



Whitby School  
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 8







# ADVANCED MATHEMATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME: MATHS QUIZ

On Tuesday 10 December, Simon Riley and Emma Lees joined us on the Airy Hill site to host a maths quiz. All of the pupils in Mrs Mallender's Year 8 maths classes were involved and around 60 Year 9 pupils. They were able to use their maths knowledge and skills to solve complex problems.







# VOLCANO COMPETITION

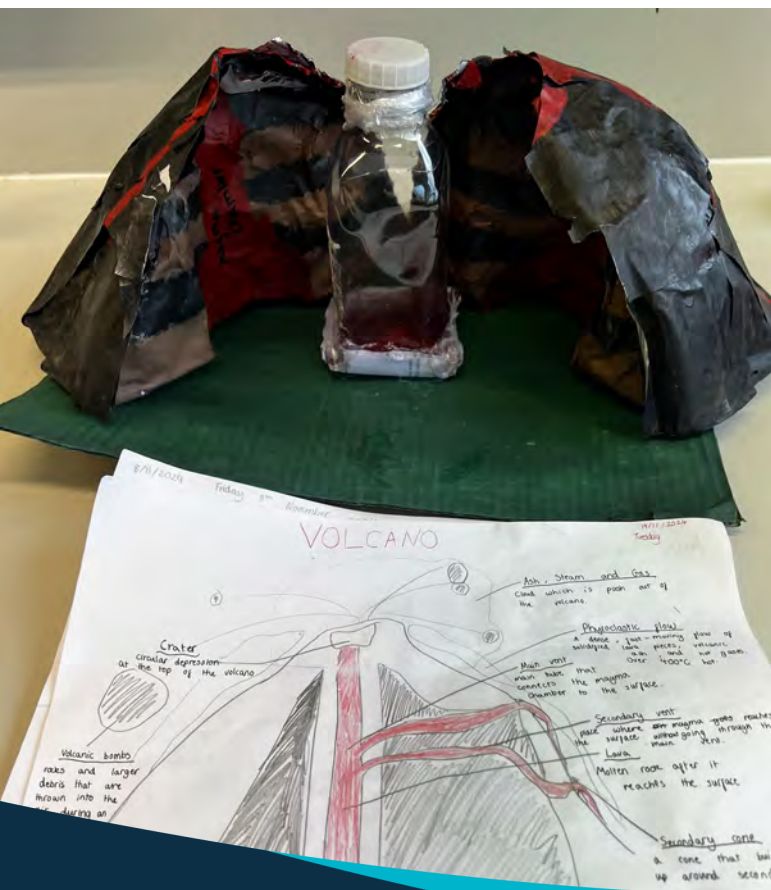


The Airy Hill Site was a buzz of excitement last Wednesday as Year 8 brought in their fantastic volcano models for our annual competition. The standards were very high with exploding volcanoes, light up volcanoes and amazingly detailed labels and explanations of the anatomy of a volcano. Staff were very 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.

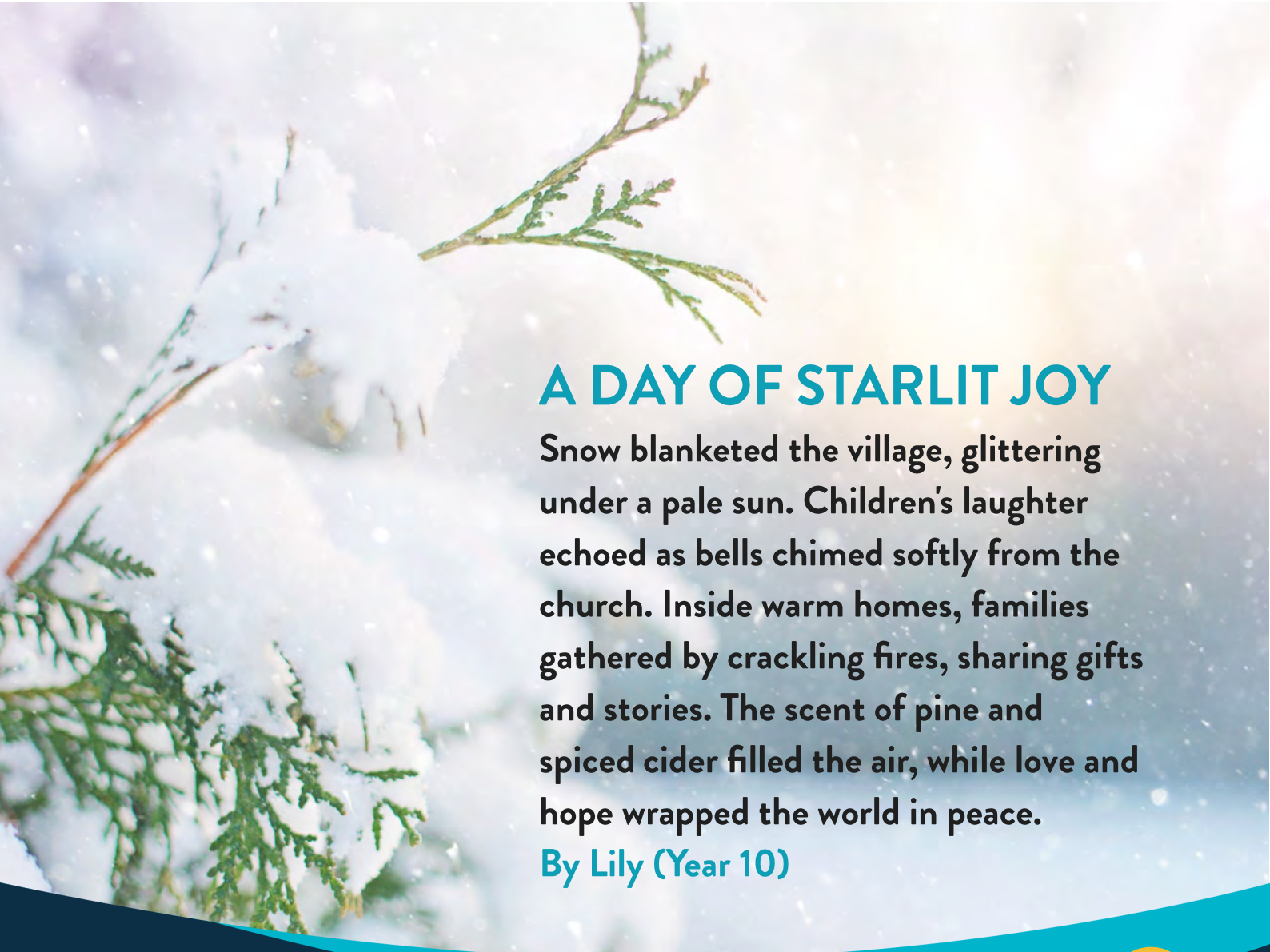
*The Geography Department*





# CHRISTMAS IN 50 WORDS MINI STORY WINNER

Writing a mini story in 50 words is not as easy as it sounds. You have to be very careful with the words you use, what you choose to include and what you leave out! Lily did a wonderful job, capturing the essence of Christmas in her mini Christmassy tale. Happy Christmas Everyone.



## A DAY OF STARLIT JOY

Snow blanketed the village, glittering under a pale sun. Children's laughter echoed as bells chimed softly from the church. Inside warm homes, families gathered by crackling fires, sharing gifts and stories. The scent of pine and spiced cider filled the air, while love and hope wrapped the world in peace.

By Lily (Year 10)





## TRIAL EXAMS

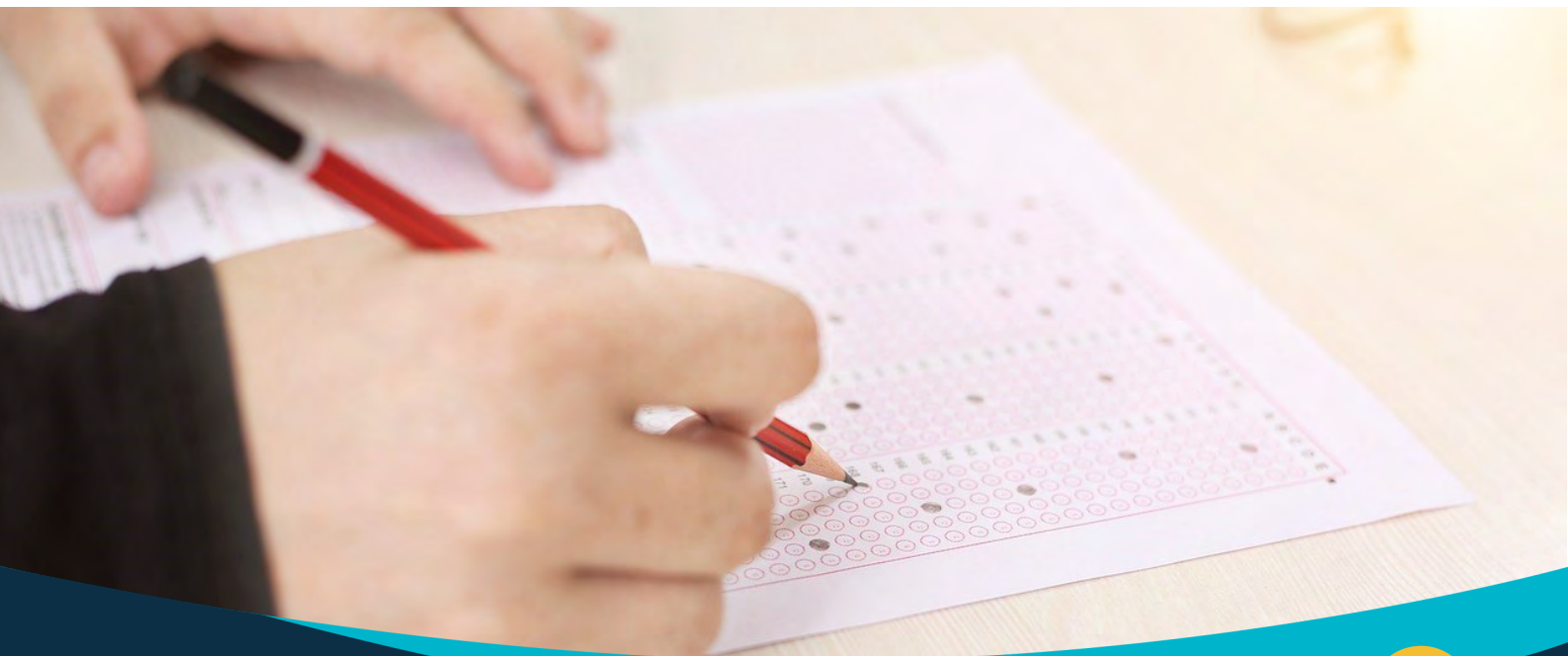
This week pupils and students in Year 11 and 13 have been undertaking internal exams as they approach the end of their courses. These exams do a number of different jobs. For the pupils and students they are an opportunity to experience again the pressure and focus which comes from being in an examination hall pitting yourself against the paper and the time constraints. They also offer the chance to test revision techniques and explore ways of learning the material you, as a pupil or student, have accumulated over the last four terms of study. For teachers, the outcomes are a diagnostic tool to allow identification of what needs to be done; where are the gaps in learning, which topics need revisiting and which misconceptions need tackling.

While internal trial exams may not 'count' for anything they are a powerful way to check progress for pupils, students and teachers in addition to establishing a

benchmark to move forwards from. For some pupils and students the outcomes will be a reward for the hard work they have put in day after day, for others, they may highlight that more work is going to be needed if targets and aspirations are to be reached.

Having the exams prior to Christmas does allow the pupils and students to go into the break as a chance to rest and recover but sadly, for a number of Year 13 students they will be tackling external exams in the first few weeks of January as BTEC and Cambridge National exams are taken. Preparation for these is ongoing and does mean that for some, the Christmas 'holiday' will need a balance of festivities and fun with revision and prep!

We wish the pupils and students taking exams this week and next and those after Christmas best wishes for the outcomes!





# SPORTS UPDATE

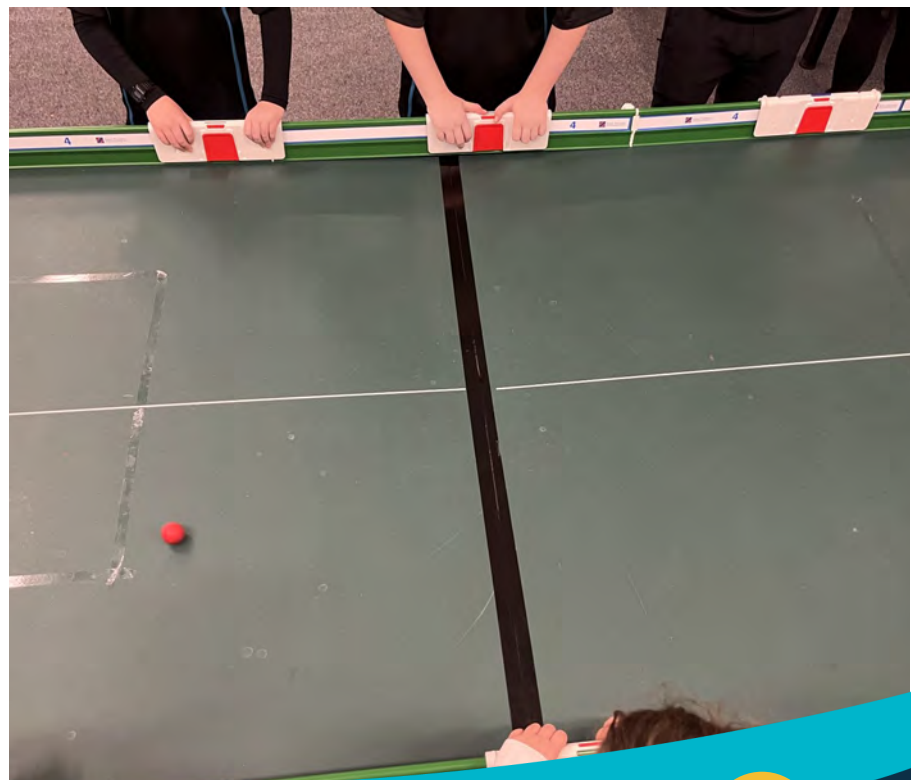
## Scarborough and District Seven-a-side tournament

It was the turn of the Year 7 girls this week at the Scarborough and District Seven-a-side tournament. An enthusiastic bunch who couldn't wait to get started. The girls made a flying start giving us momentum throughout the tournament. So many of the team getting on the scoresheet. Not to be out done by the Year 7 boys, the girls went on to secure top spot! Well done ladies!



## Scarborough and District Table Cricket

Last Thursday Whitby School took two teams to represent the school at the Scarborough and District Table Cricket competition. Pupils and students really were an absolute credit to the school and we were lucky enough to come away with first place for the Whitby Sharks. A massive thank you to the sports leaders from Scarborough Sixth Form for supporting such a fabulous event.







## Teesside University Sport Day

The BTEC Sport Year 12 students had a great day out at Teesside University on the Sport Discovery Day. The group undertook taster sessions of different courses. The highlights being sports therapy and sport science courses. Activities included learning how to tape injuries, different types of fitness training and testing; we even sampled the Miami heat in a specially designed chamber. It was a hot and humid 5 minutes.





# YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING

Year 9 Parents' Evening is on Tuesday 14 January, 4.00-6.00pm. As you are no doubt aware, this is an incredibly important year for your son/daughter. It is hoped you will see as many of their subject teachers as possible during the evening.

The booking system is through the MCAS app; bookings opened on Monday the 9 December. Please book appointments at a time convenient to you. If you are not able to attend in person, a phone call can be requested. If you do not attend, a member of staff will contact you to discuss your child's progress/ attainment and attitude to learning.

Senior teachers will be available for parents to speak to regarding their son/daughter's progress during the evening.

The booking of appointments can be done using the My Child at School app (the website version of this <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>)

For a more detailed HOW TO guide please use the Bromcom [LINK](#).

*Mrs Cassell Osowski, Head of Year 9*





# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>





# SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: CHEMISTRY

## What will I study?

I wanted to start this section with a joke, but all the good ones Argon! If you sniggered to yourself, then you are the candidate for us. Chemistry is the science of materials, from the simple covalent molecules in the air to the oil-derived polymers in your phones and tablets - we cover it all. You will supplement your learning with a rigorous series of practical investigations, leaving you ready for a future career in science - or any other vocation where being methodical and organised is important.

## What do students do afterwards?

In recent years, our students have taken places at top universities to study medicine, veterinary, engineering,

as well as chemistry and material science courses. An A-level in chemistry is well regarded by employers too, as it shows you have the commitment to succeed on a challenging course, and a great capacity to learn.

## How will I be assessed?

100% exam at the end of the course.

## What can I do to prepare?

Talk to other students who are already doing chemistry. If you currently study combined science, it's not a problem, it's been done many times before. If you are worried about it, get in touch with the science department.







## REVISION FOCUS: GEOGRAPHY



The following resources are available:

- **geography department website** (log on through your school Google account)
- **Google Revision Classroom**. This classroom has past papers and the mark schemes, copied revision guide, how to answer a 6 and 9 mark question
- **PowerPoints** for each lesson taught are available on the school's Google Classrooms from the teacher specific online resources
- **key geography terms** which pupils must include to gain high marks
- **case studies**. These are specific real examples which pupils need to learn for each topic. (Kerboodle)
- **revision guides** are available from the office. This resource is good for key terms and examples, case study for quick revision
- **GCSEpods**: short video clips. All are available through GCSEpod on Google Classrooms
- **X (Twitter)**: Geography X account has geography topic news and examples.

### Outline of the summer examinations:

There will be three examinations this summer worth 100% of the final grade. We follow the AQA Geography Specification.

Unit 1 (paper 1) Physical topics 1.5 hours examination

Unit 2 (paper 2) Human topics 1.5 hours examination

Unit 3 (paper 3)

1.5 hours Coast & Tourism Fieldwork

Questions + pre-release

booklet (topic and booklet released

by the exam board end March) plus issue evaluation.

