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#### ISSUE 171 OCTOBER 2025

## Message from the Headteacher:

Now that we're well into autumn and the first half term of the academic year is upon us, it's time to reflect back on the last 7 weeks. We're always amazed at how well our new recruits settle in and this year's new Year 7 and 12 cohorts are certainly no different!

In fact, in true Team Weald style, all of our students have thrown themselves into the new academic year with energy and enthusiasm: from helping out at our Open Evenings to show off their school and college; to dressing up for Hello Yellow, Show Racism the Red Card and 6F pyjama day, all raising awareness and money for charities; to joining new clubs or getting back into familiar ones; to competing for their school on the sports fields; to theatre trips and team building activities; to Duke of Edinburgh expeditions or award presentations ... all of this and we're only 7 weeks in!

On top of all of that, of course, has been the very serious business of getting back into excellent learning habits to set students up for future academic success. One of the many joys and privileges of being in a secondary school is seeing young children arrive and begin to navigate independent study, whilst simultaneously supporting young adults with their applications for life beyond college. We truly are blessed to have it all here at The Weald. Thank you, as always, for your support with our endeavours.

Mrs Sarah Edwards Headteacher

# A warm welcome to our new Year 7 students

The new school year began with excitement and smiles as our Year 7 students and their families gathered for a special **Welcome Breakfast** in the E Block canteen. This wonderful event marked the



beginning of their Secondary School journey and helped ease them into school life with a sense of community and belonging.

Parents and carers joined their children for a relaxed start to

the day with lots of conversation, laughter, and delicious food. It was a fantastic opportunity for families to connect with other parents, and experience the warm and supportive atmosphere that defines our school.



# Message from Chair of Governors

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families.

This term we have welcomed two new governors to the Board: Colin Coulthard and Craig Gale. Colin's background is in architectural design and building construction; in his professional capacity he was involved in the design and construction of E block at The Weald. He also has 2 children at The Weald. Craig serves on the Billingshurst Parish Council and is a youth leader with the Family Church. He has 2 children who attend Billingshurst Primary Academy.

We currently have 1 vacancy on the Board. If you would like to use your skills and experience to benefit the school and its students, please do get in touch (nwaters@theweald.org.uk).

Mrs N Walters Chair of Governors

# A warm welcome to our new Year 7 students continued..

Throughout the breakfast, students were able to chat with their new classmates helping to calm first-day nerves and build confidence before heading to their first year group assembly. The excitement in the air was clear as the newest members of our school community began forming friendships and settling into their new surroundings.

We'd like to thank all the staff who helped with the breakfast and made the morning such a success. It was a wonderful way to start the year, and we're confident our Year 7 students are ready for a fantastic year ahead!







## Parent Voice Partnership

Items can be raised for discussion via <u>parents@theweald.org.uk</u>. All previous meeting minutes can be found here on our website

#### Rewards at The Weald

In our E-Weald at the end of last year, we shared with you our new school rewards banner and in September we officially launched the programme. It's been a positively packed first half term, and we're thrilled to give you a quick rundown of the fantastic rewards our students have been receiving!

#### **Weekly Rewards**

Every week, students earn five extra house points if they receive no negative points - a brilliant recognition for consistently getting the basics right every day! Many of our students have already reached impressive milestones, including over 100 House Points.

#### **Five Minutes of Freedom**

Teachers have each been given three Five Minutes of Freedom postcards to use every half term. These special cards can be awarded at any time, for any reason, and grant students an extra five minutes of either break or lunch. Whether it's getting to the front of the canteen queue or finding the best spot to relax with friends, this reward has been a big hit!





On a fortnightly basis, we've seen many students achieve 100% attendance. During House Assemblies, these students get the chance to spin the Lucky Wheel of Fortune, where two winners are chosen to pick from our brand-new prize boxes. Favourite prizes include "Jump the Queue" passes and small treats, simple rewards that make a big impact.



