

Newsletter

November 2013



Whitecross Hereford
A High School and Specialist Sports College

Whitecross Goes Roman

Our Year 11 GCSE Classics group recently visited Chedworth Roman Villa near Cheltenham as part of the preparation for their controlled assessment. Aply assisted by Miss H, the group spent the day examining and recording the site of one of the most significant villas to be built in Britain during the Roman period. Initially found by a gamekeeper hunting for rabbits with his dog in 1864, the villa site has been excavated by archaeologists to reveal rooms, bath houses, shrines and the most amazing mosaics. In its heyday during the second century AD, the villa would have been one of the finest palaces in the Roman province of Britain.



The group carefully recorded their findings before enjoying what the National Trust does best – the café and gift shop. It was a surprise and possibly a concern to see some of the finest brains in the school giggling over toy swords and shields before tucking into a healthy lunch of custard creams.

Suitably refreshed, we made our way to Cirencester which during the Roman period was a major town and local capital. The town lies on the Fosse Way in the heart of what was possibly the wealthiest part of the Roman province. As a consequence it possessed one of the largest amphitheatres in Britain. The huge stadium was able to hold thousands of spectators and would have been the scene of gladiator contests and animal hunts. Our group chose to mark the visit by rolling down the enormous earth banks which would have supported the seating. I am pleased to report that apart from some muddy knees and a bout of vertigo from our Head Boy, the students survived the experience.

The Classics GCSE is a tough course where students at Whitecross pit themselves against some of the top independent schools in the country. I am incredibly proud of the hard work and effort they put in and wish them well as they write their controlled assessment and prepare for their examinations next summer.

Mr K

Rugby Success

After beating Tenbury 33-7 the Year 8 rugby team booked a place in the Herefordshire Schools U13 Plate Final.

In a highly competitive final against St Mary's the boys triumphed 34-26 and brought the plate back to Whitecross.

This is a fantastic achievement for the boys involved as, before coming to Whitecross, only one of the boys had played rugby before. We look forward to their continued success as they progress through the school.

Mr B

Value Of The Month For November

Freedom

Attendance Matters

Despite having had a mild autumn, the weather reports suggest a cold winter ahead. The change in weather at this time of year is often accompanied by runny noses, coughs and sneezes and inevitably some students will miss some school time while they recover. Please remember to let school know each day your child is ill. You can telephone 01432 376080 and select option 1 or text/voicemail to 0844 239 3069.

Research seems to suggest that catching cold and flu viruses is an almost inevitable part of life but there do appear to be things that can be done to reduce the impact of them when they strike. A healthy lifestyle can help to keep the symptoms at bay. Wrapping up warm and keeping dry won't make any difference to catching or not catching a cold, but it can help to maintain a strong immune system and keep the symptoms at bay. A hoodie is no replacement for a good warm, waterproof coat. Plenty of sleep and a healthy diet can also help keep children free from the worst symptoms, so plenty of vegetables and no late nights on the Playstation!

Cold and flu viruses are spread through particles in the air or by touching objects such as door handles. Regularly washing your hands and avoiding touching your nose and eyes can also help reduce the risk of infection.

Further information on colds and flu can be found on the NHS Direct website:-
www.nhs.direct.nhs.uk/

Mr L

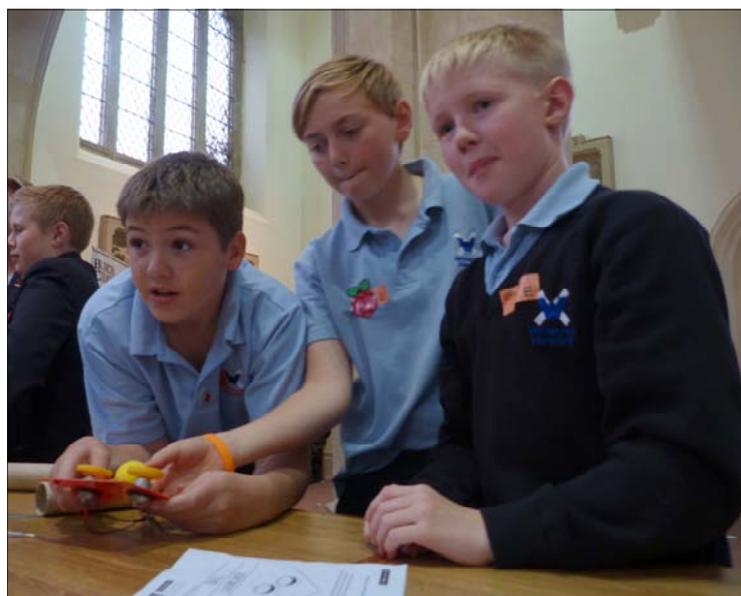
Art Showcase

The Art Department have created a Whitecross Flickr page to showcase the best of our talented students. It can be found at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/85969673@N04/sets/>

Innovating at Malvern

The science department took a team of five Year 8 students to the Malvern Festival of Innovation on Friday 8 November, which was held at Malvern College and Malvern Theatre. The event was part of the Malvern Festival of Innovation which was featured on local news television programmes.



We had a look around the exhibition in the morning and saw some weird and wonderful new ideas on display. In the afternoon we participated in some workshops aimed at getting more students interested in the endless possibilities within STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). The workshops were fun and varied including some tuition in 3D CAD and 3D printing, programming a Raspberry Pi and making ball launchers. The students were each gifted a Raspberry Pi and a further competition will take place in March of next year.

Miss Williams

Overdue Library Books

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our readers by hunting out overdue library books, the shelves are beginning to look much fuller! We would much prefer to get the books back than the cost incurred.

Mrs T

Whitecross Timelords

After several months of planning and preparation, it was finally the big day at the Shire Hall. After unloading box after box of Doctor Who themed cupcakes and dalek shaped cookies, it was time to lay out the Whitecross stall. It wasn't long before the Time Lord Challenge, the pin-the-bow-tie-on-the-doctor poster and the piles of alien, doctor and companion quizzes were laid out ready.



Elsewhere in the hall, a dalek practised his dalek voice to the Doctor Who theme tune, while weeping angels and cybermen roamed around putting finishing touches to displays. A journalist interviewed some Whitecross students live on local radio. Near the Whitecross stall stood the tardis itself – quite a reassuring thought, given the amount of daleks around. Down the corridor, near the main entrance, Mrs S and her team of prefects had brewed the tea and the kiddies' table was plished with neat piles of crayons, glue, scissors and a large box of scrap material, donated by Mrs S, so that the children of Hereford could design their own monster or the twelfth Doctor's look.

At 11.00am sharp the doors were opened to the queuing multitudes and the first brave Whovian took on the fishfingers and custard challenge successfully, setting a trend that ensured our supplies and certificates were used up within an hour! The public kept arriving in droves. We kept them content and busy while they queued, with tea

and quizzes and reminders that we were saving for a school minibus. The kiddies' table was a constant buzz of activity and the cupcakes sold out in half an hour. The fastest Time Lord challenger managed to order the doctors correctly in 14 seconds flat. The bow tie ended up in lots of interesting places and we nearly lost C inside the moving dalek. At least no one was allowed into the tardis! £300 profit and much positive publicity later, when the last cookie had been shifted and the dalek cake-stand itself had been raffled off, we were content to call it a day.

Mrs H

India Update

Emails, messaging and phone calls abound as students and teachers prepare for Kolkata in January. The paper work for the visas is now collated and ready for delivery to the Indian High Commission this week – fingers crossed there isn't a 't' we haven't crossed or an 'i' without a dot!

We have been successful in securing a small grant from the British Council's Connecting Classrooms project to support the exchange visit. 'The partnership offers young people the chance to collaborate directly with their international peers, bringing challenging global issues to life and creating meaningful cross-cultural relationships'; the theme of this year's exchange is Sustainable Living.

Sustainability touches us in many forms and is increasingly being integrated into our daily lives with us all recycling where possible, saving water and electricity. Students and staff from Whitecross visiting in January will see what sustainability means to wealthy families and people living in villages and slums of Kolkata.

To learn more about the exchange programme please visit the blog:

**whitecrossindia.blogspot.co.uk or
<http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org>**

Mrs R

Top Sports



On Tuesday 12 November, Mr Rawlinson and I took the Top Sports Group on a very special evening trip. They were chosen to present the Guard of Honour for Hereford United FC in their match against Chester City FC. They stood proud against the Territorial Army and WW2 Veterans who were there to commemorate Remembrance Day. The evening was a huge success and Hereford drew 2-2 giving them a much needed point.

There were definitely some sore throats in school the next day after all the cheering!

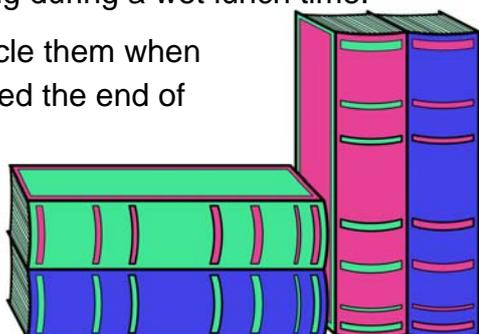
Mrs A

Recycle Your Books

If you have a clear out and have teenage or childrens books which you no longer need but are in good condition, please can you send them to the school for use in the library? We can also always use hobby type magazines as they are ideal for browsing during a wet lunch time.

We always recycle them when they have reached the end of their useful life.

Mrs T



Cover 2 Cover

The Christmas shopping edition of Cover 2 Cover is now available in form folders or from the library. As well as lots of bargain books for you or for presents (the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book for example; or David Walliam's latest book; or 12 Captain Underpants books for £16.99), with each order you will receive two free issues of the Kids National Geographic magazine. Bring your orders with the payment to Mrs T by Friday 22 November.

Christmas Lunch

Following the success of our annual Grandparents' Day we will be holding a Christmas Celebration for Grandparents of our Year 7 students.

Join us for Christmas lunch with all the trimmings on Tuesday 10 December followed by coffee, mince pies and Christmas songs and carols in the hall.

If you would like to attend please let Mr L know by Monday 2 December. The cost per ticket is £5 and cheques should be made payable to Alliance in Partnership.

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 18 November

Certificate Evening

Tuesday 10 December

Year 7 Grandparents Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 11 December

Year 11 Mock Interviews

Thursday 19 December

Christmas Carol Service

Friday 20 December

End Of Term