



December 2014

Message from the Headteacher

The end of the autumn term is just a few days away now and Christmas celebrations have started. As always we have managed to squeeze in numerous extra events to our already packed calendar at school.

November started with the opening of the Whitecross Trench; a community project which we are all extremely proud of and one that will reach far beyond the school gates as we invite all Herefordshire schools to visit us to make use of this valuable learning resource. Our community plays a great part in the life of the school and for the second year running, we welcomed grandparents to a Christmas Celebration with us. Families and friends joined us for the Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church where we heard the first performance by our Year 7 students all of whom are learning a musical instrument as part of their timetabled lessons.



Whitecross students work tirelessly for the community and in their pursuit of raising money for charities, they have raised £330 for St Michael's Hospice, £643 for Children in Need and our Christmas celebration donations means St Peter's Open Door Project and the Herefordshire SSAFA will share £222. All wonderful achievements!

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

Celebrating achievements is not just something we save for the end of the academic year. We welcomed back our ex-year 11 students to collect their GCSE certificates and to hear their news of life after Whitecross. The praise lunch each term is always an enjoyable event however you don't have to go more than just a few days at Whitecross to wait for a celebration; whether it is Year 10 students taking part in a county wide Geography competition or the many matches played and won by our hard working sports teams. I continue to be immensely proud of our students and all of their many achievements.



Thank you all for your continued support enabling our students to focus on their learning and achievements. When all the little things are in place: having the right uniform and kit, attending every day of term and coming to school with the right attitude, our students really can excel in all that they do.

Wishing you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

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Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 6 January

Start of Spring Term

Thursday 22 January

Year 11 Parents Evening

Worldwide Quiz

We took 3 year 10 students to the annual Geographical Worldwide Quiz held at the Cathedral School in November. They put in a really good performance against teams of GCSE students from schools all over the county. We are very proud of M J, E D and L H for taking part, and we plan on taking a team back again next year for a rematch! We came 8th out of 11. Well done!



Parking At The School

We have disabled students who need to use the wider disabled parking spaces to enable them to access their transport on arrival and departure from school. Please may we request parents and grandparents who may be Blue Badge holders and are simply collecting or dropping off a student, to not use these spaces.

Attendance Matters

So far this year the battle between the academies for best attendance is very close with Moyle and Styre in joint 3rd, Hagloe in 2nd and Bromley currently leading with 95.2%. There's still plenty of time for any academy to win, but it needs every student to be in school every day.

Huge congratulations to the 404 students who have not missed a single day of school this year. Let's see how many can keep it going for the whole academic year.

Lost Something?

This term we have had a huge amount of lost property to sort through. Any item labelled is always reunited with its owner, but no name means it will be lost forever and donated to a charity shop at the end of each term. Please label every item your child brings in to school.

Free School Meals

Parents can pick up information on how to claim for free school meals from reception or from the Herefordshire Council website on www.herefordshire.gov.uk

Effective Communication

If you need to arrange an appointment with your child's form tutor or subject teacher, please put a note in your child's planner and the member of staff will contact you. We do aim to reply within 24 hours but due to teaching commitments this may sometimes be 48 hours. Please note that our receptionists are unable to interrupt lessons with telephone calls or unexpected visitors but will happily take messages for you.

Grandparents Christmas Celebration

For the second year running, Grandparents visited for a Christmas Celebration including lunch, songs and refreshments in the hall and a quick tour of the Whitecross Trench. It was a lovely occasion with many familiar faces joining us for what looks like becoming an annual event in our busy school calendar. Our thanks go to Alliance in Partnership for the splendid lunch and the school Choir for entertaining everyone.



Merry Christmas to all our students and their families. Have a great time and we look forward seeing you again in the New Year on Tuesday 6 January.