



## Welcome to the latest Wye School Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the end of term 2, and a third of this academic year has already passed. Lots of fun things have happened in the build up to the Christmas break, which are set out below. A new thing recently is parents/carers sharing with us achievements their children have managed outside school, such as sporting or artistic success. Please do feel free to share these things with us where you would like to, it is great for our school community to know about all of our achievements. If you do share with us, I will assume you are happy for the good news to be shared, so please do say if you are not.

### **Last Day of Term - Early Finish**

A reminder that the school day will finish at **12:15pm** on **Friday 19th December**. The Chalkwell WS1/2/3 buses and KCC home-to-school taxi operators have been notified and will pick up at the earlier finish time. Please note there will be no lunch provided in school that day.

### **FSM Supermarket Vouchers**

These will be emailed out to all eligible families on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Non-Uniform Day**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December is our non school uniform day for a donation of £1. This money will go to our nominated charity, Slide Away. Slide Away offers support to children and young people in Kent who have been bereaved of a family member or friend and those who have a parent or sibling with a life limiting illness.

### **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](mailto:attendance@wyeschool.org.uk) For further information, please [click here](#).

### **Parental Awareness - Gauth App**

It has been brought to our attention that some students have started using the Gauth app to complete homework. This AI tool provides answers rather than encouraging students to think through problems themselves. At Wye, we value homework because it reinforces learning beyond the classroom, builds independence and resilience, and helps teachers identify where support is needed. We kindly ask parents to check that their child is completing homework independently and to discuss the purpose of homework with them. Simple strategies such as setting a quiet space, agreeing on a regular homework routine, and praising effort rather than speed can make a big difference. Thank you for working with us to help your child develop the skills they need for success working on their ambition and determination.

### **Achievement Award - New for 2025-2026**

This academic year, we've introduced the Achievement Award as part of our end-of-term celebrations. Each year group will have one boy and one girl selected for demonstrating an outstanding attitude toward learning and their peers. Our Student Support Assistants will choose the winners for each year group. The Achievement Award recognises students who have shown exceptional effort in their studies, represented the school positively, displayed kindness toward others, or taken the lead in extracurricular activities.





### Year 7 and 8 Rewards

As part of our end-of-term celebrations, the top Year 7 and Year 8 students were recognised for their exceptional commitment to our school values—**Respect, Ambition, and Determination**. These students achieved the highest value points in their year groups and were rewarded with an exclusive screening of the film *Red One*. Their hard work and positive attitude make them outstanding role models for our school community.



### Year 9 and 10 rewards

As part of our end-of-term celebrations, the top students in Year 9 and Year 10 were recognised for their outstanding commitment to our school values—**Respect, Ambition, and Determination**. These students earned the highest value points in their year groups and were rewarded with a fun and creative baking activity.

This hands-on experience was a fantastic way to celebrate their achievements while encouraging teamwork and creativity. Congratulations to all who took part—you truly set the standard for excellence in our school community!







## Term 3 - Sports Round up



### TWO HUNDRED UP!

This term saw our 200<sup>th</sup> student represent the school in one of our sports teams or at a sports event. The current number stands at 214 students from Years 7-11 who have played in sports teams across over 70 fixtures and events in Football, Rugby, Netball, Badminton, Cross Country, Gladiators, and Indoor Cricket since the start of the academic year in September. As a small school we are extremely proud of the sport provision we offer, which ultimately is made possible because of the enthusiasm shown by our students who represent us with pride, upholding our school values when taking to the field of play. Well done and thank you to all of the students who have contributed to a fantastic two terms of sport, and also to the staff who give up their time to run teams and training beyond the hours of the school day.

### Football

Year 9 won 2-0 at Turner School in November to become Champions of the Ashford and Shepway Division 2 District Football league, finishing the season with a 100% record, winning all of their league matches. Highlights have included a 7-1 victory at Brockhill, a 6-1 win over Chilmington Green, and a hard fought 1-0 result earlier this term at Folkestone Academy. Every single player has contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable two terms of football and shown great character and togetherness. Well done to all of the players involved for their efforts this season.

There were also some positive results for our younger teams. Year 7 finished the season strong, winning their final two matches of the season. Top goal scorer Keissan was on target in wins against Harvey Grammar School (2-1) and Turner School (3-1). Year 8 also managed their first win of the season in brisk conditions at Folkestone Academy with goals from Liriano and Theo securing a 2-1 scoreline.



### Indoor Cricket

In the final week of term Wye and Chilmington Green played the first ever 'UL Ashes' at the brand new Chilmington Green site. Each school fielded an U14 team featuring players from Years 7, 8 & 9 with Wye coming out on top after setting Chilmington a target of 146 runs. Well done to the players involved for working hard to





improve their skills during lunchtime training with Mr Pryse this term.

## Swimming

Back in October half term Sophie (Y8) and Mia (Y9) travelled to Salou Spain with Ashford Town Swimming Club to train at the Sylvia Fontana Swimming Pool, a 50 meter outdoor pool previously used at the Olympics. They completed four hours of training in the pool each day as well as completing land based training. Sophie and Mia were two of five girls selected as part of a nineteen strong squad and both had a fantastic experience. The girls are now aiming to reach County standard times this year and will represent Wye School in the Kent Schools Championships in January.



## Badminton

Our Badminton teams were in action in December as the U13 girls hosted North for some friendly action and our U15 girls travelled in the opposite direction to play in a ten pair tournament. Well done to all who took part and a special mention to Year 10 girls Eva and Anna Rose who played extremely well to reach the final.

## Rugby

Mr Wickington's rugby squads took part in a triple header of development matches with Simon Langton at the end of November. This was an invaluable experience for all of our players against strong Langton opposition. The U13 squad managed an impressive 3-2 win and the U14s and U15s gained important game time as they head towards a busier playing schedule after Christmas.



## Netball

Year 7 claimed their first every victory this season with an excellent 4-0 result against Chilmington Green earlier this month. Throughout the game there was solid defending from Mia, Lucia and Dolly and Indie showed wonderful tenacity at Centre. There was also important attacking play from Beatrice and Jessie, and superb shooting from Bluebelle who was 'Star Player'.

## Up next...

Term 3 will see the girl's District School's Football leagues get under way and we are looking forward to seeing our U13 and U15 girls in action. There will also be boys and girls teams playing in the District Basketball leagues, as well as continuing Netball and Rugby action across all years.

Wye will also be entering our first Cheerleading competition in Summer 2026! Any girls from Years 7-10 who would like to get involved please speak to Mr Sparks or Miss Lulham to express your interest.



## Spotlight on Speech and Language - Understanding Language Delay

Language is the foundation for learning, social interaction, and emotional development. While most students develop language skills naturally, some experience language delay which can significantly impact their academic progress and confidence.

### What is Language Delay?

Language delay refers to difficulties in understanding or using spoken language compared to peers of the same age. It's not about intelligence—students with language delay often have normal cognitive abilities—but they may struggle with vocabulary, sentence structure, or comprehension. Signs to look out for would be, difficulty following instructions or understanding classroom discussions. A limited vocabulary or trouble finding the right words. Short, simple sentences when speaking or writing. Challenges with reading comprehension and written tasks. Avoidance of group work or verbal participation.

**Why Does It Matter?** - Language skills underpin every subject. Students with language delay may: Misinterpret questions or tasks, fall behind in literacy and subject-specific vocabulary, experience frustration, anxiety, or social isolation.

**How Can We Support Them?** - Use clear, simple instructions and check understanding, Pre-teach key vocabulary before lessons, provide extra processing time for responses, foster a supportive environment where students feel safe to ask for help.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nicky Hargrave on [office@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@wyeschool.org.uk) or the SEN team.

## Wye Outdoors

Hello and welcome to the third edition of *Wye Outdoors* covering all aspects of outdoor learning and enrichment on offer here at Wye School.

**Sensory Circuits & Holistic & Thrive Interventions** – run every morning at the start of the school day. Whatever the weather there's so many lovely things to see in nature and the frosty mornings have been particularly beautiful. We have also been visiting our allotment, feeding the birds & going for walks to set us up for the day ahead.



The students also visited the church to see the lovely nativity and look at the ***Wye Living Advent Calendar Windows***.





## Nature Club



The garlic bulbs are in, and the beds have been prepared for winter. The students have been making fat seed balls for birds and our resident Robin.

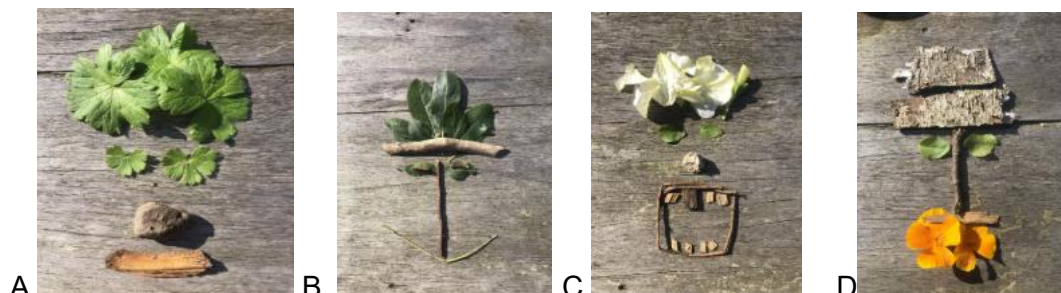


Mr Bouquet, our scarecrow was lovingly restored to full health after having the stuffing knocked out of him and is back on scare duties.





Guess the teacher???



## Outdoor Learning

Lots going on this last term with hundreds of new saplings to plant in our *Outdoor Learning* area as part of the Community Trees Woodland Trust initiative, from Hawthorn & Willow to Crab-apple and Hazel to name a few the students and staff got stuck in and all did an amazing job.



## Future Forest School Area

Tree planting by students preparing parts of our grounds for a future forest school area. They don't seem like much yet but the saplings students planted in 2019 are now quite substantial bushes. We are grateful to the **Woodland Trust** for the free saplings scheme.

Whilst indoors in the warm students made some Christmas Wreaths.



A big thankyou to parents that have offered to help us set up our Outdoor Learning space with kind offers of items and manual labour we are so grateful, we hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.  
Many thanks *The Outdoor Learning Team*

Please email: [Caroline.ward@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:Caroline.ward@wyeschool.org.uk) or [Nicky.hargrave@wyeschool.org.uk](mailto:Nicky.hargrave@wyeschool.org.uk)



## Careers Spotlight: Autumn & Winter Term Highlights from Lucy Drake

Our Careers Programme has gone from strength to strength this year, with students across all year groups benefitting from an exciting mix of talks, workshops, and events designed to broaden horizons and inspire future ambitions.

In September, we welcomed a solicitor, who gave invaluable insights into the **legal** profession. Students also took part in two **virtual STEM sessions**, exploring cutting-edge science and technology, while **Barclays** delivered a practical CV writing workshop. Creativity was at the forefront when a speaker shared her expertise in **marketing**, and medicine came under the spotlight with a representative from **Kent University** discussing pathways into the medical field.

October and November continued the momentum. Year 7 students engaged with another **STEM virtual session**, while Years 9 and 10 were captivated by an in-person assembly from the **Army**, offering a glimpse into careers in the armed forces. Alumni speaker **Ellie** returned to share her journey into HR with Year 10, and an ex-security and prison officer, spoke candidly to Years 7 and 8 about his career experiences and his path to working for Ford. December saw further STEM engagement for Years 7 and 8, and a valuable **college talk from EKC**, guiding Years 10 and 11 through their next steps.

Alongside these sessions, we hosted a hugely successful **Post-16 Evening for Year 11**, where over ten colleges and sixth forms attended to showcase their opportunities. This event gave students and families the chance to explore a wide range of pathways, ask questions directly to providers, and begin shaping their plans for life beyond school.

Looking ahead, our Careers Programme continues to grow. Next term we are excited to welcome **more STEM and humanities speakers**; alongside professionals whose careers connect directly to the subjects our students study. This will give learners the chance to see how classroom knowledge translates into real-world opportunities. We are also preparing for two major events in July: our **Careers Fair**, which will bring together a wide range of employers, colleges, and universities, and the **Year 10 Work Experience programme**, offering students the invaluable chance to step into the workplace and gain first-hand insight into professional life.

## Parental Workshops

Our Mental Health Support Team have shared some valuable parent online workshops that you can attend by signing up via the [QR codes](#). This includes *Understanding the Amazing Teenage Brain*, *Eating Disorder Prevention*, *Exam Stress Support* and *Autism & Sleep*.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact either their Head of Year or Pastoral Lead.





### **A Christmas Carol with great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens**

On a suitably chilly November night, a group of Year 10 and 11 students attended a one-man performance of *A Christmas Carol* at St Mary's Church, Ashford, delivered by Gerald Dickens, great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens.

*A Christmas Carol* tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly man who learns compassion and generosity after being visited by three spirits on Christmas Eve. After the show, Gerald Dickens kindly met with our students and answered their questions about the text and the author: an invaluable support to their learning of this, one of their GCSE English set texts.



**Spelling Bee**  
Well done to the Year 7 Crown House team who won our Spelling Bee for Year 7. Lots of fun all round.





### **Year 10 Visit to Canterbury Cathedral**

Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed a fascinating visit to Canterbury Cathedral, where they took part in a guided tour exploring the important world-famous landmark right on our doorstep! The tour brought their classroom learning to life, offering rich insights into both local heritage and wider religious contexts to support their RS GCSE.

