



It has been a fantastic term again at Whitelands and I would like to welcome Phoebe and Nya to our school community. Students continue to work hard, be polite and respectful. As ever, I am feeling positive that the end of the challenges of the past two years are approaching and this means our school is truly beginning to open up. It has been fantastic to watch the enrichment continue to thrive, to see Art trips start and to welcome visitors from other schools. We recently welcomed a group of senior teachers to Whitelands who were amazed by the warm welcome and the manners of your children and whilst this is not a surprise to me it is a great source of pride.

It has been a challenging half term and one where our staff have had to work exceptionally hard in the face of numerous Covid cases. I have always remained committed to keeping face to face education in place for all and would like to thank my staff for ensuring this through additional cover and the students for their patience when this has affected them. I recognise that it is the work of the whole school community (parents, staff, students, and governors) that has allowed us to rise to these challenges!

As ever we continue to grow. Planning has already started for the new year group. Our teaching numbers will again expand significantly and once our assessments are complete, interviews for our teachers will start. We value the input of the students so, as always, they will be part of the process, but for the first time this will now involve lessons and face to face student panels – I know everyone is excited about this.

I wish you all a fantastic half term and look forward to welcoming everyone back rested and ready for another term!

Mr Cush

Spring half term	21 February - 25 February
Spring Term 2	28 February - 8 April
Easter Holiday	11 April - 22 April
Summer Term 1	25 April - 27 May
Late spring half term	30 May - 3 June
Summer Term 2	6 June - 21 July

Inset Days (School Closed to Students) - Friday 20th May 2022

REMINDER - Please can you make sure that you have topped up your Parent Pay accounts ahead of the new term.

REMINDER – We have a large amount of lost property. Please encourage your child/children to collect items from reception, and please label items clearly so we can proactively return items during the day.



Bicester Market

Whitelands Academy were offered an amazing opportunity to have a stall at the Bicester Market in the town centre on Friday 11th February 2022. So many of our wonderful students contributed by creating drawings, paintings and crafts – some items were for display only to showcase our students' talents, but some were for sale in order to raise money for charity.

I took 5 of our Year 8 students to visit the stall and promote Whitelands Academy within the Bicester community – they did us so proud!

We were only there for about 2 hours, but we managed to raise £100. The students decided between them on Friday that they would like to donate the money to the Salvation Army, due to some of the topics they have been learning about in their English lessons recently.

- Mrs Peters



Before going to the Bicester market, we made artworks to show and sell. This included paintings, sculptures and drawings. We showed artwork that we made at school. On the 11th we went to Bicester market and to get there we took the minibus. This was very fun and we thought of it as the first school trip. We sold a few artworks and had a live artist (Evan). We had some hot chocolate and bought some more frames as one of the artworks was selling really well. In the end we raised £100 for the Salvation Army. We had so much fun and can't wait to do it again.

- Emily Hutchison and Abigail Evans





Housepoints

Total Housepoints

Year 7

- 1st – Mandela
- 2nd - Franklin
- 3rd - Hillary
- 4th – Cavell

Year 8

- 1st – Franklin
- 2nd – Hillary
- 3rd – Cavell
- 4th –Mandela

Overall

- 1st – Franklin
- 2nd – Mandela
- 3rd – Hillary
- 4th - Cavell

Top Individual Housepoints

Year 7

1. Cassius Pearce Bates
2. Rafaella da Silva
3. Euan Murdoch
4. Erin Horseman
5. Noah Korn
6. Jack Townsend
7. Oliver Lamb
8. Metin Yapar
9. Chloe Dale
10. Conrad Richards

Year 8

1. Amalia Lee
2. Lili McKinnon
3. Isaac Starren
4. Jack Happell
5. Aro Karim
6. Joseph Stevenson
7. Millie Jackson
8. Leo Brown
9. Thomas Samuel-Fagg
10. Akeria Hussain

Careers

Ceri Tranter has joined The Whitelands Academy delivering Careers Education, Information advice and guidance for our students and is available for personal guidance appointments upon request. Please send any requests to ctranter@whitelandsacademy.org

All students in Year 7 and 8 have started with a weekly programme of careers education delivered in tutor time.

The schedule of activity is shown below. All children will be completing a progressive evaluation and reflection workbook of their learning to enable them to make good choices for their future careers.

We are planning lots of exciting employer led events to inspire our students for the future and will keep you informed.

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8
1	Careers and Future	Career Interest
2	Transition Points in Life	Labour Market information
3	Personal Qualities and Skills	Exploring Careers
4	Finding Careers Information	Making decisions for KS4
5	Careers Management	Options and Subjects
6	Traits and Skills	Qualifications and Pathways
7	Action Planning	Qualities and Skills



During term 4 students in Year 8 will have an opportunity to hear from employees at Pivot Power, one of the organisations involved in Oxford City Council's Energy Superhub project. The students will be learning about the installation of the ultra fast charging facility at the Redbridge Park and Ride and the battery installations that allow this to be powered from 100% renewable energy resources. They will also learn about career pathways in the renewable energy sector.

This week students have had the opportunity to sign up for careers talks from employee panels at the engineering company Intel and the UK Space agency as part of the White Horse Federations Festival of Tomorrow events. They have found out about the different routes into various roles with each employer and the key skills that are necessary for success in the workplace.

The Festival continues into the February half term break with in person events being held in Wiltshire. For more information please see the poster below. Entry to everything in the Discovery Zones is free, including exhibitors and planetarium bookable on the day. All the shows and talks are also free to book for under-18s.

Student Responses

I think there was a lot to learn and loads of facts. One of the things that kept coming up was 'you can always go back and learn a different way'. – Lia, 7C

Many of the people didn't get GCSEs in Engineering or Computing but instead did it in University. Engineers are trying to use balloons to get rockets into the atmosphere to reduce CO2 emissions. There are many different fields for engineering such as aerospace engineering or electrical engineering. Some space internships pay you to come up with designs. - Theo, 8C

I really liked learning about what GCSEs I need to take to be an engineer. It was really fun and if I get an opportunity like this again I will definitely take it.
- Leo, 8F

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Extra-curricular clubs

In Coding Club this term, we have been learning to use microbit.org and Scratch for programming. We have used Minibits – similar to a small car and can be programmed to move like an actual car. We use Scratch to create games and more. We also have a racetrack that we can code too. – Freya, 8F

Coding Club is a very enjoyable afterschool activity. We use Scratch to create projects and games and code microbits to light up and move around. Using tutorials on how to use Scratch from codeclub.org, we can be creative in trying new things every week. It is so easy to use that you can have a great time without things getting too complicated. It is really educational and a great way to learn. – Winnie, 7F

In Chemistry Club so far, we have been looking at the periodic table and how you can tell which element is which. To make it a comfortable environment to study, we can have hot chocolate and biscuits. Later on, we are going to learn how to solve complicated looking equations really easily. - Daisy, 7C

Geography projects club is a fantastic opportunity to learn about surprising facts about the world around us. Be it natural disasters or man-made cities. Geography projects covers it all! Here at geography club students will be able to choose ANY topic of their interest, which allows them to enhance their knowledge of geography (in a fun way). These are some examples of what students have an opportunity to do:

- Make a PowerPoint about a specific topic
- Make something to display your topic of interest.

At the end of the term, you can participate in a presentation where you can show your topic to a small audience.

- Euan, 7M

My name is Kaitlyn. Green Club is my favourite club. We learn about the dangers of animals and how we can stop them from becoming extinct. I have only been here for a few weeks and it already is amazing. While I have been here, we have made PowerPoints about how to save an animal of our choice. I chose rhinos. This was really fun but sad because of what is happening to the animals, but because of Green Club I know how we can work together to save them. The more people who join Green Club, the more people are aware.

- Kaitlyn, 7C

In Green Club we have been working hard to learn about how to conserve wild, endangered animals such as White Rhinos and African Forest Elephants. We have been researching useful information from websites like WWF and making presentations as if we were Conservationists planning to save these animals from extinction. I recommend Green Group, because it's interesting to learn about other animals and how to save them! It's a great club!

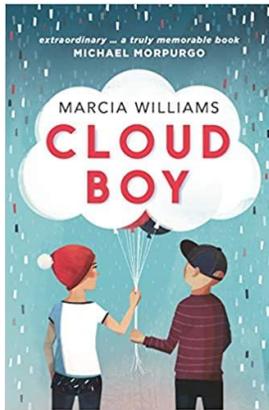
- Noah, 7M

Bake-Off Club was so fun and the bakes we made always tasted delicious. Our favourite recipe was the hidden heart cupcakes because they were very new and interesting. We also loved cakepops because we had such fun decorating them. Mrs Peters was very entertaining and we are all grateful for her.

- Lola, 8H



Reading

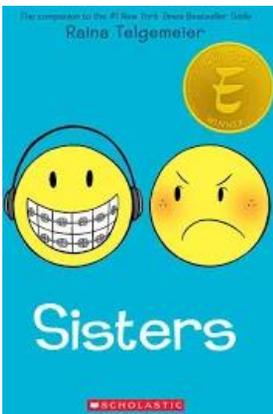
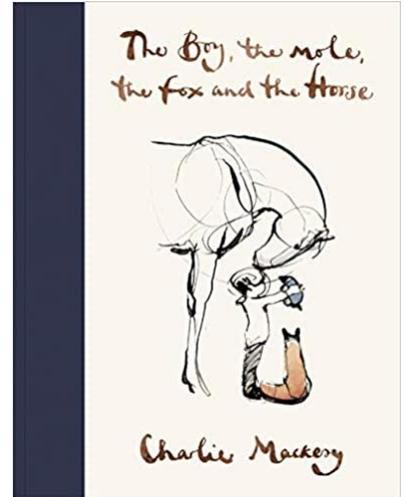


I think Cloud Boy is fantastic novel. It is about two best friends but one gets ill. It also tells you a lot about what WWII was like in the Changi Prison. This book gives you hope but eventually shatters it. It is a very good book though. 10/10 and recommend.

- Daniella, 7C

I think this book is a fantastic book. I think this because it explains anxiety and you are who you are. It has some brilliant 'handmade' drawings. This author is named Charlie Mackesy. I rate this book a 10/10! Please read it!

- Ally, 7H



Sisters is an autobiographical graphic novel written by Raina Telgemeier as a follow-up to her earlier graphic memoir Smile. It details a long summer road trip taken from San Francisco to Colorado by her family and explores the relationship between Raina and her younger sister, Amara.

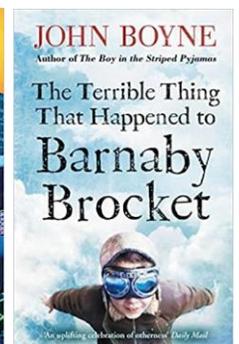
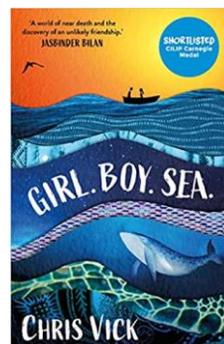
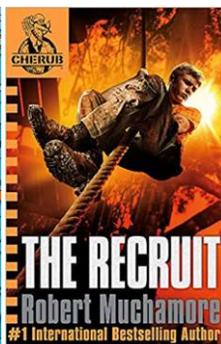
I love this book because young children like me like reading short, animated books so I recommend this author.

- Lucy, 7F

Thank you to the parents and governors who have kindly donated books to our library recently. Our student librarians will be busy labelling and organising them after half term!

Guided Reading

This term, Year 7 have been reading 'The Goldfish Boy' and Year 8 have been reading 'The Recruit'. After half-term we are moving on to 'The Terrible Thing that Happened to Barnaby Brocket' for Year 7 and 'Girl. Boy. Sea.' for Year 8.



Photos taken by Mr Riley



In the community

Launton Village Players present their 35th pantomime

Dick Whittington

A traditional family pantomime written by Martin Evans
with music by Steve Webber

Weds 23rd to Sat 26th February 2022

Date	Performance Times		Adult	Child
Weds 23 rd Feb		7:30pm	£10	£5
Thurs 24 th Feb	10:30am*	2:30pm	£12	£6
Fri 25 th Feb		2:30pm 7:30pm	£14	£7
Sat 26 th Feb		2:30pm 7:30pm	£14	£7

* Half capacity performance: every other row of seats will be left empty.

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