressive design skills.

Lois W - for well-written work in Science on cells and plants.



Future Engineers in the Making: Year 7 Take on the Royal Navy Challenge

Our Year 7 students this week traded their traditional classrooms for a high-octane 2 days of innovation, welcoming the Royal Navy STEM Engagement Team to the school. This action-packed event proved that science and technology truly come to life when applied to real-world missions.

Guided by an impressive cross-section of personnel—including Royal Marines, Weapons Warfare Specialists and Royal Navy Chefs—students explored the diverse career paths within the Naval Service. The school hall was buzzing as students tackled hands-on engineering challenges, from building functional electronic cars and drones to coding gyrospheres for a competitive game of "digital football."

Beyond the high-tech gadgets, the day sharpened essential skills in teamwork, communication and logical problem-solving. Seeing textbook mathematics transformed into moving vehicles was a brilliant "lightbulb moment" for many of our young learners.

We would like to extend a massive thank you to the Royal Navy team for sharing their expertise and inspiring our next generation of leaders.

Finally, a huge thank you to Mrs. Dash for her hard work in organising this fantastic opportunity for our students



The Great Year 7 & 8 Bake Off! 🧁

It has been a thrilling week for our Year 7 and 8 students as they jumped into their first Ready to Learn competition. The challenge? Designing the ultimate cupcake. After a competitive classroom selection process, our talented winners headed to the Food Tech room to turn their sketches into delicious reality.

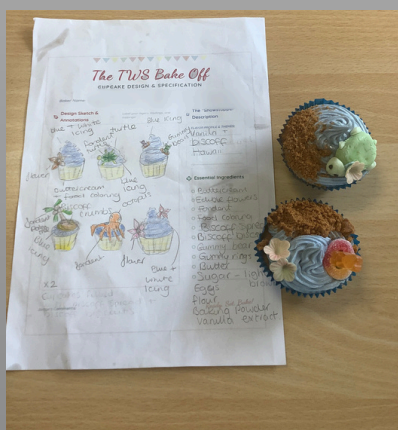
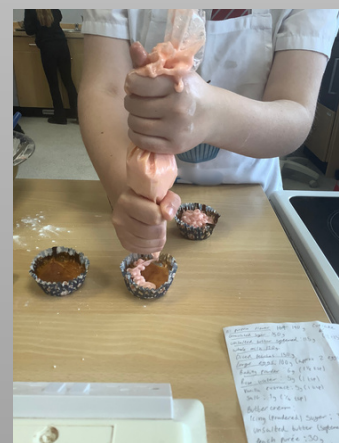
The atmosphere was electric, filled with creative problem-solving and excited chatter as the bakers raced against the clock. The final masterpieces were presented to our guest judges, Mr. Holmes and Miss Brewer—who had the "impossible" task of choosing winners from a field of professional-quality entries!

A huge thank you to our resident baking expert, Mr. Richardson, for overseeing the event and a massive well done to our hardworking finalists:

Year 7: Layla A, Katie, Hazel, Martha, Elsie, Tilda, Penny, Eris, Jorge, Kit, Cecelia and Holly.

Year 8: Freya, Danielle, Olive, Mina, Esha, Grace, Evie, Madison, Maisie and Ava.

Every student was a brilliant ambassador for their tutor group. We can't wait for the next round!



🏆 Year 8 Chess Championship

The hunt for the next grandmaster is officially underway! We kicked off the Year 8 Chess Championship this Wednesday, launching an ongoing league that will ultimately crown our champion with a trophy at the end of the academic year.

It was brilliant to see such a high turnout for the opening matches. The level of skill on display was truly impressive, but even better was the fantastic sense of positivity and sportsmanship shown by all the players.

Want to join the league? It is definitely not too late to get involved. If you want to test your strategy and compete for the title, please go and see Mr. Reeves as soon as possible so he can accommodate you in the upcoming fixtures.



Kent Schools' Golf Championship 2026 - Teams Expand All		
Pos.	Team	
1	The Whitstable School	☆
2	Barton Court Grammar School	☆
3	Langley Park School for Boys	☆
4	Kent Golf College	☆
T5	School of Science & Technology Maidstone	☆
T5	The Canterbury Academy B	☆
T7	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys	☆
T7	Oakwood Park Grammar School	☆
T7	Sir Roger Manwood's School A	☆
10	Sir Geoffrey Leigh Academy A	☆
T11	Holy Trinity Lamorbey Church of England Primary School	☆
T11	The Maplesden Noakes School	☆

🏌️ National Success for Year 9 Golfers!

Huge congratulations to Fred J, Miles H, and Jacob B for their incredible performance at the Kent/District Golf Tournament. Representing The Whitstable School with pride, the trio dominated the competition to finish 1st overall in the team event.

The individual leaderboards were equally impressive, with Miles securing 2nd, Fred taking 3rd and Jacob finishing joint 7th.

This fantastic result has earned the boys a spot in the National Championships on Wednesday, 8th July. We wish them the very best of luck as they head to the national stage!

📖 Eerie Poetry Workshop

This week, the English Department and The Canterbury Festival hosted a creative workshop for KS3. Students explored "The Eerie" by using mysterious museum artifacts to inspire original poetry.

Submit Your Poem: All students are invited to send their "Eerie" themed poems to Mrs. McLean by the July 13th deadline.

Upcoming Sexual Health Outreach with Gilly Breton

On 15th May, we are pleased to welcome Gilly Breton, Kent's Sexual Health Outreach Nurse, to Whitstable School. Gilly will be delivering age-appropriate assemblies to all year groups, focusing on key aspects of sexual health. Following these sessions, Gilly will be a regular presence in school throughout the academic year, hosting both targeted workshops and confidential drop-in sessions to provide students with expert advice, guidance and support.

⚽ Goal-Scoring Success for Zian!

Huge congratulations to Zian YR13 from our Football Academy for securing a place at UCFB (University Campus of Football Business). By balancing elite on-field performance with rigorous academic study, Zian has demonstrated the tactical intelligence and drive required to thrive at such a prestigious institution.


🎓 Sixth Form & Academy Admissions

Inspired by Zian's success? We are still accepting applications for our Sixth Form and Football Academy for the upcoming academic year.


Our program offers a unique pathway for students to develop their athletic talent while maintaining high academic standards, ensuring they are prepared for both the professional sports industry and university life.

For more information on available courses and how to join the academy, please contact the Sixth Form team or visit the school website.

IMPORTANT: STUDENT FINANCE FOR ENGLAND 2026/2027




Applications for 2026–2027 full-time undergraduate funding are NOW OPEN!
Apply today to get started.




Recommended Student Finance Deadline to Guarantee Funding in Place for the Start of Your Course:

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2026

Apply by this date to ensure money is in place for September






WHO IS THIS FOR?



Students starting university or college in September 2026

Source: Student Finance England

Important School Updates & Reminders

• **Health & Immunisations:**

The Immunisation Service will be visiting on 21/05/2026 (8:00 am start) to administer the Td/IPV and MenACWY vaccinations.

Primary Focus: All Year 9 students.

Catch-ups: Eligible students in Years 10 and 11 will also be included if they missed previous sessions.

Additional Vaccines: In line with the "Making Every Contact Count" initiative, the team will also offer catch-up doses for MMR and HPV.

Parents of children missing any of these vaccinations will be contacted directly by the NHS team. Please ensure all consent forms are completed promptly.

• **Parking & Student Safety**

To ensure the safety of our students and staff, please adhere to our site parking and driving guidelines. We ask that parents avoid using the staff car park and ensure all entrances remain clear of vehicles at all times. Please reserve disabled bays strictly for Blue Badge holders and maintain a slow, vigilant speed while driving on school grounds. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our community safe.

• **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 nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

HELPING NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN NAVIGATE THE ONLINE WORLD

Neurodivergent people tend to be early adopters of technology, and many influential innovators in this space are neurodivergent themselves. It is therefore not surprising that a neurodivergent child or young person may be drawn to the online world from an early age. This isn't to concern itself, but understanding both the benefits and potential risks is essential. Here are ten key considerations to support safe and positive online experiences for neurodivergent children.

- TREAT ONLINE LIKE THE REAL WORLD**
You wouldn't allow a child to cross a road without guidance – you'd hold their hand, use a pedestrian crossing, and model safe behaviour. In the same way, a neurodivergent child's first experiences online should be supported by an adult who can guide and establish safe and responsible original behaviour to them from the outset.
- MODEL RESPONSIBLE USE**
Children learn from what they see. Show all children, regardless of neurotype, what responsible internet use looks like. Reflect on your own use of social media and AI. Consider how often you use them and your own understanding of their problems. Talk openly about when and why you use these tools, helping all children develop a balanced and informed approach.
- KNOW YOUR LIMITS**
Current government guidance suggests no time on screen use below the age of five, with a maximum of one hour per day for five- to ten-year-olds. Screen time can support communication and connection when shared with an adult. However, passive watching can affect neurodivergent children's attention and language skills. Focus on the type of content they watch, encouraging slower-paced and meaningful material rather than fast-paced, overstimulating content.
- CONSIDER AGES AND STAGES**
For older children and teenagers, agreed limits are important. Screen time can be beneficial, but it should form part of a balanced lifestyle. Neurodivergent children may find online communication easier than their world conversation, supporting their social interaction. However, it should be their only option. Encourage a range of activities, including creative play, physical exercise, and opportunities for real-world connections.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**
Discussions about online safety should begin early and continue as children grow. Reassure neurodivergent children that it's okay to ask for help. Encourage things coming or being misinterpreted, meaning these kids or conversations are discussed openly rather than like a lecture. If a child encounters a problem, such as a scam or inappropriate adult, they need to feel able to speak to a trusted adult without fear of judgement or embarrassment.
- BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
You aren't expected to be an expert, but it's important to stay informed about the platforms, games, or apps neurodivergent children use in order to provide practical support. Social media platforms have age limits, and many apps and games offer parental settings that can control access. Schools and families should work together to understand these tools, helping neurodivergent children use them safely while keeping up to date with new features and changes.
- SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Children and young people often know more about current technology than adults, meaning it's important to recognise that controls may be bypassed. Clear, agreed boundaries should be used, based on trust and consistency. Involving children in discussions that affect them helps them feel heard. This is particularly important for neurodivergent children, who may respond strongly to perceived unfairness.
- UNDERSTAND AI CONTENT**
The internet now includes large amounts of AI-generated content, including images, videos, and stories. These can be difficult to identify. Children should be encouraged to question what they see and check the information using trusted sources. Neurodivergent children may interpret content literally, meaning adult guidance is important in helping them recognise what's real and reliable – and what isn't.
- EXPLAIN AI LIMITATIONS**
AI isn't the same as a search engine. It generates responses based on prompts and patterns, and its accuracy depends on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.
- CLARIFY AI RELATIONSHIPS**
AI can feel conversational and personal, but it's not capable of real relationships. It learns from accuracy, depending on how it's used. Sometimes, it produces incorrect or unrealistic information, known as 'hallucinations'. Both adults and children need to understand this and learn how to check information carefully using reliable and trusted sources.

Meet Our Expert
Cathryn Lovell is a neurodivergent former SENCO and Advisory Teacher who works with four schools in Kent, supporting neurodivergent children to improve their communication skills. She is the Founder and Director of neurodivergent teachers and the author of 'The Online' and 'Supporting Your Neurodivergent Learner: Can I Improve Teaching and Learning for the Whole Class?'.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on our website
@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

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Kent Family Hub

Understanding Your Child

For parent/carers that would like to know more about sensitive and effective parenting. For parents with young people in school years 7 to 11.

10 week course exploring:
Tuning Into Young People
Exploring Feelings
Parenting Styles
Communication
Supporting Parent Child Relationships

DATE: Wednesday 29th April
TIME: 12:30pm - 2:30pm
VENUE: Herne Bay Family Hub, Kings Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5RG

To book your space, please visit:
www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub

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Raising emotional health together

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www.kent.gov.uk/familyhub






Additional Support Courses for Parents

Three new courses offered by Face, separate from the school membership. Full access to all three courses for £6.99/month. Complete at your own pace, cancel anytime.



Building Emotional Resilience
Work through six stages of directed exercises to help your child (and yourself) improve emotional resilience.



Facing Defiance
A specific strategy aimed at supporting parents of children aged 5 to 12 with ADHD, ODD or just very challenging behaviour.



You & Your Teen
A skills building course for one parent and one teen (12 years old and above) to learn how they can both improve their communication with each other.

www.facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Online Courses for Parents page
info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FAMILY ADVICE • COMMUNICATION • EDUCATION

30/40

THE HORSEBRIDGE WHITSTABLE

SUMMER OPEN EXHIBITION



17-26 JULY

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk