



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 4 - DECEMBER 2023



WHITELANDS ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

As we approach the end of this term, there is a huge amount to celebrate and congratulate the students on. Ranging from participation in ceremonial events and performances, observing students reach out to our community, observing students push themselves outside their comfort zones and applying for leadership roles in the school. Students continue to make me immensely proud.

Moving into the New Year, we look forward to introducing our GCSE curriculum options to Year 9 students, introducing our Year 10 students to further education options and developing our student leadership roles further.

From all of us at Whitelands Academy, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. We look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Monday 8th January, when we will be in tutor time for the first two lessons of the day.

STUDENT LEADERS

This term we have added to our Student Leadership Team by recruiting Junior Leaders from Years 8 and 9. We had 35 applicants and each of them participated in a "speed round" of questions to secure their place in the leadership team. New recruits have been announced this week. One of our first tasks as a leadership team is to focus on bullying in its many forms. We all have the power to transform our world and the value of term 3 is Integrity. On 16th January we will be taking ten of the Student Leaders to Birmingham to get trained to be Princess Diana Anti Bullying Award Ambassadors. This course is a powerful, student-led approach to tackling bullying in school and in our community, by giving students various ways to offer peer support. We look forward to launching this with the rest of the school in term 3. We want to congratulate all of our successful Junior Leaders.

HOUSE POINTS

Our houses have also been working hard to drum up points for the Christmas House totals. As we are now a third of the way through the academic year, it is a great measure to see who is leading the way. Students gain Merits in lessons for excellent classwork and homework, for being star of the lesson or star of the week. To get us into the Christmas spirit, we have been running Christmas House Karaoke in the hall at lunchtime which has been very popular. Students have participated in the sing along to earn bonus points for their house. In the Celebration Assemblies on the last day of term, we will be awarding students for the Achievement thresholds, where they will be presented with badges and certificates for earning 50, 100 or 200 house points this year. We will also be recognising students who have been nominated for AMBITION, the value of term 2, by subject teachers. There is lots to celebrate at the end of a very busy term.

CAREERS

Last week was Careers week at Whitelands Academy. Students have been talking with their teachers about how each individual subject can link to different career paths. They have also been discussing which transferable skills they are developing and how these can help them in different types of employment.

Year 10 students have gone a step further and have been looking at eight employability skills and doing a self-audit to help them think about which skills they are already developing and how they can build on these in the future.

In our second Careers week of the year, in May 2024, we will be welcoming representatives from local colleges and sixth forms to talk to some of the students about post 16 options.

Mr Brown

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On Friday 10th November, we all gathered together to pay our respects. Our senior students laid wreaths and we were incredibly proud to see our own students who are part of the Cadets, Sea Scouts and St John's Ambulance lead the Service. Following the Service, our Senior Leaders welcomed members from our local care home for tea and coffee.



PERFORMING ARTS

Thank you to everybody who attended the Performing Arts Evening on 12th December. The students showed their resilience and determination throughout the evening. The evening included Grade 4 Jazz dances and show songs from 'The Greatest Showman' sung by year 9 and 10. Devised pieces written by GCSE Drama students were showcased and they displayed their acting and technical capabilities in a very professional manner.

Whitelands Academy Debating Society held a debate at the end of the evening, with thought provoking ideas. The evening concluded with Christmas carols. The Debating Society will be entering a competition with local secondary schools in the Bicester area, hosted by Bicester Rotary club on 23rd January at The Cooper School. I wish them luck and praise them for their hard work thus far. I would like to use this opportunity to wish everybody in the Whitelands community a very merry Christmas.

Mrs Bushnell

FIRST DAY BACK

School reopens on 8th January with FOCUS Day sessions. This is where we induct students into the new term. This will run for tutor time and lessons 1 and 2. Normal lessons will resume after break, so please make a note if your child has PE or DT (Food) in lessons 1 or 2 - they will not require PE kit or food ingredients.

Extra-curricular clubs will begin on 15th January. If there are any clubs that are not on offer that students would like, please ask your child to speak to Mr Cartwright.

STAFFING

We say goodbye and thank you to one of our LSA's, Miss Lewis. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavours. We are excited to welcome a new LSA who joins our SEND team in January called Mrs Brown.

We are also very excited to welcome back Miss Walsh from her maternity leave. Miss Walsh will be taking over as the permanent tutor for 7C as of January.

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

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| • Monday 8 th January 2024 | Start of Spring Term |
| • Monday 15 th January | Clubs start |
| • Tuesday 16 th January | Princess Diana Anti-bullying event in Birmingham |
| • Tuesday 23 rd January | Debating team at Cooper School |
| • Friday 26 th January | Inset Day |
| • W/c Monday 12 th February | Half Term |
| • Monday 11 th March | Inset Day |
| • Thursday 28 th March | End of Spring Term |