



Whitby School  
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 14





## HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



This week saw our termly awards assemblies across both sites for most year groups with others taking place after half term. In addition to seeing prizes given for the highest numbers of rewards, as well as recognition of sporting achievements and other fantastic accomplishments, it was also a pleasure to see rewards for high attendance.

We give awards for attendance because **we are so happy when your children are here**. Regular school attendance is essential for your child's educational development. This becomes even more important as children get older. The Children's Commissioner's recent national study on attendance showed that:

- **78%** of all children who were *rarely* absent in Year 10 and 11 passed at least 5 GCSEs including English and mathematics
- **however**, only **36%** of children who were *persistently* absent in Year 10 and 11 (less than 90% attendance) passed at least 5 GCSEs, including English and mathematics. For children with severe absence in Year 10 and 11, only **5%** passed at least 5 GCSEs.

When pupils' attendance improves, the likelihood of achieving qualifications at the end of school massively increases. **More than half** of pupils who were persistently absent in Year 10 but who improved their attendance in Year 11 then went on to pass at least 5 GCSEs. **We are so happy when they are here** because we want them to do well – to achieve and develop a lifelong love of learning.

School is not only a place for academic learning but also a space where children develop social skills, build friendships, and learn to work together. Pupils who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships and engage in extracurricular activities. **We are so happy when they are here** – and *they are more likely to be happy when they are here*. A study by the **Department for Education** found that pupils with attendance rates above 95% were more likely to feel a sense of belonging and positive well-being compared to those with lower attendance rates. Attending school regularly promotes a sense of routine and stability, which is beneficial for mental and physical health. It helps in building resilience and coping skills, reducing anxiety, and fostering a sense of belonging within the school community.

**We are so happy when they are here** – because we know it will help them in the future. Attendance patterns established during school years have long-term effects on a child's future. Consistent attendance is linked to higher education attainment and better employment prospects. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation indicates that pupils with poor attendance are **five times more likely** to leave school without qualifications.



## How You Can Help:

As parents and guardians, your support is crucial in ensuring that your child attends school regularly. Here are a few ways you can help:

- set a regular bedtime and morning routine to ensure your child is well-rested and ready for school
- encourage your child to attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell
- communicate with the school if there are any issues or concerns affecting your child's attendance.

We understand that there may be occasional unavoidable absences due to illness or family emergencies. However, we urge you to prioritise school attendance as much as possible.

Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring the success and well-being of our pupils. Together, we can endeavour to build their ambition, courage, and character.

We are so happy when they are here because the children of Whitby are independent, resilient, creative, and a pleasure to work with. They have made me feel tremendously welcome over the last half term and I know my colleagues enjoy their time with them.

*Best wishes, Gareth Davies*

**As you will be aware, your child studies Personal, Social, Health and Economic education at Whitby School, which includes sex education and topics relating to relationships. If you would be interested in reviewing our curriculum to share your thoughts, we'd be delighted to hear from you. If this would be of interest, please get in touch via [post@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:post@whitbyschool.co.uk).**





## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

It's National Apprenticeship Week. Do you know how many types of apprenticeships there are? Have a look on the Amazing Apprenticeship website for lots of information for yourself and your child [HERE](#).

Don't forget you can search for apprenticeship vacancies on the 'Find an Apprenticeship' [WEBSITE](#).

Throughout this week we been sharing how subjects your child is studying can lead to different apprenticeships. See our social media.

## APPRENTICESHIPS LINKED TO FOOD TECHNOLOGY

- BAKER
  - BUTCHER
  - CHEF DE PARTIE
  - DAIRY TECHNOLOGIST
  - DIETITIAN
  - FISHMONGER
  - FOOD & DRINK ENGINEER
  - FOOD INDUSTRY TECHNOLOGIST
  - HOSPITALITY SUPERVISOR
  - HYGIENE SPECIALIST
  - PACKAGING PROFESSIONAL
  - PASTRY CHEF
- AND MANY MORE!**



## APPRENTICESHIPS LINKED TO RELIGIOUS STUDIES



- CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES PRACTITIONER
  - CHURCH MINISTER
  - COMPLIANCE & RISK OFFICER
  - COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLBEING OFFICER
  - DATA SCIENTIST
  - PEER WORKER
  - SOCIAL WORKER
  - SOLICITOR
  - TEACHER
  - YOUTH WORKER
- AND MANY MORE!**

## APPRENTICESHIPS LINKED TO DRAMA

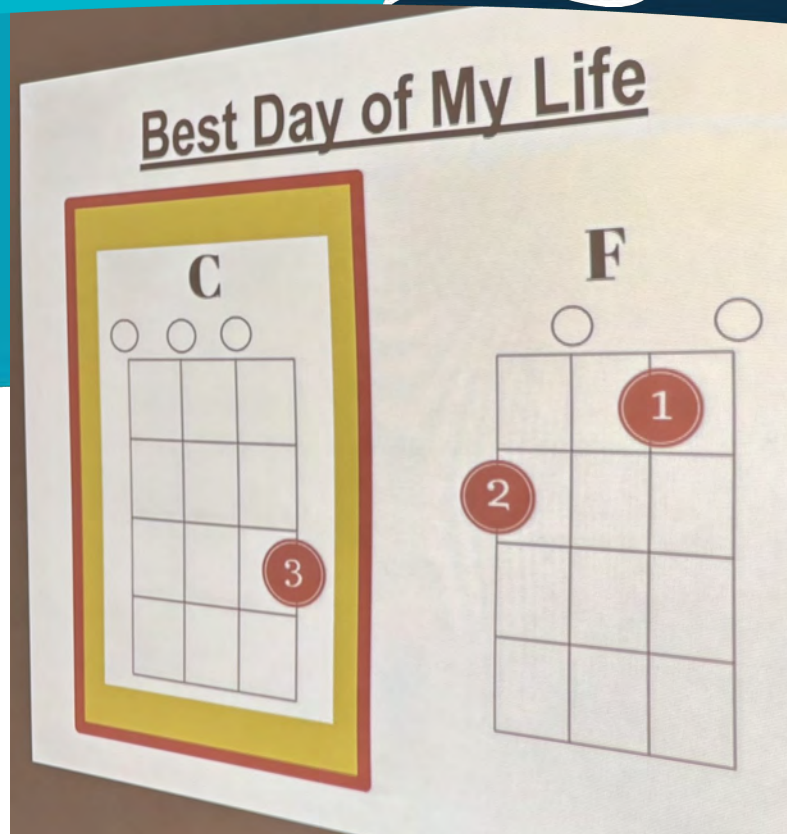


- ARTS THERAPIST
  - CAMERA PREP TECHNICIAN
  - CREATIVE INDUSTRIES PRODUCTION TECHNICIAN
  - EVENT ASSISTANT
  - JUNIOR ANIMATOR
  - JUNIOR PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
  - JUNIOR VISUAL EFFECTS ARTIST/ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR
  - POST PRODUCTION ENGINEER
- AND MANY MORE!**



## KS3 MUSIC NEWS

Year 7 have been learning chords on the ukulele this week in their music lessons. Mrs Dakin was so impressed with 7T2's ukulele skills they managed to play the along to chords of "Best Day of My Life". Miss Clarkson and Miss Wilson went to watch the class play along and thought their effort was excellent, it was such an inclusive atmosphere and everybody got involved. Well done 7T2!





# BOULBY UNDERGROUND LABORATORY

As part of National Apprenticeship week our upper school pupils and Sixth Form students had the chance to watch a live link from the Boulby Underground Laboratory which is a deep underground facility which is one of just a select few facilities in the world suitable for hosting ultra-low background and deep underground science projects. It was really interesting to find out more about their dark matter testing facilities and to hear about other ultra-low background science and to find out why having this type of facility is so important for scientific research. We also heard about the different career routes into working in this

type of facility as well as hearing more about the different non-scientific jobs available at the facility too. They are currently advertising three apprenticeships, the details of which have been shared with Sixth Form and Year 11 pupils on their careers classroom.

If any of our parents would like to come in and speak to our pupils about their jobs and place of work, please contact our Careers and Guidance Lead Ms Mackle at [g.mackle@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:g.mackle@whitbyschool.co.uk).





# SCHOOL MEALS AND USE OF CANTEEN

Please note that our policy is that pupils should not take items from the canteen unless they have sufficient credit on their account. Food and drinks taken must be paid for at the time of taking them by pupils having sufficient credit on their account. Canteen debts put an unreasonable burden on the catering staff and are unfair on those who abide by the rules and remain in credit for the food and drink they wish to take. Please ensure you ensure that your son or daughter's canteen accounts are regularly topped up - you can set up a direct debit to do this using the MCAS system. The school office staff will be happy to help parents to navigate the MCAS system, as required. Payments of cash can be made in school into the paying-in units in school (office staff can help pupils who do not know where this is) on each site or by cheque payment to North Yorkshire Council. Having a debit in the school's catering budget diverts away money from areas that the school would otherwise be spending on learning and enrichment resources/activities for pupils.

## Free School Meals

For pupils eligible for a free school meal, please ensure that your child understands that the amount provided each day will only cover the

cost of a school meal - ie, food to the value of £2.90 currently. It does not include drinks and, therefore, if pupils also take a snack from the canteen at break time, this will mean they will not have much left at lunchtime to spend on food. The canteen staff will be happy to advise your child on what constitutes a meal within the daily allowance. This is also displayed on posters in the canteen. For items taken over the value of £2.90 each day, additional money will need to be paid onto your child's account, and this should be in advance of your son/daughter taking additional items of food or drink from the canteen.

Please do not allow your child's account to get into debt and thank you in advance for your help in this matter.





# SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

## What will I study?

Have you always wanted to work with people? Does nursing or teaching interest you? Do you want to work in the biggest employment sector in the UK? Do you have good communication skills? Are you a caring individual? Do you get enjoyment from helping others? Health and social care is available as a single and double A-level equivalent, students study a wide range of topics, assessment depends on the topic studied.

## Units of study

Coursework - Building positive relationships in health and social care; infection control; supporting people with learning disabilities; sexual health, reproduction and early development stages; the impact of long-term physiological conditions; living with dementia; caring for older people.  
Exam - Equality, diversity and rights in health and social care; health, safety and security in health and social care; anatomy and physiology for health and social care; Personalisation and person-centred approach to care; safeguarding.

## What do students do afterwards?

Students have gone onto study a wide range of university courses, ranging from child nursing, midwifery, social work and psychology. 95% of our students go on to study at degree level.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment is a combination of written exams and coursework; 45% exam, 55% coursework.







# REVISION FOCUS: GERMAN

Mrs Herbert will invite you to do extra work, as and when needed. Please make the most of this, it's like having a "free" personal tutor!

Learn your speaking questions really well. These will help you with the speaking and the writing exams.

Do the old listening and reading exams which I give you for homework. This is great practice for the real thing.

Complete the "Revision" booklet, which I will give you over Easter. This will revise each of the 8 topics.

Complete the CGP Revision Guide (still available from reception only £7). Use the audio tasks - they really help.

Revisit all of your Quizlet sets in your previous Quizlet classrooms

Do some role-play and photo card practise (for speaking) [HERE](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) www.languagesonline.org.uk

This is in the Deutsch/topics sections.

Listen to German speaking:

GermanPod101 - Loads of short video clips related to GCSE themes plus an activity to do at the end, go through the playlist 15 minutes at a time. TIER: **FOUNDATION/HIGHER**

Watch a German film or watch your favourite shows in German with English subtitles. This will improve your pronunciation.

[Memrise](http://www.memrise.com) is another good vocabulary learning website. You will need to create an account.





Moi sans toi c'est  
comme...

Rue sans auto  
Maths sans nombres  
Plage sans sable  
Alphabet sans lettre  
legon sans prof  
College sans étudiant

je t'aime



## 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.



# 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 ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

### EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

### CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

### SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

### UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

### PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

### SKewed PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

### ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

### VERIFICATION STAMPS

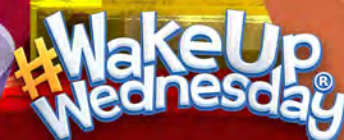
Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

### REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

### Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE ([www.raiseducation.org.uk](https://www.raiseducation.org.uk)) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>



# KEY DATES

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

## 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)
- w/c 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)
- Wednesday 30 April ..... Year 10 York St John University Campus Visit

## Staff training days for September 2025 to August 2026 when pupils will not be in school:

- 1 and 2 September
- 5 January
- 12 March
- 20 July



# 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





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# 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



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