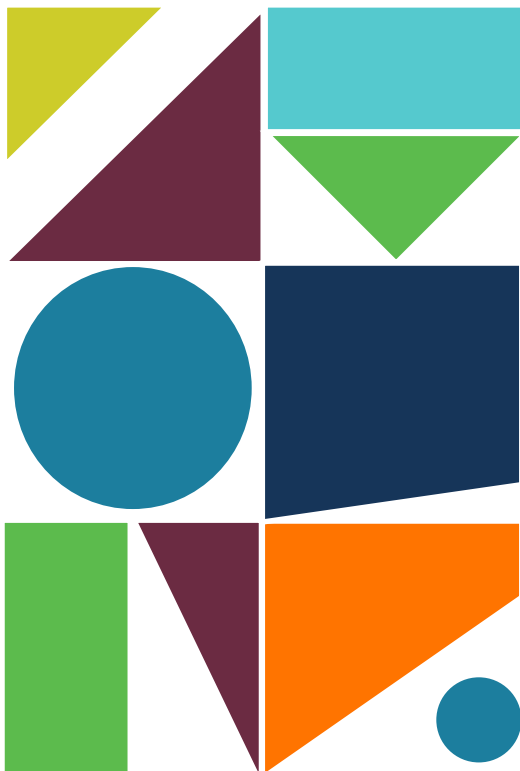




# YEAR 9 WHITLEY BAY HIGH

Newsletter Term 2  
2026

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## HEAD OF YEAR MESSAGE

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As we approach the end of this term, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fantastic achievements and efforts of our Year 9 students.

A huge well done to everyone who got involved in MathsFest, LitFest and Wellbeing Week this half term! Your energy and enthusiasm for learning have been truly inspiring. This dedication is reflected in the incredible number of postcards sent home this year so far—a total of 3526! This is a testament to the hard work and positive attitude our students have shown.

This term has also been an exciting one with the option process starting. You should now have received your option subjects, and we have been so impressed with the mature and sensible approach you have taken to this process.

There has also been success both inside and outside of the classroom with numerous sporting achievements and many of you taking part in multiple extra curricular opportunities such as Mock Trial, Market Masters, Beyond the Horizon and the Marine Biology trip. We also had a fantastic set of performances at the Performing Arts Showcase. The talent and dedication of our students were on full display, and it was a joy to see them shine on stage.

As we approach our final term in Year 9 (wow, how fast time flies), please continue with the positivity and enthusiasm you have shown throughout the year.

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

- 8<sup>th</sup> January - Year 9 Options Evening
- 19<sup>th</sup> January - Market Masters R quarter
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January - Parents' Evening (P&Q quarters)
- 27<sup>th</sup> January - Parents' Evening (R&S quarters)
- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> February - Performing Arts Showcase
- 5<sup>th</sup> February - Year 9 Careers Speed Networking Event (R&S)
- 12<sup>th</sup> February - Spanish Trip leaves
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - Dove Marine Lab trip
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Options Meetings Begin
- 9<sup>th</sup> March - Maths Fest all week
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - Wellbeing Week
- 20<sup>th</sup> March - Challenge Week Assembly
- 30<sup>th</sup> March - Literature Festival all week



Pirate Escape Room



Performance Art Rehearsal



Speed Networking Event

# KEY DATES COMING UP:

- 20<sup>th</sup> April - Eco Action Week
- 30<sup>th</sup> April - Year 9 Reports Home
- 1<sup>st</sup> June - Pride Week Celebrations
- 10<sup>th</sup> June - Art Research Trip
- 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> June - Challenge Week
- 1<sup>st</sup> July - Summer Music Concert
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Wimbledon Trip
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July - Staff Training Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Last Day of School

# STUDENT VIEW:

"A highlight this term was Maths Fest. I particularly enjoyed Maths with Music where we were looking at the maths of making beats."



Lego League Competition

## SUBJECT RECAP:

**English** - Students will continue to develop their four key skills: Be a Critic, Learn the Writer's Craft, Curate knowledge appropriate to literary study, Create their own pieces of writing for different purposes and audiences. These skills are built around their study of 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell where we explore the conventions of Tragedy. After 'Blood Brothers' we will be looking at some poetry and analysing island settings in Literature.

**Maths** - Standard Form, Percentages, Angles, Plans and Elevations, Fractions, Graphs, Estimation, Graphs, Combinations and we celebrated the 'Diversity of Maths' in our Mathsfest week.

**Science - Chemistry:** Students have been studying The Atom. **Biology:** In Biology students have been studying Cells and Transport. **Physics:** Students in Physics have been studying Energy.

**Art** - Students have been working on a careers project, exploring a range of art careers. Students have created a series of short term outcomes inspired by artists in the careers studied, including: illustration, lino prints, architectural maquettes and graphic design imagery.

**Art & Design Textiles Technology** - Students will continue to complete a range of textile techniques and then select a topic of their choice and produce a key piece and display board demonstrating what they have learnt over the academic year so far.

**Digital IT** - Working on a mini project which involves creating their own comics/games. This has involved creating heroes, villains and backgrounds. They have also started to develop their spreadsheet skills.

**DT - Technology** - Students have been completing the 'Product in a Tin' project. They have designed and manufactured a product and the packaging, to be sold at a famous Northeast Landmark that must fit into a small pringles sized tin.

**Robotics** - Students have manufactured a timer product using a 555 timer. They have designed and manufactured the casing for the product also.

**Jewellery** - Students have looked at the jewellery designer Tatty Devine and are using them as inspiration for a collaboration project to design and manufacture their own laser cut jewellery piece.

**Drama** - Students began the year by looking at the origins of theatre with the Ancient Greeks. This was followed by studying the play The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, with the students staging their own chosen extract at the end of the last half term. Students have just begun a new looking, looking at Roles in Theatre, linking to careers.

**Food Preparation & Nutrition** - Students have been learning about healthy eating and are currently looking at food issues. We will be investigating food commodities after Easter.

**French & German** - Topics include: Local, national, and international geography, free time, shopping, food and restaurants and festivals in the first half term.

**Geography** - We have been looking at a range of natural hazards. The hazards range from local events such as flooding in Morpeth to more global events such as the Yellowstone super volcano.

**History** - Students have been learning about the Holocaust and how stereotypes and prejudice can lead to catastrophic events. They have most recently been studying the causes and key events of the Cold War between the two superpowers, the USA and the USSR.

**LEU** - In our lessons for Life, Equality and Values, students have been working on their next topic rotation in one of the four key areas of computing, relationships and wellbeing, beliefs or citizenship.

**Music** - Students have been producing music to underscore a James Bond movie trailer.

**PE (Core)** - Students will be participating in a range of sports including badminton, Table tennis, trampolining, fitness, football.

**(Extra)** - Students continue to participate in a range of GCSE sports to develop skill and performance level.

**Philosophy & Ethics** - Students have begun studying metaphysics as a branch of Philosophy. We have been exploring concepts like free will, evil, and the mind to question whether we can know if these things exist.

**Spanish** - Students have had a successful introduction to the language, learning how to describe themselves and others, talk about their hobbies and interests and their school and home.



# 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](mailto:steph.towns@whitleybayhighschool.org)

**Vicki McAvoy (Careers Assistant)**

[victoria.mcavoy@whitleybayhighschool.org](mailto: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!



Cullercoats Dove Marine Visit



Yr 9 Regional Padel Competition

Whitley Bay High School  
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[www.whitleybayhighschool.org](http://www.whitleybayhighschool.org)



You can follow us on Instagram:  
[@whitleybayhigh](https://www.instagram.com/whitleybayhigh)



Mock Trial Rehearsals