



Whitby School
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 10

2025



Mr J Britton

I am pleased to welcome Gareth Davies in his capacity as Headteacher to Whitby School. Mr Davies is an experienced colleague, holding roles as Head of School and Deputy Headteacher in high performing schools. His experience is complemented by his work in supporting both Caedmon College and Eskdale School throughout 2024. He has led school improvement across the Wonder Learning Partnership Trust since 2022.

I would also like to recognise and celebrate the work of our children and colleagues who with the support of parents, achieved strong improvements in academic outcomes in 2024 for children at both Caedmon and Eskdale school, against a background of significant change. Outcomes that have been recognised



Mr G Davies

nationally as some of the most improved of any school in the country.

I am passionate about Whitby School. Our children are exceptional, they have shown kindness, empathy and respect, are highly able and truly wonderful young people. Every day I spend at Whitby, the more I feel truly privileged with my colleagues to be working with this community, to establish a great school. This is now the only secondary school in Whitby, our success will shape generations of families and children to come, it is a huge responsibility and must be right, as we will not compromise on our vision, mission or values.





Our community is on a journey. We rightly hope that our school will embody all that makes Whitby distinct, our community special, a place that reflects the long history of our town but also provides an exceptional education for our children.

Our children and colleagues - with the support of this community - can transform education in Whitby. I expect change for the good will be inevitable, for this is not about creating any school, this is about creating an exceptional place to learn and grow, a truly special, warm and welcoming place, where our children and our community can take pride in our school. It is our vision, a determination and relentless approach to achieving this goal and delivering upon our promises that must be our singular focus, it is not about one individual, but about everyone working together: ensuring our school is shaped by us, our children, colleagues, parents and the community.

I know our children and colleagues with our support can achieve our desired outcome. Mr Davies steps into the role of Headteacher and continues as part of a wider support team, we look forward to the next stage of the journey.

I am, therefore, grateful to you. Our aim is always one of stability, but I believe change can bring about the good we seek. We will continue to lead, listening to your views and working positively together with understanding that it will be hard but rewarding – ultimately right for our children and once again, we will work with passion to secure the very best education and outcomes for our children. This school will be truly exceptional.

Jonathan Britton, Executive Leader
Gareth Davies, Headteacher





SPORTS UPDATE

Snooker Taster Session

KS4 pupils were involved in trying out snooker as an alternative extra curricular activity. For many their first ever time playing at a local facility which provided the opportunity to learn new skills and experience playing on a full size table. Could we be looking at the next World Champion?





District Champions!

Congratulations to the Year 10 Basketball Team on their impressive performance at the Scarborough and District Tournament.

Every member of the team acquitted themselves with the upmost respect for each other and opposition teams whilst applying a range of technical skills to remain unbeaten.

This performance is testament to the hard work and dedication from the team and the tireless support they have received from Whitby Jets Basketball Club over the years.

County Final next, best of luck to the team.





BTEC Sport Outdoor Adventure

Whitby Sixth Form Students have been involved in Mountain Bike sessions as part of their BTEC Sport Lessons. Development of bike skills combined with the social benefits of being outdoors were highlights of the experience for everyone as they work to understand the Outdoor Adventure Industry.





“It was the best experience I’ve ever had. I’ve learnt about different cultures, how to be independent. My favourite part was going to the schools and interacting with the children. Seeing the wildlife was brilliant and I would absolutely love to do it again!” - Trinny

“My favourite part was working on the school project and mixing with the children. I have learnt all about their cultures and how other people in the world live which makes me feel eternally grateful. The mountain was a challenging experience and I feel very proud that I was determined to summit the mountain” - Sydney

Summer 2024



Autumn Term Review



October 2024

DRAMA TRIP - WHITBY REBELS

Thursday 24 October saw the majority of KS4 Drama pupils heading to Scarborough's Stephen Joseph Theatre to see the hilarious true story of the 'Whitby Rebels'. The play documents (with some embellishments) the tale of a Captain Jack Lammiman who set sail to the Arctic Circle following the voyage of his hero: William Scoresby. The play was an unusual set design and has given the pupils lots to think about in terms of set, lighting and sound effect use.

The pupils were a credit to the school. We hope that this is the start of many more events and collaborations with local arts establishments!





November 2024

REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLIES AT WHITBY SCHOOL

Pupils have participated in a special assembly this week to mark Remembrance and to reflect on the sacrifice of all those who have given their lives to defend our freedoms. We took the time to remember those throughout the generations who have paid the ultimate price, and all those who continue to do so. We thought of loved ones, past and present, and

the stories of their bravery and commitment to the pursuit of peace.

