

OCT
2017



Whitburn Academy

WHITBURN ACADEMY NEWSLETTER - Autumn 2017

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Our Head Boy/ Head Girl and Deputes for Session 2017/18





Oct
2017

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you enjoy reading the contents of our newsletter which captures the highlights of what has been going on in an action packed term

This year S6 pupils Jack Nisbet and Bethany McCormack have been appointed as Head Boy and Head Girl. Jack and Bethany will be supported by Depute Head Boy, Andrew Carnan and Depute Head Girl, Samantha Docherty. I would like to congratulate all four pupils on their appointments and very much look forward to working closely with them and their Senior Pupil Leadership Teams over the coming session.

One of the highlights of my first nine months in post as Headteacher has definitely been our annual Awards Ceremony. I was delighted to share a wonderful evening with our young people, parents, carers and members of the wider community; celebrating the successes and achievements of so many of our young people. Being part of this fabulous evening made me realise just how immensely proud I am, and how privileged I feel, to be the Headteacher in Whitburn Academy. You can see a list of all our award winners from page 10.

Just as at the end of every summer term we bid farewell to staff who are either retiring or moving on to pastures new, the start of the new term in August sees the arrival of the new staff who replace them! This session we would like to welcome the following people to our staff team:

Ms K Reid, English

Mr C Hutchison, Business Ed

Mr D Rennie, Maths

Ms Watson, Computing

Ms Manning, RMPS

Mr McCondichie, Biology

Mrs Gonzalez, French/Spanish

As many of you will be aware Whitburn Academy opened its doors for this first time 50 years ago in August 1967. We have several events planned over the session to celebrate our 50th anniversary so watch out for more information on our School App, website and Twitter in the coming weeks. In the meantime I would recommend that you turn to page 2 to get a flavour of what the school was like 50 years ago!

As our mid-term week fast approaches I would like to congratulate our pupils on the excellent start they have made this session and to thank all staff, as ever, for their hard work, commitment and dedication which ensures that our young people enjoy the wide range of experiences and opportunities that they do.

Have a great October week.

Head Teacher,
Whitburn Academy



West Lothian
Council



WHITBURN ACADEMY'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



(Whitburn Academy 1967)

On 22nd August 2017, Whitburn Academy opened its doors for the start of its 50th school year.

To mark the start of this significant anniversary in the life of the school, we have looked back through the school log book from 1967, which was started by Whitburn Academy's first rector, D.K. Sommerville. His account of that first session makes some interesting reading, especially some of the chaotic conditions which the pupils and staff had to endure during the first few months, most of which would not be allowed by today's Health and Safety Officials! Here is just a small taste of some of the events of session 1967/68:

On 21st August 1967, Whitburn Academy opened its doors for the first time. There was no official opening at this time as the building was not completely finished as the first pupils arrived.

As that first term started, work to the heating system was still ongoing and at least 22 rooms were unavailable as they were full of builders materials and equipment that was still to be installed.

During the first few months: the Language Laboratory had no equipment installed as the supplier refused to install anything whilst there was still work being carried out on the room. In the Science Labs and Homecraft (Home Economics) rooms, there was no gas, water or electricity, the storage cupboards were incomplete and Homecraft still had no ovens. Meanwhile, the Technical Department had to finish building the desks and worktops in their own department by themselves!



(The Foyer 1967)

A large puddle of water had appeared in the storage area under the stage in the Assembly Hall, whilst in the hall, as well as being incomplete, there was large piles of books and equipment stored in the corners. In the Foyer, the floor tiling was still being laid meaning staff had to walk over planks to reach the staff

room. In the Commerce department, it was soon discovered that the fitted desks were built too small meaning the mechanical carriage returns on the typewriters would collide with each other as the pupils were typing!



(The Art Department 1967)

A note to all staff and pupils was issued in the early days for everyone to be careful not to cut their hands on the rough, as yet unpainted iron railings on the staircases, which hadn't yet received their wooden tops. More alarming was the note that was issued for everyone to beware of the manholes in the corridors being left open whilst work on the building continued. The log book details that four pupils and a member of staff managed to fall down one of the open manholes. Fortunately, the member of staff managing to remain upright thanks to his umbrella!

Due to the ongoing works, the new S1 pupils were housed in the old Whitburn Junior

Secondary school on East Main Street, this building would later become part of Whitdale Primary School and was demolished in 2012.

The layout of the school when it first opened was a bit different to what it is now. The original entrance hall has been narrowed with part of it converted to offices. The Art Department, which is now located on the newest part of the ground floor between the original Gym halls and the remainder of the 70's built extension, was located on the 3rd floor along side the Geography Department. Geography is now located on the 2nd floor as part of the Social Subjects faculty. The 3rd Floor now contains the Maths and Business Studies Departments.



(Home Economics Department 1967)

The Home Economics classrooms are still located in the same position on the Ground Floor, however there are only 3 classrooms now instead of the original 5. The library was located on the 1st floor, this space is now taken up by two modern languages

classes, a staff base and the drama studio. The library was later moved to the extension before moving back into the main building when the extension was demolished. Today's library is where the original Janitor's room, prefects and student common rooms were located.



(The Library, 1967)

The location of the current Staff Room is that of the former typing and book keeping classrooms. The pupil entrance to the school was located roughly where the 'Blue Room' is located now. The area around the pupil entrance contained cloakrooms. This area now contains the Support for Learning Department, PSE classrooms, House Base, Medical Room and interview rooms. The pupil entrance is now located at the Social Area, which was built on to the side of the Assembly Hall when the school was refurbished in 2003. Until 2003, the Management Corridor held the Staff room, medical rooms, secretary's room as well as the Rector and Deputy Rector's office. Today, this

corridor contains the Janitor's room, Headteacher's Office, Offices for the Deputy Headteachers, an office for the Business Support Manager, a Meeting Room, Conference Room (located where the staff room once was) and an Isolation Room.

Subjects offered in the school during 1967 were:

- English
- Maths
- Geography
- History
- French
- Latin
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Music
- Technical (DMG)
- Homecraft (Home Economics)
- Commerce (Business Studies).

Extra Curricular Activities in the school in 1967 were:

- the Debating Club
- the Orienteering Club
- the Folk-song Club
- Film Society
- Literary Society
- Aero-Modelling Club
- Photographic Club
- Skiing Club.

Trips held during 1967-68 included:

- a trip to the theatre to see 'The Marriage of Figaro'
- a visit to the Royal Mile in Edinburgh
- Edinburgh Zoo.

