



Whitby School  
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 13







## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



It was a pleasure to welcome Year 9 parents and carers into school this week for our Options Evening. At the same time, I am working with my colleagues to interview our Year 11 following their mock examinations to talk about their next steps and to see how we can support them with their revision. With this in mind, my assembly for Year 11 this week was about aiming high. Ambition is one of our school values after all.

How we manage our child's expectations, ambitions, and hopes for the future can be very challenging as a parent. I remember my youngest son asking me some years ago if I thought he could be an astronaut when he grew up. I remember being asked that once in a careers lesson and I knew from researching it that to be astronaut requires at least a degree in physics, engineering or biology – and sometimes even a PhD. I also knew that even if you meet the entry requirements, you only have a 0.6% chance of being selected.

This is why I told Year 11 about the story of Katherine Johnson - one of my heroes - in assembly this week. She was born in 1910 in West Virginia, USA. As a child she showed great promise in mathematics. However, the district she lived in did not allow African American children a free education after the age of 13. Her father, a farmer, was keen to help her with her education. He had huge belief in his daughter. He would tell her:

**“You are no better than anyone else. And no one is better than you.”**

He worked long hours and many jobs to send both Katherine and her mother to live 125 miles away – just over the county line – so she could attend school. In fact, she went to university – and then became a teacher. A great achievement - however, her story doesn't end there.

During World War 2 many men lost their lives and as a result, some jobs that had been only for men became available to women. In 1952 she started working for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics – later called NASA. She was a “computer” – a term for someone who does mathematics. In fact, computers are given that name because when they were invented, this was the job they were created to replace.

The computers were segregated by race. Katherine worked with other African American computers. The laws at the time meant separate toilets, cafeterias and even different seats on the buses depending on the colour of a person's skin. Nevertheless, Katherine worked so hard and was so good at calculations that one day she found herself loaned out to the Flight Research Division: a top secret team set up with one aim: to beat the Russians into space. She soon finds herself being invited to the previously all male, all white meetings.

Sadly, in 1956 her husband died, but Katherine continued to work while raising her three children as a single mother. At NASA she starts working on



determining azimuth angles – the exact calculations needed to send a rocket into orbit. Getting the calculation wrong would mean astronauts could come crashing to earth – or spiral off into space forever, never to return.

When this is accomplished, she helps devise the calculations that send the first ship to the moon. Imagine the complexity of that. The moon is far further away than it seems. Each of the planets in the solar system could fit between the Earth and the moon and still have space left over. On top of that, it is orbiting the earth at just over a thousand kilometers a second. Katherine and her team need to calculate the exact timing, angles and speed to get there – and back.

And they do.

This lack of equality and the challenges faced by people with protected characteristics now and in the past is a key part of our curriculum. Katherine faced obstacles due to her race and her gender but she **endeavoured** with **courage** and determination. Her **character** is an inspiration. But then so is the **courage**

and determination of the brave men who climbed into a metal capsule not knowing if they would come back. It must have seemed impossible.

So, to a child who asks if they can be an astronaut – or an artist, or a doctor, or a mechanic, or a vet, or an actor, or a musician – we can say... why not?

**“You are no better than anyone else. And no one is better than you.”**

Shoot for the moon, Whitby. Be **ambitious**.

**We have had a small number of children in school using mobile phones to arrange for their parents and carers to collect them when they have felt unwell without first notifying school colleagues. We'd ask that pupils go to the pastoral team in the first instance please if they are ill – and we will make arrangements for them to be collected if they are too ill to remain in school.**







## DANCE WORKSHOP

On Monday 3 February the Year 10 BTEC dancers were invited to take part in a workshop at Middlesbrough College. This was a wonderful opportunity to see what it could be like as a dance student at level 3. The Year 10s were a real credit to Whitby School and threw themselves into the challenging choreography. They took part in an exciting warm up followed by a jazz style piece and finally a piece of lyrical choreography. The tutor at the college was impressed not only with their dance ability but their maturity and willingness to try something new.





# NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Are you passionate about Science, Technology, Engineering, or Maths (STEM)? Join Young Professionals for an exclusive virtual STEM event during National Apprenticeship Week on Monday, 10 February 2025 (5.00-6.30pm) and discover exciting apprenticeship opportunities with some of the world's leading STEM employers.

This is your chance to explore STEM careers across multiple industries, gain insights from professionals, and learn how you can start your career through an apprenticeship.

## Event Details

Date: Monday, 10 February 2025

Time: 5.00-6.30pm

Location: Zoom (link provided upon registration)

Who Can Attend? Year 11, 12 & 13 pupils and students interested in STEM careers

## Meet Leading STEM Employers

At this event, you will hear from top STEM companies, including:

- Spectris (Keynote Speaker) – a global leader in precision instrumentation and advanced technologies
- Legal & General – find out how STEM professionals shape the financial sector
- National Grid – understand how STEM skills power the future of energy.

- Wates – learn about engineering and technical roles in construction and property development.

## Why Attend?

Explore STEM apprenticeships and work experience – learn how apprenticeships offer an alternative to university while providing hands-on experience and a continuously increasing salary.

Meet industry professionals – hear from experts working in STEM careers across different industries.

Get application tips – understand what top STEM employers look for in apprentices.

Future-proof your career – gain insights into how STEM careers are evolving and how you can be part of the next generation of innovators.

## Take the Next Step in Your STEM Career!

This is a fantastic opportunity to explore career pathways in engineering, technology, and data science while connecting with industry leaders.

Register [HERE](#).

Share this event with your friends!  
Young Professional's [WEBSITE](#).







# COMPETITION WINNERS

Michael Stone of the Rotary Club came in to present the prizes for a recent art competition on the theme of water. Sixth Form student Lily was awarded first prize for her artwork emphasising water's importance to all of us and to the wider world while fellow student Skyla used computer design to create an artwork looking at the moon's interaction with water and how it appears to dance.

Both young people showed courage to put themselves forward to be judged and we are delighted to see their endeavour rewarded!







# MFL LANGUAGE LEADERS

Year 9 Language Leaders meet once a week. Our Language Leaders are motivated and courageous volunteers who have accepted the challenge of teaching French or German to the younger pupils at Whitby School.

This term our Year 9 Language Leaders have been planning and practising the lessons that they will present to Year 7 French groups in March.

The Year 9 Language Leaders will also be called upon to:

- help design displays
- promote competitions
- create and design tutor quizzes
- promote language learning across the school and in the wider community
- give advice to younger pupils – language learning/ homework

- deliver assemblies
- get involved in events – primary school visits/ European Day of Languages.

If you are in Year 9 and would like to apply to join the Language Leaders, please contact Mrs R Thomas.

Am I suitable to apply? What are the MFL Department looking for? We need Language Leaders who are:

- reliable
- responsible
- organised
- respectful
- enthusiastic
- interested
- helpful.





# SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

## Why study a language at A-level?

Because although it is hard work, it's also fun! Learning a language in greater depth is very rewarding and can lead to fantastic opportunities in travel and cultural and social situations.

## What will I study?

You can choose to learn the French or German language and discover its culture - from media, popular culture and social issues, to sport, leisure and family life, to science technology and the environment. You will also study a book or a film. Our specialist language teachers will support you to develop the skills you need to master your chosen language. There is also the possibility to travel to France or Germany as part of your course at Whitby School Sixth Form.

## What do students do afterwards?

You can go on to study French/German at university and find work in teaching, translating, travel and tourism or any one of the many sectors in business. Employers in every industry value linguistic skills. So combining an A-level language with a subject such as business, law or history, to name a few, will give you much more choice when it comes to choosing your career.

## How will I be assessed?

100% exam. In a language A-level you will develop your skills and be assessed in listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will become good at comprehension, essay writing, translating and summary skills.







# KARAOKE FUNDRAISER!

Thursday 3 April will see Whitby School's first karaoke night which will be raising funds to support our fantastic Summer production - We Will Rock You (8, 9 and 10 July)!

Tickets are priced at £3.00 and anyone is welcome to attend: pupils, students, parents, family, siblings. Please contact the reception to put your name down for a ticket - they will be distributed closer to the date

- or you can pay on the door. You are welcome to sing any song (so long as it is appropriate!) and we aim to have a lot of fun voting for the best rendition of the evening. Singers can be either soloists or chorus as part of a group - the choice is yours.

There will be refreshments available on the night and a raffle will also be held so come along and sing your heart out - or just enjoy watching other people warble!





# REVISION FOCUS: ENGLISH



1. Use the materials on your English Classroom. The code is: **zqejqr3**. This contains sections on all areas of the exams and you can find electronic copies of revision guides, as well as other useful materials such as past papers.
2. Purchase a revision workbook from the school office. These cost £5.50.
3. Watch Mrs Whelan's YouTube tutorials [LINK](#) for focused help on a question by question level.
4. Follow the attached plan. [Year 11 Lessons](#). If you miss a lesson, make sure you catch up.
5. The best thing you can do is to know your texts really well. Make sure you have re-read all of your

English literature texts, then make key quote revision cards for: An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol, Macbeth and Power and Conflict Poetry.

6. Look out for the free revision pack that will be coming your way.
7. We never know what will be on the exams but it would be good to focus your attention on the following areas. These are our best predictions!

A Christmas Carol	Macbeth	Poetry	An Inspector Calls
Impact of children	Act 2 scene 1 - effects of greed/ambition	Power of nature/place - Ozymandias	Mr Birling- selfish/unchanging
Importance of Christmas	Act 3 scene 2 - Macbeth marriage	Charge of the Light Brigade - war	Sheila - capable of change
Power of supernatural - ghost of present	Act 3 scene 4 - supernatural  Act 1.7/Act 2.1 soliloquy - doubt/anxiety	Poppies - powerful experiences	Eva - inequality





## 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	<a href="https://theeverlearner.com/">https://theeverlearner.com/</a>
DRAMA	3x3tthi and rlohdej - this is a general classroom but all revision will be made available on here in a specific section.	<a href="#">EDUQAS</a> <a href="#">BITESIZE</a>
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) <a href="#">LINK</a> .
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE	11A ywycbor 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 <a href="#">on maths is a good resource for self marking</a>
MUSIC	All pupils are on the Google Classroom.	<a href="#">Eduqas Digital Educational Resources</a>
RS	yvbygqn	
GCSE PE AQA	yezxlqz	planetpe via YouTube <a href="https://www.senecalearning.co.uk">senecalearning.co.uk</a>
SPORTS STUDIES	fcpdrh6	<a href="https://theeverlearner.com/">https://theeverlearner.com/</a>
BUSINESS	hgztn5m	
SCIENCE	All pupils added to the Classroom d5j65f3	Lots of revision resources on the Classroom.



