



It has been a fantastic half-term at Whitelands Academy. We have welcomed four new students this term, Sienna King (7H), Kyla Byfield (7C), Jorgia Houghton (7M) and Abigail Evans (7H) - they have settled in brilliantly.

Our students have worked hard, been engaged in lessons and have enjoyed using more of our facilities. In Science, students have been using the labs for experiments. In DT, they have been cooking and making wooden boxes. In PE, they have been enjoying using the trampoline.

Once again, students rose to the challenge of assessment week. We reintroduced home-learning and have been using flashcards for revision. Extra-curricular sessions have started and a huge number of students have been dancing, debating, coding, drawing, painting and playing football. Well done to all of those who have got involved.

After such a busy half-term, we hope you all have a relaxing break. We looking forward to seeing our students on Monday 7th June. We will be returning on Week B.

Yours Sincerely,
Mr Cush

Dear Parents/Carers,

My name is Miss Dennis and I am the new SENCO at Whitelands Academy. It has been a busy term and we have successfully introduced several small group interventions with a number of the students from the Year 7 cohort. I have had a big focus on creating pupil profiles with all students on the SEN register which has provided me with the opportunity to put names to faces.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries about SEN and your child.

Many thanks,
Miss Dennis

House points and rewards

Congratulations to the following students who have been awarded the most house points in each house this half-term. Well done!

Cavell

Alfie Moss
Chloe Vlashi

Hillary

Logan Malin
Finley Marshall

House totals

Franklin – 3,860
Hillary – 3,752
Mandela – 3,497
Cavell – 3,280

Franklin

Amalia Lee
Lili McKinnon

Mandela

Sylvie Radford
Isaac Starren

Well done to the following students who have been recognised for their effort and attitude this term: Abigail Abraham, Maisie Reynolds, Adrian Rektor, Amalia Lee, Isla Beaumont, Logan Malin Finley Van-Santen and Mia Leverton.



Extra-curricular clubs

Coding club

Coding club is an amazing way to continue improving coding skills. So far, we have practised making games in Scratch along with looking at Python in future and it has been great fun. – Isaac Starren



Debate Club

Every Wednesday we gather to debate on various topics. This started over online learning but now runs after school from 3-4pm. Previous topics have included: social media, school uniform, animal testing and video games. Lately we have been planning to run our own sessions by developing a debate for the club. Debate club is a fun way to socialise and have fun. I really recommend it to anyone who is thinking of joining. - Jack Happell

Dance

In dance club, we have been doing all different styles of dance including contemporary, hip hop, jazz, ballet etc. We have been working in groups and some of us are even confident enough to perform solos. We've been choreographing our own dance routines and in future we will hopefully be able to perform to a crowd. We hope to keep progressing in dance and in the meantime we are looking for a dance teacher. Overall, we are having a great time as a team and are hoping for more members from different year groups to join when the school gets bigger. - Megan Allmond and Grace Tuffrey

We are delighted that 70% of our students have been involved in our extra-curricular clubs this term. There are still spaces available for most clubs for any students wanting to join after half-term. Please book extra-curricular clubs using the Arbor app to ensure your child gets a place. Please note, Art club will not be running on the first week back after half-term (7th June).

Monday – Art Club, 3-4pm, Art room (Mrs Peters)

Tuesday – Code-club, 3-4pm, IT room (Mr Townsend – school governor)

Wednesday – Debate Club, 3-4pm, Hall (Miss Montague)

Football, 3-4.15pm, MUGA (Miss Dawe)

Thursday – Dance Club, 3-4.15pm, Sports Hall (Miss Dawe)



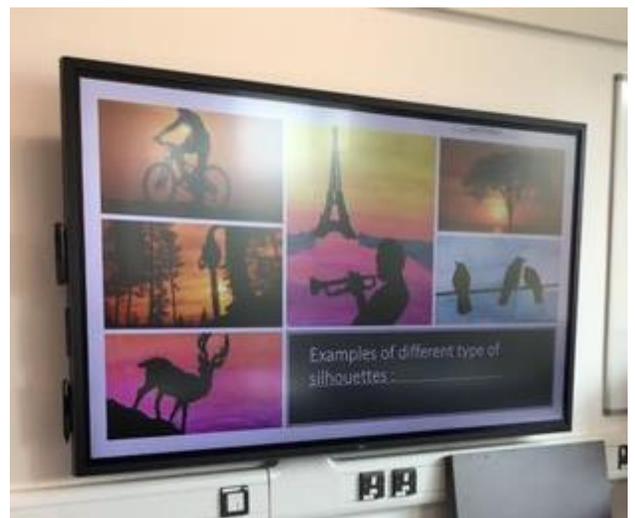
Extra-curricular clubs

Art Club has proven to be incredibly popular and students have been taking turns to run sessions. Abi and Luana organised a fantastic session on silhouettes. They brought in equipment, made a PowerPoint and set up their session at break and lunch time. The session went really well with Abi and Luana awarding lots of house points. Well done to Abi, Luana and all of the other students who have been involved in running sessions for Art Club so far.

Art club is a place of both new experiences with art and a way to think outside of the box and be more creative as a whole.

My personal experiences with this club are that it can open an already good artists mind to new things, within this club you can improve your artwork and learn how others see art or you can teach them how you approach art or just help people as a whole.

- Evan Smith





Thank you to the students who have been working hard to get our library ready for students to use after half-term. It looks fantastic!



What I have enjoyed about this year at Whitelands Academy is making new friends, facing challenges throughout the year and progressing my learning throughout the terms.

My favourite subject is Maths because I like challenging my mind. I like Science because I love doing experiments and learning equations, and DT because I love being creative and arty.

My favourite facility is the library because it is peaceful and is a perfect place to read and study. Also I like the DT rooms, especially the machines.

- Aksa Aji



Students working hard in the DT workshop.



English and reading

We recently finished studying 'The Bone Sparrow' in English. Here's what some of our students thought...

The Bone Sparrow is an oasis of feelings about the life of a refugee. My favourite part was when the main character went on an adventure. I really enjoyed this book because it was non-stop suspense and ominous feelings. I just didn't want to stop reading it. If you like drama and adventure, I think you will like this book.

5 stars

- Charlie Kilbane

Reading this book is like going on an emotional rollercoaster. There is happy, sad, exciting, confused and many more emotions. My favourite part was when the main character risked everything to help his best friend. I really enjoyed all the suspense and feelings in this incredibly written book. I give this book a 10/10 review. I recommend this book to anyone who likes emotional books.

- Kaci Lothamer

The ones who carry on silenced

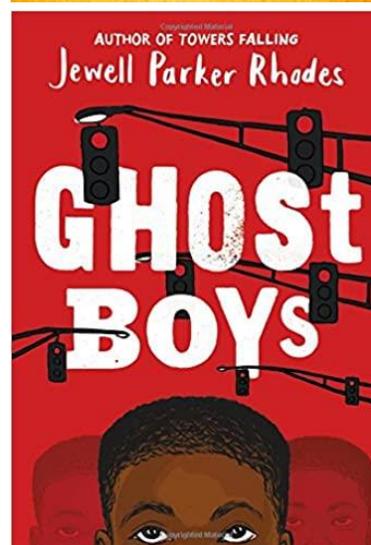
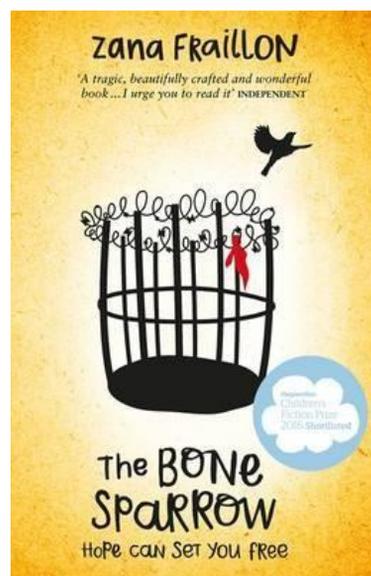
By Hannah Bradshaw

Hidden away in fear,
Remember we are here,
Now, tis a criminal offence to say about our
suffering.

We were forced to leave our homeland,
Carted away,
Some were driven in vans,
With little air to breathe.
We watch our siblings,
Our friends suffer and die,
And now we are trapped
And there's no getting out of here.

And we are the ones,
That live on,
Silenced.

We have enjoyed reading Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes in Guided Reading this term. After half-term we will be reading The House with the Chicken Legs by Sophie Anderson.



Reverse Poems

After reading Brian Bilston's reverse poem about refugees, some of our students were inspired to write their own. We are so impressed with the high standard of these poems – remember to read them from top to bottom then bottom to top.

Books

They are just words on paper
And I don't think that
Books are awesome
I will always believe that
Books are terrible
They are boring and
I will never believe that
Books are great
(Now read it backwards to see my opinion)
- Nathan Chung

The environment doesn't matter?

The environment doesn't matter
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world need to change
Burning fossil fuels causes no harm
So do not try to convince me that
We need to use solar power
The world is fine
Do not tell me that
We are damaging the world.
- Marcus Baker

The world is a dark and bitter place
So don't start to think that
Hope will shine through in our time of need
Because
Covid-19 has destroyed our world
Block out those who say
The vaccine is on its way
But listen to those who say
We're all going to die
It's all just a lie when they say
We will get through this.
- Jack Happell

School: good or bad?

School is horrible
I will not be convinced
It is good
Instead
I will believe
It is a waste of time
It is boring
Never in a million years will I say
School is a great part of my day.
- Emily Hutchinson



Thank you for your support with encouraging students to use Lexia Power Up at home. Students are making excellent progress. Well done to the following students who have completed 100 units or more!

Vitoria, Hannah, Nathan, Maxwell, Marion, Oliver P, Mithuna, Leon, Isla, Abigail C, Kyla C, Noah, Talia, Tom H, Emily, Eloise, Louie, Oliver R-G, Finn, Mason, James G, Jack H and Logan Morris.