### Key points/revision tips:

- **command words** – these are the words used to identify the amount of detail needed for the question. Examples: Describe, Explain, Outline. (these are all on the pupils Google Classroom)
- **PEE** – **P**oint, **E**vidence (give proof), **E**xplain (explain your point) is critical for high marks on the 6 and 9 mark questions. In 9 mark questions you must give a conclusion at the end of your answer
- **specifics** – pupils must give specific points connected to real examples, generalisation will lose marks. This is where the case study detail makes the difference. Use a range of numerical facts and specific place names to support your points
- **geography terms** – using geography terms such as “life expectancy” instead of “people live along time” increases marks significantly (specific subject terms are defined on the Google Classroom).



# KEY DATES

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

Tuesday 17 December.....Year 7 Pantomime trip - Sleeping Beauty

Friday 20 December..... School closes for Christmas break, 3.30pm

Monday 23 December - Friday 3 January ..... Christmas Break

## 2025

Tuesday 7 January .....Year 11 Basketball at Lady Lumley's

Thursday 9 January .....U13 Hockey v Fyling Hall (H)

Thursday 9 January .....County Cup v King James (A)

Saturday 11 January ..... NYSCA County Cross Country Trail at Aireville Park, Skipton

WB 13 January ..... Year 12 and 13 External Exams

Tuesday 14 January .....Year 10 Basketball at Lady Lumley's

Tuesday 14 January .....Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm (Prospect Hill site)

Tuesday 14 January .....Year 9 PSHE Drama Workshop 'It's not love'

Wednesday 15 January .....Year 9 Girls' Football at Norton

Thursday 16 January ..... Year 8 Hockey (H)

Thursday 16 January ..... Year 10 Hockey at Lady Lumley's

Friday 17 January ..... Primary Change 4 Life at the Prospect Hill site

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)





# MEET THE STAFF

## Senior Leadership Team

Mr D Thornton – 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  
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

Starting 6 January



**Mondays**  
U-16 5.00-5.45pm  
Over 16 5.45-6.30pm  
Prospect Hill Site  
Sports Hall

**GET INTO  
NETBALL**



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



Whitby  
School

**KS3  
Dance Club**

**Wednesdays**  
3.30-4.30pm

Airy Hill Site Gymnasium



**Lunchtime Yoga &  
mindfulness  
with Katy**

- Calming
- Energising
- Uplifting
- Non competitive
- Space to get away from everything
- No need to have any yoga knowledge and you don't have to be bendy!!
- School uniform fine but must have shorts if wearing a skirt

**Wednesdays 1.00-1.30pm**

**Dance Studio**

Please let Katy know if you'd like to attend on  
07586 951066





## ALL INCLUSIVE CRICKET SESSIONS

Starting Wednesday 13 November  
Sports Hall, Whitby School, Prospect Hill Site  
6.25pm-7.00pm

Free of charge

Fun all inclusive cricket sessions in a relaxed and friendly environment for children with special educational needs run by ECB qualified coaches from

Whitby Cricket Club  
Just turn up and play

For further details contact  
Ricky or Kai-Whitbyccjuniors@gmail.com  
or Mr Hopper at Whitby School



## UNDER 16 ALL GIRLS CRICKET SESSIONS

Starting Wednesday 13 November  
Sports Hall, Whitby School, Prospect Hill Site  
5.30pm-6.15pm

A free of charge

Girls only cricket session for under 16 girls of all abilities. Sessions run by ECB qualified coaches from

Whitby Cricket Club  
Just turn up and play

for further details contact  
Ricky or Kai-Whitbyccjuniors@gmail.com  
or Mr Hopper at Whitby School



## BASKETBALL SESSIONS



**FREE TO ATTEND**

**Airy Hill Site Gymnasium**

**Mondays**

**3:30PM - 4:30PM**

**OPEN TO ALL AGES**





# WE WANT YOUR **BOOTS!**

We've joined the mission to help rehome at least one million pairs of football boots across the UK and stop them ending up in landfill.

If you've got football boots or astro turf boots at home that are no longer being used and taking up room – then help us to get them back out on the pitch and save them from ending up in landfill!

Boxes are  
located in the  
PE Department  
on both sites

## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Boots can be dropped off in our dedicated Football Rebooted Boot Collection Box and we will reallocate them within the club or to the wider local community. We just ask that they are still in a good condition and clean.



**THERE'S NO BETTER TIME TO TAKE  
PART IN FOOTBALL'S BIGGEST  
ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENT,  
FOOTBALL REBOOTED!**