



Welcome to the latest Wye School Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers

2024 is coming to an end and we have had some lovely Christmas fun at school, I hope your child enjoyed themselves. The weather has been miserable for much of this term, it has been great to see a much higher proportion of students with proper winter coats this year to keep them warm and dry.

I was very pleased to get the performance information which I set out below for you from the government over the last few weeks, it gives us the confidence that our policies and practices do work and lead to strong outcomes for the majority of students. That links to the latest parent survey; thank you for all your positive comments, which I have passed to any staff singled out for praise. We also take note of your improvement points and consider each of them. It was interesting this year that some of you felt we are too strict, and some of you not strict enough, and one of you criticised us for sticking to our policies. I think putting that all together, we have clear policies so that students and parents can know what to expect. I don't hide those policies e.g. on parent tours in Year 6, I make clear what they are and that we will do our best to consistently apply them. It can be a difficult juggle sometimes, maintaining high expectations around behaviour so that all can learn well in lessons, and meeting the individual needs of students; it works so much better when school and home work together on it, giving the student a clear and consistent message that we will all help them where they need it but that they also have to help themselves and others by doing their best and respecting the adults and other students around them.

Department of Education Decision on 6th Form

As you know, we held a consultation in October on the future of our 6th form. Whilst there were some very passionate views expressed in favour of keeping it open, the majority of responders accepted the school recommendation that we close our 6th Form. Based on that last month we put forward an application to the Department of Education (DfE) for them to make a decision on whether they would accept this closure of our Sixth Form. This week, the DfE has confirmed that it has approved our application which means that our Sixth Form will formally close in August 2026. This means there will not be any further recruitment into the 6th Form.

As planned, our current Year 12 and 13 students will be able to complete their programmes of study with us unaffected. We will continue to do all we can to ensure they have the knowledge and tools they need to successfully take their chosen next steps, whether it be taking up an apprenticeship, going on to university or entering the world of work. We are likewise continuing to work closely with all our Year 11 students as they consider their Sixth Form destinations to make sure they are able to go on to a Sixth Form or local College where they feel confident and can thrive.

Thank you to everyone who engaged with this process and provided their thoughts.

Department for Education Performance Tables 2024

This month, the government has published their league tables for our GCSE results last year. I told you in the summer that we were very proud of how our 2023/24 cohort of Year 11s did, and the league tables make me very proud indeed. Wye School was above the Kent and England average for all the main measures.

Results at KS4 for 2023/24

Progress 8: +0.35 Above average for England (-0.03) and Kent (-0.15)



Attainment 8: 48.9 Above average for England (45.9) and Kent (47)

Entering Ebacc: 73% Above average for England (40.4%) and Kent (45.9%)

Staying in Education or Entering Employment: 95% Above average for England (93%) and Kent (94%)

Grade 5+ in English & Maths: 48.4% Above average for England (45.9%) and Kent (47.9%)

Grade 4+ in English & Maths: 73.8% Above average for England (65%) and Kent (66.1%)

Ebac Average Point Score: 4.66 Above average for England (4.07) and Kent (4.21)

Local Context

As you know, Kent is a selective county, so the expectation is that grammar schools have the highest performing students and so the top positions in all the league tables. On founding, we set out to be a free school that bucked that trend and brought a strong academic education to all students. From our first set of results we had attainment that was above the England average, despite being a non-selective school. And our Progress 8, a measure of how well students of all abilities do, has always been positive, in a county where almost all non-selectives are negative. This year we had the 3rd highest P8 figure of any non-selective in Kent, and there are over 70, and are the only non-selective with a positive P8 score in Ashford, Maidstone, Canterbury or Folkestone. We were also the highest performing of the four new Free Schools in Kent. We had a higher P8 score than 9 grammar schools in Kent, including 3 local (ish) to Wye, and 1 local private school.

Thank you to any parents and carers reading who have a child who was a Year 11 last year, your support was of course a vital part of their success.

Mid-year assessments for Years 7-10 and 12

After the Christmas holidays, students in Year 7-10 and 12 will be sitting their mid-year assessments at Wye School. These assessments are a valuable opportunity for us to evaluate students' current understanding across their subjects, celebrate their successes, and identify areas for further support.

An email has been sent to all parents in these year groups that includes the dates as well as a list of topics students can revise and resources to help. Students will need to ensure they have the correct equipment from the following equipment list. 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). Students can buy the basic equipment such as pens, pencils and protractors from the office with cash, but we do not sell calculators, coloured pencils or glue sticks.

If you would like further information on how to support your child, please see [this link](#) to our school website: The schedule for reporting can also be found on our school website [here](#)

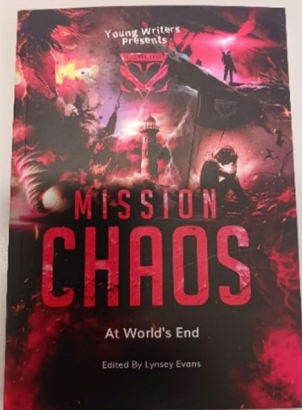
Our Curriculum and Homework

Several parents in the Parent Survey said that they would like to know what their child is learning so that they can support at home. Our curriculum is published on our website for Years 7-11 [here](#) and for Sixth Form the curriculum is linked via each of the individual course pages [here](#).

Our school website has information on [how to support your child's progress](#), including recommendations for KS4 and 5 revision guides and further details about each of our online learning platforms. One of the most important things that you can do to support your child is encourage and support them to complete their homework. If possible, please provide a quiet space for them to do their homework. Our homework schedules for each year group and further details about homework at Wye School is set out in our Homework Policy, available on our website [here](#).



We regularly review students' homework across subjects and the quality and quantity produced. It is consistently the case that the students who do their homework get the best outcomes. Homework enables students to recap and practise what they have learnt in the classroom, which over time helps students to embed knowledge and ultimately achieve their best. We believe that homework is important, but so is a balance between work and home life. With this in mind, we have carefully considered the amount of homework that we set to reflect the need for independent learning outside of the classroom but not so much that it is at the expense of other things in our students' lives. We want our students to do well academically but also acknowledge that having time to maintain a social life, spend time with family and pursue other interests is important.



Mission Chaos - At World's End

Mission Chaos

43 Wye School students had their poems published in 'Mission Chaos' published by Young Writers after a creative writing competition. Well done to all involved.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H02caOzE8Y>

Mission Chaos - At World's End

The Beacon Of Life

In the middle of chaos, a lone tall figure stood observing the world around them. Disaster engulfed their surroundings. People ran from danger to danger, not knowing where to go. The cries for help pierced their ears. Buildings crumbled in the blink of an eye. Yet, this figure remained calm, a beacon of serenity in the middle of chaos. The figure offered a hand to those who needed it the most, leading their sinless souls from the darkest of war to the light, hoping to give them peace where past loved ones awaited them again with wide-open arms.

Faith Marchant (13)

Wye Free School, Wye

Bunker

It was a cold Thursday night, around 2am. It felt weird. There was another ship. However, it wasn't on the radar system. I alerted the captain and he set the alarms, but it was different. No one woke up.

When we docked, me and the captain ran onto the land. Hiding in a bush, the other boat docked up. Suddenly, the strange-looking crew ran off and started digging the sand up. Without a blink of an eye, they vanished into the sand.

After, me and my captain went down into the sand as well, but it was different. It was the bunker...

Jack Simpson (14)

Wye Free School, Wye



Into Film Enrichment Trip

On Wednesday 14th November - regular attendees of the Into Film Lunchtime Enrichment Club, got the opportunity to attend the **Into Film Festival** which ran from the 8th to the 29th of November. The Into Film Festival is a free, annual, UK-wide celebration of film and education for 5 to 19-year-old students.

The students were given the opportunity to watch a special screening of Despicable Me 4 at the Ashford Cinema.

Into Film is the UK's leading charity for film education. who champion and realise the potential of film, cinema and moving images to create inspiring, inclusive learning experiences. It was a fantastic film, with plenty of popcorn, a cinematic cinema experience for all staff and children.

STEM Club – Desert Island Survival

This term in STEM club, we've been exploring the scenario of being trapped on a desert island. Each week, our activities have focused on essential survival techniques that students might need in such a situation.

So far, we've created water-powered mills and examined their use for generating electricity and transporting water. We've also made our own recycled paper, which could be used for writing messages for help. Most recently, we designed ropes from different types of plastic bags with the goal of moving heavy items like coconuts. The students were very engaged in twisting the strips of plastic bags and understood that this increases the strength of the rope.

This week, we investigated the anatomy of a fish through a dissection demonstration. The students were excited to learn about the different anatomical parts of fish and how they absorb oxygen underwater. They asked interesting questions, such as, "Where does the meat come from?" Through this, they learned how fish are prepared for consumption—an important skill if they were ever stranded on a desert island!





