



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 10 – FEBRUARY 2025



WHITELANDS ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

As we come to the end of another busy half term, I would like to congratulate all of the students for their ambitious involvement in school life. The students have shown grit, determination and success in so many areas of the school, including the school production Matilda, PE fixtures, our Maths challenge, their assessments and their post-16 applications. This makes me immensely proud.

As we strive to continue to refine and improve the school experience for all of the community, we have created a number of surveys for feedback. This will support our school evaluation and planning for next steps. Students will be asked for their voice at the beginning of next term. If you could spare a couple of minutes, we would appreciate your feedback following this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/7gMPpM86hH>

Have a relaxing and enjoyable half term.

MATILDA



The students and staff had an amazing experience putting on Whitelands' first ever musical – Matilda! We held auditions in October, and we then spent two and a half months working really hard to learn dances, acting and developing characters and the very catchy songs. We are so proud of all the students who took part. In addition, our Year 9 students took on technical leadership roles, heading up lighting, sound and stage management.

We aim to facilitate the students to take ownership of their productions. We wholeheartedly encourage and welcome their input into our productions.

Thank you to everyone who supported us; at home, by coming to watch, making props and donating set.

Mrs R Brown

Head of Performing Arts

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.

Bicester Schools Football Tournament

The local school football tournament saw an impressive performance from the Year 10 and 11 team, who remained unbeaten throughout their matches. Their dominance showed strong teamwork and determination but also the level of respect to the opposition.

The Year 7 boys and girls welcomed The Bicester School and Heyford Park for the Bicester Schools' Tournament. The boys and girls showed great enthusiasm about the event and played some good football, which resulted in the boys winning two out of two games and the girls came second place!

It has been a pleasure hosting the Bicester Schools Football Tournament and hopefully we will host some more events in the upcoming months.

U13's Boys Football Fixture



The Year 8 boys secured a dominant 4-1 victory against Heyford Park School which showed an impressive attacking display. The team showed high level of teamwork by supporting each other in attack and defence. Throughout the game they showed respect for their opponents and great representation for the school.

U14's Boys Football Fixture



The U14s had their first fixture this year and they put in a commanding performance with a 4-0 victory over Bruern Abbey. They controlled the game from start to finish. They showed great teamwork and attacking flair. Their solid defence allowed them to keep a clean sheet, and the result reflects the team's strong performance and confidence.

The second U14's fixture, was a hard fought 2-1 win against Kingham Hill School. The game was evenly matched, and both teams demonstrated determination and effort. The game was in a competitive spirit, however Whitelands outshone the opponents in the end.

U13's Girls English Schools Cup



The girls entered the second round of the U13's English Schools Cup, and they delivered a dominate performance by securing an impressive 5-0 win over Elizabeth Woodville School. Their attacking play was relentless, which was matched by a solid defensive display that meant there was no chance of a comeback.

The girls reached the 3rd round of the English Schools Cup, however that ended the cup run by a well organised Ousedale School team which had players from Arsenal, Aston Villa and MK Dons playing. Mr James is proud of the girls, and they have established a really good squad for next year!

Mr Rolfe

Teacher of PE

CYPERFIRST COMPETITION

Whitelands Academy Celebrates "I Belong" Certificate Achievement

Whitelands Academy is proud to announce its recent achievement in receiving the prestigious "I Belong" Certificate from the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE) and the Department for Education (DfE). This certificate is a testament to the academy's commitment to encouraging and supporting girls in computing, paving the way for greater diversity and inclusivity in the subject.

The "I Belong" programme is a nationwide initiative designed to inspire and engage female students in computing, addressing the gender imbalance in the field. By actively participating in the programme, Whitelands Academy has demonstrated its dedication to fostering an inclusive learning environment, where all students feel empowered to explore opportunities in technology and digital innovation.

We are thrilled to receive this certificate as it highlights our ongoing efforts to inspire and support young girls in computing. The world of technology is rapidly evolving, and it is crucial that we encourage diverse perspectives to shape its future.

The programme has already made a significant impact at Whitelands Academy, with students benefiting from engaging workshops, inspiring role models, and hands-on computing experiences. Additionally, Year 8 girls participated in the CyberFirst competition, and all Year 8 students took part in the GCHQ competition, further enhancing their computing skills and enthusiasm for the subject. With this recognition, the academy reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that every student, regardless of gender, has the opportunity to develop their skills and pursue a future in the ever-growing tech industry.

Congratulations to all the students and staff who have contributed to this incredible achievement! Whitelands Academy looks forward to continuing its mission to inspire the next generation of female tech leaders.

Mrs Mofford

Head of Computing

CAREERS

Bicester Heritage



Despite the dreary forecast, the Year 9's got the chance to look around the Bicester Heritage Centre on Monday. As part of the careers provision with Apprenticeship week, they were given insights to four of the employers based at the site. Neom McLaren - the E-Racing team, Motorsport UK - the governing body for motor sport, Bicester Motion - the property restoration & development company at the site and The Heritage Skills Academy - an excellent apprenticeship provider into restoration of classic cars. The students were an excellent advocate for Whitelands Academy, with their excellent behaviour, and hopefully we will have a few students that are welcomed back to the Heritage Centre, following a spark of interest from their visit.

