



Whitby school
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 44





HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



“Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.” - Bill Bradley

At Whitby School, **ambition** is more than a value - it's a mindset that drives our pupils to aim high and believe in their potential. We want every young person to leave us with the confidence to pursue their dreams and the knowledge to make them a reality.

Ambition begins with understanding possibilities, and that's why Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) are central to our curriculum. From Year 7 onwards, pupils explore the world of work, develop essential skills, and learn how their interests can lead to exciting opportunities.

This term:

- Year 7 are discovering different career paths and the skills employer's value most
- Year 9 are preparing for options choices, thinking carefully about subjects that align with their aspirations
- Year 11 are receiving tailored guidance on post-16 routes - whether that's A-levels, vocational courses, or apprenticeships
- across the Prospect Hill site, pupils are meeting employers, attending workshops, and using tools like Unifrog to research careers and qualifications.

Our commitment to **ambition** is reflected in our outcomes: Whitby School has a higher than both

national and local averages for pupils continuing into education, employment, or training after Year 11. This is something we are incredibly proud of - and it shows the power of high-quality guidance and strong partnerships between school and home.

Ambition is not just about aiming high - it's about planning wisely and taking the steps that turn dreams into reality.

Thank you for supporting your child's journey. Together, we can help them build a future full of opportunity.

With very best wishes, Mr Davies





HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME



It's great to see such a packed Newsletter which shows our children at their very best - we are **ambitious** for them because we believe that they are capable of so much more than they imagine! It's a key part of our culture to celebrate their achievements with them - and as you'll see from this Newsletter we are **ambitious** in all aspects of school life and subject areas.

In some ways we've reached a tricky part of the school year, the Christmas break is in sight but for some not quite close enough. The weather hasn't been very kind to us and we're becoming tired and in some cases a bit

fed up! We will have highs and lows throughout the year but when it's a bit tough our values are incredibly important in keeping us going. **PACT** is also more important than ever - we remind ourselves of how we treat each other with patience and kindness because we are **ambitious** for our young people.

Next week we have pupils going to Germany on an exchange - I hope you have a fantastic time and look forward to hearing about it on your return!

With very best wishes, Miss Caddell

The four tests of any action at Whitby School:

Courage – have I been **patient**, listening to instruction carefully?

Ambition – have I been **ambitious** by working hard in lessons?

Endeavour – am I **consistently** on time, equipped and in the right uniform?

Character – have I been **kind** and **thoughtful** to other members of our community?





ANNUAL FOOD BANK COLLECTION

How are we going to support them?

This year we are having a non-uniform day on **Friday 5 December**.

You can either bring in money to donate or food to support our appeal.

We will ask tutors to collect these items on both sites.

Please do not bring fresh food items as these cannot be stored and passed onto families

Why are we supporting the food bank?

Last year, the food bank saw over one thousand items being donated by our school. Lets see if we can beat that this year!

Bring in your donations (as many times as you like but please ask permission before emptying your parents cupboards) and add to your donation box that will be appearing in your tutor room.

Help us bring some festive cheer to families and individuals who need help and support, especially at Christmas.

The main items that the foodbank are currently needing are:

- tinned fruit
- tinned cold meat e.g ham
- packets of plain rice
- long life milk
- squash, soft drinks
- packet mash or tinned potatoes
- jams and spreads
- soap
- shower gel
- shampoo.

When do I need to bring it in by?

We would like all food or money donations to be in by **Wednesday 10 December**.

We will be making a delivery in our final week of term.





WHITBY LIT FEST 2025

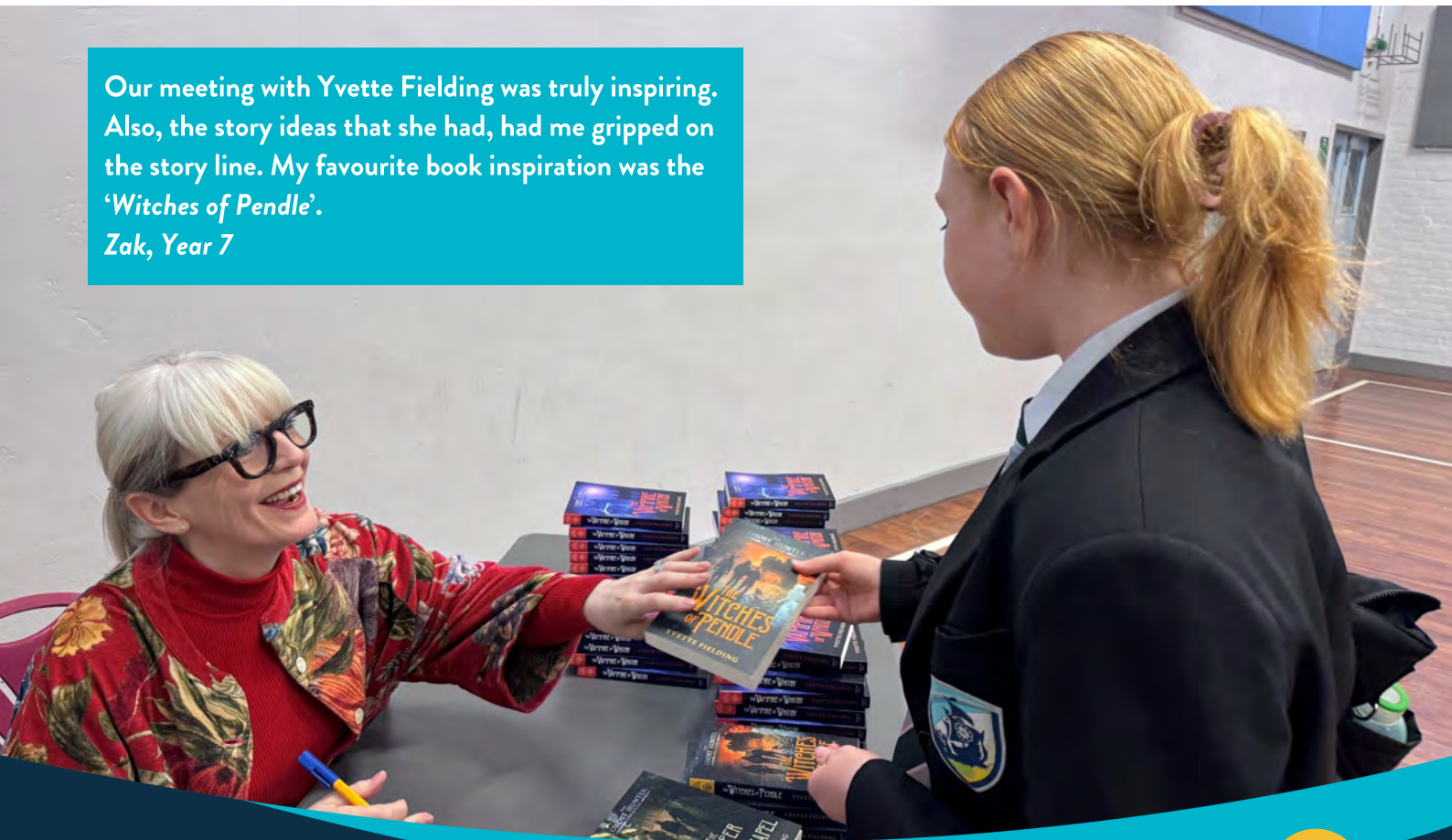
Whitby Lit Fest 2025 was a fantastic event for pupils at Whitby School and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers for providing our pupils with this incredible experience. We had two authors visit the school and pupils were invited to participate in a writing competition.

Yvette Fielding, television presenter, producer, actress, writer and paranormal investigator visited the Airy Hill site to meet with some of the Year 7 and 8 pupils. Yvette discussed her research into Vlad Tepes

and how that inspired her to write *'The Vampire of Whitby'*. Pupils were also given the opportunity to ask Yvette questions, with many of them choosing to ask about ghosthunting or their own writing. SJ Baker, writer of *'Calm'*, visited pupils on the Prospect Hill site. She discussed writing dystopian fiction and her experience of getting published as a debut author. Both authors offered pupils the opportunity to purchase signed copies of their books.

Our meeting with Yvette Fielding was truly inspiring. Also, the story ideas that she had, had me gripped on the story line. My favourite book inspiration was the *'Witches of Pendle'*.

Zak, Year 7





As part of Whitby Lit Fest, pupils were invited to enter a writing competition. There were two categories to choose from, short stories or poetry. I'm pleased to announce that two of our Year 7 boys won the KS3 competitions - Ivan won the poetry competition and Muruthi won the short story competition. A big well done to all pupils who entered the competition, especially our winners!

It was very inspiring how she got her story ideas. Plus, it was very exciting meeting a famous author.
Anya, Year 7

Yvette Fielding is a very inspiring author and it was a very nice afternoon. Her books are very well written and it was exceptionally interesting to learn about her ghost travels and how she took inspiration from the places she travelled and put it in her books. I love how she took inspiration from Whitby's vampire legends and put that in her stories.
Emma, Year 8

I liked listening to her inspiration for the stories she wrote. I also enjoyed hearing about Vlad Tepes and the book is really good. It was also very nice to have a chance to buy a SIGNED book!
Matei, Year 7

Yvette Fielding is an amazing author to meet, she seemed very excited to show us her books as she knew we are doing Gothic stories such as Dracula, which one of her books is about. I really liked how she answered all our questions with pride and even read us sections from some of her books. She even signed our books. After reading part of one of her books I agree that she is one of the best authors I've ever read a book from.
Philomena, Year 8

My Inspiration

Beep Beep Beep
Alarm chirping in the empty dark
But Gritlad is dressed and brushing his pearly whites.

