



Headteacher Messages

Our Community

As we reach the end of our first half-term, it is remarkable to reflect on just how much has happened at WKGS in only seven weeks. From sporting success and residential visits to House competitions, student leadership and opportunities to explore new interests, it has been a wonderful start to the year and a fantastic demonstration of the ambition, enthusiasm and sense of community that make WKGS such a special place.

Our sporting teams have made an excellent start to the year. Our U18 football team progressed to the third round of the ESFA National Cup following a 2-0 victory, while our U15 team secured an exciting 6-4 win in their opening fixture. Our Year 7 netball team celebrated their first Wirral Netball League victory with a 7-3 win, and both our U13 and U18 badminton teams have progressed to the second round of the Schools Sport National Badminton Cup. These are brilliant achievements and are just a handful of the sporting successes that we have already seen this year. They are an excellent reflection of the commitment that students and staff put into representing the school.

Beyond the classroom, students have already embraced an extraordinary range of experiences. Our Year 7 students travelled together to JCA Conover for outdoor activities and team building, while Year 8 French students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Normandy. GCSE Art students spent a weekend developing their creativity during a residential visit to the Conway Centre, Sixth Form Religious Studies students travelled to Poland, and our Gold Duke of Edinburgh participants completed their trial expedition. Each of these opportunities provides something different, but all contribute to developing the independence, confidence, friendships and wider perspectives that are such an important part of education.

Our House programme has also got off to a flying start. Following the House Extravaganza, students have thrown themselves into Year 7 Cross Country, Senior House Netball, House Bake Off, Pumpkin Carving and House Dance, with fantastic levels of participation across the school. It has been particularly pleasing to see students getting involved in activities they might not ordinarily try, supporting their Houses and contributing to the wider life of the school. As we have said since September, our ambition is for every student to find opportunities to participate, contribute and feel part of something beyond their lessons.

There have been plenty of other highlights too. Our Year 12 Prefect Elections saw excellent engagement, with so many students putting themselves forward for leadership positions and taking the opportunity to vote. Year 9 enjoyed a Languages Day hosted at WKGS with support from the Association for Language Learning and the Universities of Manchester and Newcastle, while participation in our joint Combined Cadet Force programme with CGGS has reached record levels among WKGS students.



Of course, these are just some of the highlights. There have been countless individual achievements, both within and beyond school, that we simply cannot fit into a newsletter. We love celebrating these through our social media channels and would encourage parents and families to continue sharing stories of student success with us.

What makes all of this particularly special is not simply the achievements themselves, but the willingness of students to embrace opportunities, challenge themselves, support one another and contribute positively to our community. It is a wonderful example of Pioneering Excellence and Compassionate Community working hand in hand, and something of which we can all be immensely proud.

Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to the 477 parents and carers who completed our recent Parent Survey. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 98% feeling their child is happy and safe at WKGS, 97% recognising the support provided for students' wider personal development, 96% believing decisions are made in students' best interests and 95% feeling that behaviour is well managed. These are wonderful endorsements of the culture and community we work so hard to create.

It was also encouraging that 92% felt concerns they had raised were dealt with properly and 91% felt the school communicates effectively. However, the comments highlighted opportunities to refine aspects of our communication, particularly subject-specific feedback, while a small number of parents of students with SEND identified a need for greater consistency in the adaptations provided for their children.

We are incredibly grateful for both the positive feedback and the constructive suggestions. Listening to our families and continually reflecting on how we can improve is an important part of our commitment to providing the very best experience for every student.

Sixth Form Applications

Applications for entry to our Sixth Form in September 2027 are now open to both current WKGS students and those looking to join us from other schools.

Following half-term, members of the Senior Leadership Team will meet individually with all Year 11 students for our Individual Advice and Guidance (IAG) meetings. These provide an important opportunity to discuss students' ambitions, explore their post-16 options and help them make informed decisions about the next stage of their education.

Our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Thursday 12 November, providing students and families with an opportunity to learn more about our A Level courses, meet staff and current Sixth Form students, and experience the opportunities available within our Sixth Form community.



We are incredibly proud of the range of pathways our students pursue after Year 11 and want every young person to feel confident and well supported in choosing the route that is right for them.

Attendance, Attitude and Wellbeing

Alongside everything happening beyond the classroom, I have been equally delighted by the attitude and commitment that students have shown towards their studies during these opening seven weeks. Lessons have been purposeful, students have approached their learning with maturity and enthusiasm, and the high expectations we established at the beginning of September have provided a really positive foundation for the year ahead.

Our attendance figures have also been exceptional. Whole-school attendance currently places WKGS within the top 2% of schools nationally, while our levels of persistent absence, where attendance falls below 90%, place us within the best 1% of schools. These are achievements worth celebrating, not simply because attendance is an important measure of school performance, but because they reflect the strength of our community and the value we place on being together.

Being in school consistently means students benefit from the full range of learning, friendships, relationships and opportunities available to them. Equally importantly, our very low levels of persistent absence reflect the work taking place between students, families and staff to identify and overcome barriers to attendance, ensuring that school remains a positive, supportive and productive place for everyone.

As we now reach the half-term break, I hope students and families are able to enjoy some well-earned rest. It has been an exceptionally busy and positive start to the year and maintaining that momentum also means recognising the importance of taking time to recharge. Whether spending time with family and friends, enjoying hobbies, getting outdoors or simply slowing down for a few days, I hope everyone has the opportunity to return refreshed and ready for the next half-term.

Thank you, as always, to our students for their enthusiasm, kindness and determination, to our staff for creating such an extraordinary range of opportunities, and to parents and carers for your continued support. There is a huge amount to celebrate from these first seven weeks, and I am excited to see what the rest of the year will bring.

With very best wishes,

Mr S Clarke
Headteacher



General Messages

EcoClub needs your help!

We would be grateful to receive donations of clean, wearable and good condition items to support with our Eco Clothes Sale at this year's Winter Wonderland. All donations should be taken to A3.

Graham Road – new layout

Wirral Council has advised school of a change in road layout on Graham Road. Please refer to the attached drawing for further details.

The aim is to provide visibility for pedestrians crossing Graham Road. The buildout, in combination with the associated road markings and signage is intended to reduce the crossing distance for pedestrians as well as create a more obvious crossing point, create a safer environment for all road users and improve pedestrian route to the playing fields, during the school day when congestion is reduced and traffic flow is increased.

Important: the proposed works will change the way in which drivers use Graham Road. The build out will narrow the carriage way requiring motorists travelling with the school on their right, to give way to oncoming traffic. We urge motorists to support a one way system and enter Graham Road from the West Kirby end rather than the Hoylake end.

Edukid Newsletter

We are pleased to attach an update from our charity partner, Edukid. Students have heard in assembly this week about the important work that our fundraising helps to support and we are looking forward to some updates after half term about the 7 children we support directly.

We were also pleased earlier in the term to welcome Chris Turner of Edukid into school. He promoted an Edukid-led trip to Peru to Y11,12 and 13 students and we know a number of our school community are hoping to head out to Peru to work with Edukid in the summer term.

Thanks to all parents and carers for their continued support of our charity efforts. If there are students and / or parents/carers who would like further information, please email Mrs Marley lmalley@wkgs.net or Mrs Cooper rcooper@wkgs.net.

Free School Meals – Have You Checked Your Eligibility?

From September 2026, eligibility for free school meals has been expanded to include all families receiving Universal Credit, regardless of household earnings.

If your household receives Universal Credit and you have not previously qualified for free school meals, **we encourage you to apply now**. You may be eligible under the new arrangements, even if you have previously been told that you do not qualify.

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Friday 23 October 2026



For more information, including how to apply, please visit our [Free School Meals webpage](#).

Halloween and Bonfire Night

Merseyside Police have shared the attached resources and information for Parents, Carers and Students in advance of Halloween and Bonfire Night.

684 Bus Retiming

Transport Planning has advised that there have been some changes to the timetable of the 684 morning trip:

Birkenhead Road, Heron Road	07:47
West Kirkby Station	08:02
Hilbre High School	08:08
Greasby, Old Pump Lane	08:15
Pensby High School	08:28

Preventing the spread of infection

Please refer to the following link for information and key infection prevention and practical advice for managing infection:

[Preventing the spread of infection - Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust](#)

Psychology Newsletter

Our Psychology Ambassadors have produced a newsletter (attached) aimed at introducing Psychology to students in the lower school and giving students greater understanding of what goes on in the Psychology Department.

WKGS School & Community Fund – Thank You for Your Support

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who have already made a donation to our School & Community Fund for 2026/27. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps us protect opportunities and experiences for our students, support their wellbeing and enhance school life at a time when school budgets are increasingly stretched.

If you haven't yet contributed and are in a position to do so, donations of any amount are very welcome. You can donate through **SCOPAY**, set up a regular **Direct Debit through GoCardless**, or make a one-off donation through **GoFundMe**.

GoFundMe is particularly helpful, as it automatically claims Gift Aid on our behalf, increasing the value of your donation by 25% at no additional cost to you, provided you are an eligible UK taxpayer and tick





the Gift Aid box. Full details, including donation links, can be found on our [School & Community Fund webpage](#).

Thank you for helping us protect opportunities, support students and enrich school life.

Year 7 students – School Entry Assessment

Please could all parents/carers of Year 7 students refer to the attached letter from Wirral Community Health and Care regarding upcoming health questionnaires which will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Beyond Horizons

Opportunities, experiences and activities beyond the classroom

Beyond Horizons: Looking Ahead

As we approach the next half term, it has been wonderful to reflect on the breadth of opportunities students have embraced so far this year. From taking on leadership roles and exploring potential careers to developing practical skills and enjoying experiences beyond the classroom, students continue to demonstrate the curiosity, enthusiasm and ambition that underpin Beyond Horizons. We look forward to another busy half term and encourage every student to make the most of the opportunities available to them.

Careers Conversations at Home: Supporting Future Choices

Careers education continues to be an important part of our Beyond Horizons provision, with students in **Year 11 and Key Stage 5** accessing individual careers guidance appointments with Careers Connect. These conversations support students in considering their next steps, exploring different pathways and making informed decisions about their futures.

Parents and carers can play an equally important role by encouraging conversations at home. Rather than focusing solely on a particular career, it can be helpful to discuss what your child enjoys, where their strengths lie and what they might like to explore further. The following websites offer useful starting points:

- [National Careers Service](#) – Explore career profiles, skills, qualifications and routes into different professions.
- [UCAS](#) – Information on university courses, apprenticeships and post-18 pathways.
- [Get the Jump](#) – Guidance on post-16 education and training choices.
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) – Resources for students and families exploring apprenticeships.
- [BBC Bitesize Careers](#) – Career stories, videos and inspiration for young people.



We encourage families to explore these resources together and keep conversations about future choices open, positive and aspirational.

Climbers Against Cancer

Our climbing team has climbed the equivalent of two and half times the height of Everest in just 10 days. The team is now determined to scale one final peak and reach their £3,000 fundraising target - they are currently at £2,842. If anyone would like to support their efforts and contribute to this incredible charity, please use this [link](#) and share it far and wide. Thank you for your support.

Educational Visits: Experiences Beyond the Classroom

It has been another busy half term for educational visits, with students benefiting from a fantastic variety of experiences. These have included our **Normandy trip**, numerous theatre visits to the **Unity Theatre and Liverpool Playhouse**, the **London Design Study Tour**, involvement in the **Space Design Competition** and our **Year 7 residential**, alongside many other opportunities across the curriculum. These experiences are an invaluable part of the education we offer, helping students to develop independence, broaden their perspectives, deepen their learning and create lasting memories. A huge thank you to the many members of staff who make these opportunities possible through their commitment and enthusiasm.

Extra-Curricular and Student Leadership

Our extracurricular programme has had a fantastic start to the academic year, with **Try a Club Week** encouraging students to explore the wide range of opportunities available beyond the classroom. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many students not only attending clubs but also putting forward their own ideas, requesting new activities and taking the initiative to lead clubs themselves. This enthusiasm and ownership are exactly what we hope to foster through Beyond Horizons. We encourage all students to continue getting involved, trying something different and contributing to our vibrant school community.

National Youth Jazz Orchestra's Merseyside Holiday Project

Please refer to the following link for details of a holiday project running over half term: <https://nyjo.org.uk/events/october-2026-holiday-project/>

Save the Date – West Kirby's Winter Wonderland!

