

Newsletter

September 2013



Whitecross Hereford
A High School and Specialist Sports College

Welcome Back

We've had an excellent start to term, thank you for ensuring that your child is well dressed and well equipped. Year 7 appear to have settled well and visits to their lessons show them working hard and with enjoyment. We welcomed various new staff: Mr H teaching Mathematics; Dr F teaching Science; Mr P teaching English; Mr R teaching PE; Miss R teaching D&T; Mr P and Miss C providing cover for absent teachers; Mr O providing support in PE; Mrs B providing support in Science and Mrs C providing support in English.

Focus For The Year

As always our focus is on continuing to improve standards and build on the success recognised by Ofsted in May 2013. This year you can expect your child to have a very clear understanding of the 'learning behaviours' we expect. Good learning requires engagement, commitment and practice. Students need to know how to concentrate on a task even when it's difficult, to believe they can get better if they work hard. To help, you can praise their efforts when they try, even if they get stuck and frustrated. Encourage them to read and ask them about what they have read to help their comprehension.

D S

Value Of The Month For September

Respect

GCSE Results

In August we celebrated the 70 students who achieved 5 or more grades C and above including English and Mathematics and the 75% who achieved A* - C grades. Congratulations in particular to: T H with 9A*, 1A, 2Bs; J M with 6A*, 5A, 1B; F B with 5A*, 4A, 2Bs; L B with 5A*, 4A, 2B and also to J G, A P, C B, R G, J G and C K who amassed 14A* and 30As between them. We were again frustrated that the grade boundaries in some subjects were changed which resulted in some students, particularly in English being a few marks off their target grades. We are waiting for the results of appeals to see how this changes the overall results. Contrary to the national picture our Science results are the best ever with 79% entered for single Science achieving a C or above grade and 85% of those entered for double award achieving a C or above grade; all students who entered triple Science achieved B grades or above.

Visiting School

On Monday 7 October we will be inviting Year 7 students to bring their Grandparents into school for the morning. They will have an opportunity to tour the school, meet their form tutor and have refreshments before they leave.

On Tuesday 8, Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 year 6 and 7 parents and guardians are welcome to visit in the mornings. Year 7 students will be able to show parents their classrooms and introduce their teachers. Tours with older students will be organised for parents of Year 6 students on any of these dates.

Code Breaking At Bletchley

On 17 July this year, the Year 10 Computing students went to Bletchley Park near Milton Keynes. The former World War 2 spy base now houses the National Museum of Computing and various exhibitions about Bletchley's role as a code-breaking centre.

It was a very warm day, but the coach was air-conditioned so the 3-hour journey was fine. We were introduced to the National Museum of Computing by one of the volunteers who was really enthusiastic and got us all interested. Throughout the day we saw several amazing computers. Firstly, Colossus. Alan Turing's amazing machine that helped to de-code the Enigma cypher. We saw the Heath-Robinson machine which worked to de-code Lorenz. The Bomb was another of Turing's creations used to decode Enigma. The Witch is the world's oldest running electronic computer.

We also saw an old-style server room and students played in a classroom set up with BBC Micros.



They created a game in BASIC and thought it was great fun. For the staff it was a real trip down memory lane! We were also taken to see the Enigma exhibition – a large collection of Enigma machines and a working reconstruction of Turing's Bomb. The work that men and women did during the war was so very important and it felt a privilege to be there at their workplace.

This is hopefully going to be an annual trip for the Computing group. Staff and students all had a very memorable day.

Ms L

India Comes To Whitecross

Sunday 13 October sees the arrival of our Indian exchangees on the next leg of our unique exchange programme. Fourteen Whitecross families have very kindly offered to open their homes and share their lives with the 15 students arriving from The Heritage School, Kolkata. The visitors will spend a week getting a taste of life in a British family and attending Whitecross School with their host. The friendships have started via Facebook and email, with students from both schools exchanging information about themselves and their families.

We are looking forward to showing the Indian students our school, our city and our beautiful county and introducing them to our culture and history. Their visit precedes our visit to Kolkata in January 2014, arrangements for which are well underway.