Crossing the yard
No birds awake
No sun awake
The cows are awake and wait full of milk
Rhythmically chewing their cud
Watching as he opens the gate.

Fiona followed Bess followed Fern
They fill their stalls
Radio on he smiles to himself
The melody meeting the chatter of the cows as it blends with the mechanical chorus.

All accounted for all milked and talked to
The girls sway down to the fields
Like monochromatic washing in the breeze

Taking a last glance over his shoulder at his happy herd
Gritlad's morning ended like every other
Content cows
Fulfilled farmer

Ivan, Year 7





Grandad Peter

I have only met my Guka Peter once when I was nearly one year old. We live over four thousand miles apart...

Born in a village (Gatundu - home to Kenya's first president, the late Jomo Kenyatta) in rural Kenya thirty miles from Nairobi, Guka Peter was one of twelve. He and his siblings would rise with the sun to carry out his daily chores on the farm, tending to the coffee crop and harvesting mangos and bananas for breakfast. An hour's walk to school followed, and I feel tired just thinking about it!

Unfairly, despite amazing academic potential he faced challenges convincing schools that he was worthy of a place; he was initially refused on the grounds that he was too short! With perseverance and top exam grades in hand, eventually Grandad gained a prestigious scholarship to a private school in Nairobi and later to the University of Nairobi where he graduated as an electrical engineer.

Immediately after University and when his third child - my dad - was born, Guka travelled to the UK for a year's internship; the first member of his family to ever leave Kenya.

Reflecting back on his childhood growing up without electricity, Grandad Peter started working for the government and Nairobi council, playing a huge role for a project called 'adopt a light' aimed at lighting up the whole of Nairobi. Notably they were faced with the challenge of bringing light to the most densely populated slum areas of the city, which improved security and quality of life.

I am humbled to find that we take for granted basic utilities such as streetlighting and how those things can

have such profound effects, and feel proud to know that my grandfather had such a big part to play in delivering safety to his home city.

Retiring from the government at age 50, Grandad continued to work in larger projects including abroad in countries such as South Sudan. Amazingly he still continues to work today at age 68.

Of equal importance to his challenging and time-consuming career were his five children and my Cucu (grandmother Rosemary). He is a very family oriented person with a steadfast commitment to his Christian faith.

Just listening to his story makes me feel grateful for all of the privileges such as easy travel to a free education and electricity or streetlighting that people like him didn't have when he was little. This drove him to create the best future for himself with his unwavering work ethic and unyielding mind, and this motivates me to follow that same self-motivation. He puts his family first and I am grateful to him for his love and dedication.

Asante Guka

Muruthi, Year 7





YOUTH SPEAKS 2025

This year's annual public speaking competition, organised by The Rotary Club and Whitby School, went ahead on a freezing Friday 21 November, and was a lesson in overcoming adversity to achieve outstanding success!

Sadly, three of the six teams who entered this year could not take part, due to the wintry conditions: one from Fyling Hall School and two from Whitby; and the third team was a union of individuals from two other teams, who decided to get together and 'make the best of it' - with true Yorkshire Grit, adaptability and teamwork.

Each team had actually chosen the same topic from a list of ten – and debated the issue of “*There are more than enough people living in this country without welcoming more in the form of refugees.*” The first speaker in the team of three was the Chairperson, whose principal job was to greet the audience, introduce the topic and the team, charmingly oversee the structure of the proceedings and thank everyone for listening, taking part and organising the event.

Then the Proposer would speak for five minutes, trying to persuade the audience and judges that the statement was a correct and reasonable one – followed by the Opposer, who would do his/her utmost to persuade the audience that the statement was false and unreasonable. At the end, a Rotarian challenged the team with a probing question.

First to be drawn out of the hat was ‘*The Three Jolly Sailors*’, Alexander as Chairperson, Isabel as Proposer and Anna as Opposer. These three Year 8s had the difficult task of going first and were truly superb, having pretty much memorised their speeches, not needing their prompt cards much at all. Alex was engaging and witty, Isabel's vocabulary and research was impressive and Anna was personable and persuasive. They have shown extremely good teamwork and organisation throughout the four weeks they had to compose their speeches and practise their performances, and it paid off on the night, with all three gaining very high marks.





The second team, *'The Fugees #2'*, was more senior, and two of them had experience of this competition before. Year 10 pupil, Xavier, as Chair, had set himself the goal of not needing any notes this year – he spoke with a maturely unhurried pace, using a very engaging and humorous style to delight the audience. He introduced his newcomer teammate, Year 9 Proposer Lexi, who was extremely fluent and confident, and dealt with some unfortunate noises from the audience very skilfully, using some excellent rhetoric and imagery in her speech. Christine, another Year 10 pupil, gave a superb reply as Opposer, and showed a very clever balance between authority and humour, information and emotion, formality and informality throughout. She used assured metalanguage (changes in tone and emphasis, body language and facial expressions) to augment her thoughtful message and, in so doing, was awarded the Best Individual Speaker award.

The final threesome, *'Borderline Brilliant'*, lived up to their name and deserved no less applause, as they showed great courage and charisma, in being an amalgam of two incomplete teams. Year 7 pupil Matei (speaking in his second language) was delightfully positive and endearingly polite as Chair, showing a remarkable potential for future triumphs. He was ably assisted by two Year 9s who stepped into the breach – Molly was sad that no-one got to hear her own,

excellent speech about the dangers of guns, but she put together a quick speech and delivered it with fluency and clarity. Jude, introducing himself as Laura (whom he had stood in for) with a comically appreciated poker-face was similarly skilful in his last-minute improvisation.

Though disappointed that some pupils could not take part, I for one thoroughly enjoyed the spectacle and felt very proud of these impressive young people, tackling a challenge that so many adults would be fearful of doing. I know it was thoroughly enjoyed by Mrs Caddell and Mrs Boyd (who was in charge of the refreshments and who had helped to arrange the event, in conjunction with The Rotarians). Many thanks to Mr Stones of the Rotary Club, and his colleagues, who judged, encouraged and gave some useful feedback to the pupils – and heartfelt thanks to the pupils and parents who supported their friends and children.

I am hoping the pupils will want to continue to meet on a weekly basis, as a Debating Club, and that we can arrange 'fixtures' with local schools throughout the year. If anyone would like to join us, we meet on Wednesday lunchtimes in Room 1 at the Airy Hill site, and in the library of the Prospect Hill site on Fridays after school.

Mr Brindle





CRICKET SUCCESS

Year 7 pupil and keen cricketer Essie has just been selected for Yorkshire County Cricket Club's Early Engagement Programme (EEP) for 2026. This is following participation in observation days where it was necessary for Essie to showcase her hardball cricket experience. The programme itself identifies future talent with opportunities to be considered for regional and county age group squads through the talent pathway. Essie will now be involved in a formal winter and summer programme.

This is a huge achievement for Essie and we are extremely proud of her and her motivation to pursue her ambitions. She is showing some real potential and we're excited to see where this next year of cricket takes her.

Photo: Essie at Whitby Cricket Club Presentation Evening where she won player of the year.



Poetry Corner

The leaves that once stood flourished now begin to fall
While the squirrels gather their haul
Everyone pops the prosecco corks
As the fires spark for Guy Fawkes
Then everyone puts on a cosy shawl
As they set off on crispy autumn walks

The blanket of frost arrives
And the animals begin to hide
The elves are working hard to make every one's day
As Santa climbs aboard his sleigh
Everyone puts up a colourful Christmas tree
And presents are opened with smiles of glee.

As the sparkly snow begins to melt
And Santa takes off his red coat made of felt
The days begin to get longer
While the baby animals get stronger
As the world watches with wonder
And April brings the humid thunder.

Flowers begin to bloom
The water animals swim down the flume
The fruits begin to get picked off the trees
And the honey is pollinated by the bees
Beaches are flooded with crowds
And the sun clears away all the clouds.

