



Whitby school
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 47





HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of our Whitby School Community,

As we approach the end of this year, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for the incredible support you have shown me over the past twelve months. It has truly been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated and caring community. Your encouragement and partnership have made this journey both rewarding and inspiring.

This year has been filled with **ambition, character, endeavour, and courage** - values that define Whitby School and shine through in everything we do. From the electrifying performances of *We Will Rock You* and *Six*, to the outstanding victories of our basketball, rugby, and cricket teams, our pupils and students have demonstrated talent, resilience, and teamwork at every turn. We also celebrated the success of our STEM Fair, the creativity of our Art Exhibition, the energy of our Sports Day, and charity events that raised funds for local causes. These moments remind us of the vibrant spirit that makes Whitby so special.

We were delighted to see the Parent Forum come together this term. Their commitment to improving communication and strengthening the partnership between home and school is something we value deeply, and we look forward to working closely with them in the months ahead.

Looking forward, Whitby School is preparing to join the Wonder Learning Partnership - a step that will open new opportunities. I am pleased to share that colleagues from Wonder will be working with us in the coming year, helping to grow the team and take our school even further on its journey of success. They will introduce themselves to the school community in January.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. Together, we will continue to build a school where ambition drives achievement, character shapes lives, endeavour fuels progress, and courage inspires us all. I look forward to seeing you all in January.

Merry Christmas,
Gareth Davies
Headteacher





HEAD OF SCHOOL'S WELCOME



The highlight of my week has been to meet with pupils who were nominated by staff to be rewarded. Staff provided reasons for nominating them and some of the reasons given were:

- 100% attendance
- most improved attendance
- most positives in their year group
- being helpful, hardworking and resilient
- having great character
- I had a number of 'All round good eggs!'
- lots of sporting achievements - Yorkshire Rugby, Yorkshire Cricket, cycling, sprinting, swimming

- dedication to improving self and application in mock exams
- running a marathon for charity.

This was such a great way to end the term; our young people are fantastic and it's a privilege to work with them.

I wish you all the very best over Christmas and look forward to all that 2026 will bring.

*With very best wishes,
Miss Caddell*





YEAR 7 PANTOMIME TRIP

On Wednesday, some of our pupils traded the classroom for the glitz and glamour of the Darlington Hippodrome for a magical matinee performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

It wasn't just a trip to the theatre; it was a full-throttle circus adventure! This year's production brought a unique twist to the classic fairy tale, transforming the stage into a vibrant "Big Top" filled with daring stunts, hilarious comedy, and, of course, the classic panto tropes we all know and love.

We would like to extend a huge "well done" to all the pupils who attended. Their behaviour was exemplary, representing the school brilliantly while out in the community. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and hear the buzz of excitement.

A big thank you to Miss Thompson who organised the trip and accompanied the pupils, ensuring everything ran smoothly. We're already looking forward to next year's show!







A WONDERFUL WINTER CONCERT

On Wednesday last week, over seventy pupils took to the Prospect Hill stage in front of a jam packed audience of parents, families and friends for, as some described, *"An amazing night of festive fun and music, where everyone was great!"*.

The evening commenced with Mrs Alderson's Airy Hill dance group which got us off to a lively start and there followed all of our musical ensembles, which included: Airy Hill choir directed by Ms Dakin and Airy Hill and

Prospect Hill bands, directed by Ms Beattie. All of these ensembles show fantastic teamwork and commitment as they attend each week.

Some pupils and students, from across all of the year groups including the Sixth Form, showed extra **courage** and **ambition** by performing as a soloist or part of a duet, giving a musical or dramatic performance. For some of our pupils this evening, it





was the first time they had performed on a stage in front of such a large audience.

As ever, our Year 10 and 11 music groups also performed songs that have been arranged specifically for them and some of which will be used as part of their GCSE coursework submissions.

It was particularly wonderful to have our first winter performing arts concert in a long time taking place on the stage in the main hall; thank you to Mr Gaulter for all of the work that he has put into restoring this invaluable space.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported this event. The Performing Arts team would like to say

a huge well done and thank you to all of the dancers, musicians and drama pupils and students that took part and have worked so hard in preparing their performances; you all looked and sounded brilliant. Thank you also to all of their teachers, parents and families for all the support that you give.

Ms Beattie





WHAT HAVE PEPSI AND MAX BEEN DOING THIS WEEK?





ALUMNI NEWS

Erin M

1. What subjects did you study and why did you choose them?

At Sixth Form I studied physics, chemistry and biology.

2. What path did you take after leaving Sixth Form?

After my time at Sixth Form, I went on to study an integrated masters degree in biochemistry at Newcastle University.

3. What challenges did you face during your studies and how did you overcome them?

During my studies, I faced an extremely difficult situation in my personal life. I was very lucky to be supported by Mr Daley and Mrs Verrill the entire time, as well as the rest of the Sixth Form team. They could not have made my life any easier with their flexibility, understanding and empathy; and went

above and beyond for me.

