



Whitby school
Ad finem terrae

newsletter

ISSUE 27





HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



This week, we reflect on a remarkable moment in our town's history. Around this time in June 1746, a young James Cook began his apprenticeship in Whitby. He was just a teenager when he arrived here, yet the skills and values he developed in our coastal town would carry him across the globe. From Whitby's shipyards to the farthest reaches of the Pacific, Cook's journey is a powerful reminder that being from Whitby can take you anywhere.

This message lies at the heart of our PSHE theme this half term: Careers and Aspirations. We want every child to believe that their future is full of possibility - and that with **endeavour, ambition, character, and courage**, they can chart their own course, just as Cook did.

We are proud to offer a wide range of opportunities this term to help our children explore their potential

and prepare for life beyond school. Our Year 12 students will soon visit Hull University to experience university life and consider the next steps in their academic journey. The very next day, they'll attend the UCAS Fair at Leeds Beckett University - an excellent chance to explore a variety of higher education options all in one place.

Meanwhile, our Year 9 pupils will take part in an inspiring talk from Anglo American, celebrating International Women in Engineering and encouraging them to think boldly about careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Shortly after, our Year 10 and Year 12 pupils will participate in an ESG Day at Boulby Mine, where they'll learn about environmental responsibility and the exciting careers available in science, engineering, and sustainability. And the momentum continues - 20





of our Year 12 students will head to the University of York's Creativity Lab to explore innovation, digital design, and the future of the creative industries.

We're also thrilled that some of our Year 12s will be visiting Oxford University - an unforgettable opportunity to experience one of the world's most prestigious academic institutions and to imagine themselves thriving there.

At the heart of all this is our commitment to preparing pupils not just for exams, but for life. That's why we're especially excited about our upcoming Employability Day on Wednesday 25 June. This is more than just a day off-timetable - it's a dynamic, hands-on experience where every pupil will take part in four engaging workshops focused on employability skills, first impressions, CV and cover letter writing, and digital communication. It's a day designed to empower, inspire, and equip our young people with the tools they need to succeed in the world of work.

Following this, our Year 10 Health and Social Care pupils will embark on work experience placements - an excellent opportunity to put into practice the skills they've developed during Employability Day in real-world settings.

Supporting all of this is our dedicated Careers and Guidance Leader, Ms Mackle, who works closely with pupils and students across all year groups to provide personalised guidance, advice, and encouragement as well as lead careers across the school.

Whether it's exploring university options, apprenticeships, or career pathways, Ms Mackle is here to help every pupil and student find their direction.

As we look ahead to the rest of this term, I hope you'll share in our excitement. Whitby has always been a place where journeys begin - and we are proud to help our pupils take their first steps with confidence, courage, and a sense of purpose.

Best wishes, Mr Davies





WELLBEING FESTIVAL

Last Thursday a group of Year 8 girls participated in a Wellbeing Festival at Dalby Forest. The event was organised by North Yorkshire Sport and had an aim to build confidence, resilience, and teamwork via participation in a range of physical activities.

Throughout the day, the girls experienced a range of activities that focused on the Five Ways to Wellbeing: Connect, Be Active, Take Notice, Keep Learning, and Give – with plenty of fun along the way.

It was wonderful to watch the girls engage so enthusiastically in yoga, kinball, archery, circus skills (to name just a few) and be interviewed for York Mix radio station who were based there and recording for Youth Voice.

In the afternoon the girls enjoyed an upbeat dance workshop followed by the highlight of the day, the Colour Run. Needless to say, the girls threw





themselves into this activity and absolutely did embrace it - the photos speak for themselves! The running course itself was fantastic and meandered through the forest which was a lovely experience for the girls. The day ended with an Athlete Workshop delivered by two really inspirational ex-professional athletes who shared their stories of enduring difficulties and how they overcame them - this

workshop offered lots of takeaway moments that the girls can apply to their own goals and challenges that they may face in the future.

Mrs Harrison and Mrs Jackson wish to express how wonderfully the girls represented Whitby School and the way that they got stuck in and gave everything a try!





YEAR 10 DISTRICT CRICKET SIX-A-SIDE

Congratulations to Year 10 cricket team for an impressive team performance coming second at the Scarborough and District Six-a-side Tournament hosted by Wykeham Cricket Club.



GOLF TASTER SESSIONS

Whitby Golf Club welcomed groups of Whitby School pupils this week in two after school sessions. Sessions focused on fundamental skills kindly delivered by club volunteers who offered their expert tuition for those new to golf and pupils looking to improve their swing. Huge thank you to everyone at Whitby Golf Club for making this possible, we will be back on 7 July for a 'House Golf Competition'.





TALK THE TALK

Last week we had Talk the Talk in to deliver a full day workshop to our Year 12 students. The focus was on public speaking, which included interview speaking. This also included learning to understand how to fully discuss the skills they already have from the various activities they take part in and of course any work they also do. The workshop also highlighted the need for our young people to get involved in extracurricular



activities in order to continue to develop the skills they have and also to develop other skills. It was a fantastic and insightful day which helped our students continue to develop their **ambition, character, courage** and **endeavour**.





MRS THOMAS' CULTURE CLUB

Years 10 and 12

Whitby Coliseum have kindly agreed to give Whitby School a private screening of Michelangelo: Love and Death.

"Through expert commentary, stunning visuals and Michelangelo's own words, this film takes a fresh look at a master artist whose life and genius are celebrated in every mark he made. Returning to cinemas in 2025 to celebrate the 550th anniversary of this iconic artist's birth."

This would be perfect for pupils and students studying art along with those of us who simply want to learn.

The screening will take place on **Friday 27 June**, meeting at 1.30pm to walk down to the Coliseum. A contribution of £5.00 is required to help with running costs.

Please email: r.thomas@whitbyschool.co.uk to put your name down.





SUBJECT PUPIL OF THE WEEK

Each week, every subject will nominate one pupil from the Airy Hill site and one from the Prospect Hill site to be their 'Student of the Week'. These pupils will be given a reward point on Class Charts, a postcard sent home and a photo with the new selfie board.



♥ 1,000,000 Likes

PUPIL of the WEEK



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



NOTICES

Year 11 Uniform Exchange

Year 11s will be able to exchange their ties, blazers and PE tops for chocolate and sweets on Monday 16 June after the last big GCSE exam.

Staff will be present at the school gates where pupils can swap their uniform for items of confectionery as they leave. Uniform donations will be recycled and reused by pastoral teams and families who would be really grateful for them. Trousers, skirts, shirts, jumpers and PE kit can also be donated.

Post 16 Transport

Applications are now open and parents can apply online www.northyorks.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/transport-sixth-form-or-college.

Whitby Sixth Form Instagram

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

[ws_sixthform](https://www.instagram.com/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)



KEY DATES

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

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'
Monday 23-Friday 27 June	Dutch Student Exchange visit to Whitby
Tuesday 24 June	Year 10 & 12 pupils/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	SEN Parent Forum, 10.00am-12.00noon
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	Year 10 pupils '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)
Friday 11 July	Sports Day
Friday 11 July	Year 10 pupils 'Project Dare' at Nestle, York
Tuesday 15 July	Summer Concert, 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 21 July	Training Day
Tuesday 22 July	Training Day
Thursday 14 August	A-Level Results Day
Thursday 21 August	GCSE Results Day
1 and 2 September	Staff Training Days
Wednesday 3 September	School Opens
12-17 October	Music Exchange return visit to Whitby



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

WE WILL ROCK YOU

SCHOOL EDITION



8th, 9th & 10th JULY 2025

WHITBY SCHOOL • PROSPECT HILL SITE

Doors open 6:30pm Curtain up 7:00pm

General Admission £7

Tickets available exclusively at Prospect Hill site –
or email finance@whitbyschool.co.uk with subject: WWRV Tickets

We Will Rock You – School Edition is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized performance materials are supplied by: Theatrical Rights
Worldwide (TRW) www.theatricalrights.co.uk

EIGHTEEN
91



ESK VALLEY BIG BAND WITH WMC POP CHOIR



£5 - Scan QR Code

DOORS 7PM

14TH JUNE 2025

EIGHTEEN91 (CHAPEL ON THE HILL),
WHITBY, YO21 1RB



RIFFS HOOKS AND LINES PRESENTS

ARE YOU CARING FOR A YOUNG PERSON WITH AN EATING DISORDER?

We are here to support you



Drop in for a cuppa and a chat;

26 June 2025

The Roost, 6 Talbot Yard, Malton,
YO17 7FT

10.30-12.00

#KRO
Kick REXi OUT

kickrexiout@gmail.com
07425 346936

YORK KIDS FUN TRIATHLON SWIM - BIKE - RUN

GET READY TO SWIM, BIKE & RUN:
YORK KIDS TRIATHLON IS HERE!

- FUN ACHIEVABLE DISTANCES FOR ALL ABILITIES OF 5-16 YR OLDS
- HEATED INDOOR POOL SWIM
- TARMAC CYCLE COURSE & FLAT GRASS RUN ROUTE
- UK KIDS FUN TRIATHLON FINISHERS MEDAL FOR EVERYONE

16TH AUGUST 2025

YORK SPORT VILLAGE, YORK
UKTRIATHLON.CO.UK



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 Griston towards North in Swaledale