



Whitby school
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 23





HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



I hope this newsletter finds you well.

I am incredibly impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our school council members. Their commitment to representing their peers and driving positive change within our school is truly commendable. School councils play a vital role in fostering a sense of community, leadership, and responsibility among pupils, and our council is already making a significant impact.

One of their first initiatives, **Frozen Friday**, was a resounding success. Pupils enjoyed ice creams and

lollies as part of a reward event

for those who consistently put in great effort. This initiative was born from the council's request to run events that recognise and celebrate the hard work of our pupils. It was heart-warming to see the joy and excitement on the faces of our pupils, and I look forward to more such events in the future.

We are also deeply grateful to the Woodsmith Foundation for their generous grant. This grant has provided each school council on both the lower and upper sites with a budget to enhance pupil welfare.





Our council members have been actively consulting with their peers to identify projects that will improve the pupil experience. They are working together to develop budget-focused plans, evaluate the impact, and collaborate with community leaders to deliver these projects.

Our hope is that these initiatives will not only bring happiness to our pupils but also provide them with valuable experience in budgeting, consultation, and leadership. By entrusting them with this responsibility, we are showing how much we value their contributions and how central they are to our school's success.

Additionally, part of the grant will be used for outreach and pastoral programmes within the school, further supporting the well-being and development of our pupils. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we are building a brighter future for our pupils.

Since the start of the year, we have given out an impressive **222,377** rewards for **character, courage,**

endeavour, and **ambition.** This remarkable number reflects the outstanding efforts of our pupils, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

I am also hugely proud of our pupils' conduct during last week's trips for Years 8-10. I had the privilege of leading one of the university trips for Year 10 to Teesside University. During this trip, a dozen members of the public and university staff approached me to express how impressed they were with our pupils for holding doors open, saying please and thank you, listening carefully, taking pride in their uniform, and asking thoughtful questions. Additionally, our Year 8 and 9 theatre trip to see a stage performance of *Dracula* in Scarborough was a great success. The play's author personally congratulated our pupils on their exemplary conduct at the theatre. Receiving such positive feedback is a delight and a testament to the character of our pupils.

Best wishes,
Mr G Davies, Headteacher





THERE ARE SUCH BEINGS AS VAMPIRES...

At least that's what Blackeyed Theatre wants us to believe. Thursday 1 May saw 200 Year 8 and Year 9 pupils head to the amazing 'in the round' theatre at Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough.

The performance serves to consolidate learning from Year 8 on the Gothic and Dracula - perfect, since we are in the very town where Dracula was claimed to land after leaving his home in the Carpathian Mountains. There was also lots of stagecraft on display as 'in the round' theatre offers a unique perspective on performing a play; the audience surround the actors on all sides so it is very much like a boxing match. This leads to a very intimate atmosphere as low set design

and entrances from all sides mean that we were able to be involved in the action from all angles.

The play follows the plot of the original novel and takes the form of several diary entries that are voiced by the various characters. In order to portray the character of the Count, rich and opulent costume was used and a commanding performance came from David Chafer (Coronation Street, The Human Solution). He was however not the only one to play the Count because - as anyone who has read the story knows - once Dracula starts taking victims, his youthful looks reappear. This meant that over the course of the performance, two other actors, progressively younger,





took on the role! This multi-roling was used with other characters too allowing the nine strong cast to portray a wide array of characters from the story.

The day was a fantastic success on what was the hottest 1 May on record. Pupils (and staff) managed the journey and the heat with admirable humour. At the conclusion of the performance which was well received by our pupil packed audience, the director of the play, Nick Lane, approached Mrs Mallender to convey both his, and the actors' impression that our pupils had been the best they had ever seen watch the play - which is high praise indeed as the actors are acutely aware of the mood, noise and atmosphere of an audience! For many of our pupils, this might well have been the first trip to a theatre and we hope that - on the back of this success - that more trips can be organised in the future.



Here is what our pupils had to say about it all:

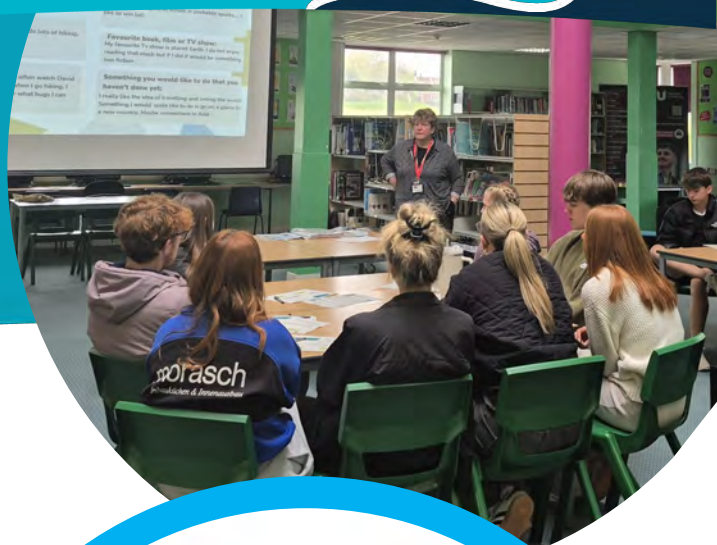
"The play was very good. The lighting was dramatic and accurate and the actors had easily portrayed the feelings, emotions and views of what I would expect. My favourite part was how they repeated the phrase 'There are such beings as vampires' throughout the play. It created tension and suspense within the play as it made the meaning of the words more powerful."

"My opinion is that the play was very interesting and exhilarating. The performance in general was thrilling and kept getting better, capturing the attention of all who were watching the play. By far my favourite part was when Renfield was introduced. All the actors gave an outstanding performance when talking of Renfield's story. This meant that Renfield was almost relatable as people watching understood why Renfield acted this way."

"The play was good; it was really eerie especially when the lightning struck. I thought that the Renfield part was quite good."



OUR 'FUTURE SELVES'



As part of our 'Future Selves' career lessons our Year 12 students took part in two workshops from Inspiring Choices. These are designed to encourage and help our students to understand the type of decision making they will need to create a successful career pathway for themselves, once they leave school. These lessons combine with the other comprehensive career interventions, such as tutorials, assemblies, trips and one-to-one support to help our young people fully explore the various routes available to them and help to foster the growth of their **endeavour, courage, ambition** and **character**.



inspiring
choices
York & North Yorkshire





‘ACHIEVE’ AT WHITBY SCHOOL

A few of the Achieve Cohort have taken up the opportunity to have some Hair and Beauty Workshops in the salon at the Airy Hill site. The Academy have been coming in weekly to teach various basic skills and give the girls a real insight into the industry.





SIXTH FORM SUBJECT FOCUS: MEDIA STUDIES

Why Media Studies?

From television to cinema, radio to podcasts, social media to blogs and vlogs, and everything in between – media studies explores what we encounter every day.

It's never been so relevant, in the internet age it is through media where we make our own mark, where people create an online presence, where we are persuaded to pay for goods and services, where we go for facts and entertainment.

An understanding of how Media works for us (or against us) are skills which have become more in demand all over the world.

Media studies will equip you with the communication skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace, whether in the media industry or not. Whether you choose to pursue a career in business, entertainment or journalism – you'll be well equipped for what the modern workplace is looking for.

What will I study?

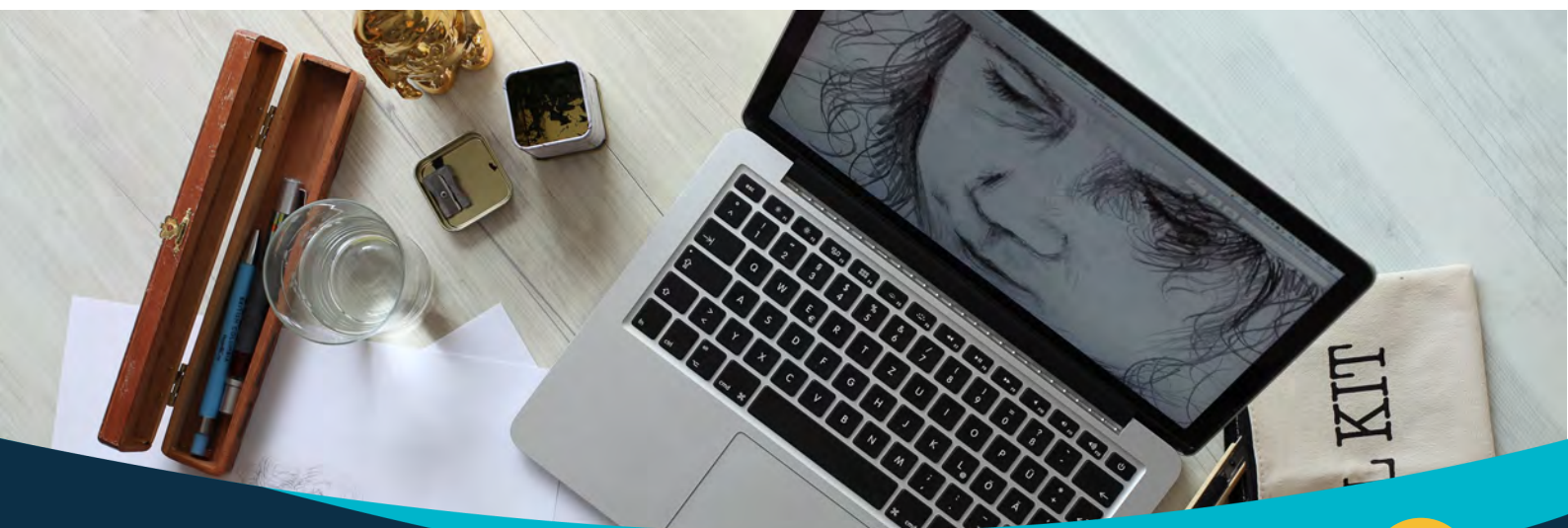
This course will develop your analytical skills, as you learn to interpret the messages presented by the mass media. You will learn media language and analyse how it is used to create messages and meanings, looking at products for a range of audiences from different time periods. You will develop your creative and technical skills via the completion of production portfolios. You will also consider issues and debates surrounding the media and carry out investigations.

What do students do afterwards?

Students can progress to study degrees in media, English, sociology, graphic design, marketing, audio-visual technology, education and journalism.

Career opportunities:

Career opportunities include teaching, media production, journalism, graphic design, photography, audio-visual or broadcasting.





500 POSITIVE POINTS

A huge well done to Anna in Year 7 who has recently reached her target of 500 positive points! Anna set her sights on this target months ago in the hope that she would be the first pupil to get enough positives for our top prize of a £100 Amazon voucher!

We're so proud of you Anna - you are such a wonderful member of our school community and this is so deserved. Enjoy your new purchases!

Mrs Harrison

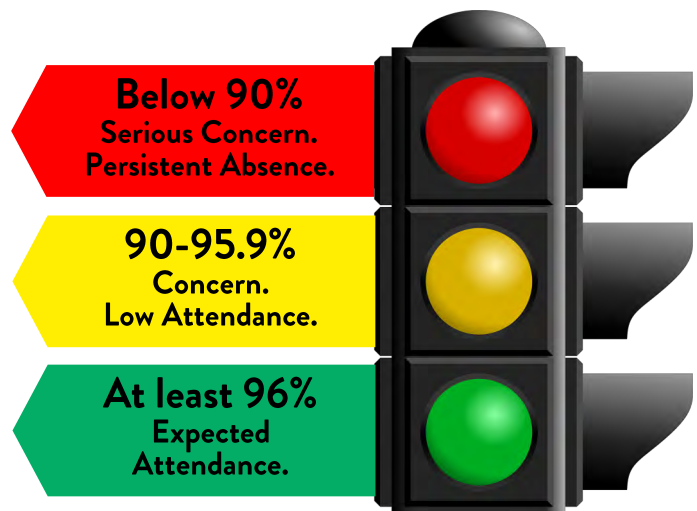


ATTENDANCE FOCUS EVERY DAY COUNTS!

If your child is unwell and unfit to learn, please can you ensure that the reason for absence is reported by 9.00am on each day of absence. Ideally this should be done via the My Child at School app or by calling school and choosing option 1 to leave a voicemail.

As you will be aware schools are not permitted to authorise holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If it is necessary for a holiday in term time to be taken, please complete a leave of absence request form (can be collected from reception at both sites), stating your reasons/ exceptional circumstances, so that these can be considered. Schools are not able to authorise a leave of absence retrospectively, so it is important that a request is made in advance.

Please can you notify school if your child will be late due to a medical appointment. If we do not receive notification, your child's arrival will be marked as late



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

in line with school's policy and may result in sanctions being issued.

Thank you for your continued support.



NOTICES

careermap

This site is packed with expert advice and insightful features designed to help parents guide their children through key education and career decisions, whether they are considering A-levels, apprenticeships or other next steps. Careers are not a linear path and you cannot know what you don't know. They aim to inspire and inform about all sorts of careers and opportunities now and in the future. [LINK](#)

Important School Policy Reminder

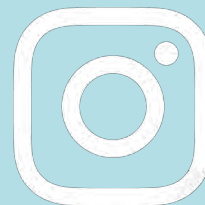
Please note that we cannot allow peanut products, chocolate bars or sweets which contain peanuts/nuts at Whitby School. Some children, across our two school sites, have life-threatening nut allergies and contact with peanuts/nut products could result in death. If someone has a nut allergy, it is not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

Thank you

Whitby Sixth Form Instagram

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

[ws_sixthform](#)





EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

MONDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Airy Hill Site Band, Lunchtime

TUESDAY

- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Prospect Hill Site (Drama Studio)
- Sixth Form Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (M2)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill site Fitness Suite)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

WEDNESDAY

- Choir, Lunchtime (Airy Hill Site)
- Rehearsals for all members of the chorus We Will Rock You at Airy Hill Site (R17)
- Year 11 Maths, 3.30-4.30pm (Higher in room H7; Foundation in room S2)
- Wednesdays and Thursdays after school (alternating days) After school Drama Club for Airy Hill Site - Main Hall; after school rehearsals for main cast WWRY

THURSDAY

- Funk Band, lunchtimes (Prospect Hill Site)
- Music Theory, before school (Prospect Hill Site)
- Gym Club, 3.30-4.30pm. All years welcome. (Prospect Hill Site Fitness Suite)
- Year 11 German Help, 3.30-4.30pm (plus other nights if needed)
- GCSE Music coursework help, 3.30-4.30pm

FRIDAY

- Year 9 Drama Club, Lunchtime (Drama Studio)
- Writers' Club, Lunchtime (H6)
- English Revision, Lunchtime (H6)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Feeling a genuine sense of belonging is essential for the emotional and social development of children and young people. Belonging significantly boosts self-esteem, resilience, and mental wellbeing, reducing feelings of isolation and anxiety. This guide provides practical strategies to help parents and educators cultivate inclusive environments, enhancing both academic outcomes and overall happiness among young people.

1 CELEBRATE INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

Acknowledge and celebrate the uniqueness of every child. Promoting diversity and inclusion creates an environment where differences are valued rather than stigmatised. This acceptance empowers children to confidently express their identities and feel genuinely included, fostering a robust sense of belonging within both school and home settings.

2 CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION

Regularly communicate and actively listen to children, showing genuine interest in their thoughts and experiences. Creating open communication channels helps young people feel heard and valued. This approach not only builds trust but also reinforces children's perception of themselves as a vital part of their family, school and community.

3 MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Give children opportunities to actively participate and contribute, whether in classrooms, at home, or in community activities. Meaningful participation helps children feel their input matters, reinforcing a sense of purpose and value. Including them in decisions and responsibilities enhances their self-worth, promoting a deeper sense of belonging and inclusion.

4 FOSTER STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Support and encourage positive relationships between peers, educators, and families. Strong, healthy relationships significantly impact a child's sense of belonging, providing emotional support and reducing feelings of loneliness. Facilitate social interactions through group activities, teamwork, and collaborative learning to strengthen these vital connections.

5 CREATE INCLUSIVE SPACES

Design environments that reflect diversity and are welcoming for everyone. Inclusive spaces where all children see themselves represented can dramatically improve their feelings of safety and acceptance. Consider classroom displays, books, and resources that celebrate various cultures, abilities, and backgrounds to visibly reinforce inclusivity and belonging.

6 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Adults play a crucial role by demonstrating inclusive, empathetic, and respectful behaviours. Modelling positive interactions and attitudes sets a clear standard for children to follow. Children are likely to replicate inclusive behaviour, creating a supportive community atmosphere where everyone feels accepted and valued for who they are.

7 BUILD EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Teach and encourage emotional expression and understanding among children. Developing emotional literacy enables young people to articulate their feelings and empathise with others. An emotionally intelligent environment cultivates mutual respect and compassion, fostering a deeper sense of belonging and interpersonal connection within groups.

8 SUPPORT PEER MENTORSHIP

Encourage peer mentorship or buddy systems within educational settings. Peer support enhances feelings of connectedness and security, reducing feelings of isolation. When children support one another, they naturally build community bonds, nurturing a supportive culture where belonging and friendship thrive.