Edgbaston Trip



To wrap up National Apprenticeship week, a class of keen sports students visited the Careers in Sport conference at Warwickshire County Cricket Ground at Edgbaston. They received insight into the different opportunities in the sport sector, as well as an introductory lecture into sports science and sports performance from the University of Gloucester. CIMSPA also spoke about the support and guidance for Apprenticeships in the sport sector.

Careers Fayre



Thank you for those who have reached out to support our careers provision at Whitelands. We are still looking for any local businesses or professionals who would like to be involved with our Careers Fayre and mock interviews.

Please do reach out to us as we know that employee encounters and interview skills are so important post-16.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

GEOGRAPHY UPDATE

A day in the life of a Whitelands Academy geographer...

The Year 11 GCSE students have been finishing off studying Nigeria's importance as a newly emerging economy. Understanding the rapid economic development has been built on a back of successful oil, manufacturing, IT and media economies, including their very own 'Nollywood'. The students have also been preparing for their mock exams via planned revision lessons and 'Walking talking mocks,' to outline and understand how to access the best marks possible in Papers 1, 2 & 3.

Year 10's have just completed a Map Skills GCSE topic, based on the reading of OS maps, understanding graphical skills, and formulating geographical enquiries going from picking questions to evaluations. Students have just completed a Map skills mini assessment, and they have understood their strengths and areas to improve.

In KS3, all students have received their KS3 assessment scores, and they have understood their strengths and areas to improve. Year 9 students have just started 'Resource management and Security' where we have been outlining the severe knock-on consequences of Cape Town, South Africa, reaching 'day zero' and the factors that have contributed to this, as well as understanding the management strategies to prolong and delay 'day zero' as much as possible.

Year 8 students have just started their new topic 'Our Unequal World', looking at the knock-on impact of a level of development on a country's health and socioeconomic quality of life. Recent lessons include the migrating journey from Central America to USA and the reasons for this journey along the 'La Bestia' train.

Year 7 students have just been introduced to a new topic of 'Africa, Kenya & Nigeria'. Lessons include the physical and human characteristics of Africa, Kenya as a growing economy, and the positive and negative impact of tourism in Kenya.

Mr M Johnson

Head of Humanities

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



Last week, we welcomed Mr Salles back to Whitelands (with his iconic spatula). He is an expert in English teaching and gave an excellent lecture to our Year 11 students on Romeo and Juliet, to prepare them for their final mock exams. The lecture covered everything from the key themes of the play, Shakespeare's intentions, as well as the crucial exam knowledge and technique needed for success in GCSE English Literature.

If students want to re-watch the lecture, it is available here:

<https://youtu.be/SrPf6CMryT0>

We are looking forward to more English lectures from Mr Salles between now and the final exams!

Mr F Forder

Vice Principal

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Towards the end of this half term, both the Bronze and Silver groups completed their training in school. We welcomed the team from School of Outdoors to prepare the students for the training expeditions later in the year. The Bronze team were introduced to the key features of the expeditions; stove and food planning, assembling tents and kit packing, as

well as building relationships with their expedition teams. The Silver team recapped the basics from last year whilst they started working on plans for the tougher Silver expeditions towards the end of the year. Both groups gave a fantastic account of themselves and got stuck into the tasks thrown at them, and the School of Outdoors team were incredibly complimentary about our students.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

SINGLE LUNCH

This term we have shared and implemented an adjustment in our lunch timings. This has now been in place for three weeks, and we are really pleased to see the students being able to sit down to eat and enjoy social time together. In the Key Stage 3 dining room, students have been enjoying playing card games once they have finished eating. Students are now able to take their time eating, enjoying conversations and being sociable. We are really pleased with how this is going - it has made the implementation of formal exams easier and significantly reduced the disruption to learning across period 5. As always, well done to the students for being adaptable and accommodating the change - they have managed this very well.

Miss Lyall

Vice Principal

HOUSE POINTS

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

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Year 7	Abigail Aji	Sarah Tene	Imogen North
Year 8	Russ Ewing	Kelly Ng	Erin Aspley
Year 9	Aaliyah Beadle	Joshua Reed (joint 1 st)	Tammy Grant
Year 10	Erin Horseman	Jess Shepherd	Imogen Johnston
Year 11	Bogdan Tsurkan	Thomas Samuel-Fagg	Finn Soutar

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

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| • Monday 17 th February | Half Term |
| • Thursday 13 th March | Year 9 Options' Evening |
| • Thursday 20 th March | Year 8 HPV vaccines (catch up session) |
| • Wednesday 26 th March | Year 8 Parents' Evening |
| • Friday 4 th April | End of Term 4 (12.50pm) |
| • Tuesday 22 nd April | Start of Term 5 |
| • Tuesday 6 th May | Year 10 Parents' Evening |
| • 8 th May - 18 th June | GCSE Exams |
| • Monday 26 th May | Half Term |

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 - charlesday@whitelandsacademy.org

Mrs Peters - Associate Assistant Principal, Head of Art and DT, Deputy DSL - tpeters@whitelandsacademy.org

Teaching Staff

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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

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Mrs Castle – Teacher of Science - rcastle@whitelandsacademy.org

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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 Makowska-Kheniene – Teacher of Maths - bmakowska-kheniene@whitelandsacademy.org

Mrs Marsh - Head of Science - lmarch@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

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