Serenity and Caitlin, Year 9



DANCE FESTIVAL

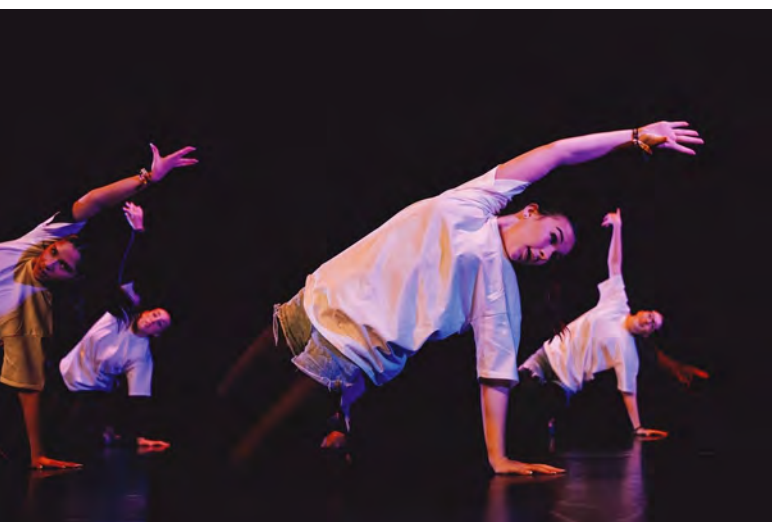


At the beginning of November the Year 10 BTEC Dancers were invited to perform at the very prestigious 'Everybody Dance Festival' at the York Theatre Royal. This was a fantastic opportunity to work with professional dancers and perform in such a wonderful theatre. The pupils left school at 9.00am to take part in a contemporary workshop and a technical rehearsal on the stage. There was time to speak to some of the other dance groups and watch their rehearsals.

The evening performance was a great success and all the dancers performed beautifully. The theme of the festival was to look at different cultures. The Year 10s, along with Mrs Alderson created a piece all about going on holiday. The hustle and bustle of the airport, to being on the plane to finally reaching the holiday destination.

Mrs Alderson would like to thank all the parents who were able to come and support the dancers by coming all the way to York to see the performance.





Whitby School presents a:

WINTER PERFORMING ARTS EVENING

Wednesday 10 December,
6.00pm

Prospect Hill Site, Main Hall

Admission by donation. Refreshments.



Whitby
School



ATTENDANCE FOCUS EVERY DAY COUNTS!

If your child is unwell and unfit to learn, please can you ensure that the reason for absence is reported by 9.00am on each day of absence. Ideally this should be done via the My Child at School app or by calling school and choosing option 1 to leave a voicemail.

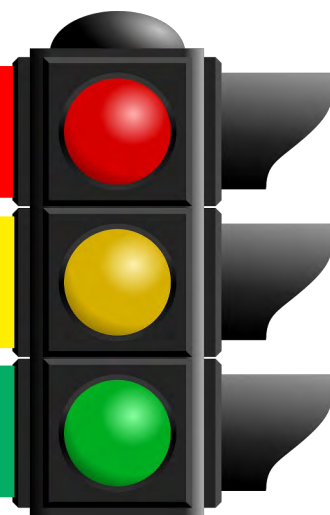
If we have not received a reason for absence in a timely manner, a home visit may be made by Mrs Taylor (Care and Achievement Coordinator for Attendance) for safeguarding purposes.

As you will be aware schools are not permitted to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If it is necessary for a holiday in term time to be taken, please complete a leave of absence request form (can be collected from reception at both sites), stating your reasons/ exceptional circumstances, so that these can be considered. Schools are not able to authorise a leave of absence retrospectively, so it is important that a request is made in advance.

Below 90%
Serious Concern.
Persistent Absence.

90-95.9%
Concern.
Low Attendance.

At least 96%
Expected
Attendance.



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!

Please can you notify school if your child will be late due to a medical appointment. If we do not receive notification, your child's arrival will be marked as late in line with school's policy and may result in sanctions being issued.

Thank you for your continued support.





SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: GEOGRAPHY

What will I study?

Geography is the eyes of the world - we see so many things in our daily lives and often appreciate our surroundings without understanding how interconnected our world is. A-level geography aims to allow us to see more clearly how our lives are affected by the environment and development of countries. Understanding the risk of buying a home near a river; of how quickly Hurricane Irma devastated the Caribbean and the aid needed to help, or to simply gaining an awareness that migration will continue and increase as our world moves towards ten billion people.

What do students do afterwards?

Geography at Whitby School teaches more than just A-level, we aim to give you the research skills to be successful at university, bridging the gap between your

school and university education. The world in which we live is likely to change more in the next fifty years than it has ever done before. Geography explains why, and helps to prepare you for those changes. The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking across topics such as hazards, international development, coastal systems and carbon cycles; geographical studies fosters these qualities and provides a firm basis for life-long learning. Geography involves the study of both natural and social sciences; it is seen as the 'bridge' between the sciences and the arts, leading to degrees in human or physical geography or geo-sciences, and employment ranging from marine biosphere conservation to town planner and tourism.





REVISION FOCUS: HISTORY

Seneca Learning includes the units and topics you need for each paper.

BBC Bitesize - remember to focus on the FOUR units we do.

GCSE Pod has some good audio podcasts.

For the Cold War and Anglo-Saxons, don't forget there are some really good documentaries and films available on Netflix and YouTube.

Google Classroom - has past papers and work from the lessons. It also includes exam walkthroughs for each paper.

There are lots of existing tests on Quizlet.

Reducing the units of work to revision cards helps to manage the scale of the content.

Revision guides are available in hard copy from the Department and all good bookshops!