The pupils were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, as they sat in complete silence and demonstrated the utmost respect for the symbolism and meaning of this event.



“The assembly was extremely informative and very moving as it showed the impact and consequences of war and the importance of remembrance. It allowed us to step into the shoes of the people who have fought and died for us in the past and to hope for peace in the future”.

Pupil in Year 11

“The assembly was really powerful, it made me want to cry. Hearing about Mr Thornton’s Uncle Albert, and the men and women who fought at D-Day - it was just so moving for me. And the pictures helped me to think about what war must really be like”.

Pupil in Year 10



November 2024

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN AT WHITBY COLISEUM

On the 15 November, a group of art and culture loving pupils and students made their way to the Whitby Coliseum to watch the incredible art exhibition film by the National Gallery 'Poets and Lovers' which is centred around Van Gogh's most important and most recognisable artistic period: the two years he spent painting in the south of France. For an hour and a half, school staff and students alike were transfixed by the beauty, the inspiration, and the context behind Van Gogh's work as we saw, in stunning detail, his most famous masterpieces painted in this two-year period from the evocative 'Starry Night', to his 'Sunflowers', to the atmospheric 'Starry Night over the Rhone' (which is the title picture for this exhibition).

Thanks to the amazing team at Whitby Coliseum for their warm welcome and for negotiating the generous screening rights with Seventh Art Productions, this first ever collaboration between the Coliseum and Whitby School meant that our pupils and students were able to benefit from and to enjoy this unforgettable experience. This new collaboration means that the worlds of art, theatre, and international cinema will be open to and provide a wonderful

cultural enrichment for Whitby pupils and students and we were delighted to have been able to invite some students from Fyling Hall School to join us for this inaugural exhibition who were all very grateful for this amazing opportunity.





November 2024

A CHRISTMAS CAROL PLAY TRIP REVIEW



On 20 November, the pupils of Year 10 embarked on a treacherous, but worthwhile, trip through ice and snow to reach a final reward. The story of A Christmas Carol.

To start their journey, they first had to deal with the fear of not reaching their destination at all. In a twist of fate, ice had attempted to sabotage their journey. However, our bravest Mrs Cooke and her band of fellow English teachers, fought to get the buses to the school before the clock struck 12....

The children were convinced that they would not even begin to embark on their mission. Fear and heartbreak spread through the pupils like a plague of sadness. HOWEVER, during the final minutes of the eleventh hour... Mrs Cooke announced that the buses were fighting their way towards the school to fulfil the dreams of the many pupils.

A buzz of happiness and excitement became contagious and soon they were travelling in two buses to the theatre. Many, feeling the thrill of excitement, ate their snacks before they had even reached their destination. But more sad news was soon to come.

In another turn of terror, it was reported that the second bus was having great difficulty in their travels. It was foretold that the snowy conditions would cause problems but for a fleeting second it was thought that one bus may succeed in their mission and the other would not!

Despite this, all pupils finally made it to their destination in complete safety. Although, much to their disappointment, they did not get to order McDonald's prior to the play!

Now for the main event. One by one the pupils took their seats. The stage illuminated in an icy glow. And there he was. Ebenezer Scrooge. In awe and excitement the crowd went quiet. The stage came to life. A Christmas Carol began.

Cratchit. Fred. Charity Women. Marley. They all entered to send Scrooge on his way to redemption.

Christmas Past. Mr Fezziwig. Dick. Bell. They told the story of Scrooge's solitary but merry past.

Christmas Present. Mrs Cratchit. Fred's wife. Tiny Tim. They made Scrooge regret and crumble.

Christmas Future. No more Scrooge. No more Tiny Tim. This was the final nail in the coffin. Scrooge was broken... but all the wiser.

He burst back onto the stage with a merry smile and a hop in his step. He donated to the poor. He raised the salary of Bob Cratchit.

He made peace with the world and... with himself.

The audience erupted in applause. The actors bowed and the play was at its close. Every pupil with a smile on their faces. They left merrily and embarked on their journey back to their joyful home town of Whitby.

Angus, Year 10



November 2024

NETHERLANDS SCHOOL EXCHANGE

Twelve Sixth Form students recently participated in an exciting exchange program to Coevorden, Netherlands. The week was filled with enriching activities that combined education, culture, and fun. Students attended lessons at a local school, gaining insight into the Dutch education system while interacting with their peers.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to a traditional Christmas market, where students immersed themselves in the festive atmosphere, enjoying local treats and crafts. The group also explored Amsterdam,

offering a deeper appreciation for Dutch history and culture.

