

# Newsletter

## March 2013



Whitecross Hereford  
A High School and Specialist Sports College

### Alice In Wonderland

Tickets sold like hot cakes and the two performances were soon fully booked. Students and staff had given up many hours of their own time (including weekends) to rehearse for the production of the year. The cast performed to 250



students and staff from local primary schools who packed the hall to get a sneak preview at the dress rehearsal. Showtime came quickly and students put on a dazzling performance to sell out audiences on two consecutive nights. Deputy Headteacher T K said "It was an incredible production. It's one of the most ambitious and

creative pieces of drama/performance I think I've ever seen in a secondary school. Huge congratulations and thanks to everyone involved!"

With performances as glittering as the costumes and set design it will be a night to remember for everyone who took part.



### Lost Property



We currently have a huge amount of lost property at school. It is now getting impossible to store all of the items and we need to make some space.

At the end of this term all unclaimed items will be donated to charity. If you have mislaid an item during this academic year please make sure that it is claimed by 28 March as all remaining items will be collected on the last day of term.

Value Of The Month For March

# Honesty

## Planes, trains and automobiles—India style



The on-going and hugely successful partnership and exchange programme between Whitecross and the Heritage School, Kolkata ... What could possibly go wrong? Setting off from rural Herefordshire to travel independently to two major cities on another continent, with a group of teenagers, 5000 miles away!

The nearer the departure day came the more we started to wonder. However the reality is the trip went as smoothly as we could have hoped. The 2013 Whitecross exchangees were the first group to visit another Indian city and our time in Delhi, if more than a little wet, gave us a taste of life in India beyond Kolkata. Once we were eventually all settled on a magical 18 hour train journey across northern India from Delhi to Kolkata, we reflected on the enormity of what we were doing. We took huge pride in the way the 12 exchangees were taking it all in their stride, chatting to fellow travellers and coping with the 'below British standards' of the toilet facilities.

As ever our welcome to Kolkata was warm, friendly and reassuring; arriving at an Indian station and weaving our way through the crowds, luggage and cargo is a memory that will stay with many of us for years. Having had almost 3 whole days as a group our students were whisked off into the Saturday traffic with their host families. Staff arranged to meet up on Sunday with any students that might want to see a familiar face – not one came! We didn't take it personally, but took comfort knowing they were settled with their hosts and busy!

As ever we spent time in school, experiencing a taste of life as a Heritage student in cookery, geography, and politics lessons amongst other subjects. The firm favourite remains the opportunity to have a swimming pool to ourselves – yes, swimming outdoors in the northern hemisphere in the middle of January. The visit to Daspara school in a suburb of Kolkata brought home all the extremes of wealth and lifestyle in 21st Century India: children coming to school in order to ensure they have a hot meal 5 days a week; parents waiting at school hoping to be invited in. Yet amidst all the dust, dirty water and lack of electricity most of the children were immaculately turned out and their eagerness to learn and demonstrate their skills was humbling.

Chowbaga village remains an enlightening experience and is an opportunity to see the homes and workplaces of less wealthy Indians, and experience their living conditions at close quarters. Some of the group were even invited into a home in which a wedding ceremony was taking place.

The week culminated with us joining the Republic Day celebrations at the school's Kolahaal Festival (the Indian equivalent of a British fete). We were asked to run a games stall and were amazed that visitors of all ages found 'Pin the Tail on the Donkey' to be the most appealing game.

Teary goodbyes and promises of further visits have again shown us this exchange programme, unique to any school in the UK, is a privilege to participate in and has benefits that last way beyond the duration of the trip. It is certainly an experience not available on a high street near you!

### Mrs R and the team



## Greencross Campaigns



We are taking part in the Cartridge World recycle it campaign and we need your help.

- Bring your empty ink cartridges to Mrs G and exchange them for praise points.
- Ask your parents, friends, family and neighbours for their ink cartridges too.

Not only will you be doing your bit for the environment but you will also be helping Greencross raise money to fund the allotment and other activities.

Did you know that every year enough printer cartridges are thrown away to almost fill the Elizabeth Tower at Westminster.



## First Aid Matters

If your child suffers from asthma they must carry their inhaler with them at all times in case they experience difficulty breathing during the day. It is also essential that a spare inhaler is stored at main reception in case your child's main inhaler runs out, breaks, or gets lost.

## French Visitors

We're looking forward to welcoming 26 French students from our partner school in Saverne, France, on March 18 and 19. They'll be accompanying our GCSE French students to lessons for the full Whitecross experience! 11 of our students will pay a reciprocal visit to the Collège de Sources in Saverne during the French trip running through the Easter holidays.

## Exam News

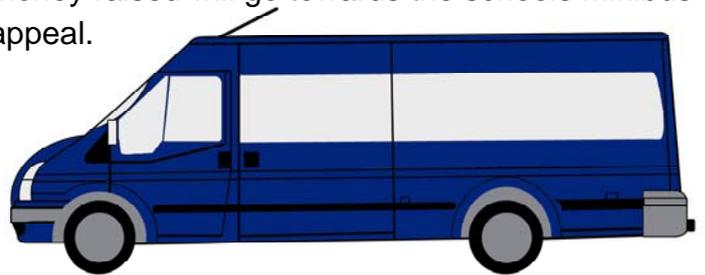
On Monday 11 March Year 11 students will be receiving their individual summer exam timetable. Look after your timetable once it has been received.

## The New 100 Club

Have you got your number yet? The 100 Club is our new fundraising lottery organised by the PTA. There will be 6 prize draws from March to August with cash prizes available for the first and second numbers drawn each month. Each number costs £6 for the 6 prize draws. Membership to the 100 Club will be renewed in September when each number will cost £12 for the 12 monthly draws. There is no limit to the amount of numbers you can have, and the lottery is open to friends and family as well.

To join the 100 Club simply complete the form overleaf and return it to school along with a cheque for £6 per number. (Please make cheques payable to "Whitecross Three Elms Association").

To guarantee entry into the March draw please return your completed forms and cheques to the school office by Friday 15 March. Please contact the school if you require any more information. All money raised will go towards the school's minibuses appeal.



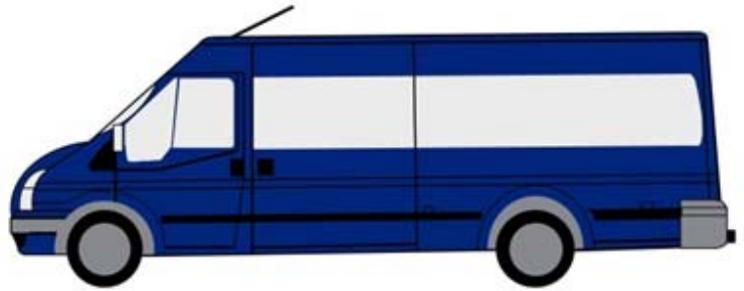
## Dates For Your Diary

**Thursday 14 March**

Year 9 Parents Evening

**Thursday 28 March**

Last day of term



# 100 CLUB APPLICATION FORM

I would like to take part in the PTA '100 Club' starting March 2013 and ending in August 2013.

My details are as follows:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Email:.....

Telephone:.....

Child's Name:.....

Please indicate how many numbers you would like to purchase by circling as appropriate:-

**1 Number (£6) 2 Numbers (£12) 3 Numbers (£18)**

**4 Numbers (£24) 5 Numbers (£30) 6 Numbers (£36)**

If you would like more than 6 numbers please tell us how many :.....

I enclose my cheque made out to **Whitecross Three Elms Association** for .....

If you are a winner we will send you a cheque. Please tell us who we should make the cheque payable to:.....

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Please return this form along with your cheque to:- PTA 100 Club via the School Reception.

**To be included in the March draw, please return your form by Friday 15 March 2013.**