

# newsletter

**ISSUE 34** 



# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

We've been delighted with the start to the new school year. It's been wonderful to see pupils returning with such positivity, settling quickly into routines, and showing the values we hold dear at Whitby School: courage, ambition, endeavour, and character. Thank you for your support in making this possible.

However, now comes the important part - sustaining that strong start. Attendance isn't just about being present; it's about giving every child the best chance to thrive. Research from the Department for Education shows that pupils with near-perfect attendance are almost twice as likely to achieve key GCSE grades compared to those who miss just 10 extra days a year. At primary level, pupils attending nearly every day are 30% more likely to meet expected standards in reading, writing, and maths.1

Beyond academic success, regular attendance supports mental health and wellbeing. Children who attend school consistently are more likely to feel connected, confident, and supported. School provides structure, social interaction, and a sense of belonging - all vital for emotional resilience.

If your child is feeling a little under the weather, we encourage you to send them in if possible. Often, being in school helps them feel better, and our staff are here to support them throughout the day.

To help every child attend regularly, colleagues will be visiting homes to meet with families and offer support. We know that every situation is different, and we're here to work together to remove barriers and ensure every child feels welcome and safe.

At Whitby School, we say: "We're so glad you're here." Because every day in school is a step toward a brighter future.

Very best wishes, Mr G Davies



YOU'RE

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# HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME

We've made a fantastic start to the new school year, and I wanted to take a moment to share some good news with you.

Since returning, staff have recorded an incredible 17,924 positives on Class Charts – each one representing a moment when a pupil has lived out one of our core school values. This is an outstanding achievement and a real testament to the positive attitudes and behaviours we're seeing across the school.

Here's a quick look at how these positive moments break down:

- Ambition 5,415
- Courage 1,470
- **Character** 3,560
- Endeavour 7,479

Whilst we can see that

endeavour is particularly strong - showing just how hard our pupils are working - we'll also be focusing more on courage in the coming weeks, encouraging pupils to step out of their comfort zones and take on new challenges with confidence.

This week also saw the launch of our new **STEP programme**, designed to strengthen our whole-school approach to **attendance**. Strong attendance is crucial: not only does it support learning and progress, but it helps pupils feel part of our school community.

As part of STEP, our Heads of Year, Care and Achievement Coordinators, and Form Tutors met this week to review the attendance of every single pupil. These meetings will now take place weekly, ensuring that we're doing everything we can to support pupils and that no one slips through the net.





Your child's **Form Tutor** remains your first point of contact, and they play an important role in keeping an eye on both academic progress and wellbeing. When a pupil is absent, our tutors are making phone calls home - not just to follow up, but to check in, offer support, and make sure every child feels valued and cared for.

In addition, Mrs Draper, our Attendance Officer, is working closely with Heads of Year to support families where attendance may be a concern. She's been arranging meetings in school so we can work together to identify and remove any barriers that may be affecting attendance. We know that life can sometimes be challenging, and we're here to help.

To celebrate and encourage excellent attendance, we've already begun awarding:

- certificates in assembly
- postcards sent home
- Class Charts positives for:
  - > 100% Weekly Attendance Streak
  - > 25 Day Attendance Streak
  - > 50-Day Attendance Streak.

Each week, we also highlight the tutor group in each year group with the highest attendance to keep motivation high.

Thank you as always, for working with us to create a school environment where pupils are recognised, encouraged, and given every opportunity to succeed.

Very best wishes, Miss J Caddell





# **SEN FOCUS GROUP**

Over the last year Whitby School SENCO, Mrs H Kirk, and a group of SEN parents have been working together to ensure that our young people would cope with transition as well as possible. The parents in the SEN Focus Group have helped SEN pupils and their families of Year 9's move to upper site and the new Year 7s begin their secondary education journey.

The SEN Focus group have offered a variety of support, completing documentation and attending meetings in order to obtain EHCP's which in turn provides bespoke support for SEN pupils. We have signposted parents to other agencies who are available to offer help and advice from financial support to practical solutions. We have shared personal experiences to hopefully help parents understand they need never feel isolated with the issues they are experiencing. At the end of the summer term we hosted a very successful SEN information event. As our group grows we hope to invite people to come along to support you and your family through advice and information. We work closely with the Headteacher and the SEN Department to ensure your worries and concerns are addressed and your child is empowered to flourish and be happy at school.

In the past we have addressed issues relating to 'sensory school uniform', flexibility and support for children who are unable to commit to a fulltime timetable or who are unable to be part of a traditional class group, appropriate use of fidget items in class and additional equipment available to meet a wide range of learning needs. The staff at school can only put things in place for children if they know what is required and this group can take problems and hopefully some solutions to the SEN Dept and the Headteacher to enable the school to act in the best interest of your child.

We will continue to hold our monthly support group at lower site 10.00am-12.00noon on the last Thursday of every month. Everyone is very welcome to join us for coffee and biscuits and a chat. Please come along, meet other parents and contribute to making positive changes for our SEN children and empower them to receive the educational opportunities and lifelong living skills they deserve to enable them to be fully prepared for further education, employment and the changing world that they are apart of.

It is the right of every child to learn and feel safe in school, to that end we are all working towards embracing diversity and meeting the needs of all SEN pupils at the school.

The next meeting will be Thursday 25 September, 10.00am-12.00noon.

Kind regards, SEN Parents Focus Group

# **PROJECT DARE - NESTLE**

#### Introduction

Whitby School went to the Nestle factory to explore the wide range of opportunities in different career pathways and discover how the factory operates.

#### What Did We See?

As we arrived at the factory we saw the amazing conditions of the York factory. This painted an amazing impression as everyone seemed comfortable, relaxed and joyful.

#### What did we learn?

We learnt about how Nestle is doing their best to make an environmentally friendly, tasty and overall perfect company. They do this by working with farms which do not rely on child labour or modern slavery and use regeneration methods for their raw resources such as palm oil.

#### Who did we meet?

As we arrived we met the friendly staff that greeted us warmly and made us feel welcomed. This was amazing to see as in most job lines people are unhappy and unsatisfied but not the amazing staff at their work areas.

### How has it inspired us?

The Nestle experience showed us how happy people can be with the right job and right people to support them as our guides said hi to everyone that walked by this was so nice to see. It also inspired us to find a job you feel passionate about such as all the employees were so full of information about areas they didn't even specialize in.

#### Jake, Year 11





# THE RISKS OF NICOTINE POUCHES

We would like to make you aware of a substance that some young people are starting to experiment with: nicotine pouches, or snus. Although not yet especially well known in the UK, we feel it is important that all families have the facts and can talk about it at home.

Snus is a form of smokeless tobacco that is most commonly used in Scandinavia. It comes in small pouches that are placed under the lip, where nicotine is absorbed into the body. Synthetic versions are also sold.

Because it does not involve smoking, it is sometimes incorrectly viewed as a safer alternative to cigarettes. However, snus still contains high levels of nicotine (which is incredibly addictive) and other substances that can affect health.

Some of the key risks include:

• addiction: Even occasional use can very quickly lead to dependence

- health effects: Snus use has been linked to serious problems with oral health (such as gum disease and tooth damage) and long-term risks to general health
- hidden use: Because it does not produce smoke, it can be used discreetly, making it harder for adults to spot.

For these reasons, it is important to be aware of it and to keep communication open with your child.

We encourage you to have calm, honest conversations at home about nicotine products and their risks. If you would like further information or support, the NHS website offers clear guidance on nicotine and tobacco use. This **BBC article** also contains information specifically about the effects of Snus on teens and could be a helpful starting point for a discussion:

Thank you for helping us to keep our young people safe and well informed.



# ST JOHN AMBULANCE CADET GROUP

At St John Ambulance, we believe that you should be able to receive the first aid you need in a health emergency from the people around you. Our mission is to teach as many people as possible the skills to save lives. That's why we run a St John Ambulance Cadet group in Whitby.

St John Ambulance Cadets is a long-standing programme designed to teach young people aged 11-17 first aid skills in a fun and friendly environment, while developing skills in other areas of their lives, such as leadership and teamwork.

Cadets can get involved in:

- learning first aid
- volunteering at local and national events
- engaging in social action and helping their local community
- developing confidence and communication skills through Cadet leadership training
- enjoying a wide range of outdoor and adventurous activities
- earning awards such as the Grand Prior Award and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

In order to keep our group running we are calling out to parents and carers to volunteer as group leaders/ helpers.

Group Leaders/Helpers are responsible for creating a safe and inclusive environment where young people can learn first aid and other life skills, by treating everyone equally and fairly. You'll support with the

delivery of activities, sessions, and games, along with teaching different subjects in line with the SJA certificates. St John Ambulance as an organisation will be there to support you every step of the way, and full training will be provided- including first aid and youth specific training.

We can't make it happen without your support! Please get in touch with:

NorthYorkshireCoastandMoors@sja.org.uk

Or visit **LINK** 

And select "Whitby" to apply.

Kind regards, North Yorkshire Coast and Moors Network, St John Ambulance





# BREAK AND LUNCHTIMES AT WHITBY SCHOOL

Snacks and drinks are available from the school canteen at break times and a wide range of meals are available at lunchtimes. Meals are freshly made each day and ingredients are locally sourced wherever possible. Our kitchen staff cater for pupils with a range of food allergies. Our catering contract is with North Yorkshire Education Services (NYES) Caterers and their meals conform to all government food standards, with a view to us providing pupils with nutritional snacks and meals, without excessive cost to families.

Please note that the cost of a school meal will be £3.05 from September. This is a subsidised cost to help families. Inflationary increases have meant that we have had to increase the price, but the school is taking on most of the additional cost. As you may be aware, the government has recently made increases to national insurance contributions and pay, alongside the increases we have seen in food supply costs which has led governors to this decision. If pupils bring a snack from home for break time or a packed lunch, please note that these must not contain nuts or nut products. Pupils may bring in cash which can be paid into the 're -val' units we have situated in school (to the left through the canteen doors at the Airy Hill Site for Years 7 and 8, and on the main corridor near to the main office for Years 9 to 13 on our Prospect Hill Site). If your child is entitled to a free school meal, the kitchen staff will be aware of this. If your child does not receive a free school meal, but you believe you may be eligible for this, please apply via North

Yorkshire Council's website. Please note, however, that additional items taken above the cost of the 'meal deal' amount (£3.05 from September), must be paid for, even if your son or daughter is entitled to a free school meal.

Every pupil at Whitby School is allocated a MCAS account (My Child at School). This is an online record which allows you to see your child's attendance and reports, and you can also top up your son or daughter's canteen account through this facility, using a credit or debit card. The link for this is **HERE**. The school office can provide log-in details for you if you don't already have a log-in (this will be provided to all new pupils to the school). Please note that pupils should always have sufficient credit on their account before taking food or drink from the canteen.

Many thanks for your support in these matters.



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### **UNDERMINING TRUST**

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

# ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

## MENTAL HEALTH

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

# GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

# CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

# ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

# I WANT TO BELIEV

# Advice for Parents & Educators

### CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

#### PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

#### MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

### REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.



### Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



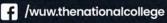
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WakeUp Wednesday

The National College

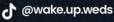
Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories







(O) @wake.up.wednesday





# **NOTICES**

### **Lost Property**

We have a large collection of lost property on both sites including coats and water bottles. If your son or daughter has misplaced something please check with reception. Items not collected after one month will be donated to charity and uniform items will be washed and used by the Pastoral teams.

### 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.

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ws\_sixthform

# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

#### MONDAY

- Year 7-8 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- Airy Hill Choir, 12.45-1.15pm (Music Room, Airy Hill Site)
- Year 9 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill Site)

#### **TUESDAY**

- Year 7-8 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- Airy Hill Band, 12.45-1.15pm (Music Room, Airy Hill Site)
- Year 10 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill Site)
- Year 7-8 Football, 3.30-4.30pm (Field/Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- Football Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Field, Prospect Hill Site)
- SEN Homework Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Both Sites)

#### **WEDNESDAY**

- Chess Club, 12.45-1.15pm (Library, Airy Hill Site)
- Writers' Club, Lunchtime (Prospect Hill Site)
- Year 9 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill Site)
- Year 7-8 Netball, 3.30-4.30pm (Courts, Airy Hill Site)
- Year 10-11 Netball, 3.30-4.30pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill Site)
- SEN Homework Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Both Sites)
- Whitby Table Tennis Club, 7.00-8.00pm (Gym, Airy Hill Site)

#### **THURSDAY**

- Year 7-8 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- KS4 Racket Sports, 12.45-1.15pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill Site)
- Funk Band, 12.45-1.15pm (Music Room, Prospect Hill Site)
- SEN Homework Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Both Sites)

#### **FRIDAY**

- Year 7-8 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- BTEC Sport Intervention, 12.45-1.15pm (H9, Prospect Hill Site)
- Year 10 GCSE PE Intervention, 12.45-1.15pm (S4, Prospect Hill Site)

# KEY DATES

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

Monday 15 September	. Year 10 ESFA v Lawrence Jackson, 4.00pm (H)		
Tuesday 16 September	. Primary Girls Football at 3G Pitch		
Wednesday 17 September	. Year 7 Welcome Evening, 5.00-6.00pm (Airy Hill site)		
Wednesday 17 September	. Year 12 Welcome Evening, 5.00-6.00pm (Sixth Form Centre)		
Thursday 18 September	. Year 7 B Team Football v Fyling Hall (H)		
	Y10 Rugby at Scarborough RFU		
21 September-26 September	. German Exchange Visit to Whitby		
Tuesday 23 September			
Wednesday 24 September	. District Cross Country at Scalby		
	Primary Boys Football at 3G, 1.00-3.00pm		
	Years 8 Welcome Evening, 5.00-6.00pm (Airy Hill site)		
	Years 9 and 10 Welcome Evening, 5.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)		
Thursday 25 September	. SEN Focus Group Meeting, 10.00am-12.00noon (Airy Hill site)		
	U-15 B-Team Football v Fyling Hall, 3.45pm (H)		
Friday 26 September	Primary Cross Country, 1.45pm (Airy Hill site)		
Monday 29 September	Year 10 District Cup v Lady Lumley's (A)		
Tuesday 30 September	Year 8 Rugby at Scarborough RFC		
	Key Stage 1 Multi Skills, 1.00-3.00pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill site)		
Wednesday 1 October	. U-13 County Cup Football v St Ethelburga's (Airy Hill site)		
	Year 9 Netball at Scalby		
	Sixth Form Football Friendly v Malton		
Thursday 2 October	Year 9 County Cup Football v Tadcaster Grammar (H)		
Friday 3 October	Key Stage 1 Multi Skills, 1.00-3.00pm (Sports Hall, Prospect Hill site)		
Sunday 5 October	Octoberfest, 2.00pm (Airy Hill site)		
Tuesday 7 October	. U13 B Team Football v Fyling Hall (H)		
	Year 9 Rugby at Scarborough RFC		
	U15 Netball at Ryedale		
Wednesday 8 October	. Young Carer Lunch Hub, 12.45-1.30pm (R4, Airy Hill site)		
	U-15 County Cup v Sherburn High (A)		
	Year 11 Welcome Evening, 5.00-6.00pm (with a focus on revision strategies		
	Prospect Hill site)		





# **TERM DATES 2025-26**

### Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 Training Days

September

Wed. 3 September School Opens

Wed. 15 October Training Day

Fri. 24 October School Closes

Mon. 27-Fri. 31 Half Term Holiday

October

Mon. 3 November School Opens

Fri. 19 December School Closes

Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 Christmas Holiday

January

## Spring Term 2026

Mon. 5 January Training Day

Tues. 6 January School Opens

Fri. 13 February School Closes

Mon. 16-Fri. 20 Half Term Holiday

**February** 

Mon. 23 February School Opens

Fri. 27 March School Closes

Mon. 30 March.- Easter Holiday

Fri. 10 April

### 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 - SENCo

#### 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

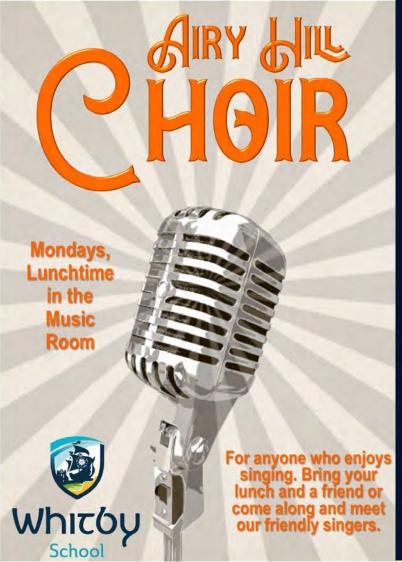


**Governor** Mr M Taylor





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





# **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



# Young Carer Whitby School Lunch Hub

Where: Lower School Site, Main Corridoor, 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



Contact Details: E: tammy@carersplus.net T: 01723 850155





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)