The Whitstable School

NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Issue 1

06 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Term dates

04 December 2026- Staff Development Day - School closed to students
18 December 2026 - End of Term 2. Students finish at 12:55.

Stay Up to Date

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

TWS School Calendar

Term dates 2026-2027

For our new school meals menu, please visit our website: **School Meals**



CONTACT US

Email: tws_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: tws_attendance@swale.at

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

@TheWhitstableSchool

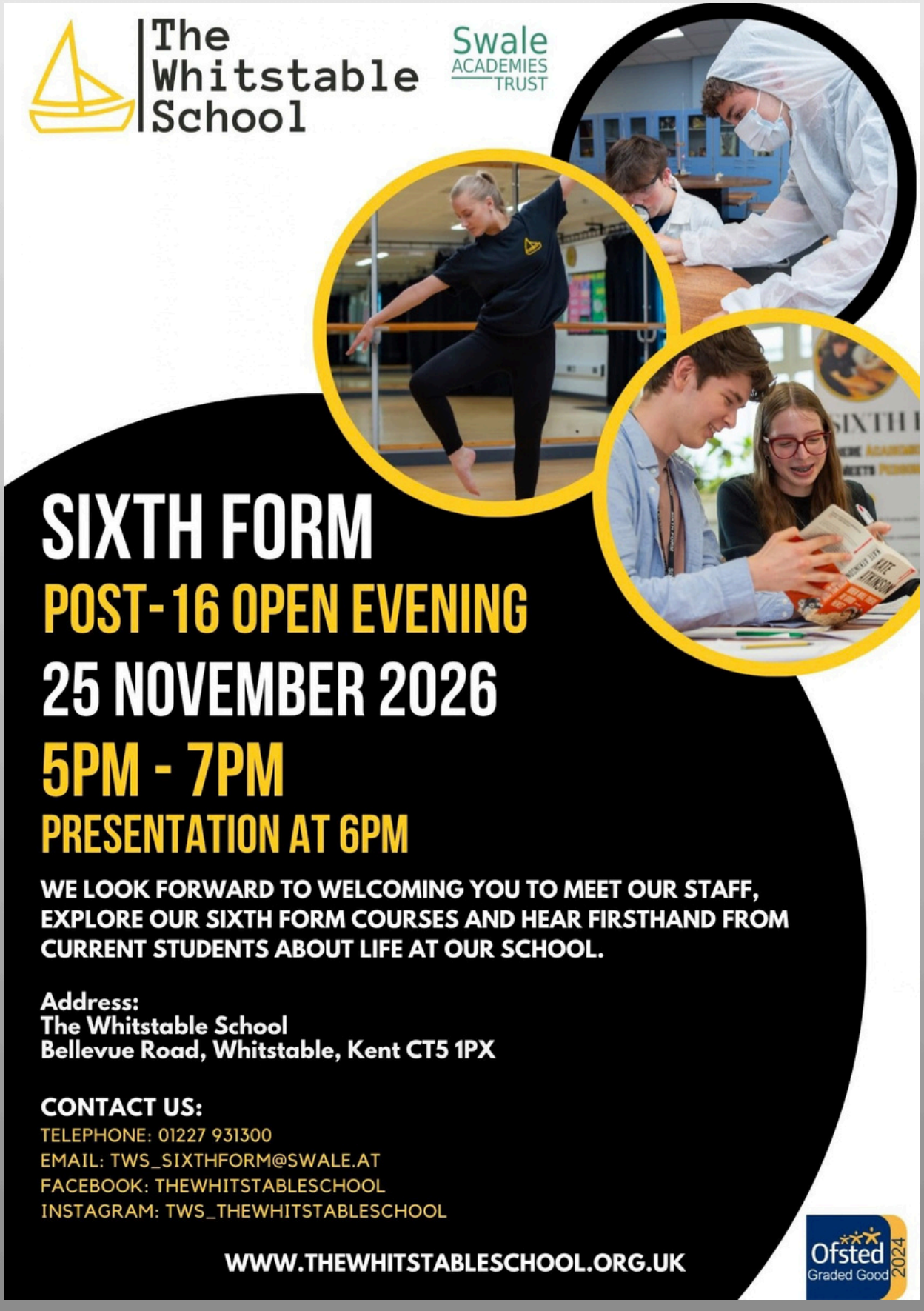
@tws_thewhitstableschool

NEXT WEEK - B TIMETABLE

Sixth Form Updates

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!



Careers Fair 2027 at The Whitstable School!

We are excited to announce our upcoming Careers Fair!
Join us as we help our students explore their futures and discover potential careerS.



Get Involved!

Are you an employer, practitioner or organisation looking to support our event and inspire the next generation?
We would love to hear from you!
📲 Scan the QR code on the poster to register your support

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 tws_careers@swale.at
Thank you for your support!

Unused Instruments Needed for Our Growing Music Department!

The Whitstable School Music Department is growing fast, with more students than ever choosing GCSE Music! To keep up with this exciting momentum, we are looking for donations of any unwanted musical instruments. If you have an instrument collecting dust at home that deserves a second act, our talented students would love to bring it back to life. Every donation makes a real difference!



Donate Your Pre-Loved Christmas Tree and decorations!

Show season is almost here! TWS STAGE Academy needs artificial Christmas trees and decorations to bring our holiday stage set to life. If you have an old tree or decorations to spare, please help us make our performance magical by dropping it off at Reception or reaching out to tws_admin@swale.at Thank you!



Miss Payne in the Running for National Gold Award!

We are immensely proud to announce that Amy Payne has been named a Silver Winner at the 2026 Pearson National Teaching Awards and is now officially in the running for the national Gold Award!
The Gold winners will be revealed next month during a week-long celebration on BBC's The One Show.
Please join us in wishing Amy the very best of luck!



School Vaccination Visit Action Required

The nursing team are visiting the school on Thursday 3rd December, please can parents confirm whether they consent or do not consent to their child receiving the vaccination.
Complete the Vaccination Consent Form (If prompted, our school code is KT144354)
https://www.kentimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=KT144354

Fantastic opportunity for you child to attend the CREATIVE CLUB

Tuesday afterschool from 3:10-4:10pm (in CZ22/Upper creative).
This is a chance for them to take part in a rotation of subjects including art, textiles and photography. We have planned tasks and competitions but will also give you a space to work on your own projects.
Please encourage your child to attend.



Young Chef Competition: Cook for Gold!

Love to cook? We're looking for Year 9, 10 and 11 students to enter a nationwide cooking competition judged by professional chefs!

The Challenge: Prepare, cook and serve a hot main course for two people on a budget of just £6.50 total. Your dish should reflect your personality, family traditions, or favorite cuisine.

School Heat: Wednesday, 11th November at 3:20 PM (Two winners advance to the local heats!)

The Reward: Local winners get paired with a professional chef for hands-on mentoring ahead of the regional and national finals.

Interested? See Mrs Harvey in LZ10 for details and to sign up!

📺 Need some inspiration? Watch this video to see what the competition is all about!



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 ADVERTISEMENTS AIMED AT CHILDREN

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Children are particularly vulnerable to the persuasive effects of advertising because of their still-developing critical thinking and impulse control skills. Children are regularly and passively exposed to advertising online, whether through influencers, paid advertisements, or sponsored content. Although 92% of 12–17-year-olds felt confident recognising online advertising, only 37% correctly identified sponsored adverts in search results.

INFLUENCER MARKETING

Influencers are an increasingly prominent part of children's online experiences, with four in ten 3–17 year olds who watch online videos reporting that they watch influencer content as entertainment. Influencers can appear credible, relatable, trustworthy and aspirational. Although seven in ten 12–17 year olds recognised a paid partnership, some believed products were promoted because influencers liked or thought they were 'cool'.

PARENTAL PRESSURE TO PURCHASE

Children's exposure to online advertising can pressure parents to buy products they see advertised. When told no, children may feel upset, treated unfairly or left out when comparing themselves with peers. With children potentially seeing up to 40,000 adverts a year, parents cannot meet every request. This can lead to arguments and put strain on family relationships.

UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Advertising often focuses on the positive effects of a product, which can create unrealistic expectations among young people. Children may be particularly susceptible to these claims when they do not recognise the persuasive intent behind them. They may be more likely to believe that a cream will 'transform' their skin, clothing will help them fit in, or protein powders will quickly build muscle. Repeated exposure to adverts such as beauty content can normalise unrealistic expectations and create material dissatisfaction or body image concerns.

HARMFUL ADVERTISING

Children can encounter online advertising through games, videos, social media and links, meaning they may see content that is inappropriate for their age. This can include products or messages that influence attitudes towards body image, health or behaviours such as gambling. Repeated exposure to beauty content can normalise adult-oriented beauty routines and psychological pressure.

UNINTENDED PURCHASES

Online advertising can encourage young people to make purchases. Ofcom found that 58% of 8–17 year olds had spent money online, with 27% saying adverts encouraged them to spend and 22% influenced by influencer content. Despite this, a third of the children regretted an in-game purchase, while almost half said they were unclear about what they were buying. This can lead to children spending more than intended or making purchases without fully understanding the cost or product, adding pressure on parents to spend.

LACK OF ADVERTISING TRANSPARENCY

Advertising is not always obvious to children, particularly when influencers promote brands, products or services without clearly stating that it is an advert, or when advertising is embedded within entertaining content and uses positive language. Children may not realise that the adverts are promoting something, making the recommendation seem more trustworthy and more influential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH CHILDREN HOW TO SPOT ADS

Help children to recognise when content is trying to sell them something. Teach them to look for signs such as '#ad', 'sponsored', 'paid partnership' as well as promo codes or product links attached. Explain to your child that these adverts can be embedded within videos, social media posts, games or influencer posts and are not always obvious to identify. Helping children recognise these advertisements can make them less likely to be influenced by them.

ENSURE PAYMENT DETAILS ARE LOCKED DOWN

Avoid saving your bank card details on children's devices, games or apps wherever possible. This can help reduce the risk of children making accidental or impulsive purchases following seeing an advert. Check the purchasing settings on games and social media accounts and use parental controls or purchase approval settings where possible. Talk to your child about the importance of asking before making a purchase online.

