



Wye School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

15 November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

It was nice to welcome our students back to term 2 without it raining! We have not been back long but a great start to the term so far, with Year 11 and 13 now in their mock exams and the other years now settled well into their curricula. You will see in the Nature Club section below that they have again won an award, being 'Commended' in the 2024 Wilder Kent Awards. Well done to the staff and students involved, who can regularly be seen at our new village allotment.

Parent Survey

Our 2024 Parent Survey is now open and will run until 29th November 2024. We welcome your feedback on the school and United Learning, to help improve your child's education experience at Wye. If you have multiple children at the school, you only need to complete the survey once, with your oldest child in mind. You can access the survey using the following link - <https://edurio.com/poll/MFjqOs>

Sixth Form Consultation

As you know, over the past few weeks we have been running a public consultation into the future of our school Sixth Form. The consultation closed for responses on Monday and I would like to thank all parents who engaged and submitted their views. We were heartened to read within the responses so much positive feedback for our school, both from parents and our wider community.

We are now in the process of producing a report on the consultation which will form part of our application to the Department for Education. Following a thorough review of this evidence, the DfE will take a final decision on whether to proceed with the closure of our Sixth Form. We are not able to provide confirmed timings on when we can expect to know the outcome of this final decision, however we will update you as soon as we are able to and is appropriate. Whilst we await this outcome, we are unable to accept applications to our Sixth Form for Year 12 next year but will of course continue to do all we can to support our Year 11 students with their next steps.



Students at the Remembrance Service at Wye Church

Sunday 10 November 2024

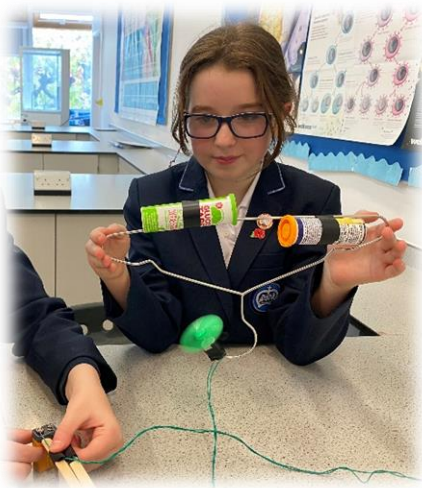
Years 7 -10 have been taking part in Remembrance Assemblies and a 2 minute silence.



Science Careers Club

In Science Careers Club this term, the students expressed an interest in learning about what an oceanographer does. After researching this, we found out that underwater robots are very important in helping oceanographers to explore the ocean. As a follow-up activity, we decided to build and test our own under water robot, also called an ROV (Remotely Operated Vehicle) as it is attached to a cable that allows a human operator to control the robot's movements from a ship on the ocean surface. We made our robots out of a coat hanger, a model boat propeller, telephone wire, electrical tape, popsicle stick, film canisters, weights and 6-volt batteries. We tested our robot in a deep container of water, and it successfully moved down, as well as to the right and left. Students were very pleased with their positive outcome. If you would like to learn more about underwater robots visit

<https://www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/technology/subs/subs.html>



From Dream to Reality: Building the Future with Senior Technical Program Manager at Microsoft - MS Teams Live



Students were invited to join the STEM Ambassador Oksana, a Senior Technical Program Manager at Microsoft for a live talk in celebration of Tomorrow's Engineers Week.

We were delighted at the number of students who chose to attend the live talk.

'Imagine a world where your ideas can transform into powerful tools used by millions. At Microsoft, this journey begins with a spark of inspiration and evolves through collaboration.'

In this talk, we'll explore the creation of groundbreaking AI-powered products at Microsoft. From the initial brainstorming sessions to launch, you'll hear how software engineers, AI specialists, security experts, privacy



advocates, accessibility designers, sustainability consultants, Responsible AI advisors and many more work together to turn dreams into reality.

By the end of this talk, you'll have a better understanding of the exciting and impactful world of software engineering at Microsoft.

This live talk, aimed at secondary aged students (most suitable for KS3-5), will be informative and engaging, and there will be the opportunity to ask questions afterwards'.

Autumn Nature Club

Our green fingered students had a break from planting, weeding & pruning over the last few weeks to celebrate the beauty of Autumn.

The mild weather allowed us to explore fabulous fungi around the Beanfields Allotments, we were amazed to find so many different species.





Continuing with their amazing work this past year, the students were asked about any projects they'd like to be involved in. After hearing about the decline in butterflies we have decided that we will be looking into the conservation of these lovely insects.

[Home page](#) | [Butterfly Conservation](#)

Wye School Nature Club

Wye School nature club were very proud to receive 2 awards this year.

A commendation from The Wilder Kent Awards & A Green School Award in recognition of our students hard work protecting the environment and their ongoing nature projects.



Equipment Expectations

It is important that your child comes to school every day with the basic equipment needed for learning. All students will need a pencil case containing the following items:

- Black and green pens (a multi-pen can be purchased)
- Pencils, pencil sharpener and eraser



- Drywipe pen (whiteboard marker)
- Ruler, 30cm
- Glue stick
- Coloured pencils
- Highlighter pens

Mathematics sets and calculators will be needed. Students need a scientific calculator, and we recommend the Casio FX83GT-CW. Mathematics sets will need to include a protractor and compasses. Pencil cases and calculators should be clearly marked with your child's name. We have a small stationery shop at school where basic items like pens, drywipe pens, pencils, erasers, and rulers can be bought at cost price. Thank you for the support with this, it really does help lessons go more smoothly if the students have the equipment they need.