In Session 1967-68, Whitburn Academy had a roll of 1122 pupils, despite only being built to hold 845 pupils! There were 70 members of staff including the Rector, teachers and office staff.

By Easter 1968, most of the disruptive building works had been completed, meaning the Official Opening of the school could finally take place on 19th April 1968. A copy of the official program from the opening of the school can be found in the School History page on the School Website.

Despite all the chaos and disruption caused by the building works during that first year, the school managed to achieve an exceptional 358 'O' Grades, 118 Higher Grades in the S.C.E exams and a Sixth Year Studies Certificate in French.



(School Badge from 1967)

The school motto in the beginning was "Palnam Ferat Qui Meruit" which converted to English means "Let him who has earned it bear the reward".



(Whitburn Academy's 50th Anniversary Logo)

Since Whitburn Academy opened, there have only been five Headteachers, these are:

- 1967-1970: D.K. Somerville
- 1970-1990: R Young
- 1990-2006: D Williamson
- 2007-2016: I Adair
- 2017-present: T Loudon

Visit the School Website for more History of the school. There is also the first letter sent out by D.K. Somerville to parents, a copy of the first newsletter ever sent out by Whitburn Academy and the Official opening booklet from 1968.

JACK AND ZIEY VISIT

On 25th August, upcoming singers, "Jack Rose and Ziey Kizzy" visited Whitburn Academy.

They gave three performances, for S1, S2 and S3 as part of a nationwide Online Safety, Discrimination and British Values themed school tour.

Jack, a singer/songwriter from Kent recently released a charity single for Great Ormond Street Hospital, which saw him duet with Sandi

Bogle from Channel 4's Gogglebox, reaching Number 6 in the iTunes Chart. He has also recently supported Union J on tour. Ziey, a rapper, singer and songwriter from London, has played the guitar along side Craig David and Tinie Tempah.

Jack sang a couple of covers by Shaun Mendes, followed by one of his own songs. Next followed a presentation which the main purpose was to empower pupils to make the right choices in regards to Online Safety & Cyber Bullying, as well as to inform the pupils not to discriminate but to treat everyone fairly,



whether they have a different sexual preference or are of a different race, sex, or nationality. They also discussed why diversity should be celebrated and the fundamental British Values. They ended with a duet of Justin Bieber's "Love yourself" and "Wonderwall" by Oasis.

As well as enjoying the performance, the message behind the presentation was also well received by the pupils from all three year groups.

MYSP VISIT

In April, John Walker, one of Whitburn Academy's former pupils, was elected as one of two Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament for the Almond Valley Constituency.

His constituency covers Fauldhouse, Longridge and Stoneyburn.

During assemblies held on week beginning 28th August, John spoke to our pupils about what the Scottish Youth Parliament does and how pupils can get in contact with himself and the other MSYP members from the local area if they had anything they wanted to discuss or bring up.

To find out more about the Scottish Youth Parliament and what it does, visit their website at www.syp.org.uk

Your local MYSPs can be contacted via Twitter via @WL_MYSPs. John can be contacted directly via @johnwalkerMYSP

John can also be contacted by email, his email is john.walker.MYSP@sypmail.org.uk



Our photograph shows John with Mr Durkin, Head of Bruce House.

FIRE STATION VISIT

On week beginning 28th August, a group of 5 S4 pupils visited Whitburn Fire Station over the course of 3 days to take part in a Fire Safety course.

As well as learning how the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service fight fires, the group also got the chance to try out some of the equipment. The course also allowed the 5 pupils to enhance a number of valuable life skills such as working as part of a team and communication skills.



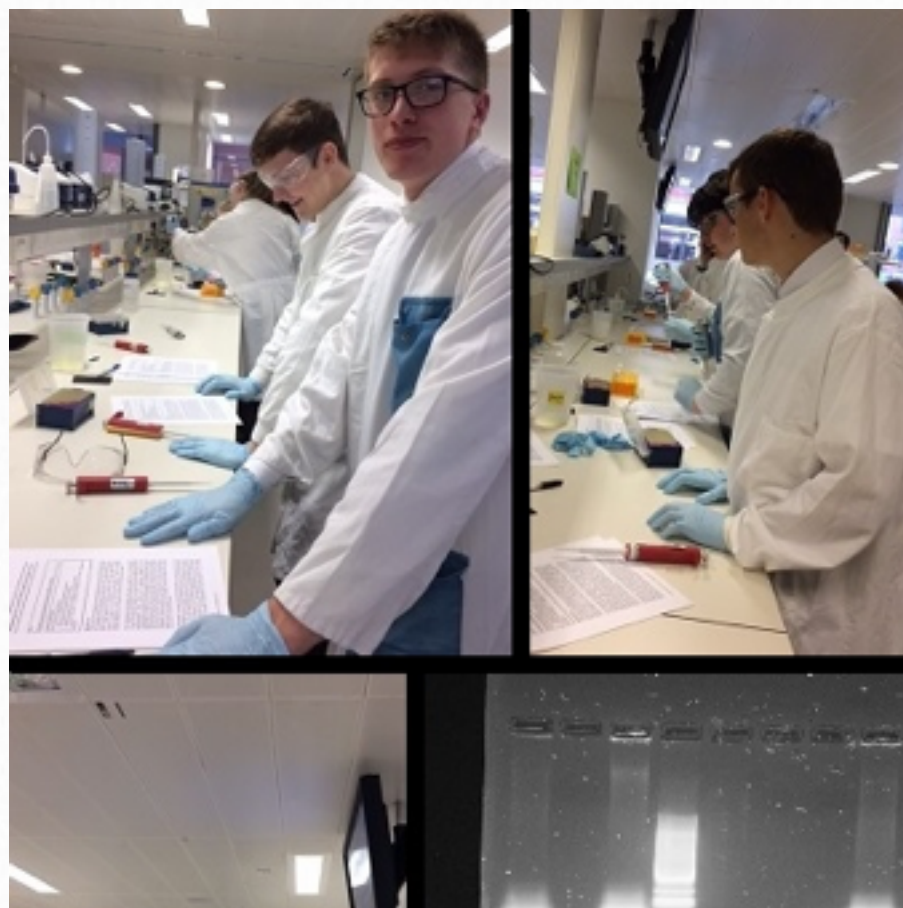
Our photo collage shows the pupils receiving their certificates as well as using the hoses.

HIGHER BIOLOGY TRIP

Higher Biology students and Mr Campbell attended a trip to the University of Strathclyde's Biomedical Institute in late August.