#### **Celebrating Consistent Effort**

We've also celebrated a wide range of achievements and recognised students for their kindness, effort, engagement, and hard work. A particular highlight has been the **Positive Signatures** on students' Weald Cards. Last year's three winners enjoyed lunch and music with friends, plus the chance to wear one item of non-uniform for a week. Other favourites include a game of pool in the Sixth Form or choosing your seat in a lesson for the week!





#### Rewards at The Weald continued...

#### **Looking Ahead**

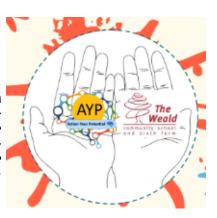
We're really looking forward to the termly rewards after the October half term including a special treat of biscuits with Bonnie, our beloved school dog! We'll also be celebrating at the Head of Year reward events, where students can take part in a football competition, enjoy a movie and snacks after school, get moving with Just Dance fun, or dive into a lively game of dodgeball with their peers.



Mr S Catt Deputy Headteacher

#### **Action Your Potential**

As a school we are continuing our partnership with Action Your Potential (AYP), who are working primarily with our year 11 students helping them to improve their learning and well-being strategies by understanding how their brain works and how to get more out of it. This is using their Build a #NeuroNinja programme.



All students in year 11 will have a series of workshops delivered to them throughout the year. The sessions will focus on understanding the brain and how it functions, how building key habits will support learning and memory recall and retention, key strategies for revision including Study Capture and Frayer Flash Cards, and wellbeing strategies for students to use on a daily basis.

In addition a number of year 11 students are in smaller PODs. The POD sessions are delivered half termly by an AYP coach where students will have short sessions on the techniques to help memory recall and retention in the lead up to the GCSE exams.

Later in the year there will be opportunities for students in year 11 to have 1:1 coaching sessions with an AYP coach based on learning, motivation and wellbeing in the final lead up to GCSE exams. More information will follow in the new year.

As well as supporting students with developing good study habits, AYP provides students with actionable well-being habits to build into their daily routines. These are The 12 Rocks of Well-being. By incorporating these into their everyday routines, and actively practising them will lead to improving a students well-being. The #NeuroNinja App allows students to track their rocks each day (available via Apple or Google app stores). This is available to all students.

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# **Action Your Potential (AYP)**

In addition to the support offered to our year 11 students, Action Your Potential run focussed webinars for parents and carers on key topics, including tackling anxiety, stepping up to exam success, dealing with procrastination and mobile phones. There is a set of webinars in November regarding Mobile phones, and details of further upcoming webinars are posted on the schools social media accounts. Click here to read the latest AYP newsletter.



AYP have created a #NeuroNinja Learning Hub which every member in our Weald community can have access to. The hub contains videos covering all aspects of the programme AYP offer. To sign up to the hub <u>click here</u>. AYP's GDPR policy is <u>here</u>.

We are excited to continue working in partnership with Action Your Potential, and we encourage you to take advantage of the resources available to you and your child.

# **Thought-Full**

As a school we are supported by Thought-Full who are the Mental Health Support Team in Schools for West Sussex. Thought-Full work with us to support students with mild to moderate mental health difficulties. In addition to this, Thought-Full provides parent presentations on different topics around mental health and supports the school with our whole school approach to Mental Health & Wellbeing.



This academic term we have run 3 successful parent presentations including sessions on Exam Stress and Talking to Teens. During the Summer term there will be further presentations we invite you to attend, including a rerun of the Thought-Full launch event from earlier this year in January. This will be our next presentation titled "What is Thought-Full?". It will be held on **Thursday 18th April from 6:00pm-7:30pm** in the school hall hosted by Greg Cronie. To sign up for this presentation please click here.

To continue to support parents/carers within our community we would be interested to hear your feedback on what sessions you would like us to put on for you. Session topics include; Anxiety, The teenage brain, resilience, parent self-care, teenage wellbeing and others. Please complete this form to provide your feedback and we will use this information to create a programme of parent/carer presentations from the sessions selected.

A number of our students have benefited from small sessions with the Thought-Full team. Last term year 13 students had a session on how to support themselves with exam stress leading up to their A level exams. The students who took part provided really positive feedback and have been given concrete examples to use to support themselves in the coming months. Year 11 students will benefit from further sessions after Easter to support them with their build up to the GCSE exams.

To find out more about Thought-Full do sign-up for the upcoming presentation in April, you can also find more information on the Thought-Full website.

Mr A Mowforth
Assistant Headteacher





#### The School Production—'Grease'

We are very proud and excited to announce our forthcoming school production of 'Grease. The Musical: School Edition'. With iconic songs like Summer Nights, Greased Lightnin' and You're the One that I Want, 'Grease' is one of those iconic musicals that has to be seen!

It's 1959, and Rydell High School's senior class is in rare form. The too-cool-for-school "Tbirds" are stealing hub-caps and acting tough and their gum-snapping, chain-smoking "Pink Ladies" are looking hot in bob-by sox and pedal pushers. The 1950s high school dream is about to explode in this rollicking musical that is both an homage to the idealism of the fifties and a satire of high schoolers' age-old desire to be rebellious, and provocative. Follow the whirlwind romance of Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbrowski as they navigate the ups and downs of teenage life, friendship, and identity in a world where fitting in means everything.

The performance dates are Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th December and it will start at 7.00pm in the School Hall. We ask for a donation of £10, along with a 50p booking fee for an entry pass, which can only be purchased online using either the QR code or link below, as we have now become a cashless school.

https://the-weald-school.square.site/

#### The Weald School Charitable Trust

All donations made to the Weald School Charitable Trust are used to provide facilities not able to be provided by the Local Authority.

#### Easy fundraising

The Weald School is registered with **#easyfundraising**, which means over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help SO MUCH, so please sign up to support us - it's completely FREE and doesn't take long.

Please use this <u>link</u> to register:

We have so far raised over £2,000 through Easyfundraising.

#### Weald School Minibus Fundraiser

Please see our fundraising page on <u>Justgiving</u> for details of our fundraising for a much needed new minibus.

If you use this <u>link</u> to donate, the full donation will go to our fundraising, with no fees taken by Just Giving,

Thank you for support

The Weald School Charitable Trust

## **Recommended Reads**

We have now all settled into the new term and are approaching the seasonal favourites of Halloween,. Bonfire night and Christmas. As the nights draw in, reading a book and switching off devices can help us unwind from the day. Remember to carve out some time to read and get wrapped up in a good book this Halloween and Bonfire night. Please see some

spooky reads that will give you brains!!!!

#### KS3 'The Haunting of Aveline Jones' by Phil Hickes

Aveline Jones loves reading ghost stories, so a dreary half-term becomes much more exciting when she discovers a spooky old book. Not only are the stories spine-tingling, but it once belonged to Primrose Penberthy, who vanished mysteriously, never to be seen again. Intrigued, Aveline decides to investigate Primrose's disappearance.

Now someone... or something, is stirring. And it is looking for Aveline.



After winning the brutal Hunger Games, Katniss and Peeta return to their district, hoping for a peaceful future. But their victory has caused rebellion to break out ... and the Capitol has decided that someone must pay. As Katniss and Peeta are forced to visit the districts on the Capitol's Victory Tour, the stakes are higher than ever. Unless they can convince the world that they are still lost in their love for each other, the consequences will be horrifying. Then comes the cruellest twist: the contestants for the next Hunger Games are announced, and Katniss and Peeta are forced into the arena once more.



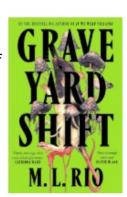
#### KS5 and adult Graveyard Shift by M. L. Rio

Every night, in the college's ancient cemetery, five people cross paths as they work the late shift: a bartender, a rideshare driver, a hotel receptionist, the steward of the derelict church that looms over them, and the editor-in-chief of the college paper, always in search of a story.

One dark October evening in the defunct churchyard, they find a hole that wasn't there before. A fresh, open grave where no grave should be. But who dug it, and for whom?

