



Whitby **school**
Ad finem terrae

ISSUE 3
Welcome
to Whitby School
Primary School Transition Newsletter





A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW STARTERS

It was truly lovely to meet all the children joining our school community. We've been so impressed by the way they've embraced this new chapter - showing courage, kindness and a real eagerness to get involved.

Throughout their timetable, they've demonstrated great **endeavour**, enthusiasm and given 100% to every activity. It's been a joy to see new friendships forming and to get to know unique and wonderful **characters** who are becoming part of our school.

We look forward to welcoming them back in September and supporting them as they continue their journey and strive to achieve their **ambitions**.

Any worries, concerns or issues, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Year 7 team via the hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk email address. Emails sent during the summer holidays will be replied to in September during staff training days.

If your son/daughter has a worry or concern about their tutor group...

We understand that starting a new school can be a stressful and worrying time for young people. We have taken advice from Year 6 class teachers to create our Year 7 tutor groups. In September, we politely ask that all pupils allow for a 'settling in' period of two weeks,

our experience has shown that this allows time for pupils to adjust and form new friendships. If after this time, your son/daughter still has concerns or worries, please get in touch with a member of the Year 7 team who will discuss these worries on a case by case basis. We would appreciate parent/carer's support and understanding on this matter.

Contents for this Issue

House System

Rewards and Behaviour

Attendance

Meet the Teacher

What is an 'Instructional Framework'

How can I support my Child?

Uniform Key Information

Break and Lunch

Applying for Free School Meals

Allergy Awareness

Introducing Year 7 Staff for

September 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Term Dates



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.





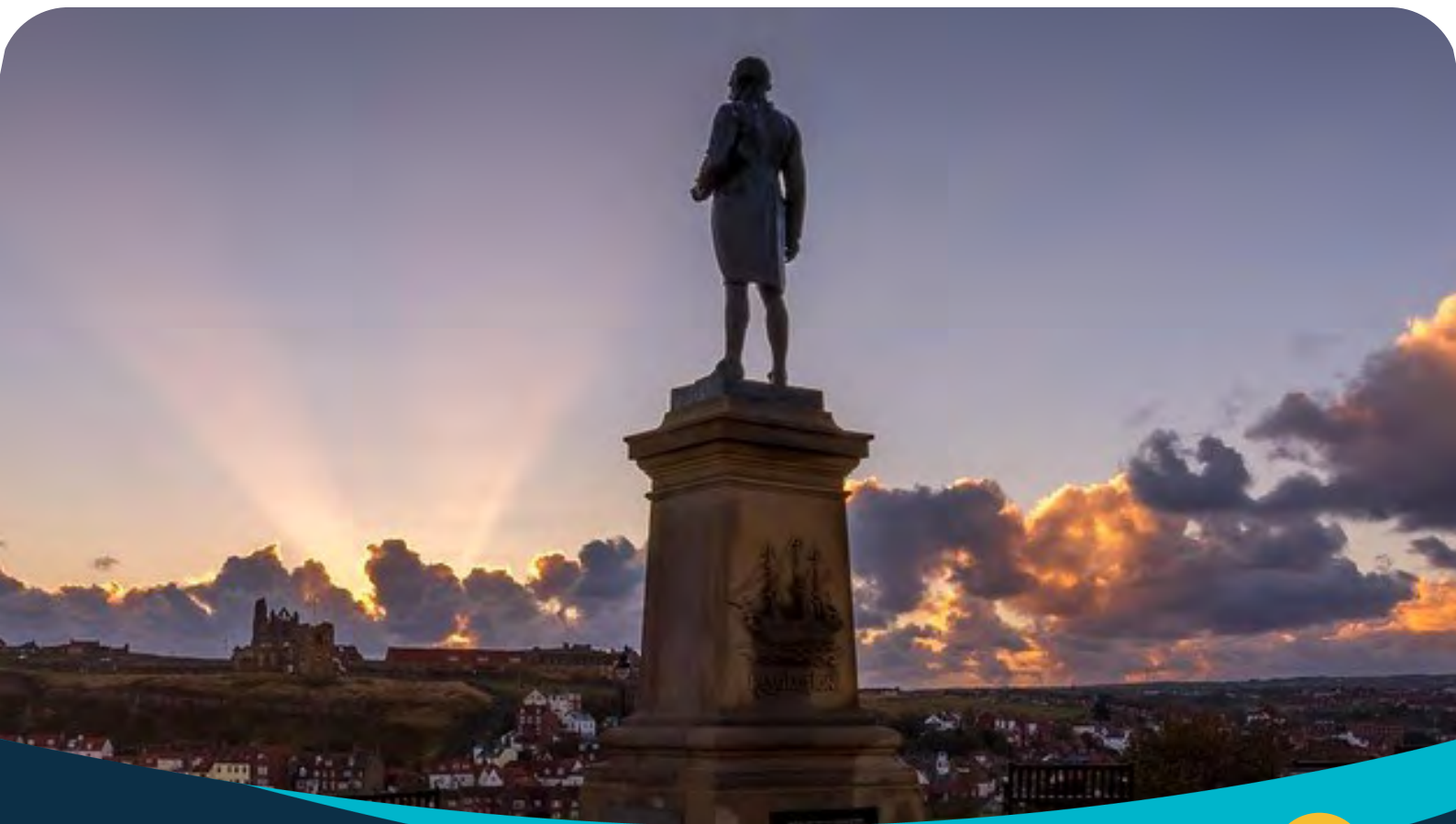
THE HOUSE SYSTEM

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 'Class Charts'.

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 Class Charts 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 Class Charts 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.





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.

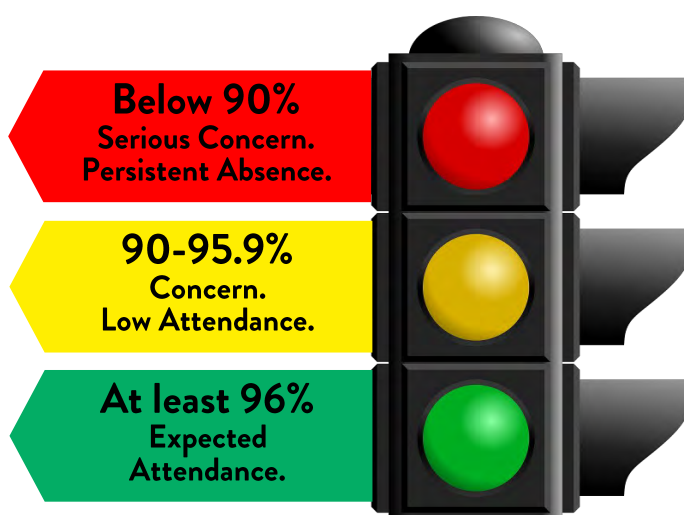
What Counts as an Exceptional Circumstance?

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 in September 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.



WHAT IS AN 'INSTRUCTIONAL FRAMEWORK' AND HOW DOES IT SUPPORT YOUR CHILD?

Brilliant teaching has more impact on your child's progress than anything else. We are committed to ensuring that every pupil we teach is supported to thrive. With this in mind, we have been working hard developing and implementing a new teaching approach. We call this an instructional framework.

Evidence shows that if every teacher has a similar approach and structure to teaching, pupils learn more effectively. We have based our approach on research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which outlines a seven-stage lesson overview that is

shown to boost engagement and improve learning outcomes.

Here is a brief overview of the seven stages and how they can positively impact your child's learning:

Activating Prior Knowledge

Teachers begin by connecting the current lesson to previously learned concepts or everyday experiences. This establishes a familiar context, making it easier for pupils to understand new information.





Explicit Strategy Instruction

This step involves direct and clear teaching of a strategy or concept. The goal is to provide pupils with a clear understanding of what they need to learn.

Modelling of Learned Strategy

Teachers demonstrate how to apply the strategy in practice, offering pupils a clear example to follow. This step helps bridge the gap between theory and practical application.

Memorisation of Strategy

Pupils are encouraged to commit the strategy to memory, which enhances their ability to recall and use it effectively in different contexts.

Guided Practice

At this stage, pupils engage in activities that allow them to apply the strategy with support and guidance from the teacher. This collaborative approach reinforces learning and builds confidence.

Independent Practice

Pupils apply the strategy on their own, which helps them to become independent learners.

Structured Reflection

The lesson concludes with a reflection on what was learned and how it connects to broader themes or future topics. This phase encourages deeper understanding and retention.

To make this approach pupil-friendly, we have simplified this into six phases:

- prepare
- purpose
- present
- practise
- prove
- ponder.

The framework does not mean that every teacher has to teach in the same way. It can be adapted to different teaching styles and subjects.

Here is how the model might be applied in two different subject areas:





Art

In an art class, the seven-stage model can guide pupils through creative processes and skill-building exercises. Here is an example:

Activating Prior Knowledge: The art teacher begins by discussing a specific art movement or technique pupils are familiar with, such as Impressionism, to connect with prior learning.

Explicit Strategy Instruction: The teacher then provides direct instruction on a new technique or concept, like creating depth using shading.

Modelling of Learned Strategy: The teacher demonstrates the technique, showing how to shade to create depth in a drawing.

Memorisation of Strategy: Pupils are encouraged to remember the key steps involved in shading, such as varying pressure and using different pencils.

Guided Practice: Under the teacher's guidance, pupils practice shading techniques on their own art projects, receiving feedback and support.

Independent Practice: Pupils apply the shading technique independently, perhaps working on a final drawing or artwork.

Structured Reflection: The teacher concludes the lesson with a discussion on how shading creates depth and asks pupils to reflect on their own work, considering what they learned and how they might improve.

History

In a history class, the model helps pupils understand historical concepts, events, and the connections between them. Here is how a history teacher might use it:

Activating Prior Knowledge: The teacher asks pupils about previous topics, like the causes of World War I, to set the context for a new lesson on World War II.

Explicit Strategy Instruction: The teacher explains a concept such as the political alliances leading to World War II, breaking it down into clear components.

Modelling of Learned Strategy: The teacher demonstrates how to analyse primary sources, like letters or newspaper articles, to understand historical events.

Memorisation of Strategy: Pupils memorise key facts or dates, such as the timeline of major events leading up to World War II.

Guided Practice: Pupils work in groups to analyse historical documents with the teacher's guidance, applying the strategies demonstrated earlier.

Independent Practice: Pupils work independently to write a brief essay or answer questions, using the concepts and strategies learned.

Structured Reflection: The teacher wraps up with a reflective activity, asking pupils to consider how historical events are interconnected and what lessons can be drawn from them.

Both examples show how the seven-stage model can be adapted to different teaching approaches. By using this approach, teachers in all subjects and year groups build a strong foundation for independent learning. As

a parent, understanding this framework allows you to better support your child's education and have meaningful discussions about their learning progress.



HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD?

Effective and sustained support from parents and carers is vital in helping pupils to succeed at school and achieve their potential. The most effective support parents and carers can offer on a regular basis is listed below:

- talk to your child about school regularly to encourage and support them. In particular talk about their day and what they have learnt. Asking them questions about their learning will help them to develop their understanding
- ensure your child has somewhere calm and peaceful to do their home learning each evening. Set aside up to one hour each evening during which your child can complete their home learning without distraction. If possible, be on hand to offer advice or talk through problems
- check your child's homework diary regularly, ideally each day to ensure home learning is being recorded and to read any notes from your child's Form Tutor or teachers
- check that your child has packed their school bag each morning, and that they have all the necessary equipment and books for the day ahead
- download and check the Bromcom and ClassCharts app/website regularly. Praise your child when they receive an award
- read and respond to school letters, attend all Parents' Evenings, and ensure your child's attendance is good
- please contact your child's Care and Achievement Coordinator if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's attendance, wellbeing, or progress at school.





UNIFORM KEY INFORMATION

Uniform Collection

To order school uniform, please scan these QR codes for the School Colours Direct website and Whitby School uniform page:



School Colours Direct



Whitby School Website

Please note, to view any uniform products on the School Colours Direct website, you must create/or log in to an account first.

Orders placed before Monday 20 July will be entitled to a 'free delivery to school' option. Collection dates for this are:

- Wednesday 12 August
- Thursday 13 August
- Wednesday 19 August
- Thursday 20 August

Between 1.00-5.00pm on the Prospect Hill site, in the Sports Hall.

Orders can be made via our supplier **School Colours Direct**. Ties are available from the Pastoral Office and cost £8.00





BREAK AND LUNCH

Snacks and drinks are available from the canteen at break time and a range of meals are available from the canteen at lunch time. From 1 September the cost of a school meal will be £3.15 (this does not include snacks or drinks).

Pupils are able to purchase food and drink from the canteen or bring a snack for break time and a packed lunch to eat in the dining hall. You can top up your child's lunch account via the My Child At School (MCAS) app, or, your child can bring in cash for this which can be paid into the re-val unit which is situated to the left through the canteen doors. Staff will be available to help with this.

If your child is entitled to a free school meal, this should transfer across to Whitby School - an exception to this is if your child currently attends a primary school academy, you may be required to reapply through North Yorkshire Council. If your child does not receive a free school meal, but you believe they may be entitled to do so, you need to apply for this via North Yorkshire Council. Additional items taken, above the free school meal daily amount (£3.05), will need to be paid for.

The cost of food and drink taken during the transition days will be debited from your child's MCAS lunch account. You will be able to keep track of spending and purchases by accessing your child's canteen account online. The link for this is [HERE](#).

Please note that pupils should have sufficient credit on their account from September before taking food or drink from the canteen. Most children have already had their fingerprint taken so that they can use the school's cashless catering system. In September, please ensure that your child's account is topped up sufficiently, for at least the week ahead, so that their account remains in credit for enjoying any food or drink from the canteen.

Our catering team provides a range of nutritious meals for our pupils. All food is locally sourced and contributes to ensuring a balanced diet, free from deep-fried products. Our Catering Managers bring a great wealth of expertise and knowledge to the school. Our dedicated team always provides service with a smile and help to make the dining hall an active and enjoyable part of school life at break and lunch time.





APPLYING FOR A FREE SCHOOL MEAL

If you receive certain benefits, your child(ren) may qualify for free school meals during their time in school. To qualify, you must be receiving one or more of the following:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

Please note that contributions-based benefits, including contribution-related Jobseekers' Allowance do not entitle you to claim free school meals. The link below will take you to the webpage for applying for free school meals.

Apply for free school meals

You will receive an instant decision on whether your application is successful. If it is, the Council will process your application in five working days and notify the school. Once school has received this notification, your child can begin to take a free school meal each day. You should continue to pay for school dinners until the confirmation comes through. Free school meals claims cannot be backdated. They are awarded from the date we receive the application once eligibility is confirmed. This is because there is a legal requirement for a request to be made before a free school meal can be provided. If your child is not entitled to free school meals, you will be notified in writing.





ALLERGY AWARENESS



We ask for your support as we aim to be a Nut-Free school and to protect children from the risk of an allergic reaction. If someone has a nut allergy it is not just eating nuts that could 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 can be potentially life-threatening.

Unfortunately, we cannot have nuts in school in any form and we ask parents to check food products when preparing pupils' lunches and snacks.

The following items should not be brought into school. Please do discuss this with children who may purchase items on their way to school.

- packs of nuts
- peanut butter or Nutella sandwiches
- fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
- chocolate bars or sweets that contain nuts
- sesame seed rolls (children allergic to nuts may also have a severe reaction to sesame)
- hummus as it contains tahini which is made from sesame
- pesto which contains nuts
- cakes made with nuts
- self-serve pastries covered in almonds – for example almond croissants
- any home-cooked meals for packed lunches that are made from nuts

- any shared food for after-school events with nuts or nut oils.

This list is not exhaustive, so please check the packaging of products closely.

What types of food are nuts?

- almonds
- cashew nuts
- hazelnuts
- pistachios
- walnuts
- Brazil nuts
- nut oils
- peanuts.

Our suppliers provide us with nut free products. However, we cannot guarantee complete freedom from nut traces.





SCHOOL TRAVEL

A large proportion of our pupils live in Whitby, and we encourage these pupils to walk or cycle to school whenever possible, and we provide cycle shelters where pupils can lock their bicycles or scooters securely. Pupils should wear cycling helmets for their safety.

Many of our pupils are brought to school each day via school bus from surrounding towns and villages, and

these pupils disembark in the designated bus area, where they are welcomed by school staff.

If you bring your child to school by car, please note that the parent/visitor car park is located at the front of school, there are limited spaces. Particularly if you are picking up your child at the end of the day, we advise that it can get very busy and it may be best to come at 3.40pm. Pupils can wait in the canteen, until you arrive.

EQUIPMENT

All pupils need to bring the following equipment with them to school every day:

- writing pens: black or blue, and green plus spares
- pencil and spares
- pencil sharpener
- ruler
- rubber
- scientific calculator (calculators can be purchased from reception)
- protractor
- pair of compasses
- highlighter pens
- glue stick
- felt tips/coloured pencils
- exercise books for that day's lessons
- textbooks for that day's lessons
- pupil planner
- dictionaries – both English and Foreign Language
- hair bobble (to tie back long hair for practical lessons eg, science/technology/PE).

PUPIL LOCKERS

Pupils will be offered the opportunity to rent a locker for the duration of their time at Whitby School, and parents and carers will be given information about how they can reserve a locker for their child. Lockers are invaluable in helping pupils to keep themselves organised, and to ensure they always have the correct books and equipment with them every day. Lockers will be allocated in September, within the first few weeks of term.



INTRODUCING OUR STAFF FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

We are delighted to introduce ourselves as the Year 7 Pastoral Team. It is a genuine privilege to support your child as they begin their journey with us, and we are committed to ensuring they enjoy a successful and fulfilling start to secondary school life.

We are incredibly proud of our vibrant school community and, over the next five years, will work in close partnership - with you and your child - to foster a culture of excellence, encouragement, and mutual respect.

Our mission is to ensure every pupil makes the most of their school experience. This means supporting strong attendance, promoting pride in wearing the correct uniform, and nurturing a positive mindset for learning. These foundations help each pupil thrive, allowing them to grow into the very best version of themselves.

While your child will ultimately shape the chapters of their own story, we will be there every step of the way to guide and support them in making wise, confident choices. These five years will pass quickly, so we encourage all pupils - and their families - to embrace every moment and seize every opportunity to be actively involved in the life of our school.

We work hand-in-hand with our fantastic Year 7 form tutors to make sure every child feels welcomed, supported, and happy in their new environment.

From September 2026, the Year 7 Team will include the following members:

- your child's **Form Tutor** – their main point of contact and daily support
- **Care and Achievement Coordinator** – focused on wellbeing and behaviour
- **Heads of Year** – overseeing the year group's development and progress
- **Assistant Headteacher: KS3 Lower School** – providing leadership and strategic guidance.

If there's anything we can do to support you or your child, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to make sure the Year 7 experience is positive, smooth, and memorable. You can contact us by emailing hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk, and the Year 7 team aim to respond to all messages within 48 hours (emails sent over the summer holidays will be picked up on staff training days in September).

Here's a little glimpse into the team behind the scenes...



Mrs Mallender
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs Harrison
Head of Year 7



Miss Reddy
Head of Year 7



Miss Clarkson
Care & Achievement
Coordinator



Miss Clarkson

Hello Year 7 pupils and families. I am Miss Clarkson and I work in the lower site pastoral office and I am the Care and Achievement Coordinator for Year 7. I work in partnership with Mrs Harrison and Miss Reddy (Heads of Year 7) to look after all things Year 7! I am not a teaching member of staff, which means I am primarily based in the pastoral office - I am around to help you with your behaviour, worries, attendance, learning and emotional support, I am also your go-to if you feel unwell and/or need to contact home, or if your parents need to contact school. I went to

university and completed an Education and Teaching Studies degree and my passion has always been pastoral care. I am really passionate about improving mental health and wellbeing and completely understand how the transition up to a new big school can be daunting, worrying and make you feel nervous. I enjoy working with pupils and families on a daily basis and offering support in anyway I can in order for you to get the best out of your Year 7 experience. I am really looking forward to learning all about you and your families from September!

Mrs Harrison

Hello Year 7,
My name is Mrs Harrison, and I am very much looking forward to being one of your Heads of Year. I have worked with Year 7 pupils for a number of years now, and every year I feel extremely fortunate to be involved in transition work and doing everything I can to make sure you feel supported and equipped to make the best start possible at secondary school. The journey that you are about to embark on is an exciting one. This new chapter gives you the chance to meet new friends, explore a wide range of subjects and discover your unique passions and talents. And while it may feel a little strange at first, remember that you will have lots of support from your new teachers, as well as from myself, Miss Reddy and

Miss Clarkson. I can remember my own transition from primary to secondary school, many, many years ago, and do so with fondness, but I also had to push myself out of my comfort zone to make sure I had the best possible experience. You will see me most days, sometimes in your tutor group or in assemblies, or perhaps in the playground at breaktime, and occasionally I like to pop into your lessons to see how you are getting on. You may also see me in your PE lessons; a subject that I am very passionate about! If you are struggling with your learning in any way I will also be the person that communicates with you and your parents/carers, and the thing I like doing most of all is celebrating all of your successes with you, be that in Rewards Assemblies or by letting your family know how fantastic you are!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do pupils go on their first day of school in September?

