



Wye School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Newsletter

17 January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

It is week two of the January term, our term 3, and things have got off to a busy start. Most years are sitting mid-term assessments at the moment, working hard to show what they have learnt so far this year.

Theatre Trip

Ms Drake and Ms Greenfield recently took 100 Year 7 and 8 pupils to see the pantomime *The Wizard of Oz* at Leas Cliff Hall. The experience was fantastic, with students actively participating and engaging with the performance. Their enthusiasm and behaviour reflected positively on our school, showcasing their school spirit. Overall, it was a memorable outing that fostered a sense of community and enjoyment among the pupils.



House System

As we head into 2025 students will be issued a house badge. Our Year 7 students already have theirs. These should be worn on their blazers as part of their uniform. In this first instance these badges will be provided free of charge but there will be a small charge to replace lost badges.



This is to identify students as part of our house communities so they can be awarded reward points for their houses in pursuit of the Wye School Shield. Our houses are named after local significant places, features or people. We have Stour, Olantigh, Crown and Kempe. Each house will be a small community for students to collaborate with each other, over lots of extra-curricular activities.

During the next term there will be inter house sports events, inter house chess and lots of fun house events such as welly launching (think Olympic Javelin but with Wellies). These events are to help develop character by testing their resilience, enthusiasm and determination and to have fun.

Spotlight on Speech and Language

Each newsletter we are going to focus on a different Speech and Language condition. As we strive to support our children's communication skills, it's important to be aware of conditions that may impact their language development. One such condition is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). This disorder affects a child's ability to understand and use language, which can influence their academic and social interactions.

What is Developmental Language Disorder?

Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) is a communication disorder that interferes with a child's ability to learn, understand, and use language. Unlike other language difficulties, DLD is not caused by hearing loss, autism, or lack of exposure to language. It affects approximately 1 in 14 children, making it one of the most common developmental disorders.

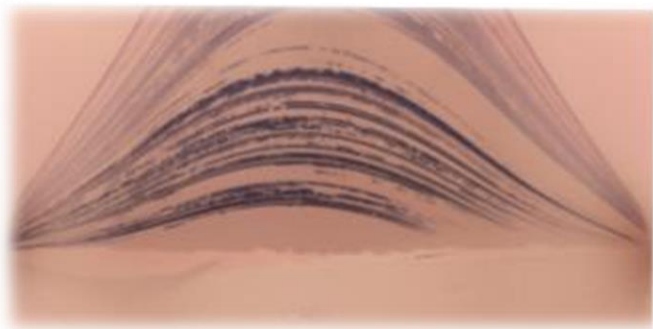
Below is a link to a website where you can find more information on DLD

For more information, please [visit](#)

Remember, every child develops at their own pace, and with the right support, they can thrive. If you have any questions or need more information, please feel free to either contact me at nicky.hargrave@wyeschool.org.uk or the SEN department

Solar Can

You may remember we placed a 'Solar Can' pin-hole-camera on the school roof last June. After six months of exposure, we now have images showing the tracks of the sun. The gaps in the tracks are when it was cloudy, you can probably see the three weeks of almost complete cloud cover we had in the Autumn. On the left is a direct scan of the photo-sensitive paper from inside the can, on the right is a processed image with the colours inverted and the light-levels tuned. Credits to Dan Sarbonovic for camera placement, and Bob Newport for image processing.



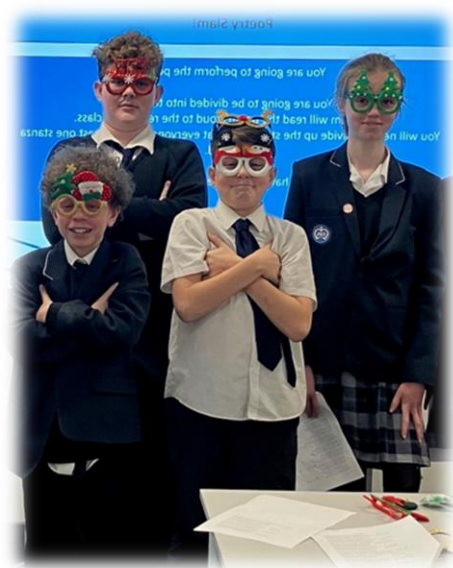
Year 7 Christmas Craft Event

We recently held a delightful Christmas Craft event for a group of Year 7 pupils. During this festive gathering, the students showcased their creativity by making beautiful Christmas decorations while enjoying some sweet treats as a reward for their hard work. Their behaviour and enthusiasm made the event a great success. We are excited to announce that, due to the positive response, we plan to offer a similar event to more pupils during Easter. Stay tuned for more details!

Christmas Showcase

The students' Christmas Showcase was a wonderful success, featuring a diverse range of performances including solo piano pieces, the fabulous school band and short ensembles. Students, parents, and staff all thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Well done to everyone involved!





Festive Poetry Slam

Inspired by Wye School's Christmas Variety production and continuing the school focus on developing oracy skills, some KS3 English classes celebrated the end of term with a festive poetry slam. Students first watched a reading of the poem '[Twas the Night Before Christmas](#)' by a celebrity line-up including Dame Judi Dench, Joanna Lumley, Ncuti Gatwa and even His Majesty the King.

Students then worked in groups to put on their own performance of the 14 stanza poem, with each student having to recite at least one stanza. The festive glasses in the picture were optional but certainly added to the festive spirit. The students gave some glittering performances.



RAF Careers

This term we had the RAF Careers Engagement Officer come to the school and work with a select group of students. The students got to hear about all of the potential roles within the RAF and the skills involved. They took part in group activities which tested their abilities to think quickly, react to unexpected events and work together.



Science Practical Club

Students in Practical Club this term conducted some organ dissections in order to gain understanding of how body systems work and to learn key skills such as the safe use of scientific equipment.

Connect! programme for neurodivergent young people aged 9-18 across Kent

Please see the [Connect! Leaflet](#) for more information relating to activities that are co-designed with young people and include crafts, climbing, escape rooms, cinema trips and gaming.

Twickenham Rugby Museum



Earlier in December our A level, GCSE PE students and keen rugby players visited Twickenham Rugby Museum. They had a self-led tour of the museum which gave them an insight into the full history of how the game of rugby had developed from public schools, university and to the RFU as we know it today. There were displays of rugby around the world, stretching from the commonwealth and beyond. Students were able to interact with many activities including testing their strength on a scrum machine, jumping high for a line out and being commentators in a sound booth.



Students were also taken on a trip around the stadium by a guide who told them more about the development of Twickenham as stadium itself, discussing the technology that was used today along with the improvements that had been made due to the commercialisation and sponsorship seen today in global sport. Students had the honour of sitting in VIP seating besides the pitch and exploring the England changing rooms.



Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
20 January 2025		Year 11 Parents' Evening
03-07 February 2025		Year 11 PE Practical Assessments
03-06 February 2025		NEA Food Practical Examination
04 February 2025		Year 11 Drama Technical Rehearsal
07 February 2025		Year 11 Drama Students – Exam with external moderator
07-14 February 2025		French Speaking Mock Examinations
10-11 February 2025		Spanish Speaking Mock Examinations
14 February 2025		Last Day of Term
24 February 2025		Start of Term

Conclusion

As you can see we have had lots of fun activities around the Christmas period, our core purpose is of course learning but it is equally important that we are a happy community which is why we run such events.

Yours sincerely



Luke Magee
Principal