

# NEWSLETTER

Term 5, Issue 6

22 MAY 2026

## Key term dates

01 June 2026- Start of Term 6  
24 July 2026 - End of Term 6  
(Students leave school site at 12.55pm)

## 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\\_s\\_admin@swale.at](mailto: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](mailto:tw_s_attendance@swale.at)

Stay informed, follow us for weekly updates, school news and student highlights.

[@TheWhitstableSchool](#)

**TERM 6 STARTS - B TIMETABLE**

## Events Schedule (June 01 – June 05, 2026)

DAY	EVENT
Monday 01 <sup>st</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Army Career Talk/Year 10 Construction</li> </ul>
Tuesday 02 <sup>nd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> </ul>
Wednesday 03 <sup>rd</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• KMFM radio flyover event- YR7 12:30-13:30</li> <li>• Shakefest 15:10 - 16:30</li> </ul>
Thursday 04 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• Chessington (YR7 reward trip)</li> <li>• Stage Academy 15:10 - 16:30</li> </ul>
Friday 05 <sup>th</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exams</li> <li>• YR11 Study leave (Times TBC)</li> </ul>

### Book of Commendation: This Week's Winners

#### Year 7

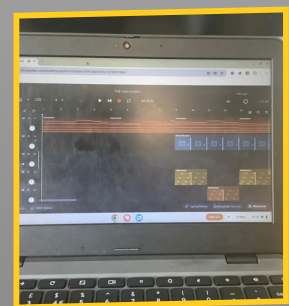
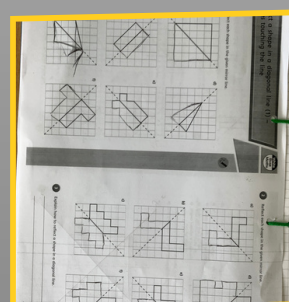
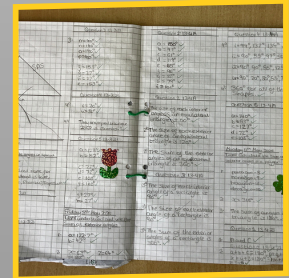
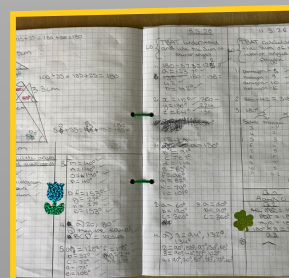
**Lily C** - For beautiful art work of Reculver towers

#### Year 8

**Imogen, Siena, Mattie** - amazing maths reflection work

#### Year 9

**Rupert** - for producing his own song in music



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw another term to a close and prepare to move into our final term of the academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support of our school and, most importantly, your support of your children at home.

Thank you for everything you do each day to ensure your children complete their homework, arrive at school on time and are ready to learn each morning. Supporting strong attendance and punctuality takes real consistency and commitment from families and it genuinely makes a significant difference to your child's success in school.

I would also like to give a special mention to our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are working incredibly hard during the examination season. Exams are progressing smoothly and students have been showing real commitment through their revision and preparation. The practice papers, revision sessions and hours of study really do make a difference. Keep pushing over these final few weeks. The rewards of that hard work will certainly be worth it.

To our Year 10 students, this is also a very important time as you prepare for your Statistics GCSE. Revising consistently at home and practising exam papers now will give you a fantastic start as you move towards Year 11.

As we move into what is hopefully a sunny and enjoyable final term, I would also like to remind families that if you contact the school, we will always aim to respond within two working days unless the matter is an urgent safeguarding concern.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 6.

Thank you for your ongoing support  
Mr Holmes, Headteacher



### TRACK Winner: Shekinah (Year 8)

Congratulations to Shekinah 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.

# THIS WEEK

## Double the Celebration: Mrs. Payne Shortlisted for a Prestigious Award & National Thank a Teacher Day!

We are so incredibly proud to share that our amazing **Mrs. Payne** has been shortlisted for a prestigious teaching award! Anyone who knows Mrs. Payne knows just how dedicated, talented and hard-working she is. She truly goes above and beyond for her students every single day and it is wonderful to see her passion for education recognized on such a grand scale. You are already a winner in our eyes, Mrs. Payne! 🏆❤️

This amazing news comes at the perfect time, as **National Thank a Teacher Day** is just around the corner on **June 17th!**

Teachers and support staff do so much more than just teach—they inspire confidence, build futures and anchor our community. They are the heartbeat of our school, working tirelessly behind the scenes and in the classrooms to champion every single child.

Want to say thank you? Let's flood our staff with appreciation! You can send a completely free, beautiful digital thank-you card to Mrs. Payne or any other member of our incredible team who makes a difference by visiting:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>



Please join us in wishing Mrs. Payne the absolute best of luck and let's get ready to celebrate all of our school heroes on June 17th! 🎉



## Year 8 Master Amorphous Solids in STEM Workshop

Our Year 8 STEM Academy recently blended material science and culinary art in a hands-on Sugar and Amorphous Science workshop.

**The Science:** Students observed molecular transitions by heating and rapidly cooling sugar. This process disrupts its rigid crystalline structure (ordered molecules) and transforms it into an amorphous solid (a disordered, highly malleable, glass-like state).  
**The Art:** Guided by Mrs. Moore, students applied precise temperature control to sculpt the molten sugar, crafting glossy sugar twists and intricate bird's nests.

This brilliant session perfectly demonstrated how scientific theory directly drives creative, real-world industries like food technology and product design!



## Building Future Careers: Year 10 Construction & DT Students Explore Engineering Pathways with the RAF and EKC Group

Our Year 10 Construction and Design Technology (DT) students recently expanded their horizons through two exceptional Career Spotlight sessions designed to bridge their classroom projects with thriving real-world industries. First, the groups were honored to welcome Sgt John Wallace and Cpl Walker from the RAF, who provided invaluable, firsthand insights into military engineering, cutting-edge aircraft maintenance and global infrastructure management. Continuing their career exploration on Tuesday, 19th May, the students met with the EKC Group to explore technical training and modern apprenticeships within the engineering and construction sectors. The Year 10s engaged brilliantly, demonstrating great maturity during a practical CV workshop and asking sharp questions about local post-16 pathways and industry expectations. Both events provided a fantastic launchpad, showing our future engineers exactly how valuable their technical skills are in today's competitive job market!



## From Buckingham Palace to the Crab & Winkle: Celebrating 70 Years of DofE Inspiration and Student Success!

Celebrating a monumental 70 years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Miss Lodge received a special invitation to a spectacular celebration in the Buckingham Palace gardens focused on creating a bolder, more inclusive future for young people. The day was filled with powerful stories of resilience, from Tasha Ghouri sharing her journey of navigating the spotlight while embracing her deafness, to former rugby player Ed Jackson recounting his mountain-scaling triumphs after a life-altering spinal injury, alongside personal words of praise from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

Channeling this very spirit of determination, our own DofE students absolutely conquered the historic Crab and Winkle route last Saturday, crushing a massive 29,742 steps on a truly old-school, phone-free adventure. Through incredible camaraderie, impromptu football matches, and invented games, the group proved they are the next generation of inspiring changemakers—now fully prepared, packed and pumped for their upcoming qualifying expedition!



## Young Entrepreneurs at Our Student Business Fair!

This week marked the exciting launch of our Business Fair! Budding student entrepreneurs stepped up to the challenge, pitching and selling their own creative products during two bustling lunchtime sessions on Wednesday and Friday. It was a fantastic showcase of teamwork, innovation and sharp business acumen—well done to all our young entrepreneurs who made the week a roaring success!



## Attention Year 11: Blazer & Tie Collection and Mega Raffle!

All Year 11 students are asked to hand in their school ties and blazers outside the Reward Shop immediately following their physics exam on Tuesday 2nd June.

As a massive thank you for recycling your uniform, you will receive one raffle ticket per item handed in. This will enter you into an amazing prize draw to win substantial cash vouchers for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place (exact amounts to be confirmed soon!).

Make sure to bring your items with you on Tuesday—good luck in the exam and good luck in the draw!



## 🏠 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

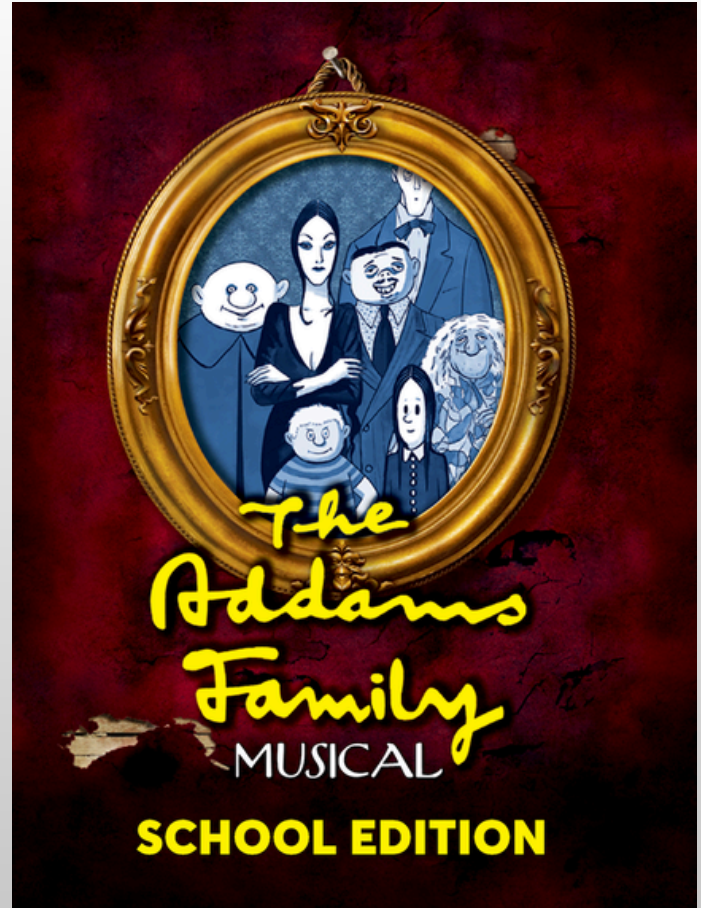
Our scholarship players put in a masterful performance on Wednesday, defeating Chatham Town 3–0 to win the Academy End of Season Cup group and secure a spot in the final against Dartford Academy. Alex (YR13) led the charge with two superb goals—including a brilliant left-footed finish—while Samuel netted the second after an excellent cross from Oscar (YR12). Having swept past Phoenix Sports, Ebbsfleet United, and Chatham Town, the team thoroughly deserves their place in the final (scheduled for next week or Friday 5th June).