9 RECOGNISE EFFORTS REGULARLY

Consistently acknowledge children's contributions and achievements, however small. Recognition reinforces a child's understanding that their presence and efforts are important. Celebrating individual and collective successes helps cultivate a positive environment where children feel acknowledged, motivated, and deeply connected to peers and adults around them.

10 ADDRESS BULLYING PROMPTLY

Quickly address any incidents of bullying. Promptly intervening demonstrates a clear commitment to an inclusive and safe environment. Creating a culture where incidents are swiftly and effectively addressed reinforces trust, security, and a sense of belonging for everyone involved.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is Director of Halcyon Education Ltd and Director for Wellbeing and Family Services at Leigh Trust. With extensive experience in systemic mental health in schools, she supports educational leaders across the UK to develop inclusive, resilient, and supportive learning environments. Anna is also the lead expert for mental health at The National College.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: nationalcollege.com/guides/fostering-a-sense-of-belonging



KEY DATES

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

Monday 19 May SEND Forum, 1.45-3.00pm

Wednesday 21 May Year 9 'Making Waves' with York St John University

Half Term 26-30 May

Tuesday 3 June Year 12 Parents UCAS Information Evening

Wednesday 4 June Young Carer Hub, Prospect Hill site

Wednesday 4 June Year 12 Talk the Talk Day

Friday 6 June Breakfast Meeting with Beyond Housing for Sixth Form students

w/c 9 June Year 12 Trial Exams

Tuesday 10 June Year 9-Year 13 Apprenticeship Evening for pupils and parents

Wednesday 18 June Year 12 to Hull University Experience Day

Thursday 19 June Year 12 to Leeds Beckett University UCAS Fair

Monday 23 June Years 9 & 10 Anglo American talk 'International Women in Engineering Day'

Tuesday 24 June Year 12 students visit Boulby Mine

Tuesday 24 June Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby

Wednesday 25 June Geography Year 10 Fieldwork - Sandsend to Whitby

Wednesday 25 June Year 10 Employability Workshops

Thursday 26 June Year 11 Prom, 6.00-10.00pm (Sneaton Castle)

Monday 30 June Year 12 students University of York 'Creativity Lab' Trip

Tuesday 1 July Year 8 HPV Vaccinations

Tuesday 1 July Year 7 Hunger Games

Tuesday 1-Wednesday 2 July Year 12 trip to Oxford University

Wednesday 2 July Young Carer Hub, Prospect Hill site

Friday 4 July Sports Day

Friday 4 July Year 12 students 'Project Dare' at Nestle, York

w/c Monday 7 July Year 6 Transition (Airy Hill site)

8-10 July We Will Rock You (Prospect Hill site)

Tuesday 15 July Summer Concert, 6.00-7.00pm



TERM DATES 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

Mon. 1 & Tues. 2 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



MEET THE STAFF

Senior Leadership Team

Mr G Davies – Headteacher

Ms S Boyd – Deputy Headteacher

Miss J Caddell – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs J Bradley – Assistant Headteacher (Prospect Hill site)

Mrs K Mallender – Assistant Headteacher (Airy Hill site)

Mr A Whelan – Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form)

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

Ms D Reddy – Year 7

Mr A Raw – Year 8

Mrs J Cassell-Osowski – Year 9

Mrs A Scales – Year 10

Ms A Ruberry – Year 11

Care & Achievement Coordinators

Miss A Clarkson – Year 7

Miss E Hutton – Year 8

Miss K Wilson – Year 8

Mr D Jackson – Year 9

Mrs H Ross – Year 10

Mr D Taylor – Year 11

Mr J Daley – Year 12 & 13

SAFEGUARDING



**Designated
Safeguarding Lead**
Miss J Caddell



**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**
Mrs J Bradley

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mrs K Mallender



Mr A Whelan



Mrs J Robinson



SENDCo
Mrs H Kirk



Governor
Mr M Taylor

2026 Calendar Photo Competition

"A YEAR IN NORTH YORKSHIRE"

Are you a young photographer aged 11+?

Photos need to represent York or North Yorkshire.

They can be scenery or street photography, with no identifiable faces. We want to see North Yorkshire at its best throughout the year!

