



# Newsletter 28.06.2024

## Parent Newsletter

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### **Activities Week**

We look forward with anticipation to our Activities Week which commences on Monday 1 July. Thank you to all the staff who have been involved in either organising and coordinating the week itself or in offering, organising and supporting the events during the week. We have a brilliant programme of opportunities and activities lined up and know that these will be extremely enriching, enjoyable and valuable to our students. We would also like to wish all our Y10 and Y12 students the very best of luck with their work experience placements next week.

### **General Election Hustings**

Thank you to all staff, parents/carers, students and alumni who supported this event. It was lovely to see some returning faces and we hope that the evening was informative and valuable to those who attended.

Thank you in particular to the staff who spent their time voluntarily organising this opportunity for our school and the local community, as well as our wonderful students who supported the organisation and running of the evening in many different ways.

Footage from yesterday's event will be available via this link <https://wkgs.org/hustings2024> later this evening.

### **Outreach Work**

As a brief update, we continue to work hard to offer opportunities that are both valuable for current students but also to those that extend beyond our immediate school community. We have run a new Shaping Futures programme throughout the academic year with our Year 12 students volunteering their time to design and run a mentoring programme for students in Year 4 at local primary schools. This

has been hugely successful and we look forward to maintaining these relationships as the students move to Year 13 and 5 respectively as well as welcoming a new cohort of mentors and mentees in Years 12 and 4 in September.

We are also excited to be offering a Harry Potter inspired STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art & Maths) Challenge Day for students in Year 4 and are very grateful to the staff and Sixth Form students who are giving their time so generously on Saturday 6 July to support and deliver this event.

### **Celebrating Success**

This evening marks our first Physical Education Presentation Evening where we look forward to celebrating with many of our brilliant students to recognise their contribution to the school, and their successes in the many and varied sporting activities offered at WKGS. I would also like to thank our wonderful PE staff and the wider staff who support sporting activities throughout the year and make all of these opportunities possible.

Congratulations to our Sixth Form students who led on a British Sign Language morning this week as part of their Sixth Form community project. Students in Year 12 were asked to pitch projects that they would like to lead on and deliver to our school community and we were delighted to see our Year 12 students do this so well.

A huge congratulations also goes to Phoebe and Clara who were named the regional winners of the Step Into the NHS Competition. Students were introduced to the competition as part of their personal development lessons and we are delighted that their 'Who Wants to be an Optician?' game was recognised for its creativity and depth of thinking.

This week saw the Inter Schools Debate Competition involving Y8 students from WKGS, Calday and Wirral Girls. We were delighted to see our Y8 students announced as the winners, with Isla named as best speaker. A massive well done to all those who took part.

There have been so many wonderful achievements in the past fortnight that it is impossible to mention them all here. However, we do try to recognise as many of these as possible on social media and we are all extremely grateful to our students for their efforts and to our whole school community for supporting them in their endeavours.

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Mr S Clarke

Headteacher

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### **Activities Week**

Next week is our annual Activities Week for Y7-9, where the normal timetable is set aside to give students and staff a chance to experience a wide range of trips and school-based activities. Again this year, we are very lucky to have staff who

think creatively about learning, enabling students to develop skills and enjoy themselves. Attached are programme overviews, general instructions and specific information about each activity in one pdf per year group. If you are not sure about anything, please encourage your child to contact the relevant staff member to check details. Thank you for your encouragement and support of this important week in our calendar.

### **Duke of Edinburgh information**

**Bronze Year 9** - all those participating are registered with their own eDofE account with log-in details and they are now ready to start planning their activities which will count towards the award. They need to do one physical activity, one skill and one volunteering activity. ONE of these three activities must be for minimum 6 months, the others for minimum 3 months and must also take place at least once a week for an hour. Ideas for suitable activities for each section can be found on the DofE website.

**Bronze Year 10** - congratulations again to all students who completed the qualifying expedition last month. There are now a number of students who have finished all their chosen activities and had their award approved by our verifier. These students will be presented with their certificates and badges before we break for summer. To manage expectations a little, not everyone can complete a DofE level at the same time. I am aware that there are students who have yet to finish all activities but I would encourage them to continue over summer and into the Autumn term. There will be regular opportunities in school for certificates to be presented and I would like as many students to complete the full award and receive their certificates as possible. This award will be an invaluable addition to their skills portfolio and be useful in the future when they start applying for jobs/universities.

I will be asking students in Year 10 to register interest with me if they would like to sign up for the DofE Silver award which we will start preparing for in September and then send information home about that.

**Silver Year 11** - wishing our Y11 students the best of luck as they set off on Friday June 28th for their qualifying expedition in Llangollen! I will be asking students after they complete the expedition to consider whether they would like to progress to the Gold award and will then send out further information.

**DofE 2024/25 season** - training and expedition dates are now on the school website and attached to the newsletter. Please make a note of these dates as attendance is compulsory for all participants.

### **Lockers**

Locker bookings for September will go live on Friday 5 July. Details on how to book a locker will be sent via email on Wednesday 3 July. In the meantime, please remind your child/ward to start clearing out their lockers by Tuesday 16 July. All lockers will be emptied and cleaned during the summer in preparation for new occupants in September. Keys can be returned by placing in the green box labelled ILS in Reception.

### **School Nurse Drop In Clinic (message from WIRRAL COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST)**

The School Nurse Drop-In clinic is for all Primary and Secondary age young people from 5-19 in the Wirral, as well as their families/carers to provide advice and support around topics such as:

- Bullying
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health
- Healthy eating and exercise
- Neurodiversity and behaviour
- Relationships and friendships
- Sexual health and puberty
- Smoking, vaping, alcohol, drugs, and online safety
- Vaccinations
- Dental health

This Drop-In clinic runs every Thursday 4pm-6pm at the Health Visiting Hub at St Catherine's Health Centre, including during school holidays.

Please refer to the attached poster for further information.



## What we've been up to...



Your online shopping at over 8,000 brands can raise free donations for West Kirby Grammar School - Wirral! Sign up to @easyuk via the link, and we'll get a £5 bonus when you raise your first £5. It's a little act of kindness with every shop. Sign up now:  
<https://rb.gy/h8ucir>

Stay connected with us! Follow our social media accounts for the latest updates, news and glimpses into the vibrant life of our community.

# upcoming events



## Y12 Introduction Day

1st July



## Y10 Work Experience

1st July - 5th July



## Y9 trip to Rhineland

1st July - 5th July



## Y6 Induction evening

2nd July



VIEW OUR EVENTS CALENDAR



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