

# Newsletter

## October 2013



Whitecross Hereford  
A High School and Specialist Sports College

### India Exchange

The temperature dropping was a sure sign that our Indian exchangees from the Heritage School were on their way.

Watching the Whitecross and Heritage students greet one another on Sunday evening we had to remind ourselves they hadn't actually met before, but thanks to Facebook, emails and telephone calls, friendships had already taken root. By the time we met them all again for our pre-school check-in on Monday hosts and exchangees were looking like it was an everyday occurrence.



Walks in the countryside, bowling, dinner out, shopping, a trip to Berrington Hall and visiting the Cathedral filled the week together with a taster of life as a Whitecross student, including early morning football training. On Tuesday an eagerly anticipated visit from the Sherriff of Hereford turned in to a wonderful morning. The Sherriff and his wife toured the school ending up in the hall to have tea with our Indian visitors. They had photographs taken, shared stories and the Sherriff explained his role as one of only 55 Sherriffs in England.

The week at school ended with a wonderful farewell tea party for the host families and exchangees. The Heritage School put on a lovely show which was enjoyed by everyone who attended.

By the time you read this our guests will have returned home and we will be busy planning for the return journey in January.

If you would like to learn more about the Heritage School's visit then please visit the blog:

[whitecrossindia.blogspot.co.uk](http://whitecrossindia.blogspot.co.uk)

### Biometrics

Our catering company, Alliance in Partnership, operates a cashless catering system whereby a student's fingerprint is scanned and stored as a unique number. This biometric system enables students to buy food and drink at school without having to carry cash each day. During the autumn term, each student in years 9, 10 and 11 will bring home a copy of their data collection sheet which highlights all the information held by the school. Please ensure you sign the parental consent slip and return it to school as this will allow your child to continue using the cashless system.

**Mrs H**

Value Of The Month For October

# Love

## CSI Whitecross

Year 7 students have been using their forensic science skills to find the villain in our science crime project. CCTV footage set the scene for the students to find Mrs S's killer! Students had to gather evidence from the crime scene to test so they could eliminate the suspects and give detailed evidence in court in front of their peers. Within the project students tested soil samples, separated and identified the type of salt in the soil, dusted for fingerprints and worked out which pen was used to write the letter. They even worked out what the killer had for lunch!

Our killer also had one of their lessons interrupted by the police, who came to arrest her!!

The project sparked interest throughout the school as students wanted to know who the mystery murderer was!

**Mrs V**

## Cycling Safely

Now that the mornings are getting darker, cycling to school gets more dangerous. We want as many of our students as possible to ride bicycles to school, but we don't want anyone to get hurt. Please remember the law requires cyclists to have working lights on their bikes if it is dark. We also recommend students wear a suitable helmet. Please help your child be safe by checking their cycling equipment today.

**Mr K**

## Attendance Matters

Student attendance this year has been higher than ever. Thank you to all students who have dragged themselves in when they've felt under the weather and all parents and guardians who have pushed them out of the door! We still have 360 students with 100% attendance and it would be great if we could keep this figure as long as possible. The following students held on to their 100% attendance record for the whole of last year; D A, O B, M B-S, O B, J C, M C, K D, J G, J H, R H, L P, K R, C R, J S, H S, L T, H T and R W.

Congratulations to all of you.

**Mr L**

## Ski Trip 2015

Every two years the school takes a party of students on a Ski Trip to Europe during the half term holiday in February. The next trip has now been advertised and planned to go to Folgaria, Italy February 2015. The trip has been going from strength to strength and the last trip to Aprica, Italy this year was one of the largest and most successful to date.

The trip is always advertised 15 months in advance to allow parents sufficient time to pay the cost of the holiday. This is an experience most families would not consider but it allows the student an alpine experience and skiing lessons for 6 days.

Full details are available from Mrs S or Mr L who have run many ski trips in the past. Full preparation meetings for the trip, going to the dry ski slope and a parents' evening with the ski firm is part of the whole experience. Many of the students come with us for the second ski trip two years later as they were so successful at skiing and had such a great time.

**Mrs S**

## Grandparents' Day

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed over 50 grandparents to our annual grandparents' morning this term. The year 7 students took great pride in meeting and guiding their grandparents around the school, introducing them to their teachers along the way. Students then served tea in the hall while some of our very talented musicians performed a diverse range of pieces. Grandparents' day continues to be one of our favourite days of the year and we get a huge amount of positive feedback from staff, students and grandparents alike and we welcome the involvement of everyone in our community that provides support for our students. Plans are now underway for a Grandparents' Christmas Lunch, so watch this space for further details next month!

**Mr L**

## Student Planner

Student Planners are an excellent way for the school and parents and guardians to keep in touch with one another on a daily and weekly basis. With this in mind we would like to remind all parents and guardians of the request to check and sign their child's student planner each week please. Students are asked to write their homework and reminders in the planner school has provided, indicating which subject has set it, what needs to be done and when it has to be handed in to teachers. This year we have introduced the new C3H stamps which will alert parents and guardians when homework has been handed in late by your child and will outline the new deadline date. Completing homework is essential and the school is committed to supporting students through referrals to homework club. Failing to complete homework may result in students being given a school detention.

**Mr K**

## WWI Centenary Plans

2014 marks the start of events across the country to commemorate the centenary of the First World War. This terrible conflict in which nearly a million British soldiers died remains a powerful reminder of the horrors of war. As the generations who witnessed the war have now passed it is right and proper that we, as a nation, remember and reflect on one of the most important moments of recent history.



Whitecross has plans to build a full scale reconstruction of a First World War trench. Miss H, our brilliant History teacher, is leading the way. With the help of local people we plan to dig the trench during the summer term in 2014 ready for opening in September.

The trench will feature sandbags and barbed wire and will recreate for our students some of the experience of fighting in the First World War. There is much planning to do to make this fantastic project a success and we will be asking for help later this year.

**Mr K**

To learn more about the national commemoration project check out:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/first-world-war-centenary>  
For information about how Hereford will be commemorating the First World War:  
<https://www.facebook.com/FWWCC>

## Dates For Your Diary

**Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November**

Half Term Holiday

**Thursday 7 November**

Year 7 Parents Evening

**Thursday 14 November**

Year 10 Parents Evening

**Thursday 28 November**

Certificate Evening

## Open Days And Evening

Following Grandparents' day, the school was full to bursting point with excited year 5 and 6 students with their parents and guardians (and even some old students) as they came to visit Whitecross and find out what's happening at their local city school. Moving along in the next stage of their education is a big step for primary school students and it's our aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. Every department was open for business; there was an abundance of cakes in Food Technology, Table Tennis matches in PE, Guitars being strummed in Music, Science were setting fire to visitors (in a very controlled

experiment!), heads being scratched at mathematical problems, acrylic pen rests appearing from Resistant Materials ... and so much more! It really is true to say there is something here at Whitecross for everyone and our Open Days and Evening demonstrated that the world of Whitecross is a busy, diverse and exciting one.

If any parent or guardian missed out or would like their year 5 or 6 child to see us in action, please contact reception and we'll happily arrange a convenient time for you to tour the school.

## Sports Roundup

The Year 7's kicked off the start of the Rugby Term with a 12 a side tournament at Luctonians RFC. 3 teams were able to be put out by Whitecross, highlighting the strength in depth in the year group. This tournament was very much an introduction to contact rugby, and the students got stuck in and developed in confidence as the games progressed. I look forward to seeing continued progress over this term. A reminder that rugby training is still every Monday 2.35 - 3.35 until Christmas. After Christmas our Monday evening practices become football. Next Rugby competition is on 22nd Oct at Bromyard, where we will be taking 2 teams.

The boys U14 and U16 have progressed to Round 4 of the English Schools National Cup for Football. The boys U12, U15 and the girls U13 and U16 have all progressed to round 3.

**Mr W**

## November GCSE Timetable

Title	Exam Code	Duration	Date	Start Time	Exam Note
English Unit 1	ENG1H	2h 15m	05-Nov-13	Tuesday am	
English Language Unit 1	ENG1F	2h 15m	05-Nov-13	Tuesday am	
Mathematics Unit B -(Higher & Foundation)	A502/02	1h 00m	06-Nov-13	Wednesday am	
Mathematics Unit A -( Higher & Foundation)	A501/02	1h 00m	06-Nov-13	Wednesday am	
Mathematics Unit C (Foundation)	A503/01	1h 30m	08-Nov-13	Friday am	
Mathematics Unit C: (Higher)	A503/02	2h 00m	08-Nov-13	Friday am	
Unit 1: Principles of Science	2046/0E	1h 00m	14-Nov-13	Thursday am	Year 10