



Wye School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

14 March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

Spring has arrived with the school trees just starting to bud and the odd primrose around the school field edges. We have had a busy start to term with Years 11 and 13 completing their final mock exams prior to the real things starting in a few months. They all took them seriously and did their best. There has been a rise in attendance across the school with us returning to pre-COVID levels of good attendance for the first time. This is really pleasing as the best way to do well at school is to be at school. Thank you to parents and carers for all you have done to improve your children's attendance lately.

Absences

For all absences, illnesses and appointments, please email our Attendance Officer: attendance@wyeschool.org.uk or telephone 01233 811119 and leave a message.

School Values

At Wye School, character education is a fundamental aspect of our ethos. We are currently consulting with our stakeholders to identify the values we wish to emphasise with our students, ensuring they have a clear understanding of the Wye School way.

We aim to integrate these values into our character education programme, which will also influence other areas of the curriculum, such as careers, extracurricular activities, and academic programmes.

We kindly ask parents to share their thoughts using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=TkDZapSgQU-oefnpuf2oDSP9bIOnBQVerZKJtlQyUg5UMk03SU1UQzFGUkxMVU9TVkJMNIhEWFJTWi4u>

Thank you for your support.

Year 11 and 13 Easter Intervention Sessions

Some subjects are offering some additional intervention sessions in Easter between the 14th and 17th April. Teachers will email any invites to parents directly if your child is invited in the next fortnight. Other subjects will instead be offering booster sessions in the May half term and more details about these will be sent in May.



United Teaching

We deliver teacher training at Wye School through United Teaching, the United Learning National SCITT (teacher training body). Teaching is open to people from different walks of life. English teacher Lucie Skilton trained to teach after working in publishing as an editor. "I realised I had a skill for helping people tell their story and felt this could be used to support children in their journeys." Wye School are proud of our teacher Lucie who trained with us and United Teaching, and thankful that our students are benefitting from her wider experience. If you are a graduate and would be interested in teacher training with us, please do get in touch.

Royal Holloway Trip

United Learning organised a visit to Royal Holloway Department of Geography from Year 12s from 5 schools including Wye School. They had a day of Geography lectures, workshops and activities with university ambassadors. They were amazed to find out the library had 600,000 books.....



Dr Chris Satow from the Royal Holloway Geography Department said of them that they 'were so interested and engaged, a real credit to their school.'

Pages Uniform Suppliers

Pages have asked us to remind parents that they can deliver uniforms directly to school. They appreciate it is more difficult to visit the store with all the roadworks at present.

Monitoring your child's homework

Arbor's Parent Portal allows you to see what homework assignments your child has been set. It looks like this on the web version:

Overdue Assignments		
Oxbow Lakes	(Due 11 Mar 2019)	Late ►
Assignments that are due		
Addition work	(Due 30 Jun 2019)	Waiting for student to submit ►
Marked Assignments		
Creative writing evaluation	(Due 27 Mar 2019)	Marked ►

Assignment: Shape research

Shape research	
Title	Shape research
Due	KS3 Mathematics: Year 9: 9Ma/2, 13 May 2021
Course	KS3 Mathematics: Year 9: 9Ma/2
Marking	No mark
Status	Waiting for student to submit
Submission Type	Submit via Arbor
Student Instructions	
Instructions	Pick a shape, and find an example of where the shape is used in nature. Be ready to present why that shape is useful during the next lesson.
Submissions	

And like this on the Parent App:

Overdue Assignments	
Poster of salvador dali (Due 30 Apr 2019)	>
Waiting for student to submit	
Assignments that are due	
Variables and sequencing (Due 31 Jul 2019)	>
Waiting for student to submit	
Submitted Assignments	
Python - Variables (Due 19 Oct 2018)	>
Submitted - requires marking	

Submission of homework on Arbor enables students to keep track of what homework they have done, similar to a homework diary. Students 'Submit' their homework independently, Arbor does not sync with the

homework platforms. Therefore, if you want to check that your child has completed their homework, we would advise that you ask them to show you their completed homework on the relevant online platform.

Most homework is set to complete on an online platform. A list of the online platforms we use and how students can access them can be found on our website [here](#).

Tips for understanding and managing emotions for students during exam periods

The period leading up to exams or assessments can feel uncertain for many people. The webpage linked below offers a wealth of information and tools to help students in all year groups to manage their emotions around exams. We encourage you to explore the webpage and utilize the guidance provided to help your child succeed and build upon their confidence and resilience.

