



Wye School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

17 July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

The 2024/25 academic year is drawing to a close, with just the GCSE and A Level results to arrive over the summer; good luck to all our Year 11s and Year 13s, and their parents/carers! It has been a warmer year than normal, but students and staff all coped. The items in this newsletter feature a lot of different co-curricular things that our students have taken part in over recent weeks. Most organised by Wye School, one or two by parents, one in collaboration with other local United Learning Schools. Some involved parents and community volunteers helping deliver things for us, thank you again to all who gave up their time like this. There is also an item below thanking our Local Governing Body, many of you know Margaret Williams but you may not all know the wider Local Governing Body, a group of local people who give up their time to support us around governance. All of these different people who help us are our community, and at the centre of it are our staff and parents/carers. It has been a joy to see so many opportunities this year for our students, on top of their academic work.

Staff Leavers

I would like to say goodbye to some staff who are moving on in September. Thank you to them all for the contribution they have made during their time with us. Helen Haworth is returning to special education, after making a strong contribution to our Art and Food department over the last four years. Reyah Burnett is taking a break from teaching after being with us for two years, we wish her luck with her next steps. Lydia McCorriston has been our SENCO for 6 years and is moving out of education, at least for now. Thank you Lydia for all the support you have given our SEN students, and their parents and carers, over that time. Cheryl Webb has been with us for 5 years and worked with our SEN and looked after children. She is moving to a promotion in the Local Authority, we wish her well with it.

As a result of the changes above Nicola Ash and Karen Henderson, current staff, will take over from Lydia as SENCO and Deputy SENCO. Graeme Henderson, current staff, will take over from Helen as Head of Art and Food. He will be joined by two new staff, Katy Lockey and James Russell in Art and Food. Fran McCormick will replace Graeme as Head of Year 8 (as they become Year 9). In Science, Tara Mitchell and Claire Neall will take over from Reyah.

School Meals - Changes to Tariff

From September 2025, we will be applying a small price increase to our catering tariff in line with inflation costs. The main meal and pudding deal will be £2.90 and a 5% increase will be applied to all other items. We would love to see more students make use of our breakfast service, a reminder of the food options available upon arrival at school can be found [here](#). This shows the new pricing for next year.

Celebrating our Local Governing Body (LGB) and our place in United Learning

As we come towards the end of the Academic Year, there are always so many people that I want to say thank you to.

But there is one particular group that rarely gets the thanks it deserves; our Local Governing Body (LGB).

Every great school relies on the volunteers who make up its LGB and we are extremely fortunate to have a group of highly motivated, skilled and committed Governors who give their time and expertise to the school.



Our LGB, which is chaired by Margaret Williams, has an extremely important role in our relationship with United Learning and in how we take forward both our short and long term strategies for the school.

To mark the importance of local governance across the Group, United Learning has given each school a 'share' in the Group and has made each LGB Chair a legal shareholder with a vote at an Annual General Meeting (AGM). By doing so, the Group ensures that its current approach of building local views into its national decision-making is guaranteed for the future.

The first AGM took place at the end of last term and, after the meeting, Christian Brodie, Chair of United Learning Group Board and Sir Jon Coles presented Margaret Williams with our share certificate.

As Principal, it is extremely important to me to know that we have support and challenge both at a national and regional level through United Learning and, very locally, through our LGB.

In this way, we are able to benefit from the sharing of national best practice and oversight whilst retaining our own identity and character as a school and be able to respond to the needs of our local community here in Wye.

Thank you to all our LGB members for everything that you do.

Emails going to Junk

We have had messages from parents telling us that something happened in June and emails from school started to go into their junk box when they didn't before. It might be worth checking if this has happened to you. Although how you will know I don't know as this newsletter will be in your junk box.....



We also held a Principal's breakfast for Year 7, (photo above) and Years 9 and 10 (right)

Principal's Breakfast

Principal's Breakfast for unsung heroes in Year 8, it was great to talk to them about how their year has gone.



2025-2026 Timetables and setting

We're pleased to let you know that your child's timetable for the 2025–2026 academic year will be available to view on Arbor from midday on Friday, 18th July.

To access it, simply log in to Arbor, click on your child's calendar, and scroll forward to September. Alongside the timetable, you'll also be able to see the core subject sets your child has been placed in.