50 WORD MODERN CHRISTMAS NATIVITY STORY

Charles Dickens was a whiz at the Christmas tale – he wrote quite a few more than ‘A Christmas Carol’ – but can you re-tell the original Christmas nativity in a modern way?

The challenge is to write this wonderful beginning of Christmas tale in 50 words!

**Either hand-written or Word.doc to
Mrs Sharp by: Thursday 4 December
2025**

**Prizes include books and chocolate!
Winners will be notified in assembly.**

Think it can't be done?

A Modern Nativity at Christmas

In a humble shelter, a child is born - light breaking into darkness. No palace, but a stable; no crown, but swaddling cloth. Shepherds arrive, guided by wonder; sages follow a star, bearing gifts. Hope enters quietly, yet shakes empires. Love incarnate, fragile yet eternal, begins humanity's most enduring story.



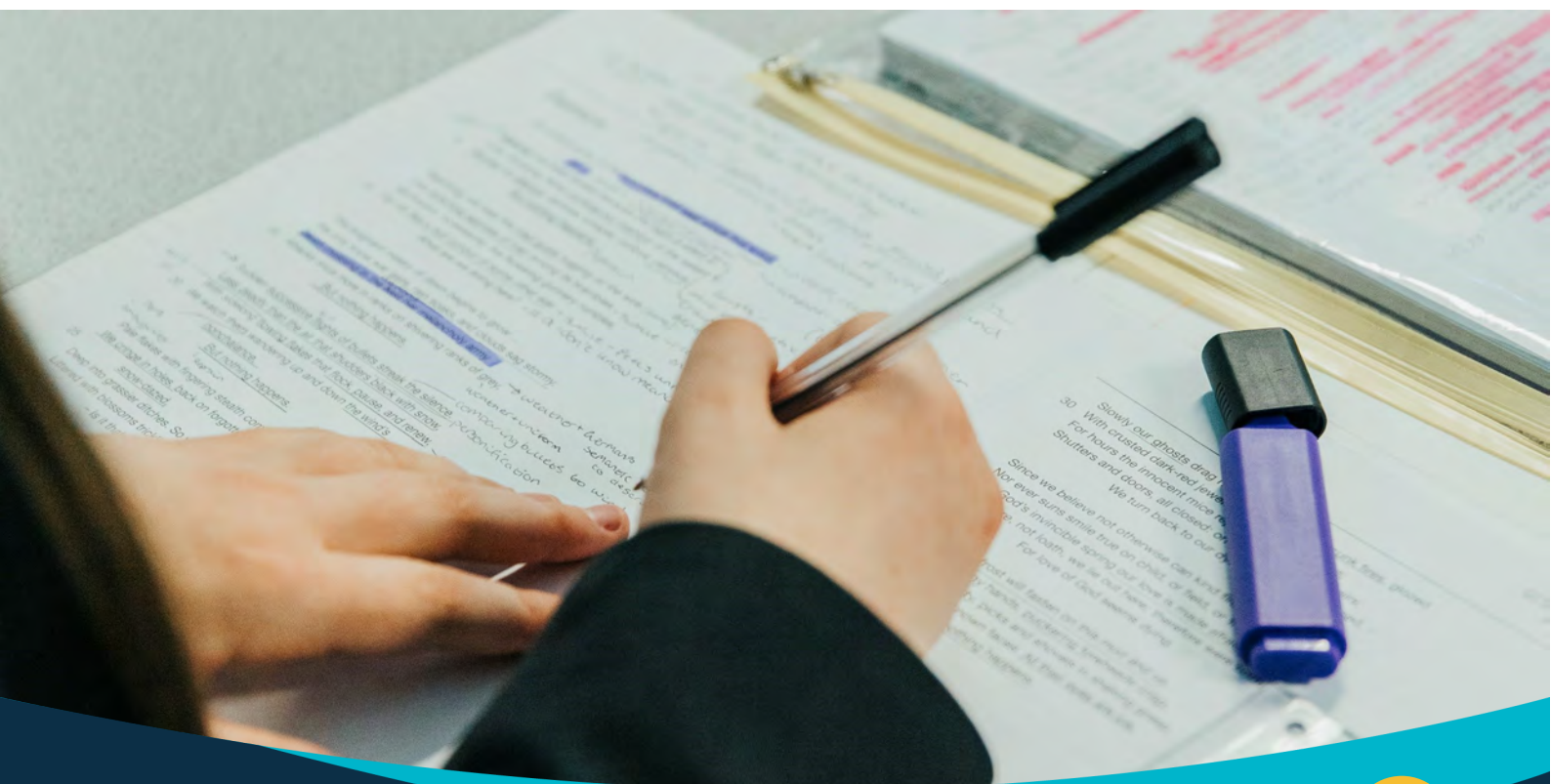


YEAR 11 REVISION CLASSROOMS

	CLASS CODES	REVISION WEBSITES
ART	Y11 Art Resources and Revision 7qwexhc	Resources are in this general Y11 Classroom, they will need to join. This is different to their individual class, Classrooms.
BTEC SPORT	bi4562nq	theeverlearner
DRAMA	nuaj5yb - this is a general Classroom but all revision will be made available on here in a specific section.	eduqas bitesize
ENGINEERING MANUFACTURING	All 3 classes - bbnvp4gg	Revision will be on Classroom.
ENGINEERING DESIGN	11A//Ed1 - 4n4ouao 11C/Ed1 - 7fd2t2d	Revision will be on Classroom.
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING	11A/Ca1 - wozur4o 11D/Ca1 - l2lp7zy	Revision will be on Classroom.
ENGLISH	zqejqr3	Loads of revision resources on Classroom.
FRENCH	11A q754ps4	All links are on the Google Classroom.
GEOGRAPHY	zmlwvlb - GCSE Past Papers and Mark Scheme jsekvhj - Topic Revision Resources	Geography Google Site (intranet)
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	mbrzgd4b Pupils are working on HSC coursework until 1 December. R032 Principles of care in HSC is the exam unit of work. A revision schedule will be posted in December.	A revision work book is posted on Classroom under the unit title RO32.
HISTORY	All Year 11 History pupils are now on the same Google Classroom page. Revision materials will be put on here. vw5jqy	Pupils are being directed towards Seneca Learning for Home Learning Revision. Teachers are checking this weekly and putting on negatives for those not completing it. We are also selling revision guides through the department.



	CLASS CODES	REVISION WEBSITES
MATHS	All pupils have been added to the Classroom already. eujrl6ow	Revision materials in the google classroom, papers, revision tracker etc. Sparx - weekly homework on here and the option for independent learning. Mathsgenie - past papers, revision by topic with videos, questions and answers. on maths - good for self marking questions.
MUSIC	All pupils are on Classroom.	Eduqas Digital Educational Resources
RS	yvbygqn	
GCSE PE OCR	Mrs Scales l7y7mwf Mr Mastrodonardo pqnvhn3	YouTube The EverLearner GCSE Pod Resources on Classroom go to 'classwork - all-topics - exams and revision'.
SPORTS STUDIES OCR	fcpdrh6	The EverLearner
BUSINESS	hgzt5m	
SCIENCE	All pupils added on Classroom d5j65f3	Lots of revision resources on the Classroom.





NOTICES

Sixth Form Bursary

If your child is in the Sixth Form and in receipt of free school meals, or your household income is below £28,000, they are eligible to apply for the bursary to support their Sixth Form studies. Further information and application forms are available from the Sixth Form team.

Rescheduled Parents' Evenings

Parents of pupils in 11T1, 11T2, 11T3 and 11T4 only.

We have rescheduled your Parents' Evening which we had to cancel due to weather. It will now take place on **Thursday 11 December, 4.00-6.00pm**. Your previous appointment times will stand. If you are now unable to make those appointments please contact us at post@whitbyschool.co.uk.
Thank you for your understanding.

Year 12/13 Parents' Evening will now take place on **Thursday 15 January, 4.00-6.00pm**. Apologies for the inconvenience. We will contact you shortly after the Christmas break to arrange appointments.

Christmas Lunch

- Tuesday 9 December - Prospect Hill site
- Wednesday 10 December - Airy Hill site and Prospect Hill site
- Thursday 11 December - Airy Hill site and Prospect Hill site

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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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)
- Health and Social Care Intervention, lunch time (N9, 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)
- KS3 Drama Club, 3.45-4.45pm (Prospect Hill Site)
- Health and Social Care Intervention, 3.30-4.45pm (N9, Prospect Hill Site)

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)
- Debating Club, lunchtime (Room 1, Airy 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)
- Health and Social Care Intervention, lunch time (N9, Prospect Hill Site)
- SEN Homework Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Both Sites)

FRIDAY

- Science Sparx, 12.45-1.15pm (R6, Airy Hill Site)
- Year 7-8 Football, 12.45-1.15pm (Astro, Airy Hill Site)
- Games Club, 12.45-1.15pm (R4, 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)
- Writers' Club, Lunchtime (H9, Prospect Hill Site)
- Debating Club, 3.30-4.30pm (Library, Prospect Hill site)