Saturday 21 November 2026 | 10.00am–3.00pm | FREE ENTRY

Not long now until West Kirby's Winter Wonderland returns! We are looking forward to welcoming families and the wider community for a fantastic festive day featuring Christmas market stalls, delicious food and drink, entertainment and plenty of Christmas cheer!



Santa's Grotto tickets are already selling well, so if you're planning a visit to see Santa, we would encourage you to book your tickets now to avoid disappointment.

Entry to Winter Wonderland is completely free. We simply ask visitors to bring one item of food, groceries or toiletries per person to donate to Wirral Foodbank.

Find out more about the event and book Santa's Grotto tickets via our [Winter Wonderland webpage](#).

Save the date – Saturday 21 November! We look forward to seeing you there. Please see the attached event flyer for further details.

Skills for Life: Developing Confidence and Independence

Our **Skills for Life programme** has enjoyed an excellent start to the academic year, with students embracing the opportunity to develop practical skills, confidence and independence. From yoga and fitness to survival cooking and a host of other activities, students have thrown themselves into the sessions with real enthusiasm. We have also welcomed external providers who have shared their expertise and provided valuable experiences beyond the traditional curriculum. It has been wonderful to see students challenging themselves, discovering new interests and engaging so positively with the programme. Skills for Life remains a key part of our commitment to preparing students not just for examinations, but for the opportunities and challenges of life beyond school.

WKGS Futures: Exploring Careers and Opportunities

Our **WKGS Futures programme** has continued to provide students with valuable opportunities to hear directly from professionals, explore different industries and broaden their understanding of future pathways. This half term, we have offered insights into a range of careers, helping students appreciate the variety of opportunities available to them. We are also placing a particular focus on **creative industries**, highlighting the breadth of careers in areas such as design, media, architecture and the arts, as well as routes through university, apprenticeships and work experience.

We are always looking to involve more members of our school community in WKGS Futures. If you, or someone you know, would be willing to deliver a short talk about your career, industry or professional experiences, we would love to hear from you. These encounters are invaluable in helping students make connections between their education and the world of work, and sometimes a single conversation can spark a new ambition.

Upcoming Calendar Events

 WKGS WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL		<i>Upcoming Calendar Events</i> NEXT THREE WEEKS		 <i>A vibrant community inspiring brighter futures</i>
 w/c 2 NOVEMBER		 w/c 9 NOVEMBER		 w/c 16 NOVEMBER
ALL WEEK 				Y11 MFL Mock Speaking
MONDAY 	Senior House Badminton		Y9 SnS Netball Round two	House Poetry Competition
TUESDAY 	A-level Lancaster University English Lang Lecture		Y12 GCSE Certificate Presentation Y9 RSE Sessions Y7&8 Tramere Rovers Utilita Girls Cup	Y12&13 Documentry Film Studies Trip
WEDNESDAY 	House Christmas Card deadline Y8 Schools Sport Badminton Cup Y10&11 ESAA Cross Country Cup Y10 Drama Theatre Trip			Y9 RSE Sessions
THURSDAY 	Y9&12 RSE Sessions Bonfire Extravaganza Library Quiz		Y11 Sixth Form Taster Day Y10 Maths Inspiration Trip to Manchester Sixth Form Open Evening	
FRIDAY 	Edukid Bake Sale at lunchtime		Y13 Oxbridge & Vet Science Interview Practice House Drama	INSET - Closed to all students
WEEKEND 				
 Community  High Expectations  Opportunity  Innovation  Curiosity  Endeavour <i>Together we make a difference</i>				

Useful Contacts and Regular Information

School Office

Online contact form: <https://wkgs.org/contact>

Email: office@wkgs.net

Telephone: 0151 632 3449

Website: <https://wkgs.org/>

Finance

Email: finance@wkgs.net

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Friday 23 October 2026



Reporting Student Absence (Illness)

Please leave a message on our answerphone by phoning 0151 632 3449 and selecting Option 2. Alternatively, email: attendance@wkgs.net

Leave of Absence/Medical Appointments

Please use this email to request a Leave of Absence or to notify us of medical appointments: requestforleaveofabsence@wkgs.net

Lost Property

Lost property is located by the stairs in the H Block. We endeavour to return all named items to students, so please ensure belongings are clearly labelled.

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<https://instagram.com/WestKirbyGS>

