



Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the first external examinations for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the importance of this time for our young learners. While it is true that education encompasses much more than just exams, these upcoming assessments represent a significant milestone in their academic journey. For Year 11 and 13, the focus is particularly intense, as these exams will play a crucial role in shaping their future opportunities for post-16 and post-18 education, as well as employment pathways.

I want to extend my heartfelt wishes to our students as they prepare for this challenging period. Remember, the key to success during these exams is not just hard work, but also ensuring that they are supported in fostering a healthy environment. This involves getting good sleep, maintaining a nutritious diet, and staying hydrated. A calm and nurturing home life will also go a long way in helping them perform to the best of their abilities.

Lastly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you, the parents and carers, for your unwavering support throughout their exam preparations. Your encouragement and involvement make all the difference.

End of Year Assessments

We are coming up to that stage of the year where we take the opportunity to assess our students' cumulative knowledge across the whole academic year to both celebrate their progress and make a plan to support the next stages of their development.

Dates

Year 8 and 9 assessments will take place between 19th May and 23rd May in the classroom in their normal scheduled lessons.

Year 7 and 10 assessments will take place between 2nd and 10th June in the classroom in their normal scheduled lessons.

Curriculum Content

Students will be assessed on the content they have learned throughout this academic year so far. To see a list of this for each subject to support with your child's revision, please see our school website on this [link](#).

Year 10 Exam Experience

On the 2nd and 3rd of June, students in Year 10 will also be completing some of their core end of year exams in the exam hall so that they have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the process and make the exam hall less daunting before they reach Year 11.

2nd June: Chemistry (am) and Maths non-calculator (pm)

3rd June: English (am) and Maths calculator (pm)

Equipment

Students should have the following equipment with them for all of their assessments so that they can maximise their scores. Black pen, green pen, pencil, pencil sharpener, eraser, dry-wipe pen (for mini whiteboards), ruler (with cm and mm), highlighters, glue stick, coloured pencils, compasses and protractor.

Students should also have access to a scientific calculator each day (the following have all the functions students will need in KS4 and KS5 Casio 85GT CW, Casio 85GT X, Casio fx991EX, Casio fx83GT CW or Casio fx991 CW). We have a small stationery shop at school where basic items like pens, drywipe pens, pencils, erasers, and rulers can be bought at cost price.

Revision Techniques

Students are taught about revision techniques during their lessons and in tutor time and should consider using a range of these to help them prepare. Teachers will also be uploading revision materials to Arbor to support your child leading up to the assessments. For revision techniques, studies have shown that solely re-reading information is the least effective technique, instead students should consider methods like summarizing notes into shorter memorable sections, creating mind maps or flash cards and using them to self-quiz, or teaching the material to someone else. Revising little and often is proven to be more effective than cramming revision into a long session the night before an exam.

What can I do to support my child?

- Ensure your child is ready to focus before the start of the school day. This includes making sure your child is awake after a good night's sleep, has had breakfast and has their equipment and a full water bottle.
- Make sure your child has a distraction-free environment to complete revision and homework. This can include keeping background noises to a minimum, ensuring your child has turned off their notifications on personal devices and is not getting distracted by other people whilst revising.
- Reminding your child that homework is an important part of their revision and they should complete this to help develop their long-term memory for each subject.
- Have a routine in order to complete homework or revision so that all work can be completed within a particular timeframe, allowing for downtime each day.
- Discussing your child's short, medium or long term goals with them to help them stay focused and motivated when revising for examinations.
- Encourage your child to take short, regular breaks to avoid burnout from homework or revision. Activities like a quick walk, a game of football or a healthy snack can refresh their mind and improve focus.
- Email the Head of Year if you have any questions in the first instance.

Absences – A quick reminder

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

United Learning – Parent and Carer Webinar

Anna Freud have kindly offered to host a webinar for parents and carers at United Learning schools on **Monday 12th May at 4pm – 5pm.**

The webinar aims to provide a toolkit to help you support your child through what they may be going through. The QR code can be found [here](#) to join the parent & carer webinar.

You can expect guidance on:

- Understanding mental health and wellbeing
- What can I do to support my child/ young person
- How parents and carers may feel
- When might we need to talk more
- Where can I find more information

If cannot make this date, but you are interested in attending, please do sign up via the following [link](#) and you will be sent a recording of the session.

Easter Ski Trip

Wye School and Chilmington Green School had a joint ski trip to Italy over Easter which was a great success.



Quick stop for breakfast before early arrival in Cesana.



Beautiful blue skies for their first days of skiing in Cesana.

The intermediate group had pushed on and skied across to Clavier.



The beginners group also had a great start, and made very fast progress, getting out on the mountain from day 2.



The upper beginners made it up the mountain in Montgenevre and were rewarded with incredible views across the French and Italian mountains.

GCSE Trip to the Ashford Mosque

As part of their GCSE studies, Year 10 students visited the Ashford Mosque to learn about Muslim prayer practices. The pupils observed the various rituals involved in the prayer, including the call to prayer, the wudu (washing before prayer), and the different postures and recitations during the prayer itself. The experience provided a valuable insight into the spiritual and communal aspects of Muslim worship.

After the prayer session, the mosque community warmly welcomed the students with food and drinks, showcasing their hospitality and kindness. The pupils found the visit to be a lovely and enriching experience, gaining a deeper understanding of Islamic practices and the importance of community in the Muslim faith. This follows other visits including to our local Christian Church.



Congratulations Dillon

On 1st May at the Ashford AC open track and field meet, Dillon in Year 8 set a new personal best in the 300m. He improved his personal best by over 0.8 seconds in going under 40 second for the first time, running 39.98 seconds and winning the event. Well done to him.

Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams - Parent Workshops

The Kent Emotional Wellbeing Teams are hosting online parent workshops which are aimed at supporting young people and parents/carers of young people in secondary school.

There are three workshops taking place this term - parents of Year 11 students will have already received an invitation to the Less Stress Guide to Exams which has already taken place.

In addition to this, there is *Understanding Your Amazing Teenage Brain* on 3/6/25 and *Introduction to Understanding Autism* on 17/6/25.

There are QR codes on the [poster link](#) for parents/carers to register for the workshops.

These have been incredibly insightful and beneficial in the past, so we hope that many of you are able to join.

Ashford Family Hubs Timetable April-July 25

Please follow the [link](#) for the Ashford Family Hubs Timetable from April to July 2025.

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
12 – 16 May 2025		Year 12 End of Year Assessments
13 May 2025		Year 7 Parents' Evening
16 - 18 May 2025		Bronze DofE Practice
19 – 23 May 2025		Year 8 and 9 end of Year Assessments
23 May 2025		Last day of term
02 June 2025		First day of term

Conclusion

As a Geographer I do like to keep an eye on the wildlife and nature around the school site. Most years we have Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchids growing in our meadow like parts of the grounds. This year I have spotted my first Green Winged Orchid on site:



I did hear some puzzled Year 7s asking each other 'why is Mr Magee staring at the grass' as I looked for more on the PE field.....

Yours sincerely

Luke Magee

Luke Magee
Principal