



Dear Parents/Carers

I don't remember a term as wet as this one has been before! One pleasing thing has been to see that almost all students now bring in a coat when it is raining. It has been a busy term, Crown House have been winning the Spelling Bee in each year group, sports fixtures have been plentiful and Years 7-10 have been sitting their mid-year assessments, and teachers marking them all. We have included some of the highlights in this newsletter.

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 compulsory homework frequency

Maths	English	Science	MFL	History/Geography/RS
1 hour per week Due Wednesdays	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)

Yr 7-10 Sets in core subjects

We have been reviewing class groupings for Years 7–10 following the midpoint of the academic year. These updated sets are based on students' mid-year assessment results alongside their ongoing classwork. The new groupings are designed to ensure every student is supported and challenged to achieve their full potential for the remainder of the year.

You will be able to see your child's new set from lunchtime on Thursday 12th February by opening their timetable calendar and navigating to next half term.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

PE Uniform- Year 8

After half term, we will be requiring Year 8 students to come to school in their PE Uniform on PE days. This will remove the need for Year 8 students to change for PE lessons, increasing the amount of time spent doing PE. This approach has been very successful with our current Year 7s, and an expansion to other year groups was recently requested by our Student Council.

PE Uniform must be worn in line with our [Uniform Policy](#) (as outlined below), and all health and safety guidance adhered to. Items such as studded boots, shin pads, gum shields that may be required for a specific sport must still be brought in.

Wye School PE Uniform for Year 8

Compulsory

Wye School PE T-Shirt*

Wye School PE Shorts*; or Wye School PE Joggers*; or Wye School PE Leggings*; or plain black or navy-blue sports leggings or tracksuit bottoms.

White socks and trainers

Long navy-blue socks are required for students who are participating in football, rugby, and hockey. A gum shield will be required if students are taking part in rugby or hockey. Studded boots and shin pads are also required for football and hockey.

N.B. Skorts and hoodies are not part of the Wye School PE uniform for Year 8. These items used to be compulsory for older year groups but are being phased out and are not part of the Year 8 PE Uniform so will not be accepted.

Optional

Wye School PE Sweatshirt*

For winter, students are permitted to wear plain navy blue or black skins / long sleeved tops underneath their PE T-Shirt and/or a plain, navy jumper.

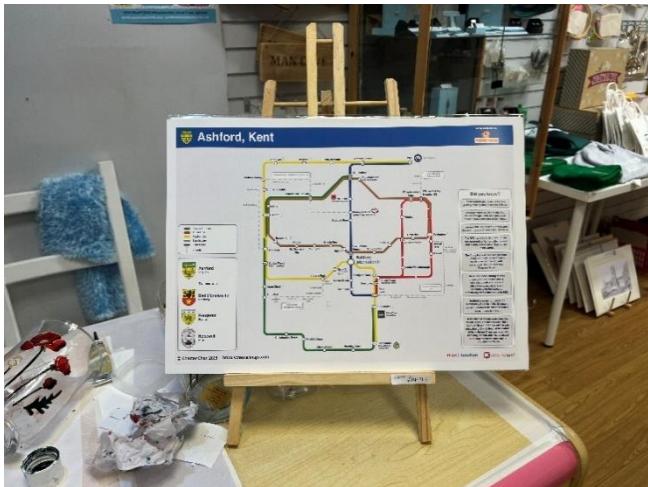
If your child is ill or injured, they will be given a 'non-performing' role during PE lessons and are still expected to be in full PE uniform. Non-performers will be assigned roles ranging from that of leader, official, coach or carrying out analysis tasks associated with the lesson content. An email or phone call explaining the illness or injury is also required so that PE staff are aware of those students who are not able to participate physically.

*These items of uniform are only available from our uniform supplier, Pages, www.pages-schoolwear.co.uk. For online orders, Pages offer free delivery to the school. Their Ashford shop is at Unit 13, Ashford Market, Monument Way, Orbital Park, Ashford, TN24 0HB. Tel: 01233 501300. Email: info@pages-schoolwear.co.uk



Logging Absences on Parent Portal and Arbor App

Please note that from 5 January 2026, it will be possible to record absences on the Parent Portal and Arbor App. You can only record same-day absences, so for any extended or future absences, please contact the Attendance Officer on 01233 811 119 or email attendance@wyeschool.org.uk. For further information, please [click here](#).



Mayoral Award

Chester in Year 8 was commended by the Mayor of Ashford for his transport map of Ashford, which he designed based on the London Tube Map. It is a lovely map and can be purchased at 'Made in Ashford' in County Square. Well done Chester.



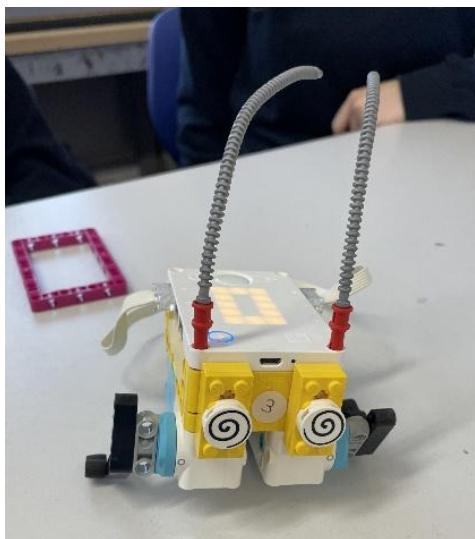
Gladiators

A group of students attended the Gladiators event and thoroughly enjoyed dodgeball, pickleball and cup stacking amongst other events, this is always a popular morning event.



Royal Navy

Royal Navy careers visited school and ran a mixture of talks and activities with a range of students, including putting some Year 10s through their paces with fitness tasks. An interesting insight into what a career in the navy is like.



Year 10 - PSHE

This term in PSHE Year 10 have been focusing on considering their choices for when they leave school. This has involved workshops delivered by East Kent Colleges and hearing from local Head of Sixth forms. This is one of the computerised robots made from Lego which was part of the East Kent College engineering workshop.

PSHE in Term 4

Below is the focus for each year group for term 4 in PSHE

Year 7	Making safe choices First Aid, financial decisions
Year 8	Everyday Safety Travel, fire safety, calming conflict
Year 9	Identity British culture, identity and mental health
Year 10	Building Resilience Online resilience, dealing with change
Year 11	Revision Skills Reflection on mocks, revision timetable

UKMT Intermediate Challenge

Some Year 10 and 11 students participated in the intermediate UKMT challenge on 28 January 2026, where their mathematical problem-solving skills were put to the test.

In total the students achieved 1 Gold certificate, 3 Silver and 13 Bronze certificates. Our gold certificate winner, Leo Harris, has also been invited to participate in the Hamilton Mathematical Olympiad on 19 March 2026.

Congratulations to all who participated. We are very proud of you!



Our Outdoor Learning group have been making garden lights made from old tin cans and weather permitting will soon be starting nature photography projects.



Making Charcoal at the **Wye Community Farm**



The Hygiene Bank

Wye School is delighted to have received a generous donation from The Hygiene Bank, whose support will make a meaningful difference to our students and their families. With the rising cost of living placing increasing pressure on many households, access to essential hygiene products can help ease some of these challenges. Due to The Hygiene Bank being a charity, we are having to limit the amount assigned to each family, but we will consider amounts on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to arrange a discreet collection or just find out more, please get in touch with vicky.dilworth@wyeschool.org.uk — we are here to help.

Literacy Spotlight on Local Libraries

Did you know your child can access thousands of free books, audiobooks and magazines through Kent Libraries? It's simple to join, and it opens the door to a huge world of reading; perfect for supporting schoolwork and encouraging reading for pleasure and power!

How to Get a Kent Library Card



Anyone who lives, works or studies in Kent can join the library for free. [\[kent.gov.uk\]](https://www.kent.gov.uk)
You can register online in minutes. For further details, see [here](#).

Children and Young People's Therapeutic Support Services

Salus has been commissioned by Kent County Council (KCC) to deliver the new [Children and Young People's Therapeutic Support Service](#) for children, young people, and their families in Kent, who would benefit from support to improve their emotional wellbeing. The service supports children and young people aged 4 to 19, experiencing mild to moderate emotional wellbeing challenges. The service is designed to meet the needs of those who would benefit from a brief period of early intervention or support. Visit [Mental health support for children and young people](#) for more information on local support.



Kent Fostering and Supported Homes are looking for new carers and hosts to join their fostering community and help care for some of Kent's most vulnerable children and young people.

As part of their team, carers and hosts receive excellent support, high-quality training, and the opportunity to make a lasting, positive difference in a child's life.

To learn more, visit our website <https://www.kentfostering.co.uk/>

It's never too late to give a child a second chance to shine and become the person they're meant to be. To speak to one of their advisors please call **03000 420 002** or fill in their online enquiry form [here](#).

Term 4 – Sports Round Up

Rugby News

Our U15s won 4-0 in a competitive touch match at home to Dover College last Tuesday. Wye produced a fantastic team effort with everyone contributing, including tries for Ben and Yehor and solo efforts by Alfred and Lucas. Barnaby and Matti also went close and the team showed a great resilience to shut the opposition out towards the end of the match. POTM went to Lucas for his work organising the line throughout and his scoring contributions. Our U13 boys then travelled to Dover College for their own touch rugby encounter and had to fight back from going behind early with two tries from Josh in the first half. POTM Josh then completed his hat trick to earn Wye the win. Well done to all players involved, including special mentions to Nathanael for great defensive work, Andrew for several assists and Gideon for fitting in seamlessly in his first ever game.



Girls Basketball Results

On Monday Wye's Year 9 and 10 girls travelled to North School for their first fixture in the Ashford and Folkestone Basketball League.

Yr 9 – North 6-8 Wye

Year 9 put in a superb performance, winning an exciting game by two points. A late basket in the fourth quarter from star  player Millie sealed the win. Well done to Wye girls Brooke, Yaroslava, Gabriella, Molly, Ellen, Millie, and Etty (pictured).

Yr 10 – North 28-8 Wye

Our Year 10 girls took on a more experienced North team but showed a lot of potential throughout. Christine was Wye's star  player with 6 points, and her drives to the basket to lay up and score were a joy to watch.

Yr 9 Boys Basketball

Year 9 boys played a triangular fixture vs Folkestone and Turner School on Wednesday night last week. Wye pushed a very strong Folkestone team all the way, losing 25-20 after the home side scored two six pointers in the last 90 seconds. Wye were then victorious over Turner School in our second game, winning 25-16.

Point scorers for the evening were Jason with eight and Luke with two, the remaining 35 points all being scored by star  player Matti. Well done to George, Henry, Avi, Harry K, and Emson for being part of an excellent evening of basketball.



U13 Girls Football result ⚽

Simply 'gr-eight' - Our Year 7/8 girls football team claimed their first victory of the season this week as they travelled to face Brockhill. Wye started strong creating several chances without scoring until Indie broke the deadlock with a great run down the left and a strike into the bottom corner. Two further goals from Lola put Wye 3-0 up at half time. The second half was all Wye, Eva scoring a hattrick, Malaika getting on the scoresheet and Tilly rounding the game off to score with the last kick of the game. Final score: 8-0 to Wye.

A superb display from the Wye girls! Chloe-Kate was voted player of the match for an amazing defensive performance to help the team keep a clean sheet!



Kent Schools Swimming Championships 2026

🥇 County Gold for Sophie! 🥇

On Sunday 18th January, Phoebe and Sophie in Year 8 and Mia in Year 9 competed for Wye at the Kent Schools Swimming Championships at Hartsdown in Margate. In the Year 8 categories, Sophie won GOLD in the 100m backstroke and also finished 7th in the Individual Medley, achieving a PB in the process. Phoebe finished 30th overall in the 100m breaststroke and 25th overall in the Individual Medley.

In the Year 9 categories, Mia, who has only been swimming competitively for two years, finished 13th overall in the 100m breaststroke and 18th in the 100m freestyle.

A fantastic day of swimming from our three girls. We also wish Sophie luck this weekend in her debut at the Kent Swimming Championships as her times have qualified her for six events.



Athletics

Well done to Emma (Yr 8) and Dillon (Yr 9) for their individual and team successes as part of Ashford Athletics Clubs victories at the recent Kent Sports Hall Athletics Championships

Badminton News

Wye took six pairs of U13 and U15 boys to the Ashford and Folkestone District Badminton Championships last night, hosted by Towers School. Our boys competed against grammar and independent schools from the area in each age group and played fantastically well, developing their skills in a sport they are relatively inexperienced at competitively.

Pictured below (left to right): U13 players Austin, Zach, Iriliano, Ethan, Hayden, and Andrew. Well done to all for their efforts



Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
12 February 2026	15:30 - 19:30 pm	Year 10 Parents Evening (virtual)
13 February 2026		HPV Vaccinations Year 8 and catch-up Years 9-11
13 February 2026		Last Day of Term
23 February 2026		First Day of Term
23 Feb–6 March 2026		Year 11 and Year 13 mocks
25 March 2026	17:00 - 18:30 pm	Year 9 Options Evening (in person)
<i>Week beginning</i> 30 March 2026		Year 11 and 13 Academic Report 2
02 April 2026		Non-uniform Day
02 April 2026		Last Day of Term
21 April 2026		First Day of Term

Managing Children's Digital Lives

Parenting today can feel overwhelming — especially when childhood looks so different from the way we grew up. There's no manual, and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing digital world your child moves through every day. This [guide](#) aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence.

Conclusion

It is 2026 and as ever at the start of a new year my mind turns to how things can get even better. I noted an article in The Times recently in which Dr Sanjiv Nichani, who has been a consultant at Leicester Children's Hospital for three decades, wrote that he believes smartphones and tablets are changing youngsters' brains in a way that is similar to being born with ADHD. He calls it the "screendemic", a surge in anxiety, depression, attention disorders and social withdrawal. This is not imaginary, he says. It is real — and down to measurable screen-induced anatomical changes in children's brains. He urged parents, and schools, to ensure children and teenagers have as much exercise as can be arranged, but a minimum of three sessions a week, and, from this he says the neurological gains are visible. Children sleep better. Their attention recovers. Their mood stabilises. Irritability fades. "Movement is the medicine the brain was built for," he says.

I am not a doctor and so am not endorsing his medical views, but, I did find this interesting and wanted to share it. My message as a teacher of 27 years now is to say that I have also seen changes in how children and teens are developing as they have become more used to devices. I would urge parents to limit screen time, to not have devices in bedrooms overnight, and, to ensure that children leave the house for exercise, ideally every day. I am pleased to see sport at Wye School thriving, I wrote in the last newsletter about how 200 of our 535 Year 7-11s had represented the school in sport so far this year. Not everyone will want to play in school sports

teams, but, everyone can walk the dog, do some gardening, walk to the shop and so on, as suitable for their circumstances.

The article didn't talk about social skills, but I have also noted that over time, as children have become used to using devices and headphones, that eye contact, saying hello, making small talk has become less common and more and more students seem to struggle with it. On this, parents can help by setting aside a portion of each day, say meal time or time in the car, to have no devices (for parents as well as children), to talk to each other, to chit chat about the day and life. And when they meet other people, introduce your children and get them used to saying hello and being part of the conversation. And for them to routinely take out headphones when they are talking to someone, parents or strangers.

The government also has been thinking about phones and issued [new school guidance](#) on mobile phone use.

The Wye School policy of not using phones during the school day already covers the new government expectation that this is the norm. Most students comply with this well but a few do still surreptitiously use their phones to message their parents during the school day, some of whom reply and so encourage this use of their phones. I would ask that you don't do this, and, if something urgent comes up, ring or email the school office and we can pass on messages as needed.

The government is also considering a ban on under 16s using social media, something that recently came in in Australia. You can see the details [here](#).

So interesting times nationally as government and health bodies consider how best to adapt policies to enable the safe use of devices by children and teenagers.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal