

newsletter

ISSUE 24



HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

As you will have read in the letter from our Chair of Governors, Whitby School has opted to join the Wonder Learning Partnership. I am grateful for the chance to continue working with your children, just as I have been grateful for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful community.

Our aim is to develop Whitby School at a Trust by empowering the colleagues who are already here – the teachers and support staff who work so hard to do their best for your children. Teachers bring the culture of a school to life in the classroom. Support staff keep the building open, safe, welcoming, and functioning. Leaders at all levels coordinate and bring everything together. Headteachers may conduct the orchestra, but the music comes from the school.

I have offered to continue as headteacher until a permanent one is appointed, and even after that, I will still be here to support them. I care deeply about the school and will continue to do my best to help it develop and thrive. I want to assure you that while the headteacher may change, the ethos we have established at Whitby School will remain consistent.

I look forward to welcoming those who are staying with us for Year 12 personally. We have exciting plans for the Sixth Form next year, including personal access to a laptop for use in and out of school, Wednesday afternoon enrichment sessions for all, including sports, arts, and other activities, an international trip, relevant work experience placements

for the students' future aspirations brokered by North Yorkshire Business Partnership, and a school where students are known and cared for as individuals, in class sizes smaller than the national average for Year 12 and 13. We have started sharing these exciting new plans for the Sixth Form with students and the application process remains available via our website LINK.

At Whitby School, we value **ambition**, **character**, **endeavour**, and **courage**. These values guide us in everything we do, and we are committed to continuing to instil them in our sixth form students.

I want to express my gratitude for the brilliant children at Whitby School and the warm welcome and support I have received from the community. Your support has been invaluable, and I am deeply thankful. Let's keep working together to make Whitby School the best it can be.

All the best, Mr G Davies





SUMMER WRITING COMPETITION

'The Kindness of Strangers' - 500 words (or less) mini-saga

Can you write an affectionate, heart-warming, uplifting story that has an underlying message of kindness?

If you wish, you may use the LINK to generate a random first line, plot or scene that you then work your magic to turn into a moving and heart-warming story about kindness.

The writing competition this term is to write a story all about the kindness of strangers. We all know how heart -warming and uplifting it can be when someone you don't know offers you a smile, or holds a door open, or picks something up you dropped. Just think how much more this would mean if the gesture was even more eventful – a note left on a park bench with a painted stone? What about a book left in a plastic cover in a child's playground? Or a box of goodies left on your doorstep?

Use the random first line generator if you wish for ideas and then work your magic to turn it into a moving and inspirational story with an underlying message of the kindness of strangers. LINK

Hand written or word doc to Mrs Sharp by: **Monday** 30 June 2025 - l.sharp@whitbyschool.co.uk

Prizes include books and chocolate – categories for KS3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) and KS4 (Years 10 and Y11).



The Kindness of Strangers

Random first line starters:

He'd had the worst day ever and just needed something or someone to make him feel better...

His best friend in the whole world was an old man named Fred...

It is quite peculiar when a complete stranger shows kindness towards you...

Do you remember the last time someone was kind to you? Neither did I, until...

Kind words can make a world of difference to someone unused to kindness...



READING GROUP BOOK REVIEW

The Whitby School reading group are currently taking part in the Carnegie Reading Prize competition. We read a selection of new Young Reader books and vote for our favourite in June. Our vote will contribute to the national vote from schools around the country and

the winning book will win the Carnegie Reading Prize for 2025.

We are well into our reading now and some firm favourites are emerging. Here are two reviews from our readers.

The Final Year – by Poppy and Eva

When we first picked up this novel we were surprised to find the whole novel was a poem. We weren't sure whether we would like this format at first or not but we have been really impressed with this form. The poem style is a little confusing at first but we soon got used to it. It actually makes for a fast paced read and the pace of action and events makes it an exciting read. There are not moments when the paces seems to drag. The Final Year is very good because it shows different points of view and shows how going into a different space can be very hard for people. The characters are realistic and we feel how nervous they are and scared at times in the story. It is a book I feel many young people could relate to as we may have felt the same feelings of trepidation as the character. This is one of our clear favourites at the moment.

Glasgow Boys - by Ellie and Paige

Glasgow boys is a fun, mysterious book that keeps you on the edge of your seat. In the beginning we are introduced to the two main characters Banjo and Finley although they live separate lives their stories are intertwined. Margaret McDonald uses a duel narrative for the two main characters. Having both of our protagonists' point of view keeps you hooked as we see their different perspectives as the plot unravels. We found the book very easy to read as the flow of the story isn't confusing although it may seem to be with the two separate narrators. Overall, we believe that the book is an easy but enticing read that really resonates with our age group.





WILD BIRDS UPDATE

Further to our previous article on our regular visiting Mallard, Jemima, and her ducklings, we thought it would be helpful to provide some information about looking after wild birds in general. Please note that we sought professional advice before moving the ducklings and their mum, and encourage anyone wishing to assist wildlife to do the same.

Bird numbers are declining at an alarming rate - even the common sparrow has decreased by over 70% in some areas over the last thirty years. Because of this, it is important that we all do what we can to ensure that wild birds can have a successful nesting season.

If you find a baby bird, the first instinct can be to pick it up and try to take care of it. Unfortunately, this can reduce the bird's chance of survival, and you may be breaking the law in doing so. In England, all wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1982 and later amendments. The following is what you can do:

- Finding a baby bird with no feathers.
 - Unfortunately, the bird is unlikely to survive and therefore, there would be no harm in you trying to replace it into its nest as quickly as possible. Wear gloves to do this, however, as many parent birds will abandon babies that smell of human contact.
- Finding a baby bird with feathers. It is common for babies almost ready to fly to fall out of their nest or fly a short distance. Usually, the parents will hear the baby calling and will keep feeding it where it shelters. If you find a baby bird with feathers out in the open, try not to touch it but encourage it into some form of shelter, eg, under a nearby bush. Keep





your pets well away from it and watch as best you can to see if the parents are still looking after it. If you know that after 2-3 hours there has been no sign of the parents, contact your nearest wildlife hospital for advice. If you have to transport it anywhere, ensure that you handle it as little as possible, wearing gloves, and take it immediately to the hospital or vet. Most vets will treat wild animals for free, however, it is best to check first to ensure they have experience with the species.

- Accidentally knocking a nest whilst in the garden.
 Do not try to put back nests you have dislodged as
 you will not be able to secure it as well. Put it
 somewhere safe from predators, such as in a
 flowerpot on a wall. Again, avoid handling with bare
 hands and leaving your human scent on the nest.
 The parents may return and continue using the nest,
 or may build a new nest.
- Cleaning out nest boxes. This should only
 be undertaken between 1 September and 1
 February. At other times of the year, it would be
 breaking the law. Remove any unhatched eggs and
 throw them away, do not be tempted to keep them.

- If a nest is in an inconvenient place in your garden. Unfortunately, in this circumstance you must still leave it until the young have flown off.
- The nest is in an unsuitable place. Whilst you may consider the nesting place unsuitable, birds are very good at choosing the best places to nest. Often, like Jemima, they return to places they have successfully raised young in the past. If you are concerned, the best way forward is to contact Natural England; this is the government agency for the protection of wildlife. If they advise removal, they will put you in touch with a professional who can supervise the removal which will ensure that the birds have the best possible chance of survival. Removal should never be attempted if there are eggs or unfeathered chicks in the nest as, in this case, the adults would almost certainly abandon the young.

We hope this advice is useful. Please do not be frightened to help wild animals; just remember to seek professional advice first.





SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: FOUNDATION LEARNING PROGRAMME

We are really lucky to be able to have a Foundation Learning Programme at Whitby School. This sees our learners accessing a range of different lessons which include, health and nutrition, Russian, English, maths, cooking, life skills, technology, art and music, to name a few. Students enjoy a variety of different activities throughout the week as well as being able to go on a number of different trips around the local area and beyond.

The students have been exceptionally lucky to have received tickets to the recent, 'Into the Film' festival held at local cinemas giving students a chance to go and watch new movies and have access to resources to support the learning around these. Most recently they were invited to watch the new 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle' movie, this gave them an opportunity to be able to practise their English skills and write reviews and take part in speaking and listening tasks which help them towards their final qualifications.

As well as being entered for formal qualifications, students are able to frequently gain AQA unit award certificates, which provide them with certified certificates from an exam board which are tailored to meet their curriculum and expected outcomes.

This year, students have been exceptionally lucky to have a number of external extra curricular trips out, these include Piglets Adventure Farm, museums, pantomimes, North Yorkshire Water Park, the Metro Centre, axe throwing, cinema visits and more recently London and trips to local farms and outside spaces. All of these trips help our students build resilience, encourage social skills, build teamwork skills and provide them with opportunities outside the classroom which may support gaining employment once they leave education.

As well as providing all of these opportunities, the Foundation Learning Group is there to support skills for life providing opportunities for students to become more independent in preparation for adulthood. Students are supported with writing CV's, applying for jobs locally and further afield as well as preparing for independent living in the future.









PRIMARY DISTRICT FOOTBALL FINALS

On behalf of Whitby School and the Scarborough and District Schools we would like to thank Craig Moth, Whitby Town and all their hard working volunteers for hosting our District Football Finals. Alongside our local Primary Schools Straws Cup and Barclay's Shield Football Tournament. Congratulations to all winners and our two local Primary Schools Lythe winning the Barclay's Shield and Airy winning the Straws cup for the first time since 2013.





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

OF RESTRICTION PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence

TNT

GRIEFING

THE THE Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creation This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often

ADDICTIVENESS

inecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork. social interactions and schoolwork

PUBLIC SERVERS AND

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security

ADDITIONAL



Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fe

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care

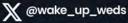
Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.





The National College





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(O) @wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds



NOTICES

Year 11 Prom

The deadline for purchasing tickets for the Prom is **Friday 23 May**. Thanks to the fundraising team, ticket prices are held at last year's price of £20.00. The cost includes a delicious buffet and free mocktail. Sneaton Castle are kindly opening the Chapel and gardens for photo opportunities. Get your dancing shoes on Year 11 and celebrate in style.

Important School Policy Reminder

Please note that we cannot allow peanut products, chocolate bars or sweets which contain peanuts/nuts at Whitby School. Some children, across our two school sites, have life-threatening nut allergies and contact with peanuts/nut products could result in death. If someone has a nut allergy, it is not just eating nuts that can cause a reaction - being touched on the skin, smelling food, or products containing nuts can cause an anaphylactic shock which can cause breathing and swallowing difficulties and potentially be life-threatening. Please ensure your child is aware of this.

Thank you

Whitby Sixth Form Instagram

Follow us to see the exciting things our students are achieving at Whitby Sixth Form.

ws_sixthform



WELLBEING FOR SCHOOL **PARENTS**

inourplace is funded in your area to provide your family with free access to expert learning about childhood development, wellbeing, brain changes, and much more to help you to connect with your children and make sure they thrive.

Here's a quick round up of what we think is great on inourplace this month.

End of term prep for school



A digital hub of resources for parents to help you navigate and support your child to thrive as they move up or start a new school LINK

Navigating nightmares and night terrors

Advice and guidance from Clinical Psychologists and Health Visitors with parent voices LINK

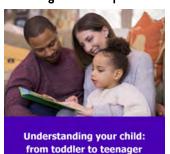


Adolescence: Emotional health for boys



The Child Psychologist and Psychotherapist's view LINK

The child development and wellbeing course for parents



Online course empowering your parenting anytime, anywhere LINK

Expert insights for your parenting



Short films on sleep, toddler tantrums, school behaviour, teenagers and much more

Talking about big world problems

The Psychologist's advice LINK









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)

KEY DATES

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

Monday 19 May	. SEND Forum, Airy Hill Site, 1.45-3.00pm (by invitation)
Wednesday 21 May	Year 9 'Making Waves' with York St John University
Half Term	26-30 May
	Year 12 Parents UCAS Information Evening
	Young Carer Hub, Prospect Hill site
Wednesday 4 June	
	Breakfast Meeting with Beyond Housing for Sixth Form students
w/c 9 June	
Tuesday 10 June	Year 9-Year 13 Apprenticeship Evening for pupils and parents
	Year 12 to Hull University Experience Day
	Year 12 to Leeds Beckett University UCAS Fair
Monday 23 June	Years 9 & 10 Anglo American talk 'International Women in Engineering Day'
Tuesday 24 June	Year 12 students visit Boulby Mine
	Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby
Wednesday 25 June	Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby
Wednesday 25 June	Year 10 Employability Workshops
Thursday 26 June	Year 11 Prom, 6.00-10.00pm (Sneaton Castle)
Monday 30 June	Year 12 students University of York 'Creativity Lab' Trip
Tuesday 1 July	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Tuesday 1 July	Year 7 Hunger Games
Tuesday 1-Wednesday 2 July	Year 12 trip to Oxford University
Wednesday 2 July	Young Carer Hub, Prospect Hill site
Friday 4 July	Sports Day
Friday 4 July	Year 12 students 'Project Dare' at Nestle, York
w/c Monday 7 July	Year 6 Transition (Airy Hill site)
8-10 July	We Will Rock You (Prospect Hill site)

Tuesday 15 July Summer Concert, 6.00-7.00pm





TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 Training Days

September

Wed. 3 September School Opens

Wed. 15 October Training Day

Fri. 24 October School Closes

Mon. 27-Fri. 31 Half Term Holiday

October

Mon. 3 November School Opens

Fri. 19 December School Closes

Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 Christmas Holiday

January

Spring Term 2026

Mon. 5 January Training Day

Tues. 6 January School Opens

Fri. 13 February School Closes

Mon. 16-Fri. 20 Half Term Holiday

February

Mon. 23 February School Opens

Fri. 27 March School Closes

Mon. 30 March.- Easter Holiday

Fri. 10 April

Summer Term 2026

Mon. 13 April School Opens

Mon. 4 May Bank Holiday

Fri. 22 May School Closes

Mon. 25-Fri. 29 May Half Term Holiday

Mon. 1 June School Opens

Fri. 17 July School Closes

Mon. 20 July Training Day

MEET THE STAFF

Senior Leadership Team

Mr G Davies - Headteacher

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)

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

SENDC_o

Mrs H Kirk - SENDCo

Safeguarding

Miss J Caddell - Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J Bradley - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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

SAFEGUARDING



Designated Safeguarding LeadMiss J Caddell



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Mrs J Bradley

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mrs K Mallender



Mr A Whelan



Mrs J Robinson



SENDCoMrs H Kirk



Governor Mr M Taylor



Come & join us at our Scout open event

We welcome everyone from ages 4 - 18 years old, adults are allowed to get involved with the fun too!

We are re-opening a new Scout group. Join in this free

event to see what it is all about.

WHEN & WHERE?

- ✓ Whitby Scout Hall
- (behind Lobster Hall Hotel) Springhill . YO21 1EB
- Saturday 7th June 2025
- 1pm-4pm

CONTACT LIZ

Scan QR code to register/book a place >>>>>







YOU'RE INVITED!

LET'S TALK YOUTH!

Are you a young person, a parent, or someone who cares about future of youth in Fylingdales?

We want YOUR ideas

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION EVENT FYLINGDALES VILLAGE HALL 20TH MAY 4PM - 5:30PM

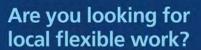
For children, young people, and adults to have their say

Plus volunteering opportunities

PEFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



Register Today for flexible working Call Today: 0203 006 8113 Email: nhsps@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk



We are recruiting for General Assistants in your area, put your skills to good use and work the shifts that suit you.

NHS Professionals can offer you the following benefits..





















Professionals

Register Today for flexible working Call Today: 0203 006 8113 Email: nhsps@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk

NHS

Professionals

Are you looking for local flexible work?

We are recruiting for Receptionists in your area, put your skills to good use and work the shifts that suit you.

NHS Professionals can offer you the following benefits.

















Email: nhsps@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk

Register Today for flexible working Call Today: 0203 006 8113

Are you looking for local flexible work?

We are recruiting for Domestic Cleaners in your area, put your skills to good use and work the shifts that suit you.

NHS Professionals can offer you the following benefits.





rst choice of shifts before agency















Register Today for flexible working Call Today: 0203 006 8113 Email: nhsps@nhsprofessionals.nhs.uk

Whitby Youth Club







Mondays (term time)
6.30-8.30pm
Flowergate Hall, Whitby, YO21 3BA
Open to School Year 7+
50p per session (first session free!)