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## Message from the Headteacher:

As we reach the end of what has been an extremely long term, it seems timely to reflect upon our community's efforts and achievements. Our largest ever cohort of Year 7 students has settled in extremely well and their recent team-building activities on the first Enrichment Day of the year has helped them to make new friends and build solid foundations for the next 7 years at The Weald. Likewise, our largest cohort of Year 12 students has also made a flying start to their post-16 courses, and their contributions to the lower school alongside those of Year 13 students mean that our school feels very busy but certainly thriving and inclusive.

All visitors to The Weald comment on the warmth of relationships across our community. As you know, this term we welcomed a team of Ofsted inspectors who noted this as one of the many strengths of our school. This is what we aim to put into practice every day through our ethos of 'opportunity and community'; when young people feel respected and known, they challenge themselves to achieve. We consider this to be as vital a part of our curriculum as subject knowledge.

I hope your child has enjoyed some of the many opportunities that have been open to them this term, whether they were in sport, drama, music, art, charity events, meeting and showing around visitors, interviewing prospective staff, house competitions, School Council or volunteering. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to note students' individual and team successes.

It is time to wish a very fond farewell to 3 members of staff who are leaving us for new ventures. Mrs Phillips (Teacher of Technology) leaves us after 8 years to work closer to home, Mrs Elsworth-Smith (Literacy Tutor) leaves us after 11 years to retire, and Mrs Cole (Teacher of English) leaves us to take up new challenges. We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of these colleagues for their hard work and wish them all the best for their future.

We look forward, as always, with optimism and excitement about the coming year; no doubt our students, your children, will give us multiple reasons to be very proud of them. In the meantime, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our efforts and to wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas.

Mrs Sarah Edwards  
Headteacher

## Great Expectations

We recently staged the successful school production, 'Great Expectations', involving our talented and committed students in both the cast and crew. This was a very challenging play to stage: originally performed at the Royal Shakespeare Company in an adaptation by Cheek By Jowl Theatre Company, which needed to recreate a range of locations and action quickly by the ensemble well as the use of projections and music.

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## Message from Chair of Governors

Last week, Mrs Edwards and I wrote to parents and carers to share the report from our recent Ofsted inspection. A two page report only captures a fraction of the inspection team's findings and much more detail was provided at the feedback meeting which was attended by leaders and governors. Our ethos of Opportunity and Community could not be more appropriate - I am truly proud of each and every member of our whole school community.

I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate how truly fantastic the staff at The Weald are. What parents/carers and students don't see is the huge amount of work that goes on behind the scenes. Governors have the privilege of learning about this through our curriculum monitoring visits; this term a governor has met with every single subject leader to monitor the curriculum. Through these visits, we discover the forensic analysis of exam results that subject leaders have undertaken to ensure success can not just be repeated, but built upon through further adaptations to the curriculum content. However, at The Weald we don't just prioritise academic achievement. Whatever their role in school, every member of staff contributes to, in the words of Ofsted, ensuring that 'students leave school ready and equipped for a bright future ahead'. This is what makes The Weald a truly exceptional school.

Mrs N Waters  
Chair of Governors

## The Student 6Rs—What does working well at The Weald look like?

As Deputy Headteacher at The Weald, one of my areas of leadership is Teaching and Learning. This is a fascinating and expansive role which allows me to provide continued professional development (CPD) to teachers, using research informed strategies on how best to teach, based on how students best learn. These strategies are encapsulated in our '6Rs'; six principles which underpin our classroom practice and pedagogy across the curriculum. We are now in our third year of working developing our understanding of these strategies and implementing them consistently in our teaching practice.

This year, we are rolling this understanding of how we teach and how students best learn to inform and engage our students in the 6Rs. After all, as I explained to students in my assembly in September, learning is something which happens inside their brains. Teachers can't see, touch or measure learning, so we need to work with students to help them plan, monitor and evaluate their own learning. So our goal this year is to shine a light inside the 'black box' by:

- Committing to and setting out a shared toolkit
- Practising using the tools together (with teachers, every day, in lessons)

When all teachers practise the same things across classrooms students also learn the routines faster (makes learning easier for us all!). This also ensures that these routines become the 'norm' - helping our school culture and community get stronger (so we all feel like we belong more). It also gives all students a fair and equal chance to learn as much as they can.

Many of the 6Rs are already well known to our students, parents and carers. For example RRWS (Ready, Respectful, Working, Safe) and RED Review (our strategies for effective revision). We have begun by outlining our most familiar 6R, which is RRWS. This has already been broken down and made into simple steps for students to understand and this language is embedded already. and then taking the W (working) to outline what working well looks like for our students.



# The Student 6Rs—What does working well at The Weald look like?

We are working with students in a range of ways to help them to understand and use these 6 simple 6Rs steps. This includes assemblies, tutor time and RHPD reflection activities as well as Head of Year lesson visits and celebrations of student work for our working well wall.

