



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

ISSUE 3 - OCTOBER 2023



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 this first half term, I would like to congratulate all of the students in their resilience, ambition and integrity. Our Year 7 students have settled tremendously well and are thriving in their new school environment. Our older students have responded positively and maturely to the changes to our school day structure and our behaviour policy refinements. We are incredibly proud of them.

This half term, there have been so many proud moments. Our year 7 students look happy, settled and are really enjoying learning how to play a musical instrument. Our year 10 students have immersed themselves in their GCSE options and are incredibly focused. This September, we refined our rewards policies and it is lovely to see how many students are taking pride in the number of merits that they are achieving. Our PE teams have been smashing other teams across the county in a range of sports - football, rugby and netball. We are very proud of their teamwork and dedication to their training. Finally, for the first time in the school's history we have appointed 12 dedicated and ambitious year 10 students as our founding Senior Students.

We wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 30th October for Term Two.

SENIOR STUDENTS

For the first time in the school's history, year 10 students were offered an amazing leadership opportunity to apply to be Senior Students. The roles on offer consisted of two Senior Students, House Captains and Community ambassadors. Their roles involve representing the school, listening to our students and liaising with the Senior Leadership Team to shape the vision of the school, raising money for charities, building links across the community, transition work with primary schools and organising inter-house events.

We had 12 applicants for the leadership roles on offer. The students were asked to deliver a presentation to the whole school in assemblies, complete a group leadership task and be interviewed by Mrs Edwards and Ms Lyall. All 12 of these students excelled in all of these tasks. They were confident, articulate and demonstrated a shared ambition for the school. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of these students and they are very deserving of these roles.

We look forward to next half term, where the students will begin to shape their roles and support their House charities.



STAFFING

This half term we have successfully recruited Non-teaching Heads of Year. These staff members will not have a teaching timetable, which will support the pastoral team in more timely communication between the school and home.

Mrs M Starren – mstarren@whitelandsacademy.org - Head of Year 7

Mr J Hobbs – jhobbs@whitelandsacademy.org - Head of Year 8

Mrs K Amin – kamin@whitelandsacademy.org - Head of Years 9 and 10

During this transition, Mr Cartwright will still work closely with the new team so that there is a smooth transition.

REWARDS AND ROCOGNITION

At Whitelands, our students work hard each day to demonstrate our TRAITS. Resilience has been the value of the term, and this week in celebration assemblies, we have been recognising students who have been nominated by members of staff from across the school who have demonstrated Resilience. It has been lovely to see the support from peers during these celebrations - when students are proud of each other's achievements which really shows the Whitelands community spirit.

Within our celebration assemblies, we have also recognised students for their amazing attendance - best tutor group in each year group; most improved tutor group and the percentage of each year group who have maintained 100% attendance. Mr Bowden will also be running our attendance raffle this week and we are excited to pick out the winners.

Finally, our newly elected Senior Students have also presented in assembly this week. The leaders from each house presented two chosen charities for the students to vote on. This has allowed students to share their voice on which charity each house should represent. We are delighted to share that the chosen charities are as follows: Cavell - Macmillan Cancer Support, Franklin - UNICEF, Hillary - Young Minds and Mandela - Anthony Walker Foundation.

We will be holding a non-uniform day on Friday 3rd November to start the fundraising for our house charities.



CLUBS

We are delighted to be able to run a large range of extra-curricular clubs this term. We have had several emails from parents asking us to add their children to our waiting lists, and we are working really hard to make more spaces available. We are also hoping to be able to offer some new clubs after half term, and we will confirm details shortly. We still have spaces in the following clubs:

Day	Club	Time
Monday	Library Club (Yrs 9 and 10)	Lunchtime
Monday	PE Focus Group (Year 10 GCSE students)	Lunchtime
Monday (alternate weeks)	Futsal Club (Yrs 9 and 10)	Lunchtime
Monday	Rugby (Yrs 9 and 10)	After School
Monday	GCSE Art Club (Yr 10)	After School
Monday (alternate weeks)	Touch Rugby (Yrs 7 and 8)	After School
Monday (alternate weeks)	Football (Yrs 9 and 10)	After School
Monday (alternate weeks)	Netball (Yrs 9 and 10)	After School
Tuesday	Coding Club (Yr 7)	After School
Wednesday	Library Club (Yrs 7 and 8)	Lunchtime
Thursday (alternate weeks)	Futsal Club (Yrs 7 and 8)	Lunchtime
Thursday	Girls Football (all years)	After School
Thursday	Debating Club (Yrs 7,8 and 9)	After School
Friday	Chess Club (Yrs 7 and 8)	Lunchtime
Friday	Coding Club (Yrs 8,9 and 10)	After School

ATTENDANCE

Well done to all the students in the Tutor and Year Groups highlighted below for their attendance this half term.

Overall Tutor Group attendance for the last half term:

- 1st Position - 7 Mandela with 96.4% attendance
- 2nd Position – 8 Mandela with 96.2% attendance
- Joint 3rd Position – 7 Cavell and 7 Franklin with 96.1% attendance

Overall best year group attendance for the last half term:

- 1st Position – Year 7
- 2nd Position – Year 8
- 3rd Position – Year 10
- 4th Position – Year 9

Overall best year group with 100% attendance for the last half term:

- 1st Position – Year 7
- 2nd Position – Year 10
- 3rd Position – Year 8
- 4th Position – Year 9

PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

Please can I strongly ask you to pick up and drop off your child at the Whitelands County Grounds car park and NOT along Hexham Road. This is very disruptive to our neighbours, is preventing our school bus from driving to their pick up location and is increasing traffic around an area which is very pedestrian heavy at these points in the school day.

We really appreciate your support with this.

KEY DATES

Please find below some key dates:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Monday 30 th October 2023 | Start of Term Two |
| • Friday 3 rd November 2023 | Non-Uniform Day |
| • Wednesday 20 th December 2023 | End of Term Two |
| • Monday 8 th January 2024 | Start of Term Three |