The trip allowed students to get hands-on experience of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), restriction enzyme digestion and gel

electrophoresis. This reaction allows minute DNA samples to be manipulated and amplified and has many uses, including crime scene analysis. The trip also provided an opportunity to experience a working university laboratory.



WHITBURN'S BAKE OFF WEEK

Wednesday 6th September saw round I of the Annual Whitburn Academy Bake off!

It was extremely good fun with staff and pupils taking part! Round I was the "Technical Challenge", where the contestants were required to make a Victoria Sandwich from the recipe provided by the Home Economics department. All dishes were produced to an excellent standard, with Miss Loudon having

the difficult task of choosing the top three cakes!



The results from round 1 are as follows:

- 1st place: Mrs Williamson
- 2nd place: Mrs Rennie
- 3rd place: Brook

Next week is our "Signature Challenge" so we are looking forward to an intense hour or so in the kitchen! We can't wait to see the results!

AWARDS CEREMONY

On 6th September, Whitburn Academy held its annual awards ceremony to celebrate and reward the many academic and extra curricular successes of our pupils throughout Session 2016/17.

Following a brief welcome and Headteacher's address from Miss Loudon, the audience were treated to the Wind Band playing 'Cabo Rico' by Chuck Elledge.

This was followed by a Speaking Item from our 2016/17 Senior Debating Team: Emma Archondakis, Taylor Heggie, Rebecca Millar and Amy Oakes based on former US President, Lyndon B Johnson's quote, "Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose".



The Year Group prizes were then presented followed by the Guitar Group playing 'Ice 9' by Joe Satriani. Next the Special Prizes and Headteacher's awards were presented, then these were followed by a piano solo by Scott Gilchrist who performed 'I Giorni' by Ludovico Einaudi.

The evening ended with a Vote of Thanks to everyone who was involved in the Awards Ceremony.

AWARD WINNERS

S1 Prizewinners

Josh Cameron	IW1	Maths
Erin Cruickshank.	IDI	Business and IT, English, Music, Science and Graphic Communication
Angeline Galloway	IW2	Design and Manufacture
Becky Graham	IW2	Home Economics
Kelan Halliday	IW2	Art, English and Science
Lucy Halliday	IW2	Computing Science
Morgan Hearty	IB2	French
Fiona Henderson.	IB2	Computing Science
Summer Innes	IW2	Physical Education
Jamie-Lee McCormack	IDI	French
Zoe Murray	IB2	Art
Claire Reekie	IW1	Religion and Philosophy
Ryan Steele	IW2	Social Studies
Danielle Thompson.	IW2	Home Economics
Chloe Wood	IW1	Music

S2 Prizewinners

Adam Ashworth	2W1	Art
Lucya Blazejewski	2W1	Music
Melissa Campbell	2D1	Home Economics and Science
Daniel Cook	2B1	Computing Science
Emma Currie	2D2	English
Ellie Foster	2D2	English
Lewis Galloway	2W1	French
Elidah Goodwin	2B2	Design and Manufacture
Alyssa Hilditch	2W1	Music
Lewis Keenan	2W2	Physical Education
Eve Neally	2D1	Graphic Communication and Home Economics
Melanie Pollock	2W2	Computing Science, Social Studies and Religion and Philosophy
Mara Prentice	2D1	Maths and Science
Hollie Robinson	2W1	Social Studies

S3 Prizewinners

Brandon Allan	3D1	Art
Kyle Brown	3B1	Design and Manufacture
Ryan Brown	3B1	Modern Studies
Adam Gilmour	3D1	French, Graphic Communication, Maths and Physics
Ben Gordon	3D1	Computing Science
Taibah Hanif	3W2	French
Dawn Kane	3D2	Home Economics and Music
Zara Law	3W2	Art
Mia Lewington	3W2	Biology, Computing Science, Geography, Music and Physics
Abbie McCormack	3D2	Chemistry
Jenna McMahan	3W1	Religion and Philosophy
Elena Meldrum	3W2	Biology
Sophie Neilly	3W1	Modern Studies
Nikki Ramage	3D1	Business and IT
Kiera Robertson	3D2	English
Sophie Russell	3W1	Religion and Philosophy
Lewis Sanderson	3W1	Physical Education
Anna Scott	3W2	Maths
Ewan Shaw	3W2	Physical Education
Ashley Sutherland	3B1	English
Rachel Weir	3W2	Home Economics
Connor Whyte	3D1	History

S4 Prizewinners

Sean Cameron	4W2	Design and Manufacture
Daniel Ferguson	4D1	Graphic Communication, Maths and Physics
Scott Gilchrist	4W2	Biology, French, Geography and Music
Henrijs Graduzs	4B2	Practical Woodwork
Mya Greens	4D1	Administration and Information Technology
Taylor McCaw	4W2	Administration and Information Technology
Rachel Harris	4B1	Hospitality
Graeme Jamieson	4W1	Computing Science

Leon Kay	4W2	Physical Education
Kayleigh Middleton	4W1	Media
Cameron O'Boyle	4B1	English
Megan Watt	4D2	English
Jake Paterson	4W2	History and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
Cari Renwick	4D2	Modern Studies

S5 Prizewinners

Alexandra Baff	5D2	English and French
Amy Begbie	5D2	Computing Science
James Fisher	5W1	Physical Education
Nicole Gourlay	5D1	Art and Design and Media
Karen Henderson	5B1	Administration and IT and Geography
Sophia Macrae	5W2	Sociology
Bethany McCormack	5W2	History
Stephanie McKee	5B2	Health and Food Technology
Callum Stewart	5B1	Chemistry, Graphic Communication, Maths and Physics
Aaron Taylor	5W1	Music

S6 Prizewinners

Lewis Allan	6W	Advanced Higher History
Emma Archondakis	6D	Advanced Higher Art and Design (Expressive)
Gemma Bennett	6B	Photography
Kathleen Byrne	6B	Advanced Higher English
Taylor Heggie	6B	Business Management and Advanced Higher French
Christopher McLaughlin	6W	Advanced Higher Computing Science and Advanced Higher Maths
Rebecca Millar	6D	Biology
Amy Oakes	6B	Advanced Higher Biology and Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies
John Walker	6B	Advanced Higher Music

House Points Trophy Winner: **DOUGLAS HOUSE**

Special Awards

Russell Athletic Trophy

Outstanding contribution to PE, curricular and non-curricular: **ZOE MURRAY**

Whitburn and District Probus Club Shield

Best academic performance across all subjects in S1:
ERIN CRUICKSHANK

Margaret Lumsden Memorial Shield

Best academic performance across all subjects in S2:
MELANIE POLLOCK

Kenny Lewandowski Trophy

Best academic performance across all subjects in S3:
MIA LEWINGTON

Professor James Sommerville Awards

The Award for Achievement - the student with the best academic performance in S4:

DANIEL FERGUSON/SCOTT GILCHRIST

Medal for Sciences and Technologies - the student with the best academic performance in S4:

GRAEME JAMIESON

Medal for Arts and Humanities - the student with the best academic performance in S4:

CHLOE ROBINSON

The Andy Muir Award - the senior student who has made a significant contribution to the life of the school:

OLIVIA GILMOUR

Rotary Award - S4 student who has shown commitment and determination to succeed and is now leaving school : **MEGAN RIDDELL**

Creative Writing Trophy - the senior student who has displayed an outstanding talent for creative writing:
KATHLEEN BYRNE

Lodge Polkemmet Trophy - the student who has made a significant contribution to the community or charity
COURTNEY SIEVEWRIGHT

Professor George Salmond Awards

Science and Technology - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:
CALLUM STEWART

Arts and Humanities - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:
ANDREW CARNAN

Quaich - the senior student who has made the biggest impact on, or contributed most to, interactions between the school and the local community:
JOHN WALKER

Sneddon Morrison Award

Languages - the senior student with the best academic performance in relevant subjects:
ALEXANDRA BAFF

Headteacher's Awards

Leadership Role as Head Girl **TAYLOR HEGGIE**
Leadership Role as Head Boy **ROSS NEALLY**

Leadership Role as Depute Head Girl
OLIVIA GILMOUR/AMY OAKES

Leadership Role as Depute Head Boy
CHRISTOPHER MCLAUGHLIN

Participation in Youth and Philanthropy Initiative - winning £3000 for local charity S.M.I.L.E

RACHEL ADAMS, JENNIFER BAFF, JENNA HALLIDAY, KIRSTIE RUSSELL AND RAEGANN WHITE

Dux Awards (sponsored by Professor George Salmond)

Dux 2016	TAYLOR HEGGIE
Proxime Accessit 2017	CALLUM STEWART
Dux 2017	ALEXANDRA BAFF

HOUSE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to Douglas House, who were the House Champions trophy winners for 2016/17.



The trophy was presented to Rebecca Millar, who was Douglas House Vice Captain for Session 2016/17 at the Whitburn Academy Awards Ceremony on 6th September.

Rebecca, Miss Fowler, Miss Sword and Mrs Bulloch are all pictured with the House Trophy.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS

S5 pupils Chloe and Mya attended the Sports Scotland Young Ambassadors conference in Edinburgh on 7th September.



Young Ambassadors is an exciting and energetic lottery funded programme to help develop young people as leaders in sport.

Each year, two pupils from each secondary school in Scotland are chosen as Young Ambassadors to promote sport, and motivate and inspire other young people to get involved

in sport in their schools, clubs and local communities. Chloe and Mya were chosen to be Whitburn Academy's Young Ambassadors for Session 2017-18.

The key role of a Young Ambassador is to support Active Schools locally and use the School Sports Award to influence six aspects of school sport -

- 1 Extra curricular sport provision
- 2 Links to community sport opportunities
- 3 Opportunities for competition
- 4 Celebration of pupil achievements in sport
- 5 Leadership opportunities for young people
- 6 PE in schools

The Young Ambassador Conference is integral to, and an exciting aspect of, the Young Ambassador programme.

At the conference a team of athletes and sport development professionals support the Young Ambassadors to help them gain the skills, knowledge and understanding required to undertake their role.

WORLD DANCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well Done to Billie from S1, who recently took part in the World Dance Championships.

Billie took part in the competition with 'Pulzeation', the dance group that she is a member of. They took part in the under 18's intermediate competition, finishing in 7th Place!



Well done to Billie and the rest of 'Pulzeation' on this amazing achievement!

WORK EXPERIENCE

During Week beginning 11th and 18th September, pupils from S4 and S5 who are intending on leaving school at the end of the current session spent a week on Work Experience.

Having arranged their placements themselves, the pupils spent the week allocated to them working in their chosen location.



The pupils chose a diverse selection of placements including:

- Working in car repair garages
- Working in hair dressing salons
- Working in shops
- Working with the school IT/AV

Technician

- Working in Primary Schools or Nursery Schools

All the pupils enjoyed their time on Work Experience and have learned a number of vital skills that will help them in their future careers.

COUNTY FOOTBALL TEAM

Mark, Robbie and Josh have been selected for the West Lothian Senior County Football Team.



Congratulations to all three pupils on this excellent achievement.

WHITBURN BAKE OFF WEEK 2

Wednesday 13th September was week 2 of the annual Whitburn Bake Off!

This week, our bakers faced the signature challenge, where they had to bake one of their favourite cakes.

We also saw the return of reigning champion, Mr Scobie attempting to make it 2 titles in a row, whilst last week's winner, Mrs Williamson

was aiming to make it 2 wins in a row in this year's competition.

Once again, the standard of baking was excellent and the judges had a hard job picking the winner!



Congratulations to Kayly from S3 who was our winner this week!

PUPIL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 14th September, Whitburn Academy held it's Pupil Council elections.

Voting was held in the Assembly Hall before school, during break time, during lunchtime and after school. Pupils were given voting cards, which were used to check that they were able to vote, then they then filled in their ballot papers in real voting booths and posted their votes in real ballot boxes. The voting booths

and ballot boxes are the same ones used in the General and Scottish Parliament elections.

Turnout for the election was 35 % and per year group was as follows:

- S1: 33%
- S2: 42%
- S3: 25%
- S6: 48%

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been elected:

Junior Pupil Council:

S1: Ross Gilchrist, Jayden McCue, Brooke McIvor and Joss Carmichael

S2: Cole Loughins, Ewan Gardner-Young, Pheobe Reid and Erin Cruickshank

S3: Adam Ashworth, Lewis Galloway, Emma Russell and Melissa Campbell

Senior Pupil Council:

S4: Ryan Brown, Melissa McMullan, Mia Lewington

S5: Scott Gilchrist, Matthew Benfold and Leona McKenzie

S6: Ellie Moffat and Tegan Callaghan



ONE SCHOOL, ONE BOOK

The Author Catherine Forde visited Whitburn Academy on Friday 15th September to speak to our S1-S3 pupils

Catherine was in school as part of the launch of Whitburn Academy's One School, One Book project. Catherine gave a unique and interesting talk to each of year group about what inspired her to start writing and some of the stories behind her book "Fat Boy Swim".