These sets are carefully determined using a combination of end-of-year assessment data and teachers' professional judgement, taking into account your child's progress and performance in the classroom. Our aim is to ensure that every student receives the most appropriate support in their core subjects, helping them to thrive and make the best possible progress.

If you have any questions once the timetables are released, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

Summer work for students

As we approach the summer holidays, we want to wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable break. While relaxation is important, we also encourage students to spend a little time reviewing key topics from this academic year. This will help strengthen their long-term memory and ensure they return in September feeling confident and prepared.

To support this, we recommend reviewing the comments in your child's end-of-year report, which highlight specific areas they may benefit from revisiting. Students can use their exercise books and our online learning platforms to guide their review.

Year 10 Summer Work

Year 10 students have been assigned specific **compulsory** summer work, which is available on Arbor. We strongly advise that this work is completed gradually over the six-week break, rather than all at once as this will help them be ready for their final GCSE year at Wye. Spacing out revision helps students retain information more effectively and reduces stress whilst making sure that they are confident to start Year 11.

Why spacing work throughout the summer matters: The Forgetting Curve

Research shows that we forget new information quickly if we don't revisit it. This is known as the *forgetting curve*. However, by reviewing material at regular intervals, we can slow down this forgetting and strengthen memory over time. This is why spreading out work over the summer break and reviewing content from the academic year is so beneficial—it helps students retain what they've learned and build a stronger foundation for their next year.

Wye Summer Reading Challenge

Join the Wye Summer Reading Challenge!

This summer, we invite all students to participate in our exciting reading challenge. Here's how you can get involved:

1. **Read 5 Books:** Choose any five books that interest you.
2. **Write a Review:** Share your thoughts on your favourite summer read by writing a review.
3. **Submit Your Review:** Hand in your review to Mrs. Skilton or Miss Hunter.

Prizes and Recognition:

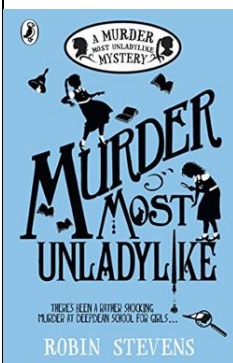
- **Earn a Prize:** Every student who completes the challenge will receive a prize and value points.
- **Add to the Reading Tree:** You'll also get to add a leaf in your college colour to our reading tree, showcasing your achievement!

For some great book recommendations, see below!

Below are some reading recommendations based on what we have been learning. Consider what you have enjoyed this year, and then find the linked book. Let your teacher know what you have read for a reward!

The Crime of Murder

Try 'Murder Most Unladylike'

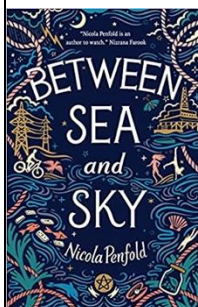


At Deapdean School for Girls, Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have set up their own detective agency. But they are struggling to find any real crimes to investigate...(Unless you count the case of Lavinia's missing tie. Which they don't.) Then Hazel discovers the Science Mistress, Miss Bell, lying dead in the Gym. To add to the mystery, when she and Daisy return five minutes later, the body

has disappeared.

Learning about environmental issues

Try 'Between Sea and Sky'

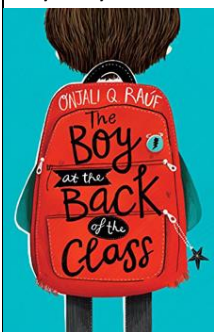


In a near future where a series of environmental disasters has left much of the country underwater, Pearl lives on a floating oyster farm with her father and younger sister, Clover. Following her mum's death several years earlier, Pearl refuses to set foot on land, believing her illness was caused by the poisons in the ground.

Meanwhile, Clover dreams of school, friends and a normal life.

Reading about refugees

Try 'Boy at the Back of the Class'



There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away

from a War. A real one.

