

# Newsletter

## April 2013



Whitecross Hereford  
A High School and Specialist Sports College

### Whitecross Tackles Spain



65 students travelled to Spain for the sports trip of a lifetime on Easter Sunday. The trip was months in the planning with students fundraising to make sure the visit was a success. A 28 hour coach journey took the teams to Cambrills, a small town around 90 minutes south of Barcelona.

Mixing training masterclasses, matches, and cultural visits the students had a fantastic time and thanks must go to the staff who organised the trip and made it such a success.

A full report is over the page.

### Celeidh & Hog Roast

Tickets are still available for our fantastic celeidh and hog roast which is taking place on Saturday 18 May. Tickets are just £5.00 each which includes your food. There will be live music provided by TafRaf, dancing and a bar. Our grand prize draw will also take place during the evening.

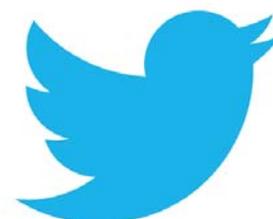
Many thanks to those of you who have been busy selling raffle tickets, if you would like any more please contact the school. All sold tickets and money should be returned to the school by Friday 17 May.

The celeidh, hog roast and grand prize draw are organised by the Whitecross Three Elms Association (the PTFA for Whitecross Hereford). All funds raised will go to the appeal for a new minibus for the school.

Whitecross  
**Three Elms**  
Association

### Follow @WhitecrossHead

You can keep up to date with events at the school by following @WhitecrossHead. Not only will this give you an insight into daily life at the school it will also let you know about school closures during bad weather.



Value Of The Month For April

# Cooperation

## Spain Continued

### Sunday

Bags were packed, loved ones were waved off, and a gruelling 28 hour coach and ferry journey began at 9am.

### Monday

Plenty of tired bodies arrived slightly earlier than expected at The Maritim Hotel in Cambrils. Team Whitecross went for an afternoon stroll on the beach and some straight in to holiday mood with an ice cream! We also had our first travel group competition – the hotly contested sand castle competition. In the evening we walked down to Salou, and played beach football and volleyball. An early night was had by all and much needed prior to starting our training and fixtures.

### Tuesday

Tuesday 2 April was the most significant day in the calendar, as we made a short journey to Barcelona to walk through the city and experience one of Europe's most iconic venues, Camp Nou, home of FC Barcelona. We went on a magnificent tour of the 95,000 all seater arena, venturing into the FCB Museum, through into the stand, receiving an outstanding view of the crystal clear pitch and the dauntingly high stadium seats. Just as Messi and Xavi have been doing this season, we had the opportunity to walk out of the tunnel and onto pitch side. The evening brought the first fixtures against Spanish opposition with the U15 A and B side and the U14 boys all in action after an inspirational visit to Camp Nou.

### Wednesday

Wednesday was one of two all football days, where everyone had either a training session or a match. All squads had training sessions with the excellent Masterclass coaches. The coaches were very impressed with the standard of play displayed from the students. Meanwhile, the U14 girls team and the U13 boys had evening fixtures against Spanish opposition.

### Thursday

Thursday was busy and chaotic. It started with a training session for both boys' squads. The U14 and U15 played a training match together which was conducted with the right attitude and intensity. Both coaches (one Chelsea academy coach and one current international footballer) made specific comments about the professional approach of our students and how keen and willing they were to develop and progress their football ability.

### Friday

The final day in Spain was spent visiting a theme park, Port Aventura, home of Europe's highest rollercoaster, the Shambilaa. This was the only day when the weather wasn't on our side, cloud was predominant and the temperature wasn't too friendly either. This wasn't going to stop Miss C who was in her element by completing the 'big 5 rides'. Mr F, always the Maths teacher, had great pleasure in telling anyone who would listen that he had 'just been on the ride that went 160kph in 3.4 seconds'. Returning to the hotel we caught up with L P with his leg in plaster. We filled up on food, and started our long journey back to Hereford.

### Saturday

After a long coach journey, depressingly, we were back on English soil! Thanks to Mr B, Mr G, Mr F, Mr S, Miss C, Miss B and Mrs W for an amazing week! Thanks also to every student who took part in the tour, who were fantastic from start to finish and a pleasure to take away.

Pictures of the trip are in the PE corridor. Videos are on the 'whitecrossPE' YouTube channel. Make sure you have a look!!

### Mr W



## Winter Games



The Herefordshire Winter School Games took place at the beginning of February and saw Whitecross take a number of teams to compete in the finals of several of the Winter sports. The Year 7 and 8 girls and boys teams competed in the finals of the Secondary Sports Hall Athletics and displayed real effort and determination throughout the competition. The Year 7 boys and the Year 8 girls won and will now represent Herefordshire in the Regional Finals in Coventry; the Year 7 girls and the Year 8 boys were runners up in their competitions.

In a first for us, the Key Stage Three girls badminton team made it through to the finals and as outsiders, were looking forward to enjoying a day of games. However, their determination to succeed won through and in the last game clinched victory to become Champions...well done!

The U14 girls and boys Futsal teams both excelled and will now go through to the Regional finals later this month.

The Top Sportability group led by Mrs A, took part in the Inclusion Athletics competition and participated in a range of activities.



## Inclusion Sports

What a fantastic start to the Winter Games, with Whitecross picking up 3 of the 4 medals at the inclusion events.

All students took part in a range of different activities ranging from curling to sprint races. Each student scored points for their team and as individuals, which resulted in three students picking up the top honours in 4 of the events.

After some fantastic displays of skills on all events, Whitecross eventually came out overall team winners of the inclusion festival. It was fantastic to see so many of our students demonstrating the Whitecross values and competing to such an excellent standard.

## Futsal Success

After a hard fought semi-final verses Whitecross B, the A team travelled to Point 4 unbeaten and in high sprints to face a very tough Weobley. After supporting in the inclusion festival prior to the game the A team started slow but began to string some great passes together. For the first time in the entire campaign the A team began to show some nerves, especially as we were struggling to beat an inform goal keeper. Whitecross finally got the breakthrough and went into the half time 1-0 up thanks to some great team work and strong defending.

Whitecross started the second half better and stronger than the first, but disaster struck when after being poorly all week, C Y was unable to continue playing in goal. Thanks to our "Super Sub" E B, who stepped in and made some fantastic saves to keep Whitecross in the game.

Whitecross held out for the 1-0 victory, and will now progress onto the Regional Final held at Birmingham on 11 May. Good luck and well done to all involved.

## Remember Me?



On Friday 19 April Whitecross held its third CCDD (Cross Curricular Dimensions Day) of the year. On these days students forget their normal timetable and do something completely different with a view to helping them in their studies here, but also in their life outside Whitecross.

Year 8 spent the day developing their ability to learn (known as metacognition) with the help of one of the World's leading exponents of memory, David Thomas. David first came to work at Whitecross last year and has worked with many different groups of students and staff over the last 12 months, helping us all understand how the brain stores and then recalls information, a key skill in an education system where increasingly students will be judged by what they can remember at the end of their time at school in large terminal exams.

David has led a colourful life, from a dysfunctional childhood and expulsion from school to becoming an international speaker and media celebrity with appearances in shows such as 'Oprah Winfrey' in the USA. He was a Guinness World Record holder after reciting pi to 22 000 digits and has the grand accolade of International Grandmaster of Memory.

Yet he still remains strongly wedded to the values of hard work and self-sufficiency in becoming a success in life, delivering a persuasive message to his audience with no small amount of humour. The students I'm sure will not forget their time spent with him!

**Dr P**

## Road Closure

On the 12 May 2013 Welsh Water will be upgrading a key drainage pipe in the city. To do this a section of the eastbound carriageway of Newmarket Street from the roundabout to the junction of Widemarsh Street will be temporarily closed. There will be diversion signing posted to navigate the city centre during the works.

This may well impact on your journey to and from school so please be aware and plan your trip accordingly. Further details about the works can be found on the councils website:

**[www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk)**

The works are due to last for four weeks.

## 100 Club Winners

Congratulations to Mrs W Davies whose lucky number was the first to be drawn in our March lottery. Mr D Hill was next and claimed second prize.

You can still join the 100 Club. Details can be found in the PTFA section of the school website.

## May Fair

Going to the May Fair this year? Just remember it starts after the school day ends and even if you're out later than planned, you'll be expected in school bright and early the next day. Being tired and late to bed is no excuse for absence.

So have fun, be safe and see you at 8.35am the next morning!

**Mr L**

## First Aid

Please make sure that if your child is asthmatic they have a spare inhaler held at the school reception in case theirs is lost or is empty.