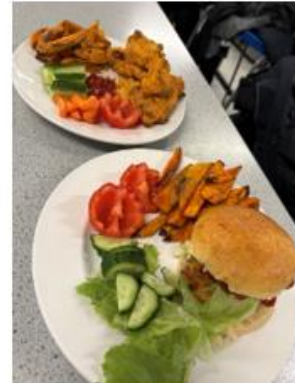
Staff were incredibly impressed with how engaged the students were throughout the visit. They asked great questions and made Wye School Proud!



### **Gladiators Event**

Well done to the Year 7 and 8 students competing at the Gladiator event with other local schools.





## Hospitality and Catering

This week Yr11 students took part in a mock practical for their Hospitality and Catering course. Their brief was to produce a dish which was suitable for both a parent and a toddler to eat for lunch. As they will in the summer, students needed to consider both portion size and the presentation of the dishes. A variety of dishes were made including Chicken Kiev and chicken goujons, fresh pasta with home made bolognese, garlic dough balls and garlic breads, omelettes, chips, pizza and breaded chicken breast and chicken nuggets. A fantastic achievement by all students.



Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students displayed high skills when making their eclairs. They made choux pastry, used a bain-marie for melting the chocolate, piped whipped cream to fill the eclairs and then created a feathering design on the chocolate





### Principal's Breakfast

Year 7 and 8 Principal's Breakfast, a termly event where we celebrate some of our unsung heroes.



### Pantomime

Year 7 students attended a festive performance of *Peter Pan* at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone on Monday 15th December. The trip offered students an opportunity to experience live theatre, enjoy a classic pantomime full of humor and audience participation, and engage with the arts beyond the classroom. The students enjoyed the time out of school and were excellently behaved.







## Poynters Yard

Year 13 music students **Max**, **Alfie**, **Bob** and **Joe** performed a Music Showcase this term for their parents, and for recording for their exams. They have also formed a band called Poynters Yard and have released an EP called Catch 22 which you can hear on Spotify, if you wanted to help them launch their music careers, as well as Apple Music

<https://music.apple.com/gb/artist/poynters-yard/1852056357>

## Meet the Band -



**Bob Smith** – Bass Guitar



**Max Dodd** - Drums



**Alfie Wilson** – Electric & Acoustic Guitar



**Joe Moss** – Electric Guitar





### Young Writers' National Competition

Congratulations to a number of Wye students from Years 8, 9 and 10 who were commended for their superb creative writing in a recent national competition. 📖

Students were challenged to create original narratives that delved into the dark world of twisted fairy tales! The publishers at 'Young Writers' then selected the best entries to be featured in the final book, entitled "Grim Tales", which is shown here by three of our successful Year 9 writers, **Mia, Rose,** and **Viburshehan.**

### Ashford Family Hubs

**Christmas HAF Events** - please see [here](#) for details of Christmas HAF timetable for families who are eligible for benefit related free school meals.

### Pages – Christmas Opening Times

Pages will be closed from Wednesday 17th December through to Friday 26th December. Any orders or emails received during this period will be processed and replied to when they reopen on Saturday 27th December – [see here](#).





## Key Dates

| Date                                 | Time             | Event  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 19 December 2025                     |                  | Last day of term<br>Non-uniform day<br>Students finish at 12:15 pm |
| 6 January 2026                       |                  | First day of term  |
| 14 January                           | 16:00 - 18.55 pm | Year 11 Parents Evening ( <a href="#">in person</a> )              |
| 22 January                           | 16:00 - 18:00 pm | Sixth Form Parents Evening ( <a href="#">in person</a> )           |
| <i>Week beginning</i><br>02 February |                  | Year 7 and 10 <b>Academic Report 1</b>                             |
| <i>Week beginning</i><br>09 February |                  | Year 8 and 9 <b>Academic Report 1</b>                              |
| 12 February                          | 15:30 - 19:30 pm | Year 10 Parents Evening ( <a href="#">virtual</a> )                |
| 25 March                             | 17:00 - 18:30 pm | Year 9 Options Evening ( <a href="#">in person</a> )               |
| <i>Week beginning</i><br>30 March    |                  | Year 11 and 13 <b>Academic Report 2</b>                            |

## Conclusion

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and fun New Year and look forward to seeing everyone back in January for 2026 and term 3.

Yours sincerely

*Luke Magee*

Luke Magee  
Principal