Whitecross is the only school in the UK to have a full student exchange programme with a school in India and is now in its 7th year. Many students have become firm friends with their Indian counterparts and on-going visits have been undertaken outside the exchange programme.

Anyone interested in getting involved with this unique opportunity can contact the school for more information.

Namaste!

Mrs R

Request To Parents And Guardians

If your child is unwell and needs to be collected from school we need to be able to contact you straight away. Please can you make sure that any changes to your contact details are given to Reception at school. This also applies to your family and friends if their details are held as an emergency contact for your child.

Meet The Head

I will be hosting 'Meet the Head' tea and coffee events for any parents who are interested at various times throughout the year. I would like to keep the numbers at each event to 12 so that we can have a good discussion about any concerns or ideas that you have. To book into a session please email mpratt@whitecross.hereford.sch.uk indicating when you would like to come.

Wednesday 16 October between 10am and 11am

Thursday 7 November between 5pm and 6pm
(During Year 7 Parents' Evening)

Thursday 14 November between 5pm and 6pm
(During Year 10 Parents' Evening)

Tuesday 10 December between 2pm and 3pm.

D S

Love Your Library

Overdue books

In spite of sending reminders and speaking to individual students, including last year's leavers, we have a lot of overdue books at the moment, and would be grateful for your help in getting them back onto the library shelves where everyone can read them. Please can you hunt on bookshelves, under beds, anywhere a book might be hiding, and make sure that they are returned to school.

Nestlé Box Top Book Tokens

We add to the books in our library every year by collecting Nestlé tokens found on cereal packets. Each one is worth 20p in books so they are well worth the effort. Please bring them in to school and give to Mrs Teece in the library, or leave them with Reception.

+++ STOP PRESS+++ We have just been told that, after 14 years, this is the last year that Nestlé will be running the scheme, so we need to make our last order a good one!

Uniform Updates



We have made some new additions to the uniform at Whitecross. Girls can now wear culottes (pictured), and as with skirts these should be of appropriate length and fabric. Shorts, tailored or otherwise, are not allowed.

Students in Year 10 and 11 can wear white

shirts along with a school tie. The ties are in academy colours and are available from the school reception and the School Uniform Shop in Brewers Passage, Hereford.

Please make sure that all items of uniform are name so they can be returned if lost.

First Aid Matters

Whatever your child's health issues are, the school needs to know so that we can help them in the event of an emergency.

It's easy to think that a medical emergency might not happen and may not have happened for a long time, but if your child has a diagnosed allergy, suffers with epilepsy, asthma, or any other condition, you'll want to know they are receiving the right help, at the right time. It is really important that you provide a Care Plan for your child. You can arrange for a Care Plan to be put in place by speaking with your doctor, practice nurse or hospital consultant and make sure you bring a copy in to school. A Care Plan will give us the vital information we require to help your child in the event of a medical emergency.

Please remember, we can only help your child if we know about a health problem. If you are unsure as to what is required by school, please contact the school's main Reception as all of the staff are first aid trained and will be happy to help.

Respect

Respect all others,
Evil and nice
Speak to people politely,
Please don't answer back twice
Excellent behaviour brings,
Certificates and more,
Then they come through your front door.

J W, D T, W S, M Y (all SNW):

Look Who's 50



A team of enthusiastic Doctor Who fans from across year groups, as well as Ms L, Mr B and Mrs H, have been working hard to help Hereford City Council prepare for and stage the Doctor's 50th Anniversary Celebrations.

The event is to be held in City Hall on Saturday 19 October. The team of eleven has been meeting regularly since the summer and are bringing together an impressive array of competitions, activities and performances for the event. A prefect team will also be serving refreshments and raising money for our school minibus fund. The Whitecross committee is the official partner for the organisation of the event and will appear on the publicity. Look out for this around town and we look forward to seeing you and your family at the event itself!

Mrs H

Attendance Matters

As from December 2012 there is a change in our attendance policy.

To keep in line with government policy and our neighbouring schools, we will no longer be authorising holidays in term time. If a student is taken out of school during term time they will automatically be referred to the Education Department. This will result in the parent or guardian receiving a fixed penalty fine of not less than £60 per child per parent and no more than £120 per child and parent.

Exceptional circumstances will be considered.

Translation:

Nowe zasady dotyczące obecności, obowiązujące od grudnia 2012.

Aby utrzymać zgodność z nowymi zasadami rządowymi oraz zasadami pobliskich szkół, wakacje podczas roku szkolnego nie będą dłużej usprawiedliwiane. Jeżeli uczeń zostanie zabrany ze szkoły podczas roku szkolnego, rodzice dziecka zostaną automatycznie skierowani do Wydziału Edukacji (Education Department). Rezultatem czego, będzie kara grzywny w wysokości między £60 a £120 na dziecko i rodzica.

Wyjątkowe okoliczności będą rozpatrywane.

Respect

R stands for the rescuers and the saviours of weak
E stands for the empathy for the poor people we meet

S stands for the soldiers who are risking their lives
P stands for the punishment of all the sin and crime

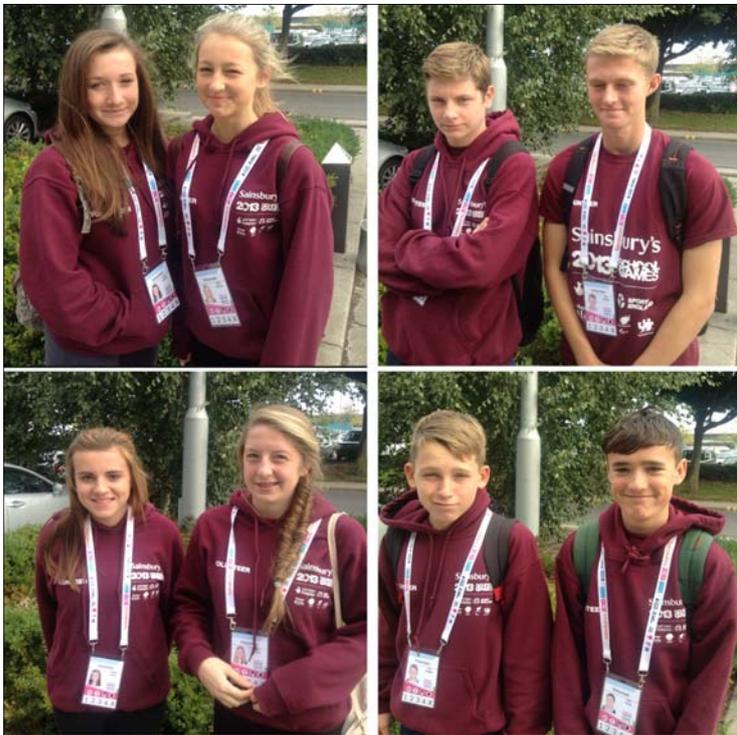
E stands for the extraordinary world that we live in
C stands for colleagues and their work and admin
T stands for trust a vital part of respect

So why can't we have it and treat others with respect.

E C (SNW):

UK School Games

Mr W and Mrs W took 8 Year 10 students to volunteer at the National School Games in Sheffield. The School Games is a national multi-sport event, in which the most talented athletes competed if selected by the national governing body of sport. The event took place from the 11 – 15 September and students saw future team GB Olympians competing in 12 different sports. The two major sports we were assigned to were Volleyball and Athletics, and also we led the Table Tennis teams in to the opening ceremony.



The 8 Students who were selected based upon leadership qualities shown throughout school were J A, C Y, B P, L F, W G, K P, T W and E D. Students took part in a variety of activities during the event including floor sweeping at the Volleyball and data and scoreboard management at the Athletics. The event helped to develop the communication and organisational skills of the students and provided an insight to planning, organising and implementing a national sports event.

2 students have already reported back to the Local Organising Committee for Sport in Herefordshire, and plans are underway to make the 8 students lead other young people and become a driving force for Sport in Herefordshire.

During the event the students demonstrated the values of Determination, Self-belief, Respect, Teamwork, Honesty and Passion. They were commended by the officials, lead volunteers event organisers and a true credit to Whitecross Hereford. Well Done!

Mr W

English Schools FA Cup

The Year 10's were the first team to kick off the first round of the ESFA Cup. A tough first round draw for Whitecross playing at home vs. Newent Community School and Sixth Form. Newent had previously been only the second team to beat the under 15's in 4 years, last year a 6-2 loss sent Whitecross out of the cup. This year the squad has been boosted by new 'signing' F P, a cultured centre back from Poland. Expectations were high and players were keen to make amends for last year's poor performance. Whitecross started the game the better and got the first crucial goal, W G scoring just after 12 minutes. This goal was quickly followed by J G, who used great individual skill to beat the defender and give Whitecross a 2 goal cushion. The Newent heads went down and they never recovered from this. W G (suffering with cramp) sealed the game with 10 minutes to go with a cool finish.

Whitecross 3 – 0 Newent

Good luck to all the Whitecross football teams this year who start the Second round games in the next few weeks.

You can view the progress of all teams throughout the season on the website below.

<http://www.esfa.co.uk/competitions/?page=31B070BA31EE218B8D>



The Duke Of Edinburgh award scheme is returning to Whitecross. More information will soon be available.

Open Day

Our Open Day will take place on Thursday 10 October. The school will be open in the morning from 9.00am to 12.00pm and again in the evening from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. Parents and Year 5 & 6 students are welcome to visit the school and take a tour of the site. Members of staff and current students will be on hand to answer your questions about life at Whitecross.

We know just how busy parents and guardians can be so if you are unable to come on 10 October the school will be open in the mornings of the 8 and 9 October.

We look forward to welcoming you to Whitecross.

Year 7 Sports Teams

Welcome to the Parents and students of the Whitecross Year 7's I hope you have found your feet and are settling in well. I am Mr Woodward and I am in charge of Fixtures and Practices for Year 7 Boys. Already we have had fantastic attendances at football (7.45 – 8.30 Monday Mornings) and Rugby (2.35 – 3.35 Monday After School). We played a Rugby Fixture against Bishops last week, where we had 33 students representing the school. We have got 3 Rugby tournaments coming up and want to take 3 sides of 12 if possible, the talent is in the year group – so please encourage your child to attend practices. It is an expectation of students in the top sets to attend 2 clubs per week, lots of opportunities are available. We have also got our first English School Football Cup Match vs. John Masefield on Tuesday 8 October, so keep training and hopefully you will make the 1st team. If any parents have any questions regarding Extra-Curricular Sport at Whitecross please get in touch.

dwoodward@whitecross.hereford.sch.uk

Mr W

100 Club

Congratulations to our previous winners of the 100 Club lottery draw.

June - D Strutt (first prize), D Strutt (second prize)

July - A Pitt (first prize), L Morgan (second prize)

August - C Stokes (first prize), D Hill (second prize)

The 100 Club is organised by the Friends Of Whitecross and is a monthly lottery draw giving you the chance to win cash prizes. With the new academic year there is now the chance to join the club again.

When you join the '100 Club' you will be given a unique number that will be entered into each months draw. You can have as many numbers as you want; just £12 will secure your number for the 12 prize draws until August 2014. 25% of each months payments will be awarded as first prize, 15% for second prize, with 10% rolled over for a superdraw in August. The remaining 50% will go to the Friends Of Whitecross minibus appeal.

There is more information available on the schools website or complete the attached application form.

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 1 October - Industrial action, school closed to Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. Pupils in Year 11 and those in Year 8 involved with the Multi-Faith event should still attend.

Wednesday 2 October - Travel and Tourism trip to Drayton Manor

Monday 7 October - Grandparents' Day

Tuesday 8 October - Open Morning

Wednesday 9 October - Open Morning

Thursday 10 October - Open Day and Evening

Friday 11 October - School closed to all pupils

Friday 18 October - French trip to Boulogne