Before they go their separate ways, the gravedigger returns. As they trail him through the night, they realize he may be the key to a string of strange happenings around town that have made headlines for the last few weeks--and that they may be closer to the mystery than they thought.

Ms A Robertson LRC Manager



# **Sporting Success**

Date	Fixture	Result and info	
9 September	Year 7 Boys Inter- house	75 students out for first interhouse of the year! 6th place Attenborough , 5th place Da Vinci, 4th place Mercury, 3rd place Sea- cole, 2nd place Blackman and1st place Thompson	
11 September	Year 8 Boys Football B & C tournament	Players who had not been involved in fixtures so far had the opportunity to represent the school in a 7 a side competition at Forest school. The teams came 2nd & 3rd in their mini leagues. Well done to all involved.	
14 September	Year 9 Boys Football 6 - a-side Tournament	St. Pauls hosted a season opening 6 a side friendly tournament, Weald won one, drew two and lost two matches in a good run out to start the season, well done to all involved.	
16 September	Year 8 Football away at Oathall	Unfortunately the boys lost 5-1 in their opening league, but never gave up even after being 3-1 down at half time	
17 September	Year 10 Rugby away at Christ's Hospital	lost 4 tries to 2	
17 September	Year 7 Interhouse Netball	Joint 5th Seacole & Blackman, 3rd Da Vinci, 2nd Mercury and1st Thompson	
23 September	Year 11 boys Football against Dorothy stringer	lost 4-0	
24 Septem- ber	U19 boys Football v Brighton College	1-1 Won 4-3 on penalties	
30 September	Year 7 boys Football v Christ's Hospital	Three year 7 teams taken to CH for friendly fixtures A lost 3-5 B Won 9-0 C Won 15-0	
30 September	Year 8 Football vs Burgess Hill Academy	Boys won 4-2 with two goals from Cippi, and a goal each for Zion and Fred	
1 October	Year 9 boys Football v Oathall	Great away 3-2 victory in the district league, with goals form Max , Ethan and Eli	
2 October	Year 9 boys Football v St Paul's	Lost 5-1 in district league, many players playing their second game in two days, consolation goal from Eli	
7 October	Year 7 boys Football v Forest District league	Lost 0-1	



Date	Fixture	Result and info	
7 October	Year 8 Boys vs Christ's Hospital	Won 9-2 Joshie scoring 5 goals	
8 October	U19 Boys V Steyning	Won 5-1	
8 October	Year 7 boys Football National cup v Steyning	Lost 1-2	
9 October	Year 7 Boys Football v Tan- bridge	Drew and lost	
10 October	Year 9 Boys Football v Oriel	Lost 3-1 but a fantastic goal by Zach in consolation.	
13 October	Year 7 Boys Football County Cup v Oathall	Won 1-0	
14 October	Year 9 Football ESFA	Lost 1-0 to a very strong Oscar Romero side	
14 October	Year 7 Football v Forest	A team won 1 match lost 1, B team lost both matches	
15 October	Year 7 Football v Tanbridge	Lost 2-4 in the District league	
16 October	Year 7 Football v Sackville	Lost 3-4 narrowly after playing really well. A big shout out to all Year 7 who represented the school at football this week	
16 October	Y8 Mixed NFL flag Football	3rd place with Fred being the MVP (Most valuable player), Well done to all those who took part.	

#### Peter's Path to Judo Excellence

We're incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of Peter, who continues to make remarkable progress in his judo journey.

Peter is currently on track to reach his performance goals, having been selected for the England Performance Pathway - the first important step toward the Great Britain Performance Pathway and, potentially, international success beyond.

As the current British U18 Champion and ranked number one in his age group, Peter has already made a name for himself nationally. He's also ranked third in the U21 category and recently earned his 2nd Dan black belt — a testament to his skill, perseverance, and commitment to the sport.

In addition to his competitive success, Peter is also giving back to the judo community. He is a qualified UK Level 1 BJA coach, currently coaching at Penthorpe. Once he turns 18, he'll complete his Level 2 award, allowing him to coach independently. Alongside his sporting commitments, Peter is also studying for a Diploma in Sporting Excellence, further deepening his understanding of performance and athletic development.

Peter's dedication to training is truly commendable, especially given how demanding the sport is — both physically and mentally. Despite the challenges and fatigue that come with elite-level training, his determination never wavers.

Over half term, Peter will be heading to Japan for a training tour, gaining invaluable experience at the very heart of judo's origins. We look forward to seeing how this opportunity helps him prepare for the upcoming British Championships in December.

Well done, Peter — your school community is cheering you on every step of the way!

# **Sparx Maths**



Well done to the following students for getting to the top of the Monthly Sparx Maths leaderboards! Sparx Champions will receive a certificate, house point and a prize from their Maths teacher.

September 2025			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Methali M Maddumage J Isla S Leo R Henry W	Hugo W Oskar F Dylan F Isaac E Heidi B	Mikela M Chloe C Will S Olivia L Freya W	Beau H Isabel R Thomas J Maddumage J Emily C

### New Math's Class Feedback Model

The maths department is implementing a new whole class feedback model for years 7-11 following formative assessments (informal, short quizzes), which they should be taking approximately fortnightly. This model has been inspired by an article written by Craig Barton, a Times Educational Supplement Maths advisor, creator of two of the country's most popular Maths websites and an AQA Expert Panel Member. He has written a book inspired by the latest research in Maths education which has transformed the teaching of Maths up and down the country, and now works with hundreds of schools to improve their teaching, and has therefore observed thousands of lessons. His suggestions for whole class feedback are based on what he has learnt are best for students long-term learning.

We explored Craig's recommendations as a Maths department team, and agreed upon which ones we would take on to form our model of whole class feedback to best suit the needs of students at The Weald. Students can expect for their teacher to feedback on an assessment before receiving their own assessment back. Research states that this is the best motivator for students to pay attention to feedback since they don't yet know whether or not they got questions correct. Teachers will re-teach two -three of the worst completed skills on the test, and then ask students to have a go independently at some new, very similar questions that they have written and also give students the option of completing a stretch question for more challenge. After marking these new questions, students will then receive their test back and can take some time to reflect and try to correct their errors using the feedback provided by the teacher.

All students in years 7-11 should have completed at least two of these this half term so ask your student how it felt to receive feedback before getting their tests back; we know it has been an adjustment for them.

Mrs L Gamble
Director of Maths

# Royal Geographical Society's Photography Summit

On Friday the 26 of September, a group of us at The Weald sixth form students had the incredible opportunity to attend the Royal Geographical Society's Photography Summit in Kensington. This was an inspiring event that brought together some of the world's leading photographers to discuss how powerful images can shape the way we view our planet and address global issues.

Throughout the day, we heard from many inspirational, famous photographers including: Marissa wroth and Simon Townsley (Photojournalists), Sue Flood and Ian Dawson (Blue Planet photographers) and Chris Packham (nature and wildlife photographer). Each sharing their unique perspectives on using photography to tell stories about global issues. From documenting the effects of climate change and conflict to capturing the beauty of endangered wildlife, they each demonstrated how a single photograph can have the power to move people and spark change.

Marissa Wroth spoke movingly about the human side of world events along with Simon Townsley who shared the challenges of photojournalism in conflict zones, and informed us about the lengths and extremes he and other photographers go to in order to capture these incredible yet reflective images. Sue Flood's breathtaking images of the polar regions reminded us of the urgency of protecting fragile environments, and Ian Dawson discussed how creativity and empathy can transform the way we understand geography. It was incredible to see the people behind the scenes of the remarkable documentary, Blue Planet. Hearing their unique stories and experiences while filming, and tales of spending such a long time in extreme environments alongside endangered animals and indigenous people was one of my favourite parts of the day. Chris Packham closed the day with his passionate speech, encouraging young people to use their voices and their cameras to make a difference.

As students, it was certainly both eye-opening and motivating to see how photography can be more than art, it can also raise awareness and motivate change to benefit the world we live in. It also reminded us that geography is not just about maps and places, but it's about people, stories and the shared responsibility we all have for our planet.

Freya **Year 12** 



# Greenpower Club—Season Round up 2025

Team Weald finished the season back at Goodwood Motor Circuit for the 26th International Finals. We had three cars entered in 4 races, Bluebird and Purple Predator in F24 and Bluebird an X in F24+. Spirits were high following a great race at Dunsfold Park which had seen Black Bullet complete a solid race distance and Purple pick up it's first win in recent memory. Following that, Purple collected it's second win of the season at the Lotus test track in Norfolk, a day made even better when Bluebird swept to victory in the F24+ race, Black ran well with a recurring brake issue slowing its progress slightly - some work to do over the winter on this.

Purple and Blue lined up 11th and 7th on the grid for the first race and finished in a great 8th and 4th positions respectively, this race was cut short due to a red flag so we knew that the afternoon race would be the one to count.

Bluebird and X got ready for the F24+ race with X running well to collect 11 th place driven by Charlie. Unfortunately Luca never got to start the race as we suffered a front wheel axle failure on the way to the grid. This could've been the end of it for Bluebird but some quick thinking by Kevin and some speedy hunting by Clive (who originally built Bluebird with Jon) produced a replacement axle! Blue was rebuilt and ready to run in F24 race 2.

The team couldn't have worked harder and Bluebird driven by Adam, Harry and Alex came through to finish 4th overall. Purple Predator was running a solid 10th with plenty left for the end of the race when an isolator failure after the second pitstop saw the car stop on track. Had the morning race counted then 8th would've been a just reward for some great driving by Isaac, Ivanna and Danny.

The team really have been superb this season, we've had the highest highs with 4 race wins and 2 second places, plus a few lows in narrowly missing out on the podium at Bedford and another near miss for Purple at Mallory Park. Our pitstops have been nothing short of sensational and these really did make the difference in our successful races. We are looking forward to 2026 already!

Our thanks go to our sponsors including Universal Trailers, CeVac, Forza Cloud and our fantastic team of volunteers including Russell, Phil, Charlie, Karen, Katherine, Clive and Jon with an especially big thank you to Kevin Quigley.

You can keep up to date with the team on Instagram @wealdgreenpower, online at teamweald.org.uk and you can support the teams fundraising efforts at <a href="https://www.justgiving.com/page/teamwealdworkshop">www.justgiving.com/page/teamwealdworkshop</a>

Thank you everyone!

Mr C Evans
Team Weald Greenpower Co-ordinator









# Support for your child

childline

Childline is free, confidential and available for anyone under the age of 19.

https://www.childline.org.uk/

Call: 0800 1111

Youngminds is a charity that can support both children and adults. Further details are **DUNGMINDS** available on their website.

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/

SAMARITANS their website:

Whatever you're going through, a Samaritan can help. Contact details are available on

https://www.samaritans.org/

Call: 116 123

Local NHS mental health helpline offers help and advice with a mental health profess sional. Support is available 24/7 Call: 0800 030 9500

E-Wellbeing is a digital wellbeing support service for young people run by the YMCA Downe-wellbeing slink group.

https://e-wellbeing.co.uk/



Get advice and report online abuse issues via the CEOP website.

https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre



The well-being team at The Weald have put together a comprehensive set of resources and links which can be found at this website.

https://sites.google.com/theweald.org.uk/well-being-the-weald/home



Provides tasks that can help you resist the temptation to self-harm. https://calmharm.co.uk/



Mindshift aims to help you learn how to relax and develop new ways of thinking in order to help your anxiety.

https://www.anxietycanada.com/resources/mindshift-cbt/

# Dates for your diary

DATE	EVENT
3 November	Start of term
27 November	Enrichment Day 1
28 November	Inset Day
19 December	Early close for Christmas
5 January	Start of term

If you are interested in the Parent Voice Partnership, please email parents@theweald.org.uk

To suggest content for the next issue of e-Weald, please email

kferrone@theweald.org.uk