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

KEY DATES

30 November-6 December	German Exchange Visit to Germany
1-12 December	Year 11 Mock Exams
Tuesday 2 Dec & Wed 3 Dec	Year 7 Navy Presentation and Workshops
Wednesday 3 December	Year 7 Seven-a-Side Football at Malton, 3.30pm Year 8 Girls' Football at Pindar, 3.30pm
Thursday 4 December	Year 11 Five-a-Side Football v Fyling Hall (A), need to confirm
Friday 5 December	Non-uniform Day
Tuesday 9 December	Christmas Lunch (Prospect Hill site) KS2 Inclusive Dodgeball (Airy Hill site) WHISP Meeting, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Wednesday 10 December	Christmas Lunch (Airy Hill site and Prospect Hill site) Sixth Form Christmas Shopping Trip, 1.30-10.00pm (Metro Centre) Year 7 Girls Football at Pindar, 3.30pm Winter Performing Arts Evening, 6.00pm (Prospect Hill hall)
Thursday 11 December	Christmas Lunch (Airy Hill site and Prospect Hill site) Year 11 Parents' Evening 1, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site) rescheduled
Thursday 16 December	Year 7 Pantomime
Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 Jan.	Christmas Holiday
Monday 5 January 2026	Staff Training Days
Wednesday 7 January	Year 11 Basketball at Lady Lumley's, 3.00pm
Thursday 8 January	Year 8 Woman in Black Theatre Trip Year 7 Parents' Evening 1, 4.00-6.00pm
Friday 9 January	Year 8 to York St John University for the Making Waves Programme
Monday 12 January	Year 10 Basketball at Lady Lumley's, 3.00pm
Tuesday 13 January	KS3 Badminton at Fyling Hall
Thursday 15 January	Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Tuesday 20 January	Primary Change 4 Life, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site) Year 8 Basketball at Lady Lumley's, 3.00pm
Wednesday 21 January	Year 9 Basketball at Lady Lumley's, 3.00pm



Thursday 22 January	Year 7 Basketball at Fyling Hall, 4.00pm
Monday 26 January	Year 7 Basketball at Lady Lumley's, 3.00pm
Tuesday 27 January	Primary Change 4 Life, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Wednesday 28 January	Year 11 County Basketball Final at York College
Thursday 29 January	Reserve Hockey at Scarborough College, 2.30pm
Monday 2-Friday 6 February	Hospitality and Catering Practical Exam
Monday 2 February	Year 10 County Basketball Final at York College
Tuesday 3 February	Year 9/10 to Inspiring Choices Destination Festival at York St John University
	Primary Key Steps 1 Gym, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Thursday 5 February	County Basketball Final in York
	U-15 Swimming Gala (Pickering Leisure Centre)
	Year 9 Parents' Evening 1, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Friday 6 February	Cocreate Festival, twelve KS4 musicians at York St John University
	Primary Key Steps 1 Gym, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Thursday 12 February	U-13 Swimming Gala (Pickering Leisure Centre)
	Year 9 Girls' Football at Norton College
	Year 9 Parents' Evening 2, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Mon. 16-Fri. 20 February	Half Term Holiday
23 Feb-6 March	Year 11 Mock Exams
Monday 23 February	House Cross Country
Thursday 26 February	Year 8 Netball at Scarborough College, 1.30pm
	Year 9 Rugby at Malton RFC, 2.00pm
w/b Monday 2 March	National Careers Week
Tuesday 3 March	Year 8 County Basketball Final at York College
	Primary Key Steps 2 Gym, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Thursday 5 March	World Book Day
	Year 7 District Netball at St Augustine's School, 1.30pm
	Year 10 Rugby at Malton RFC, 2.00pm
Tuesday 24 March	Year 9 to York St John University for the Making Waves Programme
Mon. 30 March.-Fri. 10 April	Easter Holiday
Monday 4 May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 7 May	Exams begin
Wednesday 20 May	Year 8 to York St John University for the Conference for the Making Waves



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 – 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

Speak Out Safely



Designated Safeguarding Lead
Miss J Caddell



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs J Bradley



Mrs K Mallender



Mrs J Robinson



Mr A Whelan



Mrs H Kirk, SENDCo



Mr M Taylor, Governor



Whitby
School

FUNK BAND



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



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

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.**



Merry Christmas!



December Timetable

All sessions delivered live online via zoom. 90 minutes long

£24 each or FREE with School Membership

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Recordings available for 48 hours (excluding Free Talk)

Decreasing Depression	1 DEC 10am
Raising Self Esteem	1 DEC 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	2 DEC 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	2 DEC 7pm
Autism - Improving Communication	8 DEC 10am
Improving Family Communication	8 DEC 7pm
Supporting A Child with ADHD	9 DEC 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	9 DEC 7pm
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	15 DEC 10am
Understanding Anger	15 DEC 7pm
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	16 DEC 10am
Facing Defiance	16 DEC 7pm



**Whitby
School**