



West Kirby
Grammar School

Personal Development Newsletter

May 2025

The Personal Development Curriculum Summer 1

As a part of your child's education at West Kirby Grammar School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme within their Personal Development lessons.

Teaching Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education is our legal duty, and the government provides guidance which we must comply with.

Personal Development is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

The table opposite summarises the key learning for this half term.

All Personal Development teaching takes place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values. We work together to raise awareness and respect all viewpoints.

As a school, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kimber on kkimber@wkgs.net.

You are also more than welcome to contribute to our Personal Development curriculum by sharing some topics or discussion points that you feel should be covered.

Y7	<u>Learning Skills</u> Reviewing strengths and developments Targets and goals Revision strategies and timetable Independent revision Exam Week	Y8	<u>Learning Skills</u> Self-Quizzing Mind Maps Active Reading Time Management Exam Stress Independent Revision Exam Week
Y9	<u>Learning Skills</u> Flash Cards Top Tips Independent Revision Supporting Someone with Anxiety Exam Week	Y10	<u>Managing Risk</u> Drugs and Alcohol - Risk-taking and personal safety. Managing Influence Seeking help Valuing Diversity
Y11	<u>Learning skills</u> MHWB Exam techniques Managing Stress Seeking Help		

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WKGS Futures

‘A spotlight on’ - Reflecting on National Careers Week and Looking Ahead



Last half term, we celebrated National Careers Week (NCW) with a series of exciting and informative activities. Students explored the career histories of our staff, participated in virtual career fairs during form time, and engaged in lessons that focused on subject-specific career paths throughout the week. In Personal Development, students looked ahead to the impact of AI, explored the importance of Labour Market Information (LMIs), and discussed emerging environmental careers.

We encourage you to continue the learning at home by discussing the fascinating insights and opportunities that were covered this week. A valuable resource to support these conversations is The Parents' Guide to Careers, created in partnership with National Careers Week. This guide provides parents with useful information about vocational options after GCSE and sixth form, helping to navigate potential career pathways.

National Careers Week (NCW) 2025 offers parents a unique opportunity to explore different career paths available to teens. The guide is a great tool for understanding what options best suit your child and where each path could lead. For a detailed look at the events from this week, including day-by-day activities, please visit:
[The Parents' Guide to Careers](#)

Thank you for supporting your child's career exploration and development!

If you are looking for support discussing careers and further education options at home, the links below provide useful tips and information:

[Careers Advice for Parents | Youth Employment UK](#)

[Careers Advice For Young People | WorldSkills UK](#)

[Parents Advice for Career Conversations - Talking Futures](#)

Creating Careers Pathways is designed to give parents and carers the information they need to help their young person find their best next step. Each session looks at pathways into careers in some of the Liverpool City Region's largest sectors and allows audiences to ask employers questions.

Each episode comes with a downloadable information sheet containing key links to further advice and guidance.

View each episodes here:

- [Apprenticeship and Technical Education Overview](#)
- [Digital & Creative](#)
- [Energy & Net Zero](#)
- [Advanced Manufacturing](#)

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WKGS Futures

Celebrating the Success of WKGS Futures: Career Talks Initiative



We are thrilled to celebrate the continued success of WKGS Futures, our school initiative where students hear directly from former students, parents, and local community members about their diverse career experiences. These talks cover a wide range of professional backgrounds, providing valuable insights into various industries.

Last half term, we welcomed our second Forensic Psychologist, who shared the fascinating range of professionals she collaborates with. We also explored the world of entrepreneurship, launching a new club designed to foster growth in this exciting area. Additionally, we delved into the field of Law, discussing the many pathways to success within this profession.

We encourage you to discuss the value of this programme at home and motivate your child to get involved. All students are expected to attend at least two talks during the academic year, with the opportunity to sign up in advance.

If you or someone you know would be interested in delivering a career talk, we would love to hear from you! Please email Mrs. Kimber at kkimber@wkgs.net.