In Coevorden, the students had the opportunity to work alongside professional chefs in a hands-on cooking session, where they learned to prepare authentic Dutch cuisine. They also explored the charming town, learning about its history and interacting with the local community.

The exchange not only fostered international friendships but also gave the students a unique perspective on life in the Netherlands.





VOLCANO COMPETITION

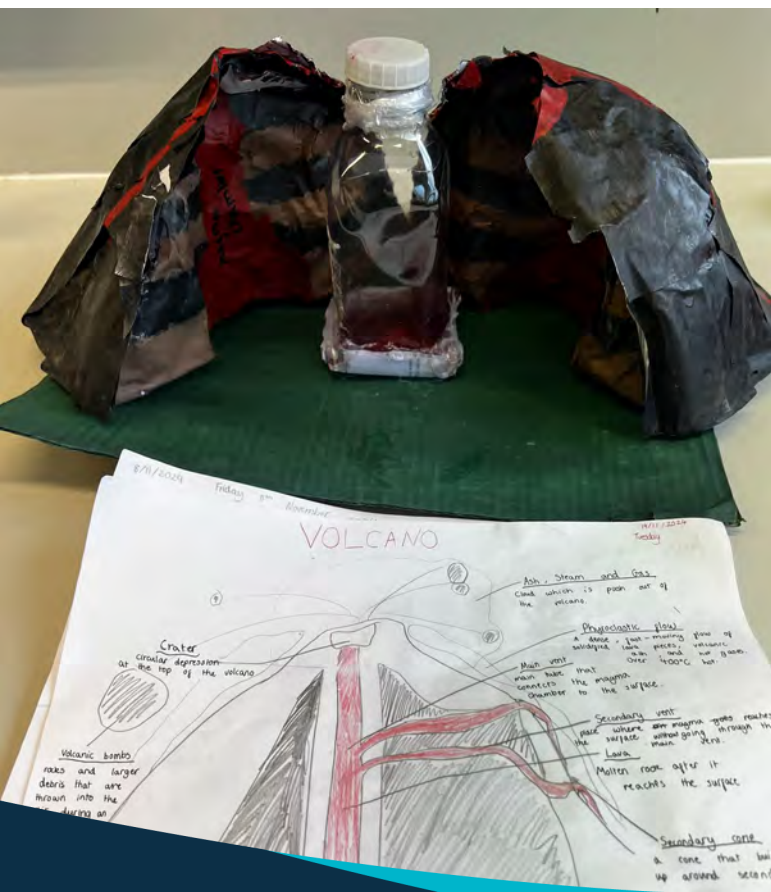


The Airy Hill Site was a buzz of excitement last Wednesday as Year 8 brought in their fantastic volcano models for our annual competition. The standards were very high with exploding volcanoes, light up volcanoes and amazingly detailed labels and explanations of the anatomy of a volcano. Staff were very impressed with the care and attention all entrants had put into their work, clearly showing our values of ambition and endeavour in their work.

Our competition finale is always much enjoyed as we headed to Mr Dulson's science lab to watch the marvellous explosions that even had coloured lava flowing out!

In a very close competition it was Rosie's entry that took first place with Anya in second place. Well done girls! And well done to every entry, we really enjoyed seeing your enthusiasm for your learning.

The Geography Department



December 2024



It has been wonderful to see pupils in our Lower School site settling in to their new school.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>



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	755ojr6	https://theeverlearner.com/
DRAMA	3x3tthi and rlohdej - this is a general classroom but all revision will be made available on here in a specific section.	EDUQAS BITESIZE
D&T PRODUCT DESIGN	kiilgj3 - This is the revision classroom for both classes.	Revision will be on Classroom.
ENGINEERING	11D WJEC - zvri4eh 11A WJEC - zaheclo 11C OCR - yuljgv3	Revision will be on Classroom.
HOSPITALITY AND CATERING	11A/Ca1 - tcb2mfy 11C/Ca1 - 6kbcrdf	Revision will be on Classroom.
ENGLISH	zqejqr3	Loads of revision resources on Classroom.
FRENCH	11C nafebzl 11D vy3aqjf	All links are on the Google Classroom.
GEOGRAPHY	zmlwvlb - GCSE Past Papers and Mark Scheme jsekvhj - Topic Revision Resources	Geography Google Site (intranet) LINK .
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	11A ywybor 11C tqio4me 11D dchewny	Revision will be on Classroom.
HISTORY	There is a separate code for each class and all pupils are enrolled.	Pupils are being directed towards Seneca Learning for Home Learning Revision. We are also selling revision guides through the department.
MATHS	All pupils have been added to the Classroom already.	Loads of revision materials on the Classroom on maths is a good resource for self marking
MUSIC	All pupils are on the Google Classroom.	Eduqas Digital Educational Resources
RS	yvbygqn	
GCSE PE AQA	yezxlqz	planetpe via YouTube senecalearning.co.uk
SPORTS STUDIES	fcpdrh6	https://theeverlearner.com/
BUSINESS	hgztn5m	
SCIENCE	All pupils added to the Classroom d5j65f3	Lots of revision resources on the Classroom.



