



Dear Parents/Carers

Term 3 is wrapping up already, and it's been quite a whirlwind! There's definitely been a buzz this term, with an impressive increase in game playing at school, which has been wonderful to witness. Staff have really stepped up by organizing house competitions that have gained tremendous popularity. But it's also been fantastic to see students take the initiative—Year 7s, 8s, 9s, and even 11s have started organizing their own games during social times. From UNO to chess to playground games reminiscent of musical statues but with a fresh twist, it's heartening to see such a resurgence in face-to-face socializing without the distraction of phones.



Considerate Parking

Please can we ask parents to kindly refrain from parking on the degraded pavement to the east side of Olantigh Road to the north of the school (see photo). This causes the pavement to erode and obstructs residents' access to their driveways opposite. It also forces other vehicles to overtake just as the road narrows before the pedestrian crossing, which creates an additional hazard by the school entrance. Thank you for your cooperation.

Reports and Set Changes for Years 7-10

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be receiving their first academic and engagement report before the half term. These reports are a great opportunity to speak with your child about their current progress in each subject as well as their engagement with their learning. In order to ensure students are given the most appropriate support, we will be using a combination of their assessment results and their classwork, to review the set that each student is in for Maths, English and Science (so one test score alone does not decide a set change). These will be able to be seen on the Arbor portal over the half term. Students in years 7-10 will all receive a new timetable during tutor time on the first day back after the break.

How You Can Support Your Child at Home

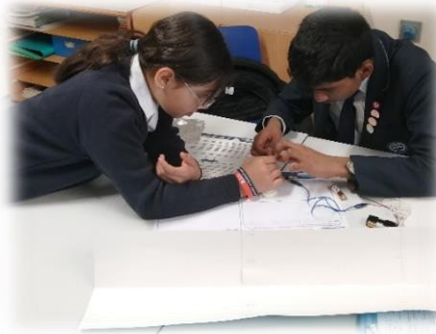
Homework

Our curriculum is published on our website for Years 7-11 [here](#) and for Sixth Form the curriculum is linked via each of the individual course pages [here](#). Our school website has information on [how to support your child's progress](#), including recommendations for KS4 and 5 revision guides and further details about each of our online learning platforms.

One of the most important things that you can do to support your child is encourage and support them to complete their homework. If possible, please provide a quiet space for them to do their homework. Our homework schedules for each year group and further details about homework at Wye School is set out in our Homework Policy, available on our website [here](#). Homework is published on [Arbor](#) so that students and parents/carers are able to see what is set and when it is due. For external exam years we also put on lunchtime and holiday revision sessions, these are emailed to parents of the respective years as they are arranged.

Faraday Challenge Day

Six students in Year 8 with an interest in Science and Engineering attended a 'Faraday Challenge Day' in Folkstone to learn more about engineering, and how to work as a team to meet a design brief. They managed a budget, built circuits, designed and improved their prototype and finally presented their work to the other competing teams and judges. Ms Gawthorpe was impressed by their professionalism and creativity and received a number of compliments about these polite students with an excellent team spirit.



Spotlight on Speech and Language

Understanding Stammering: A Guide for Parents

Understanding Speech and Language Disorders

Speech and language disorders can significantly impact a child's ability to communicate effectively. These disorders are relatively common, affecting about one in 12 children. Early identification and intervention are crucial for helping children develop the necessary skills to communicate and interact with others, our focus this term is Stammering.

What is Stammering? Stammering, also known as stuttering, is a speech disorder where the flow of speech is interrupted by repetitions, prolongations, or blocks of sounds, syllables, or words. It typically emerges between the ages of 2 and 5 and can vary greatly in severity and presentation.

See [here](#) for more information from Speech and Language UK.

By understanding stammering and taking proactive steps, parents can help their children develop strategies to support them and develop strong communication skills.

If you have any questions or need further support, please don't hesitate to reach out to our speech and language team, Nicky Hargrave at office@wyeschool.org.uk or the SEN department.

Reading and encouraging a love of reading

We are excited to share our ongoing efforts to foster a love of reading among our students. Reading is a fundamental skill that allows students to access all areas of the curriculum and supports students in their creativity, communication skills and emotional development. To support reading, we have implemented **reciprocal reading strategies** during tutor-guided reading sessions.

