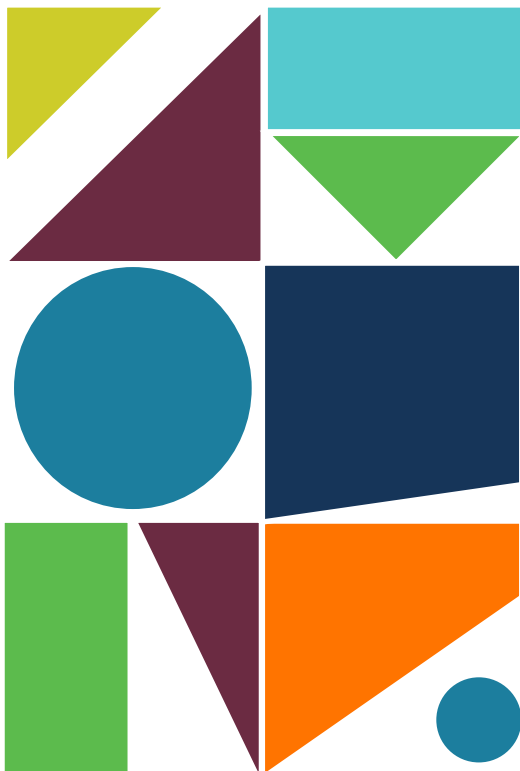




YEAR 11 WHITLEY BAY HIGH

Newsletter Term 2
2026



HEAD OF YEAR MESSAGE

The first few months of 2026 have flown by at an incredible rate, with some very busy weeks for Year 11, and students have handled it well. The St. James' Park day in the first week of January was brilliant, and students have told us they got a great deal out of the conference. Employers gave them some great feedback and we have seen a noticeable increase in maturity in most of them since this 'real-life' experience, especially the interview process. Since then, students have approached the trial exam revision well, with record attendances at our Rise and Revise sessions and lots of dedicated independent work shown to teachers and the Year 11 team. They conducted themselves very well during the trials, managing timings and alternative arrangements in a brilliant way on the whole. We can't wait to see this focus continue into the summer term ahead of their real GCSE examinations starting in May. Well done to all on an excellent term and we hope this positivity, hard work and commitment continues into our final term together.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

- 9th January - St James' Park Day
- 12th January - Yr 11 Revision Launch
- 14th January - Yr 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- 2nd February - GCSE Food Practical Exams all week
- 4th & 5th February - Performing Arts Showcase
- 11th February - Yr 11 Destination Day
- 12th February - Yr 11 Trial Exams Starts
- 9th March - Maths Fest all week
- 16th March - Wellbeing Week
- 18th March - Parent Workshops & Well-Being Fair
- 23rd March - Yr 11 Trial Exam Results
- 25th March - Yr 11 Raising Achievement Assembly
- 26th March - Parents' Evening (X half)
- 27th March - Final GCSE NEA Deadline
- 30th March - Yr 11 Fine Art Exams all week
- 30th March - Literature Festival all week
- 31st March - Parents' Evening (Y half)
- 31st March - Higher Education Evening (Virtual)
- 1st April - Spring Concert



Tyne Met Visit



Under 16 Gold Winning Volleyball Team



Food Practical Exam

KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 20th April - Eco Action Week
- 20th April - GCSE Textiles exams all week
- 27th April - Yr 11 MFL Speaking Assessments
- 27th April - GCSE Photography Exams all week
- 7th May - Yr 11 Alternative Timetable Begins
- 20th August - Level 2 Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment

STUDENT VIEW ON ST JAMES' PARK:

"It was such a good experience, it felt like a real conference"

"I felt proud of myself after doing the interview, I even got the job"

"It helped me feel more independent because I felt like I was going to a real job"

"I thoroughly enjoyed it, particularly the Chris Cook session"

"I felt it was an inspirational and eye opening experience that motivated me to step up my revision"

"The revision session gave me the tools I needed to prepare for my exams"

SUBJECT RECAP:

English - Students have been working on Language Paper Two and completing poetry from the Power and Conflict anthology. We will spend our remaining time revising our Literature texts- 'An Inspector Calls', 'Macbeth', 'Jekyll and Hyde' and poetry from the anthology as well as skills to analyse unseen poems. We will also be revising skills for Language papers one and two.

Maths - Foundation - Simple and Compound interest, Vectors, Congruence and Similarity, Construction and Transformations as well as starting a programme of revision using past papers both in lessons and as homework. Higher - Inequalities, Vectors, Algebraic Fractions, Circle Theorems, Construction, Transformations and Rates of Change as well as starting a programme of revision using past papers both in lessons and as homework.

Science - Combined and Triple Science - Biology: Ecology, variation and evolution. Chemistry: Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources. Physics: Combined - Forces, Magnetism and Waves. Triple- Forces, Magnetism and Space Physics.

Applied Studies: Photography - Students have been working on their final coursework project ahead of the submission deadline at the end of this half term. They have practised for the final exam during the trial exam period and produced some outstanding photographs. **Occupational Studies** - Students have been completing individual coursework units including Media, Catering and Hospitality and Horticulture ready for the deadline at the end of this half term. **Sport, Health & Fitness** - Students have been engaging with the fourth coursework unit; Sport and Nutrition alongside a weekly practical.

Art - All students are undertaking their Externally Set Task as prescribed by the exam board. This is the art equivalent to the exam. They are now over half way through and are creating their final designs ready for the timed test after Easter.

Art & Design Textiles - Students have been focusing on completing their coursework and making their final piece. Students have been preparing for their textiles exam which is after Easter. Students have been attending after school sessions.

Business - Students have been learning about the four elements of the marketing mix and how they work together. They are now onto their last unit of the course on the finance function, its role within business and how it influences business activity.

Child Development - Students have finished their coursework and moved on to exam content. They are focusing on antenatal checks and stages of labour.

Computer Science - We have been looking at system architecture and exploring the hardware and CPU components of a computer. We will then start to look at computer networks and TCP/IP layers and protocols.

Digital IT - Students have chosen a Controlled Assessment component that they would like to improve. This involved following a new brief. These will be completed in the next couple of weeks. They have also sat the external exam in January. Results were distributed on the 19th March 2026.

DT - After huge amounts of work being undertaken before, during and after school, students have now completed their NEA portfolio and we will move on to preparing for exams after Easter.

Drama - Students started the year revising An Inspector Calls and Live Theatre (Life of Pi) in preparation for their trial exam. They are currently rehearsing scripted group extracts and monologues in preparation for their Component 2 acting exam which will take place at the end of this half term.

Food Technology - Students have successfully carried out their GCSE food practical exams in January/February. Written coursework is now completed. Students have been attending extra sessions to support their learning and complete missed coursework. Students have started preparation for their written exam in June.

French & German - Topics include: family, global and social issues, new technology, world of work. They have all done incredible revision work for their trial exams in Listening, Reading, and Writing, culminating in very confident performances.

Geography - We have just completed 'The Living world' topic and will now move onto our final GCSE topic, the 'Challenge of Resource Management' before moving onto revision in preparation for the summer exams.

Health & Social Care - Students have finished their coursework and moved onto exam content. They have been focusing on the rights of a service user, person-centred values and effective communication.

History - Students have been studying how power shifts between the King and the people and how British people gained their rights from 1215 through to the modern day.

Music - Students have been recording solo and ensemble performances, refining compositions and have started revising the set works for the written paper.

PE GCSE (AQA) - Students will continue with their theory and practical lessons. Coursework will be completed, and revision will start for exams.

PE Cambridge National (OCR) - Students will be responding to feedback to ensure all assignments are completed. We will continue to complete content for the summer examination in Contemporary Issues in Sport.

PE Core - Badminton, football, dodgeball and table tennis, fitness.

Philosophy & Ethics - Students have been revising Christian and Buddhist beliefs and are now feeding that knowledge into their ethical studies on human rights and social justice.

Spanish - Students have learnt about travel and tourism, media and technology and the environment and where people live. They have completed their mock exams across all four skills and are now looking to make use of revision strategies to enhance their chances of success this summer.

DID YOU KNOW?



We have our own in-house Careers Guidance Team

who offer 1-1 and small group guidance. They can be found on the 2nd floor A Block at the Careers Office:

Steph Towns (Career Development Lead)
steph.towns@whitleybayhighschool.org

Vicki McAvoy (Careers Assistant)
victoria.mcavoy@whitleybayhighschool.org

Look out for events and workshops throughout the year. Contact staff for more information.

Our School library opening hours are as follows:

- Monday - 8.30am-4.30pm
- Tuesday - 8.30am-2.15pm
- Wednesday - 8.30am-4.30pm
- Thursday - 8.30am-4.30pm
- Friday - 8.30am-4pm

School Council

So far this academic year the Student School Council has met each half term to discuss such diverse topics as school uniform, wellbeing, extracurricular offerings and how diversity is represented in our school wide curriculum. We value and appreciate all student feedback and so far this year this suggestions and views shared with us have been able to enact some genuine change. As we move through to the summer term the school council will be looking at some charity initiatives they want to support and sharing their ideas and suggestions as we prepare for the next academic year. For those who are regularly attending, there will also be some opportunities to attend some invited events and hear from outside speakers. The school council meetings take place on the last Wednesday of every half term during extended registration - keep an eye out during TFTW and on the bulletin notices to get involved!

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Revision Breakfast Event



St James' Park Event



Newcastle College Visit



You can follow us on Instagram:
@whitleybayhigh