



**Wye School**  
The best in everyone™  
Part of United Learning

# Newsletter

15 October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We have arrived at the end of term 1, and what a wet and windy one it was at the start, although nicer more recently. It has been great to see our new Year 7 settle in so well, they were the easiest new year group to support in terms of finding the right rooms and getting the right bus we have had, so well done to their parents and carers for providing us with such sensible students.

## Car Engines

I had a meeting with the Wye Parish Council this week and they wanted me to ask parents and carers to be thoughtful around sitting in the school carpark or nearby with engines running. Here is an article that explains how engine fumes can harm our health:

<https://www.gedling.gov.uk/resident/latestnews/articles/council-warns-parents-of-dangers-of-car-fumes-near-schools.php>. I am happy to support this message and ask everyone in our community to be thoughtful around when we turn off our car engines.

## Planning Application

Planning application PA/2025/1180 has been passed and this formalises our status change to an 11-16 four form entry school from September 2026. This means that we will be recruiting 120 Year 7s each September going forwards. We will remain a school of 600 students with no plans for growth.

## Year 7 - Core Subject Sets

Since joining Wye School, Year 7 students have been placed in temporary sets based on the information provided by their primary schools. Over the past half term, our teachers have been getting to know your child through teaching and assessing their progress. Students have also completed a range of baseline assessments, including reading age tests, maths assessments, and an adaptive test similar to the SATs. These, alongside their SATs results and feedback from their current subject teachers, have given us a much clearer picture of each student's learning needs.

As a result, we will be moving students into sets that suit your child's ability for English, Maths, and Science from the first day back after the October half term. These sets (1–4) are designed to ensure that every student receives the most appropriate level of challenge and support to help them make the best possible progress. Some classes will be slightly larger (up to 32 students), while others—particularly Sets 3 and 4—will be smaller to allow for more targeted support from both the class teacher and our student support assistants.

Students will receive a **new printed timetable** on the first day back. You can also view your child's updated sets on **Arbor** by navigating to their calendar and scrolling forward to the week after half term.

We understand that changes to class groupings can raise questions, if you have any queries about your child's placement, please contact **Mr Pryse, Head of Year 7**, in the first instance.

## The importance of homework

Homework is a vital part of the learning process. It helps students consolidate what they've learned in class, develop independent study skills, and prepare for upcoming lessons and assessments. Regular completion of homework builds good habits, reinforces key knowledge, and supports academic progress. We appreciate

your continued support in encouraging students to take responsibility for their learning beyond the classroom. Research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) shows that homework can lead to an average of **+5 months' progress** for secondary school students when completed consistently.

To encourage completion of homework, students are awarded 1 school value point for 100% completion and effort. Students will also be issued a lunchtime detention if they have not completed their work. To check what homework your child has been set, you are able to access the Arbor Parent Portal and click see the assignments that are pending.

## **Catering update - Halloween Treats and new Autumn/Winter menu**

Please also note that there will be some changes to the lunchtime menus with effect from the start of Term 2. Please follow the links to next term's menus for a sneak preview - Autumn Winter: [Week 1](#), [Week 2](#), and [Week 3](#).

We will continue to have two main meal options every day - one meat and one veggie - plus a choice of desserts. The exception will be on Green Earth Monday when we will be offering two veggie mains.

There will be a jacket potato bar with a choice of fillings (cheese, beans, tuna mayo, salmon mayo, veggie chilli).

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, there will be a rotation of street food options based on high street restaurant brands.

- Tuesday will be 'Wok My Way', Asian inspired noodles with a selection of protein and vegetables, served in square noodle takeaway boxes.
- Wednesday is 'Flat Breadz', authentic Greek flatbreads topped with marinated chicken or a plant-based protein.
- Thursday is 'Chick'N'Run', i.e. chicken served with a range of seasoned marinades and a choice of rice.
- The marinades and rice for each concept will change each week, for example BBQ, cajun or jerk marinades in rotation, served with jollof rice, egg fried rice, rice and peas etc.

We hope to see a few more students trying the school lunch options and also enjoying the Halloween theme day treats!

## **Grim Tales Short Stories**

We're thrilled to share that a large selection of our pupils will have their *Grim Tales* short stories chosen to be published! As part of a creative writing project, they reimagined classic fairy tales with a dark or unexpected twist — and they absolutely loved the creative challenge.

Their hard work and imagination truly shone through, and we can't wait to see their stories in print. Congratulations to all our young writers!

## **Spotlight on Speech and Language**

### **Understanding ADHD and Its Link to Speech and Language Challenges**

Here at Wye school, we are committed to supporting every learner. We work closely with families, teachers, and specialists to ensure students with ADHD and speech/language needs receive the help they need to thrive.

