

Dates for your diary:**Term dates**Summer Term starts **19 April**Summer Term ends **16 July**May Bank Holiday **3 May**Half Term **31 May- 4 June**May Bank Holiday **3 May**Sports Day **14 July**

A level and GCSE results day

12 AugustAutumn Term starts **31 August****Covid Update**

We have been gradually easing our covid protocols over the last few weeks and when the new term starts we will further ease things:

Parents and social workers can come onto site and meet in the front lounge after they have shown a negative lateral flow test (LFT) and wear masks.

Weekend visits can recommence (again, a negative LFT is required before coming back onto site).

Use of public transport can be resumed.

We will follow all the guidance and just ask that you do everything possible to minimise risk when out of school with your son.

Once again, thanks for your co-

From the Principal

What a roller coaster of a term. While I love our cold northern winters, it is always welcome to move from deep-winter gloom into the full-blown exuberance of spring and this year it feels like spring has really exploded on us. In the same way that nature is now full-steam ahead, we also have survived the claustrophobic isolation of lock down and are once again bursting out on the world. I hope the world is ready for us!

I do think the whole lock-down thing has been more of an inconvenience than anything fundamentally life-changing but it has served to remind us that:

- a. We should learn to reflect on and appreciate the everyday things that we normally take for granted (for example a game of football, a trip to the cinema or a walk on the fells with friends).
- b. What gets us through difficult times are friends and family—not x-boxes, i-pads or other ‘things’.
- c. Difficult times always end. Staying optimistic sometimes takes an effort but it always pays off.

So despite lockdown we have still managed to achieve a surprising amount. In education the news that exams were once again suspended was welcomed by some and regretted by others when they realised they now had to produce that all-important evidence for their grades. The nice thing from my point of view is that I can go around classes and see the GCSE grades building before my eyes—and there is some really good work going on.

As the weather has improved and restrictions have eased we have begun to go out more and have started to access some of the beautiful scenery that we are lucky enough to have around us. We have also managed to be resourceful though and have held some great indoor events such as the indoor crazy golf competition, pool competitions, comic relief day and the Great Whinfell Bake-Off.

We live in a data-driven world and if we are not careful we can lose sight of the ‘soft’ achievements that are not so easily measured. Getting up on time, doing your own laundry, going to the shop independently can all be key steps towards leading an independent and successful life. In the same way, the achievement I am most pleased with is that we have (so far) remained largely untouched by Covid. We have heeded the guidance, adapted to new ways of living, respected each other and kept each other safe. What better testament is there than that? To everyone, thank you and well done.

Have a happy Easter holiday
Chris

Comings and Goings

We have had the usual starters and leavers this term and it was great sadness that we said goodbye to Lucy, Gemma and Charlie in December. They were all such a big part of Whinfell and will be greatly missed.

Endings are also new beginnings though and we have been very lucky to recruit Pam who has come in as PE and geography teacher and I wish her many happy years teaching at Whinfell.

On care we have had a changing of the guard with quite a few starters since last summer: Gary, Gomer, Rhod, Martin, and Chloe have all started and Adam has returned. Also on loan from Shap Road is Donna and if we can afford the transfer fee we will try to keep her! You have all made a huge contribution. Thanks and well done.

We have also been lucky to take on board Nicola Kennelly as Clinical Psychologist. Nicola is hugely experienced, has already made a big impact and is getting a very positive response from the lads.

Last but not least we have welcomed Kyle, Callum, Harvey and Joe. I have been amazed by how well they have fitted into the Whinfell family. Well done lads; we are looking forward to great things from you all.

World Book Day 2021- By Mason Collins

On Thursday the fourth of March Whinfell School had a competition for World Book Day. The event was organised by Paddy with student help.

The first activity that we as students and teachers alike partook in was that we had to paint a potato to look like a character out of a book or a comic. Below are some of the finished results



Mason Collins Yr. 11 Deadpool and Ian Sharpe, Residential Manager - Sherlock Holmes

After this the entire school went to read a book as an inspiration for World Book Day.

There were many different books shown for example *Beauty Sleep* by Kathryn Evans that is a dark sci fi novel. An autobiography by Andrea Pirlo accounting his many struggles as a footballer and player for Juventus and other teams. There were also other methods for reading I for example used an online reading place called Wattpad to read a book as I am not into traditional reading. At the end of the day there was an award ceremony congratulating students and teachers on there work on the potatoes and as a thank you for the week Paddy bought Easter eggs as a prize to every person who participated.

Reflections on TOL

Like I have since joining Whinfell, I enjoyed participating in TOL. Despite some restrictions because of COVID, TOL has kept being an escapism from the everyday life and school classrooms and allows me to enjoy the outdoors in a variety of ways and participating in a number of activities. We've done walking which allows me to let go of certain thoughts and worries and just focus on the scenery and think about other things which a busy everyday environment may not allow you the time to do so. Other activities include biking, making nightlines and our own navigation system using natural resources. We also played stream-ball. A fun and original game involving four or five players throwing a biodegradable ping-pong ball, one at a time, into a water-stream and letting it pass a decided finish line. The winner of the race isn't who crosses the line first, but the one who has to interfere with their ping-pong ball the least using a stick to correct its course when stuck. Being able to socialise with peers is also a good element of TOL. You often have plenty of time to chat about things and get to know people better. I've enjoyed TOL as ever this half-term and look forward to getting more experiences and enjoying the outdoors after the Easter break. **Anon**



The Whinfell Crazy Golf Open

The 21st Feb 2021 saw the first official Whinfell crazy golf open and the suspense and excitement was high between the young people.

The courses, each designed by a different member of the care team, were set up around the house and each golfer was provided with a golf ball (safety ones) and a scorecard.

Each course was named, given a par and had a theme and the golfers made their way around the course in pairs.

The first hole started strong & was aptly named “the leap of faith” as after manoeuvring your way around the tricky course on the upstairs landing the hole was positioned at the bottom of the stairs.

Up next was “Chill Castle” which was situated in the chill out room and included a very artistic castle and some draw bridge action.

Outside for the next hole which was named “the Tol hole” and along with many witty TOL related signs & reminders was the lengthiest of the hole providing the scorecards with many bogeys.

Back into the building to navigate the “Wee Hole” and avoid the wild haggis & get past Nessie.

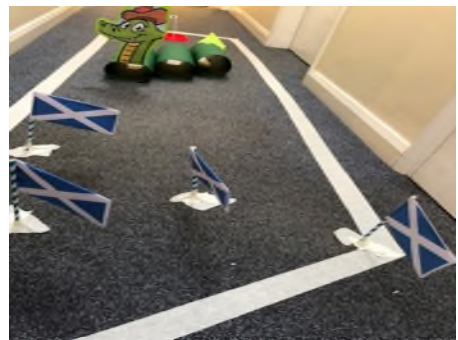
Onwards to the education end of the building and up next was “Windfell” which not only included a ramp but a windmill which you needed to get through before you could putt.

The final home was located back outside and was titled “gardeners world” which offered some narrow gaps and included many items from a typical garden again causing a few tricky shots to finish off the final hole.

The activity was a real success and it was a great effort from both the staff who designed and run the course along with the young people who took part.

There was some friendly competitiveness but also some real sportsmanship and encouragement between the peers on the way.

Some of the holes:



KENDAL GREEN

The 4 Pillars of Kendal Green.

Culinary Challenge



To provide wise to do a culinary challenge starts at 15.00 with two culi-would be greeted by the secret ping, you return to the wonders two large bags of food and no than 19.00. Everyone privileged enough to join in with the meal is a judge and will score the chefs for their cooking skill, presentation and taste. The chefs can earn extra points for their cleaning up and for guessing what the secret shopper had in mind when buying the food.



GBu's lightly dusted!

context, staff within our wonderful establishment thought it of sorts over the course of about 4 weeks. The challenge nary chef's marching to the school drive, where they shopper and her bags of goods. On collecting the shop- of the Kendal Green kitchen where you would face your greatest fear, recipe in mind. A two-course meal for six must be provided by no later

The activity outcome has been achieved by all groups, they have worked together, solved problems, used their imagination, completed the task independently and within the agreed time and the most important thing of all they have entertained and had plenty of fun throughout. A united difficulty for all groups was the thinking on the spot without any hints, but they all conquered this and should be proud of themselves.

Round 1: GBU – MCO

We were in charge of the first round, never an easy feat being the first off the mark. Mason and I collected the food in a secret meeting on the Whinfell driveway, the secret shopper looking very similar to a Jenifer we all know and love. We were a gifted a reasonable amount of food and an ungodly amount of chicken, we ended up over the course of about 2-3 hours cooking a reasonably solid meal, with Chicken Kiev's, Potatoes and chocolate and apple pastries that I considered lightly dusted with icing sugar. We even stretched out ingredients to turn the two-course in to a three-course meal, we were pleased with our achievement but glad the pressure has now lifted off our shoulders and on to PBI and BCo's.

Round 2: PBI – BCO

The second round was spearheaded by Billing and Ben, they created a meal composed of rice and garlic mushrooms with some of the best presentation of a dish that I have seen in this place, frankly the design of the dish was something I have borderline admiration for, out of all the meals cooked throughout the event, it may not have had the most distinct taste but it did have the best appearance, I am aware of the old proverb, don't judge a book by its cover, but if that cover is made from solid gold inlaid with diamonds and jade, then I will in all likelihood take a fair glance at it.

Round 3: SNE – PWI

With assistance from an external agent, Stephen, made a hotpot inspired main dish, with potatoes, chorizo and meatballs, for the dessert there was a chocolate cheesecake that did suffer from severe structural instability but ultimately tasted remarkably nice, the imperfection still weighed heavily on Stephens mind, all in all the final serving ended out being a mixed bag, while the hotpot was not to my taste, it was to others. The cheesecake was remarkably good, outdoing know brands, if it had held shape it would have been a genuine standout dessert, probably among the best cooked.

By the Whinfell Roving Reporter,

George Bullen.

Beach Day Reward by Ben Courtney

It was the Thursday when Paddy surprised me when she sent a group of us boys out to Rowan Head Beach as a reward for attendance and effort. On the way to the beach we stopped off at the shop to get some goodies for the packed lunch. Whilst we were there we played football, cricket and I made a seat out of sand by digging it out of sand by a cricket bat. I also had a session with Pam where she threw the ball and I hit it (this wasn't cricket) which was fun. The group of boys was me , Mason, Jack , Joe, Kyle, Claire ,Chris, Pam and Richard.



Comic Relief 2021

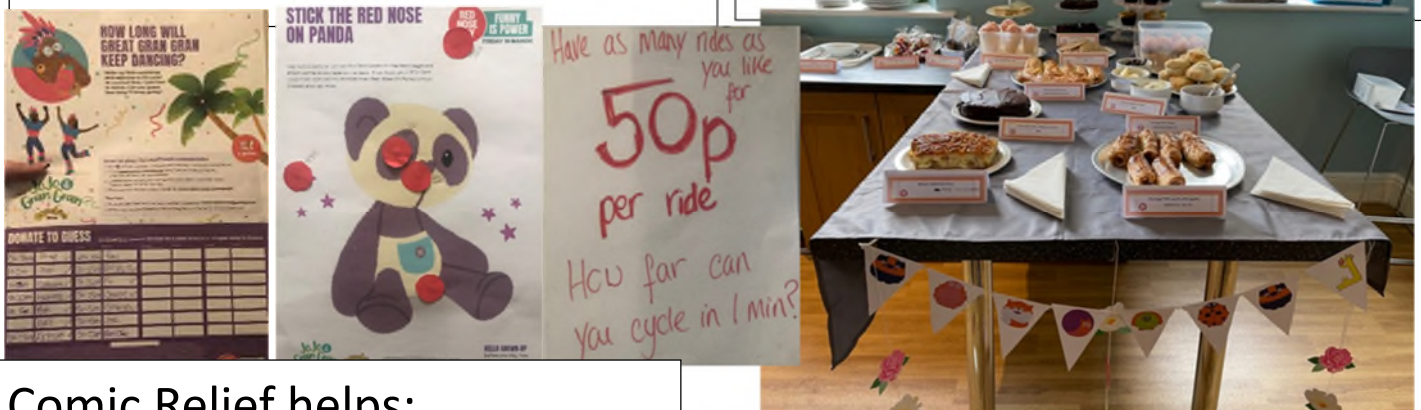
FUNDED BY
**COMIC
RELIEF**

On Friday 19th March, we all completed different activities to raise money for charity.

Some of the activities to raise money were:

- Cake Sale
- Bicycle Race
- Pull-up challenge
- Pin the nose on the panda
- Spelling test
- Sweepstake, how long did the granny dance for?

Comic Relief is a charity that helps out people in need. To get things from Comic relief you have to go to your local



Comic Relief helps:

- Homeless
- People with disabilities
- Poor people
- Disadvantaged people
- People in other countries
- Starving people
- Refugees



We raised a massive £100!

By Callum Harman

THE GREAT WHINFELL BAKE-OFF

In the last week of term we held the inaugural Whinfell Bake-Off...

The results were amazing and these photos were taken in the few brief minutes the cakes were in existence! They were scoffed rapidly as soon as they were out of the oven which was testament to both the baking skills and the appetite of their creators (and appreciators!). Thank you to everyone involved and well done.

(And a special thank you to the boys for keeping their overly-competitive teachers in check—it was only a bit of fun you know!)



...and to round off the term...



One of our successes this term has been the 'Appreciation Station' that Paddy invented to encourage recognition of the nice things we do for each other.

It seems a fitting way to end the term if I add two huge, heartfelt appreciations of my own.

I would like to thank all the staff for the enormous amount of hard work and commitment that they have once again shown this term. They are a great team and are immensely appreciated.

I'd also like to say thanks to all the lads. Like the staff, I never quite know what to expect when I come to work each day but I can guarantee I will go home with a smile on my face. Thanks for putting it there!

Now let's look forward to the summer term!

Chris