

# Newsletter



Whitecross Hereford  
A High School and Specialist Sports College

## September 2015

### Welcome back



Like our new Year 7 students in their smart new uniforms and shiny shoes, I have started the new school year with huge excitement and a few nerves. Becoming Headteacher at Whitecross is an enormous honour and a great privilege and I love the challenge of leading our school in the next phase of its journey.

A new school year is an opportunity for reflection and review. It is a time to launch new plans and refresh our commitment to delivering outstanding learning for all. I have been doing a lot of thinking about this and I am more convinced than ever that this is a unique and special place where a committed staff with the highest ambition for every child are making a real difference.

I am determined to improve outcomes and build on our best ever results of 2015. I want to grow partnerships with parents and our community and I want to provide an educational experience that equals the very best.

The term is set to be a busy one full of interesting and challenging opportunities for our students. We have a very special visit in October when we will be joined by HRH the Duke of Kent to welcome the Walking With the Wounded Team. This should be an incredible moment for the school and I want everyone to be able to take part.

### October dates for your diary

Thursday 1	School ends at 3.30pm
Monday 5 - 8	Open Week
Friday 9	School closed for students
Friday 23	End of half term

We are also welcoming our friends from Kolkata, India next month as part of the next phase of our longstanding exchange programme and when I look at the calendar and see Year 7 Castle visits, our Autumn Fair, the Multi Faith event with our primary schools, the Year 11 History trip to London, the CCF Field Day, the Big Draw challenge, not to mention the full list of sporting fixtures, to name just a few – I know the team here are always prepared to go the extra mile. I am grateful to parents for your support in helping us set high standards. Please do get in touch if you would like to join our PTFA or you have suggestions or comments. My twitter account is @WXHead

Mr T K, Headteacher

### Whitecross awarded Gold!

Whitecross has achieved the Gold award for the School Games Mark. The Sainsbury's School Games Mark is owned and created by DCMS and is implemented and developed by the Youth Sport Trust and Sport England. The Mark rewards schools for their commitment to and the development of competition, school sport and physical education.



Only 9% of schools received this gold award in 2014 and Whitecross has now received it two years in a row! It was a tough assessment, but credit goes to the PE staff and the students who give up so much time representing the school. The award highlights the outstanding work in both competition and participation of school sport. Thanks go to the School Games Organisers P K and L B for their help and support in the application process. Mr W

## Attendance Matters

Please be advised that if you can not avoid having medical appointments during the school day, appointment cards need to be shown to reception in order for us to authorise the absence. You will need to sign out at student reception and remember to sign in again when you return.  
Mr Leeming

## 21st National Poetry Day

Whitecross will be joining in with poems on display around the school and used in lessons in imaginative ways on 8 October to celebrate the 21st National Poetry Day. Join in by sharing your favourite poem or lyric with your son or daughter. This year's National Poetry Day theme is **Light**: proprietors of power stations and lighthouses, opticians, photographers and firework-makers are among the professions pledged to participate by displaying poems. Expect the airwaves to be full of verse, while impromptu poetry festivals and read-a-thons will pop up in thousands of unexpected places, from shops, streets and offices to waiting rooms and train stations. On BBC Radio 4, Andrew Marr, Dominic West and some of Britain's most-loved poets and performers will mark the day by weaving poetry into the schedule from early morning until late at night. 'We British: An Epic in Poetry' will tell the story of Britain through its poetry, from the earliest verses ever written on the British Isles to some of the most recent.  
Mrs C

## £££ Parent Pay £££

Parents - make your life easier! Parents can now pay for school lunch and trips by using Parent Pay. Please contact school and request an "activation letter" which details how to sign up.

Our value this half term is:  
**Respect**

## Operation Christmas Child

We will be supporting Operation Christmas Child again this year. This is a fantastic chance to transform Christmas for a child who may never have received a Christmas gift before. Your child will bring home a leaflet explaining how they can be involved. Mrs Barker



## Rugby World Cup 2015

The Rugby World Cup started on 18 September and is being hosted right here in the UK. 20 nations from around the world will compete for title of World Champions, culminating in the final at Twickenham on Saturday 31 October.

World Cup fever is here at Whitecross as we are one of the region's Rugby World Cup hub Schools and have 4 Young Rugby Ambassadors; Year 10 Students J D and J H and Year 9 students D R and B H. They will be running a World Cup themed Tag event for local primary schools on 1 October. As well as planning, running and officiating this Tag event the boys have a responsibility to promote the World Cup across the school and to promote local clubs to students, encouraging them to take up Rugby outside of school.

In the opening week of the World Cup all of the Schools rugby teams from Year 7 to 11 will also begin their competitive season playing local schools from across Herefordshire throughout this first term of the school year.

Photos and results of events and progress in leagues to follow for October Newsletter. Mr R



Please ensure that school has up to date information regarding your child's medical needs. Our reception staff will be happy to help you. Call in to reception or telephone 01432 376080.

# Whitecross CCF Summer Camp

While most of our students enjoyed the last week of term and the end of term celebrations and activities, 2 of our cadets decided to take the opportunity to experience an Army Cadet Summer Camp. We travelled to Penally Cadet Training Camp, hoping for blue skies and an activity filled week. The latter we certainly enjoyed; the weather however wasn't so kind!

Embracing the slogan for this year's camp 'Happy Days' we all put on a brave face, did our best to ignore the gales and rain, making the most of the day and evening activities including shooting on the range, archery, climbing, raft building & races and a 2-day exercise. Both cadets managed to attain their Marksman Badges on the ranges, a commendable achievement with this being their first experience of an outdoor range. The exercise saw cadets helping to establish the harbour area, build their bashers, cook their own meals, go out on reccy patrols and participate in an ambush. B said "Summer camp was brilliant; it gave me an opportunity to put all the things I had learned on Friday afternoons into action as well as spending the rest of the week doing different activities

September has seen 15 new year 9 recruits join CCF. Initially they will all be a part of Wilmott Platoon, to learn the basics of drill, appearance and etiquette before joining their chosen section for Army, Navy and RAF specific activities. You can see them in action at Hereford's Remembrance Parade in November. Mrs R



New CCF recruits looking good!



## The Heritage School Exchange

We are delighted that our wonderful relationship with the Heritage School in Kolkata, India continues to grow each year. We are welcoming students again in October and as always, we are asking for host families to look after a student. It is a fantastic opportunity for our Indian visitors to sample the British way of life and make long lasting friendships over the years. If you are able to offer a room to a student this year, please contact Mrs H or Mrs R at school.

## Year 11 at Barry Island

Year 11 GCSE geographers had a wonderful time visiting Barry Island this month. They collected important information for their controlled assessment and investigated whether Barry Island resort is in decline or rejuvenation.

Students will need to use their understanding of Butler's Tourist Resort Cycle Model to identify the signs of decline and rejuvenation. They collected a variety of data including; visitor questionnaires, business surveys and land use. The task now will be to use this data in their controlled assessments and answer their enquiry question 'Is Barry Island in rejuvenation or decline?'

Mrs G and Mrs W



## Welcome Fair



Whitecross held its first Welcome Fair for our new Year 7 students over two lunchtimes in September. We are proud of all of the extra-curricular activities that we offer at Whitecross. All the clubs open to Year 7 students put on a wonderful display promoting the club and fully inform the students of where and when they run.

Year 7s were encouraged to sign up to at least one club, but many signed up to more! There was a real buzz about the place. Many thanks to all the students and staff who manned stalls and enthused Year 7 students to join their club. The more our students involve themselves in extra-curricular activities and opportunities provided in school, the quicker they will feel a part of the 'Whitecross School Family'. Mrs W

## Ski 2017!

Whitecross will be continuing their expertise in skiing with a trip planned for February 2017 to Italy!! So look out for the letters Mrs Steras and Mrs Kendall will be sending out in the next few weeks.

Skiing is not usually the type of holiday that whole families go on and so this gives students here at Whitecross a great opportunity to be involved and experience skiing, and allows parents over a year to pay in towards the trip. For most this is once in a lifetime chance to experience a ski trip.

Although the trip is 17 months away, staff are already getting excited!!

Mrs S and Mrs K

*Keep up to date with news on the school's website*  
[www.whitecross.hereford.sch.uk](http://www.whitecross.hereford.sch.uk)