Parent/Carer Newsletter

Friday 25 September 2026

Headteacher Messages

Open Events and Information Evenings

It has been a particularly busy few weeks at WKGS, with our Open Evening, Open Day Tours and the first of this year's Information Evenings providing lots of opportunities to welcome families into school.

Our Open Evening was a huge success, with more than 600 families joining us to find out more about WKGS. We received an enormous amount of positive feedback, but what was particularly pleasing was how often visitors commented on the culture and positive atmosphere of the school and, above all, on the brilliance of our students.

Our students really are our greatest ambassadors and I was incredibly proud of the way they represented their school. Whether leading tours, supporting activities in departments or joining me for the student Q&A during the Headteacher's Talk, they spoke with confidence, warmth and honesty about their experiences. A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to be involved and to parents and families for supporting them to do so. Open Evening is always one of those occasions when we come together as a community and are reminded just how much there is to be proud of.

Over the past two weeks, we have also welcomed prospective families for our Open Day Tours, giving them the opportunity to see WKGS during a normal school day. These have been equally positive, with visitors consistently commenting on how exciting the education feels, how calm the environment is and how focused students are in lessons. It is lovely to receive that feedback because these aren't things that can be created especially for an Open Day but reflect the culture that students and staff establish together every day.

Alongside this, we have now held Information Evenings for Years 10 and 12, with Year 7 to follow next week. These evenings provide an important opportunity for students and families to meet informally with Form Tutors and other staff, while also hearing from school leaders about what to expect at each new stage of school life. We will continue these for each year group throughout the half-term and have been delighted by the numbers attending so far. Thank you for continuing to engage so positively with these opportunities and with school life more broadly.

Participation and Engagement

One of the themes I would like us to keep returning to this year is the importance of participation and engagement. Academic achievement will always be central to what we do, but a great education is about much more than what happens in lessons.

Our extracurricular programme is now in full swing and it has been brilliant to see so many students signing up for clubs and activities, with many already involved in several. Whether through sport, music, drama, academic societies, creative activities, leadership, or something completely new, these

experiences help students develop interests, friendships and confidence while strengthening their sense of belonging within our community.

Our ambition is for every student to participate in at least one club or activity during the year and to engage with our House programme too. Not every student will want to do everything, nor should they, but we do want everyone to find something beyond their lessons that allows them to contribute, connect with others or discover an interest they might not otherwise have explored.

Participation also means being present and making the most of the opportunities available every day. Attendance remains above 96% for the year so far, placing WKGS within the top 3% of schools nationally, which is a fantastic start. The challenge is to maintain that momentum as the term progresses and the inevitable coughs, colds and darker mornings begin to arrive.

Every day in school matters, not simply because of the learning that takes place in individual lessons, but because being present allows students to remain connected to their teachers, friends and the wider life of the school. Where there are barriers that make attending school more difficult, we will always want to work compassionately with students and families to understand them and provide the right support.

That balance between high expectations and genuine care sits at the heart of the community we want WKGS to be. We want students to attend, participate, contribute and make the most of every opportunity available to them, while knowing that when things become difficult there are people around them who will listen, understand and help.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With very best wishes,

Mr S Clarke
Headteacher

General Messages

After-school homework / revision support

Starting Monday 28 September, one of our Pastoral Support Assistants will be available in the library after school until 4:45pm, Monday to Thursday, to offer support and guidance with homework and revision.

Students who would like to access this support should sign in at Thrive at the end of the school day before making their way to the library, where they will be given a space to work.

Students are also welcome to remain in the library until 5:30pm to continue working independently, should they wish to stay later or need to wait to be collected.

Attendance

We would like to remind parents/carers of the importance of reporting absence as promptly as possible during the school day. Illness should be reported before the end of morning registration (9.10am) where possible, ideally by calling the school absence line and leaving a message, or by emailing **attendance@wkgs.net**

Appointment requests should still be made to **requestforleaveofabsence@wkgs.net**, along with:

- Evidence of the appointment (screenshot of appointment text/letter)
- Departure time from school
- Return time to school (if applicable)

Thank you for your support.

Important - Medical Information Update

Parents/carers of students who have a medical condition, allergy or other medical need recorded with the school have been sent a letter asking them to review and update their child's medical information.

If your child has a medical condition, allergy or other medical need and you have not received this letter, please email kkimber@wkgs.net urgently, providing details of your child's condition. We will then issue the relevant form(s) for you to complete and return.

It is important that we have accurate and up-to-date information so that appropriate arrangements can be put in place to support your child's health, safety and wellbeing.

School Photos

The proof photos and order forms have been given out to students this week, all details for ordering are on the form, including a QR code, the deadline for ordering photos is Friday 2 October. Photos are ordered directly from Fraser Portraits, any queries, please contact them directly, contact details can be found on the order form and via their website.

Y7-Y11 Immunisations – Tuesday 29 September

Immunisations will take place on Tuesday 29 September. Parents/Carers will have received consent requests from the Immunisation Team. Please ensure that these are completed no later **than Monday 28 September.**

Parents/carers are reminded that school cannot accept verbal or written consents – all consents need to be shared directly with the Immunisation Team.

Beyond Horizons

Opportunities, experiences and activities beyond the classroom

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

Well done to all students that signed up for and attended a club this week! For those still searching for the right opportunity please see below for clubs that we have added.

Please take a look through the timetable together and encourage your child to get involved. As a reminder, we encourage and expect KS3 students to attend at least two clubs each week and KS4 students at least one, while our KS5 students are encouraged to get involved through participation and by leading opportunities for younger students.

If you have not already signed up, please click on this link: Extra Curricular Sign Up Sheet – Fill in form

Since last week we have added the following opportunities:

- Entrepreneur Club
- Debating Club
- Rock Club
- Wellbeing Student Council
- British Sign Language Club
- Gardening Club

Anyone NOT successful in securing a place will receive an email (to student email addresses) on Monday letting them know.

We are always looking to expand the programme. If students have an idea for a club, they would love to see at WKGS, please contact Mrs Kimber. New opportunities can be added throughout the year.

Merseyside Volunteer Police Cadets – Y12 students

Applications for Merseyside Police Volunteer Cadets 2027 will open next month.

Eligible students should have a date of birth between 1.9.2009 and 31.8.2010 and/or be equivalent of Y12.

There are no qualification requirements to join the programme, and applicants do not need to be considering a future career with Merseyside Police. The Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme is a personal development programme designed for young people who want to challenge themselves, develop new skills, and make a positive contribution to their communities.

The bespoke programme helps young people build confidence, develop key life skills, and prepare for

the next stage of their journey, whether that be further education, training, or employment.

If students would like any further information, please email :

Volunteer.police.cadets@merseyside.police.uk

WKGS Futures: Exploring Careers in the Creative Industries

As part of WKGS Futures, students will have the opportunity to explore careers across the creative industries through the ERIC CreaTech Careers Festival.

Across the week, we will be sharing a series of short 10–12 minute careers virtual clips, introducing students to professionals working in areas including creative direction, 3D design, visual effects and animation.

On Monday, Executive Creative Director Nene shares her experience of working on major projects including *House of the Dragon*, Disney and Shea Moisture, alongside advice on breaking into the industry, generating strong ideas and using AI tools.

On Tuesday, Hendrik Kramer, a CG Artist at Time Based Arts, takes students behind the scenes of 3D production, explaining how lighting, materials, textures and reflections are used to turn digital objects into realistic images.

On Friday, Jonny from DNEG, one of the world's leading visual effects studios, explores how VFX and animation are transforming the film industry, the skills young people need to get started and what employers are looking for.

We will also be introducing students to ERIC, a platform dedicated to helping young people discover creative careers, understand the range of roles available and access information and opportunities to help them take their next steps.

The creative industries encompass a huge range of careers, many of which students may never previously have considered. Through WKGS Futures, we want students to remain curious, explore different possibilities and understand the many routes their interests and skills could take them.

WKGS Way – Expectations

We are incredibly proud of the way our students demonstrate the WKGS Way each day. Overall, students attend well, engage positively in lessons and make thoughtful contributions to our school community. We believe it is important that this commitment is recognised and celebrated.

One way we do this is through our positive streak system. Each week, students can earn up to 35 expectation points – one for every lesson and morning form time. Students who achieve all 35 points continue to build their positive streak, recognising their consistent effort and contribution to school life.

In addition, staff can award celebration points for exceptional work, attitude or actions that go above and beyond. There is no limit to the number that can be achieved, and both expectation and celebration points can be spent in the WKGS Rewards Shop, which opens each half term.

Upcoming Calendar Events

WKGS WEST KIRBY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Upcoming Calendar Events

NEXT THREE WEEKS

A vibrant community inspiring brighter futures

	w/c 28 SEPTEMBER	w/c 5 OCTOBER	w/c 12 OCTOBER
ALL WEEK		Harvest Week	
MONDAY	Y11 RS Poland Trip leaves	Y9-13 Languages Career Convention	
TUESDAY	Flu immunisations	Y12 RSE Sessions House Bake-off Y8 Information Evening 5.00pm - 7.00pm	
WEDNESDAY	Y7-13 ESSA Swimming Gala Y7&8 SSG U13s Badminton Y8&13 Normandy Trip Info Eve 5.30pm Y7 Information Evening 5.00pm - 7.00pm	Y7 PGL Residential Trip leaves Y12&13 UKMT Senior Maths Challenge	Y11 Information Evening 5.00pm - 7.00pm
THURSDAY	Y9-13 ESFA U18s National Football Cup		Y12 RSE Sessions Y8&13 Normandy Trip leaves
FRIDAY	Y10&13 Conwy Art Trip leaves Sixth Form Sleep Over	Y7 Residential Trip returns Y10-13 London Design Study Tour Trip	
WEEKEND			Saturday - Y10-13 Regional Space Design Competition

Community | High Expectations | Opportunity | Innovation | Curiosity | Endeavour

Together we make a difference

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

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.

Follow Us

For updates, reminders and news from around school.

https://www.facebook.com/WestKirbyGS

https://instagram.com/WestKirbyGS