



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 12 – MAY 2025



WHITELANDS ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR PARENTS AND
CARERS OF STUDENTS AT
WHITELANDS ACADEMY

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

MRS C. EDWARDS

As we enter the final half-term of the academic year, Whitelands is buzzing with energy, focus, and fantastic student involvement across all areas of school life.

Year 11 students are now fully immersed in their GCSE exams, and we are incredibly proud of the calm and committed way they have approached this important milestone. Students have been following individualised timetables, showing real maturity and dedication to their studies. We wish them every success as they continue through the exam season – they've got this!

Last week, our Year 10 students took part in a day of mock interviews with a range of professionals and local employers. The students made an excellent impression with their preparation, confidence, and communication skills. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to support this valuable experience.

We are really proud of all of the students who have been involved with our Sports fixtures, Maths challenge and D of E events. We have record numbers of students getting involved and they represent the school with maturity, resilience, ambition and teamwork. Well done to all involved.

We are currently finalising our staffing and support team for September, and we are pleased to say that we have had a strong response to our recruitment drive. We look forward to welcoming new members to the Whitelands' community as we continue to grow.

Excitement is building for our upcoming Colour Fun Run, which takes place this Friday afternoon! All students in Years 7–10, plus any enthusiastic Year 11's, will take part in what promises to be a colourful and memorable event. All proceeds support the Mercy Centre Orphanage in Bangkok.

PARENT SURVEY FEEDBACK

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Parent Survey. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us to reflect on what we are doing well and where we can make improvements.

We were really pleased to receive a great deal of positive and constructive feedback. The following areas have been highlighted as the school's strengths:

- Students are happy at school, they feel safe, and are proud to attend Whitelands.
- We have high expectations for your children.
- Students are doing well academically.
- We offer a wide range of subjects.
- Parents are pleased with the range of clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer.

Areas for Development and Next Steps

We are taking action in response to some of the areas that you have highlighted for improvement:

Student Behaviour

We are reviewing our Behaviour Policy, with input from students, staff and parents. An updated version will launch in September.

Communication Around Learning and Homework

As part of our curriculum review, we will share clearer overviews of what students are learning and when, plus homework expectations, from September. Our inset days in July will be focused on this continued work.

Cover Teaching

As a small school, staff absence can have a greater impact. We are working on improving how we manage longer-term cover to minimise impact.

Canteen Prices and Portion Sizes

We have shared your concerns and suggestions with Caterlink, our catering provider, to review pricing and portion sizes in response to your feedback.

Inclusion

We have recently reviewed the structure of our inclusion team. Mrs Putt has been promoted to Assistant SENCO and will be the point of contact for all students who are SEND K.

We know how important timely responses are. We are streamlining how we handle queries to make sure you get the right help, more quickly.

How to Get in Touch

We value open communication and want to make it as easy as possible for you to raise concerns or ask for support:

Academic Issues – Contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. If needed, follow up with the relevant Head of Department.

Pastoral Issues – Contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Safeguarding Issues – Contact our Safeguarding Officer, Mrs McHattie.

SEND Issues – Contact our inclusion team at inclusion@whitelandsacademy.org.

You can find all staff email addresses at the back of the newsletter.

If you have followed the appropriate route and still need additional support, please complete the contact form on our website so that your query can be triaged to a member of the Senior Leadership Team:

🔗 <https://www.whitelandsacademy.org/contact>

Thank you once again for your continued support. We are proud of our community and look forward to working together to make Whitelands even better for every child.

JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



This term, we had a school record-breaking 97 students from Years 7 and 8 compete in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, where Whitelands Academy have once again, achieved great success.

Overall, 24 students achieved the Bronze Award, 18 students the Silver Award and 6 students achieved the Gold Award.

A special congratulations to Sherlock in Year 7 for achieving the Gold Award, but a special mention must go to Felix H for

not only achieving the Gold award as well, but for being the best in his year group.

In Year 8, we would like to congratulate Lucas, Jake and Rowan for achieving the Gold award, but a special mention must go to Kelly for not only achieving the Gold award as well, but for also being the best in the school.

Whitelands Academy have once again raised the bar of success, as Felix and Kelly have qualified for the follow-on round of the Junior Maths Challenge, where approximately 5000 students in the country achieve this.

We would like to congratulate all our students who participated in the Junior Maths Challenge this year, and to those who achieved an award, but once again, to Felix and Kelly for their remarkable achievements as well.

Mr Day

Head of Maths and Associate Assistant Principal

SPORTS NEWS

ATHLETICS FIXTURE

This week's Year 10 athletics fixture was a brilliant demonstration of determination, teamwork, and outstanding sportsmanship. Students gave their all across a variety of events, with many stepping up to compete in disciplines well outside their comfort zones—a testament to their courage and commitment to the team.

Each athlete supported each other from start to finish, embodying the true spirit of school sport. Whether it was on the track or in the field, every participant displayed a fantastic attitude, contributing to a day filled with gritty performances, and plenty of smiles.

A special mention must go to the girls' 4x100m relay team, who stormed to victory with a commanding performance. Their seamless baton changes and explosive pace secured a well-earned win—highlighting not just individual talent but superb teamwork under pressure.

Congratulations to all who took part. Your effort, conduct, and willingness to push beyond the ordinary made this event a memorable one.

QUADKIDS COMPETITION



Students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the recent QuadKids athletics event, displaying incredible determination, teamwork, and athletic talent. Competing across four challenging events — sprint, long-distance run, jump, and throw — our students gave it their all, with many achieving personal bests and several coming among the top scorers.

Year 7 impressed with their energy and enthusiasm. The event was a fantastic celebration of sport, effort and school spirit

Every student from Year 8 gave their best effort, and the results reflected their hard work and preparation. A special mention goes to Violet, who delivered an outstanding performance throughout the day and finished second overall, just one point behind the winner — a remarkable achievement that truly deserves recognition. Well done to all who took part!

FUTSAL FINALS

The Year 9 girls attended the futsal finals at Oxford City, where they put in a strong performance and determination. Whitelands finished 5th out of 9 competing schools. They displayed skill, teamwork, and resilience. Well done to all those involved!

Miss Ridewood and Mr Rolfe

Teachers of PE

CAREERS

Trinity College, Oxford



At the start of May, some of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students had the privilege of attending an Open Day at Trinity College, one of the many branches of Oxford University. Founded in 1555 by Sir Thomas Pope, Trinity College has produced three Prime Ministers throughout its near 500-year legacy. Despite its large physical size, the college is relatively small in terms of the number of students that it is home to, having just under 400 students in 2024-2025 and an intake of only 90 freshers.

Whilst there, our students got to learn about what is required to become a student at Oxford University, if they choose to go down that path later in their academic career. During the Open Day they were lucky enough to have the chance to speak to current 1st and 2nd year students attending Trinity College, where they discussed what it is like to go to the University of Oxford. They got to experience what a lecture would be like, they handled real life Victorian newspapers, and they had a tour of the 1st year common rooms, the college library and the chapel. Within the ornately decorated chapel there is a grand organ; if you happen to know how to play the organ you stand a chance of obtaining a scholarship at Trinity College.

Year 10 Mock Interviews



Students in Year 10 were 'put through their paces' in mock interviews that took place in school last week. We were delighted to have industry professionals join us at Whitelands to give our students a real taste of the interview process. Professionals from Winvic, Buckingham University and Thames Valley Police, to name a few, gave up their time to provide such a unique experience to our Year 10's, an experience that will better prepare them for the future.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



This term has seen the final DofE Bronze expedition of the year. After a quick brief from their instructor, a re-pack of kits, routes planned, and a heavy dose of suncream, they were sent out on their own through the delightful Chiltern countryside. The groups navigated to the campsite where they quickly unpacked and set up for the evening with their evening meal. The final journey back to their meeting point completed their expedition and means that the group have only got to finish their individual sections in order to complete their Bronze award this year.

In addition to the Bronze team, we were excited to see our first ever DofE Silver group head out on their practice expedition, again in the gorgeous Chiltern countryside. The step-up to Silver meant that this group were camping for two nights and then spent two days exploring. This is in preparation for their qualifying expedition in July, where they will be off to the south coast for three days exploring and two nights camping. This was a real test of their teamwork, resilience, ambition and tolerance, all core values here at Whitelands.

Well done to all those involved over a great weekend and a special thank you to Miss Berthelon and Ms Brown for their support over the two nights camping.

Mr M Cartwright

Assistant Principal for Personal Development & Head of PE

HOUSE POINTS

Students continue 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	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	Marta Zieba	Lucy Billington
Year 11	Bogdan Tsurkan	Thomas Samuel-Fagg	Hannah Bradshaw

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- Monday 26th May
 - Thursday 19th June
 - Monday 30th June
 - Friday 4th July
 - Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th July
 - Thursday 10th to Saturday 12th July
 - Thursday 17th July
 - Friday 18th July
 - Monday 21st July
 - Tuesday 22nd July
 - Wednesday 23rd July
 - Wednesday 3rd September
- Half Term
 - Year 11 Leavers' Day
 - Year 10 Work Experience Week
 - Year 11 Prom
 - Inset Days
 - Silver D of E Expedition
 - Awards Evening
 - Sports Day
 - Back-up Sports Day
 - End of Year Reward Trips
 - Last day of Term (12.50pm finish)
 - Start of Autumn 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

Miss Berthalon - Teacher of MFL - mberthalon@whitelandsacademy.org
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 Castle – Teacher of Science - rcastle@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Chapman – Head of English (maternity cover) - cchapman@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Cointre - Teacher of MFL - acointre@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Cartwright - Teacher of PE - mcartwright@whitelandsacademy.org
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
Ms Marsh - Head of Science - marsh@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Mofford - Head of Computing - pmofford@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Montague (on maternity leave) - Head of English - cmontague@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Morgan – English Teacher - rmorgan@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Oyewusi - Teacher of Science - noyewusi@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Papazoglou – Teacher of Science - dpapazoglou@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Putt – Resource Base Manager – ksaunders-cross@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Rann - Teacher of Maths - prann@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Reed - Teacher of Maths - sreed@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Ridewood – Teacher of PE - cridewood@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Rolfe – Teacher of PE - crolfe@whitelandsacademy.org

Support Staff

Mrs Amin - Head of Year 11 and 7M - kamin@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Brookes - Attendance Officer – pbrookes@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Bridges – Learning Support Assistant – sbridges@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Brown – Learning Support Assistant – cbrown@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Carter – Exam Manager – acarter@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Collison – Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Cox – Head of Year 10 and 7H - kcox@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Darke - SEN Administrator - tdarke@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Gorham – PA to Principal – sgorham@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Hobbs – Head of Year 9 and 7F – jhobbs@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Holloway – Assistant Site Manager – fholloway@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Kelly – Field People Manager - kkelly@twhf.org.uk
Miss Lynes – Student Services Administrator - mlynes@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Martin – Librarian and Reprographics Officer - lmartin@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr McGinnity - IT Technician - jmcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs McGinnity – Art and DT Technician - smcginnity@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs McHattie - Safeguarding Officer - amchattie@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Mellor – Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Milling - Student Services Officer - kmilling@whitelandsacademy.org
Miss Moore - Learning Support Assistant - mmoore@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Phipps – Site Manager – mphipps@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Poole - Science Technician - dpoole@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Quarterman – Head of Year 8 and 7C – kquarterman@whitelandsacademy.org
Mrs Robinson – Finance / HR Assistant - vrobinson@whitelandsacademy.org
Mr Stromanis - Cover Manager - jstromanis@whitelandsacademy.org
Ms Woods - Learning Support Assistant – lwoods@whitelandsacademy.org