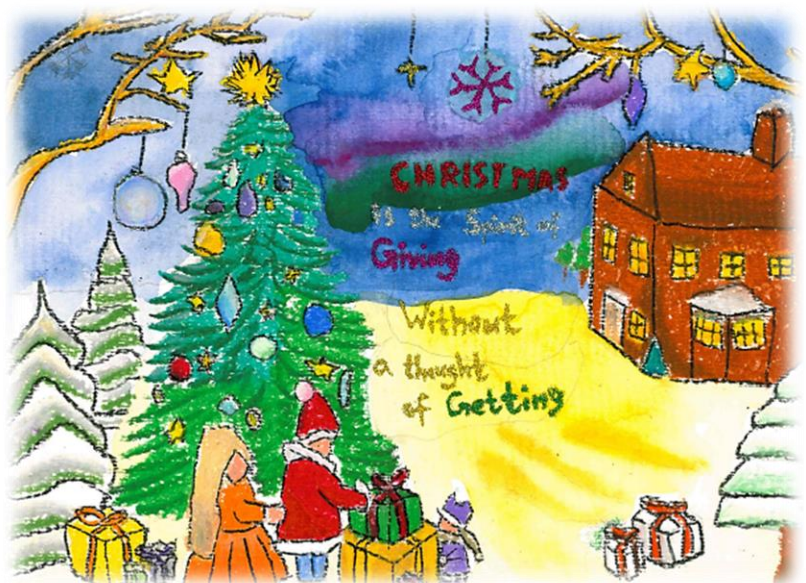
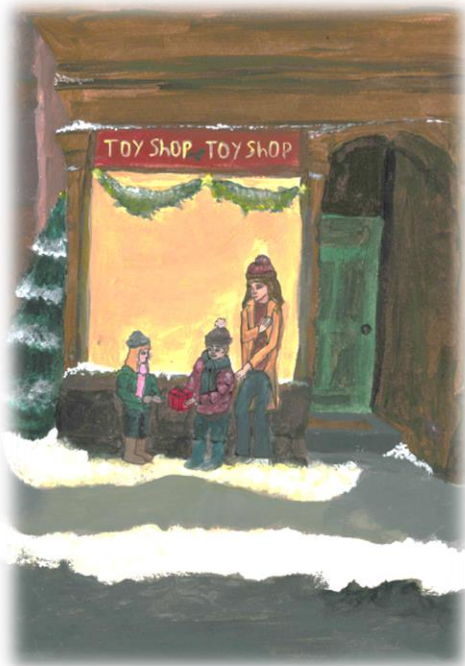


United Learning Christmas Card Competition

Thank you to all the students that took part in the annual United Learning Christmas card competition that involves every UL school in the country. We had more entries than ever before so judging was really difficult!

After careful consideration, Mr Magee chose the following students as finalists to be taken through to the next stage: *Millie Harrison, Chester Chan, & Hazel Ballard*. Well done!

#We await to hear if we are successful at National level later this month. The three students above will receive a prize from the Art department to commend them on their amazing designs.





Fashion Illustration Club

Yr 7 spent last term exploring ways create fun fashion illustrations. We loved collaging and working with 3D elements. We created a range of fierce and fun outfits inspired by some of our idols.



Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
06-19 November 2024		Yr 11 & 13 mock examinations
20-21 November 2024		Year 11 Art Mock
20-22 November 2024		Year 13 Art Mock
20-29 November 2024		Year 11 PE Mock Practicals
03-04 December 2024		GCSE Music Solo Performance recordings (actual)
06 December 2024	07:45 – 18:00	A level & GCSE PE trip Twickenham RFU Museum
11 December 2024		Yr 8 Parents Evening – on site Bookings now open
12 December 2024	16:00 – 17:00	BTEC Level 3 Solo Performances (actual)
16 December 2024	13:00 – 17:00	Panto Trip – Yr 7 Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone
17 December 2024	18:00 – 19:15	Christmas Variety Performance Information to follow
20 December 2024		Last Day of Term - Students finish at 12:15 pm



Conclusion

Smartphones are a part of modern life for most people now, but most parents limit the age their child can have one for the first time, and limit when they can use it. At school, we have a policy that phones go away all day from 8:10am-3:30pm. If you have been reading my newsletters since I joined the school you will from time to time have seen me urging you to not let your child have a smart phone or other device in their room overnight, and to have a time in the evening after which it goes on charge in a common area of the house. My cautious thoughts on this have always been around two things. The first is safeguarding, as a teacher it has been, to be honest, horrifying the level of risk some students have put themselves in all the schools I have worked at since smart phones came into common use, by getting themselves into safeguarding difficulties with strangers online, or with their peers by oversharing online. The second is the tendency for group chats and social media interactions and game chats to be harsh and take a turn that can be very upsetting for individual students, with name calling and insults and sharing of 'jokes' that upset and sometimes even cruel use of images of each other. There are also well known body image issues with the use of social media. As a result of all this, time and again we have had to urge students to leave chats/apps and parents to monitor what they are doing on their phones.

I am saying all this by way of introducing something that I am not officially endorsing, I am not part of it, but, that has been sent to me now three times by different people in the school community worried about the impact of smart phones on children, especially children under 14.

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Whether you have a look at this or not is of course your free choice.

I hope you all are having a good start to Autumn, remember to look up if you are out during the darker hours as it is a time for shooting stars, with the Taurids just fading now and the Leonids just starting:

<https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/meteor-shower-guide>

Yours sincerely

Luke Magee
Principal