A Story from different perspectives

Try 'The Good Hawk'

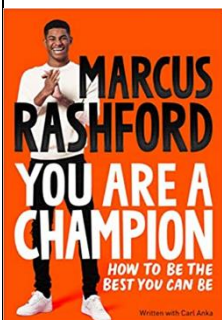


If everything was taken from you, what would you do to get it back? Agatha patrols the sea wall with pride, despite those in her clan who question her right to be there, because of the condition she was born with. Jaime is a reluctant Angler, full of self-doubt and afraid of the sea. When disaster strikes, the pair must embark on a terrifying journey to a land where forgotten

magic and dark secrets lurk in every shadow...

The Marcus Rashford extract

Try 'You are a Champion'



Marcus Rashford MBE is famous worldwide, but before he was a footballer, and long before he started his campaign to end child poverty, he was just an average kid from, Manchester. Now the nation's favourite footballer wants to show YOU how to achieve your dreams, in this positive and inspiring guide.

A difficult journey

Try 'Asha and the Spirit Bird'



Asha lives in the Himalayas. Money is tight and she misses her papa who works in the city. When he suddenly stops sending his wages, a ruthless moneylender ransacks their home and her mother talks of leaving. Asha makes a pact, to find her father and make things right. But the journey is dangerous.

Happy reading, and we look forward to seeing your reviews!



Wye Library Visit

One of our Year 8 English classes recently enjoyed a trip to the local library in Wye. The students explored a wide range of books and discovered new genres to fuel their love for reading. They were also given Kent Libraries membership cards which will allow them access to the books and resources at any Kent Library over the summer and beyond. It was a fantastic opportunity and we hope to be back soon!



Careers

We are thrilled to share the incredible success of our recent **Careers Fair**, which took place on this term. With over **35 different career representatives, universities, and colleges** in attendance, the event was a vibrant and inspiring showcase of opportunities for our students.

From engineering and healthcare to media, law, and the creative arts, students had the chance to explore a wide range of career paths and educational options. Representatives from top universities and colleges provided valuable insights into courses, admissions, and campus life, while professionals from various industries shared their experiences and advice.

The atmosphere was buzzing with curiosity and enthusiasm as students engaged in meaningful conversations, asked thoughtful questions, and gathered resources to help guide their future decisions. Many students commented on how eye-opening and motivating the event was.



We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, staff, and external guests who helped make the day such a success. Your support continues to play a vital role in shaping our students' futures.



Combined Cadet Force Summer Camp

This year, our cadets are at Longmoor Camp for the annual CCF Summer Camp. Cadets have an activity-filled week, with camping, water sports, climbing walls, paintballing, and ranges, to name but a few.

CCF is open to all students from Year 8 onwards, and every year cadets have the opportunity to develop their confidence and leadership. As a joint section across three schools, our cadets come together at Ashford School each week with cadets from both Ashford School and Chilmington Green School. We are fortunate to be able to offer CCF, and to have such dedicated cadets year after year. One of our outgoing Year 11s was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant, a huge achievement. Other cadets also received their promotions at the CCF Parade for the 59th Heavy Artillery Regiment which took place at Ashford School on the 28th June. If your child would like to join cadets from September, please get in touch with Ms Davis in the new school year.



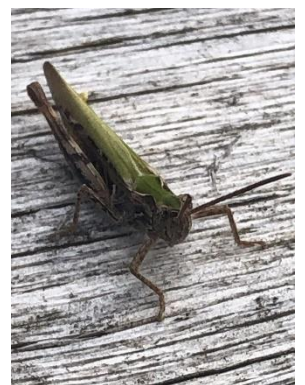


Wye Outdoors

This summer the students have been enjoying lots of outdoor activities including Nature Club, visits to the Community Farm, holistic & thrive interventions and wild walks:

Nature Club

Included some detective work finding out what creatures have decided to make our Beanfields Allotment site their home -



Holistic & Thrive

Students have been busy in the mornings making a small pond area to keep our wildlife happy in the hot weather so that we can start to monitor some small pond life for our biology projects. It will help encourage us to think about our local ecology, nature life cycles and local habitats -





Down on The Farm

More students visited the farm this month allowing for greater opportunities to learn about where our food comes from and how to manage livestock. The students as always are kept very busy and thoroughly enjoy the day out from mending fencing, cleaning cows, catching chickens and the obligatory fill up the pig ponds!



