

NEWSLETTER

Term 5, Issue 5

15 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 - A TIMETABLE

Events Schedule (May 18 – May 22, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 18 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams
Tuesday 19 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams
Wednesday 20 th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30
Thursday 21 st	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams Centre of the Cell STEM Pod Experience Stage Academy 15:10 - 16:30
Friday 22 nd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exams Year 10 Engineering Celebration Day at CCCU

Are You on TRACK?



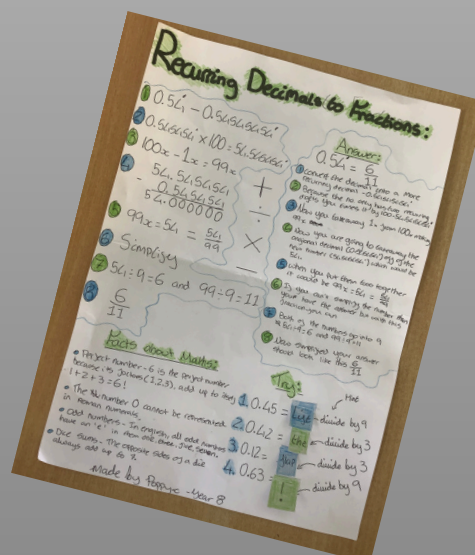
TRACK Winner: Alex C (Year 7)

Congratulations to Alex 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 8

Poppy did an amazing job on her Year 8 math homework! She chose to follow her own interests and focus on recurring decimals.



Millstrood Road will be closed on Monday 18th May 2026 for carriage way repairs, from Old Bridge road to the Thanet way.



Poppy Signs with Charlton Academy!

We are thrilled to share some fantastic news about one of our talented Year 7 athletes. Poppy (U12) has officially signed with the Charlton Athletic Academy!

Her promotion to the academy level comes on the heels of a truly historic season, where she netted a staggering 74 goals playing across both the JPL Premier Division and the SELKENT Boys League. WELL DONE POPPY!



Help Mason Reach Gold!

You may recognise Year 12 student Mason as "Mr. Wormwood" from our recent production of Matilda the Musical! Having already achieved his Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards, he is now tackling the ultimate challenge: the Gold Award. Mason is a dedicated member of our community, volunteering weekly at the Riverside Church Youth Group and running the school's Reward Shop. However, the travel and fees for his Gold residential stay and expeditions cost hundreds of pounds, and he cannot fund this alone.



How to Donate: Online via ParentPay
Payment Item: **Mason's Gold DofE Award Fund**

Every penny counts. Thank you for supporting Mason's journey to the finish line!

THIS WEEK

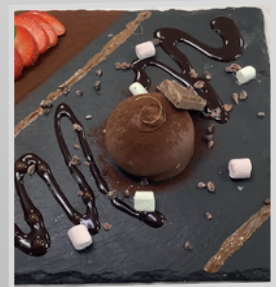
Masterchefs in the Making: The Tunnock's Teacake Challenge!

This week, our Year 10 Food Preparation & Nutrition students put their styling skills to the test. Inspired by the famous Tunnock's Teacake Challenge, they were tasked with transforming a simple teacake into a culinary masterpiece based on the theme "Around the World in One Bite."

Students experimented with advanced decorative techniques, including:

- Precision piping
- Delicate spun sugar
- Intricate chocolate work

Swipe through to see a selection of their stunning, edible artwork. Incredible effort and creativity from everyone—well done!



Celebrating Creative Excellence in English

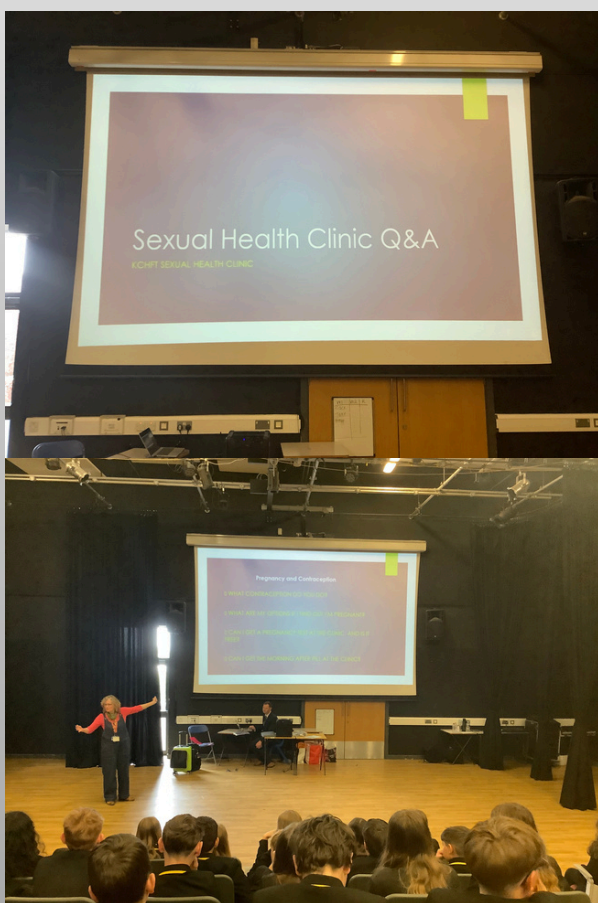
As part of their recent 'book club' modules, pupils were tasked with designing a plasticine model that symbolises the core theme of their book. We would like to commend James, Finley and Amelia for their exceptional work. Their creations wonderfully captured the spirit and depth of *Skellig* by David Almond. Keep up the brilliant work!

The Micro-World is BACK!



We are thrilled to announce the return of the Scanning Electron Microscope to our school! To celebrate, students from across all year groups have officially kicked off the Big Bang in Schools seminars—diving deep into the hidden details of the world around us.

Stay tuned for some of the incredible "micro-masterpieces" our students will be capturing this term.



Sexual Health Awareness: Assemblies and Termly Drop-Ins

Today, we were delighted to welcome Gilly, our Sexual Health Outreach Nurse, who delivered a series of informative assemblies to our students. This is just the start of her work with us, as Gilly will be returning once a term to run interactive workshops and accessible drop-in sessions for all year groups. We are fantastic to have her expertise on board to support our students' well-being.

A huge well done to our newly appointed Year 10 Prefects!

The journey to becoming a prefect is a challenging one, but your outstanding dedication, determination and hard work thoroughly impressed the interview panel. You have truly earned the privilege of representing our school community.

Congratulations on this fantastic achievement!



🏠 Sixth Form Updates

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.

Academy Cup Success

The scholarship squad has moved to the top of their End of Season Academy Cup group with two wins from two matches, despite suffering second-half slumps in both games.

Match 1 (May 8th): Won 4–3 against Phoenix Sports, driven by a first-half hat-trick from Mattias YR13 and a late winner from Jake YR13.


Match 2 (May 13th): Won 3–2 away against Ebbsfleet United, featuring a brace from Alex Yr13 and a 87th-minute winner from Oscar YR12.

What's Next: A victory against Chatham Town next Wednesday will secure Whitstable a spot in the Academy Cup final.


League Title Race: Beyond the cup, the team remains in contention for the U19 Schools Academies League title. Winning their final two remaining league fixtures will see them crowned champions.




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

 Apply Online
  Get Your Money
  Start Your Future

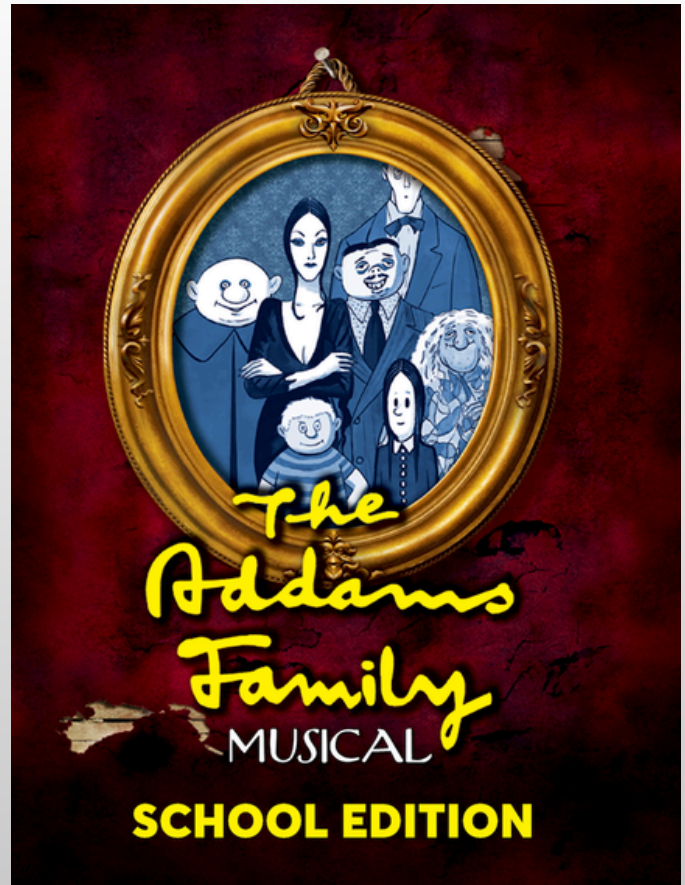
Source: Student Finance England

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

The Addams Family is moving into The Whitstable School for The Stage Academy Summer Show '26! It's going to be a graveyard smash.

Tickets are OFFICIALLY ON SALE.

Get yours now via [TicketSource](#)



TRUST EVENT FOR SECONDARY:
LINGUAFIESTA

A poster for the Linguafiesta event featuring a blue background with several international flags on poles. The text 'Linguafiesta' is in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the flags, the date 'JUNE 2026' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text 'Learners. Leaders. Linguists. Bring on the challenge, Competitors!' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The Swale Academies Trust logo is in the bottom right corner.

JUNE 2026

Learners. Leaders. Linguists.
Bring on the challenge, Competitors!

Hosted at:
Westlands School

Swale
ACADEMIES
TRUST

**THE WHITSTABLE
ENTERPRISE FAIR**



The 20th and 22nd of May

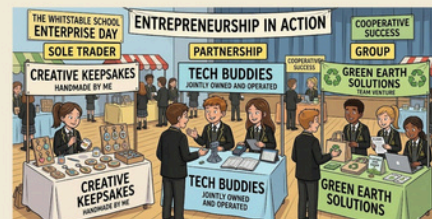
REVISED DATES

This term Year 10 business students are going to consolidate the learning from terms 1-4 (Theme 1 of the GCSE course) by applying everything that we have learnt so far and setting up their own businesses.

The types of Businesses that will be running during lunchtime will include:

- Sweet cones
- Funfair-style games
- Ice creams and ice lollies
- Beverages
- and much, much more!

Please bring in some money to help support our students businesses!



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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

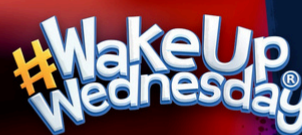
Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



See full reference list on our website



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