DEVELOP CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

It is important to encourage children to question what they see online rather than automatically believing it. Encourage them to stop and think before clicking. Have them ask themselves, 'Why am I seeing this?' and 'What are they trying to get me to want/buy?'. Remind them that adverts and influencers only highlight the positive aspects of a product. By developing these skills, children will begin to recognise, question, and respond to manipulative marketing practices.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

While it is important to set age restrictions on games and social media, inappropriate adverts can still slip through. Talk regularly with your child about adverts or influencer content they see online. Open communication makes it easier for your child to come to you if they have any questions about products or inappropriate content. It also helps you understand what your child is being exposed to online and where they may need support.

Meet Our Expert

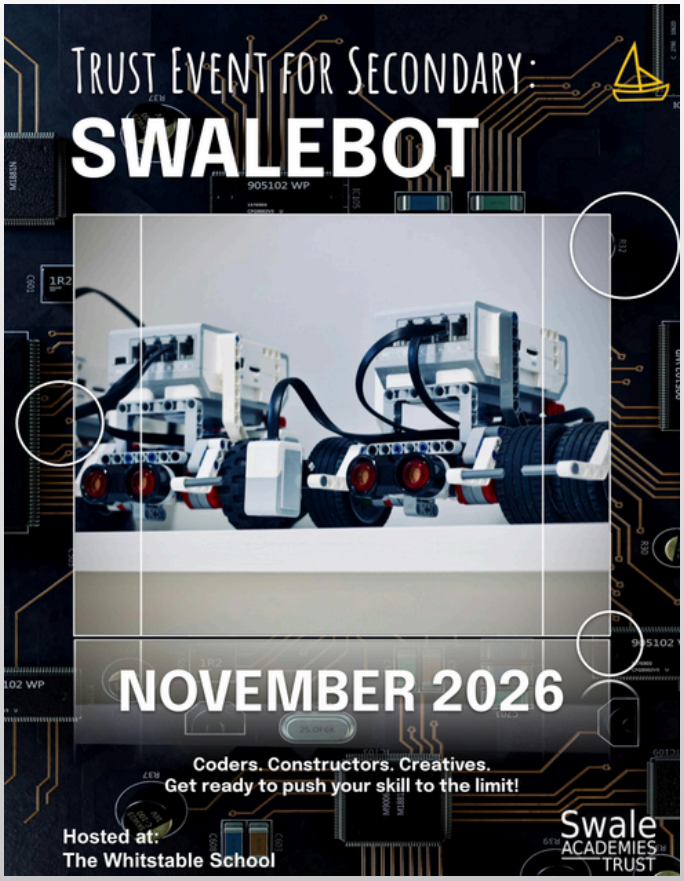
Dr. Claire Sutherland is an education consultant and digital safety expert, with a background in primary teaching. She combines her PhD research in cyberbullying with hands-on experience, delivering impactful digital wellbeing workshops and policies for schools across Australia and now in the UK.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 30.10.2026





IKK Whitstable Karate Club

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Juniors: 6pm - 7pm
Seniors: 7pm - 8:30pm

No Direct Debt or hidden fees.

Swalecliffe Community Primary School,
Bridgefield Road, Whitstable, CT5 2PH



We take pride in our family friendly atmosphere and welcome everyone to our club. Our students enjoy a close relationship with our instructors, and have formed strong bonds with each other. Our instructors are specialists in different areas within Kyokushin Karate, however they all have a shared interest in nurturing and helping students develop their skills.


The BRIT SCHOOL
Canterbury College
wkc Westminster Kingsway College
BRIT KIDS
SATURDAY COURSES IN CREATIVE, MEDIA & PERFORMING ARTS FOR 7-18 YEAR OLDS AT CANTERBURY, KINGS CROSS AND CROYDON
WHAT DO WE DO? MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE
TO FIND OUT MORE, GO TO BRITKIDS.ORG
FOLLOW US ON:


SHARE YOUR VIEWS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
AN ANNUAL GOLD ZOO MEMBERSHIP FROM ZSL WORTH UP TO £336!
HELP RESTORE OUR RIVERS AND PROTECT THE EUROPEAN EEL
We're planning exciting projects to restore rivers, protect wildlife and connect more people with our rivers and their stories.
Scan Me
YOUR VIEWS WILL HELP SHAPE:
River restoration and wildlife recovery
Community events and activities
Education and youth programmes
Citizen science opportunities
Heritage, stories and interpretation
Volunteering and local involvement
Open to everyone
Anonymous responses
Takes around 5 minutes
The European eel is critically endangered. By working together, we can improve habitats, remove barriers and help bring eels back to our rivers.
CLOSING DATE: OCTOBER 2026
Enter the prize draw at the end for your chance to WIN!
Thames Catchment community eels project
Heritage Fund
Thames rivers trust
ZSL
THAMES ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
Zark
THAMES21
south east rivers trust
Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust
MEDWAY SWALE


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📢 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