As I am still in academia at a prestigious university, I often hear students discussing their Sixth Form life very negatively; and I always feel so lucky and privileged to say I thoroughly enjoyed my two years.

4. What is your favourite memory of Sixth Form?

I genuinely cannot think of a favourite memory. I found my group of lifelong friends at Sixth Form, and they definitely made my whole experience. However I also had the greatest teachers I could have asked for. Their passion for their subjects, their approachable, down-to-earth characters, and their obvious care for their students. From chemistry trips to universities (and the post-lab Wagamamas), visiting London, winning Christmas taskmaster, to having daily mochas in the library. I really look back on my time with such awe.





PRESENTATION TO YEAR 13 SPORT STUDENTS

Ex Whitby School student Maddalena M made a visit to speak to Year 13 BTEC Level 3 Sport students about industry specific content and real life examples related to our students forthcoming exam on 'Sport in the Active Leisure Industry'.

The former Sixth Former spoke briefly about her educational pathway from GCSEs at Whitby School to masters level studies at university, as well as her career pathway.

Maddalena is now an 'Ambassador Manager' for a multinational running coaching app and personalised running coach. The app has tailored training plans built by world-class coaches, powered by AI, to help people achieve their running goals.

Maddalena came to present and chat about the company from its formation to a successful business with over 150+ staff. Maddalena also discussed her role working closely with well known 'influencers'.

The purpose of the company; demographics and

trends were all discussed followed by a question and answer session with students who said they found it very useful and most enjoyable.





SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: HISTORY

What will I study?

History is packed full of the greatest characters you could ever wish to see on the TV or stage and they don't get any bigger than Henry VIII or more fascinating than the development of the American Dream after World War Two and the tensions which existed between civil rights and cold war priorities. Immerse yourself in the sixteenth century with the Tudors and use the cold war to help you to understand the state of the world today. All of the course is brand new learning and is accessible to anyone with a willingness to learn and a passion for the past!

What do students do afterwards?

In recent years, our A-level history students have gone on to study a wide variety of subjects including history (of course!), Egyptology, archaeology, teaching or any other degree course.

How will I be assessed?

80% exam at the end of the course, with 20% of coursework completed between Years 12 and 13.

What can I do to prepare?

Talk to other students who are already doing the course and ask them what they have done or wish they had done. Come and talk to one of the teachers who will be happy to discuss the content and style of learning in more depth. Send us an email if you can't come and see us. Read some history - any period; reading relevant books is always good preparation.





REVISION FOCUS: HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Unit 1 Written exam 80 minutes - Understanding the Hospitality and Catering Industry

Topics to cover

- **Food Safety and Hygiene:** Review food safety documents, the signs and symptoms of food-induced illness, preventative control measures, and the role of Environmental Health Officers (EHOs)
- **Legislation and Law:** Understand hospitality and catering laws related to food safety
- **Types of Establishments:** Learn about different catering establishments (eg, restaurants, hotels, takeaways) and their operations, including commercial and non-commercial types
- **Business Operations:** Explore how businesses use technology for promotion, booking, and managing operations, and understand concepts like remuneration, benefits, and staff welfare.

Use the Unit 1 Knowledge Organisers on Google Classroom.

There will be a questions day calendar for you to complete this will be added to the Google Classroom as an aide memoire at Easter.

Exam papers and mark schemes will be on the Google Classroom.

Use the past papers to understand the exam format and identify weaker areas, create study aids like flashcards and mind maps.

Exam Tips:

- **read - command - understand**
- **read** the question underline **command** words, **understand** what is asked
- **look** for these command words - explain, describe, justify, detail, discuss, evaluate
- **look** for the extra marks - add more to get more marks
- remember a list even if it is right only gets the 1-2 marks bracket. Full sentences with **PEEL** get you in the top bracket 7-8 marks
- Use Blooket, Quizizz and Seneca to test yourself.

There is a WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering Exam Practice Workbook available on Amazon to buy £6.90.





NOTICES

Parents and Visitors

Please can you ensure that you always enter our school premises through the doors at the main reception when needing to come on site. We require that all parents and visitors make contact with reception before venturing further on our school premises. Reception is clearly signposted on each site.

We have plans to relocate the reception to the front of the school on our Prospect Hill Site which will assist further with this expectation. We ask everyone to please co-operate with these procedures on both our school sites and to make contact with reception directly on arrival. Thank you for your help in this matter.

North Yorkshire Cross Country Team

Congratulations to the following Whitby School cross country runners selection for North Yorkshire Cross Country Team 2025-26.