It's lovely to see our students developing a bond and appreciation of the natural environment. Our Nature Club will soon be receiving their RHS Level 3 in Gardening for schools' certificate so well done to them, we are incredibly lucky to have such wonderful wildlife in Wye and surrounding areas to explore and look after.



Congratulations to Poppy for competing at Highstead

Poppy practised very hard with her horse Hinckley to get themselves into the qualifiers at Hickstead. They did amazingly well and can't wait to return again. What a lovely day.



Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to our Year 9 and 10 Duke of Edinburgh students who completed their expedition sections for the Bronze and Silver levels respectively. Year 9s had to combat hot weather and a thunderstorm preventing them from camping and Year 10s with a very hot final day but all did it with excellent effort and demonstrated their camping and navigation skills. Good luck for completing the award



Emotional Wellbeing Team

Please see attached a couple of SWAYS from the Emotional Wellbeing team that may be of interest.

[July 2025 - Emotional Wellbeing Newsletter](#)



When you're a teenager (around 11-19 years old), your brain is doing a lot of growing and changing. It's like your brain is getting a makeover to get ready for adulthood.

[Your Amazing Brain!](#)

Foster Carers

Ethelbert Fostering Services are a Kent based fostering agency who are looking to find individuals and families who might be interested in becoming foster carers. For more information, please see [here](#).



Kent Police

Please see links from KCC. The first is a [summer safety letter](#) in response to an increase in catapult related incidents at various locations across the county. The second their [e-scooter guidance leaflet](#) as we are also seeing an increase in their activity.

SPORTS NEWS



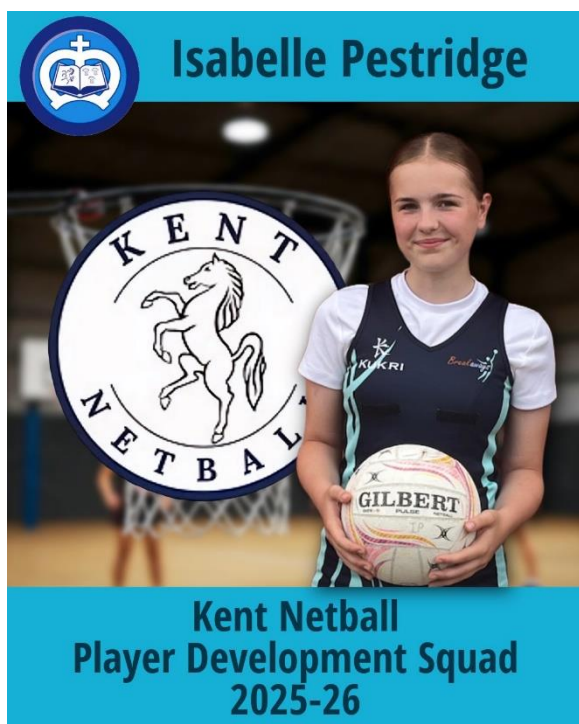
Sports Day 2025

Sports Day will be on Monday 21st July. All students are to come to school in PE kit and we encourage students to wear house colours where they can. The morning will see a mix of athletics field events and alternative activities such as benchball, tug of war and banner making, followed by an afternoon of exciting action on the school field for the track events finale. There will also be the annual sixth form fund raising activities on the field at the same time so students are encouraged to bring a small amount of money/cash to be able to take part in these.

Good luck to everyone for our final house competition of the year!

National Trampoline Success

On July 5th/6th Year 8 student **Laura Javorska** competed in the English Gymnastics Trampoline Championships in Coventry. Laura produced a personal best score to finish first overall in the silver category, an incredible achievement competing at national level. We congratulate Laura for her hard work and dedication and look forward to hearing how she develops her performances next year competing on an international level.



County Netball Selection.

Congratulations to **Isabelle Pestridge** in Year 7 who has been selected for the Kent Netball Player Development Squad for 2025/26. We wish Isabelle all the very best for next season playing with and against the best players at county level.

Football Tour 2025

Wye school are currently in Madrid for this year's summer football tour. Forty boys and girls from Year 7-10 are having a fantastic week training at the Atletico Madrid academy, playing footgolf, touring the Metropolitano and Bernabeau stadiums, and playing matches against local Spanish opposition. The group will spend a day at a theme park today before heading home tomorrow. The Spanish heat has been intense but all students have been a credit to the school and have had a great time. Thank you to Mr Millward for all of his efforts in putting the trip together and to Ms Moorat, Mr Maisey, and Mr Sparks for staffing the trip.





Schools Tennis

Wye School hosted a range of tennis events this term with schools from Norton Knatchbull, Highworth, Towers and North competing. Well done to all our boys and girls who produced some great performances over the past few weeks. Below are some images of our boys players, with the stand out result coming from Ben and Liam in Year 9 who won the U15 boys tournament, as well as Tom and Jayden who came third.



Year 8's Wild Day Out at the Big Cat Sanctuary

Year 8 had an amazing time on their trip to the Big Cat Sanctuary! We kicked things off with a fun and interactive workshop all about how wild cats have adapted to survive in the wild. From learning how cheetahs use their speed to catch prey to how snow leopards blend into snowy mountains, it was fascinating to see how each species is built for its environment. After that, we went on a tour of the sanctuary and got to see some incredible big cats up close—including lions, tigers, and even a jaguar! It was a brilliant day full of learning, excitement, and a few roars along the way.



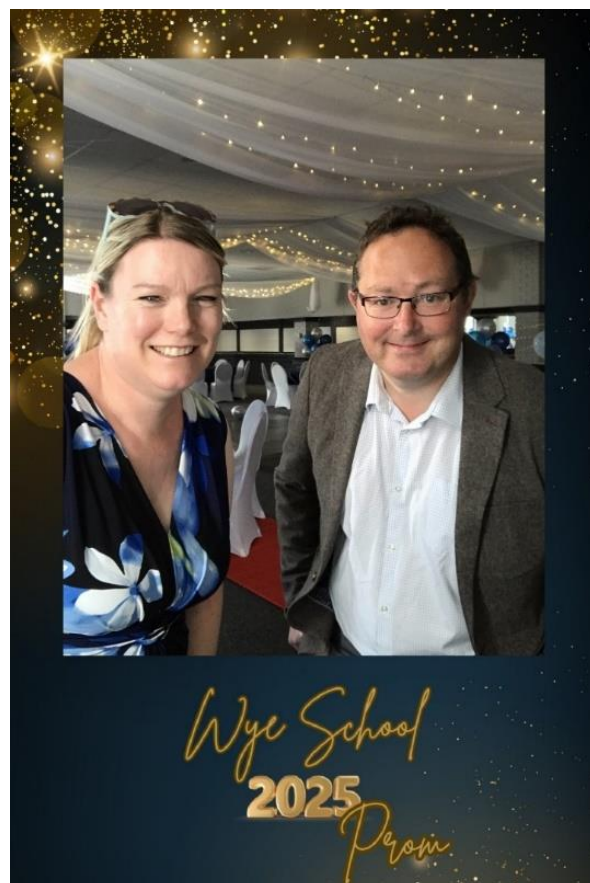


Year 11 Prom

Our Prom moved to a new venue, the town football club, this year. This allowed room for grand arrivals, such as below and also allowed space for parents to initially join us and take photos and be proud of their Year 11s as they marked the end of their main school days.



Thank you to Riona Sparks and Sharon McMahon, as well as Head of Year Matt Pryse, for the organising and room decorating. I am afraid I didn't get permissions from the Year 11s on the night to share the photos of them in their finery, so, you will have to put up with Riona and I trying out the prom photo machine!



Key Dates

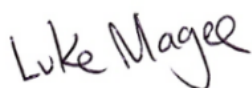
Date	Time	Event
16 – 18 July 2025		Enrichment Days
21 July 2025		Sports Day
22 July 2025		Non-Uniform day
22 July 2025		Last day of term – students finish at 12:15 pm

Conclusion

I hope you all have a good summer and look forward to seeing all our current Year 7-10s and 12s again in September. We got to know the current Year 6s, our new Year 7s, during their transition and can already say they are going to be a great addition to our school, as indeed were their friendly and committed parents/carers.

Over the summer we don't staff the school but I will monitor the office@wyeschool.org.uk email address. Please put 'urgent' in the subject box if there is anything important you need us to know over the summer and I will make sure it gets to the right people. Anything that isn't urgent will be addressed on the two INSET days before the students return in September.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal