



# WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 5 – FEBRUARY 2024



WHITELANDS ACADEMY  
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND  
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT  
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

We come to the end of a very short, but action-packed half term. The students at Whitelands Academy continue to inspire me – we are immensely proud of them. Our student leaders have created action plans to improve our school and will soon be presenting these to the Senior Leadership Team to roll out over Term 4. Our students have experienced trips, visitors and entered competitions this half term, which have all been fantastic experiences that will continue to grow our school culture. Our latest staff INSET day was a huge success in training our staff in understanding individual needs in the classroom and how to support them. Our teachers have already started to implement this practice into their lessons. Our Key stage 3 students took their first summary assessment point this academic year incredibly maturely. We look forward to sharing their progress reports with you in term 4.

We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming all of our students back on Monday 19th February, where the first two lessons will be spent with their tutor to discuss the value of Teamwork.

## **SPEECH COMPETITION**

A huge congratulations to Dexter Cadd, Kajetan Jazdzenski and Leo Swanton who represented Whitelands Academy at The Cooper School. Speeches were presented by Bloxham School, The Cooper School and Chipping Norton School. Teachers from other schools praised their efforts for content, delivery and perceptive comments on the topic of 'Climate change'. The Rotarian judges sent a very complimentary message to thank them for their positive contribution.

Members of the debating team are looking forward to entering the competition next year and hope to be considered for the Nationals. If your child is interested in joining the debate club, it is on a Thursday after school until 4.10pm. Students can speak to me if they are interested. Debating helps to build confidence in presenting viewpoints and is excellent preparation for people- facing jobs and college applications.

Mrs Bushnell

## **READING COMPETITION**

I have invited the whole school to take part in a Whitelands Academy reading competition. Students are encouraged to read as many books as they can and show me the record of their books. This was launched this last week. The closing date for this competition is 7th March (World Book Day). Prizes will be presented for each year group.

February half term is the perfect time for students to visit Bicester library and take some books out. Alternatively, I can recommend Coles Bookshop in Bicester or a whole host of bookshops in Oxford if you like new releases. If students are looking for activities in the holidays, libraries are free and have a wide selection of reading material.

I have been impressed by the lists that I have seen so far and the books the students have been bringing to school to show me. I have a selection of books at the back of my classroom and I have been signing out books from the school library for those that would like some ideas for reading material.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. There is a reminder of this competition on Satchel One.

Mrs Bushnell

## **TRANSLATION WORKSHOP**

On Tuesday 23rd January two students from the University of Oxford came in to deliver a workshop to 30 of our Year 9 students as part of the Queen's College Translation Exchange. We spent some time looking at all of the different languages we knew, before moving on to begin our translations of Chanson d'Automne, a poem by 19th century French poet Paul Verlaine.

We are looking forward to the second workshop, which will take place in March, when students will complete their translations of the poem. Here is what Daniella (9C) had to say: 'The French workshop was fantastic! Led by two amazing instructors, we explored different cultures and languages. It not only improved my French but also broadened my understanding of people's identities. I can't wait for the next lesson as I'm excited to do it again!'

Ms Walsh

## ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS

On 16th January we took 10 students to a school in Birmingham to be trained in the Princess Diana Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Award. This was a full day training course which is Nationally recognised, and has supported students in recognising bullying and finding proactive ways in dealing with this as a student led agenda.

Since our training day, the team have met and are working on their three priorities for the second half of the school year. This includes a student led staff training session on bullying, a student led assembly and also an event to celebrate the diversity of our school which will be launched in term 4. The students that attended had such a fantastic day. We were one of 10 schools involved in the training and each school was able to contribute with suggestions that would be effective in their school. We are really looking forward to launching our campaign next term - look out for more information!

Miss Lyall

## TRIP TO SIX THE MUSICAL

On 18<sup>th</sup> January we took a group of Year 9 students to see 'Six the Musical' in London.

"On the way to the theatre, many of us were able to see the sights of London such as the London Eye on the coach. The theatre looked really small on the outside but was huge inside. We were lucky enough to be overlooking the stage and had an amazing view. We got to dress appropriately in theatre attire, such as jeans and jumpers. We enjoyed the songs as they were very catchy and upbeat. One of the best queens in our opinion was Katherine Howard. This was because she had a great voice and an interesting song. Her outfit was also really pretty. We really enjoyed the end of the show when they sang their outro and the audience was able to stand up and clap, with confetti everywhere. We had a great time."

By Katie L and Dorian G

The students behaved impeccably on the trip and were a real credit to the school. The staff had a great time and are looking forward to taking them on trips in the future.

Mr James

## CAREERS

As we continue to grow and expand the school, we are looking to develop our careers programme even further. There has already been a huge amount of planning behind the scenes to set our students up for their futures, and we look forward to rolling these out. If you or any family friends have any contacts in business that may be willing to help, be it work placements, careers talks or industry expert workshops, then please do get in contact with me at: [mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org).

Thank you.

Mr Cartwright

## THAILAND VISIT

Whitelands Academy applied last year to the Turing Scheme for a funded programme to our partner school in Bangkok, Thailand. We were successful in that bid and have been awarded 16 student places and 3 teacher places for a 7-day visit which will take place in mid-June 2024.

The programme is nearly fully funded by the Turing Scheme, but students will be required to fund tourist/cultural visits and some meals. The students will learn Thai cooking and boxing, share lessons and visit a temple with students who we will be buddied up with. The tourist / cultural programme includes a visit to an elephant sanctuary on the River Kwai, some distance from the city, and a visit to the world heritage temples at Wat Arun and Wat Pho. If possible the students will also have the opportunity to volunteer in an orphanage.

This opportunity is for students in year 9 who had the launch assembly last week. Students who wish to apply have been asked to write a letter of application, which is due on 19th February. Following this, applications will be shortlisted in preparation for a final interview.

This is such an exciting opportunity for Whitelands and something we hope to be able to carry on in future years. We cannot wait to share more about our adventures as we approach the trip.

Miss Lyall

## STAFFING UPDATE

At the start of March, we will sadly be saying goodbye to Mr Morris as he is relocating away from the area. We are delighted to announce that we have the following new staff members joining us:

Miss Papazoglou – Science Teacher and Tutor for 8 Cavell

Mr Oyewusi – Science Teacher

Mrs Bridges – Learning Support Assistant

Ms Brown - Learning Support Assistant

We have included a list of staff contact details on the last page.

## WHITE HORSE FEDERATION UPDATE

Paul Smith (CEO of The White Horse Federation Trust) will be standing down as our Chief Executive.

Under Paul Smith's leadership, the Trust has made great progress with the delivery of a powerful new strategy dedicated to enabling every pupil to fulfil their full potential and the establishment of a strong and effective central team focused on supporting all our schools.

During Paul's tenure over the last 18 months, the Trust has opened an Associate College of the National Institute of Teaching; been appointed an attendance hub by the Department for Education; and overseen 18 positive Ofsted inspections.

To ensure stability for our staff and pupils and seamless continuity for the ongoing improvements, the Board has appointed Simon Cowley (Director of Primary) and Daniel Smith (Director of Secondary) as interim Co-CEOs to lead the Trust whilst a comprehensive search for a new CEO is carried out.

# KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February Half Term
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March Coffee with the SLT (4-5pm)
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March Inset Day
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March Years 8 and 9 Parents Evening
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March Years 8 and 9 Parents Evening
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March Years 8 and 9 Parents Evening
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March End of Spring Term – 12.50pm finish
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April Start of Summer Term

We will be running Parents Evening differently this year to maximise the appointments available to parents. More information will follow after half term.

# STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Please find below contact details for all of our staff:

## Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Edwards - Principal, Deputy DSL – [cedwards@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cedwards@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Forder - Vice Principal Academic, Deputy DSL - [fforder@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:fforder@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Lyall - Vice Principal Pastoral, DSL – [rlees@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:rlees@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Walkley - Assistant Principal, SENCO - [swalkley@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:swalkley@whitelandsacademy.org)

## Teaching Staff

Miss Anglin-Archer - Teacher of Art - [sanglin-archer@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:sanglin-archer@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Ms Berthallon - Teacher of MFL - [mberthallon@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mberthallon@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Brown - Head of RE - [mabrown@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mabrown@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Bickford-Smith - Teacher of Design and Technology – [cbickford-smith@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cbickford-smith@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Ms Bushnell - Teacher of English - [sbushnell@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:sbushnell@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Ms Cointre - Teacher of MFL - [acointre@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:acointre@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Cartwright - Teacher of PE - [mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Cousineau - Teacher of Science - [kcousineau@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:kcousineau@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Dawe - Head of PE - [cdawe@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cdawe@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Day - Head of Maths - [charlesday@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:charlesday@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr James - Teacher of History - [cjames@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cjames@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Johnson - Head of Humanities - [mjohnson@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mjohnson@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Marsh - Head of Science - [imarsh@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:imarsh@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Mofford - Head of Computing - [pmofford@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:pmofford@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Montague - Head of English - [cmontague@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cmontague@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Morris - Teacher of PE - [jmorris@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:jmorris@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Oyewusi - Teacher of Science - [noyewusi@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:noyewusi@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Papazoglou - [dpapazoglou@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:dpapazoglou@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Peters - Teacher of Design and Technology - [tpeters@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:tpeters@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Rann - Teacher of Maths - [prann@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:prann@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Reed - Teacher of Maths - [sreed@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:sreed@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Putt - KS2 Teacher – [ksaunders-cross@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:k Saunders-cross@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Tyler-Gunning - Teacher of English – [rtyler-gunning@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:rtyler-gunning@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Ms Walsh – Head of MFL – [awalsh@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:awalsh@whitelandsacademy.org)

## Support Staff

Mrs Amin - Head of Years 9 and 10 - [kamin@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:kamin@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Bowden - Attendance Officer - [ibowden@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:ibowden@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Bridges – Learning Support Assistant – [sbridges@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:sbridges@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Brock - Assistant Site Manager - [abrock@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:abrock@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Ms Brown – Learning Support Assistant – [cbrown@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:cbrown@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Cody - Learning Support Assistant - [ecody@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:ecody@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Collin – Learning Support Assistant – [scollin@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:scollin@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Darke - SEN Administrator - [tdarke@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:tdarke@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Gorham – PA to Principal – [sgorham@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:sgorham@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Hobbs – Head of Year 8 – [jhobbs@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:jhobbs@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr McGinnity - IT Technician - [jmcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:jmcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs McHattie - Safeguarding Officer - [amchattie@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:amchattie@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Milling - Student Services Administrator - [kmilling@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:kmilling@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Miss Moore - Learning Support Assistant - [mmoore@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mmoore@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Poole - Science Technician - [dpoole@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:dpoole@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Riley - Site Manager - [mriley@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mriley@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Robinson - Finance HR Assistant - [vrobinson@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:vrobinson@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Starren – Head of Year 7 – [mstarren@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:mstarren@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mr Stromanis - Cover Manager - [jstromanis@whitelandsacademy.org](mailto:jstromanis@whitelandsacademy.org)  
Mrs Sullivan – Finance and Operations Lead - [lsullivan@twhf.org.uk](mailto:lsullivan@twhf.org.uk)