



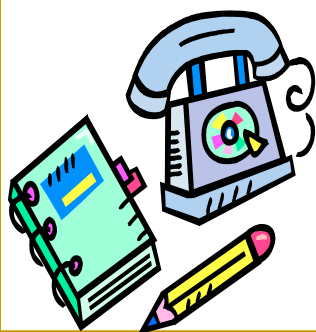
Whitburn World



The Principal's Post — July 2015

The last few weeks have been incredibly busy for pupils and staff, with events such as the year group Awards Assemblies, PTA Summer Fayre, the Summer Showcase, Sixth Form Induction Days, STEM Day, Year 11 Leavers' Ball and today's annual Sports Day. However it has been a great joy to see our pupils working together and having the opportunity to enjoy a different form of learning to what they experience in their day to day lessons. This is so important for pupils to learn skills that make them successful in later life, such as team work and taking on challenges outside of their normal 'comfort zone'. I have said this many times and I may be in danger of sounding like a stuck record, but one of my biggest concerns over the future of education in this country is the narrow focus on the outputs in terms of examination results. Of course success in examinations is incredibly important, but it should never be the sole indicator of the success of a school. I'm very proud of the diverse range of extra-curricular activities our pupils participate in both in and out of school and it is vital that schools celebrate successes in the arts, music, sports, performances, volunteering, Duke of Edinburgh award to name but a few. I hope that the changes we've made to our Awards Assemblies over the past few years have helped to raise the profile of our pupils' participation and success in these activities. In my experience, if pupils are involved in school life beyond the classroom then they are much more likely to be happy and successful in their learning.

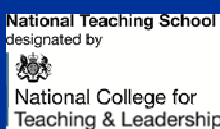
Whitburn World is published today alongside the Sixth Form Update, so I won't talk at length about this. However, if I can be permitted one indulgence, the opening of our new Sixth Form is an incredibly exciting chapter in the history of the school. I would like to thank everyone again for your great support and rest assured that we will work tirelessly to make it the success that our students deserve. Have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to seeing all of our pupils on 3rd September after a well-earned break!



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Diary Dates		Diary Dates	
Friday 17th July	Last Day of Term	Wednesday 2nd September	INSET Day School closed to pupils
20th—23rd July	Year 6 Summer School	Thursday 3rd September	First day of Autumn Term for pupils
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results Day Sixth Form Sign Up	Friday 4th September	Year 7 Assembly of Light
Monday 31st August	Bank Holiday	Thursday 24th September	Year 6 Open Evening
Tuesday 1st September	INSET Day School closed to pupils	19th—22nd October	Academy Production 'Wizard of Oz'

Arrangements for Last Day of Term and First Day of Autumn Term

Friday 17th July is the last day of the summer term. We will hold our end of year assembly for all pupils, after which they will be dismissed at approximately 12:30pm. Please note that there will be no Scholars' Bus Service at this time or catering facilities; please ensure you have made arrangements for your child to travel home safely.

The autumn term begins on **Thursday 3rd September 2015**. Our new **Year 7** pupils and **Prefects** and **Year 12** students should arrive in school at **8:45am** (the Scholars' Bus Service will be available), all other pupils are asked to arrive for **11:15am**.

Scholars' Bus Services

We have been in discussion with our scholars' service provider, Nexus, to provide some later services to accommodate our new Sixth Form pupils and those pupils who stay for after school clubs. Two additional buses have now been provided at 4.30pm.

The new timetable for September can be found on our website:

<http://www.whitburncofeacademy.org/school-life/transport.html>



Awards' Assemblies

Our **Year 7 to 10 Awards' Assemblies** were again a great success and provided an excellent opportunity to acknowledge and applaud the many achievements of our pupils.

As well as the issuing of certificates and prizes, the assemblies gave the opportunity to showcase the many talents of our pupils; music ranging from flute solos to rock guitar as well as dancing, singing and reviews of the year.

It was as always nice to see the expressions on the faces of our pupils, their parents and carers and our staff as the photo story of each year group was played. The pupils certainly seemed proud of their achievements and pleased to receive their certificates. We had some very proud tutors too!

The academy is grateful for the ongoing support of parents and carers for these events - thank you!

Congratulations to the worthy recipients of the Paula Williams Award and the form classes who can proudly call themselves Top Form.

Paula Williams Award

Year 7 Rebecca Cook and Carl Murta
Year 8 Ruby Edmiston and Matthew Staines
Year 9 Kayla Wardle and Jonathan Mitchell
Year 10 Laura Christie and James Hogg

Top Form Winners

7I
8JH
9GG
10HB



House Captains

Following a busy week of campaigns, speeches in House Assemblies and school wide voting, our House Captains for 2015-2016 have been elected.

Bamburgh	Sophie Cooper and Joshua Atkinson
Durham	Katie Carr and Joseph James
Lindisfarne	Lauren Cook and Sam McDermott
Tynemouth	Jessica Cain and Max Hick

We wish them every success in their new roles. They will lead their Houses on Sports Day and will be responsible for leading their Houses through a range of activities during the next academic year.

Thank you to all candidates for their effort and determination and congratulations to those elected.



STEM Day

This now traditional event took place on Thursday 2nd July and, as usual, it was an exhilarating mix of learning and fun for our pupils!

The format for this year was a little different to previous years, with all pupils taking part in the activities across the faculties.

The 'menu' of activities for our pupils was:

- ◇ Bridge building with the Maths and Computing Faculty – how many Mars Bars can your bridge carry?
- ◇ Spaghetti and marshmallows towers with the Humanities Faculty – how tall can you make your tower before it collapses? What will the pupils do with all the leftover marshmallows?
- ◇ Egg parachutes with the Languages Faculty – can you drop an egg from the first floor balcony without it breaking (health and safety has been reviewed for this activity!)
- ◇ Solar vehicles with the Science and Technology Faculty – how far can you transport Mr Newton's apples?

The finale for the day was a whole school gathering in the Septimus Hall for a STEM themed quiz culminating in a battle with gravity on the climbing wall!

The pupils (and staff) all had a fun and productive day. The planning is already underway for next year's themes!



July 2015

Normandy Trip
by
Lauren Roberts, 9GG

Normandy 2015 was a great experience for everyone. The weather was very hot and everyone enjoyed it. The museums and Canadian, American and German cemeteries were interesting and everyone enjoyed the food provided, which was enough to fill every bottomless pit we call our tummies!

The coach and ferry journeys were also so much fun, especially watching Mrs Latimer-Mills sing on the karaoke. A very tiring but eventful and exciting long weekend for all, we had a great time.



July 2015

Sporting Roll of Honour



This half term has been very busy for our sporting stars!

Rugby

Our Year 10 boys' team took part in the Tyne and Wear Final on 7th July at the Jarrovians Rugby ground. Our boys finished 4th after playing against the best schools from Newcastle, Gateshead, Sunderland and North Tyneside. Well done to all who took part.

Rounders

Our Year 10 girls (pictured right with GB Paralympian medallist Stephen Miller) represented South Tyneside at the Rounders Final at Silksworth Sports Centre and won Gold! Well done girls.



Cricket



Our Year 10 girls represented Durham County as regional finalists and were invited to the Regional Cricket Tournament held at York Cricket Club. The girls won their first game with Faye Gibson hitting some fantastic fours. They continued their matches in the rain in a bid to get to the National Finals in Birmingham but unfortunately, even with Ruth Barker (from Year 9) bowling some great wickets in her over, the team were beaten into 4th place by a team from Lancashire.

A special mention must go to our Year 10 pupils who gave up their time on INSET Day to umpire a Cricket Festival at Whitburn Cricket Club. The event was organised by Durham Cricket Board and the pupils were a credit to the Academy. These pupils also gained assessment marks which will go towards their GCSE PE results next academic year.

July 2015

Sporting Roll of Honour



Athletics

Back in June, some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils represented the Academy at the South Tyneside Schools' Pentathlon event held at Monkton Stadium.

60 boys and 60 girls competed across five events throughout the day. There were some excellent individual performances from Mathew Wright and Tai Ebanks.

Having never attempted the high jump before Mathew Wright jumped 1m 52cm, an excellent performance to put him in 4th place.

Tai Ebanks ran an excellent 800m race, executing the agreed tactics perfectly. He ran the second lap in 64 seconds to finish in 2 minutes 19 seconds to win the 800m event.

Tai also finished 4th overall after the 5 events.

The girls worked very hard all day to finish 7th overall with the boys finishing 3rd. An excellent performance all round and the pupils were a credit to the Academy, well done to everyone who took part!

Pictured right: some of our participants doing the 'Usain Lightning Bolt'!

