



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 9 – DECEMBER 2024



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 term, it has been brilliant observing the excitement and rehearsals build for our musical Matilda in January. Performing talents are beginning to shine through from our Year 7-10 students and we cannot wait to see this in action.

Our students have had a huge involvement in school life this half term, where they have supported the short-listing process for Thailand and have been working hard behind the scenes to devise a long-term student leadership structure. This will be shared with the Senior Leadership Team in January before being launched to our students.

We have continued to work hard to remove barriers to attendance and learning for our students, and we are pleased to see the positive impact this is starting to make. Our Year 11 students have been listening well to our feedback following their mock exams and have started to compete in Champion groups on their Tassomai usage. Our Heads of Departments have been mapping out their curriculum for the remainder of the year, following their mock exam question level analysis, ready to fully prepare our students for their GCSEs.

We have had success in our recruitment process this month. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Kheniene into our Maths department, where we will have a full team again. Gaps in knowledge will be reviewed by teachers, as they cycle through the curriculum to ensure all students progress fully. We also welcome Mr Sutar into our pastoral team. He will be our Pastoral Manager and will work closely with Miss Lyall to lead all year groups and Heads of Year.

From everyone at Whitelands, we wish you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE PRINCIPAL'S WALL

This year we have introduced the Principal's wall. This is a display board that can be found on our first-floor corridor that has an aim to appreciate and celebrate remarkable achievements from our students, for both in and out of school. Students can be nominated by their tutors. They are awarded 10 merits, and their achievement is placed onto the board for all of our Whitelands community to see.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE



At the start of the term, the entire school paid their respects to those who gave their lives, so we could live ours today. Our Cadets paraded into the courtyard to the lovely sounds of 'The Saints Go Marching In' which was played by two of the Senior students. After readings from Mrs Edwards, Miss Lyall and Mr Forder, the Last Post was played, followed by a well-respected two-minute silence. The whole of the Whitelands community came together in a fantastic display of respect.

THAILAND

It has come to the exciting time of year again that we have launched our next International Expedition to Thailand. Our newly launched Whitelands Wheel prioritises "Broadening Horizons" through Inspirational opportunities and this experience is certainly something that will help students grow and develop in new ways.

This year's trip is open to the current Year 9 cohort and to secure their place this year, they had to write a letter of application stating not only what they wanted to get out of the trip, but how they could contribute to being part of Team Thailand 2025.

We are delighted with the 55 letters of application that were received, and staff are now shortlisting them to invite a number of students to the interview phase. This will take place before we break up for Christmas and then the final 16 will be announced in our celebration assembly on Friday 20th December.

Good luck to all of the students who have applied.

Miss Lyall

Vice Principal

BANBURY AND BICESTER COLLEGE TRIP

A group of our Year 11 students visited Banbury & Bicester College this term following a post-16 options assembly. They got the opportunity to visit the campus college, look around the facilities and ask questions about their provision. They also got a detailed talk on their provision and application process.

SEND EMPLOYABILITY WORKSHOP



Over the past 5 weeks, a group of Year 9 and 10 students have travelled to EKFB HS2 site near Westbury, Brackley. Here they have been exposed to a variety of different careers' focuses, from pathways into Engineering, practical employability skills such as mock interviews and CV building, as well as team working tasks and having the opportunity to drive the Plant simulators on site.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

SPORTS NEWS

This term has been one of the busiest for fixtures at Whitelands Academy, with a range of fixtures and tournaments taking place across the various sports. From the spirited energy on the football pitch to the fierce competition on the netball court, our teams showed outstanding sportsmanship, teamwork and resilience.

NETBALL



We hosted the first Netball tournament of the year for our Year 10 and 11's against the other Bicester Schools, where they excelled by putting in outstanding performances.

Our Year 8 and 9's performed skills and technique from their PE lessons, and both year groups played some very strong Netball. They should be proud of their achievements.

This was Year 7's first taste of secondary school fixtures, and they did Whitelands proud by showing determination and courage by getting involved with Netball.

GIRLS' FOOTBALL



Whitelands' U15's came incredibly close to the third round of the National School Cup. They played some fantastic football and scored some brilliant goals.

The Year 7's had a glimpse of school football by taking part in a competition against the surrounding Bicester schools. The students want to build on their performances after Christmas in the U13's National Schools Cup.

The PE department wants to say thank you to Mr James who has taken the lead on the Girls' Football and for doing such an amazing job!

BOYS' FOOTBALL



The Year 7's have had a good start by getting to the second round of the National Schools Cup, but sadly they lost on penalties in a hard-fought game. They have had a friendly game against Gosford Hill, in which they showed respect to their opponents.

Our Year 10 boys have shown resilience in the National Schools Cup, and they are now in the third round, and hopeful for a good cup run.

HANSEL AND GRETEL TRIP

It was an exciting day with outstanding acting performances. On 11th December, 90 Year 7 students went to watch a Christmas performance of Hansel and Gretel at The North Wall Arts Centre in Summertown. For many students this was their first Theatre experience. We were in a very fortunate situation. We had seats directly in front of the stage and the actors came to sit with us throughout the performance and stood beside us.

It was a Creation Theatre production which is a professional Community Theatre company. Local children from Oxford who attended holiday drama clubs in the Arts Centre were invited to act alongside the professionals. The professional cast had experiences of performing in productions, ranging from local theatres to West End musicals.

The Hansel and Gretel performance had several different theatre styles, including Musical theatre and Physical Theatre, both of which are studied in drama lessons and in the after-school show rehearsals at Whitelands Academy. This enhanced their learning experience.

I would like to thank the staff that accompanied the students on this trip: Mr Rolfe, Mr Lawrence, Mrs Mofford, Mrs Moore, Mrs Poole and Mr Hussain. They all contributed to a well organised smooth transition from Whitelands Academy to the North Wall Arts Centre.

I hope all of the students enjoyed their cultural experience at the theatre, and it was my pleasure to lead this trip. I look forward to leading further trips.

Thank you for your parental support.

Mrs S Bushnell

Teacher of English

PERFORMING ARTS



On Tuesday 3rd December, we were delighted to be invited to Kidlington Bingo to collect a cheque for £750. Kidlington Bingo kindly fundraises for the local community, and we were very grateful to be selected. The money is going to help fund drama blocks that we will use in drama lessons, drama exams and our upcoming performance of Matilda. Four students who are part of our Matilda cast came with us to accept the cheque.

MATILDA

Rehearsals are in full swing for our upcoming performance of Matilda. Students are working hard on learning lines, dancing and songs. Our backstage crew are also busy planning lighting, sound, costumes and props.

Matilda Jr is the story of a girl who dreams of a better life. It is a heartwarming play with moments of comedy and fantasy.

We look forward to welcoming you to our production. Tickets will be on sale in the new year.



Mrs R Brown
Head of Performing Arts

CHRISTMAS SHOWCASE

We were absolutely delighted to be presenting the first Christmas showcase from the Performing Arts department. On Wednesday 18th December, students from years 7 – 10 performed their work as a celebration of their performing arts skills. There was singing, musicians, choir and drama. It was a wonderful way to welcome in the Christmas holidays and everyone enjoyed the sing a long at the end!



HISTORY UPDATE

This term in History, we have looked at the Romans, the Normans and the Crusades (Year 7), the Tudors and the Stuarts (Year 8) and World War One and the Russian Revolution (Year 9). Year 7 have completed brilliant essays about the Romans, and they have settled into History brilliantly, asking intelligent questions about the past. Year 9 have completed a large essay on the causes of the Russian Revolution, and they have written at an incredibly high standard.

In Year 10 we have been studying Migration to Britain from 800CE- Present Day, and in Year 11 we have been studying Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-39.

Mr C James

Head of History

HOUSE POINTS

Students are continuing to do well accumulating house points, and as we close for Christmas, the following students hold the top three rankings for each year group:

	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7	Abigail A	Sara T	Imogen N
Year 8	Russ E	Erin A	Kelly N
Year 9	Adrian	Johnson M	Tammy G
Year 10	Erin H	Jess S	Imogen J
Year 11	Bogdan T	Thomas S-F	Maxwell M

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- Friday 20th December
 - Monday 6th January 2025
 - Tuesday 7th January
 - 30th and 31st January
 - Monday 17th February
 - Friday 4th April
- End of Term (12.50pm)
 - Inset Day
 - Start of Term 3
 - Matilda Production
 - Half Term
 - End of Spring Term (12.50pm)

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Please find below a list of the contact details for all of our staff:

Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Edwards - Principal – cedwards@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Forder - Vice Principal Academic - fforder@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Lyall - Vice Principal Pastoral, DSL – rlees@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Hussain – Vice Principal – hhussain@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Walkley - Assistant Principal, SENCO, Deputy DSL - swalkley@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Cartwright – Assistant Principal, Deputy DSL - mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Day – Associate Assistant Principal, Head of Maths - cday@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Peters - Associate Assistant Principal, Head of Art and DT, Deputy DSL - tpeters@whitelandsacademy.org

Teaching Staff

Ms Berthallon - Teacher of MFL - mberthallon@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Branaghan – Teacher of Art and DT - jbranaghan@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Brown - Head of RS - mabrown@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Brown – Head of Performing Arts - rbrown@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Bickford-Smith - Teacher of Art and DT – cbickford-smith@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Bushnell - Teacher of English - sbushnell@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Castle – Teacher of Science - rcastle@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Chapman – Head of English (maternity cover) - cchapman@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Cointre - Teacher of MFL - acointre@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Cartwright - Teacher of PE - mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Davies – Teacher of Music - sdavies@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr James - Head of History - cjames@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Johnson - Head of Humanities - mjohnson@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Lawrence – Teacher of Humanities - alawrence@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Marsh - Head of Science - lmars@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Mofford - Head of Computing - pmofford@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Montague (on maternity leave) - Head of English - cmontague@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Morgan – English Teacher - mmorgan@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Oyewusi - Teacher of Science - noyewusi@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Papazoglou – Teacher of Science - dpapazoglou@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Putt – Resource Base Manager – ksaunders-cross@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Rann - Teacher of Maths - prann@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Reed - Teacher of Maths - sreed@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Ridewood – Teacher of PE - cridewood@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Rolfe – Teacher of PE - crolfe@whitelandsacademy.org

Support Staff

Mrs Amin - Head of Year 11 - kamin@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Barker – Lunchtime Supervisor
Mr Bowden - Attendance Officer - ibowden@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Bridges – Learning Support Assistant – sbridges@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Brown – Learning Support Assistant – cbrown@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Cody - Learning Support Assistant - ecody@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Collison – Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Cox – Head of Year 10 - kcox@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Darke - SEN Administrator - tdarke@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Downer – Learning Support Assistant - kdowner@whitelandsacademy.org

Mrs Gorham – PA to Principal – sgorham@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Hobbs – Head of Year 9 – jhobbs@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Holloway – Assistant Site Manager – fholloway@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Kelly – Field People Manager - kkelly@twhf.org.uk
Miss Lynes – Student Services Administrator - mlynes@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Martin – Librarian and Reprographics Officer - lmartin@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr McGinnity - IT Technician - jmcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs McGinnity – Art and DT Technician - smcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs McHattie - Safeguarding Officer - amchattie@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Mellor – Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Milling - Student Services Officer - kmilling@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Moore - Learning Support Assistant - mmoore@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Noyes – Learning Support Assistant – anoyes@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Phipps – Site Manager – mhipps@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Poole - Science Technician - dpoole@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Quarterman – Head of Year 8 – kquarterman@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Robinson – Finance / HR Assistant - vrobinson@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Stromanis - Cover Manager - jstromanis@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Sullivan – Finance and Operations Lead - lsullivan@twhf.org.uk