Year 7

Lilly-Rose G	Otis G	Muruthri K	Isabella L	Issac L	Marnie N
Billy S	Lyla S				

Year 8/9 Junior

Olivia B	Amelia H	Josef S	Sophie S
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Year 10/11 Intermediate

Nico D	Isaac H	Martha N	Dan S
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Race takes place **Saturday 17 January** at Tadcaster Grammar School - first race 12.30pm.



An update on **WELLBEING FOR EVERY SCHOOL PARENT**

Your NHS learning space created by psychologists

We're delighted to share some helpful resources for parents experiencing all the big emotions of growing children.

[Togetherness](#) the NHS emotional health digital learning hub funded in your area. Your family has free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on Togetherness to help your children thrive.

Getting along with family



Understanding your relationships

As seasonal festivities bring families together, it's normal to find some relationships more difficult than others. Learn more about how to get along well and care for your wellbeing by following this online learning pathway.
[bitesize e-learning](#)

Help name those feelings



Feelings map: Free printable poster

Learning to name feelings is one of the first steps to finding healthy ways to manage big and tricky emotions. This poster comes from the Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager online pathway.
[free downloadable resource](#)

Behaviour explained



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

Online learning journey to support your parenting with expert knowledge and practical ideas anytime, anywhere.
[bitesize e-learning](#)

Healthy sleep habits



How is sleep connected to your child's confidence?

Health Visitor, Mary Rheeston, explains how sleep is a key part of building your child's confidence.
[short video watch](#)

Vaccination choices



Navigating parental decisions: vaccinations and other health choices

The Health Visitor's advice.
[five minute read](#)

New baby in the family?



Bonding with your baby in the first 6 months

Watch our short docu-film following the early life and brain development of baby Margot. Learn about how the first 6 months lay the foundations for lots of big life skills. [15 minute watch](#)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



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

- Debating Club, lunchtime (Room 3, Airy Hill site)
- 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)
- Health and Social Care Intervention, lunchtime (N9, Prospect Hill Site)
- Debating Club, lunchtime (H4, 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, 12.46-1.15pm (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)



KEY DATES

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

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 9 Battle of the Bands, 2.30-3.30pm (Main Hall, Prospect Hill site)
	All Year 9 are involved
	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	Year 9 Immunisation: DTP/MenACWY
	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)



Mon. 9-Fri. 13 February	National Apprenticeship Week
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	Digital Futures for SEND Learners, 10.40am-12.45pm - Y8 pupils
	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
	Eskdale Festival
	Year 7 District Netball at St Augustine's School, 1.30pm
	Year 10 Rugby at Malton RFC, 2.00pm
Friday 6 March	Eskdale Festival
	Primary Key Steps 2 Gym, 1.00-3.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
Monday 9 March	Year 3/4 Hockey Coaching (Airy Hill site)
Tuesday 10 March	Digital Futures for SEND Learners, 10.40am-12.45pm - Y8 pupils
	Year 8 Rugby at Malton RFC, 2.00pm
	Straws Cup Football, 4.00pm (3G Pitch)
Wednesday 11 March	Year 7 County Basketball at York College
	U-14 Netball reserve date
Monday 16 March	House Football Tournament
Tuesday 17 March	Primary Quick Sticks Hockey, 1.00-3.00pm (Airy Hill site)
	Year 7 Rugby at Malton RFC, 2.00pm
Wednesday 18 March	U-14 W/R Partnership at Lady Lumley's School
	Year 10 Six-a-Side Football, 2.00pm (Airy Hill site)
Thursday 19 March	U-12 T1 Rugby at Malton RFU
	Year 8 Parents' Evening 1, 4.00-6.00pm (Airy Hill site)
Friday 20 March	Primary Quick Sticks Hockey, 1.00-3.00pm (Airy Hill site)
Tuesday 24 March	Year 9 to York St John University for the Making Waves Programme
Thursday 26 March	Year 8 Netball (reserve date) at Scarborough College, 1.30pm
	Year 8 Parents' Evening 2, 4.00-6.00pm (Airy Hill site)
Friday 20 March	Primary Cross Country - League 3, 1.45pm (Airy Hill site)



TERM DATES 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026

Mon. 7 September	School Opens
Thurs. 22 October	School Closes
Fri. 23 October	Training Day
Mon. 26-Fri. 30 October	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 32 November	School Opens
Fri. 18 December	School Closes
Mon. 21 Dec.-Fri. 1 January 2027	Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2027

Mon. 4 January	Training Day
Tues. 5 January	School Opens
Fri. 5 February	School Closes
Mon. 8-Fri. 12 February	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 15 February	School Opens
Fri. 19 March	School Closes
Mon. 22 March.-Fri. 2 April	Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2027

Mon. 5 April	School Opens
Mon. 3 May	Bank Holiday
Fri. 28 May	School Closes
Mon. 31 May-Fri. 4 June	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 7 June	School Opens
Fri. 23 July	School Closes
Mon. 26 July	Training Day

Two additional Training Days TBC



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