



Newsletter 26.05.2023

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Good Luck Y11 and 13

We have now formally said goodbye to our wonderful students in both Years 11 and 13, wishing them every success with their remaining exams.

Reflecting on their time with the school is always a fantastic opportunity to remind ourselves of the impact our students have on our school community. Having joined the school at the same time as our Year 11 students, it has been amazing to see their development over the past 5 years and the ways in which they have become true leaders within our school community. They are amazing individuals, as well as a strong and supportive community, of whom we are all immensely proud. We look forward to seeing the vast majority of our students' continued development in the Sixth Form, and for those choosing to move onto new destinations for the next stage of their education, we wish them every success and hope they know that they will be sorely missed.

To our Year 13 students, I would like to extend my thanks for their contribution to shaping the future of our school and for the impact they have had. I have consistently expressed to our students that my door is always open to them for whatever they may need, and our Year 13 students have been brilliant at embracing that. Sometimes they have come to see me to share in celebration for amazing achievements and at other times it has been to discuss ways in which we can improve our school community or because they are facing challenges and need some support. Whatever the reason, it has been a real honour to get to know so many of them and I wish them every success in their future endeavours and hope they know they are always welcome to visit at any time.

World Class Schools Award

We have now been working to embrace the High Performance Learning philosophy in all aspects of school life at WKGS for 2 years and are delighted today to have officially achieved the World Class Schools Award. This is recognition of the hard work of staff and students to embrace the philosophy that

all students have unlimited potential and can achieve truly remarkable things if taught how to think and how to behave as a high performer. Achieving the award also recognises our commitment to securing our students the very best outcomes both academically and in their personal development to ensure they leave our school equipped to make a real impact as the leaders of tomorrow. We look forward to continuing in our work with High Performance Learning and identifying ways in which this can further enhance our provision at WKGS in the coming years.

Timings of the School Day

We have been asked to consider whether a slight change in the structure of our school day may be possible in order to continue to facilitate the collaboration of transport arrangements between WKGS and CGGS and avoid unnecessary further expense to some of our school community.

After discussions between the schools and with our staff, we are proposing to remove 5 minutes from our afternoon registration session to reduce the from 10 to 5 minutes, making the end of the school day 3.35pm. We believe this small change will not impact on the quality of the educational provision at WKGS but will continue to enable collaboration between the schools.

We are asking for parental and student views on this proposal which you can give by completing the form below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/0ZpCrvNWvC>

Celebrating Success

There has been so much happening at WKGS since my last newsletter item that it would be impossible to mention all the successes, but I will try to cover as many as I can!

There have been so many sporting achievements of which we are exceptionally proud. Our tennis teams have won their fixtures against WGS, Furniss were crowned champions in our Senior House Rounders competition and our Year 9 football team have reached the finals of a Wirral Schools tournament and will now play at Prenton Park. Individual sporting successes have been many including Eddie who has been selected to represent GBR in sailing at the forthcoming French Nationals competition, a number of our students who won medals at the Merseyside and Cheshire County Athletics championships, Olivia and Beanie who won the Greater Manchester Junior Netball League Elite Division with their team, and Emilie who achieved a 'B' division silver medal with the French Netball team at the Euro Cup Open Challenge in Cardiff. We are immensely proud of you all.

Congratulations also go to our Year 10 students who completed their trial expedition for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award in Wales last weekend as well as to the many students involved in the Summer Concert where they showcased their exceptional musical talent.

A final thank you to all the staff and students involved in the Staff vs Student charity football match which was organised by Annabelle in Year 12 and was hugely successful. I would also like to thank Annabelle and Millie for their efforts to organise the Wirral Schools Football Tournament as this wonderful event would not have been accessible to students across the authority without their vision and determination.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable half-term break,

Mr S Clarke
Headteacher

General messages:

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Ogden Trust Schools Partnership

Please see the attached newsletter for more information about the above Trust, our school's involvement and the work that our Year 10 students have been doing to support students in a local primary school.

Omegle / SnapChat Mobile Apps

We have dealt with a number of incidents involving the 'Omegle' and 'SnapChat' mobile phone apps in the last week and would like to make parents/carers aware of the some of the issues surrounding these apps.

Omegle

Omegle is an app which is specifically designed to allow users to 'talk to strangers'. It works by randomly matching users to talk one-to-one using either text or video. It is free and anonymous to use, with no account registration or age verification.

Please be aware that there are variations of Omegle (for example, 'OmeTV' and 'OmegleTV'). Omegle is not the only app which pairs its users with strangers, other apps with similar functionality include: ChatRandom, YouNow, TinyChat, ChatRoulette, HouseParty and Monkey.

SnapChat

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends. Users can share images and videos directly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entire friend list, which documents the previous 24 hours.

SnapChat can be used alongside 'friend finder' apps such as 'Wink' and 'Hoop' which provide a search facility for SnapChat users to find new contacts.

Many concerns have been raised about the safety and use of Omegle by children and young people and there have been incidents reported lately in both local and national media surrounding its use.

Encouraging the safe and responsible use of mobile phones and social media is a priority at WKGS and we always encourage parents/carers to have an open dialogue with their child/ward about their online activities. You can find attached parent guides to both Omegle and SnapChat.

Merseyside Police

Merseyside Police have asked us to draw parents/carers' attention to the attached letter.

Whole School Photograph

The recent whole school photograph taken at West Kirby Grammar School is now online and available to order with delivery direct to your home address.

Please use the following link, and your email address when prompted, to view and order on the Gillman & Soame website:

<https://www.gillmanandsoame.co.uk/?cardRef=408549&cardPass=928895&loginType=editOrder>

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact Gillman & Soame directly at enquiries@gillmanandsoame.co.uk or on 01869 328200.

Year 9 Students and DofE

Thank you for your patience while awaiting an update on the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. We would like to confirm that the award has not been cancelled. We have been eagerly anticipating an update from our expedition provider regarding their plans for the upcoming year, as their decision will influence how we proceed with the award within our school. Meanwhile, we have been actively exploring alternative providers to ensure the continuity of the award program.

We are pleased to inform you that we have made significant progress in this regard, and we are optimistic about reopening the application process very soon. Our team has been diligently working to secure the necessary arrangements to ensure a successful implementation of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We understand the importance of this award for our students, and we remain committed to providing them with a meaningful and enriching experience. We will keep you informed of any further updates and developments regarding the award.

Thank you for your continued support.



What we've been up to...



The Shawwal crescent moon has been sighted in Saudi Arabia! #EidUIFitr will be on Friday 21 April. 🎉 Eid Mubarak to all celebrating in our school



Miss Higham has finally received her medal for 100km of running in February - continuing to add to her 2023 target of 1000km 🏃‍♀️

upcoming events



Y12 Geography Field Trip

5th June



Y7, 8 & 9 Exams

5th June - 9th June



16 x Y9/10 English Schools
Track & Field

7th June



Y7 House Rounders

13th June



VIEW OUR EVENTS CALENDAR



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