

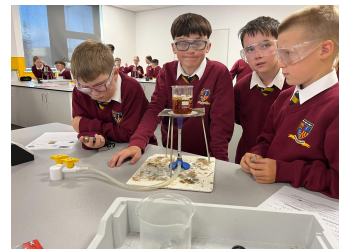


WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 11th September 2026

First Week Back!

At the end of our first full week back, it has been absolutely wonderful to see all of our pupils settling so smoothly into their new routines and throwing themselves back into learning. Our new Year 8s have already stepped up brilliantly by helping out around the school, while our Year 5s are growing in confidence every day as they navigate the building and adapt to middle school life.



We also officially launched our Reading Challenge this week, and it has been fantastic to see so many pupils diving into their books with such genuine enthusiasm and interest. Please watch this space for more information about our upcoming Author Week, where we hope to inspire and develop a love of reading for pleasure even further!

Whytrig Waddlers- Mighty Hike

A huge congratulations to our amazing staff walking team, the 'Whytrig Waddlers', who completed the Mighty Hike last weekend—a mammoth 26-mile walk along the stunning Northumberland coast in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support!

Despite a few blisters and plenty of sore legs, the team finished with absolute triumph and huge smiles on their faces, raising an incredible £2,300 for such a vital cause. A massive well done to Miss Davis, Mrs Kelly, Miss Thompson, Mrs Lowden, Mrs Harland, Miss Waterfall, Miss Foster, Mrs Robson, Mrs Gould, and Gemma for their incredible determination!



Continuing our support for Macmillan, the school will be holding our annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon soon—please keep an eye out for further details coming shortly!



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Autumn 1 - Dates for your Diary

- Friday 18th September - Jeans for Genes Day (details to follow)
- Thursday 24th September - School Photographs
- Thursday 24th September - Year 7 Nissan Visit
- Friday 25th September - Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - arrangements to be confirmed
- Monday 28th September - Year 4 Open Evening
- W/C Monday 12th October - Author Week (details to follow)
- Monday 12th October - Whole School Parents' Evening
- Wednesday 21st October - Friday 23rd October - Year 5 Residential Trip to Ford Castle
- W/C Monday 26th October - HALF TERM holiday - SCHOOL CLOSED
- Monday 2nd November - Start of Autumn 2 half term

SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OPEN EVENINGS 2026



SEATON VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL
24TH SEPTEMBER 5PM-7PM

Welcome Presentations: 5pm & 6pm
Prospect Avenue, Seaton Delaval, NE25 0FW
T: 0191 237 1505
E: svhs@svf.org.uk



WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL
28TH SEPTEMBER 5:30PM-7PM

Welcome Presentation: 5:30pm
Prospect Avenue, Seaton Delaval, NE25 0FW
T: 0191 237 1402
E: wmsf@svf.org.uk



SEATON SLUICE MIDDLE SCHOOL
1ST OCTOBER 6PM-7:30PM

Welcome Presentation: 6pm
Alston Grove, Seaton Sluice NE26 4JS
T: 0191 237 0629
E: ssmsf@svf.org.uk

Please come along to look around our schools and meet our staff and students.

No appointments needed - we look forward to welcoming you.

For more information visit: www.svf.org.uk

Please note that dates are provisional and may be subject to change.



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Job of the Week

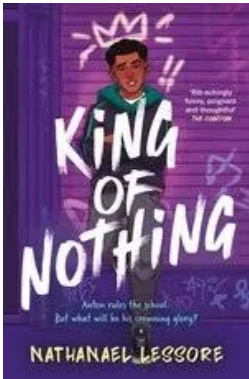


This week's Job of the Week is **Paralegal**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children so you can take part in the discussions we are having in school about future education and work.

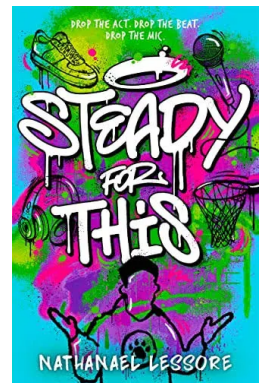
If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at wms@svf.org.uk

Book of the Week



This week's book is '**King of Nothing**' by Nathanael Lessore, from our Year 8 challenge. '*King of Nothing*' was voted the Waterstones 2025 Children's Book Award Winner for older readers!

Anton rules Year 9, and he likes it that way. But after getting into serious trouble, his mum forces him to join 'Happy Campers', a local youth group—the last place he wants to be, especially when school outcast Matthew is there. However, when Matthew unexpectedly saves Anton's life, an unlikely friendship forms. Anton begins to question what truly matters: is ruling the school really his crowning glory, or is it time to aim higher?



If you liked '*King of Nothing*', try '*Steady for This*' also by Nathaniel Lessore, available to borrow from Mrs Harland, Mrs Campbell, and the school library!

Extra Curricular Clubs

Extra Curricular clubs will start the 3rd week of term. Timetable of clubs TBC in September.

Girls' football starts week 2 - Thursday 17th September - with Mrs Kelly. Please bring boots appropriate for 5G and PE kit.

Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the Week are nominated each week by staff for a variety of reasons, which might be contributions to the school community, school work, or something outstanding. Each week, their success is shared in school in the Star of the Week video or in assembly, and they receive a certificate and a chocolate bar.

Week ending 11th September 2026

5C: Hazel B; 5K: Evie T; 5L: Jayden L;
6E: Jessica H; 6F: Emily L; 6S: Ben E;
7H: Mason B; 7L: Emily D P; 7W: William M;
8K: Rael; 8Ro: Layla-Mae C; 8Ru: Leon D;
Head of School SOTW: Wealth O (8Ru)



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Safeguarding Update - Character.AI



Character.AI lets users create and chat with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional favourites, or romantic partners. While these conversations can feel engaging and supportive, their convincing human-like responses can blur important boundaries. Young people may encounter inappropriate content, misinformation and privacy risks, or begin forming an unhealthy emotional attachment to an AI companion. Understanding these risks can make conversations about AI companionship more constructive. This [#WakeUpWednesday](#) explores warning signs such as secretive or excessive use and withdrawal from real-world activities, while offering practical advice on checking age restrictions, protecting personal information, questioning chatbot advice, and responding appropriately when safeguarding concerns arise.

A PDF copy of the [#WakeUpWednesday](#) leaflet was also sent out this week via MCAS.

Attendance

Please remember to call in to the Middle School attendance line or send a message via MCAS if your child is unwell and will not be attending school by 8:30am. It is important that we have evidence for each day your child is absent, even if they were sent home the previous day.

To report an absence via telephone call please dial 0191 2371402, select 5 for Whytrig Middle School then select 8 to report a pupil absence.

Please send evidence of medical/dental appointments/medication to wms@svf.org.uk so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system. If you are submitting a Leave of Absence request please ensure any documentation supporting the exceptional circumstances is handed in at the same time as the Leave of Absence form.



This year's whole school attendance: 95.3%

Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
99.2%	93.2%	92.9%	96.0%

The best attending class this year is: 5C (100%)

Free School Meals

It is always worth double checking if your child is eligible for free school meals. If your circumstances have recently changed or whether you've never checked before, the process is very straight forward: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/school-meals>

For every pupil who is eligible they receive a lunch credit every day. You can read more about the school's strategy here: <https://svf.org.uk/our-federation/pupil-premium>



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Lunch Account Balance

Please check your child's lunch account balance, and top up as necessary. We will never allow your child to go hungry, and should they not have enough money on their account then we will ensure they are able to buy a Main Meal Deal by granting them a temporary overdraft for that day of £2.60. You will then receive a message via MCAS advising you that you need to top up their account. This temporary overdraft facility will not be extended for additional days and should your child not have enough funds in their account the following day they will only be provided with a basic sandwich and drink. Our expectation is that you will top their account up immediately so they have a positive balance again.

MCAS Contact Details

Please remember to double check that your details are correct on MCAS. When you make a change in My Child At School, it updates the systems that we use to contact home. This also means that we don't make a mistake in the spelling of an email address or taking down a number incorrectly.

Social Media Channels

Don't forget to keep up to date with everything else on our social media channels

X - @WhytrigMS

Facebook - @Whytrig Middle School

Links to external agencies are provided in good faith. We do not take any responsibility for the content of these links.



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