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.





KEY DATES

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

2025

- WB 20 January Year 12 Trial Exams
- WB 27 January Year 9 Trial Exams
- Monday 27 January ‘Making Waves’ Higher Education Workshops
- Wednesday 29 January Year 9 Pupils’ Emergency Day at Scarborough Tec
- Wednesday 29 January UCAS Deadline, 6.00pm
- Tuesday 4 February Options Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
- Wednesday 5 February Year 9-13 Apprenticeship Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
- Thursday 10 February Years 7-8 Restart a Heart Event (Airy Hill site)
- Tuesday 11 February Year 10 Post 16 Options Assembly from Inspiring Choices
- Wednesday 12 February Year 7 Netball v Fyling Hall
- Wednesday 12 February Year 8 Netball v Fyling Hall
- Wednesday 12 February Year 10 & 11 Inclusive Handball at Pindar
- Half Term**
- w/c 24 February Year 11 Trial Exam
- Tuesday 3 March Year 10 Parents’ Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
- Thursday 6 March Eskdale Festival
- w/c 10 March Year 13 Trial Exam
- Tuesday 11 March Year 7 Parents’ Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Airy Hill site)
- Wb Monday 17 March Music Exchange Trip to France
- Tuesday 1 April Year 12 Parents Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)
- Wednesday 2 April Year 10 BTEC Dance Trip
- Wednesday 2 April Easter Fair, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)



MEET THE STAFF

Senior Leadership Team

Mr G Davies – Headteacher
Ms S Boyd – Deputy Headteacher
Miss J Caddell – 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)

SENDCo

Mrs H Kirk – SENDCo

Safeguarding

Miss J Caddell – Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs J Bradley – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Heads of Year

Mrs A Harrison – Year 7
Ms D Reddy – Year 7
Mr A Raw – Year 8
Mrs J Cassell-Osowski – Year 9
Mrs A Scales – Year 10
Ms A Ruberry – Year 11

Care & Achievement Coordinators

Miss A Clarkson – Year 7
Miss E Hutton – Year 8
Miss K Wilson – Year 8
Mrs R Jackson – Year 9
Mrs H Ross – Year 10
Mr D Taylor – Year 11
Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13



NOTICES

Free Apprenticeship Webinar for Parents - Tuesday 28 January, 6pm

The webinar will cover:

- what apprenticeships are and how they work
- how to figure out if your teen is ready for an apprenticeship or if they should wait (and what to do in the meantime)
- how to help them find apprenticeship vacancies and how to increase their chances of getting an offer.

Sign up [HERE](#). The webinar will be recorded so if you can't make it, if you register for the webinar you will be sent a recording.

Free Unlocking Autism Training for Parents

NYC Inclusion have a free downloadable course or a 2 day face to face course in Northallerton on 5 and 6 February 2025. To book on/download the training you will need to register/sign up on the NYES website and put parent in the job title/organisation boxes and 'attend training course' in the reason section.

Please click on this [LINK](#) for more information or Email: nyes@northyorks.gov.uk or Call: 01609 533222

I'm sure it will be an interesting and informative course.

Mrs K Hunter, Targeted Mainstream Provision Lead Teacher

Year 10 Charity Fundraising

Two Year 10 pupils, Mason Abbott and Harry Horton, have taken it upon themselves to raise money in two different ways for two different charities.

Mason has pledged to complete a marathon in January to support prostate cancer. He has already completed over the 26 miles and continues to challenge himself to run further.

Inspired by his friend, Harry is *walking in the light* raising funds for Blood Cancer UK.

We have celebrated their achievements so far in assembly this week and if anyone would like to support them please ask them for links to their fundraising pages. We are all very proud of them.

Mrs Scales