One particularly exciting development is the use of RHPD lessons for students to reflect on their tracking reports and assessment preparation. Students will engage, twice a year, with the strategies and effort they are putting into homework and assessment preparation, how effective that has been and how it relates to their assessment performance. Students will then set themselves targets for how to improve on this in their next set of assessments and reports.

**Working well at The Weald - Key Stage 3 - Student Tracking Wrapper**

**Section 1: How you prepared for the assessments**  
First, you will reflect on the RED Review homework you did to prepare for your assessments.

1. How confident were you feeling before your assessment?

2. How long before your assessments did you start preparing?

3. How long did you spend preparing for your assessment?

4. Which activities did you do to prepare? (Tick any you used)

5. Did you go to the club or any other support/revision session with a teacher or Learning Mentor before your assessment?

6. Is there anything you found particularly challenging about preparing for your assessment?

7. Did your confidence reflect how well you did?

8. Was your preparation effective in getting assessment results?

**Section 2: Reflecting on your Tracking Report**  
Next, you will reflect on your tracking in your different subjects.

9. What was your average ASL?

10. Which subjects do you have the highest ASL?

So far, Year 10 have completed this and Year 11 are due to complete this after their Tracking 2 reports after their mock exams. All other year groups will do the same after their tracking reports which provide assessment performance data. Please do ask your child for their reflections which are collated and emailed to them in the PDF format as shown to the left (after completing a Google Form). Please also remember to revisit this when they are preparing for their next assessments to remind them of the targets they have set themselves.

Miss A Cortizo  
Deputy Headteacher

**What does working well look like at The Weald?**

**RED REVIEW: (+ KOs) to remember more**

- Retrieval from memory (no peeking!)
- Elaboration explain why/how (no your words!)
- Dual coding (images with words (keep it simple!))

**RATIO: rise to the challenge**

- Extremely No opt out!
- Benefits beyond except Qs/ABC
- Think hard keep trying for longer

**RESPOND: to feedback**

- Watch, listen to and read your feedback
- Action feedback to improve
- Check to not repeat mistakes

**READ: speak and write like a subject expert**

- Learn and use words from KOs
- Read with finger/ruler + KO
- Write and speak using subject structures

**RESPONSIBILITY: take it!**

- Have you stopped and checked? Re-read line 2 or the worked example
- Have you got what you need? Use resources - book, KOs or PLCs
- Have you understood? Ask students and teachers for help

*Opportunity and Community (work hard and be kind)*

## Supporting young people online

Increasingly social communication is happening online. It is so important that we equip ourselves with the tools to do this safely and that we know what to do if we encounter any online content that we are not comfortable with. Here are some suggestions for opening up the conversation about internet use at home.

- Ask your children if they know what is OK and not OK to share.
- Encourage them to report any content they find that makes them uncomfortable.
- Discuss the importance of protecting your online reputation. The mantra of 'think before you post' is a useful way to do this.
- Think critically! Not everything or everyone is what they seem online and on social media.
- Treat each other with respect on messaging apps.

Find further support and guidance on [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com).

Remember that you can use [help@theweald.org.uk](mailto:help@theweald.org.uk) to report any issues that you need support with.

Miss D McInerney  
Assistant Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead

# 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 from their Maths teacher.



October 2024				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Minnie W Lily G Amelie S Lexi A Harrison C	Rose B Freya W Chloe C Lillie B Sophie H	Dylan P Amelia R Billy C Amia A Zac D	Daniella K Amber N Ollie B Oliver F Victor W	Hannah A Sylvester S Natasha M James G Stella C

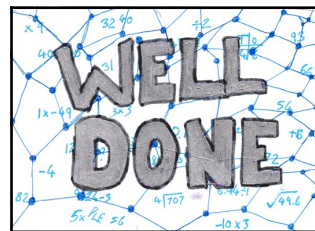
November 2024				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Isaac E Heidi B Scarlett H Amelie S Hugo W	Chloe C Mikela M Elodie K Rose B Freya W	Dylan P Lexi M Maxim T Billy C Beau H	Daniella K Amber N Phoebe B Monty H Zara E	Heidi A James G Katie O Scarlet H Hannah A

Mrs L Heather  
Director of Maths

## Winners of our Math's Competition!



Amelie C - TRRE year 7



Charlotte B - TFTO year 7

Well done to our competition winners who have designed our fabulous new Maths Praise Postcards!

Amelie and Charlotte - your £10 Amazon Gift Vouchers are on their way to you via your Maths Teachers. Thank you for your entries.



# Recommended Reads

The Christmas decorations are up, the shopping is nearly done, the Christmas concerts are attended and soon we will have time to relax. This term we have launched a competition to all students to encourage them to read a classic. A classic book is a great way to increase the range of vocabulary as well as a formal style of writing. Any students that borrowed a classic from the Library and completed the book have been entered into a prize draw to win a £30 Amazon voucher. Winner to be announced at the House Cup Assembly.

## KS3 A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens AR level 6.7

It's a snowy winter in London where we meet Ebenezer Scrooge, an old man who has become bitter with life, he is known for being cold and selfish. Scrooge profits off his impoverished community, financially benefiting off their labour whilst paying measly wages to his employees.

In the lead up towards Christmas, Scrooge is visited by the spirit of his former business partner Jacob Marley who informs Scrooge to expect 3 ghosts. The Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future, show Scrooge what he needs to see before it's too late, and we get to witness the mistakes of his past, the emptiness of his present and the dark future that awaits him.



## KS4 Winterkill by Kate A Boorman

Winterkill is the first title in a stunning new YA series by Kae A. Boorman - perfect for fans of the Hunger Games, Maze Runner and Patrick Ness.

No one leaves the settlement if they want to survive. Emmeline knows this, but the trees in the woods are whispering to her, pulling her towards the wayward path.

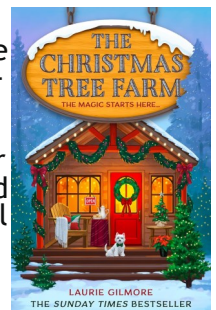
Inside the safety of the wall is a marriage she doesn't want, and a boy she can't have. But outside? The malmaci lies in wait, and the freezing Winterkill is coming...



## KS5 and adult - The Christmas Tree Farm by Laurie Gilmore

Kira North hates Christmas. Which is unfortunate since she just bought a Christmas tree farm in a town that's too cute for its own good. Bennett Ellis is on vacation in Dream Harbor trying to take a break from both his life and his constant desire to fix things.

But somehow fate finds Ben trapped by a blanket of snow at Kira's farm, and, despite her Grinchiest first impressions, with the glow of the fairy lights twinkling in the trees, and the promise of a warming hot chocolate, maybe, just maybe, these two lost souls will have a Christmas they'll remember forever...



Ms A Robertson  
LRC Manager



Our KS3 students have made a fantastic start with the Accelerated Reader programme since September. We are delighted to announce that we already have a 'Word Millionaire'!

Jessica G. in year 8 has read a whopping 1,081,222 words and is our first Word Millionaire of the academic year, closely followed by three other students.

Jessica will receive the prestigious 'Word Millionaire' badge and will be invited to a celebratory event with other 'Word Millionaires' in the summer term. Well done!

## Sporting Success



	Fixture	Result and info
18/10/24	Y8 Boys Rugby v Warden Park	Loss to a very strong and experienced Warden Park team.
23/10/25	Y8 Boys Football v Bohunt	6-5 loss with a rotated team many students making their first appearance for the Weald
24/10/24	Y7 Football V Bohunt	5-2 win, HP hattrick.
5/11/24	U16 girls hockey	Drew 1-1 with Millais at home
7/11/24	U16 Girls Football	Played really well in 6 games in the District Tournament this week, only losing once 1-0 to the eventual winners of the tournament. The Weald finished 3rd out of the 7 teams taking part in a very close competition.
12/11/24	U16 Girls Football	Lost 3-1 to Burgess Hill Academy in the Sussex Cup
13/11/24	Y7 Netball	Team A won 5-3 to Forest Team B Lost 2-6 to Forest
18/11/24	U14 Girls Football	Lost away at Tanbridge in the League
19/11/24	Y7 Girls Football	Won 2-1 away at Downlands
20/11/24	Y8 Girls Netball	Team A drew 5-5 with Forest Team A beat Bohunt 6-4 Team B lost 11-3 to Bohunt Team B lost 10-3 to Forest
11/12/24	U14 Girls Football	Won 3-1 at home against Burgess Hill Academy
11/12/24	Y7 Girls Football	Won 3-1 away at Millais

# Great Expectations continued..

The story was told with chorus members voicing Pip's thoughts throughout the play, whilst the actors impressively performed their roles with confidence and maturity. The production was very dependent on technical skills with over two hundred sound, projection and lighting cues, which were ably operated by our technical team.



Thank you to our wonderfully supportive audiences!

Here's what they had to say:

*'I just wanted to say how absolutely fantastic Great Expectations was! I am in awe of how successful you were in putting on such an epic show and I loved all the costumes and staging. Everything was just so good and all the students did so brilliantly!'*

*'Wow, what a spectacular production, Great Expectations was last night! We were so impressed by the whole set up. The staging, props and tech was fantastic and you have so many talented performers! You must have worked incredibly hard to deliver such a wonderful and immersive production.'*



*'I was at last night's production of Great Expectations and was so impressed with the performance. The atmosphere of the marshes and the gothic strangeness of Miss Havisham's room were captured so effectively. You are always so inventive and the music and monotone backdrops worked wonderfully. There were some lovely performances: the whole cast and chorus were utterly involved, word perfect and so efficient with all the set changes, as ever well supported by the huge team of technicians. Thank you for a lovely evening.'*



## Health/Medical Updates



It's important that the school is informed of any changes in your child's medical condition. Please email the school ([studentreception@theweald.org.uk](mailto:studentreception@theweald.org.uk)) with any health updates about your child.

