



Wye School
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Part of United Learning

Newsletter

20 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2024/25 academic year. It has been a really good start with all years settling back in well but with a special mention for Year 11, who have really taken the arrival of their exam year in hand and are attending extra subject sessions in record numbers. Year 7 have also settled well, so a really good start to the year.

Parent Parking and Driving

Sorry to start off with a moan, I acknowledge that many parents park outside school at the beginning and end of the day for drop off and pick up with no issues. However, sometimes there are incidences of parking that blocks our neighbours, and other parents, and we receive reports parents driving too fast. Please bear safety in mind, and help keep our students and visitors safe. If possible, please arrange to drop off and pick up in the village to avoid congestion on Olantigh Road.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to FSM, please remind them that they are entitled to a main meal and pudding from the main canteen at lunchtime only. Breakfast, snacks and drinks are not included, and would need you to put money on their squid account if you want them to have them. You are also welcome to send them in with snacks for break. If you are struggling financially, we can help you check if your children are entitled to free school meals if they don't have them already.



Principal's Breakfast Years 9/10/12

Principal's breakfast in July for Year 9, 10 and 12 students who had consistently worked hard and contributed well to school life that term and year. Pictured are Ms Davis and some of the Year 10 students invited. Well done to all the students involved for their strong contribution to the school.

A Level Results

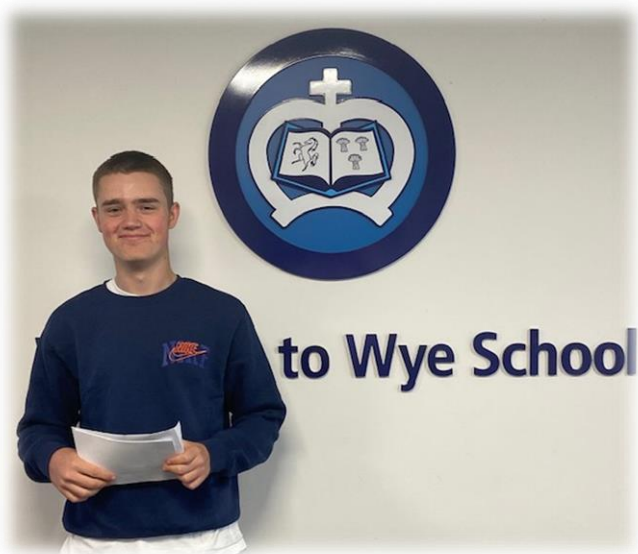
Thursday 15th August saw us all back in school to welcome Year 13 to collect their A Level results. Times have changed around technology and nowadays Year 13s have to face getting both their result and their



university place confirmation at the same time, 8am in the morning, sometimes with their university result arriving online before they have their A Level result. It is one of the great pleasures of teaching to see 18 year old school leavers get the news that their plans to go on to further study have come together and they are going on to their next step in life. This year Psychology was the most popular degree course for our students, and we had our first student deciding to study Russian. It was also a year in which the number of students deciding to take the Apprenticeship route forward noticeably increased, with Plumbing, Tree Surgery and Business all being chosen and unlike the university route, often these courses start straight away so we said goodbye to the students taking this route forward with them proudly going to start their Apprenticeships as soon as the following week.

Ben is off to Loughborough to study Psychology

Charlie is off to start an Apprenticeship in Business



Harry is going to Plymouth to study Geography

Katya is off to Nottingham to study Russian, the first time one of our students has taken this subject at university





Jess is going to study education at Reading

Isla is off to Portsmouth to study Psychology



GCSE Results

Thursday 22nd August saw our Year 11 students celebrating their achievements and reflecting on their hard work as GCSE results are published nationally. This year, nearly three-quarters (73%) of students achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and maths, with nearly half (48%) achieving a grade 5 or higher in the two subjects. Additionally, in English alone, 85% of students achieved at least a grade 4, whilst 79% achieved the same in maths. Among the students celebrating particularly strong results were those with the top grades of 8 and 9. This includes Lisa, who achieved grade 9s in Maths, Biology and Physics, Anastasiia, who achieved a grade 9 in History, and Carmy who achieved grade 9s in Combined Science and Physical Education. The official league tables are not out yet but these results will represent positive progress figures on them and our Year 11 will again be at or near the top of the league table of non-selectives across Kent.

My quote for our exam results press release was:

"We are very proud of our students for their efforts and achievements this year, in particular those celebrating their GCSE results today. As a non-selective school, our aim is to give our students the best possible chance for success no matter their starting point or background and I know how hard our young people and staff have worked to live up to our ambitious ethos."

Exam results are of course very important to open doors for our students but we are also impressed each year by the contributions they make to our community and the attitudes for success they display. We wish them all well as they take their next steps."



Wye School Ski Trip Easter 2026



We are holding a promotion evening **Thursday 26th September** from **7:15 - 8:00 pm**.

Please come along to find out about our ski trip to Italy during Easter 2026. This trip will be open to students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12. The ski trip is great fun each year.

Child Centred Policing

Please click [here](#) for the latest Child Centres Policing Newsletter.

Catering Theme Day – Taste of Spain (September)

We hold regular theme days in partnership with our external caterer, Taylor Shaw, to showcase different flavours, festivals and cuisines. This month will feature a celebration of Spanish food and culture and will be held on Thursday 26th September. The catering theme days are very popular, and we warmly invite all students to try something a little bit different for lunch on that day. These are charged at the usual main meal and pudding price (£2.52) and payable via sQuid. Students in receipt of free school meals will have this option in place of the usual menu. View their tasty menu [here](#).

Crown Walk

Years 7 and 8 walked up to the Wye Crown behind school on the last day of the summer term. It was a hot day! This is a Wye tradition now and every year group walks up there at least once during their time at Wye, to give them an understanding of why our founders chose a crown as our school symbol.





Sports Day July 2024

Students had tremendous fun competing in the Wye School Sports Day in July. Congratulations to Olantigh who won sports Day overall, and to Kempe who won in Year 7.





Nature Club News July 2024

Wilder Kent Awards – We were lucky enough to receive a Commended award from [Wilder Kent Awards | Kent Wildlife Trust](#) a huge well done to all the students and staff involved in this important award, that recognizes positive action to restore nature and maintain wild spaces.





During enrichment week our Nature club made new herb labels out of recycled wooden spoons. They also had hot chocolate & biscuits to thank them for all their hard work this year getting our new site looking great.



We had visit from **Wye Bugs** who very kindly showed the students the work they are doing in supporting the Hoverfly which they are breeding for use as pollinators. We were told all about their important work and were shown the different types of Hoverflies that had been collected on the allotments.



Perfect surroundings for hot chocolate & cake!



Farm Visit

Our first visit to the farm this term. Students spent the day feeding all the animals on the farm, learning about animal care and where our food comes from.





Later in the day the students went foraging and made bread with honey & dock seeds and learnt how to make string using banana leaves.



Key

Dates

Date	Time	Event
26 September 2024	19:15 – 20:00	Ski Trip Promotion Talk – Assembly Hall
02 October 2024	08:45 – 12:00	Yr 7 and Yr 12 School Photos
17 October 2024	15:40 – 19:30	Yr 7 Tutor Group Parents' Evening (virtual) Information to follow
23 October 2024		Last Day of Term
06 November 2024		First Day of Term – all students
06-19 November 2024		Yr 11 & 13 mock examinations

Conclusion

It looks like the lovely weather might be coming to an end so please can you check your children have access to a winter coat, the forecast is currently for rain each day next week. It always surprises me how many of them don't come to school in a coat on rainy days, it would be good if you could check on that.

A reminder that we have changed the layout of the coming October half term compared to our historic pattern with it being longer, although not quite two weeks. You can see the term dates [here](#)



Communication with parents seems to be going smoothly this year but just a reminder that the best way to get a message to school is to email office@wyeschool.org.uk, stating who the message is for. That way, if that member of staff is absent or on training, the office can redirect your message to a suitable person to respond. This address is also monitored out of hours (not 24/7 but with daily checks) for any urgent health and safety or safeguarding messages.

I look forward to an equally positive second half of term 1 and will write to you again in the last week of this term to update you on how the year is going.

Yours sincerely

Luke Magee
Principal

