



October 2014

Message from the Headteacher

The first half term has once again flown by. It seems a little while now since we were celebrating the exam results of Year 11 students who have left us for pastures new. We will be welcoming them back for Certificate Evening on Thursday 20 November when we will have an opportunity of congratulating them on their successes, hear their news and present their long awaited certificates.

We welcomed our new Year 7 students at the beginning of September and they have settled in to life at Whitecross now; school photographs have been taken, the fete organised and run and now they are looking forward to their first Parents' Evening on Thursday 6 November when Parents and Guardians have the opportunity of meeting form tutors once again.



A new initiative this year has been to provide every Year 7 student with a musical instrument which they will learn throughout the year. It really is a fantastic opportunity and we hope that many will take their newfound musical talent on throughout their years at Whitecross.

**Our current values are:
Respect & Perseverance**

The international flavour that runs through each year started when 36 year 9 students enjoyed a really wonderful trip to Le Touquet in Northern France. They visited a sweet factory, the beach, a water park, Nausicaa – an amazing aquarium and a traditional French market. They laid a wreath on behalf of the school when they visited the Military Cemetery at Etaples where over 10,000 soldiers are buried.



In September we all relished the chance to sample some exciting food on European Day of Languages.

We have once again welcomed students and staff from the Heritage School in Kolkata. This unique exchange is now in its eighth year and we are delighted that friendships have flourished and Whitecross students have this wonderful opportunity of visiting India in January 2015.

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 27 to Friday 31 October Half Term

Thursday 6 November Year 7 Parents Evening
Thursday 13 November Year 10 Parents Evening

Another annual event at Whitecross is the Multifaith workshops. 80 Year 6 students from our Primary Schools came to school and took part in workshops learning about Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Judaism. It is always a successful event and we look forward to welcoming them again next year.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme has been busy with 16 of our Year 11 students away for their assessed expedition. An overnight stay on the Gower Peninsular meant tired feet, smiles around the camp fire and being well on the way to achieving their Bronze award.



October is always a busy month and for the fourth year running we opened our doors to our Year 7 students' adoring Grandparents. This is always a lovely morning. Our Year 7 students guide their Grandparents and show off their new school. We all met in the hall for refreshments and were entertained by the school band. An early notice for Grandparents – the Christmas Lunch will be on Tuesday 9 December and details will be sent home with students after the holiday!

Open days and evening this year were very busy. A reflection of how Whitecross has continued to be popular as a first choice school for many together with being able to demonstrate that Whitecross delivers first class teaching. We were oversubscribed last year and pleased to be able to accommodate more than our normal intake.

First mentioned in the October 2013 newsletter was the dream that Mr Knapp and Miss Hansford had of commemorating the First World War by building a section of a replica trench. It has been a long time in the building and has taken many, many hours of planning and hard work. With the help of all of our students, staff, volunteers and sponsors we are delighted to be opening the Whitecross Trench on Friday 7 November.



The trench will be a wonderful learning resource for many and we look forward to welcoming schools from across Herefordshire to experience what life in the trenches was like a hundred years ago.

Success in sport has continued this year and our congratulations go to our KS4 hockey team winning the U16 County Hockey Tournament. This really is a huge achievement for the team as only 3 of the girls are in Year 11 and the team will represent Herefordshire at the West of England Finals at the National Schools Championship in November. We wish them luck and know they will play their best.

We are privileged to be selected as a Hub School Site for the IRB Rugby World Cup 2015. As a hub school site we have four ambassadors who promote rugby across the school and act as role models to school teams and the wider community.

Denise Strutt

Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is in correct uniform and carrying the appropriate equipment.