



Issue 173
February 2026

CONTENTS

2. A new lease of life for the Learning Resource Centre
3. Update on Mobile Phones at The Weald
4. Parent Voice Partnership
5. SPARX Maths
6. Recommended Reads
7. Sporting Success & Help US spread the word about Weald Fest
8. Support for your child
9. Dates for your diary

Message from the Headteacher:

Thank you for taking the time to take a look at some of the fantastic achievements of our students over the past few weeks and to read about initiatives taking place across our community. As always, there is a great deal to be proud of!

Congratulations are certainly due to those who have participated in performances across the sports and drama arenas; girls' football, cross country and A Level Theatre Studies are just a few of the highlights. The spring term always feels like a ramping up of academic demands, and students from Year 7 to Year 13 have been undertaking significant assessments. This will only increase, of course, as students in Years 10, 11 and 13 head towards external exams this summer. I hope they feel they have the resources they need to succeed - and of course that they use their expert teachers for feedback and support.

We are delighted with the reopening of our Learning Resource Centre following flood damage; you may have seen photos on social media. With the redesigned space, it really is a superb area of which all students may make use. It's open before and after school, as well as break and lunch times of course, and Sixth Formers have access to it for all of their study periods.

As the spring gets underway properly next half term, we'll be thrilled to welcome back the Year 11 Uganda trip from their half term exploits and we'll be looking forward to the wealth of enrichment opportunities yet to come this academic year: Enrichment Day 2 in March (with a repeat of the hugely popular outward bounds activity for Year 11 amongst other trips), the Gym and Dance show, the ski trip at Easter, and of course the myriad ventures on offer during ACE Week! So much to look forward to as the second half of the year gets underway.

Mrs Sarah Edwards
Headteacher

A new lease of life for the Learning Resource Centre!

On Monday 2 February we opened a new, and much improved, Learning Resource Centre!

You may be aware that the LRC suffered from significant water damage after severe storms at the end of the summer break. As a result, half of the LRC has been out of action for the Autumn term, impacting on reading lessons, the use of the space for students in social times and our Sixth form students who use it for independent study. However, we have been able to use this adversity to our advantage, taking the opportunity to redesign the use of the space in the LRC to ensure that we have even greater capacity for all the students who make regular and frequent use of this much valued part of the school.

The LRC is an amazing space that not only supports reading and study, but also provides a much loved and safe space for members of the school community. It hosts events throughout the year, most importantly the Weald Book Awards, World Book Day and has been greatly missed whilst the works have been carried out.

In future months we plan to use the proceeds raised from Weald Fest on Saturday 18 July and other events to refurbish the LRC with new furniture, study pods, shelving and books, as well as sound reduction panels. We look forward to sharing further updates as we develop the LRC over the coming months!

Ms Z Sorrell
Deputy Headteacher



Update on Mobile Phones at The Weald

I'm sure you will have read about the national campaigns to protect young people from the dangers associated with mobile phones and you may also know that the Department for Education has announced their clear expectations that schools should be phone-free environments for students up to 16 years of age. We're delighted to see this, as it provides greater clarity and consistency about how schools should manage this tricky issue.

As you know, we have been very clear for a while now that students in Years 7 to 11 must not use their phones during the school day, and phones are confiscated if students are seen using them. However, according to the guidance from the government, schools should go further. Therefore, from the Easter holidays, our new policy will be that phones must be off and in bags. They may not be in pockets or just on their person in silent mode. (Of course, students who need their phone or other mobile device for a medical reason will be exempt, just as they are now, but this must be supported by evidence.) We will continue to confiscate any phones seen, and a third instance will require a parent/carers to collect the phone from school.

The timings will be exactly as they are now, i.e. from when students arrive on site in the morning until 3.05 pm, or later if students are participating in an after-school activity.

We will be repeating this message frequently with students over the course of the next 5 weeks until Easter to give them time to get used to the new expectations. We are hugely grateful for your support with this.

Mrs S Edwards
Headteacher

Parent Voice Partnership

Our Parent Voice Partnership meetings are an informal platform to share feedback from our parent/carers community, raise any issues and discuss particular initiatives or areas of concern that we can then follow up on as a school.

If you are not able to join us for a meeting and would like to find out more or if you would like to raise any issues or points for discussion at our next meeting please feel free to email parents@theweald.org.uk.

To view the information from our recent Parent Voice meeting's please click [here to be taken to our website](#)

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.

December 2025

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Kumudh A Ayush N Noah J Avannah R Bella K	Oskar F Grace E Lucas G Isaac E Irmak K	Chloe C Jacob C Scarlett T Mikela M Myra M	Lucy F Lexi M Austin R Matilda R Ellie-May W

January 2026

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Isla B Thomas C Ayush N Scarlett C Kumudh A	Isaac E Oskar F Tuppence M Elliot M Bella G	Jacob C Chloe C Sethinu W Myra M Ellie S	Amy M Beau H Marlie B Ivan M Elsie L



Recommended Reads

The time for romance is with us it doesn't have to be about love, it can be friendship or a hobby. As mentioned before, it's the National Year of Reading as launched by the Government. Behind this is the real drive for reading for pleasure but ask anyone who has a teenager or works with them and we all know that reading is a battle against technology in free time. Reading what you enjoy brings a love of reading. From Cookery books to football to crime to romance to gaming. The choice of books in libraries and bookshops is vast. Let's celebrate the love of books this February.

KS3: Pony Club Secrets - Nightstorm and the Grand Slam by Stacy Gregg

Issie exceeded her wildest riding dreams winning at the Lexington Kentucky four-star trials, but could there be even bigger prizes on the horizon?

Her foal, Nightstorm, has grown up to be an incredible sport horse - powerful, fast and eager to win, so it's time to put their riding skills to the ultimate test and see if they can complete the hat-trick and win at Badminton and Burghley too!



KS4: the Falling in Love Montage by Ciara Smyth

After the break up with her ex, seventeen-year-old Saoirse plans to spend the summer before uni partying, getting drunk, watching horror movies and forgetting all her family troubles by kissing girls. Enter the scene: Ruby, who might just be the prettiest girl Saoirse's ever seen. A romcom fan and a believer in true love, Ruby challenges cynical Saoirse to try a summer romance with the serious parts left out, just like in the movies. But what happens when the falling in love montage ends?



KS5 and Adult: 'Graveyard Shift' by M. L. Rio

A majestic biography of two young geniuses who merged their talents to create one of the greatest bodies of music in history.

John & Paul begins in 1957, when two teenagers in suburban Liverpool meet and decide to play rock n'roll together. It ends twenty-three years later, when one of them is murdered. In between, we see them become global stars, create countless indelible songs, and play a central role in shaping the modern world.



Lennon and McCartney were more than friends, rivals or collaborators. They were intimates who both had the fabric of their world ruptured at a young age, and who longed to make emotional connections; with each other, and with audiences. The pop song was a vessel into which they poured feelings of grief and euphoria and everything in between. When they couldn't speak what they felt, they sang it. After the break-up of their group, they maintained a musical dialogue at a distance, in songs full of recrimination, regret, and affection.

Ian Leslie traces the twists and turns of their relationship through the music it produced and offers rich insights into the nature of creativity, collaboration and human connection. Drawing on recently released footage and recordings, this is a startlingly fresh take on two of the greatest icons in music history.

Sporting Success

Date	Fixture	Result and info
12 Jan 2026	U14 Girls Football	An excellent performance against Forest School, just lost out to a last minute winning goal. The match finished 2-1.
14 Jan 2026	U19 Football at Steyning Grammar School	4-1 Win with a hat trick from Olly V
18 Jan 2026	Gymnastics Competition at Aberdour School	U14s Mixed gymnastics team, came first overall in floor and vault. They have qualified to go to the national finals in Stoke. The U14s girls gymnastics team- came 6th but performed really well. For half the team it was their first ever competition. Well done!
19 Jan 2026	Sussex Schools Cross Country	Congratulations to Hugo W, who came 20th out of 300 in the Year 9 Junior Boys running, he has been invited to run for Sussex Schools at the end of the month.
20 Jan 2026	Year 11 Boys Football at Steyning Grammar School	A disappointing 4-1 loss in the County Cup.
22 Jan 2026	Year 8 Boys Rugby	Two great wins against St Paul's and The Forest School, both with a score of 6 tries to 0
27 Jan 2026	U14 Girls Football	Despite the awful weather we managed to play the game against Millais School on the astro. We played extremely well to win 6-2 with goals from Katie R (2), Scarlett H (2), Holly M and Ashling Q.

Sporting Succes

Date	Fixture	Result and info
28 Jan 2026	U13 Girls Netball	The girls played their first round of the mid Sussex League winning against St Pauls but unfortunately losing against Oathall and Sackville School.
29 Jan 2026	Year 8 Boys Football	We lost 6-2 to a very strong Patcham High School, the only consolation being the two great goals by Teddy H
5 Feb 2026	Year 8 Girls Football	In torrential rain the Year 8 Girls played really well in the District Tournament. The B team drew 2 games and lost narrowly to the eventual winners of the tournament, just missing out on qualifying for the semi-final. The A team won their 3 group games but lost their semi-final 1-0, to finish third overall.

Help US spread the word about Weald Fest

As the days get longer, excitement is building for Weald Fest – and we need your help to make it bigger and better than ever!

One of the most effective ways we can promote the event (and raise as much money as possible for the school) is by displaying Weald Fest Estate Agent Boards around our local community.

We are looking for families and local residents who live on busy, high-visibility roads with good footfall – such as main roads, corner plots or well-used routes – who would be willing to display a board in their front garden or at the front of their property.

It's a simple way to make a big difference and help ensure Weald Fest is a fantastic success for our school community.

If you're able to help, [please click this link](#)

Estate Agent
Board Display



Support for your child



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 available on their website.

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



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

<https://www.samaritans.org/>

Call: 116 123



Local NHS mental health helpline offers help and advice with a mental health professional. Support is available 24/7

Call: 0800 030 9500



E-Wellbeing is a digital wellbeing support service for young people run by the YMCA Downlink 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
23 Feb 2026	Start of term (Week A)
19 Mar 2026	Enrichment Day 2
26 Mar 2026	Last Day of term
27 Mar 2026	Inset Day
13 Apr 2026	Start of term (Week B)

To suggest content for the next issue of e-Weald, please email
kferrone@theweald.org.uk



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