



Wye School
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Newsletter

11 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2025/26 academic year. It has been a lovely start with our new Year 7s settling in very well. I will start the year telling you a bit more about the end of term and the summer.



A Level results came in mid-August and we had a lovely results morning where we wished good luck to our leaving Year 13s, telling them we hoped their next steps in life would bring happiness and success. In the picture Connie, on the left, is off to King's College to study Music, Emma and Emma to the University of Kent to study History and Sociology. Every Year 13 that wanted to go to university had an acceptance on the day, almost all straight away in the morning, it was an unusually fast results day with everything done and dusted after an hour.



This was followed a week later by GCSE results which was another happy morning where our students found out their grades and made their plans for Post 16 study. We again were able to say well done, and good luck, to all for getting to this point in life, leaving mainstream school, setting out on their next steps in education and then employment. As a year group 78% of them got Grade 4+ in Maths and English, which is called the Basics measure and the equivalent of the old C grade. This was higher than last year and we are very proud of them for doing so well, the England average was 67%.

Year 11 Information Evening

It was great to see so many parents at the Year 11 information evening this week. If you were unable to make it, the slides are now available on our website: <https://www.wyeschool.org.uk/parents/how-to-support-my-childs-progress>

Homework

Homework plays a vital role in supporting students' learning beyond the classroom. It helps reinforce key concepts taught in lessons, encourages independent study habits, and allows students to take ownership of their progress. Regular completion of homework also helps teachers identify areas where students may need additional support, ensuring that every learner can thrive. By engaging with homework, students build resilience, responsibility, and confidence in their abilities—skills that are essential for success both in school and in life.

Homework is available to view on Arbor. Students will receive the following compulsory homework at Wye and will receive a school value point each time they complete their homework fully.

Key Stage 3

Maths	English	Science	MFL	History/Geography/RS
1 hour per week	1 hour per week	20 minutes per week	20 minutes per fortnight	20 minutes per fortnight

Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
1 hour per examined subject per week	Average of 1 hour per taught lesson (10 hours per fortnight)

Year 8 in the News

Chester in Year 8 hit the local news over the summer for designing a 'metro-map' for Ashford, inspired by the one for Hong Kong. You can read the story [here](#)

Sports Day Results 2025

Sports day was a rather wet one sadly in July, but we enjoyed it anyway, thank you to all staff and students who helped make something of the day despite the damp. The results were that Olantigh House finished overall first, and Kempe House won the lower school competition. Well done to both, and to everyone who took part.



Gymnastics Silver 1st

Year 8 student Laura competed in the English Gymnastics Trampoline Championships in Coventry. Laura produced a personal best score to finish 1st overall in the U13 silver category, an incredible achievement competing at national level. She then went on to, with her partner, retain their U15 and O15 synchro titles at the Kent Championships. Laura then finished second in the U15 advanced individual category, competing against performers two school years above her! Congratulations Laura!

Facebook Page

We have a new Facebook page. We will post occasional information about what we have been doing at school to complement our twitter pages '@wyeschoolkent' and '@pe_wye'. This is not intended as a communication tool, please contact the school office directly if you wish to talk to us.

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Wye-School/61578750445194/>



Escaped Bird of Prey

We had some drama over the weekend at the start of term when an escaped bird of prey from an aviary chased a pigeon into the anti-pigeon netting on one of our buildings. We need the netting as large numbers of pigeons were gathering and creating sanitary issues with their mess around the school eating and sitting areas. The bird of prey was then seen by members of the village in our netting and rescued by a local bird of prey expert. It has now been reunited with its owner.

Vaping and Energy Drinks

I noticed this BBC article on the dangers of vaping for teenagers and in particular noted that 25% of vapes confiscated from children when tested for drugs were found to contain them, often without the child knowing. We do not currently have a particular problem with vaping in school; it did become a bit of an issue after the return from COVID but has very much calmed down over the last two years. However, I am aware that some of our students do vape outside school and I would urge you as their parents/carers to read the article and work to stop them doing so. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj3l231xz5ko>

Whilst we are on this sort of topic, I also saw an article on energy drinks:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/c0r0wn5lvz7o?app-referrer=search>

The government is considering banning them for under 16s in England, and already, many shops don't sell them to under 16s. If you read the back of an energy drink they say 'not suitable for children, pregnant women or sensitive people.' This is because they are high in sugar and caffeine, with one small energy drink being the same as drinking three cans of full sugar and caffeine coca cola. Energy drinks are not allowed in school and will always be confiscated, for all students and 6th formers. I have over time had conversations with students who thought an energy drink was a breakfast replacement, and even whose parents had given it to them as such. It really is not a good idea to give a growing child or teenager an energy drink.

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Policy

Please find attached our RSE and Health Education Policy, which we are putting out for consultation. If you have any feedback about the policy, please contact Nicola.Ash@wyeschool.org.uk. We will be consulting on the policy until Monday 27 October 2025 before publication on our website.

School Value Points

You may have noticed you've started to receive emails when your child receives school value points. In response to parental feedback, we have decided to trial this and hope you will see a positive response with your child.



Enrichment Week – Trench Warfare

During enrichment week, Year 8 and 9 students got to immerse themselves when learning about trench warfare. Students were able to use virtual reality goggles and explore how a trench was designed, the weapons used and injuries that were common for soldiers. The students also got to look at real WW1 artefacts alongside this. It was such a unique and exciting experience!

Council preparing draft Local Plan for Consultation

Ashford Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough and is inviting local communities to get involved in the process. See [here](#) for further details on how to 'Have your Say'.

The council will be consulting on a draft version of the Plan, known as a Regulation 18, for eight weeks from Monday 18 August to Monday 13 October 2025. The consultation will be live on the council's website on 18 August, and a series of public events are planned for September and October.

A Local Plan provides the opportunity to shape the places that we live, work and socialise. It addresses housing and employment needs and provides a series of planning policies covering many other topics such as community facilities and infrastructure, the natural and historic environment, adapting to climate change and achieving well designed places. Although the general principle of the plan is to encourage growth within the economy of Ashford and plan housing delivery, our Local Plan will also seek to protect Ashford's valued assets including our landscapes, heritage, and open spaces for leisure and nature.

Once adopted, the policies within a Local Plan are used as the starting point to decide planning applications for future development.

This consultation is the first formal consultation stage of the plan-making process and follows a series of community engagement events held last year entitled 'Our Local Plan Explained'. These events were held to engage the community at the earliest stage of the process so that the community could find out what the Local Plan is, how to get involved and to understand the plan-making process.

Cllr Linda Harman, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing Delivery & Communications said: "This draft Local Plan sets out the Council's direction of travel on a number of key planning matters. This first formal stage of the Local Plan process seeks residents' views. Everyone is affected by planning so it's important that we give residents and organisations an opportunity to have their say and to help shape our emerging Local Plan. I very much hope that people will engage in the process. By working together with residents and other stakeholders we can ensure that development is appropriate and delivers the affordable homes and infrastructure that our borough needs."



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fMvjf4jSPI0>

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
15-19 Sept 2025		Year 7 NGRT A testing
09 Oct 2025		Post 16 Options Evening
14 Oct 2025		Year 7 Tutor Group Parents Evening
15 Oct 2025		Last day of term
29 Oct 2025		First day of term for students

Age Concern Jumble Sale

Good quality second hand items needed. Please see the following [link](#) for more information about how to donate items, and [here](#) for details relating to Age UK's jumble sale which is being held on Saturday 27 September 2025.

RAF Manston History Museum

We are the RAF Manston History Museum, a museum located in Manston, Kent, dedicated to preserving and educating the public on the history of Manston as an RAF base. We are delighted to confirm that we are holding our 'Wings & Wheels 2025 event this weekend. Please see [here](#) for further information. There is no need to book.

Party in the Park

Harper's Cafe are hosting and 'End of Summer' party in Victoria Park, Ashford on Sunday 21 September from 10:00 am onwards. Click [here](#) for more information.

Conclusion

Attendance to school is in the news a lot at the moment with the government talking to parents about it at the start of term. Here is an example article:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg7jk3rr225o>

The 2024/25 academic year saw a big jump in our attendance overall compared to the years after COVID. We are very pleased with that as the best way to learn is to be in school every day. This year has started well, especially Year 11 who have had a really strong start with almost 100% attendance every day so far. This is giving them a great start to their exam year. Please do contact our pastoral team if there is any support we can give to help your child have strong attendance.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal