



# Whitburn World



## The Principal's Post — February 2015

The publication of the annual Department for Education Performance Tables generated the usual press interest in comparing school performance. Although I personally believe that this is too narrow a way of demonstrating the success of schools, it is pleasing that Whitburn's success has been recognised. Of the 150 or so state funded schools in the North East region, only Carmel in Darlington was ahead of Whitburn in the key measure of 5A\*-C with English and Maths. This is despite the fact that we are not even in the top 20 schools in the region when considering pupil ability on entry in Year 7. We are top of the region on a number of the other measure, such as the value added scores for the Best 8 results and results in Geography and History.

We also received a letter from David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools, which congratulates the school for the results of our pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium. We will receive £5000 prize money and have been invited to participate in the regional and national finals of the Pupil Premium Awards. The letter states that we are *"one of the most improved schools in the country in terms of the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils since 2011"* and praises the school for providing *"your disadvantaged pupils with a good start in life and prepared them well for their futures"*. The letter also informs us that we are one of the top 100 non-selective state schools in the country on three separate measures, including the key measure of 5 or more A\*-C grades with English and Maths. This is a fantastic achievement for our pupils, staff, governors, parents and carers, who have worked together to make this possible.

As I mentioned above, this is just part of a much wider picture as to how the success of a school should be measured and it is not all about numbers! However it is another accolade of which everyone connected with this remarkable school can be very proud. I hope that everyone enjoys the half-term holiday and that we enjoy an early taste of Spring weather!



### Contact Us

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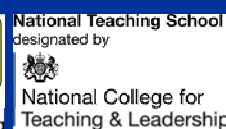
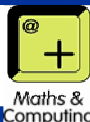
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Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



Diary Dates		Diary Dates	
Thursday 26th February	Tutor Review Day	Friday 27th March	Year 8 Church Service
Friday 27th February	Deadline for Year 11 Sixth Form Applications	Saturday 28th March	Year 11 Super Revision Day
Thursday 19th March	Year 10 Parents' Evening	Friday 3rd April	Good Friday
Thursday 26th March	Immunisations Year 9 Year 10/11 Catch up	Monday 20th April	Summer Term Begins

**Arrangements for Tutor Review Day  
Thursday 26th February 2015**

Pupils will take part in a range of activities on Tutor Review Day as detailed below:

**Years 7 - 9** In the morning, pupils will take part in activities around democracy and the upcoming General Election. Pupils will be dismissed at noon but provision will be made for them to stay on site until 1:00pm if required. Pupils should then attend their Tutor Review Day appointment with parents/carers in the afternoon. **This will be a non-uniform day.**

**Year 10** Pupils will attend school in sportswear to take part in well-being activities and will be dismissed at approximately 2:30pm.

**Year 11** Pupils will attend school in smart 'business' wear ready to take part in activities to assist them in preparing for their exams and further education. They will also be dismissed at approximately 2:30pm.

As is the norm for non-uniform days, we expect pupils to be modestly and appropriately dressed for their activities.



Please note that the Scholars' Bus Service will run as normal on the morning but will **not** be available when pupils are dismissed. Please make sure arrangements are in place for your child to get home safely.

### Year 11 Exam Preparation

We will run the following revision sessions for Year 11 over February half term.

Date	Subject	Time	Venue
Saturday 14th February	Science additional CAU	10:00 - 2:00	12/14/16
Monday 16th February	English – Spoken Language (CAU re-sit)	9.00-1.15	46
Monday 16th February	RE - Planet Earth Unit 2	9.00 – 10.00	38
	RE - Animal Rights Unit 2	10.00 – 11.00	38
	RE - War and Peace Unit 2	11.00 – 12.00	38
	RE - Elderly and Death Unit 3	1.00 – 2.00	38
Monday 16th February	Graphics	9:30 - 12:30	3
Monday 16th February	History CAU 2	9:00 - 11:00	25
Tuesday 17th February	Chemistry Option additional CAU	10:00 - 2:00	12
Tuesday 17th February	English – Spoken Language (CAU re-sit)	9.00 - 1.15	46
Wednesday 18th February	Geography : All unit 1 topics	9:00 - 12.00	Library
Wednesday 18th February	ICT & Computing	12.30 - 3.30	20,21,34
Thursday 19th February	Food	9:30 - 12:30	Library
	Systems & Control	9:30 - 12:30	9
Thursday 19th February	History CAU 2	9:00 - 11:00	27

### Super Revision Day

This will take place on **Saturday 28th March**, beginning at **9:00am** with a continental breakfast and will end at **3:30pm**. Lunch will also be provided so pupils must remain on the Academy site during these times.

Pupils will attend six revision workshops of their choice and will be given a choices form to complete next half term; please note pupils will only be able to attend this day if they have returned their form by the deadline given. Return of this form will be regarded as a firm commitment to attend the event.

We are also offering parents/carers the opportunity to attend a session on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February** from **4:00pm – 6:00pm** in the **Lecture Theatre**. This will focus on how you can best support your child with their revision and what techniques they could and should be adopting to ensure thorough preparation in the lead up to their examinations. If you wish to attend this session, please indicate as appropriate on the choices form which will be given to your child next half term.

## Alan Turing Cryptography Competition

**TOP SECRET!!!** Whitburn is busy training the next generation of secret agents!

The University of Manchester is running a national competition in cryptography involving breaking difference ciphers and solving problems in order to solve the “Mystery of the Carbon Conundrum.”

Each new clue is released weekly, and at Whitburn we have two teams of four competing in the national competition against more than 800 other schools across the country. The teams meet weekly and solve the clues together before trying to get their answers in as soon as they can! So watch this space for the next James Bond!



If you are interested, please see Miss Chander in Room 29 at 12.30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday this week to get more information!

## Extra Curricular Timetable

The extra curricular timetable for the Spring term is now available on our website under ‘School Life’ and ‘Curriculum’. Please remind your daughter/son that if they intend to stay for an after-school activity they must let you know and make arrangements to get home safely.



## Children’s Eye Care

Vision Express are offering a free adult sight test when you book a children's sight test (with no purchase necessary.) This is to try and encourage parents to take their children for an eye examination. The offer will run from 7th - 22nd February (including throughout the school holidays). Parents can pop in to store to book their appointments or call on 0191 4541323. Appointments can also be booked online at [www.visionexpress.com](http://www.visionexpress.com)

As you will know, vision and learning are closely related (80% of what children learn being through vision) so diagnosing problems early is extremely important in helping ensure that children of all ages reach their full academic potential. With 1 in 5 children having undetected eye problems it is recommended that every child should have their eyes checked at least once a year.

Remember children under the age of 16 are entitled to a free Eye Test and free glasses.



# Sporting Roll of Honour



## ‘Cross Country’ Sisters to Represent Durham County

We are proud to announce that, by virtue of their performances at the County and Inter-County Cross Country Championships, sisters Amelia and Jessica Leslie have both been selected to represent Durham County at the English Schools’ National Cross Country Championships. The competition will take place on Saturday 14th March at Witton Country Park, Blackburn.

We wish the girls every success in the competition and will bring you news of their anticipated success in our next edition of Whitburn World.

## Netball

Our Year 7 girls’ team had the privilege of being the first ever mascots for Team Northumbria in the Netball Superleague. The girls loved meeting the team, going onto the court with them, playing on court at half-time and getting autographs at the end of the match.

Our senior girls’ team performed incredibly well at the Durham Championships, finishing joint second and were only just pipped in qualifying for the National Championship on points difference by Yarm School. However, with the introduction of our new Sixth Form they have another chance to go one step further next year!

Well done to all of the girls involved in our netball teams, which are enjoying great success under the guidance of Mrs Rush and Miss Nelson.

