

Newsletter



Whitecross Hereford
A High School and Specialist Sports College

February/March 2015

Mission complete - a new minibus!

With huge thanks to all our students, parents and staff for the terrific fundraising recently to raise money for a brand new minibus ... and here it is!



The Whitecross Trench

Invitations to all Herefordshire schools went out earlier this term and we have been inundated with requests. We are looking forward to welcoming students from across the County and starting Phase 2 - a dug out! More news to follow ...



St Michael's Hospice Big Tea



Following fantastic fundraising at Year 7's fete in the autumn term, we were delighted when St Michael's Hospice asked Whitecross Hereford to be the face of their new "Big Tea 2015" campaign. We'll be holding our own "Big Tea" in the summer term.

♪♪ Music, sweet Music ♪♪

Please don't forget that we work in partnership with Encore! who provide accredited instrumental music teachers offering tuition in string, woodwind, brass, piano, percussion and singing. Whilst parents engage directly with the teacher regarding payment for the lessons, the school will support with timetabling the lessons and providing a quiet space to learn.

Students in receipt of Free School Meals are entitled to these lessons free of charge in accordance with our Charging and Remission Policy. Please contact Miss Alexander for more information.

Our value this half term is:

Equality

April dates for your diary

Monday 13 - Start of term

Thursday 23 - Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thursday 30 - Year 8 Parents' Evening

Team Maths Competition

On Friday 13 March four Year 8 students (M H, C B, N B and T C) took part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge. They visited Earl Mortimer College in Leominster and competed against 20 other schools (private and state) from Herefordshire and Wales. The team were a real credit to Whitecross and gave an excellent performance. The team came 16th, which was a big achievement considering most teams consisted of two Year 9 and two Year 8 students and it was the first year that Whitecross has entered a team into the competition. We hope to improve our performance next year by training up some Year 7 candidates to join our Maths Team. Well done on a brilliant effort! Miss S



U14 Girls Football



The U14 girls football team have had a fantastic season playing right through to the semi-finals of the English Schools Football Association School's Cup. Matches were played throughout the U.K. with wins in Dorset and Watford and finally to Carlisle, where the competition came to an end. An amazing journey taking the girls to the top four school teams. Well done!

Mock Trial Magistrates Competition

On Saturday 14 March, a team of Whitecross students took part in the Mock Trial Magistrates Competition held at the Magistrates Court in Hereford. The team performed magnificently but missed out securing a top 3 place despite C B winning Best Usher and Z W who won Best Defendant. Lady Darnley commented on how well the Whitecross team worked together! Miss C

£££ Parent Pay £££

A good proportion of Year 7 parents have set up accounts on Parent Pay to pay for their children's lunches and the system is working well.

We encourage parents of any student to register, as this saves you having to write out cheques or send cash in with your children. It is quick and simple to register. Simply contact the school to request an 'activation letter' which details the process.

We intend to extend the use of Parent Pay to school trips and events by the end of the year.



When we return to school after Easter, pollen will be on the increase. Please can all students who suffer with hayfever make sure they bring their inhalers to school every day. A spare inhaler can also be left with main reception as a back up.

World Book Day



Silence fell around the school on World Book Day as all students and staff stopped for 10 @ 10. This has become a tradition with everyone reading for 10 minutes at 10am. The day was filled with quizzes, reading, free books being distributed together with book tokens and of course staff dressing up as their favourite character!

Voice In A Million

53 students and staff travelled to Wembley Arena on Wednesday 11 March to join schools across the country for Voice In a Million. The event brings together 6,500 voices; all learning songs and then singing together. Special celebrity guests included Alesha Dixon and Bars and Melody. It was a great day out despite arriving back at 3.00am Thursday! Special thanks to Miss A, Miss G, Mr H, Miss W and Mr B.



As always, Whitecross staff and students pulled out all the stops for another wonderful Red Nose Day with fundraising reaching an amazing £225.70! Events throughout the day included painting faces funny, guess the sweeties in the jar, sponges thrown at Mrs M, yummy cake sales and leg waxing - with thanks Messrs W, G and R of the PE department!



Follow us on: @whitecrosshigh @WhitecrossPE
@WXFirstWorldWar @WXClassics

The School Uniform

The rumour mill is in overdrive at the moment about possible changes to our school uniform in September. Let me take this opportunity to reassure parents that whilst I would like to review our uniform in the summer term, I have no plans to make radical changes. I want to fully involve parents and students so that what we decide is supported by everyone. If you would like to be involved and have your say, do let me know by emailing our school reception:-

reception@whitecross.hereford.sch.uk There will be some meetings and consultation events during the summer term.

Mr K

The Carnegie Shortlist

The Carnegie shortlisted books have now been announced and books will be arriving shortly so our keen Carnegie readers will be able to make a start on reading them during Easter. The Herefordshire Schools Carnegie shadowing event will be held on Thursday 11 June, where the teen fiction author Jon Robinson (whose books include *Nowhere* and *Anywhere*) will be holding a workshop for those taking part. You can see the shortlist on:-

www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/2015awards/carnegie_shortlist.php

Mrs T

Attendance Matters

Please remember to telephone school in the event of your child not being able to attend. We have a dedicated team of people who are ready to support parents with issues getting their children to school. Mr M is our Attendance Co-ordinator supporting students and their families with attendance related concerns. Mrs D is on the end of the phone and taking messages about absences on a daily basis. We also buy into support from an Attendance Welfare Officer, who will assist us in the small number of cases with long standing concerns.

Mr L

Ski Trip to Folgaria, Italy

The snow was falling thick and fast as 46 students and staff arrived at the beautiful Garden Hotel in Folgaria for their 6 day skiing experience. For many it was a return journey for their second ski trip with Whitecross, but they were as excited as all the first time skiers! After a hearty meal, good night's sleep to get over the very long journey, the group headed out for lessons on the snow covered slopes. The weather developed into beautiful sunshine with all students progressing very well with their skiing skills each day. After lessons the evenings were taken up with a variety of activities that included ice-skating, bowling, swimming, pizza evening and a visit to a nearby town.



It gave all the staff a great sense of pride to see all the students' progress so well with their skiing skills, but also to see the fun and enjoyment they were having for the whole experience in Italy. Many times we were complimented on the positive attitude, friendliness and demeanour of the group, and we would like to thank them for being a wonderful group of young people to take away. After every student comfortably passed the ski slalom test on the Thursday with great skill, they were able to enjoy the final day. The happy times and experiences of this trip will live long in our memories, as will all the words to a famous Disney song about ice!!! Let it go now Skiers!!!

Mrs S

"The skiing trip was such a great experience! If we could go again we definitely would because it was the best trip we have been on since we started at Whitecross". J L and L T, Year 11 students

Keep up to date with news on the school's website

www.whitecross.hereford.sch.uk