

NEWSLETTER

Term 1, Issue 3

24 SEPTEMBER 2026

Key term dates

25 September 2026 - Staff Development Day. The school will be closed to students.

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](#)

Term dates 2026-2027



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.

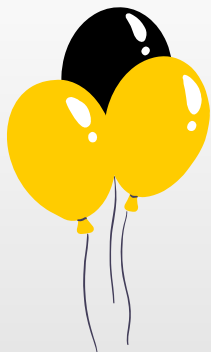


[@TheWhitstableSchool](#)



[@tw_s thewhitstableschool](#)

NEXT WEEK - A TIMETABLE



We are looking forward to welcoming all prospective Year 6 students, parents, and carers to our Open Evening tonight from 18:00 to 20:30!

We can't wait to see you tonight and show you everything that makes The Whitstable School great!

**Please note that our Open Morning tours are now completely sold out.*



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

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

OPEN MORNINGS

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](#).



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.

SUMMARY
ELABORATION
STRUGGLE
ACQUISITION
HOOK
PRIOR

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!



THIS WEEK

We had a fantastic cake sale in support of Macmillan yesterday!

A huge thank you to all the staff involved in organising the event and to all of our Year 8 students for their wonderful help. Special shout-out to Harrison in Year 10, who stepped up and gave us a massive hand. Your support makes a real difference.



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 twc_careers@swale.at

Thank you for your support!



Post-16 Open Evening

We warmly welcome prospective students to explore our courses, meet our team, and discover life at our Sixth Form. Join us and take the next step in your education!

Sixth Form Updates



**The
Whitstable
School**

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TRUST



SIXTH FORM POST-16 OPEN EVENING 25 NOVEMBER 2026 5PM - 7PM PRESENTATION AT 6PM

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU TO MEET OUR STAFF,
EXPLORE OUR SIXTH FORM COURSES AND HEAR FIRSTHAND FROM
CURRENT STUDENTS ABOUT LIFE AT OUR SCHOOL.**

Address:
The Whitstable School
Bellevue Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1PX

CONTACT US:

TELEPHONE: 01227 931300
EMAIL: TWS_SIXTHFORM@SWALE.AT
FACEBOOK: THEWHITSTABLESCHOOL
INSTAGRAM: TWS_THEWHITSTABLESCHOOL

WWW.THEWHITSTABLESCHOOL.ORG.UK



Football Academy Updates & Upcoming Trials

Whitstable Town FC Academy Trials
(Year 11 / Ages 16–18)

Interested in joining our Football Academy? We are hosting trials for current Year 11 students:

Date: Friday 30th October (Half Term)

| Time: 17:30 – 19:00

Venue: Whitstable Town FC Stadium,
Grimshill Road (3G Pitch)



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- COMPETE IN THE NATIONAL YOUTH ALLIANCE LEAGUE (HIGHEST LEVEL OF U19 FOOTBALL OUTSIDE OF PROFESSIONAL STATUS)



FA Youth Cup: Our scholarship squad secured a fantastic 6–1 win over Cray Wanderers to advance to the 3rd Qualifying Round against Folkestone FC. Goals were scored by Marli, Aiden, Stephen and Josh.

U19 Academies League: The team kicked off the league season with an impressive 6–3 away victory against Canterbury Academy, thanks to goals from Josh (2), Albie, Marli, Josh and Jude.

Good luck to both squads as they return to National League and SCL League action this week!



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*

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:

twsw_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.



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.

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 young people about safety, mental health and wellbeing, and lifestyle 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 DISCORD

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING
While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION
Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER
Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK
There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, groups can also post still disturbing, unsuitable or distressing content. Even in servers related to what they still discuss, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN
Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord Nitro, a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the "shop" for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE
Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a young user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE
Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mostly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT
Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages, use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS
Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechCrunch, The Verge, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full references [here](#)

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Supporting Young Lives Across Kent The Warnborough Foundation is a Canterbury-based charity dedicated to empowering young people facing hardship across Kent through accessible education, learning opportunities, and community support initiatives. You can discover more about their vital work by visiting warnborough.foundation.

www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk



A spotlight for the

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