Next Up: The League Championship Decider! The squad faces St Georges U19 (Ramsgate FC) away on Thursday at 14:30. This final fixture is a winner-takes-all clash to crown the league champions—come along to Ramsgate FC Stadium and support the team!



**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**

**JUNE 2026**

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

Hosted at:  
Westlands School

Swale ACADEMIES TRUST

**HALF TERM AT THE RESERVE MAY 2026**

**HOW TO BOOK**  
[www.monkton-reserve.org/events/](http://www.monkton-reserve.org/events/)

Visit our museum, café, gift, and book shops.

**MORE INFO:**  
[education@monkton-reserve.org](mailto:education@monkton-reserve.org)

**PRICE PER CHILD**

Members: £3  
Non-Members: £5  
(Includes entrance to the reserve per child and for accompanying adults)

**WHERE**  
Monkton Nature Reserve  
Canterbury Road  
Ramsgate CT12 4LH

**WWW.MONKTON-RESERVE.ORG**  
THANET COUNTRYSIDE TRUST  
(CHARITY NO: 1211099)

**TUESDAY 26TH 11AM BEADY TREES AND THE LITTLE SEED**  
Tree bead craft\* and 'The Little Seed', by Magdalene Tsirkas, an interactive story telling. The little seed is blown underground and rained on. A shoot appears and the sun shines. Something is growing – what will it be? This session is for preschoolers 3+, and the young at heart, in celebration of The National Year of Reading. \* Warning - activity contains small parts.

**12.00PM STORY TIME - THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING**  
Free story time in the picnic area at midday. No need to book.

**1PM SLUGS AND SNAILS**  
What's the difference between a slug and a snail? *Shell* we find out? Discover the benefits of these slimy gastropods. Learn how to label the parts of a snail and make your own paper snail with a curly shell. How many types of slugs and snails can you identify on the reserve?

**THURSDAY 28TH 11AM BEE BUDDIES**  
Join us for a hands-on candle rolling session to learn the craft of beeswax candle rolling. Discover the properties of natural beeswax. Take home your beautiful creation. Create a honeycomb hive poster and then 'bee spot'.

**1PM BEADY TREES AND THE LITTLE SEED (SEE ABOVE)**

**FRIDAY 29TH 11AM SLUGS AND SNAILS (SEE ABOVE)**

**1PM BIG BUG HUNT** Bug pot in hand and ID chart at the ready. It's time to search for some of the reserve's smallest residents. All that wiggles, creeps, scuttles, crawls and flutters can be closely observed and identified.

## Important School Updates & Reminders

- **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](#)**



*Thank  
You*

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

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 88% since 2017/18.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

**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 their child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and reliable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

### 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 grooming crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to stop the situation.

### EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside emotional attention, 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.

### 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.

### GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide 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.

### 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.

### 17 NEW FRIEND REQUESTS

## 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're 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.

**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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## Supporting Your Teen with Their Mental Health

Navigating mental health together. Learn how to recognise signs of mental health issues, communicate more effectively, and create a supportive atmosphere at home.

**Where:** Kingsmead Family Hub, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury, CT2 7PH

**Date:** Monday 1st June 2026

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:30am

**To book a place please contact:** [canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk](mailto:canterburyfh@kent.gov.uk) 03000 413999

For more information scan the QR code [kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk](http://kentadulthoodeducation.co.uk) **FREE, Fun & Informal**




## Free Workshop

What you can do **RIGHT NOW** to support your child diagnosed (or suspected) with autism and/or PDA

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 8pm - 9pm

Join us

No one needs to walk alone in their autism parenting journey

Send an email to [team@youarenotalone.community](mailto:team@youarenotalone.community) to request the Zoom link to attend the FREE workshop





## Supporting ADHD in the Home

Our Supporting ADHD in the Home course is designed to give parents and carers an understanding of ADHD behaviours and others practical advice on how to support children in the home.

Would you like to:

- Explore the categories of ADHD
- Share ideas and strategies for managing behaviour
- Celebrates the positives of ADHD

This course is for you!

**Where:** Kingsmead Family Hub, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury, CT2 7PH

**Date:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (3 weeks)

**Time:** 9:30am – 11:30am

To book a place, please scan the QR Code:  **SCAN ME**

Only a few clicks away to book:

- Activities and Groups near you
- Activities in family hubs
- Canterbury Family Hubs
- Kingsmead Family Hub – Supporting ADHD in The Home

We want you to enjoy learning with us. To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.

**FREE, fun & informal courses**



Kent Adult Education is part of Community Learning and Skills