



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 6 – MARCH 2024



WHITELANDS ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

Another exciting and busy half term has passed and there is much for our students to be proud of. In our celebration assembly today 407 students received certificates. We also have seven students who currently have over 400 merits each. This is a phenomenal achievement and we are incredibly proud of all of our students.

Students in Year 9 have worked hard to secure places on our Thailand trip, through application letters and interviews. All of our students have been immensely impressive and we would have loved to take them all.

Our careers programme has taken off for our year 10 students and we have been praised highly for our students' conduct on their trips and visits. Our students are becoming forward thinking in their career opportunities in readiness for their one-to-one career meetings that will begin in Term 6 this year and Term 1 of next year.

Over this past half term there have been 5 main developmental priorities as a Senior Leadership Team:

1. The first has been our recruitment process in preparation for our final year of expansion. Recruitment nationally is a challenge, but we have started this process very successfully and have so far secured three new experienced, inspirational and caring teachers to our team.
2. Our second priority has been inclusivity in the classroom. Staff have been incredibly positive about this training, and we hope to see this positively impact our students over the coming weeks.
3. Our third priority has been our reward culture in the school. Staff have been working hard on their merit: demerit ratio, ensuring that students understand what they are being praised for and that all students conducting themselves positively are being recognised.
4. Our fourth priority has been further developing our careers programme so that all students in year 10 understand what learning pathways they can take and what career opportunities are out in the world.
5. Finally, we have been working on our year 9 options process. Students have enjoyed receiving their GCSE taster lessons and we look forward to seeing what subjects students have chosen next term.

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 15th April for Term 5.

D OF E TRAINING EXPEDITION

It has been a year since Year 10 started D of E and since I have taken over coordinating the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Whitelands. We had to join up with Year 9 in September which was quite exciting as the groups enjoyed working together. It was a long journey, however this term they were able to complete their first training expedition on the 14th and 15th March with the final expedition scheduled for the 20th and 21st April 2024.

We have done so much in a year, and the students have shown true resilience and determination in all the activities that they have signed up to take part in.

The final 63 students that will be completing the Bronze award were brilliant and we are so proud of them and the way they conducted themselves around Youlbury campsite. They were highly praised by the instructors and were a credit to their families and the school.

It gives me great joy to see them grow into independent and successful young adults, the key word being independent. To see them working so hard towards their sections is really promising and makes all our hard work and late nights / weekends so worth it.

Well done to everyone involved this year. I wish you all a lovely Easter and we hope to award other students the Bronze Awards in years to come.



Mrs P Mofford

Duke of Edinburgh Manager

SPORTS FIXTURES

This term our students have been working exceptionally hard in PE and we are immensely proud of their engagement throughout a range of sporting activities and opportunities that have come their way! As you may know, the value of the term at Whitelands has been Teamwork and our students have done an incredible job of demonstrating those values throughout our Basketball Inter-house Competition. Here are the results:

Position	House	Points
1st	Mandela	446
2nd	Franklin	434
3rd	Cavell	375
4th	Hillary	342

A huge congratulations to all of the students in Mandela House who are our Basketball Inter-house champions!

This term we have launched our first ever Esports competition. Some of our students have been going head-to-head in a knock out competition and showing off their very best FIFA skills. We are really looking forward to our upcoming finals next term.

Miss Dawe
Head of PE

CAREERS FEST

On the 20th and 21st of March the year 10's visited the Kassam Stadium to take part in Oxfordshire CareersFest. With over 70 prospective employers, apprenticeship providers, post 16 providers and higher education establishment it provided our pupils with an insight to life after Whitelands.

There were opportunities to talk to apprenticeship providers, college campuses and industry professionals about pathways into business and options post-16 and beyond. This point marks the start of their next step where they start to ask questions about their future.



Mr. M. Cartwright
Associate Assistant Principal for Personal Development

WORK EXPERIENCE & CAREERS

Following the recent careers assembly to year 10 we are pleased to launch work experience at Whitelands. Pupils, with the support of parents / guardians and the school's careers provision, are expected to arrange this placement themselves, however as part of this process we are looking for local businesses and companies who would be willing to run a week long placement for our pupils to get in touch. If you feel this would be something you, or someone you know would be willing to, then please do get in touch.

Additionally, if you know of any industry professionals, in any industry sector, that would like to address our pupils about careers pathways or insight into the workplace, then please do get in touch. We are keen to widen the exposure of our pupils to the world of work, and the better informed they are, the more likely to make an informed decision.

Mr M Cartwright

Associate Assistant Principal for Personal Development

MATHS CHALLENGE

Last term, we had 21 students from Year 10 compete in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, where Whitelands Academy have once again, achieved great success. Overall, 6 students achieved the Bronze Award, 5 students the Silver Award and 2 students achieving the Gold Award.

Special mentions have to go to Jensen Keeper in 10H, who achieved a Gold Award, but an extra special recommendation has to go to Vadym Semenenko in 10M who not only achieved a gold reward and was Best in School, but for the first time in the school's history, also qualified to participate in the follow-on round of the Intermediate Maths Challenge, where approximately 5000 students in the country achieve this. We would like to congratulate all our students who participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge this year and to those who achieved an award, but once again, to Jensen and Vadym for their remarkable achievements as well.



Mr C Day

Head of Maths

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Every day, students earn merits for doing great work in the classroom, for being polite and respectful around the building, for supporting the community, wearing uniform correctly, showing good conduct and many other things. Every Monday, the points boards are updated so students can see where they rank in their year group as well as their house total, and every morning, the top merit winners from each year group from the previous day are applauded in our line up, with this term's daily total top score being 36 merits in a day!

At the end of each long term, we celebrate our students' success in celebration assembly. Here we recognise students who have been nominated for the value of the term which for term 4, was Teamwork. We also recognise those who have earned enough house points to reach an achievement threshold. The White Horse Federation secondary schools all use the same points thresholds which have finished at Gold Certificate Level 5. This term, we have so many students who have exceeded this house points total that we have added 3 further levels.

This term, we have recognised the following:

Ruby: 1

Sapphire: 6

Gold: 46

Silver: 166

Bronze: 128

White: 30

Postcard: 11

Team work: 32

Well done to everyone who has been recognised this term - it is wonderful to see you achieve such success. Keep up the hard work.

Achievement Awards

Reward Level 1	25 points	Postcard from tutor
Reward Level 2	50 points	White certificate
Reward Level 3	100 points	Bronze Certificate
Reward Level 4	200 points	Silver Certificate
Reward Level 5	300 points	Gold Certificate
Reward Level 6	400 points	Sapphire Certificate
Reward Level 7	500 points	Ruby Certificate
Reward Level 8	600 points	Diamond Certificate

Miss Lyall

Vice Principal

INSET DAY FOCUS

During the recent INSET day, the senior leadership team, office staff and pastoral teams all undertook an advanced first aid training course. We therefore now have an extra nine first aid trained colleagues here.

Subject leaders and their teams spent the day continuing to develop their subject's curriculum with a particular focus on inclusive teaching as well as making sure that our Year 10 students are prepared well for their upcoming mock examinations and also preparing for them starting Year 11.

Mr F Forder

Vice Principal

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- Monday 15th April
 - Friday 19th April
 - Monday 22nd April
 - Wednesday 24th April
 - Monday 6th May
 - Tuesday 14th May
 - Tuesday 21st May
 - Wednesday 22nd May
 - Monday 27th May
- Start of Summer Term
 - D of E Expedition
 - Year 9 GCSE Options due
 - Year 10 Mock exams start
 - Bank Holiday – school closed
 - Year 7 and 10 Parents Evening
 - Year 7 and 10 Parents Evening
 - Year 7 and 10 Parents Evening
 - 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
Mr Forder - Vice Principal Academic, Deputy DSL - fforder@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Lyall - Vice Principal Pastoral, DSL – rlees@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Walkley - Assistant Principal, SENCO - swalkley@whitelandsacademy.org

Teaching Staff

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