



# WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 7 – JULY 2024



WHITELANDS ACADEMY  
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND  
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT  
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

## PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

As the academic year comes to an end, it has been lovely to take some time to reflect on how proud I am of all our students. This half term has been another exciting and busy one, with trips, competitions and whole school events. We are pleased to have achieved our first 3 external trophies through competing in the Berkshire and Oxfordshire STEM competition and the Bicester Film Festival. Students have demonstrated their remarkable talent, and I am thrilled that this has been recognized and rewarded.

In addition, our Student Senior Leaders have planned and led our first ever world culture day. Students presented their idea to the Senior Leadership Team, planned each element and communicated this plan successfully within the student community. This was a huge success and will become an annual highlight for our school calendar.

It has been a real honor celebrating the success of our students this term through our celebration assemblies and awards evening. Well done to all invited this year and we look forward to seeing who is nominated next year.

Finally, it has been lovely watching our year 10 students complete their work experience and graduate into year 11, where they have begun the move to champion groups in the morning. There has been a real buzz from both the students and the staff, and we look forward to seeing the impact of these meaningful relationships over the next academic year.

This half term, our Senior Leadership Team have been working hard behind the scenes planning our next steps for the development of Whitelands Academy. This has been a truly exciting time for the team as we are soon to begin our first ever cohort of year 11 students completing their GCSEs. We look forward to sharing this planning with you in the new academic year.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer - hopefully with lots of sunshine.



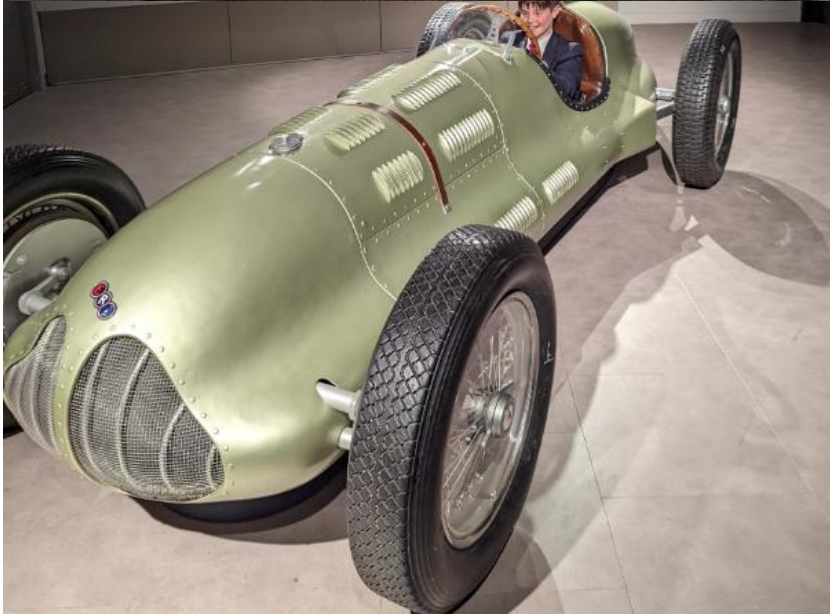
## YEAR 7 - SILVERSTONE

Our year 7 cohort explored the home of British Motor Sport, Silverstone Racetrack.

They were given a tour of the track and walked the old course to where it meets the new international circuit. Alongside this, students were all given access to the motor sport museum, looking at the history of the track and the development of the sport, including all the technology. Within the museum there were opportunities for the students to get involved in various aspects of 'race day' such as the pit crew, race marshals and first aid whilst also exploring the RAF roots of the track during the Second World War; landing a plane and delivering air mail. The final part of the trip included an introduction to careers in motor sport, looking at the different roles that make up an F1 team as well as the parts of the cars that have gone around the world-famous circuit.

**Mr M Cartwright**

**Assistant Principal – Personal  
Development**



## YEAR 8 – WILLIAMS RACING



In June our year 8 cohort spent the day at the Williams Racing F1 Centre. What a wonderful experience. The staff at Williams Racing did everything to make the experience a truly memorable one.

The groups were given a guided tour around their museum, highlighting the design differences between the cars and the developments in technology from the 1960's all the way to the present day. They covered details about the chassis, steering wheels, aerodynamics and power to weight ratio. Pupils were challenged to program a driverless electric car around a small circuit and invent their own business brand which they then pitched to a panel, promoting employability, teamworking and problem-solving skills. Finally, they experienced the e-simulator suite where they pitted their driving skills against one another around the Canadian Grand Prix circuit, Silverstone and finally Monaco, in the rain.



**Mr M Cartwright**

**Assistant Principal – Personal Development**

# THAILAND

On Tuesday, 18th June, 16 students and 3 staff set off for our trip of a lifetime to Thailand. After a long flight with a stop in Abu Dhabi, we finally landed in Bangkok. Despite being tired, we were all buzzing with excitement! The bustling streets, tuk-tuks, temples, skyscrapers, and colourful street markets were so different from home!

Our first two days were at Wat Nuannoradit School. The staff and students were so welcoming, making our time there very special. We got to watch and even learn some traditional Thai dance, saw a Muay Thai boxing demo, and took part in a cooking lesson to make a traditional dessert. Meeting Thai students our age was great—we loved discovering both the similarities and differences in our lives.

Next, we explored Bangkok's cultural and historical sights. We took the Sky Train to visit Wat Arun and Wat Pho, which has one of the largest reclining Buddha statues in Thailand. This gave us great insights into Buddhism and Thai life. Visiting the Bangkok floating markets was another memorable experience. We toured the market by boat, bought gifts from local vendors, and worked on our haggling skills!

A highlight of our trip was the visit to the Elephant World Sanctuary where old, sick and rescued elephants are cared for in a safe, natural environment. We spent the afternoon caring for many of the elephants, feeding them, swimming with them and rubbing mud onto their skin to protect them from the sun. This is an experience that I'm sure none of us will ever forget.

Our final day was spent at the HDF Mercy Centre Orphanage, where we played with the children and took part in activities. It was a humbling and heartwarming experience. We proudly handed over a cheque for £4150, raised through school fundraising events—thank you to everyone who contributed!

We're so grateful for this opportunity and thankful to The Turing Foundation, World Connect, and the Whitelands Academy team for making it possible.



Isla Year 9



## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



During the weeks of the 24<sup>th</sup> June and the 1<sup>st</sup> July the year 10 students went out on their work experience placements. Students were in the workplace for a full week to experience life out of school and potential future career paths. There was a fantastic spread of industry sectors that our students went into; engineering, motor sport, medicine and nursing, property, product design and education to name a few.

We at Whitelands would like to thank all those employers for their support in offering a placement for our students. We are super proud of how they approached the week. This was an exciting time for the school and students, as this was our first set of work placements, and we will look forward to building on their successes next year.

**Mr M Cartwright**

**Assistant Principal – Personal Development**

## YEAR 8/9 STEM CHALLENGE DAY

On the 8<sup>th</sup> July six students from year 8 and six students from year 9 were selected to represent Whitelands Academy at the Oxfordshire and Berkshire STEM Challenge Day at the University of Oxford. The students were split up into teams with students from other schools to pull together to complete a series of challenges that had various aspects of STEM.

The challenges were designed to test their knowledge and understanding of STEM along with their communication skills and teamwork skills with

students they had never met before. They were tasked with using E-Fit software, the same as the Police, to create an image of a potential criminal from a crime scene, medical diagnostics technology to diagnose a patient with an unknown disease, this section also saw them learn CPR. The final challenge was a robotics challenge where they were given a remote-controlled vehicle to program around a series of obstacles.



The Whitelands students were fantastic and such amazing ambassadors for the school. Winnie and Poppy won the individual prize for the robotics challenge, Maya-Emily and May won the individual prize for the Police E-fit challenge and Jason and Harrison in year 8 were part of the overall winning team who have progressed on to next round later in the year held in London.

Well done to all involved.

**Mr C Cartwright**

**Assistant Principal – Personal Development**

## **KS3 BICESTER FILM FESTIVAL**

The KS3 students have achieved remarkable success at the recent Bicester Film Festival, highlighting the talent and creativity of our young filmmakers. This accomplishment is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and passion for storytelling through the medium of film.

The festival, known for showcasing emerging talents, saw numerous entries from schools in Bicester. The Bicester Learning in Partnership (BLiP) were keen to bring back this festival after a couple of years of not taking place because of Covid. This event showcases the talented students of Bicester and as a community we can therefore share in the achievement and success.

It could not have happened without the kind and generous support of our sponsors: 123ICT, Bicester Village (Value Retail), Vue cinema. They all played a key role in ensuring the event was successful from editing film reel to providing the prizes and the venue to host the event.

### **Award-Winning Films**

This year's theme was safety which meant that schools could choose whichever topic based on that theme. Whitelands Academy decided to focus on cyberbullying.

There were several entries from the school in which each team showed various stories about the topic. Two of the productions, from Year 7 and Year 9, met the criteria to be winners and runners up in their category.

The success of the KS3 students can be attributed to the collaborative spirit and creativity of its members. Over the weeks leading up to the festival students spent hours brainstorming, scripting, filming, and editing their projects. Under the guidance of their teacher, the students have fostered an environment where students feel empowered to express their ideas and bring them to life on screen.

Mrs Mofford, reflecting on the journey, said, "It's incredibly rewarding to see the students' hard work pay off. They've grown not only as filmmakers but also as storytellers and team players. This experience has been invaluable in building their confidence and skills."

The school community is immensely proud of the KS3 students' achievements. Their success at the Bicester Film Festival is a shining example of what can be accomplished with passion, teamwork, and perseverance. We look forward to seeing more from our talented young filmmakers in the future.

Congratulations to the KS3 students on their well-deserved success!



**Nominees from KS3 Year 7-9**



**Winners from Year 7**



**Runners-up from Year 9**

**Mrs P Mofford**  
**Head of Computing**

# WHITELANDS SPORTS DAY

This term our students went head-to-head in their houses to complete a range of athletics events to earn points for their houses. The day was full of fierce competition and excellent demonstrations of sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of all our students who participated and supported the day. Finally, a huge congratulations and well done to our sports day champions ....FRANKLIN HOUSE!



**Miss C Dawe**

**Head of Physical Education**



# TOP HOUSE POINTS

House points are a big deal to us at Whitelands. One of my favourite points of the week is seeing students in all year groups flock to the house points board to see where they sit in the year group rankings. Believe it or not, students of all ages are competitive about their achievement!

We are at the point of the year where we are preparing for our final celebration assemblies. This is where we present certificates for students reaching each of the achievement ladder milestones. Students will leave school for the summer with lots of certificates and badges to celebrate their success - it really is a special occasion.

This year, as an extra special celebration, the top 120 students from the House Point board had an extra special treat. As part of the very first Whitelands Culture Day, our top students were invited to view the Culture Day fashion show. This is our way of recognising their consistent effort and positive attitude at school this year. Well done to all these students and we hope you know how fantastic you are!

**Miss Lyall**

**Vice Principal**

# AWARDS EVENING

It was an absolute pleasure awarding so many students at our annual awards evening this year. 160 students across the school were nominated by their teachers, heads of year and tutors as standing out and needing recognition for their attitude, resilience, progress, attainment and kindness this year. Students were awarded with subject specific awards for academic excellence and values-based awards for consistently role modelling our 6 core values in all that they do.

It was a very special evening, and we are incredibly proud of all the students who won these.

Well done.



**Mr F Forder and Miss B Lyall**  
**Vice Principals**

# STAFFING UPDATES

We thank and say goodbye to several staff members this year. We wish them all the best with their futures.

- Miss C Dawe is relocating.
- Mr T Gunning is moving for a promotion.
- Mr K Cousineau is moving on.
- Miss S Anglin-Archer is off to travel the world. She will be around over the next academic year to support with cover.
- Miss A Walsh moving closer to her new family.

We have been incredibly successful with recruitment this year and with our expansion of the school. We look forward to welcoming the following staff members:

- Mr H Hussain – Vice Principal. Relocating within the Whitehorse Federation. Whitelands Academy has its' first Year 11 cohort in Sept 24 and with ambitions to expand to post-16 Mr Hussain's experience will add capacity for this.
- Miss M Lynes – School reception
- Miss C Ridewood – PE Teacher
- Mr C Rolfe – PE Teacher
- Mrs J Branaghan – Art and DT Teacher
- Mr K Downer – LSA
- Miss C Yeung – Maths Teacher working with the SEND Department
- Mr A Lawrence– Humanities Teacher
- Miss C Chapman – English Teacher
- Mrs R Morgan – English and Dance Teacher
- Mrs S Davies – Music and Drama Teacher
- Ms R Brown – Head of Performing Arts
- Mrs R Nincovik – Maths Teacher
- Mrs R Castle – Science Teacher
- Mrs S Radwell- Data and Exams Officer
- Miss L Martin – Librarian
- Mrs K Kox – Head of Year
- Mrs K Quartman - Head of Year
- Ms J Ward – Midday Supervisor
- Ms S Collins – Midday Supervisor
- Ms S Barler – Midday Supervisor
- Ms Y Mellor – Midday Supervisor

## PARENTPAY BALANCE



Just a quick reminder to please clear any outstanding balances you have on ParentPay and to top up your child's lunch monies in readiness for the new term. Thank you so much.

**Mrs Sullivan**

**Finance and Operations Lead**

# SEPTEMBER 2024

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Staff INSET Day

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Staff INSET Day

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7, 9 and 10 have staggered starts.

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>
Students arrive at <b>9:10am</b>	Students not in school	Students arrive at <b>12pm</b>	Students not in school	Students arrive at <b>8:30am</b>

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September – All students in from 8:30am.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September – All students follow normal timetable. 8:30am start.

# TERM DATES 2024-2025

Sep-24					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tue		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

Oct-24					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

Nov-24					
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	

Dec-24					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tue		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

Jan-25					
Mon	30	6	13	20	27
Tue	31	7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

Feb-25					
Mon		3	10	17	24
Tue		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thu		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat	1	8	15	22	
Sun	2	9	16	23	

Mar-25					
Mon		3	10	17	24
Tue		4	11	18	25
Wed		5	12	19	26
Thu		6	13	20	27
Fri		7	14	21	28
Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	2	9	16	23	30


Apr-25					
Mon	31	7	14	21	28
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

May-25					
Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

Jun-25					
Mon		2	9	16	23
Tue		3	10	17	24
Wed		4	11	18	25
Thu		5	12	19	26
Fri		6	13	20	27
Sat		7	14	21	28
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

Jul-25					
Mon	30	7	14	21	28
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thu	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

Aug-25					
Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

-  Pupil Days
-  Bank holidays
-  School holidays
-  Inset Days