Link: <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/VMplmlSoXl87erZk?ref=email>

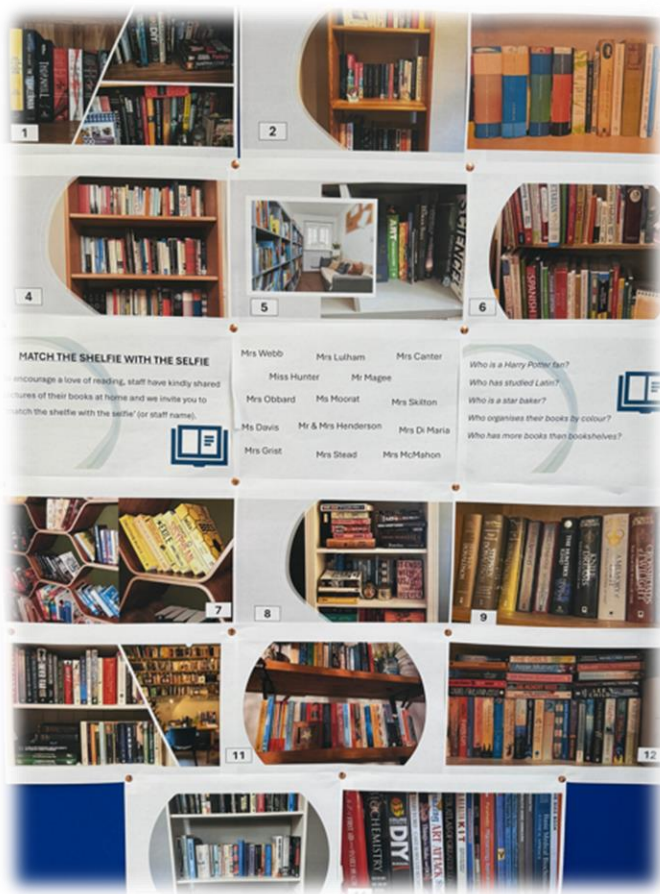


Photography Visitor

We were privileged to host renowned photographer Steve Bloom recently to meet our students and staff and talk about his life's work and generously gift some of his books as prizes to our Nature Club and Duke of Edinburgh's Award students. <https://www.stevebloomphoto.com/work> Mr Bloom signs his book 'Spirit of the Wild' for two of our Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award students who have been helping set up our library for the service component of their award.



Our Nature Club discussed their work on our school allotment and their favourite animals with Mr and Mrs Bloom and our Chair of Governors.



World Book Day

We were delighted to mark World Book Day with some fun activities which complemented our whole-school approach to literacy and to further encourage a love of reading. In tutor time, all students were invited to participate in the 'Masked Reader' where they had to guess which of our willing staff were reading a story from a recording of their voice. There were some interesting accents but our students were not easily fooled with many guessing the staff very quickly.

Slightly more taxing was the 'Match the Shelfie with the Selfie' where students had to guess members of staff from a picture of their bookcases and shelves at home. Who is the Harry Potter fan? Who has studied Latin? Who is a star baker? Answers are still to be revealed so do encourage your child to have a go: pictures of the shelves are displayed in the Kempe Centre next to the library shelves.

The English department took the opportunity to offer some slightly different lessons including one on the importance of nursery rhymes. After some debate about the benefits of nursery rhymes, students were invited to write their own, on the topic of Climate Change. This is the combined effort of 7 set 1:

*Mother Earth is green
Mother Earth is life.
But if we don't look after it, Mother Earth will die.
Turn off the lights, put rubbish in the bin,
Do what you can for the world we live in.*

*As the ice starts to melt, put on your seatbelt:
Because no bees flying means plants are dying;
In the north ice is melting and in the towns mines are smelting;
The polar bears are dying, because no one is trying;
The world has too much heat, so stop eating meat.
In other words, don't do anything wrong or the ice will be gone.*

*Be the change to stop the world falling apart,
Be strong and true to your heart.
Don't be mean.
Be green.
Save our earth.*



