

Newsletter

November 2012



Whitecross
Hereford

Grandparent's Day



"If they don't succeed here, they won't succeed anywhere"
Mrs N

"Very impressive, but not like it was in our day!" **Mr S**

"The school was just brilliant in all aspects" **Mrs B**

"All in all, a superb school"
Mr W

"What fantastic teachers - what super facilities - what a great school!" **Mr & Mrs B**

Wonderful comments such as these came from the Grandparents who visited their Year 7 grandchildren on Friday 5 October. We opened our doors for the second year running for Grandparents Day and following such a successful visit, we will be featuring this event in our calendar every year.

Grandparents enjoyed being given tours of the school, meeting teachers, popping in to classes and ending their visits by wonderful entertainment put on by the choir, while slide shows played and refreshments were served. We are all looking forward to next year's visit!



What's happening @ WX

Value Of The Month For November

Freedom



Keep up to date with what's happening daily at Whitecross by following the Head on Twitter:

@WhitecrossHead

Welcoming Parents

In October we welcomed the parents of thirty five of our Year 7 students who came to be see how their child had settled into Whitecross. Students proudly introduced their teachers; showed off some of their work and explained where all of their classes were. They joined the Headteacher for refreshments and to review how the transfer and their first few weeks had gone at Whitecross. The students were full of enthusiasm for the school; they have made new friends and are enjoying the variety of subjects on offer. The choice of food at lunchtime and break was also very popular. Parents were happy, praising the relationships with teachers, communications and the variety of activities on offer. They appreciated having the opportunity to see the school in action and to spend time with their child in their school. We introduced these visits at the suggestion of one of our current Year 8 parents and it has proved so popular we will repeat it again next year.

30% off School Uniform!

We understand that times are tough at the moment and families have to shop more carefully, so we have joined with our official uniform stockist, The School Uniform Shop, to offer our parents a very special discount of 30% off the normal price on all Whitecross Badged School Uniform and Sports-wear purchased before 14 December 2012. All you need to do is visit the School Uniform Shop in the Maylord Shopping Centre, Hereford and select your items in the usual way, show the staff this newsletter and they will take 30% off before you pay.



Year 10 at the Courtyard

The new Year 10 Textile students began their new course by working on a project through the Hereford College of Art and Concern Universal.



Using traditional African techniques the students had to decorate a 'Wrapper' or a skirt for an African woman to wear, decorated with scenes or patterns depicting the shortage of fresh clean water for drinking. Maggie from Concern Universal came to school and through a presentation of pictures and facts described the plight of children especially in Africa without access to clean water. The Year 10 students worked hard to produce designs and the resulting work went on display at the Courtyard Theatre for 2 weeks while the Afro Vibes performances were taking place there.



This was an interesting and worthwhile introduction to the course and the students should be very proud of their final pieces.

This is one of the first of many collaborations with the Art College this year. **Mrs S**

Hereford Young Photographers

Congratulations go to T O from Year 10. He recently had one of his photos chosen in the 'Highly Recommended' category at the Hereford Young Photographers competition. Whitecross also had a number of students' work selected in the 'Favourites' category at the exhibition, which were displayed at Hereford College of Arts. Well done to all of the Visual Communication students who entered an image. They are currently studying towards two GCSE's (Photography and Graphic Communication), the course also involves students from other Hereford schools.

Mr H



Recycling Magazines



Do you have any unwanted general interest or hobby magazines heading for the recycling bin? If so, please send them in with your child for use in the Library - our students enjoy reading motoring, farming, sport

magazines etc. at break times, and when we've finished with them they'll be recycled. Similarly, we can make good use of any children's or teenager's books which you might have sorted out ready to go to a charity shop.

Dry Ski Slope Visit

The night of Friday 2 November saw the first of two visits to the Dry Ski Slope at Pontypool for preparation lessons for the ski trip to Aprica, Italy.

40 students began their first adventure in to the sport of skiing and enjoyed it greatly. Everyone learnt how to put their boots on, attach skis and then ski down the nursery slope. Some students even attempted turns! The staff at the centre were very impressed with the way our students listened and learnt so quickly, and are looking forward to having the group back for their second lesson at the end of November.



It won't be long now until February half term when 53 students leave Whitecross with 7 staff to travel to Italy for an exciting week's skiing experience.

