

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Issue 2

18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Key term dates

24 September 2026 - Open Evening for Year 6 Students (TWS Students leave School at 12.55pm)

25 September 2026 - Staff Development Day

28 Sept - 01 Oct - Open morning tours

20 October 2026 - End of Term 1

02 November 2026 - Start of Term 2

Stay Up to Date

For a full breakdown of daily activities and club timings, please visit our website.

TWS School Calendar

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)



[@tws_thewhitstableschool](https://www.instagram.com/tws_thewhitstableschool)

NEXT WEEK - B TIMETABLE



Discover TWS at Our Open Events!

Looking for the right school for your child?
Come explore TWS during our upcoming
Open Events this months!

Evening Open Event

When: Thursday, September 24th, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

No booking required—just pop in and meet
our staff and students!

Morning Tours

When: Monday, September 28th – Thursday,
October 1st, 2026

Slot 1: 9:00 AM – 9:40 AM

Slot 2: 10:00 AM – 10:40 AM

 **PLACES ARE VERY LIMITED!** Advance
booking is required for all morning tours.

How to Book:

Scan the QR code on our flyer or visit
ticketsource.co.uk to secure your spot today.

We can't wait to welcome you!



The Whitstable School

ADMISSIONS OPEN
SEPTEMBER 2027
JOIN NOW!

Welcome to the Whitstable School, the highest performing non-selective school within the district recently graded GOOD in all areas by Ofsted.

The Whitstable School is a passionate, purposeful and progressive place to study: our pupils foster a deep love for learning and continually strive to reach their full potential.

For current Year 6 pupils for Admissions in September 2027, the school will hold an open evening and morning tours. Families and prospective pupils will have the opportunity to hear from the Headteacher, meet staff, current pupils, tour the school facilities and visit subject classes.

OPEN EVENING	OPEN MORNINGS
Thursday 24th Sept 2026 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM Headteacher talks will be at: 6:00 PM, 6:45 PM and 7:30 PM No booking required for Open Evening	Monday 28th Sept-Thursday 1st Oct 2026 First tour: 9:00 AM - 9:40 AM Second tour: 10:00 AM - 10:40 AM Please book below

Advance booking is required for all Open Morning tours, with two tours each morning. Please note: Each parent will need to book an individual ticket. One child is permitted per parent and tickets are not required for children.

To book one of our Open Morning Tours please scan the QR code or book via [TicketSource](https://TicketSource.co.uk).

 We are open to applications outside of Whitstable. Students have the opportunity to apply for a 25% travel bursary. *T&C's apply.



European Day of Languages Activity – Monday 28th September

To celebrate European Day of Languages, the MFL department is running a special activity on Monday, September 28th. Ready-to-Learn (R2L) mentors will distribute challenge sheets alongside the new track cards to students during mentor time.



European Day of Languages (EDL) 26th September 2026!

Join the MFL department in celebrating EDL this September!

There will be activities to complete with your R2L group every morning in the week leading up to EDL to activate your European language skills.

We will also release details for a special treasure hunt on Monday 28th September which will be taking place all day. Bring your completed challenge sheet to the MFL department at the end of the day to claim your sweet reward!



Free School Meals & Allergy Safety Notice

Free School Meals & Extra Support

Families receiving Universal Credit may qualify for Targeted (income of £7,400 or less) or Expanded Free School Meals (income above £7,400, starting September 2026). Registering also unlocks discounted bus passes and holiday activity programmes.

Apply online for immediate processing at apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/kent.

Benedict's Law & Allergy Safety

Under statutory Benedict's Law guidelines, we must maintain up-to-date allergy records for all students. If your child has

a medical allergy, please notify us at:

tw5_admin@swale.at.

As we aim to be a nut-free school, please ensure all packed lunches are free of nut products.



School Menus & Catering Information

Please find our current school menu on our website at thewhitstableschool.org.uk/information/school-meals.

Special Menu Updates

👉 Special Thursday Lunch (Sept 24th): Due to the school closure on Friday for staff development day, our weekly Fish & Chips meal—along with a Pizza & Chips option—will be served on Thursday, September 24th.

- Free Daily Breakfast: All students can enjoy a bowl of free warm porridge every morning.
- Free School Meals (FSM) Allowance: The daily £3.10 allowance is valid for lunchtime purchases only.
- Meal Deal Pricing: A main meal plus pudding is priced at £3.10

Have your say: Your Child's Future

Please take 10 minutes to complete the Your Child's Future questionnaire and help us shape our school's careers education.

Why take part?

Support your child's future success, share your valuable perspective as a parent or carer and help improve careers support across our school.

If you have multiple children at our school, please answer with your oldest child in mind (you are welcome to submit an additional response for another child).

All responses are completely confidential, processed under UK data law by the Careers & Enterprise Company and used solely to improve careers guidance.

Complete the survey [here](#)

Have questions? Contact our Careers Team at tw5_careers@swale.at

Thank you for your support!



THIS WEEK

Extra-Curricular Clubs – This Term

Discover our exciting lineup of extra-curricular clubs for this term!

🔗 Visit our website to explore the schedule and sign up: [Extra - Curricular Clubs](#)

A Level Film, Art & Textiles Showcase

It was fantastic to welcome back last year's Year 13 students to share their creative A Level projects with families, friends and special guests. Alongside a screening of diverse film projects, attendees enjoyed an incredible display of Art and Textiles coursework.

Congratulations to all our leavers on their outstanding results, with special recognition awarded to:

- Cinematography: Isla
- Creative Narrative: Charlie
- Handmade Elements: Jack
- Overall Excellence: Niamh

Thank you to the current Year 13 students who came to support their peers and gather inspiration for their upcoming NEA coursework, and a huge thank you to Mr. Reeves for organising and rescheduling this memorable event.

Interested in studying Film, Art or Textiles at A Level? Be sure to attend our Sixth Form Open Evening after half term!



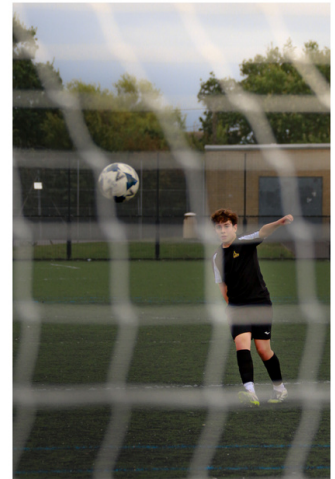
Huge congratulations to Jack in Year 12, who achieved a record-breaking swim over the weekend! Jack swam the fastest-ever time for Faversham Swimming Club in his age category, a incredible achievement that places him among the Top Ten swimmers in Kent for his chosen stroke. Brilliant effort, Jack—we are so proud of you!

Year 8 Football Victory!

Huge congratulations to our Year 8 football team on a brilliant 6–3 victory against St Anselm's! It was an action-packed match with outstanding performances and great team spirit all around.

A special mention goes to Year 10 photography student Jack, who captured the match action. Jack aspires to pursue a career in photography and his sharp eye caught some fantastic moments from the game.

Photo Credit: Jack (Year 10) (JJP. Photography)



 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 donation form. We sincerely appreciate your generosity!

[TWS Donations Form](#)



*Thank
You*

Kent School Health Service Support

The Kent School Health Service offers confidential health and wellbeing resources for pupils aged 11 to 19. Students can connect directly with a qualified healthcare professional via ChatHealth, a confidential texting service available Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm (Text: 07520 618850). Additionally, young people can explore age-appropriate advice on physical and emotional health, stress, and relationships at healthforteens.co.uk. For parents seeking expert resources to support their child's ongoing development, please visit family.kentcht.nhs.uk.



Kent School of Performing Arts Whitstable Since 2013	Dance, drama & singing for ages 3 to 19 Every Saturday at The Whitstable School, Bellevue Road. Autumn term starts Saturday 19 September. FREE TASTER — ANY SATURDAY No experience needed · start any week www.kspa.biz · 01227 915058	A photograph of several children in red and blue shirts performing on a stage with their arms raised.
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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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



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See full reference list on our website



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