Reciprocal Reading Strategies involve four key components:

1. **Predicting:** Students make predictions about the text before reading.
2. **Clarifying:** They identify and clarify unfamiliar words or concepts.
3. **Questioning:** Students generate questions about the text to deepen understanding.
4. **Summarising:** They summarise the main ideas after reading.

These strategies not only enhance comprehension but also encourage active engagement with the text. During tutor-guided reading time, tutors model these strategies and guide students through the process, helping them become more confident and independent readers.

Supporting Reading at Home

We thank you for all your support with reading with your child at home. We encourage you to use these reciprocal reading strategies at home to support your child's reading development.

By incorporating these strategies into your reading routine, you can help reinforce the skills your child is learning at school and make reading a more interactive and enjoyable experience.

Reading Ages in Mid-Year Reports

We would also like to inform you that reading ages will be included in the mid-year reports. This will provide you with valuable insight into your child's reading progress and areas for improvement. Interventions are put in place for any students that may need additional support with their reading. If your child requires any level of intervention for their reading, parents and guardians will be notified.

If you have any questions or need further support with your child's reading, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Hunter via office@wyeschool.org.uk

Our New Library Space

We are delighted to announce that a new library space has been created in the Kempe Centre with over 600 fiction titles already available for students to borrow. This has been trialled with our Year 7 students and is already proving popular: it is a pleasure to see students choosing to spend their break and lunchtime reading.

After half term, some Year 9 students will be working as librarians as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award and all students will be given the opportunity to borrow books. Please encourage your child to visit the library space to see what books are available to borrow. There are plans to fundraise for more books and resources for this space and we will be in touch about this next term.



Faversham Literary Festival – 21 February – 2 March 2025

Continuing the theme of building a love of reading, we would like to promote the Faversham Literary Festival. This takes place (partly) during half-term and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet with and listen to authors talk about books they have written. This year the festival includes Children's laureate Michael Rosen (of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' fame) and Paralympian Jonnie Peacock talking about his new book 'You Can Do Anything'. Tickets start from £8. Please see [here](#) for further information.

Careers

What is a Civil Engineer? Explore Engineering Careers with Stantec

Perfect to kick-off National Apprenticeship Week, hear from James, an apprentice civil engineer and STEM Ambassador, about his career journey to date with global engineering consultancy Stantec and the opportunities available to aspiring engineers. Starting as a BTEC-level apprentice after his GCSEs, James has worked on diverse infrastructure projects while earning multiple academic qualifications. He recently completed a bachelor's degree in civil engineering through a degree apprenticeship and is now pursuing professional qualification with the Institution of Civil Engineers.



Under 13 Football - Girls

Our under 13 girls battled Folkestone School for Girls in a 5-2 win! Two goals from Izzy set us on our way, with the third added by Millie with her first goal before Eva made it 4 at half time. FSG managed to pull two goals back before Ellen sealed the victory!



Year 11 Practical Performances

Our Year 11 GCSE PE group are working hard on their practical performance and coursework elements. This week we incorporated a boys vs girls netball battle into a lesson, which was enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to Our Top Homework Achievers in Sparx Science!

We are thrilled to announce that Chester Chan (Year 7), Luke Salmon (Year 8), Chloe Cornford (Year 9) and Freya King (Year 10) has achieved the highest homework score in their year group for this term! This outstanding accomplishment is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Their success reflects the incredible effort they have put into their studies, and we are immensely proud of their achievement. We also extend our gratitude to their parents for the unwavering support and encouragement they provide at home.

We look forward to seeing all our students continue to excel and reach new heights in their academic journeys.

Keep up the great work, everyone!



Basketball Results

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls team who recorded an impressive 12-0 victory over North School this evening to get their season underway. Thank you to Poppy and Faith for scoring!

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Welly Wanging Championship

The first Wye School Inter-house Welly Wanging championship was a great success.

Kai Brown had the biggest throw of the day recording a record setting 79ft 'Want', earning his house 200 extra points.

Over 100 wellies were thrown with each winning points for their house.

The Overall winner was Stour House.



Charity Penalties

On Monday lunchtime, students took part in a charity penalty shootout.

Students from all year groups paid 50p to help Mr Sparks raise money for King's College hospital.

Over £50 was raised and a special thank you to Keir 'the cat' Starley for facing over 100 shots.



Year 8 Spelling Bee Challenge

The 8 Spelling Bee Challenge was enthusiastically embraced by students.

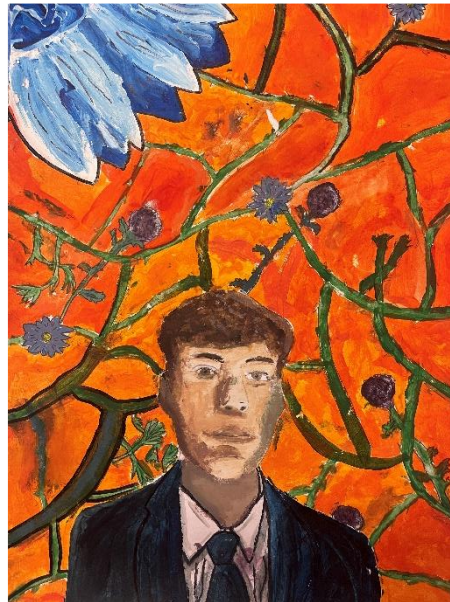
The winners were Natalie Zuga and Cameron Harvey, both in Kempe.

Kempe have therefore claimed the trophy and an additional 200 points for their house.



Art

Yr 9 have been working hard on developing responses to the theme 'Identity'. Throughout the project they have explored and began to master the use of acrylic paints. We have seen a wide range of outcomes, all of which express the individual brilliance of our young people!



Design A Mural Competition: 2025 Grantham Climate Art Prize

Art Club have been working hard on developing mural designs to spread the message of climate change. They have entered their ideas to be part of a national competition! Good luck to all involved.





Congratulations to many of our amazing year 10 and year 11 mathematicians who have received silver and bronze certificates in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge.

Around 60 students from Year 10 and 11 participated this year with pencil, paper and fantastic problem-solving skills which has resulted in 15 Wye students achieving either bronze, silver or gold at the Intermediate level.

The UKMT Individual Maths Challenges are intriguing and puzzling multiple choice question papers, which are designed to stimulate interest in Maths in large numbers of pupils. The Intermediate maths challenge took place on Wednesday, 29 January with our most talented maths students in year 10 and 11 entering. Nationally over 600 000 students enter the competition and can receive either a bronze, silver or gold achievement with the very best students progressing through to the next round. Well done to the silver and bronze certificate achievers.

Silver Certificate

Charlie Oliver
Joshua Butcher
Morgan Wilmot
Tom Bransfield
Mickey McMahan
Luca Hayes

Bronze Certificate

Katie Tipping
Hazel Ballard
Ava Stuart
Nicol Zuga
Dolly Sharland
Megan Lam
Emily Relf

Ashford Theatre Society

Ellie Taylor, Year 10 has just completed a pantomime run with Ashford Theatre Society, as a member of the ensemble. Ellie performed over 2 weekends (8 shows) in the pantomime, Jack and the Beanstalk. She is pictured second from right in each picture.



Kent Police - Ashford C.S.U. Newsletter

Please see the [January](#) newsletter for the latest key messages and activities from your beat officer.

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
14 February 25		Last day of term
24 February 25		Start of term
24 Feb – 7 March 25		Year 11 & 13 mock exams
24 February 25	15:30 – 16:30	Year 7-10 parent drop in for report explanations Kempe centre - canteen
25 February 25	15:40 - 18:35	Year 10 Parents' Evening
7 March 25		Year 12 Mid-Year academic reports to parents
10 & 11 March 25		Year 11 & 13 mock Art exam
13 March 25		GCSE Music Ensemble Performance
04 April 25		Last day of term

Conclusion

It has been great to see students using the new library space in the Kempe Centre, with them reading in social times and borrowing the books. We have more shelves available to fill still so, if you did have any good quality books aimed at young adults or older children, a donation to the school would be gratefully received. I hope you all have a good half term and look forward to welcoming students back for term 4.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal