



Whitby School  
Ad finem terrae

newsletter  
ISSUE 1



**WELCOME  
TO WHITBY  
SCHOOL**



**It has been wonderful to see pupils in our Lower School site settling in to their new school.**







# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first Newsletter for Whitby School. I am delighted to be your new Headteacher and I am very much looking forward to working with Whitby School pupils, students and families over the coming months. The term has got off to an excellent start with the pupils arriving smartly dressed in their new school uniform. A huge thank you to parents and carers for ensuring our children conform to our high expectations with regard to the school uniform. We have received a number of compliments from members of our community on how smart the pupils look, which is always nice to hear.



I have been delighted with the way in which the pupils and students have settled into the new term. The Year 7 pupils have quickly settled into their new routines and speak very positively about their experiences. They are a delight to have with us and are a credit to their families. Lessons across the school are purposeful, pupils and students respectful and well behaved showing a very positive attitude towards their studies. I am sure they will continue to flourish as they progress through the school.

I am very grateful to all the staff who have worked extremely hard over the last few weeks to get ready for the pupils' and students' return. It has been a herculean task to move equipment, set up classrooms and plan lessons for the term ahead. Staff have shown great resilience and a determination to do their best for our children which with your continued support, will ensure success for the new school.

If you would like to get involved in supporting the school please see the adverts in this Newsletter for parent Governors and the Parents Teacher Association (PTA). We would welcome any support you can give.

I look forward to keeping you updated about the amazing pupils and students we have here at Whitby School.

Thank you for your support

**Mr D Thornton HEADTEACHER**



# OUR VISION & VALUES

Our values embrace the high aspirations and opportunities we will create for our pupils and students at Whitby School as we encourage them to excel and develop both personally and academically.

***“I will endeavour to be a person of great character who has the courage to realise my ambitions.”***

**Endeavour** Striving for excellence to reach our potential.

**Courage** Exploring new opportunities with determination for personal growth.

**Ambition** A strong desire to succeed in achieving our goals.

**Character** Demonstrating qualities of honesty, integrity, kindness and respect in all we do.

## ENDEAVOUR

Our school is a place where pupils will try their best to achieve, and we will support them in all their endeavours. We will teach and encourage our pupils and students to strive for academic excellence and success and to apply themselves with determination. We will demonstrate how focus and engagement with their learning will provide opportunities, experiences and success in their future endeavours.

## COURAGE

Our vision is for our children to explore new opportunities, develop new skills and do what is right without fear. We will ensure our pupils and students are exposed to many experiences and opportunities to foster the courage and determination to succeed. We will encourage pupils to use their initiative, step outside their comfort zone, develop personal discipline and understand how to be safe and healthy as individuals and through their relationship with others whilst promoting a sense of belonging.

## AMBITION

We will encourage and teach our children to pursue their personal ambitions, to strive to achieve and develop the skills and qualities required to succeed. Our school will provide opportunities to explore different learning and career pathways allowing pupils and students to be ambitious and bold with their future options.

## CHARACTER

We are committed to teaching our pupils and students to think and behave with great character where they reflect the qualities that define their individuality, our school and wider community. We aim to provide a safe, creative and caring space where every pupil and student is known and cared for as an individual, where our pupils and students show kindness and behave in a fair and honest manner, act with integrity and care deeply for their peers and wider community.



# NOTICES

## Important School Policy Reminder

It has come to our attention that some young people have been bringing peanut products and chocolate bars or sweets containing peanuts/nuts. Please remember that such items are strictly not allowed on the school premises. Some children, across our two school sites, have life-threatening nut allergies and contact with peanuts/nut products could result in death. Please ensure your child is aware of this.

## Free School Meals

The cost of a school meal will be £2.90 from September. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, the funding for this will be available on their account each day up to the value of the normal school meal. (Amounts spent above this must be paid for by putting additional money onto your child's account.) To check whether your child is entitled to a free school meal if they are not already claiming this, you will need to apply via North Yorkshire Council.



# KEY DATES

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the [Whitby School Calendar](#).

- Monday 30 September .....Geography Field Trip
- Thursday 3 October.....Year 11 Theatre Trip
- Tuesday 8 October .....Year 8 Trip to Scarborough Engineering Fair
- Thursday 10 October.....Year 7 Meet the Tutor Event
- Wednesday 16 October .....Year 6 Open Evening, 4.30-6.30pm
- Tuesday 22 October .....Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm
- Tuesday 12 November.....Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00-6.00pm
- Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 Nov.....Year 7 Royal Navy Day
- Tuesday 19 November.....Sixth Form Open Evening
- w/b 25 November .....Netherlands Exchange Trip
- Tuesday 3 December .....Parental Information Evening – PHSE & Online Safety, 6.00-7.00pm
- Thursday 12 December.....Christmas Concert, 6.00-7.30pm
- Tuesday 17 December.....Year 7 Pantomime trip – Sleeping Beauty





## CAMBRIDGE CHALLENGE RESULTS!

Over the past year, Erin, Lola, Izzy and Emily have been working hard competing through various rounds of the 2024 Cambridge Biology Challenge.

This is the first time that a school from Whitby has entered a team into this competition and it is open to pupils/students from Year 10 through to Year 13. Our Year 10 (now Year 11) team worked on putting together presentations in response to Cambridge interview style questions, such as: 'What is the most incredible organism in your local area' (their conclusion: seaweed), 'If alien life existed, what might we predict about their biology?', 'Why don't animals have wheels?', and others, all in their own time. In all but one round, the team was awarded a distinction!

The icing on the cake came, however, when the team were invited to take part in a Celebration Day and awards ceremony at Homerton College, Cambridge University, during the summer holidays. Pictured here are the team during their visit to

Cambridge this August (there were two different days and they travelled on the days that they were available, hence the separate photos!).

During the celebration days, Emily, Lola, Erin and Izzy met pupils of their age and above from around the country and took part in an 'Escape Room' style challenge, before having lunch at Homerton College and then being presented with their certificates. We are incredibly proud of them and they were absolutely delighted to learn that they had in fact placed ninth out of almost 500 teams!

The Cambridge Biology Challenge is open again this year and if any pupils/students in Year 10 or above are interested in taking part, they can attend a meeting with Ms Beattie in the music room on Wednesday during tutor time.



# GREAT RIVER RACE



A team of rowers from Whitby have taken part in the Great River Race in London, it's a 21.6 mile rowing race along the Thames of around 300 boats. Two of our pupils were part of the team on the trip, Jimmy in Year 8 and Isla in Year 10. Jimmy went as a passenger

in one of the crews, and Isla coxswained Care and Achieve Coordinator, Miss Clarkson's crew. Crews travel from all over the world to take part! Isla did particularly well to navigate and judge the course around all of the other boats, it takes a lot of skill and concentration. The race took us 2hrs 45 minutes to complete, which is a long time sat in a wooden gig boat!

**Congratulations to Jimmy and Isla, they were brilliant!**







# POST-16 UNIVERSITY PREPARATIONS

On Thursday those students in Year 13 who are embarking on applying for university had an opportunity to get some input and feedback from Rob Rattray who works for Leeds Beckett University on their personal statements. Having an insider's view of the process and what they are looking for along with some hints and tips on how to stand out is always useful. In addition, Rob spoke to Year 12 to get them thinking about future options. His message was very much about putting yourself in the position that you have done things that will make you stand out and have done the research so you are making informed choices.

Rob also talked to parents, and as someone who is currently undergoing this with his own daughter, was able to offer both sides of the experience. What looks like a complex process was broken down into very clear and manageable stages with some great hints for parents on surviving the stress!



# PE EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE 2024-25

LOWER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime</b> 12.45-1.15	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Football</b> Astro	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Basketball</b> Sports	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Basketball</b> Sports Hall	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Football</b> Astro	<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Football</b> Astro <b>Basketball</b> Gym
<b>After School</b> 3.30-4.30		<b>Year 7 &amp; 8 Football</b> Field	<b>Netball</b> (Week A)	<b>Netball</b> (Week B)	

UPPER	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Before School</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 9/10 Netball</b> Sports Hall <b>Year 11 GCSE Intervention</b>	<b>Year 11 Football</b> Sports Hall	<b>KS4 &amp; Sixth Form Badminton</b> Sports Hall	<b>Year 11/Sixth Form Netball</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>Year 9 Football</b> Field <b>Fitness Suite</b>	<b>Netball Club all years</b>	<b>Fitness Suite</b>	

Where fixtures are arranged, Clubs may need to be postponed. Fixtures can be found on the PE noticeboard and [Fixtures 2024-25](#)





# PARENT GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Whitby School currently has two vacancies for parent governors on its new Governing Board, and therefore we are seeking nominations from eligible parents/carers of pupils at the school. The Governing Board, with the Headteacher, has overall responsibility for the running of the school.

**The three core functions for Governing Boards are:**

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils;
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

You do not need any specific qualifications to be a governor. The most important thing is that you are interested in the success of the school and are prepared to play an active part in the work of the Governing Board. Parent governors are valued members of the team. An effective board will have a range of skills, and we would welcome nominations from parents with knowledge and experience in a range of areas that will complement our existing Governing Board. Parents with links to businesses are particularly welcome.

There are some circumstances under which someone cannot serve as a governor and these are detailed on the further information sheet enclosed. Training and support will be available to help the appointed governors to develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support, as well as access to some external governor training. If you feel you can help in this capacity please contact the school office for a nomination form and related documents which will need to be completed and returned to a confidential email address, as stated on the form, no later than 12 noon on Friday 11 October 2024.

**To be a parent governor, candidates will be required to:**

- undergo a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check
- sign a governors' Code of Conduct
- provide details of relevant business and financial interests
- agree to the publication of some details on the school website and on the [Get Information about schools service](#).

If there are more applications than vacancies then an election will need to be held. Should this be the case, parents will be contacted again with details about the voting process and information about the candidates standing for election.

**Further information about governors and the work they do can be found at**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-authority-maintained-schools-governance>

If you would like to know more about the role of a governor at our school, please contact the school office via [post@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:post@whitbyschool.co.uk) with any questions you have.



# FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT PARENT GOVERNORS

## Eligibility

To be eligible to stand for election as a parent governor you must have parental responsibility for, or care for, a child or young person registered at the school on the date of the election. This date is deemed to be the closing date for the receipt of nominations, or the date on which the governor position becomes vacant, if elections are being carried out in advance.

## Disqualification

**A parent is disqualified from standing for selection if they are:**

- an elected member of the local authority
- paid to work at the school for more than 500 hours in any consecutive 12 month period
- subject to any of the disqualifications under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012. Full details will be supplied with the nomination papers.

## Term of office

The standard term of office is 4 years from the date of appointment. Parent governors may continue to serve their full term of office, even if their child leaves the school.

## The role of the parent governor

The role of the parent governor is not as a spokesperson for the views of parents. They are the same as any other governor on the board, providing a 'parental viewpoint' – ie, representative of parents rather than representatives for parents.

## Can you be removed from the role?

There are some circumstances where governors can be removed from their role. These include repeated non-attendance at meetings and for behaviours not in accordance with the code of conduct.

## Frequency of meetings and time commitment required

Governors meet around once a month and at least termly as a whole-governing body. There may be sub-committee meetings outside of the main meetings and other events, such as link-governor roles and taking part in some school activities.

## Nomination Process

Should you wish to complete a nomination paper for this role, please email [post@whitbyschool.co.uk](mailto:post@whitbyschool.co.uk) stating Parent Governor Nomination Form in the subject heading. The relevant forms will then be sent to you.

**The deadline for completed nomination forms is 12 noon on Friday 11 October 2024.**





# TERM DATES DATES

## Autumn Term 2024

School Closes	Friday 25 October
HALF TERM	Monday 28 Oct. to Friday 1 Nov.
School Opens	Monday 4 November
School Closes	Friday 20 December
CHRISTMAS BREAK	Monday 23 December to Friday 3 January 2025

## Summer Term 2025

Bank Holiday	Monday 21 April
School Opens –	Tuesday 22 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 May
School Closes	Friday 23 May
HALF TERM	Monday 26 to Friday 30 May
School Opens	Monday 2 June
School Closes	Friday 18 July

## Spring Term 2025

School Opens	Monday 6 January
School Closes	Friday 14 February
HALF TERM	Monday 17 to Friday 21 February
School Opens	Monday 24 February
School Closes	Friday 4 April
EASTER BREAK	Monday 7 April to Friday 18 April





# 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 (Upper School)  
Mrs K Mallender – Assistant Headteacher (Lower School)  
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  
Vacancy – Year 9  
Mrs H Ross – Year 10  
Mr D Taylor – Year 11  
Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
16

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

### REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

### VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

### VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

### POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

### MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

### PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

### REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College



# WHITBY MUSIC CENTRE OPEN MORNING

Feel free to join us

@ WHITBY SCHOOL  
AIRY HILL

Lower School Site

**Saturday 19 October**  
**9.30am - 12.30pm**

Come and see what  
we do!

Light refreshments  
available





## THE ROTARY CLUB OF WHITBY & DISTRICT



Charity No 1026631



# RIBI YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

**If you are aged 11-17 years old and love photography this is the competition for you!**

**The theme for this year's competition is:  
'Wonderful Water'**

Get your camera/mobile phone out and have a go at taking photos that capture the theme.

You can then submit your best photo to the competition.

We look forward to seeing the results. Deadline 30/11/24

Prizes will be awarded to winners.

**Go for it!**

Ask your parent/guardian to email [photographywhitbyrotary@yahoo.com](mailto:photographywhitbyrotary@yahoo.com) for an entry form.