We are travelling with Skiplan and there will be a parents' evening in the hall at 6.00pm on **Wednesday 5 December** in preparation for this trip. **Mrs S**

Music

Students - are you interested in learning to play an instrument? Joining a band? The pop choir? Taking part in a show? Maybe you're a budding violinist, guitarist, saxophonist or drummer. There are music lessons to suit everyone and typically a lesson will last for half an hour, 32 weeks a year. Come along to the Music Department to find out more and join in the fun! **Miss H**

ASDAN CoPE

Well done to all the students who have achieved this qualification. It is currently a level two qualification which is the equivalent of two B grade GCSEs. Your outstanding efforts shone out in the folders that were moderated. Certificates will be awarded with the GCSE certificates in the Summer. **Mrs B**

Greencross Council

The Greencross Council meets every Monday and will be busy bees in the next couple of weeks making Christmas inspired products from recycled materials and window boxes so we can continue to grow fresh produce in school through the winter. We have made a start with Bright Lights Chard, which is growing nicely on the window sill.



A big thank you goes to all the students and their families who have kindly brought in their Morrisons Let's Grow vouchers. So far we've received 700+ vouchers which will provide compost and seeds for the spring/summer months. If you have vouchers please give them to Mrs Green as soon as possible.

Switch off fortnight starts on 19 November and runs until 2 December. As a school we will try to reduce the amount of energy used by switching off devices, lights and items left on standby. Students will have quizzes to take part in and prizes will be given to the winning form! You could even take part at home.



Whitecross is competing for Cartridge World's Green super hero of the year award... and we need your help! Please continue to bring in any used ink cartridges from your printers at home or even from your place of work. This is not only a great opportunity to ensure our waste gets reused but also a great fundraising opportunity for the Greencross Council so we can do more to promote and encourage a greener lifestyle for our students and community. In return students will receive praise points for their academy and the satisfaction that they have done something for the environment. **Mrs G**

Remember:

Everybody's welcome Monday 2.35pm - 3.35pm

Faraday Challenge

Whitecross were invited to take part in the 2012 Faraday Challenge hosted by Monmouth's Haberdashers Girls School and run by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.



Six students from Year 8 participated in the engineering challenge to make a code and send it using a device which was also designed and constructed by the team. They used knowledge they had learnt in maths, science and compliant materials to make their device and gained skills in mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, accountancy and cryptography to complete the tasks.

When it came to the big test at the end of the day, the team's communication device worked and they were able to decode the message. This earned them a fantastic 2nd place - well done!

Miss W

First Aid @ WX

You can be reassured that we work tirelessly to make WX a safe environment for our students and staff, but occasionally accidents do happen. Our team of qualified first aid staff are on call during school hours to respond to any incident. All incidents are recorded and our Governors regularly review our statistics.

We have currently reviewed our Managing Medicines Policy. Whilst we would anticipate most medicines are taken at home, we do appreciate there are times when a *course* of medication means your child may need to take medicine during the school day. If this is the case, and you wish the school to oversee this, please complete and sign the necessary form (yellow for Prescription Medicines and green for Non-prescription Medicines) giving our staff your authorisation to administer the medicines. Please ask your child to bring the form and the medication in its original packaging to the Reception Office, where our staff will arrange for a trained first aider to hold securely and administer the medication in accordance with your instructions. A record will be maintained of dosages given, witnessed by the first aider and another member of staff. If the medicine is classed as a 'controlled drug' you are asked to hand this into the school office yourself.

If your child wakes up feeling a bit under the weather and you would like them to take non-prescription medicines during the school day, you can indicate and authorise this in their Student Planner. Your child should bring both their planner and medicines in the original packaging to the Reception Office to be held safely. Our staff will record any medication administered during that day in your child's planner.



Students with asthmatic conditions are advised to leave a spare inhaler with the Reception Office in case of emergency. Similarly students who carry an epi-pen may wish to leave a spare with the office.

Copies of the Policy and the Request Forms can be found on our web-site or are available from the Reception Office.

Exam changes in 2014

You will have heard in the press that there is a consultation about the future of examinations which will impact our Year 7 students when they reach Year 10. Once we have clarity about exactly what this will entail I will write to parents advising them of any changes. **Mrs S**

Operation Christmas Child

Whitecross students and families have made another fantastic contribution to the Operation Christmas Child appeal again this year. 65 shoeboxes made a festive display and soon disappeared in to the back of a lorry on Monday 12 November. Many thanks to everyone involved in helping make this Christmas really special for those children less fortunate. Last year over 270,000 boxes went to children in Belarus and 6,600 were distributed to children in Haiti - it's wonderful to think we have brought a little bit of happiness to others. **Mrs B**



Nestlé Box Tops for Books

Please help our Library by collecting Nestle cereal box top tokens. Each one is worth 20p in books and they really help us to keep our non-fiction and fiction books up to date. Tokens can be handed in to the Library, Reception or Form Tutors, and will be put to very good use. **Mrs T**



Multifaith

We always look forward to the Multifaith event each Autumn and this year proved to be another great success. We invite students from our primary schools to visit and together with our Year 8 students, take part in an event filled with different activities and learning about other world faiths.

We were extremely lucky to welcome four fabulous guest speakers for the day. Butta came and spoke about Sikhism, Razwan helped us understand more about Islam, Bharti taught us about Hinduism and Jane helped us to explore Judaism.

There was dancing, music, colour and a sea of smiles in every classroom where the workshops were taking place. Well done to all the Year 8 students who helped out making this another outstanding event.

Mrs B



Visit the Library

The library is a busy part of the school, used particularly by Years 7 and 8 who all have at least one reading book in their school bag as part of the Accelerated Reader Programme. Students are encouraged to choose and change their library books before and after school, and during breaks; so that the precious reading time they are given during the day isn't wasted by queuing up in the library. Please make sure books are returned as soon as they are read, so they are ready for others to borrow.

We take part in lots of projects such as Reading Buddies; the Scholastic Cover 2 Cover discount book brochure; reading links with other schools; and Book Club on Wednesday lunch times. It's always useful to hear ideas from students about how they would like to use the library, so any suggestions to Mrs T please.

The Heritage School

Sunday 4 November excitement was mounting as 18 families awaited the arrival of our Indian exchangees. The 20 students and 3 staff from the Heritage School arrived with horns blasting and banners waving; having had 2 busy days in London they were ready to meet their host families and start their week as a member of Whitecross.

The week has been busy with Heritage students and staff participating in lessons, attending assemblies and after-school clubs, visiting Hereford and a day trip to Weston-super-Mare culminating in a celebratory tea party and a show performed by the students of the Heritage School.



Whitecross is the only school in Britain to have a student exchange programme with a school in India and we are very proud of our ever strengthening relationships. The exchange is now in its seventh year and many students and staff have taken part, with lifelong friendships being forged.

The exchange could not take place without the generosity and care of host families to whom we, and the Heritage students' parents, are grateful. We were very sad to wave our Indian friends off as they departed and are counting down the days until our return visit in January. There may be some places still available for Whitecross students to join should anyone be interested please contact us as soon as possible. **Mrs R**

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20 November, Parents' Evening for students going to India in January.

Thursday 22 November, Certificate Evening for 2012 leavers and their parents.

Wednesday 5 December, Parents' Evening for students going on the Ski trip to Italy in February.

Homework Help is at hand

We know that home life can often be busy, especially after school finishes when parents may be trying to juggle cooking, shopping, activities, visits and even some quiet time, into a relatively short space of time! So help is at hand for all of our students. We don't want to add to that endless list of things families have to squeeze into their home time, so to help we have set up homework clubs which are available throughout the week, during school time and after school too. If a student finds it difficult to put time aside and do their homework at home, they can now sign up, stay up to date and improve their progress. We'll make sure IT access is available and there'll be free refreshments. All clubs are supervised, so help is at hand.

Whitecross supports homework!

Homework clubs are available for all year groups

Where?

Bromley:	Ms R in Cz1
Hagloe:	Ms G in Sc3 (lunchtime in DT5)
Moyle:	Miss H in It3
Styre:	Miss W in Mu2

When?

After school:	Tuesday	(3.10pm - 4.10pm)	NOT Hagloe
	Wednesday	(3.10pm - 4.10pm)	Hagloe ONLY
	Thursday	(3.10pm - 4.10pm)	ALL Academies
Lunchtimes:	Wednesday	(1.10pm - 1.40pm)	ALL Academies
	Friday	(1.10pm - 1.40pm)	ALL Academies

**STUDENTS - STAY UP TO DATE WITH YOUR HOMEWORK
AND IMPROVE YOUR PROGRESS!**

C W meets David Cameron!



We are rightly proud of our ex-Whitecross student C W who had plenty to smile about in the summer.

C was selected from a list of nominated Paralympic athletes after an appeal by Herefordshire Council to play a major part in the summer celebrations.

He represented Herefordshire when he went to London to collect part of the Paralympic flame on Friday 24 August. C was presented with Herefordshire's Paralympic lantern in Trafalgar Square where he met Prime Minister David Cameron.

Returning to Hereford by train, C brought the lantern back and rode his horse, Gypsy, to the party on Saturday 25 August at the Royal National College for the Blind. He then presented the lantern to the Mayor. C said that taking part in the event was "an honour".

C left Whitecross this year and we all wish him well with his studies at college.

The Paralympic Flame

