



Whitby **School**
Ad finem terrae

ISSUE 3 of 4

Welcome to Whitby School

Primary School Transition Newsletter





WELCOME TO ISSUE 3

Whitby School aims to instil a real love of learning in our pupils and students through quality teaching and learning in a safe environment.

We want our children to develop into resilient learners as we strive to support their personal development and their mental and physical health. We place great value on regular school attendance, which is not only essential for your child's educational development but also for their sense of belonging and positive well-being. 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.

We regularly promote attendance through our reward system in addition to recognising academic, sporting and other achievements. You can learn more about our rewards and attendance in this issue.



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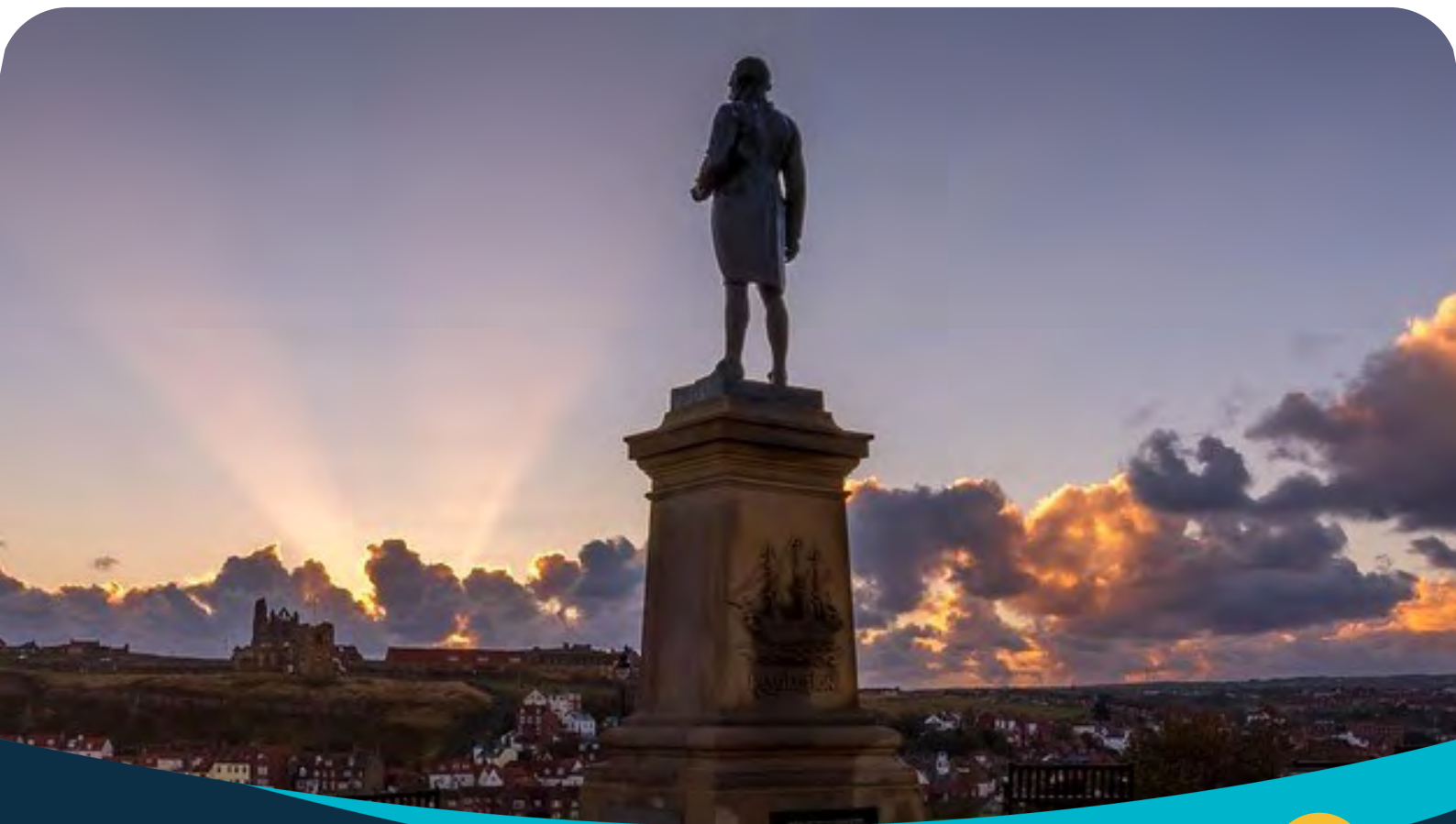
THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Our House system supports our school ethos “I will endeavour to be a person of great character who has the courage to realise my ambitions” and our values of Endeavour, Courage, Ambition and Character.

The House System gives our pupils and students even more opportunities to contribute to the school community, whilst developing friendships and teamwork between pupils and students of all ages. Our houses are based on the magnificent ships used for the voyages of Captain Cook.

Resolution – Blue
Adventure – White
Discovery – Yellow
Endeavour – Orange

We will organise House events, competitions, and assemblies. Pupils and students can earn House Points for actions, efforts, achievements, and competitions throughout everyday school life, and these are added to their House total.





REWARDS AND BEHAVIOUR



Pupils receive rewards based on our ethos and values, and Form Tutors, subject teachers and other staff can reward pupils through our online rewards system called 'ClassCharts'.

The purpose of our rewards system is to encourage and celebrate the positive attitudes and resilience that lead to success in all aspects of school life and beyond. The rewards encourage pupils to develop their sense of personal responsibility, and the system rewards positive contributions that pupils make to the school community. Furthermore, the rewards system promotes a positive learning environment within each classroom and around the school. Rewards are logged on to ClassCharts whenever members of staff wish to recognise excellent work, effort, or demonstration of

our values. At the end of each half term 'Rewards Assemblies' are held for each year group recognising a number of areas e.g. Most Positives, Most Positives for each school value, Tutor Group Stars, Top Attendance and Head of Year Award, amongst other Special Recognition Awards. This is an event that both staff and pupils look forward to and really marks the end of term, reflecting on how hard pupils have worked and how proud we are of them.

Parents can view their child's rewards and behaviour summary through the ClassCharts website and free App, which can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play. We will provide you with an Access Code unique for your child.





YEAR 9 TREAT DAY

Last week it was the Year 9 pupils' turn to receive their ice cream treats. Over 70 pupils had been nominated by all the staff to thank them for their hard work in their lessons. Thank you again to Lidl for helping arrange the ice creams.





SEN PARENT FORUM

Since the SEN Parent Forum began over a year ago, we have seen many changes in Whitby Secondary Education. Originally formed to help SEN pupils and their families understand and adapt to the amalgamation of Eskdale and Caedmon Schools. We have been able to offer practical support, completing documentation and attending meetings in order to obtain EHCPs which in turn provides bespoke support for the child. We have signposted parents to other agencies who are available to offer help and advice in a wide range of areas of SEN, and we have shared personal experiences to hopefully help parents understand they need never feel isolated with the issues they are experiencing.

While all our amazing children are unique many of the problems they experience in school and the minefield of documents parents have to navigate to get additional support are generally the same for all SEN families. This group is the bridge between you worrying alone and finding the correct route towards a solution for you and your child. If we as a group are unable to help, we usually know someone who can.

Mr Pearce from Wonder Learning Partnership invited members of the SEN Parent Forum to start a focus group to give more parents the chance to ask questions and express their concerns. More recently we have continued with our regular meetings and collaborated with Mr Davies and the SEN Department. They have been very welcoming and supportive, demonstrating that we are all working towards embracing diversity and meeting the needs of

all SEN pupils at the school. Some of our suggestions or questions have related to specific individuals while others have affected the whole SEN community within school. The SEN team have also been able to share developments and proposals with us empowering us to feel part of the school community and have encouraged us to contribute towards the positive well being of our own children within the school setting. These have included issues relating to 'sensory school uniform', flexibility and support for children who are unable to commit to a fulltime timetable or who are unable to be part of a traditional class group, appropriate use of fidget items in class and additional equipment available to meet a wide range of learning needs. The staff at school can only put things in place





for children if they know what is required and this group can take problems and hopefully some solutions to the SEN Parents' Forum to enable the school to act in the best interest of your child.

We are aware that in the next few months there will be yet more new experiences for our young people, Year eights transitioning to the upper site and the new year sevens making the huge leap from Primary to Secondary school. For children and families these can be very worrying times and we hope that by offering you the opportunity to attend our meetings you will be able to raise your concerns, visit the site and meet other parents who have a wealth of SEN experience to share.

We will be holding meetings on the last Thursday of every month 10.00am-12.00noon at The Bungalow,

Airy Hill Site, refreshments will be provided. You will also have the opportunity to tour the school if you have a child moving to secondary in September.

This group provides an opportunity for you to share your views and concerns about your child at school and to provide advice and help where we can. Without you there can be no change. Please come along, meet other parents and contribute to making positive changes for our SEN children and empower them to receive the educational opportunities and lifelong living skills they deserve to enable them to be fully prepared for further education, employment and the changing world that they are apart of.

**The next meeting will be
Thursday 26 June, 10.00am– 12.00noon.**

Kind regards – SEN Focus Group





Many, many hours have been put into rehearsing for the fantastic inaugural Whitby School summer production of - We Will Rock You - featuring a stunning repertoire of classic Queen songs woven into an amusing and unusual plot about the far (or not so far) future where all music on the entire planet is produced by an artificial intelligence... sounds eerily familiar.

The pupils and students have put loads of effort into this production and it is a celebration of acting, singing and dancing skills. We are extremely proud of how this has brought pupils and students from both previous schools together as well as across all year groups.

Tickets are now officially on sale - they are priced for general admission at £7.00 and are available solely at

the Prospect Hill site. You can also request tickets by emailing finance@whitbyschool.co.uk and you will be able to pay by bank transfer.

Dates for the show are 8, 9 and 10 July and doors open at 6.30pm with the curtain up at 7.00pm. Refreshments are available with a bar and hot drinks area and there will also be a raffle held each night. There will be a short interval so please pre-order drinks at the bar to save you time.

This will be an amazing achievement for our school as nothing like this has been showcased in quite a long time! It is also a first for our newly amalgamated school and hopefully one of many to come.

We hope to see you there!





THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

Why Is School Attendance So Important and What Are the Risks of Missing a Day?

Being around teachers and friends in a school or college environment is the best way for pupils/students to learn and reach their potential. Time in school also keeps children safe and provides access to extra-curricular opportunities and pastoral care. That's why school attendance is so important and why the Government is committed to tackling the issues that might cause some children to miss school unnecessarily.

How Does Attendance Affect Outcomes for Pupils?

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development.

Evidence shows that the pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A-level results. Every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. For example, a child who is absent for three days over a half term could miss 15 lessons in total. The higher a pupil's/student's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.

What if my child needs to miss school?

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure their child gets a full-time education. Usually, that means going into school from the age of 5 to 16. There are only a small number of circumstances where





missing a school day is permitted. Your child must attend every day that the school is open, unless:

- your child is too ill to attend
- you have asked in advance and been given permission by the school for your child to be absent on a specific day due to exceptional circumstances
- your child cannot go to school on a specific day because they are observing a religious event
- your local authority is responsible for arranging your child's transport to school and it's not available or has not been provided yet
- your child does not have a permanent address and you are required to travel for work. This exception only applies if your child attends their usual school or another school where you are staying as often as possible. This must be 200 half days or more a year if they are aged 6 or older
- these are the only circumstances where schools can permit your child to be absent.

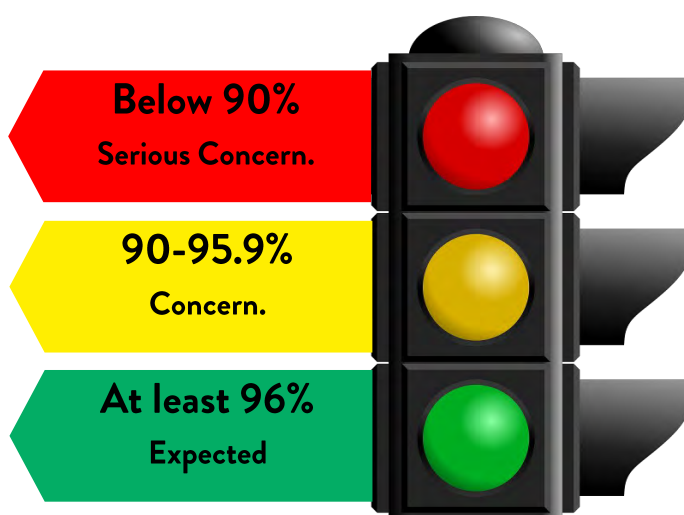
What Counts as an Exceptional Circumstance?

School leaders are responsible for deciding what counts as an exceptional circumstance when it comes to a child missing school. We will look at each application individually, considering the specific facts and background context. If a leave of absence is granted, the school will decide how long the pupil can be away from school.

Holidays are very rarely an acceptable reason for a school absence and are unlikely to be treated as an exceptional circumstance.

Where Can I Get Support to Help My Child Attend School?

If your child is struggling to come to school, speak to your child's care and achievement coordinator or Head of Year. They will work together with you and other colleagues to put a support plan in place.



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!



MEET THE TEACHER - MISS THOMPSON



Hello Year 6 pupils. I am Second in English with responsibility for KS3.

From childhood, I planned on becoming a teacher and I studied a BA (Hons) English with Education and MA in Education to enable me to do so. I love working at Whitby School and enjoy collaborating with the rest of the English team to plan your lessons, assessments and trips. This year we went to a pantomime with our Year 7 pupils and we went to see a performance of Dracula with our Year 8 pupils. I hope you'll enjoy watching a performance with us in future.

During Year 7 you will learn about lots of interesting topics. One of my favourites is the 'Monsters' unit,

which involves considering how some well-known monsters, such as Godzilla, the Minotaur and the T-Rex from Jurassic Park, have been described. You then get to demonstrate your own creative writing skills by writing your own monster description. Another unit that I really enjoy to teach is 'The Hunger Games' because we get to explore the genre of the novel and create our own trailer for a film of that genre.

I'm looking forward to meeting you at transition and have already started to plan our activities. If you'd like a head start, you could have a go at the activity below.

The writing below has no capital letters. Put in the capital letters and these make up the clue.

mark heard the autumn breeze rustling the trees as he walked down the street. unusually for a saturday, he was talking to eva – his swedish girlfriend.

aimlessly she remarked, "plums are cheap this week."

"apples start getting more expensive in november," observed mark. after that he switched off his dell tablet and thought about the homework he still had to do: geography, history, english and science.

occasionally they met at the weekend. usually tuesday was the day he took her out for a meal at the restaurant otto & frankie's – situated behind the large christmas tree in ash street to the left of tesco. it had been flooded last year when the river ouse burst its banks and a village called naburn had been nearly washed away.



2025 TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS



Enhanced Transition Days - Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 June

These are for pupils who have been identified by their primary schools. These are additional days to the whole school transition programme. Pupils and parents will receive a personalised invite in the post very soon, confirming the date. On the enhanced transition days Whitby School will arrange all transport to and from your son/daughter's primary school. Primary schools will be provided with a confirmation list of the pupils involved. If you believe your child requires enhanced transition but has not been identified by their primary school - please get in touch with us by email.

We're here if you need us...

We appreciate that some families may wish to speak to members of the Year 7 Team before transition, therefore we're offering an opportunity to drop in on **Wednesday 2 July, 4.00-6.00pm** so that you can have any questions or queries answered prior to your child's arrival the following week.

This is not a compulsory event, but all families are welcome to pop in and say hello if they wish to. We will have some blazers available to try on for size should you find that helpful and the kettle will be on too! If you're unable to attend on this occasion, and still wish to speak to someone then you can call on the evening itself, or send an email.

Transition Days for all pupils - Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 July

All pupils to attend all days. Pupils arrive at Lower School site, Airy Hill for 8.55am, school day ends at 3.30pm. Pupils will be greeted by members of staff on their arrival and directed to the sports hall. Pupils will gather in their tutor groups. A programme of activities for the 3 days will be shared with your son/daughter. Pupils to wear primary school uniforms. If your son/daughter will be travelling via school transport, please ensure they are dressed visibly in their primary uniforms so they can be identified by transport companies. If travelling via train, Whitby School staff will meet pupils at the train station and direct to the mini bus which brings the children to the school site (your son/daughter is not required to walk from the station to school). Pupils who walk can arrive on the site via the footpath at the rear of the school, or via the footpath at the front entrance off the New Bridge. Any worries or queries please get in touch by email.

Best wishes,

The Year 7 Team hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk



PRE-TRANSITION ACTIVITY

Write a letter for Mrs Harrison and Miss Clarkson to help them get to know you.

Fill in the information below, take a photo of it and email it to us (hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk) or, bring it with you on transition week!

Dear Mrs Harrison and Miss Clarkson

Date:

I am looking forward to starting Whitby School because...

The things I most enjoyed about primary school are...

Outside of school, my hobbies and interests are...

My hopes and aims for Year 7 are...

Some things you need to know about me are...

Kind regards,

Name...

Primary school...



TRANSITION WEEK ACTIVITIES

Over the three transition days pupils will take part in a range of activities including:

Welcome
Assembly and
Introduction

School Tour

Meet the tutor
session and
'Getting to Know
Me' activities

Taster lessons of
English, maths
and science, art
and history

Modern Foreign
Languages
Workshop

Watching a
sneak peak of
the 'We Will
Rock You' school
performance

Sports Day -
carousel of
activities

Team Building
Workshop

Whitby School
Values lesson
and activities

ICT How-to
Session - pupil log
in information and
Google Classroom
tutorial (including
how to complete your
homework!)

End of Transition
'Farewell
Assembly' for all
pupils with mini
Rewards Event

Please remember to
wear your full
primary school
uniform (this can
include leavers
hoodies) on all
transition days and
bring your PE kit
with you.



ALLERGIES AND INTOLERANCES

Prior to your child starting at Whitby School, you will receive a Welcome Pack which will include a Data Collection Form. These will be delivered to you via your child's primary school shortly. The Data Collection Form must be returned to the primary school by **Friday 4 July**.

If your child has any severe allergies, medical conditions or intolerances that Whitby School need to be aware of, please get in touch via hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk. In the case of allergies/intolerances that can be life threatening/cause significant illness we will require a meeting with parents and the school canteen prior to your child starting at Whitby School.

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.

- School Meals and Payments [LINK](#)
- Allergy Info [LINK](#)





ROUTINES AT WHITBY SCHOOL

Below is some important information regarding traveling to and from school for transition week and starting school in September. Sections displayed in *italics* are exclusive transition week arrangements

Pupils arrive at Lower School site, Airy Hill for 8.55am. They will be greeted by members of staff on their arrival and *directed to the sports hall*. Pupils will gather in their tutor groups.

The Year 7 Team will welcome all pupils and *will share a programme of activities for the three transition days* with your son/daughter.

School day ends at 3.30pm.

If your son/daughter will be travelling via school transport, please ensure they are *dressed visibly in their primary uniforms so they can be identified by transport companies*.

If travelling via train, *Whitby School staff will meet pupils at the train station and direct to the minibus* which brings them to the school site (your son/daughter is not required to walk from the station to school).

Pupils who walk can arrive on the site via the footpath at the rear of the school, or via the footpath at the front entrance off the New Bridge. Please encourage your child to use the nearest pedestrian crossings at the Mayfield Road or Helredale Road junctions. They can also use the footbridge. Pupils should not attempt to cross directly over the main road.



They can be dropped off in the school car park, please be aware space is limited and it can get busy at drop-off and pick-up times.

At the end of the day similar arrangements will apply. For pupils who travel home via school transport, there are designated signposted classrooms where they gather based on their bus route, they are supervised by members of staff who help ensure they are on the correct buses. There is a classroom designated for train pupils who will wait for the minibus to take them down to the train station. These rooms will be shown on your child's tour of the school during transition week.

For pupils walking home that leave at the front of the school towards the New Bridge, the children gather in the canteen and a member of staff unlocks the door and walks them towards the crossing safely. There is a member of staff present around the crossing area in a hi-vis jacket to help.

Please note, families affected by the NYC transport policy will receive contact from school as soon as possible once final arrangements have been confirmed.

Any worries or queries please get in touch by emailing hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk.



TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 September	Training Days
Wed. 3 September	School Opens
Wed. 15 October	Training Day
Fri. 24 October	School Closes
Mon. 27-Fri. 31 October	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 3 November	School Opens
Fri. 19 December	School Closes
Mon. 22 Dec.-Fri. 2 January	Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2026

Mon. 5 January	Training Day
Tues. 6 January	School Opens
Fri. 13 February	School Closes
Mon. 16-Fri. 20 February	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 23 February	School Opens
Fri. 27 March	School Closes
Mon. 30 March.- Fri. 10 April	Easter Holiday

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