Closing date 31st August 2025



For more information and to enter:
contact Stef on 07398 149496
or email stef@nyy.org.uk

T&Cs apply
Poster image is looking from Grinton towards Beeth in Swaledale



Healthier Together

Improving the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people in Humber and North Yorkshire



**LET'S
MAKE
SENSE
together.**

Let's Make Sense Together is a free resource that anyone can use. It provides information and support to children and young people with sensory processing differences.

On the Healthier Together Webpage you can find a series of videos to help parents, carers, teachers, and others who support children with sensory processing differences. You'll also find helpful advice sheets and links to other support and information.

All information has been created by local therapists.

www.hnyhealthierttogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/your-childs-development/lets-make-sense-together



NHS

NHS
York and Scarborough
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

**ESKMOUTH
(WHITBY)SCOUT GROUP**



OPEN EVENT

Come & join us at our Scout open event
We welcome everyone from ages 4 - 18 years old, adults are allowed to get involved with the fun too!
We are re-opening a new Scout group. Join in this free event to see what it is all about.

WHEN & WHERE?

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

CONTACT LIZ

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

📧 ELizabeth.Till@Scouts.org.uk



Wings
Whitby



TACKLING PERIOD POVERTY & STIGMA

- WE PROVIDE FREE ACCESS TO SAFE SANITARY PRODUCTS
- CONFIDENTIAL LOCAL SERVICE
- COMMUNITY SUPPORT
- BREAKING THE STIGMA

If you, or someone you know would benefit from free sanitary products please get in touch.

Email: admin@hopewhitby.co.uk



Whitby Youth Club



Music
Games

Food
Arts & Crafts

Support
Chill

Mondays (term time)

6.30-8.30pm

Flowergate Hall, Whitby, YO21 3BA

Open to School Year 7+

50p per session (first session free!)

Rotary
Club of Whitby & District



FREE
ART
WORKSHOPS

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-17 YEARS

Join a workshop to unleash your inner artist!

MIXED MEDIA
WORKSHOP

DRAWING
WORKSHOP

TUE 29 JULY 2025
10.00 AM - 12.00 PM

THUR 31 JULY 2025
11.00 AM - 1.00 PM

Pannett Art Gallery

LIMITED AVAILABILITY - SO BOOK EARLY

For more details see our website: www.whitbyanddistrict.rotary1040.org

To request a booking form please email: whitbyrotaryarts@gmail.com

Charity number: 1026631

Parent Carer (of children and young people aged 0-25yrs) TRAINING & information Sessions

Understanding Why Children Might Be Anxious About School

Tuesday 6th May 2025, 9.30 am—11.30 am

This is an awareness session to increase understanding of why children might be anxious about school, identify potential triggers and look at available support and strategies. This session is suitable for parents/carers of all school aged children but may be of limited value to parents of children with more complex needs.

Anxiety (Two groups)

Tuesday 3 June 2025, 9.30am—11.30am—Over 11 years

Tuesday 10 June 2025, 9.30am—11.30am—5-11 years

This session looks at what anxiety is, what the triggers might be, how to identify it and how we can support our children and young people.

Emotional Wellbeing

Wednesday 9 July 2025, 1.30pm—3.30pm

This session will focus on emotional wellbeing, what is it and how can we improve it for ourselves and our children.

Please book a place using the link or QR code directly below:

[CAMHS Training Booking Form - Parents Carers](#)



To visit our Trust website, for further information, please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page. The sessions are aimed at parents of school aged children but parents of younger/older children are very welcome. The sessions will be led by a CAMHS trainer and run on Microsoft Teams.

Understanding Behaviour Development in Children and Young People

Tuesday 15 July 2025, 9.30am—11.30am

This session will look at behavioural norms in the developing child and how adult behaviour influences this. We will look at the challenges parents and carers may face and how they can support their children and young people to develop resilience and manage risk as they grow to adulthood and independence.

Please book a place using the link or QR code directly below:

[CAMHS Training Booking Form - Parents Carers](#)



To visit our Trust website, for further information, please scan the QR code at the bottom of this page. The sessions are aimed at parents of school aged children but parents of younger/older children are very welcome. The sessions will be led by a CAMHS trainer and run on Microsoft Teams. If you have any additional needs, please email camhs.support@nhs.uk

NHS
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys
NHS Foundation Trust



www.mctdurham.co.uk



www.durhamsendias.info
0191 5873541



www.darlingtonpcf.co.uk



www.8carenets.org
Tel: 0900 0051213