# NOTICES

## Lost Property

We have a large collection of lost property on both sites including coats and water bottles. If your son or daughter has misplaced something please check with reception.

## Year 11 - Save the Date

The Year 11 prom has been booked - Thursday 26 June at Sneaton Castle. This is always a wonderful event and our Year 11 pupils are excited already!

## Year 7 Hockey Tournament

The Year 7 hockey team travelled over to Lady Lumley's for their first tournament. After losing their first game they showed a drive and an enthusiasm to learn - they went on to draw their next game. With the girls developing quickly they went on to win a difficult game against Ryedale. The girls were amazing and fantastic attitudes throughout; they were real credit to the school.







# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## MONDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus *We Will Rock You* at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Airy Hill Site Band, Lunchtime

## TUESDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus *We Will Rock You* at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Sixth Form Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (M2)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill site Fitness Suite)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

## WEDNESDAY

- Choir, Lunchtime (Airy Hill Site)
- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus *We Will Rock You* at Airy Hill Site (R17)
- Year 11 Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (Higher in room H7; Foundation in room S2)
- Wednesdays and Thursdays after school (alternating days) After school Drama Club for Airy Hill Site - Main Hall; after school rehearsals for main cast *WWRY*

## THURSDAY

- Funk Band, lunchtimes (Prospect Hill Site)
- Music Theory, before school (Prospect Hill Site)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill Site Fitness Suite)
- Year 11 German Help, 3.30-4.30pm (plus other nights if needed)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

## FRIDAY

- Year 9 Drama Club, Lunchtime (Drama Studio)
- Writers' Club, Lunchtime (H6)
- English Revision, Lunchtime (H6)



# PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2024-25

LOWER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime</b> 12.45-1.15				<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Basketball</b> Gym	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Basketball</b> Gym
<b>After School</b> 3.30-4.30	<b>Whitby Jets Basketball</b>	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Football</b> Field	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Netball</b> Courts/Gym <b>Dance Club</b> Gym	<b>Year 7 and 8 Table Tennis</b> Airy Hill Gym	

UPPER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before</b> 8.30-8.50			<b>Fitness Suite</b>		
<b>Lunchtime</b> 12.45-1.15	<b>Year 9, 10, 11 Basketball</b> Sports Hall	<b>Year 10 Football</b> Sports Hall  Year 11 GCSE Intervention	<b>Year 11 Football</b> Sports Hall  <b>Yoga/ Mindfulness</b> Dance Studio	<b>KS4 &amp; Sixth Form Badminton</b> Sports Hall	<b>BTEC Intervention</b> H9  <b>Year 10 GCSE PE Intervention</b> S4
<b>After School</b> 3.30-4.30	<b>Achieve Sports Club</b> Sports Hall	<b>Year 9 Football</b> Field	<b>Fitness Suite</b>	<b>Netball Club</b> all years	<b>Fitness Suite</b>

Where fixtures are arranged, Clubs may need to be postponed. Fixtures can be found on the PE noticeboard



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

### "CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

### SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

### YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

### FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

### PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

### FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives; talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

### ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit [OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk](https://OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk) for more.

### TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

### BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College





# KEY DATES

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

## 2025

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 - 17-21 February

w/c 24 February ..... Year 11 Trial Exam

Tuesday 4 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)

Thursday 3 April ..... Karaoke Extravaganza, 5.30-8.00pm (Prospect Hill site)

### Easter Break - 7-21 April

Monday 21 April ..... Bank Holiday

Wednesday 23 ..... April All Y12 'Future Selves' workshop from Inspiring Choices

Thursday 24 April ..... Year 8 'Making Waves' with York St John University

Tuesday 29 April ..... Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Airy 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  
Mr D Jackson – Year 9  
Mrs H Ross – Year 10  
Mr D Taylor – Year 11  
Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13



Whitby  
School



Whitby  
School

# TABLE TENNIS SESSION

Thursdays  
3.30-4.30pm  
Airy Hill Site Gymnasium  
Open to all ages  
FREE TO ATTEND

Supported by Whitby Table Tennis Club

# KS3 Dance Club

Wednesdays  
3.30-4.30pm  
Airy Hill Site Gymnasium



# BASKETBALL SESSIONS



FREE TO ATTEND

Airy Hill Site Gymnasium

Mondays  
3:30PM - 4:30PM  
OPEN TO ALL AGES



Whitby  
School  
Ad finem terrae