## Supporting Every Learner: A Guide for Parents

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental condition that affects many children. While most parents are familiar with the core symptoms—such as inattention, impulsivity, and hyperactivity—fewer are aware of the strong connection between ADHD and speech and language difficulties.

### What's the Connection?

Children and teens with ADHD may struggle with various aspects of communication, including:

- Expressive Language: Difficulty organizing thoughts and expressing ideas clearly.
- Receptive Language: Challenges understanding instructions, stories, or conversations.
- Pragmatic Language: Trouble with the social use of language, such as taking turns in conversation or interpreting tone and body language.

These difficulties can impact academic performance, peer relationships, and self-esteem. Signs to look out for are: Your child often says “I don't know how to explain it” They struggle to follow multi-step instructions. They have trouble joining or maintaining conversations with peers. They frequently misunderstand jokes, sarcasm, or figurative language.

### How Can You Help?

Talk to your child without a device being used by you or them, the more you do this, the better it is. In addition:

1. Speak with School staff: If you suspect your child is struggling, reach out to their teachers or the school's SEN (Special Educational Needs) team. Early identification is key.
2. Encourage clear communication: practice storytelling, summarising, and explaining ideas at home.
3. Use visual supports: diagrams, checklists, and visual schedules can help reinforce understanding.
4. Model and teach social language: role-play conversations and discuss how to interpret tone and body language.
5. Seek professional support: Speech and Language Therapists (SaLTs) can assess and support children with ADHD-related language difficulties.

If you have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Inclusion Team or Nicky Hargrave at [office@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wyeschool.org.uk).

## SEN

As we wrap up Term 1, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all our students for their incredible effort and resilience. It's been a busy and productive term, and we're proud of the progress our young people have made.

To further support our students, we've been running a wide range of targeted interventions tailored to individual needs. These include academic, social, emotional, and communication-based support sessions designed to help every student thrive.

At the end of term, we'll be sharing a full list of the interventions your child has been involved in. You'll also be able to view this information directly on Arbor, so please do check in there for updates.

## Wye Community Farm

Miss Ward took 2 student groups along to Wye Community Farm last week. Introducing 4 new piglets born the night before. The students also helped to erect new electric fencing around the grazing area as well as lots of other farm jobs throughout the day. It was great to see some of the incredible practical skills our students have and how knowledgeable and confident they are working on the land.

We regularly visit Wye Community Farm; two groups went along last week and met 4 new baby piglets born the night before. Please contact [info@wyecommunityfarm.org.uk](mailto:info@wyecommunityfarm.org.uk) if your child would like to know more.



## Wye Outdoors

Hello and welcome to the second edition of Wye Outdoors covering all aspects of outdoor learning and enrichment on offer here at Wye School.

### Meet our outdoor team

Miss Ward & Miss Hargrave in their natural habitat

### Miss Ward HLTA/SEN Inclusion & Outdoor Mental Health Practitioner

- Favourite flower Japanese Anemone (AKA thimbleweed or windflower)
- Wild Animal – Hare
- Outdoor Place – The Woods
- Season - Autumn

**Miss Hargrave HLTA/SEN** Inclusion & Speech & Language Coordinator

- Favourite Flower – Daisy
- Wild Animal – Hedgehog
- Outdoor Place – Sea
- Season – Autumn

Spending time outdoors is incredibly beneficial for children’s physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Fresh air and natural light help improve mood and energy levels, while physical activities like running, climbing, and exploring support motor skills and overall health. Being in nature also stimulates curiosity and creativity, encouraging children to observe, ask questions, and engage in imaginative play. Socially, outdoor environments promote cooperation and communication as children interact with peers in less structured settings. Overall, regular outdoor time fosters resilience, independence, and a deeper connection to the world around them at Wye School we are lucky to have the following available to us  
Sensory Circuits & Holistic & Thrive Interventions – run every morning at the start of the school day always outdoors come rain or shine, lately our H&T group have been busy finishing off the small pond area at our allotment recently adding some bulbs, hidden away at the moment but ready to surprise us come Spring.



**Nature Club** – Every week our nature club meets up to get our hands dirty at our Beanfields allotment site (we’ve even won awards!) And Level 1,2 and 3 RHS Certificates.

**The Yurt** – A round space in a world of square spaces! Soon to be our new outdoor learning area, watch this space for more exciting news about developments to our outdoor spaces.

**Bushcrafts & Walks** during enrichment week – Den building, outdoor cooking, mud faces, whittling, hapazome, hammocks and swings building and lots more outdoor arts & crafts.

Looking to the future and what we need to achieve it:

## Help Us Grow Our Forest School!

We're excited to be developing a Forest School and outdoor learning space. To bring this vision to life, we're seeking support from our school community. If you have access to any resources—such as logs, pallets, tools, tarpaulins, outdoor seating, or natural materials—or know someone who might be able to donate items or expertise, we'd love to hear from you! Please email me directly if you can help in any way. Every contribution, big or small, will make a meaningful difference.

For talks / demonstrations / free workshops we are looking for the following who would like to offer their knowledge and wisdom as part of our Outdoor Curriculum.

- Local Crafts people
- Beekeepers
- Horticulturalists
- Animal / wildlife experts / animal charities
- Conservationists

Can you help? Items we need:

- Pallets
- Compost
- Outdoor paint
- Brooms
- Gardening Equipment
- Logs
- Plastic storage boxes



## A Huge Thank You to Old English Tools!

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Old English Tools** for their generous donation of traditional tools to support our Outdoor Learning and Allotment Group at school. Their contribution will make a real difference in helping our students connect with nature and develop practical skills in a hands-on environment.

If you're interested in woodland crafts, Old English Tools will be holding the **Woodland Craft Event** happening on **25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October** in Faversham. There will be live music and activities for the kids to try out. For more information head to their Facebook page 🌲 🛠️

Please email: [Caroline.ward@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.ward@wyeschool.org.uk) or [Nicky.hargrave@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:Nicky.hargrave@wyeschool.org.uk)

If you can help in any way Many thanks The Outdoor Learning Team



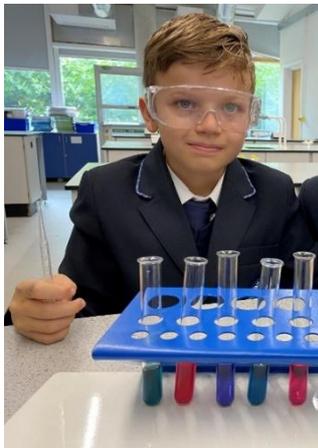
## Food Lessons

A Year 9 food, the lovely smell filled the Kempe Centre!



## STEM Club

In our first STEM club this term, students had lots of fun making red cabbage indicator and testing various household substances to find out if they are acidic, alkaline or neutral. The students really enjoyed guessing which they would be and loved seeing the pretty colours that were produced.



## Sports Round up - Term 1

### Rugby

Mr Wickington's U13 Rugby team travelled to Ashford School for friendly development action, playing two matches in one afternoon. Wye were victorious in the first match vs Ashford's Year 7 squad 14-2, with player of the match Josh producing a captain's performance. The second match vs Ashord's Year 8 was closer, the home team edging the game 9-5, with Louis POTM for Wye.

Ashford then visited Wye for U14 and U15 action. Our U15s were involved in a phenomenal game of rugby, coming from two tries down at half time to draw 25-25 in a high quality match. Joe grabbed three tries and Louis supported with two on his school debut. Four Wye players were playing in their first ever 15 aside match and every single player contributed to what was a very promising start to the season. POTM was shared between Yehor and Alfred.

The U14s worked extremely hard against a very experienced Ashford side, losing 40-15. This was however a very encouraging start to the season, with many players playing a competitive rugby match for the first time. PTOM for Wye went to George, displaying great finishing to score his hattrick.



### Boys Football

Our Year 9 boys finished Term 1 with a 100% win rate from their four games, progressing to the quarter finals of the Kent County Cup following a 3-2 victory at home to St Edmund's. The team also hold top spot in Division 2 of the District U14 league. Highlights this term have included 7-1 wins over both Chilmington Green and Brockhill.

Across our boys and girls teams Wye have totalled over twenty football fixtures this term from Year 7-11 as we contribute to the United Learning "Kick off 2026" initiative that aims to see 2,026 matches played across UL before the 2026 World Cup begins next summer in the United States.



## Girls Football

Wye's U14 Girls produced a dominating away performance against The Sittingbourne School, winning 8-0 in Round 1 of the Kent County Cup. Player of the match was Evie, who produced some excellent link up play throughout the game.

In September our U16 girls took to the field for their first game of the season vs Herne Bay High, also in Round 1 of the Kent County Cup. Wye found themselves 2-0 down inside 20 minutes but an outstanding hat trick from Molly fired our girls - last season's semi finalists - through to round two with a 3-2 victory.



## Cross Country

Congratulations to Josh (second right) in Year 7 who finished in third place at last Thursdays District Cross Country Championships, held at Brockhill Park. Josh claimed his bronze medal from a field of over 80 runners and has qualified for the Ashford District Schools Team which will compete in the Kent Cross Country Championships early next year.

Our Year 7 boys team also finished as third overall in the team categories. Well done to Josh, Hunter, Jack, Buddy, Liam and Rupert who all contributed to the team's performance. Wye also finished as **third overall combined school** out of the



twelve competing schools across both Ashford and Shepway Districts and were the highest placed non selective school in the Year 7 girls, Year 8/9 combined girls, and overall girls categories. A magnificent set of achievements that further highlight the talent and resilience our students show in athletics based events.



## Netball

Netball has been in full swing this term with matches across all year groups vs North, Highworth, John Wallis and Homewood, as well as district tournament appearances for Year 10 and 11. **The outstanding achievement however goes to our Year 10 girls who performed magnificently as they were crowned District Champions at the recent FSG tournament.** There were outstanding performances from each and every member of the team as Wye won all seven of their scheduled matches on the night. Miss Lulham is incredibly proud of all of the girls who are such a fantastic group and a joy to take to fixtures. Other

netball highlights this term have included Year 11's 14-3 victory over North and a 12-5 success for Year 10 vs John Wallis. Star performances have come from Jasmine (Year 10) Illeana (Year 9), Anesu (Year 10), and Molly (Year 11).

## Student Spotlight

### Givaudan 10k, Kennington

Huge congratulations to **Ellie** in Year 11 who took part in the Givaudan 10k event in Kennington on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2025 to raise money for 'The Campaign Against Living Miserably'. Ellie completed the course with 1,000 other runners and received a medal for taking part. Well done Ellie who has raised over £500 for charity!





## Taekwondo Competition – Emma, Year 7

We are incredibly proud of Emma, who competed in her first Taekwondo competition and brought home an impressive set of awards:

- Silver trophy – Individual Pattern
- Silver medal – Sparring
- Bronze medal – Team Pattern

Emma showed fantastic skill, determination, and sportsmanship. A brilliant start to what we are sure will be a successful journey in martial arts!

## Showjumping

Congratulations to **Dolly** in Year 7 on her excellent performance at the recent National Championships held at Hickstead . Dolly did extremely well and was placed in second reserve champion in her qualifying class.



We have been asked by the Welldene Dental Practice in Ashford (25 Canterbury Road, TN24 8JY) to 'share a community initiative we're really proud of. In partnership with the 'Give Kids a Smile' program, we're offering **40 free dental checkups** for children aged 0 to 16.

We understand that some families face challenges accessing dental care, whether due to cost, availability, or other barriers, and we want to help make oral health support more accessible for every child in our local area.' For further information, click [here](#).

## The Hope Tree Autumn Half Term Activities

Please follow [link](#) to view the Hope Tree holiday activities taking place over the half-term week.

### Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
15 October 2025		Last day of term
29 October 2025		First day of term
3 – 14 November 2025		Year 11 and 13 Mock exams in Sports Hall
10 December 2025		Y8 Parents Evening - Virtual
19 December 2025		Last day of term Non-uniform day Students finish at 12:15 pm

### Conclusion

Let's take a moment to appreciate the incredible privilege our students and staff enjoy. Their journey of learning unfolds not just within classroom walls, but amidst a school blessed with some of the most beautiful and inspiring surroundings.



Parents and carers of children with SEN may be aware that Kent County Council is changing the way it supports schools for SEN. The centre of this is replacing individual Higher Needs Funding for a student with a new Locality Model which will see funding shared by communities of schools and aimed more at supporting groups of students, and less at supporting individuals. It will also likely see the funding provided directly to schools reduce over time. At the moment schools can sometimes get extra funding to help individual children called Higher Needs Funding, this would typically be how a student has a teaching assistant to support them. The changes will involve a transition away from High Needs Funding for individual pupils towards a system whereby schools apply for funding, resources and external support for provisions and whole school interventions e.g. not a TA for one child but maybe a support group for more children or similar. To find out more about Kent's proposed funding changes, further information can be found on Kent County Council's website: <https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/localities-model-for-school-inclusion/communities-of-schools>

This coincides with the government also looking afresh at the SEN system in England and we expect updates this year on what they plan to change:

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/mar/03/ministers-plan-major-changes-to-send-education-in-england#:~:text=The%20government%20is%20preparing%20a%20white%20paper,their%20child%20will%20get%20the%20right%20support>

I hope you all have a good half term and look forward to welcoming back everyone for Term 2.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee  
Principal