## Parent voice Partnership

The next meeting is **5pm Thursday 13 March** and all are welcome. Items can be raised for discussion via [parents@theweald.org.uk](mailto:parents@theweald.org.uk). All previous meeting minutes can be found [here on our website](#).

### SPRING TERM JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING AT ALFOLD TENNIS CLUB

A new 10 week term will commence on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025:

Day of the week	Age category	Coaching Programme	Time	Price (10 week term)
Saturday	4-6 years old	Mini Red	8:45am-9:30am	£50.00
Saturday	6-9 years old	Mini Orange	9:30am-10:30am	£65.00
Saturday	9-11 years old	Mini Green	10:30am-11:30am	£65.00
Saturday	12+ years old	Junior Yellow Ball	11:30am-12:30pm	£65.00

The group sessions are organised and delivered by LTA-accredited club coach Will Auger.

The LTA Youth programme is followed, helping children learn the basics of the game, improve their co-ordination as well as make new friends along the way.

If Saturdays don't work for you, private lessons (individual and group) can also be arranged after school during the week at the club.

Alfold Tennis Club is located just off the A281, next to the Recreation Ground at Alfold Crossways.

Please contact Will to book onto a session or with any enquiries on [alfoldtennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:alfoldtennisclub@gmail.com) or 07740797343.



Applications open now for September 2025 start

**Start your Teaching journey**

Why not make 2025 the year you step into rewarding new career? Join our Tarbridge Teacher Training Club and train in one of our partner schools.

Find out more at our next Information Event or email [teachertraining@tts.uk.net](mailto:teachertraining@tts.uk.net)

**Tarbridge Teacher Training Information Event**

Tuesday 21 January  
4pm - 6pm  
Tarbridge House School

## Christmas Card competition winners

We are delighted to announce the winners of this year's Christmas Card Competition, Students across all year groups showcased their creativity and festive spirit, but a special congratulations go to the following talented individuals whose designs stood out:

Alice Y10  
Emma Y7  
Faith Y9  
Isaac Y7  
Isla Y9  
Isobel Y7  
Jessie Y8  
Sophie Y9

Your creativity and festive spirit have certainly made this Christmas season even brighter at The Weald School!



## The Weald Christmas Gift & Craft Fair

We are delighted to share the incredible success of the Christmas Gift & Craft Fair held on Tuesday, December 10th. The event was a heartwarming celebration of community spirit, featuring over 30 local stalls offering a wide variety of handmade gifts and crafts. Attendees had the pleasure of browsing unique creations ranging from home decor to custom jewelry, all crafted with care by talented local artisans.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, the school choir performed beautifully, filling the venue with joyful holiday music that lifted everyone's spirits. Their dedication and talent contributed immensely to the warm and welcoming environment that defined the evening.

We are proud to announce that the fair raised an outstanding £2,869.04 for The Weald School Charitable Trust. This achievement would not have been possible without the generous support of local businesses and stallholders who contributed to the raffle, as well as the dedicated staff who volunteered their time to run stalls and serve refreshments. Visitors enjoyed the comforting treats of warm mince pies and mulled wine, which added a touch of traditional holiday cheer.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported the event. Whether you attended, contributed to the raffle, or volunteered, your efforts helped make this event a resounding success and furthered our mission to support the school's initiatives. We look forward to continuing this wonderful tradition in the years to come.



# Support for your child

**childline**

ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME  
childline.org.uk | 0800 1111

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

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

Call: 0800 1111

**YOUNGMINDS**

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

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

**SAMARITANS**

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

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

Call: 116 123

**NHS**

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**

POWERED BY  
YMCA Downlink Group

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

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

**CEOP**

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

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

**Well-Being at The Weald**

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>

**CALM HARM**

Provides tasks that can help you resist the temptation to self-harm.

<https://calmharm.co.uk/>

**Mindshift**

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
6 January	First day of term (Week B)
15 & 16 January	Y11 Parent/Carer Evening
5 February	SEN Coffee morning (9.45)
13 February	Y8 Options Evening presentation
14 February	Last day of half term
24 February	First day of half term (Week B)

*If you are interested in the Parent Voice Partnership, please email [parents@theweald.org.uk](mailto:parents@theweald.org.uk)*

*To suggest content for the next issue of e-Weald, please email [kferrone@theweald.org.uk](mailto:kferrone@theweald.org.uk)*



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