



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 13 – JULY 2025



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 another vibrant and successful academic year, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements and memorable moments that have shaped our school community this term.

This year marked a significant milestone as we supported our very first Year 11 cohort through their GCSEs. Their ambition, resilience, and determination has been truly inspiring, and we could not be prouder of them. It was heartwarming to see the entire school come together to bid them farewell on their last day, and to celebrate their journey with a wonderful prom at the Cherwell Boathouse. We eagerly await the opportunity to celebrate their results in August.

I have also been deeply impressed by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students across a wide range of activities this term, from fundraising efforts and Duke of Edinburgh achievements to work experience placements. We have received numerous compliments from members of the public about our students' exemplary conduct and positive attitudes, which is a testament to their character and the values we uphold as a school.

A particular highlight of the term has been our Awards Evening and the end-of-year reward trips. It was a joy to come together as a community to recognise and celebrate the outstanding achievements, progress, and contributions of our students. The reward trips offered a well-deserved opportunity for

fun and relaxation, and it was wonderful to see so many students enjoying themselves and creating lasting memories with their peers and staff.

As we look ahead to the summer break, I find it hard to believe that five years have passed since I first joined the school. It has been a privilege to witness the growth of our community and to see our students develop into confident, capable young adults. I am incredibly grateful to our dedicated staff, our wonderful students, and you, our supportive parents and carers, for the warmth, trust, and encouragement you have shown me throughout this journey.

Thank you for the incredible honour of leading this exceptional school. As I step away, I carry with me countless joyful memories and an immense sense of pride in all that we have accomplished together. It has been a privilege to be part of such a dedicated and inspiring community.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. I will be cheering you on from afar as you continue your journey with Mr Cush at the helm.

GCSE EXAMS

This summer, Whitelands Academy proudly reached a major milestone - the completion of our very first GCSE exam season! Since opening our doors in 2020, we have grown year by year — and this summer marked a special moment in our journey, as our founding students completed their final exams. The GCSE season, running from early May through to the end of June, included a full range of subjects from English and Maths to Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts.

Thanks to months of careful planning, extra revision sessions, and the commitment of our dedicated staff, the entire process ran smoothly. It was a huge team effort, and we couldn't be prouder of how the school community pulled together to support our students through this important time. It reflects how far we have come in just five years — from a brand-new school to one preparing confident, capable young people for the next stage in their lives.

To celebrate the end of exams, we held a special leavers' assembly to reflect on the achievements of this incredible group. We now look ahead to results day in August and can't wait to see what lies ahead for our students. Congratulations to everyone involved — students, staff, and families — for helping us reach this exciting milestone together!

Miss A Carter

Exams Manager

CAREERS

As we wrap up another exciting term, our focus on careers has never been stronger. This term, our Year 10 students took a bold step into the world of work, gaining invaluable experience through their Work Experience Week. From primary schools and retail, to engineering firms and healthcare settings, students embraced the opportunity to explore potential career paths, develop workplace skills, and build confidence in real-world environments. The feedback from employers was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising our students' maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

Alongside this, our one-to-one careers guidance meetings have continued to support students in making informed decisions about their futures. These personalised sessions have helped students identify their strengths, explore post-16 options, and set clear goals for the years ahead. Whether it's university, apprenticeships, or direct employment, we are proud to be helping students navigate their next steps with clarity and confidence.

Looking Ahead: Exciting Opportunities Next Year

Next term promises even more inspiration and hands-on learning with initial focus on Year 8 & 9 events: STEM curriculum drop-down day - we are fortunate enough to be able to welcome a series of external providers to Whitelands on 23rd September, which will include Space, VR and Lego-Mindstorms.

Silverstone Museum Visit – Students will explore the intersection of motorsport, engineering, and innovation at this world-class venue. It is a fantastic opportunity to see how STEM subjects come to life in high-performance industries.

EKFB Construction Gala – A unique chance to engage with professionals from the construction and infrastructure sector. Students will take part in interactive workshops, learn about major projects like HS2, and discover the wide range of careers available in this growing industry.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students are making and look forward to another term filled with discovery, ambition, and opportunity.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

SPORTS NEWS

ATHLETICS AND ROUNDERS FIXTURES



There has been a fantastic showcase of sporting talent, teamwork, and determination at Whitelands, with students from Years 7, 8, and 10 taking part in a variety of athletics competitions and tournaments throughout the summer term.

For Athletics we had students participating across a wide range of events—from sprints and long-distance races to high jump, long jump, and relays—our students demonstrated not only athletic skill but also incredible determination and team spirit. The willingness of many students to step out of their comfort zones and try new events was memorable, all in the name of scoring valuable points for their teams. Whether it was a Year 7 student giving the javelin a go for the first time, or a Year 10 athlete stepping into a relay team at the last minute, the commitment to teamwork and school pride was truly inspiring.

The vibrant atmosphere at each event was filled with energy and encouragement, as students cheered each other on and celebrated

every effort—big or small. The teamwork on display was second to none, and every participant gave their absolute best, embodying the Whiteland's spirit through and through.

In addition to the athletics success, our Year 7 rounders team made a brilliant impression at the Banbury and District Schools' Rounders Tournament. Facing strong competition, the team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, resilience, and hard work in every game. Their positive attitude and commitment to each other were clear to see, and they played with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the tournament.

Whether on the track, in the field, or on the rounders pitch, Whitelands' students have shown what it means to compete with heart, and represent their school with excellence. A huge well done to everyone involved—you've made us all proud!

Miss Ridewood and Mr Rolfe

Teachers of PE

SPORTS DAY



The sun shone brightly over the school field as students and staff gathered for the much-anticipated annual Sports Day. With cheers echoing across the grounds, the event was a celebration of teamwork, determination, and school spirit. With all students out on the field for the majority of the day, it was the first time a full Sports Day was implemented at Whitelands.

This year, Mandela House emerged victorious, claiming the coveted Sports Day Cup after a series of thrilling competitions. Their athletes showed exceptional skill and sportsmanship across all events, from sprints and relays to high jump and javelin.

The two standout performers stole the spotlight and were awarded the first Victor and Victrix Ludorum ("The winner of the Games") for collecting the most points across the day:

Violet P (8F) was awarded the Victrix Ludorum for her amazing efforts including new school records in the 400m & 800m.

Leo B (10M) was awarded the Victor Ludorum for impressing overall, including setting a new school record in the high jump and 1500m.

Other notable performers who topped their points scores for their year groups include:

Year 7: Brinley S & Emmanuella M

Year 8: Harry S

Year 9: Zac L-W & Lily H

Year 10: Olivia N-J

The awards were presented in the celebratory assemblies, where Mandela House was awarded the trophy to rapturous applause.

Every student gave their best and every individual student contributed to their house totals. Sports Day is not just about winning—it's about showing up, supporting each other, and enjoying the spirit of sport.

Congratulations to all houses for their participation, and a special well done to Mandela House for their outstanding victory!

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER – WHITELANDS' FIRST EVER YEAR 11 PROM



On Friday 4th July, Whitelands Academy celebrated a major milestone - our first ever Year 11 Prom – and what a night it was!

Held at the beautiful Cherwell Boathouse in Oxford, the evening was a perfect way to mark the end of an important chapter in our students' lives. Dressed in their finest, students arrived in a spectacular range of vehicles—from classic cars to stylish modern rides—greeted by cheering staff, proud families, and flashing cameras. The atmosphere was full of excitement, laughter, and some emotional moments.

Inside the stunning riverside venue, students enjoyed a welcome drink, delicious food, music, dancing, and professional photographs to capture the memories. It was a joy to see friendships celebrated, achievements recognised, and the whole cohort coming together for one final evening as the Class of 2025.

We are incredibly proud of this group—not just for how they have performed in their studies, but for the way they have grown into mature, thoughtful young people ready to take on their next adventure. The Prom was a fitting send-off for a year group who have shown resilience, integrity and ambition throughout their time at Whitelands.

A huge thank you goes to all the staff who helped organise the event, and to the parents and carers who supported us in making the evening such a success.

Here's to the Class of 2025—we wish you every success and happiness in the years ahead!

Miss Lyall

Vice Principal

WHITELANDS STUDENTS MAKE A GLOBAL IMPACT IN BANGKOK



This term, sixteen Year 9 students took part in a truly unforgettable school trip to Bangkok, Thailand, combining cultural exploration, global learning, and meaningful community service.

From navigating the vibrant streets and markets to exploring the majestic Wat Arun Temple, students were immersed in the energy and wonder of one of the world's most fascinating cities. But this was far more than just a sightseeing tour—it was a journey of connection, compassion, and purpose.

A highlight of the trip was a visit to a local elephant sanctuary, where students learned about ethical conservation and the importance of protecting Thailand's native wildlife. It was a powerful and hands-on experience that reinforced the value of responsible tourism.

During their time in Bangkok, students also spent two days at our partner school, Wat Raj O Ros, participating in joint curriculum activities, cultural exchanges, and collaborative projects. These moments built lasting friendships and reminded us of the power of shared learning across borders.

One of the most impactful parts of the trip was the visit to the Mercy Centre Orphanage—a moment that stood out for its emotional depth and human connection. In preparation for the visit, our Year 9 students took it upon themselves to fundraise an incredible £6,830 for the charity, demonstrating compassion, initiative, and a commitment to making a real difference. The money raised will go directly to supporting the centre's vital work with vulnerable children in Bangkok.

Throughout the trip, our students were outstanding ambassadors for Whitelands. They showed resilience, respect, and maturity at every stage—and returned home with broadened perspectives and lifelong memories.

A huge thank you to the staff who supported this trip, and to the families and wider community who contributed to the students' fundraising efforts. This was Whitelands' global citizenship in action—and we couldn't be prouder.

Miss Lyall

Vice Principal

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



The Silver Expedition began at Corfe Castle with 22 very keen students. The weather was warm, and the sunshine was glaring down. After the students were out walking for seven hours, they reached their first campsite, Rempstone Cottages. They quickly pitched up their tents and prepared their evening meal before heading to sleep.

Day 2 arrived quickly, and all students were up before 7.00am to ensure they had breakfast and planned their route for the day. The walk along the coast allowed them to see the historic views of Swanage. The students demonstrated

remarkable resilience and determination as they endured a challenging 7-hour walk through varied terrain. Despite physical fatigue and shifting weather conditions, they pushed forward with teamwork and perseverance. Their journey concluded at the scenic Woodyhyde Campsite, where a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie was evident among the group.

On their final day, the students rose early for breakfast before setting off straight away on their concluding walk. With a sense of purpose and anticipation, they followed the trail through the surroundings, reflecting on their journey together. The walk ended at the beautiful Knoll Beach, where they were warmly greeted by their family members, marking a heartfelt and rewarding end to their adventure.

Mr Rolfe

Teacher of PE

TRIPS AND VISITS

GCSE GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Our Year 10 GCSE Geography students embarked on a rewarding fieldwork trip to Swanage Bay, Dorset — a stunning example of a coastal environment shaped by both natural processes and human intervention. The trip provided students with the opportunity to apply fieldwork techniques and collect primary data essential for their GCSE course.

Students investigated the effectiveness of coastal management strategies by focusing on four groynes and one sea wall along the Swanage shoreline. Using a beach profile method, they measured the height and width of sand accumulation on both sides of each groyne. This helped to determine how successfully each structure was in preventing longshore drift and aiding in beach retention.

In addition to measurements, students conducted a bipolar analysis to evaluate the visual condition, functionality, and maintenance of the groynes and sea wall. They assessed factors such as structural damage, accessibility, and overall effectiveness in reducing coastal erosion.

To further enrich their study, students took located annotated photographs of one selected groyne and the sea wall. These images were later analysed to identify key physical features and assess how well each structure was adapted to the specific coastal challenges at Swanage Bay.

Throughout the day, students demonstrated excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and teamwork, working diligently in small groups and engaging thoughtfully with the tasks. The trip concluded on a sweet note, as students enjoyed a well-deserved ice cream while taking in the beautiful views of the Jurassic Coast — a fitting reward for a day of hard work and hands-on learning.

Mr Johnson

Head of Humanities

BODLEIAN LIBRARY VISIT

On Friday 6th June, I along with Jessica Honour, Esme Wilson and Lily-Rose Jefferies, Mrs Martin (our school librarian) and Mr Townsend (Chair of Governors) went down to Oxford for the day, on a rewards trip for helping open the school library earlier this year.

One of the highlights was the tour of the Bodleian Library, specifically the newly opened Treasured exhibition. Throughout the tour, our group saw various ‘treasured’ pieces, including books covered in gold, historical scrolls and photographs, books belonging to previous monarchs and even a recorded radio message that had come from the Titanic. During our look around, we were encouraged to think about what makes something a treasure, and what we would consider as treasured to us. I personally found the exhibition very interesting, as it fascinated me with how wide the definition of ‘treasured’ was.

After this, we were also taken on a tour of the student library (somewhere usually off-limits to the public) and ended with a view of Oxford’s impressive skyline from the roof. I really enjoyed the tour, as well as learning various bits and pieces of the library’s history. For example, did you know they once even refused to let out a book to Charles I, to keep in line with the library’s policy?

After this, we were taken to a Blackwell’s bookshop, tasked with choosing a new book for the school library. We were encouraged to expand the library’s collection and to look at books we ourselves wouldn’t normally read. I chose a book called ‘A treasury of British Folklore’, explaining many of our myths and superstitions. Lily chose a book of intermediate Spanish short stories, and Esme chose Red, White & Royal Blue, a young adult romantic comedy

Once lunchtime had arrived, we went over to the Covered Market to eat our packed lunches and get milkshakes. During this, we also went through our plans for the rest of the day, which included visiting two more bookshops and then catching the bus back, just in time for the end of the school day.

The first bookshop we went to after lunch was another Blackwells. This is where Jess picked out her book, Once Upon a Broken Heart - a young adult fantasy romance, and where we all picked a book together, with the combined remaining budget (The Ballad of Never After - the sequel to Jess’s book). For the trip, we were allowed to bring some money to personally buy books for ourselves, so I took this time to pick out a few things for myself. Some of the others did the same.

Then, we got to the last bookshop of the day, fittingly named ‘The Last Bookshop’. Here, we were allowed to choose a book under £5 for ourselves. I chose Bram Stoker’s Dracula, a book I’ve been wanting to read for a while now.

We then caught the bus back to the Bicester Park and Ride, and made our way back to the school. I personally really enjoyed the trip, and I think the others did as well. We are so grateful to Mrs Martin and Mr Townsend for taking us, it was a wonderful experience and a great time!

Sophie Garrigan, 10M.

HOUSE POINTS

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

	1st	2nd	3rd
Year 7	Abigail Aji	Sara Tene	Imogen North
Year 8	Kelly Ng	Russ Ewing	Erin Aspley
Year 9	Jason Gheorghiu	Maya-Emily Bryant	Abbie Shepherd
Year 10	Erin Horseman	Sophie Garrigan	Marta Zieba

CONTACT DETAILS OVER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS

School is now closed until 3rd September. In the meantime, please find below contact details for any urgent queries:

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, please contact Amchattie@whitelandsacademy.org or Oxfordshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 0354 0507666. If the child is at immediate risk, call the police on 999.

If you have a query relating to exams, please contact exams@whitelandsacademy.org.

If your enquiry is a request for information or a Freedom of Information request, please email DPO@twhf.org.uk.

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- Wednesday 3rd September
 - Year 7 – students arrive at 9.00am
 - Year 10 – students arrive at 10.00am
 - Year 11 – students arrive at 8.30am
- Thursday 4th September
- Wednesday 1st October
- Wednesday 22nd October
- 23rd - 31st October

Start of Autumn Term – Years 7, 10 and 11:

Years 8 and 9 return to school at 8.30am
Open Evening – school closes at 12.50pm
Inset Day
Half Term

STAFF NEWS

It is always bittersweet to say goodbye to members of our school family. This year, we are bidding farewell to the following staff:

- **Mrs Edwards (Principal)**
- **Mrs Papazoglou (Science)**
- **Mrs Davies (Music)**
- **Mr Johnson (Humanities)**
- **Mrs Morgan (English)**
- **Miss Cointre (MFL)**
- **Mrs Makowska (Maths)**

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved during their time with us and wish them every success in their next chapters. They will be greatly missed by staff and students alike.

At the same time, we are excited to welcome a new group of staff who will be joining us in September:

- **Mr Lawrence (Humanities)**
- **Mr Tritton (Head of MFL)**
- **Mr Tyler (English)**
- **Mr Hasan (Maths)**
- **Miss O'Leary (Geography)**
- **Mrs Kerek (Art / DT)**
- **Miss Standing (Art / DT)**
- **Mr Jinks (Science)**

We look forward to getting to know each of them and supporting them as they settle into our school community.