Jujitsu Success

Yr 13 student *Beeni Monteiro-Sherratt* competed at the English Jujitsu Open at UEL Sports Dock in London. After a strong showing, Beeni is now preparing for the European Championships to be held in Portugal in January. Good luck Beeni !

November Farm Visit



This month's farm visit with the students was a great success albeit a bit soggy. The students cracked on despite the elements and helped to prepare a new chicken shed, the fun part was then transporting the chickens one by one into their new home (we only had 1 escapee)



We then headed over to feed the pigs and piglets and fill up their water, followed by lots of other necessary farm jobs.



The day was rounded off with an educational talk looking at the different colours and textures of wool and learning about where our foods come from and how best to look after the farm animals. We are super proud of all the students who attended, not only did they show enormous respect to both staff and animals they really got stuck in and asked lots of questions.

Gladiators

Fun was had by all at the Gladiators sport event held at Three Hills in Folkestone. The students took part in four different events alongside other schools, ranging from Quidditch to Wheelchair Rugby.





Wye School Nature Club

Wye School Nature Club were delighted to win a Green School Award & also in addition proud to win The Overall Kent Nature Conservation Award it's been a very successful year for our green fingered students.

U15 Girls Football Team - Through to Semi-Finals of the Kent Cup

Huge congratulations to our U15 girls football team who successfully beat Canterbury Academy to advance to the semi finals of the Kent Cup. The first football team in Wye School history to get this far.

In a very close game, the girls went 1-0 down before Mischa scored from near the halfway line lobbing the keeper. Into the second half, the girls started on fire, taking the lead 3-1 with a further goal from Mischa and Hattie scoring on her debut for the school. Canterbury Academy fought back to make the game 3-3 before Molly scored the winner in the last few minutes of the game.

Player of the match – Cara.





U13 Badminton Tournament

Congratulations to Mingshu and Amelia in Year 8 who won the Girls U13 District Badminton tournament at Towers School on Thursday night. They won all of their games, including a semi-final win over fellow [@WyeSchoolKent](#) students Millie and Bella.



Year 8 Football Squad

A battling performance by our [@WyeSchoolKent](#) Year 8 football squad tonight in the QFs of the [@kentschools_fa](#) U13 small schools competition. A hattrick from Henry unfortunately wasn't enough to overcome Dover Grammar School B who progress to the semi finals with a 5-4 victory.

Year 11 Intervention rewards

We are proud of our Year 11 students who have been hard at work taking part in lunchtime booster sessions for their GCSE subjects. Every session they attend, they receive a sticker and if they receive 18 stickers, they are entered into a raffle and get to go on a lunchtime excursion!

Our first lunchtime trip visited McDonalds on the 13th December where students had a great time even if they did over eat and struggle to get back up the stairs to science that afternoon! These first 12 students deserve a big congratulations.



Careers Speaker

We were delighted to welcome our amazing speaker Mike Groom from Cleshar who spoke about the history of IT and his role in setting up banking apps on phones. He handed out pens and sweets to the pupils as well.

He created lots of enthusiasm in the year to do with Careers!

Key Dates

Date	Time	Event
20 December 2024		Last Day of Term - Students finish at 12:15 pm
07 January 2025		Start of Term – all students
09 January 2025		Sixth Form Parents' Evening
09 January 2025		Td/IPV & Men ACWY (School Leavers Booster), Year 9, plus Year 10 & 11 catch-up
20 January 2025		Year 11 Parents' Evening
03-07 February 2025		Year 11 PE Practical Assessments
03-06 February 2025		NEA Food Practical Examination
07-14 February 2025		French Speaking Mock Examinations
10-11 February 2025		Spanish Speaking Mock Examinations
14 February 2025		Last Day of Term

Kent Police - E-scooters

Are you breaking the law? For guidance from Kent Police, see [here](#).

Pages Uniform Suppliers

Please see the store opening times over the Christmas period [here](#).



Wye Village Hall & Recreation Ground

A Vacancy has become available for a Part-Time Manager Post, 20 hours per week. For further details, please visit [here](#).

Godinton Primary School

Godinton Primary School in Ashford have places available on their Christmas Workshop, please see [here](#) for more information.

Young People's Winter Wellbeing Guide

Please see the latest [Young People's Winter Wellbeing Guide](#)

Conclusion

I hope you all have a lovely family Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Luke Magee
Principal