Pupils will gather in the sports hall, they will be given their timetable and directed to their tutor room with their new tutor.

Will pupils have the same tutor as they did on transition week?

Not necessarily. We tried to introduce your son/daughter to a range of different tutors and teachers on transition week for this reason.

What information will form tutors know about my child?

Form tutors will be informed of any notes passed on through your primary school teachers, SEND information and any serious medical information.

What colour tie do I need?

On transition week all pupils were given a sticker informing them of their allocated house:

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

How do I get in contact with somebody?

- email your child's form tutor (address provided in September)
- text school via the My Child at School app (the message will be passed on to the relevant staff)
- email the Year 7 team (hoy7@whitbyschool.co.uk)
- call the school office

- arrange an appointment to speak to a member of staff in person by one of the above methods, please note it is not always possible to speak to a member of staff at school without an appointment.

Any communication sent over the summer holidays will be picked up in September on the staff training days before your child returns to school. During the school week, the Year 7 team aim to reply within 48 hours.

What uniform items must we order via the school uniform shop?

It is required that all pupils have a Whitby School blazer, PE Top and tie, these items must be purchased via the school uniform supplier. All other items eg, trousers, skirts, shirts and shoes can be sourced from wherever is convenient to you. The pastoral office also sell school ties for £8.00.

What equipment does my child need?

Essentials: A sturdy school bag. Pencil case containing - black/blue pens, green pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, ruler, rubber, scientific calculator, protractor, pair of compasses, highlighter.

Optional: Hair bobble (needed for practical lessons and PE), glue stick, felt tips/coloured pencils, note book.

How is homework set?

Homework is set via Google Classrooms. During transition week your son/daughter will have received their username and password, and they were shown how to log in, submit a piece of homework and check their assigned work.



TERM DATES 2026-27

Autumn Term 2026

Mon. 7 September	Training Day
Tue. 8 September	Training Day
Wed. 9 September	School Opens
Thurs. 22 October	School Closes
Fri. 23 October	Training Day
Mon. 26-Fri. 30 October	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 2 November	School Opens
Fri. 18 December	School Closes
Mon. 21 Dec.-Fri. 1 January 2027	Christmas Holiday

Spring Term 2027

Mon. 4 January	Training Day
Tues. 5 January	School Opens
Fri. 5 February	School Closes
Mon. 8-Fri. 12 February	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 15 February	School Opens
Fri. 19 March	School Closes
Mon. 22 March.-Fri. 2 April	Easter Holiday

Summer Term 2027

Mon. 5 April	School Opens
Mon. 3 May	Bank Holiday
Fri. 28 May	School Closes
Mon. 31 May-Fri. 4 June	Half Term Holiday
Mon. 7 June	School Opens
Fri. 23 July	School Closes
Mon. 26 July	Training Day

Legal Changes to Phones in Schools



Smartphones, smartwatches and similar devices are now restricted in English schools – **here's the breakdown**



What's changing

From June 29, **all state-funded schools** in England must be **phone-free during school hours**. This covers **smartphones, smartwatches** that receive **notifications**, and similar devices.

The rule applies **bell-to-bell** – from entering the school gates to the final bell. **Years 12 and 13** may use phones **only in designated sixth-form areas**, and not in front of younger pupils.

The law is **England-only** – Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland follow their own guidance.

Why it's happening

The government says phone-free days aim to:

- Reduce distraction
- Cut cyberbullying
- Ease social media pressure
- Improve wellbeing and focus
- Support attendance and behaviour

Teachers report **better communication, concentration, and classroom atmosphere** when phones are removed

How our school will enforce it



If phones are seen or heard, they will be **confiscated**.



"No see, no hear" – phones kept off and out of sight in bags.



Less distraction. More learning. Stronger community.
Together, we make every day a success.



Whitby School
Ad finem terrae

BREAKFAST CLUB

YEARS
7&8

AIRY HILL (LOWER SCHOOL) SITE



£1 BOOKING FEE
subsidised rate



**MUST BE BOOKED
ON MCAS APP**



**CHOICE OF
CEREALS**



TOAST



8.00AM – 8.30AM
MONDAY – FRIDAY