Your support in making this initiative a success is greatly appreciated.

This half term, some of our guest speakers will be discussing:

- Working in Education
- Police and Army careers
- Working as a community Vet
- Paediatric medicine
- Women in Sport



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WKGS Debates



Last half term students voted on their debate topics and the results are in!

Year 7 Topics

Peer pressure is mostly negative and harmful/ The age where it is legal to send, have or distribute a sexual photo, including selfies should be reduced to 16 from age 18

Year 8 Topics

The stigma around mental health is no longer an issue/ Children and teenagers are less resilient now than 20 years ago

Year 9 Topics

Legalising all drugs would make us safer/ We should punish parents for the crimes committed by their children



Enrichment

Co-Curricular Programme Highlights

Our co-curricular program continues to thrive, with many exciting initiatives and activities taking place across the school. Some of the standout moments this term include:

- The Eco Council's fantastic work on building a bug hotel, promoting sustainability and biodiversity.
- An engaging and thought-provoking House Debate by our Year 8 students, showcasing their public speaking and critical thinking skills.
- Our Judo class is progressing through their log books and assessments, demonstrating both discipline and determination.
- The launch of DofE (Duke of Edinburgh Award) with Year 9, offering students a rewarding challenge in outdoor adventure, community service and personal development.

Some of the most popular and well-attended clubs this term include Netball, Football, Dance and Crochet Club, with students enthusiastically participating in these activities. New clubs include more arts and crafts opportunities, yoga and mindfulness and a relaunch of the school magazine!

As a reminder, our expectation is for students in Years 7 to 9 to attend at least two clubs per week, while those in Years 10 and 11 are expected to attend one. Registers will be taken to track participation, and meetings were held for students who are not meeting these expectations. Emails will continue to be sent home to ask for your support in encouraging participation.

We encourage all students to embrace these opportunities to develop new skills, build friendships, and enrich their school experience.

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Name of Extra Curricular Club/ Activity	Location	Description	Year Group	Day (Time 12:45 unless stated otherwise)	Name
A Level & GCSE History & Politics drop in	H1	Drop-in support for all GCSE & A-level students of History & Politics	Y10 - Y13	Wed (12.45-13.15)	Mrs Gaskin
A Level Biology Drop in	B18	Drop in for A level Biologists to seek help with topics/questions from members of staff	Y12 - Y13	Tues (13:15)	Biology Dept
A Level Chemistry Drop in	B22	An opportunity for A Level students to come along with any questions they have about their Chemistry learning or to seek support from A Level teaching staff.	Y12 - Y13	Wed (13:15)	Mr Woods
A Level Lunch lectures	B20	Y13 A-Level lectures	Y12 - Y13	Mon	Mrs Wakefield
A Level Maths Masterclasses	tbc	Year 12 run maths masterclasses for Year 5 primary schools	Y12	Monday (16:00 - 17:30)	Mr Myers
A Level Physics drop-in	D1	Drop-in support for all Y12 and 13 students of Physics	Y12 - Y13	Fri (13:00 - 13: 45)	Dr Hill
A Level Psychology drop-in	S1	Drop-in support for all Y12 & Y13 students of Psychology	Y12 - Y13	Tues (13.10- 13.45)	Mrs Hughes
Art Club	G2		Y7 - Y9	Mon	Mrs Cawley
Art Raise a Grade	G3	Afterschool support for GCSE and A level Art students.	Y10 - Y13	Wed (15:35 - 16:30)	Mrs Portbury
Badminton (GCSE)	Gym and Small Hall	GCSE Badminton - for only GCSE PE students	Y10 - Y11	Thurs	Mrs Chesworth
Book Club (Y7 - Y8)	Lower Library	To meet and discuss books.	Y7 - Y8	Mon (13:15)	Mrs Wright
Chamber Choir	G9	Singing Music from 1600 onwards	All - Audition entry	Wed	Miss Keating
Chess Club	A12	Come and play chess. All levels are welcome.	Y7 - Y11	Thurs	Mr Myers
Classics Film Club	B8	Each week students are able to view films related to the Classical Civilisation course they are studying in B8 at 1.10pm with Mrs Conway	Y7	Tues (13:10)	Mrs Conway
Commons People - Politics Society	H1/H3 on rotation	We cover key political events with a slight focus on the UK and the US, and this year we are looking to run introductory sessions for those who may be new to politics, leading up to running a Model Parliament. Model Parliament is an exercise which involves each person or a small team forming a political party of their own, and taking part in structured debates as that party.	Y9 - Y13	Mon	Student Led
Cricket Club	Tennis Courts	Fun Cricket club for experts right down to novices. Bring your PE kit, we'll play outside while the weather is good.	All	Wed	Mr Armstrong & Mr Sweatman
Crochet Club	B19	Suitable for beginners or confident crocheters! Knitters welcome too	All	Tues (13:15)	Mrs Butt & Mrs Simpson
Dance	Small Hall	Come along and learn some dances - from beginner to expert	All	Wed	Mrs Brown
Duke of Edinburgh Drop In Support	B10	Open to all bronze, silver and gold students at school. We will run termly sessions for progress checks of the students' eDofE accounts and students may also drop in with questions. It will be run by Mrs Wright and the Year 12 Young Leaders	Y10 - Y12	Thurs (13:15 - 13:45)	Mrs Harris
Duke of Edinburgh Young Leader		Year 12 leaders supporting the delivery of DofE to all year groups	12	Thurs (13:15 - 13:45)	Mrs Harris

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EcoClub (Student Council SubCommittee)	A3	To continue the dedicated work to maintain our proud Green Flag status as an Eco-School through being a member of an Eco Committee and deciding on environmental activities and trips to eco events. There will be an opportunity to be part of the Wirral-wide Eco Council working on environmental projects with other Wirral schools.	Y7 - Y13	Wed	Mr Houghton
English Revision	F4	Revision for GCSE English.	Y11	Thurs	Mrs Pinnington
EPQ Drop-In	B12	EPQ Drop-in session.	Y12 - Y13	Fri	Mrs Richards
Event Tech AV club	Main Hall Balcony	Llghts, camera and sound for school events.	Y10 - Y13	Wed	Mr Heibel
Exploring Science	B16	An opportunity for students to plan and carry out exciting practical activities as a team.	Y8 - Y9	Tues (13:15)	Mr Woods
Football (Junior)	Front Field	Junior Football. Please get changed in the changing rooms and meet by the netball courts. You must bring shin pads and old trainers or astros or boots.	Y7 - Y8	Fri (12:50)	Mrs Chesworth
Football (Senior)	Front Field	Please get changed in the changing rooms and meet by the netball courts. You must bring shin pads and old trainers or astros or boots Takes places on the front field.	Y9 - Y11	Tues	Mrs Chesworth
Homework Club	T2	Come and complete or get help with homework	Y7 - Y9	Fri	Mrs Stanfield
GCSE Art Support	G3	GCSE coursework and exam support.	Y10 - Y11	Wed (15:35 - 16:30)	Mrs Portbury
GCSE Fine Art Support	G2		Y10 - Y11	Tues (12:45)	Mrs Cawley
GCSE Physics Drop In	D1		Y11	Fri (13:00)	Physics Dept
Gymnastics Club	Gym		Y7	Mon	Mrs McKenzie
Handball	Small Hall	For experienced players only please.	Y7 - Y10	Fri	Mr Price
Handball	Gym	Welcome to any from beginner to experienced players.	Y7 - Y10	Wed	Mr Price
Handball after school	Sports Hall	Anyone welcome. Cost is £3pp per session please.	Y7 - Y10	Tues (19:30 - 20:30)	Mr Price
Handball weekend	Sports Hall	Anyone welcome. Cost is £3 -5pp per session please.	Y7 - Y10	Sun (17/18:00 - 19:00)	Mr Price
History Club	H1	Mixture of activities including crafts, films & Horrible Histories!	Y7 - Y11	First Tues of each Month (13:15)	Student Led
Islamic Society	B11	A club for Muslims and Non-Muslims to get together and discuss aspects of the religion.	All	Fri	Student Led
Italian Club	B6	This is a great opportunity to gain a new skill and explore Italian culture. Students wishing to attend should bring a packed lunch and try to eat before they come to the session. Grab bags are also available from the school canteen.	Y8 - Y9	Tues (13:00)	Mr M Pepe
KS4 Speaking Support (Fr/Ge/Sp)	B4	Students in Y10 and 11 will be invited to come to practise for their MFL speaking exams.	Y10 - Y11	Mon	Miss Partridge
Languages Club	B4	Take part in fun activities based around learning about languages and culture.	Y7 - Y9	Thurs	Mr Malhi
Library Assistants	Lower library		All	Mon (08:30)	Mrs Wright
Maths Mentoring	B12	Invite only mentoring sessions with KS5 students.	Y7 - Y10	Tues (13:15 - 13:45)	Mr Knight
Maths Team Challenge Club	A12	Aim is to work together as a team to solve interesting maths based problems. The problems can involve relays, crossnumbers, shuttles and other team activities.	Y7 - Y9	Fri (13:15)	Mrs Howell

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Name of Extra Curricular Club/ Activity	Location	Description	Year Group	Day (Time 12:45 unless stated otherwise)	Name
Music Production and Studio Recording	Music Dept	Perform rock/pop music and record it in the studio.	All	Wed (15:30 - 17:00)	Mr Pepe
Netball (After School)	Netball Courts	Netball practice for anyone who enjoys playing netball and wants to improve their skills.	All	Tues (15:40 - 16:30)	Mrs Goodall
Netball (Senior)	Netball Courts	Netball practice for team players, GCSE students and anyone else who enjoys playing netball.	Y10 - Y13	Wed	Mrs Goodall
Netball (Y7)	Netball courts	Change immediately at lunchtime in PE changing rooms and gather on netball courts at 12:50pm. This club is for all abilities in Year 7, to learn new skills and be part of our teams.	Y7	Thurs	Mrs Hogan & Mrs Mckenzie
Netball (Y8 - Y9)	Netball Courts	Netball practice with lots of opportunities to represent the school in matches.	Y8 - Y9	Wed	Mrs Chesworth (Y9) & Mrs Goodall (Y8)
Orchestra	G9	Orchestra- group of instruments playing together.	All - ABRSM grade 3 or above	Fri (13:00)	Miss Anglesea
Origami Club	A12	A mindful club where we will make different origami shapes.	All	Thursday (13.15)	Mrs Peddie
Philosophy and Film	B20	Philosophy and Film.	Y11	Tues	Mrs Wakefield
Philosophy Cafe	B11	Philosophy discussion of key topics in relation to Alevel.	Y13	First Tues of each Month (15:40)	Mrs Lea-Thomas
Poetry by Heart	S6	Run by our Prefect for Oracy, Millie, this is an exciting and interactive club where you can read, write and perform high quality poetry, leading to a national competition next year. Supported by the English Department.	Y7 - Y8	Fri	Student Led
Pulse	B11	An opportunity to eat food, play games, make friends and learn about the Christian faith. Everyone is welcome!	Y7 - Y10	Fri	Mr Knight
Quiz Club	T2	Quizzes on various topics and themes each week.	Y7	Tues	Mrs Ohr
Reading Retreat	Lower library	To give students the space and time to read with no distractions.	All	Fri	Mrs Wright
Revision club - Y11	T2	Revision sessions open to Year 11 students to independently revise or gain study skills from a member of the Thrive team.	Y11	Thurs	Mrs Tinsley
Robotics Club	C3	Gain programming and engineering experience and compete at competitions.	All	Mon	Mr Ford
RS GCSE drop in and revision	B20	GCSE support.	Y10 - Y11	Thurs (13.15)	Mrs Wakefield
Running and Fitness	Gym	A variety of different fun running and fitness activities.	Y7 - Y11	Tues	Mrs Goodall
Saxophone Quartet	G6	Play Saxophone in an ensemble.	Audition only	Thurs	Miss Anglesea
Science Club	B16&B17	A club for Y7 students to explore Science through a wide range of exciting and creative practical activities.	Y7	Fri (13:15)	Mr Woods
Science Society	A6	Run by 6th formers and Dr Hill. Each week a student will give a presentation about a topic in science that interests them and sometimes a practical demonstration will be included. Have fun learning about the science of colour in nature, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, new materials that have been discovered and share your enthusiasm for science.	Y9 - Y13	Thurs (13:00)	Dr Hill
Yoga/Mindfulness	TBC	Come and learn the basics of yoga and mindfulness. From basic poses to breathing	All	Tues (13.00)	Mrs Kimber
Arts and Crafts Club	G3	Run by our sixth formers and focusing on Easter craft first	Y7 - Y9	Thurs (13:00)	Student Led

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Name of Extra Curricular Club/ Activity	Location	Description	Year Group	Day (Time 12:45 unless stated otherwise)	Name
Science Support and Mentoring (Y11)	B22	An opportunity to build your confidence with GCSE Science and gain essential revision tips and support ahead of the summer examinations.	Y11	Tues (13:15)	Mr Woods
Social Justice	B11	Activities of community action, charity and social justice.	All	Wed (13:15)	Mrs Lea-Thomas
Space Design Club	D1	Engineering challenge and training for the UK Space Design Competition.	Y10- Y13	Tuesday (13.00)	Dr Hill
Strategy Games Club	A11	Various competitive games will be provided to challenge bright minds.	Y9 - Y10	Mon (13:15)	Mrs Littler
Textiles "Raise a grade"	G4	Miss Troake will help and support you in developing and refining your work to a higher standard.	Y11	Wed (15:45 - 16:30)	Miss Troake
Trampolining (GCSE)	Main Hall	For GCSE PE students only.	Y10 - Y11	Mon	Mrs Hogan
Vox Vocal Group	G9	Choir	All	Wed	Miss Anglesea
Wirral Big Band	Drama Studio	Big Band for all pupils on the Wirral - Edsential Music Service.	All	Thurs (17:00 - 19:00)	Miss Anglesea
Ukelele	Music Praticce Room	Come along and learn or improve your Ukelele playing skills.	Y7 - Y8	Mon (13:15)	Student Led
Student Council: Student Wellbeuing	A2	Train as a Peer Mentor and work as a team to plan the use of a new sensory room in school.	ALL	Thurs (13:15)	Miss McVey
Student Council: Diversity and Inclusion	C1	Celebrate the individual - how can you work as a team to create a culture where who you are is truly enough.	ALL	Thurs (13:15)	Mr Young
Student Council: Charity		Take the lead on charity across the school and work with EduKids to launch year group fundraising.	ALL	Thurs (13:15)	Mrs Marley
Photography Club	Tech	Take and share your photo's whilst learning techniques and talking to like minded students	Y9 - Y13	Tues (13:15)	Student Led
Self Defense	Small Hall	Fully certified FA and coach delivering these sessions	ALL	Tues 12:14 & 15:35	Mr P Jones
D&D Club	B17	Play D&D in a small friendly group	ALL	Tues 13:00	Mr McClumpha
Computer Science Club	B12 and B13	Come and start a game development project!	Y7 - Y8	Tues/Wed 13:00	Student Led