Sixth Form Science Trip to the Community Lab, Discovery Park

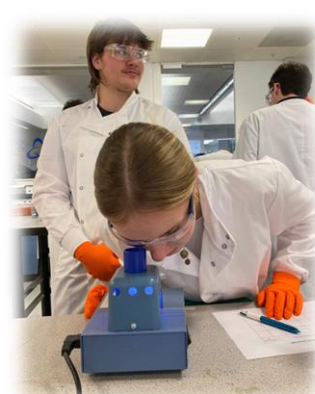
All of the Sixth Form Biology, Chemistry and Physics students went to the Community Lab at Discovery Park, Sandwich to take part in a Lab Mix-Up activity, accompanied by Mrs Grist and Ms Gawthorpe. The day started with an introduction from two Chemists about their career paths and what they are currently working on. The students were then given the following brief:

“You are a team of science investigators, sent to clean up following an incident at the disreputable chemical company

QUALCHEMTRY. The company had very poor house-keeping and this resulted in a water leak in their chemical stores. The majority of the chemicals have been sorted out but they have come across 4 unlabelled flasks of liquids in an area that typically holds 4 different chemicals. They urgently need to use these in reactions tomorrow and adding the wrong reagent could result in a serious chemical incident! A sample of each of these have been carefully prepared and they have been labelled 1, 2, 3 and 4. Your task is to safely investigate these compounds and unequivocally determine which material is which!”

The students were able to get hands-on, working in groups to identify the unknown chemicals. There was a great deal of problem solving involved and they carried out techniques including chemical wet tests, NMR and IR spectroscopy, thin layer chromatography and melting point analysis. This gave all students the opportunity to work with equipment that they do not have access to in school (the NMR machine alone costs £120,000) but learn about as part of their A-Level course.

All teams successfully identified the four unknown chemicals and the Chemists at the Community Lab were impressed with how well they worked. Feedback was very positive from the students themselves; they thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and found it very insightful to work in a ‘proper’ laboratory. Some students also commented that the experience had opened their eyes to different potential career paths. We are very grateful to the Community Lab for hosting us and hope to return in the future with GCSE students.



Sports Round-up



Football - Our under 13 girls beat Chilmington Green School 2-0 in early March, with Poppy scoring her 20th goal this season. Well done Poppy.



Rugby - A great evening in February for our under 13 rugby squad, boys, with many making their first appearance in a fully organised rugby match. They performed well, but, were defeated by Simon Langton Boys 35-20

Basketball - Our Year 8 boys achieved a victory over Chilmington Green School in early March by 42-12. Mathi was the star player scoring 20 points, with Jsaon, Luke, George and Henry also on the scoresheet. Well done boys.



Football - Our under 15 girls team progressed to round 4 of the English Schools' Football Association 9 a side competition after a 9-1 win in late February. Hattie scored 3 goals, as did Molly, with Mischa scoring 2 and Cara 1. Well done girls!

Our U15 girls football team wearing their new football kit!

Both our U15 and U13 girls are through to the district semi finals which are due to take place in the next few weeks

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
04 April 2025		Last day of Term
04 April 2025		Year 11 and 13 Academic Report 2 released
23 April 2025		Start of Term
23 April 2025	17:15 – 19:00	Year 9 Options Evening (More information to follow)
24+25 April 2025		GCSE Art – Practical examinations
28+29 April 2025		GCSE - Spanish Speaking Exams
28 April 2025	15:30 – 19:30	Year 9 Parents Evening (Virtual)
30 April 2025 plus 06, 07 May 25		GCSE – French Speaking Exams
29 & 30 April and 01 May 2025		A level Art – Practical examinations
02-04 May 2025		Silver DofE Practice – Ashdown Forest
05 May 2025		Bank Holiday
12 – 16 May 2025		Year 12 End of Year Assessments
13 May 2025		Year 7 Parents' Evening
16-18 May 2025		Bronze DofE Practice
23 May 2025		Last day of term

Conclusion

In sport the game is what matters and we are proud of our teams and individuals no matter how they do, taking part is good for them and school. That being said, I have noticed a rise in the proportion of matches recently that we are winning, which is rather nice for the smallest local secondary school to manage. In particular, our girls football teams are winning, so well done to Wye School girls for how well you are doing. Thank you also to my PE staff, and other staff that support them, in driving the teams all around Kent, usually after school has finished or on the weekend, and coaching them on arrival. Thank you also to the parents and carers who come and support and/or pick up/drop off their children, enabling them to take part.

Sent with this newsletter is a separate publication about the careers events that have been happening at school lately. Mr Maisiey and Mrs Henderson have been inviting a range of external speakers into school to talk to students about the jobs and careers available to them, talks have been well attended and this has complemented very well the careers sessions we do in PSHE and tutor time. Thank you to all our parents and community members who have delivered a careers session.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal