



Whitby school
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 33





AMBITION, COURAGE

I hope all our pupils, students and families have enjoyed a safe, restful, and energising summer break. It's been inspiring to see our pupils and students return with such **courage** - stepping back into school life with confidence, pride, and a readiness to embrace new challenges. Their **ambition** is clear: in the way they wear their uniform with pride, engage in their learning, and contribute positively to our school community.

As we open for the autumn term, our thoughts are with all those affected by the wildfires on the moors this August, which have left a lasting impact across our region. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the firefighters, emergency services and farmers whose extraordinary courage and determination have protected lives and landscapes.

Over the summer, I was proud to see our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils and students collecting their results. I'm incredibly proud of the resilience and determination they've shown throughout their journey, embodying **ambition** and **courage** - two of our key school values.

Ambition is the spark that drives young people to dream beyond their current circumstances. It's about setting goals, imagining possibilities, and believing that they can shape their own future. **Ambition** encourages pupils and students to strive for excellence - not just academically, but in their character, relationships, and aspirations. It's not about perfection or competition; it's about growth, purpose, and the desire to make a meaningful impact.



Courage, on the other hand, is what helps them act on those ambitions - even when the path is uncertain. It's the strength to take risks, to speak up, to try again after failure. **Courage** doesn't mean fearlessness; it means choosing to move forward despite fear. When young people learn to pair **ambition** with **courage**, they begin to build resilience, confidence, and a deeper understanding of themselves. Together, these qualities empower them to grow into thoughtful, capable individuals ready to contribute to the world around them.

I'm delighted to be working with Julie Caddell as our Head of School for this term. She will work alongside me and the wider team to ensure Whitby School continues to move forward with strength and purpose.

*Very best wishes,
Mr G Davies*





CHARACTER, ENDEAVOUR



When I began working in Whitby in January 2024, I quickly discovered just how special this town and its people truly are. What struck me most was the strength of **character** shown by staff, pupils and students during a time of significant challenge - responding not only with resilience, but with grace and compassion. In September, as we took the bold step of opening Whitby School, it was the collective **endeavour** of our community that made it possible: a shared commitment to coming together, supporting one another, and building something new with purpose and care.

'He's a real character' is something I grew up hearing adults say about others; it was an endearing compliment and referred to people having a distinctive personality or behaviour that's memorable. I can truly say that I've met many 'characters' in Whitby School; young people who make me laugh, who are determined and resilient and stand out in the crowd in the way that they are kind and generous to others.

You've maybe heard it said that **character** is more important than reputation because reputation is what people think you are whereas **character** is what you really are. I believe that we live in a period of time where strength of **character** is incredibly important. Our young people are faced with daily challenges where they need to make choices about how they treat each other and how they contribute to society. On a daily basis I'm impressed by the choices they make and also by how staff work with young people to develop their **character** further.

Playing sport is often talked about as building **character** however I wonder if it's more true to say that playing sport *reveals* **character**. Temptation, adversity, power and fear all test and reveal **character**; all are present in sport and all are present in everyday life. How people act in these situations often reveals their true character. Towards the end of the summer term I really enjoyed our sports day; I was so impressed by how our pupils worked together in teams and supported each other to win - there was lots of cheering and encouraging of each other. This is part of what makes Whitby School such a special place.

I honestly believe that nothing of lasting value is achieved without hard work, which I realise is not always a very popular message! We all want things to happen quickly, we seek instant wins and society helps us with this through fast food and fashion! This past year has been a year of incredibly hard work for the whole school community and it will pay dividends but will take time. We will reap the reward of **endeavour** in years to come through a thriving school community where pupils and students love to learn, develop and feel proud of their achievements.

This is such a great community and it's a huge privilege to work with wonderful pupils, students and an extremely committed, caring and engaging staff team.

Very best wishes,
Miss J Caddell



UNIFORM REMINDER

As we start a busy term, we wanted to take the opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our expectations regarding equipment and uniform.

Uniform

We are a uniformed school as we believe this allows the **character** of our young people to shine. As such, our dress code is simple and practical:

- white shirt (long or short sleeved)
- Whitby School blazer
- smart grey trousers, or grey pleated skirts, or grey tailored shorts
- plain, black polishable footwear
- Whitby School tie in house colour
- Whitby School jumper (optional).

Please note, we do not permit leggings, sportswear or stretchy “yoga style” trousers.

More detailed information about uniform, including PE kit, can be found on the Uniform and Equipment section of our website, by following the Parents and Carers - Key Information links.

Please support your child in continuing to wear our uniform well and with pride, and get in touch with school where we may need to support by lending ties or other garments. We have a supply in school. It is important because at Whitby School **character** is not defined by the money a person can spend on clothes, or the jewellery that they wear. **Character** is who the child is, not what they wear – and we have some fantastic children at Whitby.

Other dress code rules:

- if ears have been pierced, one pair of plain studs may be worn. Earrings must be removed for PE
- a clear retainer may be worn whilst a new piercing is healing
- no other jewellery should be worn. This includes rings, nose studs, bracelets and wristbands etc.
- pupils will be asked to remove any non-uniform jewellery - staff may confiscate items not in line with our dress code. If necessary, these will be kept in the school office until a parent or carer can collect them
- false/acrylic/gel nails and nail polish must not be worn
- discreet make-up is permitted
- natural hair colours only.

Equipment

It is essential that all pupils arrive equipped and ready to learn every day. This is a key part of the secondary school experience, as pupils begin to take responsibility for their own learning and develop crucial organisational skills.

We expect every pupil to have:

- a good sized school bag
- a pencil case, containing: black pens, a green pen, a pencil, ruler, rubber and a scientific calculator.
- if pupils forget their pencil case, they can let their form tutor or Care and Achievement Coordinator know before their first lesson of the day. Recurring



issues with equipment will be marked as a “Concern” on Class Charts.

Additional information:

- mobile phones should not be seen whilst on site. They should be switched off and in the pupil’s bag or locker. If a pupil is seen with their phone inside of the school building the phone will be confiscated by a member of staff
- if you are struggling to source uniform or school equipment, or have any questions relating to our policies, please do get in touch by emailing post@whitbyschool.co.uk.

Support from parents/carers in ensuring pupils are smartly dressed and fully prepared for learning each day is critical to the smooth running of any school. Here at Whitby School, we are proud of the partnership we work so hard to develop between our dedicated staff and the people who know the young people best of all: you. Thank you for your continued commitment to helping us provide the best possible education for your children.

Mrs Mallender
Assistant Headteacher
Airy Hill Site

Mrs Bradley
Assistant Headteacher
Prospect Hill Site





INSTRUMENTAL AND SINGING LESSONS

We have visiting teachers each week to teach pupils and students woodwind, brass, strings, keyboards, vocals, drumkit and guitar. All of Year 7 pupils are being asked to complete an instrument survey questionnaire which is on their Google Classroom - even if they do not currently learn an instrument.

If your child is interested in learning an instrument or having singing lessons, please find out more on the North Yorkshire Music Hub website: <https://northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk/instrumental-tuition> and/or contact Ms Beattie, Head of Music.





WE WILL ROCK YOU - RAFFLE PRIZES

Donated by	Prize	Ticket No.	Winner
Sneaton Castle	Sunday lunch for 2	906-910	Michelle (Kitchen)
Humble Pie & Mash	Voucher for 2 meals	276-280	Mrs Bradley
Whitby Brewery	£20 Voucher	36-40	Karen
Pescado	£15 Voucher	481-485	Sarah Weitman
Whitby Gallery	Print	26-30	Molly
Whitby Gallery	Print	51-55	Caitlin Cowie
Whitby Gallery	Sheep Ornament	681-685	Mya Didelot
Magpie's Kitchen	Glasses	61-65	Maddie Anscombe
Ja'Dore	Bear Ornament	131-135	Connor
Bothams	1 prize	946-950	Mrs Alderson
Bothams	1 prize	116-120	Lily
John Freeman Studio	Coasters	801-805	Mr Gaulter
Bagdale Hall	Bottle Wine	11-15	Richard P
Bagdale Hall	Bottle Wine	251-255	Lola Walley (Nanny Ju) (18+ Collect)
Whitby Gallery	Xmas Ornament	341-345	Lewis Parkin
	Kylie Prosecco	326-330	Ava Newton (18+ Collect)
	Pinot Grigio	656-660	Mia Dryden (18+ Collect)
	White Bag	316-320	Lola Walley (Ann)
	Backwards Clock	221-225	Linda Morrison
	Puzzle	86-90	Ella Campbell
	Go Chic eau de Parfum	141-145	D Fenwick
	Lindt Marc de Champagne	406-410	Molly Pasco
Emma	Hero's	126-130	Connor
	Lindt Chocolates red	991-995	Richard P
	Sanctuary Spa	106-110	Sophie Stringer
	Elizabeth Shaw Chocolates	46-50	Emily
	M&S Royal Jelly Set	21-25	Emily
	Avon Shimmering Lotion	526-530	Rosie Kevan
	Loom Band Set	586-590	Ms Dakin
	Mod Knots Book	191-195	Mrs Raw
	Vanilla Candles	931-935	Michelle (Kitchen)



VISIT FROM WILMOTTDIXON

In July we had our final career event for the year with a visit to our Year 8 pupils from Wilmottdixon. Our pupils learned that there are over 180 jobs within the construction sector, including architects, engineers, managers, bricklayers, quantity surveyors and many more. Our pupils also got the chance to imagine themselves in a job related to the construction sector, and stand up in front of their group and talk about why

they wanted to do that job, which took a lot of **courage!** They were also asked to reimagine our school and think about what they would like in it, ideas included a slip and slide, a fishing lake and outdoor classrooms to name a few! It was a great afternoon and Wilmottdixon said that our pupils can visit the building site they are working on in the new school year.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

RECOGNISING & MANAGING STRESS

According to recent studies, over 60% of young people report feeling regularly overwhelmed – with stress impacting their learning, emotional wellbeing and social connections. If left unaddressed, stress can lead to more serious concerns such as anxiety, depression or disengagement. This guide offers ten practical, evidence-based strategies to help children and young people recognise, manage and recover from stress in healthy ways.

1 SPOT THE SUBTLE SIGNS

Look out for changes in mood, behaviour, or energy levels, such as irritability, withdrawal, clinginess, or frequent headaches. These may indicate that a child is feeling overwhelmed. By tuning into these cues early and offering a calm, non-judgemental space to talk, adults can help children feel heard and supported before issues escalate.

2 KEEP CONVERSATIONS FLOWING

Make time for open, informal check-ins – whether it's during car journeys, over dinner, or in quiet classroom moments. Let children know it's okay to talk about what's bothering them. Regular, low-pressure conversations create a safe space where emotions are validated, not dismissed.

3 MAKE MOVEMENT PART OF THE DAY

Physical activity can dramatically reduce stress hormones while improving mood and focus. Encourage movement through activities children genuinely enjoy – from team sports to dancing around the kitchen. Even light activity like stretching or walking the dog can help us all unwind.

4 SUPPORT HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Poor sleep makes stress harder to manage. Establish a calming evening routine that avoids screens before bedtime and promotes winding down, such as reading, listening to music, or chatting quietly. Good sleep hygiene helps reset mood, enhances concentration, and boosts emotional resilience.

5 PRACTISE MINDFULNESS

Mindfulness doesn't have to mean long periods of meditation. A few slow breaths before lessons or short family meditation sessions before bed can make a real difference. These simple habits help children ground themselves, reduce emotional reactivity, and build inner calm over time.

6 SET DIGITAL BOUNDARIES

Excessive screen time, especially before bed or on social media, is linked with higher stress levels. Set clear expectations for when and where devices can be used and suggest screen-free alternatives like crafts, nature walks, or board games to promote digital balance and reduce overstimulation.

7 NURTURE SOCIAL CONNECTIONS

Strong relationships act as a buffer against stress. Whether it's a trusted adult, a sibling, or a good friend, ensure children have people around them they can talk to and spend quality time with. Help them build those bonds through shared activities and meaningful interaction.

8 PROGRESS OVER PERFECTION

Set realistic goals and praise effort, not just outcomes. When children feel pressured to be perfect, stress naturally follows. Celebrate small wins and help them reframe setbacks as learning opportunities. This helps build confidence and reduces the fear of failure.

9 TEACH EVERYDAY PROBLEM-SOLVING

Use real-life scenarios to build resilience. Encourage children to identify problems, consider possible solutions, and choose a plan of action. Practising these steps builds a sense of control and reduces the helplessness that often accompanies stress.

10 BE THE MODEL THEY NEED

Children notice how adults respond to challenges. Model healthy coping strategies such as taking breaks, asking for help, or calmly expressing frustration. By showing how you manage stress constructively, you help normalise these behaviours and encourage children to do the same.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd, Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust, and lead expert for mental health at The National College. Anna specialises in strategic mental health solutions for schools, supporting educators and families to improve resilience, emotional literacy, and overall wellbeing for children across the UK.



The National College®



NOTICES

Dropping Off/Collecting your Son/Daughter from School

Please note that, for health and safety reasons, we need to restrict the movement of traffic on the schools' sites to keep our pupils safe. Parking is unavoidably limited for visitors, particularly on our Prospect Hill Site. However, Mayfield Road has space for parking which is easy to access. There are many pupils leaving the site at 3.30pm and we need it to be as safe as possible for them. Please therefore avoid turning into the Prospect Hill car park if there is space on Mayfield Road. Please also be respectful of our school neighbours and do not block or park in their private parking areas. This includes Beevers' Furniture Store car park - dropping off/collecting pupils from Beevers' car park is not permitted, nor is dropping off/collecting from our neighbours' parking areas at the top of the school driveway. The emergency access bay near to the field gate at our Prospect Hill Site also must be left clear at all times. When driving onto either school site, please note the 5mph speed limit and the reverse only policy for parking so that you only drive forwards out of any parking space. Thank you for your support with these matters.

Post 16 Transport

Applications are now open and parents can apply online www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/transport-sixth-form-or-college.

Whitby Sixth Form Instagram

Follow us to see the exciting things our students are achieving at Whitby Sixth Form.

[ws_sixthform](#)





KEY DATES

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the Whitby School Calendar.

Wednesday 10 September	Young Carer Lunch Hub, 12.45-1.30pm (R4, Airy Hill site)
21 September-26 September	German Exchange Visit to Whitby
Thursday 25 September	SEN Focus Group Meeting, 10.00am-12.00noon (Airy Hill site)
Wednesday 8 October	Young Carer Lunch Hub, 12.45-1.30pm (R4, Airy Hill site)
12-17 October	Music Exchange return visit to Whitby
Wednesday 15 October	Training Day
Thursday 23 October	Year 11 BTEC Dance Practical Assessment Component 2, 1.30-3.30pm
Mon. 27-Fri. 31 October	Half Term Holiday
Wednesday 5 October	Year 11 BTEC Dance Written Assessment Component 2, 10.40am-12.45pm
Wednesday 5 November	Young Carer Lunch Hub, 12.45-1.30pm (R4, Airy Hill site)
Thursday 6 November	Year 11 Revision Session, 4.00-5.30pm
10-14 November	Year 11 Health Promotion Presentation Week
10-14 November	Year 12 Health & Social Care Work Experience
17-18 November	Year 7 Navy Visit
Monday 17 November	SEND Forum, 1.45-3.00pm (Airy Hill site)
Thursday 20 November	Year 11 Parents' Evening 1, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Thursday 13 November	Aerospace Engineering Day
Thursday 27 November	Year 11 Parents' Evening 2, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Wednesday 26 November	Young Carer Lunch Hub, 12.45-1.30pm (R4, Airy Hill site)
30 November-6 December	German Exchange Visit to Germany
Thursday 11 December	Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 Jan.	Christmas Holiday
Monday 5 January 2026	Staff Training Days
Mon. 16-Fri. 20 February	Half Term Holiday



TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 September	Training Days
Wed. 3 September	School Opens
Wed. 15 October	Training Day
Fri. 24 October	School Closes
Mon. 27-Fri. 31 October	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 3 November	School Opens
Fri. 19 December	School Closes
Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 January	Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2026

Mon. 5 January	Training Day
Tues. 6 January	School Opens
Fri. 13 February	School Closes
Mon. 16-Fri. 20 February	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 23 February	School Opens
Fri. 27 March	School Closes
Mon. 30 March.- Fri. 10 April	Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2026

Mon. 13 April	School Opens
Mon. 4 May	Bank Holiday
Fri. 22 May	School Closes
Mon. 25-Fri. 29 May	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 1 June	School Opens
Fri. 17 July	School Closes
Mon. 20 July	Training Day



MEET THE STAFF

Senior Leadership Team

Mr G Davies – Headteacher

Miss J Caddell – Head of School

Ms S Boyd – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Bradley – Assistant Headteacher (Prospect Hill site)

Mrs K Mallender – Assistant Headteacher (Airy Hill site)

Mr A Whelan – Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)

SEND

Mrs H Kirk – SENDCo

Safeguarding

Miss J Caddell – Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J Bradley – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Heads of Year

Mrs A Harrison – Year 7

Ms D Reddy – Year 7

Mr A Raw – Year 8

Ms A Ruberry – Year 9

Mrs J Cassell-Osowski – Year 10

Mrs AM Scales – Year 11

Care & Achievement Coordinators

Miss A Clarkson – Year 7

Miss E Hutton – Year 8

Miss K Wilson – Year 8

Mr D Taylor – Year 9

Mr D Jackson – Year 10

Mrs H Ross – Year 11

Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13

SAFEGUARDING



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead**
Miss J Caddell



**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**
Mrs J Bradley

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mrs K Mallender



Mr A Whelan



Mrs J Robinson



SENDCo
Mrs H Kirk



Governor
Mr M Taylor

Airy Hill Band

**Tuesday
Lunchtime
Music Room**

Bring a packed lunch.

*For all
instrumentalists.*



FUNK BAND



Whitby
School

PROSPECT HILL SITE
THURSDAYS, LUNCHTIME
IN THE MUSIC ROOM
BRING YOUR LUNCH

AIRY HILL CHOIR

**Mondays,
Lunchtime
in the
Music
Room**



**For anyone who enjoys
singing. Bring your
lunch and a friend or
come along and meet
our friendly singers.**



**WHITBY
TTC**

JUNIOR CLUB NIGHTS

WHEN: Wednesdays, starting September 3rd

TIME: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

WHERE: Whitby School Gymnasium
(Airy Hill site)

£ COST: £2

Come along, have fun and improve your table
tennis skills! All abilities welcome.

Contact: whitbytabletennis@gmail.com



Whitby
School



Young Carer Whitby School Lunch Hub

Where:
Lower School Site,
Main Corridor,
Room 4

When: 10/09, 08/10,
05/11 & 26/11 Christmas
Celebration

Time: 12.45pm-1.30pm

Are you a Young Carer? Would you like to talk to someone about your caring role?

Come and meet a friendly Young Carer worker to find out more about the support we can offer you with your caring role.

There will also be the opportunity to meet and talk with other Young Carers within the school. Your Young Carer Lead within school is Miss A Clarkson