One School, One Book is a unique program in that children across all levels will be reading and listening to the same book. We have selected a title that can be followed, understood and enjoyed by our younger pupils, yet at the same time will still captivate our older readers.

As part of this exciting project and thanks to some very generous funding, all S1-S3 pupils have been given a free copy of Catherine's book, "Fat Boy Swim" to read.

With the One School, One Book program, we aim to build a community of readers at our school. As well as the pupils participating in the program, teaching staff, the senior leadership team, pupil support workers, office

staff, technicians, cafeteria and janitorial staff will also be taking part so that we can all reap the many benefits of this program.

In order for our entire school to engage in meaningful discussion, fun and stimulating book challenges and a shared camaraderie, we are asking for all parents and carers to help support our efforts by promoting the reading of "Fat Boy Swim" by promoting the reading of this book with their child at home.

In school, each child in S1-S3 will be invited to answer daily trivia questions to encourage and reward attentive and active listening. There will be various activities taking place across the school to further enrich the reading experience. We hope to make the next few



months a time in which everyone is excitedly talking about the adventures of Jimmy Kelly!

Please visit the [One School, One Book page](#), on the school website, where it will soon be possible to view more information on the project and hear chapters being read aloud by pupils and staff from our school.



HEAD BOY/ HEAD GIRL ANNOUNCED

Whitburn Academy are proud to announce the appointment of our Head Boy, Head Girl and Depute Head Boy/Girl for Session 2017-18.

The appointments are as follows:

- Head Boy: Jack Nisbet

- Head Girl: Bethany McCormack
- Depute Head Boy: Andrew Carnan
- Depute Head Girls: Samantha Docherty

Congratulations to all 4 pupils on their appointments and everyone at Whitburn Academy wishes them well in their new roles.

Our photograph shows Ms Loudon congratulating all 4 pupils.



WHITBURN'S BAKE OFF FINAL

The final of Whitburn's Bake Off took place on 27th September.



Like the previous two rounds, the competition was hotly contested with a very high standard of baking from all the pupils and staff taking part. Whitburn Academy's very own 'Bake off judges' aka Mr Bulloch, Mrs Cowan, Miss Findlay and Mrs Peebles had a very tough job picking a winner, however after a lot of deliberating, debate and sampling the cakes, we have a winner!

Congratulations to Mr Scobie, who held on to his 'Star Baker' title for another year! Mr Scobie made a Norwegian Apple Pie using apples from his own back garden! Kayly from S3 finished a close second with her blueberry and banana layered cake! Well done and thank you to all the pupils and staff who have been involved in the competition over the past few weeks.

WORK EXPERIENCE

During Week beginning 11th and 18th September, pupils from S4 and S5 who are intending on leaving school at the end of the current session spent a week on Work Experience.



Having arranged their placements themselves, the pupils spent the week allocated to them working in their chosen location.

The pupils chose a diverse selection of placements including:

- Working in car repair garages
- Working in hair dressing salons
- Working in shops
- Working with the school IT/AV Technician
- Working in Primary Schools or Nursery Schools

All the pupils enjoyed their time on Work Experience and have learned a number of vital skills that will help them in their future careers.

LLOYDS EMPLOYMENT DAY

On Monday 25th September 2017, Lloyds Banking Group came into the school and with Selected S4-S6 students carried out an employer engagement day.



The day consisted of a presentation, group activities and culminated in 1 to 1 interviews with feedback for 50 students.

Whitburn Academy would like to express thanks to Lloyds Banking groups for sending volunteers and making this day such a success.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 26th September, S1-3 took part in a range of activities to celebrate the linguistic diversity

across Europe and to highlight the benefits of speaking more than one language.

Across Scotland, all pupils are entitled to learn two foreign languages from P1 - S3 with a huge range of advantages as a result. At Whitburn Academy, pupils learn French from S1-3 and Spanish in S1-2 in masterclasses which is also available as an option in S3.



This week, classes took part in quizzes, discussions on stereotypes, and even took hilarious photos with various props in our European photo booth. Comme c'est amusant !"

DRAMA SHOWCASE

On 27th September, a number of S1 and S2 pupils who have been studying Drama as part

of their Masterclass cycle, put on a Drama Showcase.

From hosting the show to acting, lighting and sound, each of the ten pupils involved in the show were fantastic and received rave reviews from the audience. For many of the pupils, this was the first time they had performed in front of a live audience and you would never have known this as it was as if they had been acting in front of an audience for years! Well done to all the pupils involved!



It was also the first time a show has been performed in our newly revamped Drama Studio. Our studio now has new curtains, LED stage lighting, a lighting desk and surround sound system. A big thank you to Mr Foggo, Mrs Lingham and Mr Hawthorn who sourced and set up all the equipment for us.

If you are interested in Drama, either front of stage or working behind the scenes, why not join the Drama Club. We meet in the Drama Studio (room 108) between 1.20pm and 1.50pm on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 29th September, the Charity Committee held a coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Cancer Research.

The pupils set up a stall in the foyer to sell home baking at Breaktime, whilst in the staff room, more members of the committee were selling cakes and bacon rolls.



The event raised the fantastic total of £225.97 for MacMillan Cancer Research.

A big Thank You to all the Pupils and Staff who helped us raise this excellent amount of money for a worthwhile cause.

NEWCASTLE FOOTBALL TRIP

On Sunday 1st October, Mr Stevenson, Mr Rhodie and 23 pupils travelled down to Newcastle for a football trip.

The first part of the day involved an hour and a half intense training session with Newcastle United Youth Football Coaches at Newcastle



United's Academy.

Then it was back on the bus to St James Park, where following a quick visit to the Club Shop, we had our lunch in one of the lounges.

We then took our seats for the Premier League match between Newcastle and Liverpool which was live on Sky Sports. It was an enjoyable game to watch and the pupils were delighted to see so many star players. The match finished 1-1, with goals from Joselu (for Newcastle) and Coutinho (for Liverpool).

The day was even more memorable for two of our pupils, Lewis and Ryan (both S3), who were lucky enough to be ball boys at the match. Both boys said it was one of the best experiences they had ever had!

Thanks to Inspiresport who organised this experience for us. They also brought along a film crew so our whole day could be caught on camera.

PLACE BRANDING CONSULTATION

On 2nd October, 25 S1 pupils were involved with West Lothian Council and Morrison



Media as part of a place branding consultation.

Pupils were asked to give their views on a new logo which will be used to promote the town of Whitburn.

The pupils also talked about what they think are the landmarks in Whitburn then drew them. They also thought about how they would want the town to be seen by other people.

Scott McKillop of West Lothian Council, Mhari and Elaine of Morrison Media also took time to talk to pupils about their career pathways, jobs and the qualifications and skills they need and use every day in the world of work.

CAREER READY PROGRAMME LAUNCH

6 students have been selected, after interview,



to take place in the Career ready programme.

Career Ready is a two year programme where students attend employability skills workshops and are assigned a mentor from a variety of Scottish employers. The students will attend a

paid 4 week internship during the Summer of 2018.

The students all attended the launch event on Monday 1st October at West Lothian College where they met their mentors for the first time.

The students and Mentors had a fantastic day and are now cant wait to get started working with their mentors.

CHEQUE HANDOVER

On 3rd October, members of the Charity Committee visited the Oncology unit at St Johns Hospital, Livingston to hand over a cheque.



The cheque for the fantastic total of £612 was raised by the Pupils and Staff of Whitburn Academy during the Dress Down Day held on 15th September. During the Dress Down Day, pupils and staff paid £1 to wear their normal clothes rather than uniform.

Thank you to everyone at Whitburn Academy who supported this worthwhile cause.

Our photograph shows staff from St John's Oncology Unit receiving their cheque from some of the Charity Committee.

CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

On Wednesday 4th October, 29 pupils represented Whitburn Academy in the annual West Lothian Schools Cross Country event.

Congratulations to Erin and Summer taking home Gold and Bronze respectively in the S2 Girls event!

Well done to all pupils who proudly represented our school despite the poor weather conditions.

For highlights of the event and all other PE-related news, follow us on Twitter - @WAC_PE



IF I RULED SCOTLAND EBOOK

Ryan, one of our S4 pupils, entered his essay, 'If I ruled Scotland' into a competition run by the Hunter Foundation.

The winner of the competition had to write about how they would run the country and why they would run it in that way.

The prize for the winning essay was for the winner and 10 people chosen by the winner to attend the dinner banquet with former U.S. President Barack Obama and other invited guests.



The winner of the competition had to include in their essay, why they would pick the 10 people that they would invite to attend the dinner with Barack Obama.

Unfortunately Ryan didn't win, however the entries received by the Hunter Foundation were deemed to be so good by the judges that they published them in an eBook.

Ryan and former pupil, Rebecca Millar, had their essays published in the eBook.

Well Done Rebecca and Ryan!

EATING FOR LEARNING



Whitburn Academy, like many schools across the country does not allow energy juice or fizzy juice in school. We also ask pupils who purchase takeaway food from local outlets to eat this food outside of our school's Academy Café.

Pupils, parents and carers sometimes have questions about this. This information is designed to answer some of these questions.

Q1. Why can pupils not eat takeaways in the Academy Café?

A1. The Academy Café is a licenced food premises. This means that it sells food to customers as part of a contract with the local authority. The company who deliver this for the school have the rights over this area. Just like you can't take food from one restaurant and eat it in another, you can't take food from takeaway outlets into the Academy Café. The only exception to this is packed lunches, which are allowed.

A2. The Academy Café only sells food which meets the government's standards for healthy eating. As part of our efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of every pupil, we encourage pupils only to eat food which has been bought in the Academy Café, healthy foods from home, or healthy foods bought and consumed from other outlets.

Please visit the [BBC Good Food website](#) More information on the effects of diet on Health and Wellbeing, and learning.

Q2. Why isn't fizzy juice allowed in school?

A1. Fizzy juice isn't allowed in class for health and safety reasons. Spillage of sugar and chemicals onto surfaces can damage equipment and the fabric of the building. For that reason,

water is allowed in class for hydration purposes only.

A2. There is lots of evidence to suggest that fizzy juice prevents good learning. The sugar content creates highs and lows, can cause hyperactivity, or make it difficult to concentrate. None of these helps pupils to learn. The other ingredients are also known to reduce concentration levels, cause hyperactivity, increase the risk of disruptive behaviour, this is all in addition to the other negative effects they can have on health.

Q3. Why isn't energy juice allowed in school?

A1. Energy juice isn't allowed in class for all the same health and safety reasons that fizzy juice isn't allowed.

A2. There is lots of evidence to suggest that energy juice prevents good learning. The sugar content creates highs and lows, can cause hyperactivity, or make it difficult to concentrate. None of these helps pupils to learn. Energy drinks also contain other ingredients, some of which are stimulants. Despite what the word 'stimulant' may lead you to believe, these are known to reduce concentration levels, cause hyperactivity, and are linked to poor behaviour in class. There is lots of evidence to suggest that drinking water to hydrate is better for concentration and learning.

Links to some information on the effects of energy drinks on learning:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport/35116130>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/education-25805750/should-schools-ban-energy-drinks>

WHITBURN ACADEMY'S TWITTER PAGE



Did you know that Whitburn Academy is on Twitter?

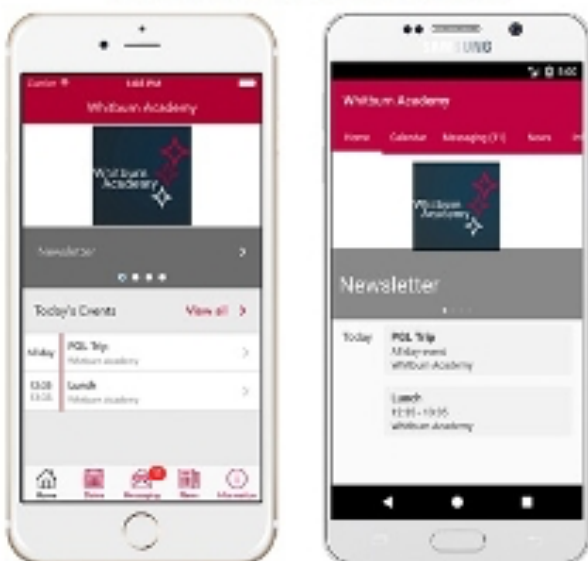
Follow us by searching for @WhitburnAC to get live updates and information about the school and any

events taking place.

WHITBURN ACADEMY APP

Whitburn Academy

Our App is now live in the Apple and Google Play Stores.
You can keep in touch with our events, news
and receive important messages from us!



To download the app scan the QR code below or visit the

Whitburn Academy's App is now live!

The app is available for download from the Apple and Google Play stores. You can keep in touch with our events, news and receive important messages from us!

BONFIRE SAFETY

With Bonfire Night fast approaching, it is important to take precautions with fireworks and bonfires to stay safe.

Bonfire Safety advice from Scottish Fire and Rescue

Advice from the SFRS is to attend a safely organised bonfire and firework display. However if you must have a bonfire at home make sure it is well away from buildings, vehicles, trees, hedges, fences, power lines, telecommunications equipment and sheds and you must ensure that smoke does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or flying embers endanger neighbouring property.

- Never drink alcohol if you are tending a bonfire or setting off fireworks - remember it is an offence to consume alcohol in a public place.

- To reduce the emission of harmful smoke and combustion products bonfires should comprise of untreated wood and paper based materials only.

- There is a danger of explosion from pressurised containers or sealed vessels amongst bonfire material or irresponsibly thrown on burning bonfires.
 - Never throw fireworks on bonfires.
 - Never use flammable liquids to ignite bonfires - use proprietary fire lighters.
 - Smoke from bonfires must not pose a public nuisance, affect visibility on roads or otherwise inconvenience vehicular traffic.
 - Sparks, flying embers or burning debris must not endanger nearby property.
 - Never leave a burning/smouldering bonfire unsupervised - make sure it is completely extinguished. Any bonfire failing to

satisfy safety conditions or where people are behaving irresponsibly may be deemed dangerous and as such, subject to being either removed, extinguished or otherwise made safe.

Firework Code

Young people should watch and enjoy fireworks at a safe distance and follow the safety rules for using sparklers. Only adults should deal with firework displays and the lighting of fireworks. They should also take care of the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used.

- I Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.

Hands up if you've been playing with fire?

Bonfires & Fireworks can kill.

Please attend organised displays.

Report illegal, unlit bonfires to your local authority for removal.

For more information visit www.firescotland.gov.uk

FIREWORKS BE SAFE NOT SORRY
REPORT TO US ON THE DAY

Police and fire services
Sweatband, insect repellent
Headphones from Marn & Dad
It's big, more than you'd imagine
around with Roman Road & 21st St

SCOTTISH FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE
NHS SCOTLAND
POLICE SCOTLAND

www.firescotland.gov.uk

18+ IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO POSSESS FIREWORKS IN PUBLIC IF YOU'RE UNDER 18

BIS Department for Business Innovation & Skills

2 Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.

3 Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.

4 Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.

5 Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.

6 Never return to a firework once it has been lit.

7 Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.

8 Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.

9 Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.

10 Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

VACCINATION NEWS

NHS Lothian carry out a programme of vaccinations during the course of the school year:



HPV Vaccine

The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for girls aged 11 to 13 years helps protect against cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is offered to girls at secondary schools across Scotland.

Millions of girls worldwide have now received the vaccine and rigorous evidence shows it to have an excellent safety profile, meeting the high safety standards required for it to be used in the UK and other European countries.

There is already evidence from Australia, Denmark, Scotland and England that the vaccine is making a difference. There has been a large drop in the rates of infection with the two main cancer-causing HPV types and the vaccine is already demonstrating longer term protection. We expect it to eventually prevent hundreds of cancer deaths every year in the UK.

A wide range of information, including leaflets, posters, videos, information packs, factsheets, Patient Information Leaflets and websites to support all aspects of the immunisation programme is available. This is to make sure that individuals, or those giving consent on their behalf, have enough information to enable them to make a decision before they give consent. This includes information about the process, benefits and risks of the immunisation(s) and ensures that the process for obtaining consent from girls (or those giving consent on their behalf) is consistent with current guidance and based on both the current legal position and standards expected of health professionals by their regulatory bodies.

Further information on HPV vaccine is available at <http://www.immunisationscotland.org.uk/vaccines-and-diseases/hpv.aspx>

Teenage Booster (Diphtheria, Polio and Tetanus)

Every year, pupils in S3 are offered the Teenage Booster to complete their life long protection, through routine immunisations, against tetanus, diphtheria and polio. Any pupils in S4 - S6 who have not yet received this vaccination will also be offered this.

Meningitis (ACWY)

In addition to the Teenage Booster vaccination, all S3 pupils are recommended to have a Meningitis Vaccine (ACWY). This protects against several strains including the W strain of meningitis which is on the increase across the UK. Any pupils in S4 - S6 who have not yet received this vaccination will also be offered this.

SCHOLAR REVISION AND GRADE IMPROVER

Scholar is a valuable - and free to use- resource which will help you to consolidate your previous learning, offer you useful revision

strategies and allow you to practice assessments.



Your teacher can use the Scholar reporting facility to tailor their future help to you.

Make the most of Scholar by using it as part of your mix of study / revision activities.

Even if you haven't been in the habit of using Scholar for your coursework so far, then make sure that you have a note of your user name and password. You will find Scholar helpful in your revision.

By using your own username (your SCN) and password you will gain access to many of the features in Scholar.

These include the Web pages, Revision planner, Interactive activities, Glossary, and recordings of revision webcasts (for maths, Computing and Modern Languages). Most Scholar courses have .pdf Study guides (electronic copies of the website text) which you can obtain from your teacher.

A guide to using Scholar and a Scholar User Guide are available for download from the [School Website](#).

Mentos and Fizz Investigation



Science Club – Thursday lunchtime

Mrs Maher & Mr Hughes (in lab SL1)

Proposal:

To experimentally investigate which variables yield the **highest fizz fountain**.

Variables:

Brand types of fizzy juice.

Flavour types of fizzy juice

Diet vs sugary drinks

Types of mints

Flavours of mints/sweets

Numbers of mints & / or mass of min



Further investigation

Isolating **chemicals** which may be responsible for the reactions and testing those!

Variables:

Ascorbic acid,

Aspartame and other sweeteners

Glucose

Potassium sorbate,

sucralose

Measurements:

Height of fountain (cm).

Time duration of fountain (s).

Volume of liquid remaining.

Mass of mint/sweet remaining (we will use this as a dissolution index).

Number of Mentos vs optimum height of foam.

Brand/flavour/type of fizzy juice vs optimum height of foam.

Chemical additive (using soda water as base and control vs height of foam).

VINE TRUST EASYFUNDRAISING

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for Whitburn Academy's Vine Trust trip to Peru in 2018?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to Whitburn Academy's Peru 2018 [Easy Fundraising Page](#) and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and Vine Trust Peru 2017 - Whitburn Academy will be really grateful for your donations.

Thank you for your support.

JOB AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Each month, Skills Development Scotland release a list of all the Jobs and Training Opportunities available in the West Lothian area.



A copy of their latest bulletin is available for download from the [Careers Advice](#) page on the School Website.

COMPASS CAFE



The Compass Cafe is a place to come and meet friends, have lunch, chat, do some fun things and discuss faith and life.

We also try to organise occasional outings and trips. Compass Cafe is run by the School Chaplaincy team. We meet in room 213 every Tuesday. We would love to see you there.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE



The sharing of inappropriate images on Social Media is a practice that some young people are becoming involved in.

This is done on a number of different forums including Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat to name a few, It normally takes place between young people in a relationship but there has been incidents where images have been sent to complete strangers.

There are many dangers associated with this including: bullying or harassment, lack of

control of the images, images becoming public, the effect this might have on the person's digital footprint and the Legal implications of taking, sharing, receiving or posting inappropriate images of anyone under the age of 18.

Our pupils receive advice regarding this issue with dedicated lessons during Personal and Social Education classes. These lessons offer advice and guidance from CEOP, the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre, who produce very good educational packages, these inputs are jointly presented by the Campus Police Officers from Police Scotland and the PSE teaching staff.

Thinkuknow parents and carers website...

This is a fairly new website for parents and carers. It is a source of information, tips and advice for parents and carers specifically focussed on online child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation.

It aims to support all parents and carers, from those who need advice on how to protect their children, to those who are concerned about something that is happening right now.

The site also provides advice for parents of children who have suffered sexual abuse.

You can find this by visiting the [Thinkuknow](#) website and following the link to the parent/carer section.

ParentInfo

ParentInfo is a free service for schools which provides expert, up-to-date content for parents and carers.

The content is written by leading authorities on a wide range of topics including online safety, sex and relationships, health and wellbeing and family life. Each article aims to help parents develop their children's resilience against the risks they may face online or off. If you wish to register, then you should visit the [Parent Info Website](#).

We would like to offer some advice to parents and carers on how to deal with some of these issues and we have attached advice on issues such as how to set the privacy settings on Facebook, how to block a post or profile and how to report an issue directly to sites such as Youtube.

TWILIGHT CLASSES

Twilight classes for Session 2017/18 commence on Week Beginning Monday 25th September.

Classes run as follows:

Monday

Subject	Level.	Teacher	Room
Geography.	N5.	Mrs Whyte.	203
Biology	N5.	Mr Rhodie	SL10
Chemistry.	Higher.	Mr McDermott	SL 1
Business	Higher.	Mr Hutchison	307
French	N5	Mrs Clunie.	109
Modern Studies	N5 / Higher.	Mr McNeill	212
RMPS	N5 / Higher.	Miss Manning	204

Tuesday

Subject	Level	Teacher	Room
Graphics	N5 / Higher.	Mrs Mulrooney.	DMG 1
Maths	Higher	Mrs Rennie.	313
Maths	N5	Mrs Stewart	311
Computing.	Higher	Mrs Williamson	208
English	Higher	Various	Various
Art and Design.	All levels.	Miss MacKay	Art 3
Photography	All levels.	Miss MacKay	Art 3
Homework Club	S1-S6	Miss Nisbet	LS1

Wednesday

Subject	Level	Teacher	Room
PE	Higher	PE	PE
PE	N5	PE.	PE
Geography	Higher	Mrs Whyte.	203
Admin and IT.	N5 / Higher	Miss Richmond	306
Health & Food Tech	Higher	Mrs McGurk	HE2
English	N5	Various	Various
Physics	Higher	Mr Bulloch	SL 6
Chemistry	N5	Miss Maher	SL 2
Computing	N5	Ms Watson	207

Thursday

Subject	Level	Teacher	Room
Music	N4-Higher	Music	Music
Physics	N5	Mr Steven	SL 5
Biology	Higher	Mr Hughes	SL 8

Art and Design.	All Levels	Mr Robertson	Art 4
Photography	All Levels	Mr Robertson	Art 4
Media	N5/Higher	Miss Sword	115

International Film Club	Lunchtime	107
SI Book Club	Lunchtime	Library
Wind Band	3.30-4.30pm	Music 2
Netball	3.30-4.30pm	Games Hall

A copy of this timetable is also available for download

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Whitburn Academy's Extra Curricular Clubs

Monday

Club Name	Time	Location
Cinema	Break/Lunch	Hall
Coding Club	Lunchtime	207
Singing Group	Lunchtime	Music 1
Spanish Club	Lunchtime	106
Enterprise Group	Lunchtime	307
Mural Club	Lunchtime	Art 4
Basketball	Lunchtime	Games Hall
Jigsaw	Lunchtime	LS 1

Tuesday

Club Name	Time	Location
Cinema	Break/Lunch	Hall
Compass Cafe	Lunchtime	213
Charity Committee	Lunchtime	306
Drama	Lunchtime	108
Gymnastics	3.30-4.30pm	Dance Studio
Football	3.30-4.30pm	Games Hall
Rugby	3.30-4.30pm	Rugby Pitch

Wednesday

Club Name	Time	Location
Cinema	Break/Lunch	Assembly Hall
RRS Group	Lunchtime	303

Thursday

Club Name	Time	Location
Cinema	Break/Lunch.	Assembly Hall
Debating Club	Lunchtime	Room 115
Science Club	Lunchtime	Science 2
"Dress Code"	Lunchtime	207
Running Club	3.30-4.30pm	PE
Multisports Club	3.30-4.30pm	Games Hall
Dance Club	3.30-4.30pm.	Dance Studio

Friday

Club Name	Time	Location
Cinema	Breaktime	Assembly Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

11.10.17	P7 Parents Information Evening
12.10.17	Midnight Marathon
16.10.17-20.10.17	October Holiday
23.10.17	In Service Day
26.10.17	Halloween Disco (S1-S2)
1.11.17	S1 Additional Support Needs Evening
30.11.17	S4-S6 Parents Evening
15.12.17	Christmas Rewards Trip
19.12.17	Christmas Concert
20.12.17-22.12.17	Help Week
25.12.17-5.1.18	Christmas Holiday
8.1.18	In Service Day

The School will be closed from Monday 16th October until Friday 20th October. There is an In Service Day for Staff on Monday 23rd October with Pupils returning on Tuesday 24th October. The Headteacher, staff and Pupils from Whitburn Academy wish you all a fun, safe and relaxing October Holiday.