



Issue 174
March 2026

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Message from the Headteacher:

Welcome to this half-term's E-Weald where we hope to showcase some of the fantastic achievements of our students over recent weeks and share the many initiatives taking place across our community. Thank you for taking the time to dip into it.

As always, there has been much to celebrate within the wide range of events and opportunities, both in and outside the classroom. Highlights have included the Gym and Dance display, the Weald Book Awards evening and the Community Tea Party which are also wonderful examples of our engagement with our shared community and the many talents of our students.

This half term has also seen a strong focus on academic progress and future planning. Year 11 students have approached their mock examinations with maturity and determination, with the subsequent Mock Results Evening providing a valuable opportunity for reflection and next steps - as well as getting their highly-prized hoodies! Meanwhile, Year 8 Options Evening and the Future Choices event have supported students and families in making informed decisions about the next stages of their education. Year 12 students have also benefited from their University and Apprenticeships Day at the University of Surrey, gaining further insight into pathways beyond Sixth Form.

We have also been delighted to see students embracing a wide range of enrichment opportunities. Enrichment Day once again provided a diverse programme of activities including trips to Hurstmonceux Observatory for Year 7, the musical *Hercules* for Year 8, a day of fun and play for Year 11 at Out Of Bounds, alongside in-school sessions focused on business and enterprise, migration, careers and sport. These experiences continue to broaden horizons and inspire curiosity across all year groups.

We always look forward to our foreign trips at this time of year at The Weald. Having already seen the hugely successful visit to Uganda by a group of Year 11 students in February half term and with the ski trip heading out over the Easter holidays, we will now set our sights on ACE week - lots to look forward to, as ever!

Mrs Sarah Edwards
Headteacher

Message from the Chair of Governors

After the Easter break, the governing body will be conducting our annual stakeholder surveys. This provides us with the opportunity to hear from students, staff and parents/carers so that we can better understand what you feel is working well at The Weald as well as areas for further development. I do hope you will take this opportunity to communicate with us and share your views.

Mrs N Waters
Chair of Governors

The Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award - GOLD

The Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Award encourages outdoor learning by increasing students' appreciation of trees, woods and wildlife. Through the award, the Weald Forest School class has been taking part in fun, practical projects whilst helping the environment and improving our grounds. It's completely free and the Woodland Trust provide resources and support to help us to get the most out of each challenge.

The Forest school students have been working on lots of different challenges to earn points for the awards by creating art with natural resources.

One of our challenges, 'Being a hedgerow hero', involved examining the hedgerows that we planted a couple of years ago to see the difference they make to the wildlife that inhabits them; both currently and into the future. One student wrote a beautiful poem:

Where the Fields Meet

Between the fields they twist and grow,
A quiet wall where secrets flow,
Roots entwined in ancient soil,
Where Thrush and Blackbirds songs are found,
Hawthorn blooms with scented white,
In summer's warmth, a glowing sight,
Bramble creeps with a purple stain,
A feast for birds before the rain,
Fox slips through on padded feet,
Rabbits find a place to meet,
Butterflies drift, bees softly hum,
Where hedgerows breath, all life will come,
Not a fence, not a wall, but living seam,
A woven thread through times long dream,
Guarding fields, yet giving space,
Hedgerows hold the countryside's grace.
Written by Becky A



Other students joined together to embed another 420 hedgerow plants around our boundary to secure more natural habitats for the future. The planting was only completed in November 2025 but is already showing signs of growth. In a couple of years we will have another well established hedgerow for our wildlife to enjoy.

We have achieved so much and are very proud to have earned our wooden plaque for the school. It will be placed in the main entrance for all to share.

Mrs T Voller
Forest School Co Ordinator

Year 11 Half Term visit to Uganda

During the February half term Miss Drake, 25 Year 11 students and I had the privilege of travelling to Uganda, staying just outside Kampala at our partner school, Namilyango College. The College is a secondary boys' boarding school and for the first two days we spent time with the students there; learning about their experiences and aspirations and joining in their lessons and sports' afternoon. We also visited the local primary school and our students brushed up on their own leadership skills by running sports activities they had devised. One of our students said a highlight of the trip was 'experiencing a new culture and meeting so many people - and seeing how they live life so differently to us!'

We spent time visiting local farms to see how farming is similar and different to the UK. The fruit grown there was delicious - nothing quite beats fresh pineapple and passion fruit! We also went on a boat trip along the river Nile to its source at Lake Victoria. The force of the water at the waterfalls was amazing and we were privileged to be led by expert guides who could point out all the different birds, monkeys and snakes in the river bank.

For many of us, the highlight of the trip was to visit the Hands for Hope charity in the Namuwango slum area of Kampala. Visiting this area hit us with very mixed emotions as we saw, first hand, the devastating poverty and risks that the families who live there face. The impact on us all was profound. Set alongside this was the wonderful work the charity does. Our students had a wonderful time dancing and playing with the students there; creating memories none of them will forget.

At Hands for Hope, we also spent time with Pauline, who is the young teenager that The Weald School has been sponsoring over the last decade. Thanks to the donations we have sent, she has had a very good education and improved housing and her mother expressed her gratitude to us all for our commitment to their family over this time. If you would like to find out more about this wonderful charity, here is a link: [Uganda Hands for Hope](#)

We have all come home changed by our experiences and leave a little of our hearts with the people and places we visited there.

Mrs L Graham
Teacher of Science



One Year 11 student said:

'Meeting all of the Namilyango boys was a highlight as they were so welcoming but Hands for Hope was truly eye-opening and very meaningful and... it has made me want to go out and volunteer when I'm old enough.'



Success on the Bowls Green

Huge congratulations to Christian who has made it to the u18 National Bowls finals in Melton Mowbray. He will be representing West Sussex and, even more impressively, he's the youngest player on the team, competing alongside adults!

Well done Christian!



Maui Thai Success for Aden

We are delighted to celebrate a fantastic sporting achievement from one of our students, Aden Es.

Aden, who trains at AMS Gym in Billingshurst, recently took part in his very first Muay Thai competition—an impressive milestone after less than a year of training. Demonstrating remarkable courage, composure and determination, Aden competed in two bouts on the same day and won them both.

The event was part of a prestigious WBC Muay Thai junior competition. At this level, bouts are carefully controlled with no head contact, placing emphasis on skill, technique, discipline and sportsmanship. Aden embodied all of these qualities throughout the day.

He represented both the school and his gym with great pride. His commitment to training, positive attitude and performance in the ring were truly outstanding. Securing two wins and earning a WBC medal in his debut competition is an exceptional achievement.

Muay Thai is known for developing discipline, confidence, respect and resilience and Aden is a wonderful example of the positive impact sport can have on young people. We are incredibly proud of him and look forward to seeing what he achieves next!

If any students are interested in exploring Muay Thai training, further information is available by contacting Holly at amsmsgym16@gmail.com



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.

February 2026

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Avannah R Thomas C Kumudh A Ayush N Sam W	Oskar F Isaac E Connor S Alice W Irmak K	Jasmine P Chloe C Jacob C Myra M Isla D	Harvey L Mya N Beau H Amelie E Ella G



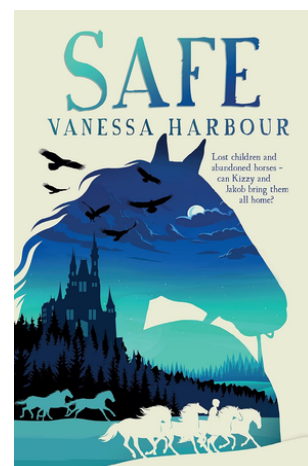
Recommended Reads

To celebrate World Book Day in March, we hosted our feeder primary schools for an evening at the Weald Book Awards. We welcomed the Year 6 parents, children, teachers and authors, both online and in person, for a celebration evening of reading in the newly refurbished library. All the feeder schools taking part had been reading six books since October and entering various competitions along the way. These included taking a photo of themselves reading one of the book in an unusual setting, imagining what would happen if they had 3 wishes and creating a new character that could be in the story. The standard was exceptional with a great variety of entries. The most anticipated competition was the trailer, where schools and students create a trailer to promote their preferred books. With over 18 entries this is a tough one to judge, but with the help of our current Year 7s we were able to pick the winner: Billingshurst Academy with their trailer for *A Ship in the Dark*. We were joined in person for the evening by Vanessa Harbour, author of *Safe*, which was crowned the winner of the Weald Book Award 2026.

Thursday then saw the staff dressing up for World Book Day and we also have the author of the *Ultimate Football Heroes* series coming in for a talk and workshop with both Year 7 and 8. Enjoyment of reading is something to be celebrated and enjoyed at The Weald.

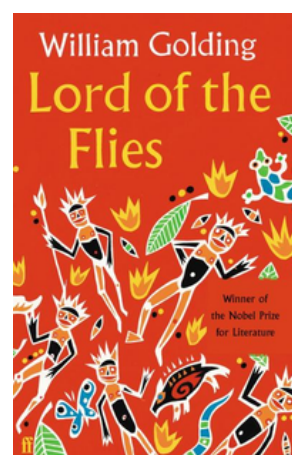
KS3: *Safe* by Vanessa Harbour

In the chaotic last days of World War II, Jakob and Kizzy are tricked into a life or death journey. Far from home, they are attacked and only just escape. They hide in a seemingly deserted mansion, but they keep hearing strange noises... Investigating, they find it shelters not only forty abandoned horses but a small band of lost children; displaced by the war. With danger on every side, can Kizzy and Jakob keep them safe and get them all home?



KS4: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

When a plane crashes on a remote island, the only survivors - a group of well-behaved schoolboys - assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of tropical birds and dark blue seas. At night, their dreams are haunted by terrifying visions of a beast. As their sense of order fades away, their childish fears deepen into something darker and more primitive. Those games they used to play - those innocent games - take on a horrible significance...

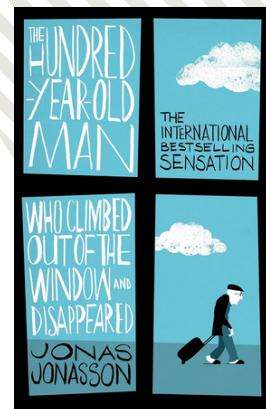


KS5 and Adult: *The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared* by Jonas Jonasson

Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, Allan Karlsson is waiting for a party he doesn't want to begin. His one-hundredth birthday party, to be precise. The Mayor will be there. The press will be there. But, as it turns out, Allan will not . . .

Recommended Reads Continued..

Escaping (in his slippers) through his bedroom window and into the flowerbed, Allan makes his getaway. And so begins this picaresque with an unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, Allan's earlier life is revealed. A life in which - remarkably - he played a key role behind the scenes in some of the momentous events of the twentieth century.

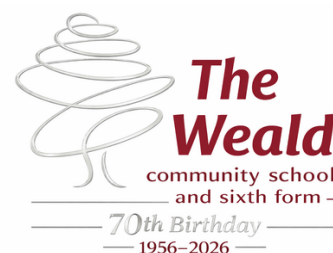


As mentioned before, it's the National Year of Reading, as launched by the Government. Behind this focus is a real drive in reading for pleasure - but ask anyone who has a teenager or works with them and we all know that reading is a battle against technology in free time. Reading what you enjoy is the secret to developing 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 a love of books together.

This week we celebrated reading by hosting Matt Oldfield, author of the Ultimate Football Heroes books. All of Year 7 and 8 had a talk with him where he answered questions on how he researched his books, how he got started and many questions on who his favourite player was! He also had a small group from each year where they learnt that setback, resilience and comeback are part of any story and themselves looked at stories and on and off the pitch that could be used in creative writing.



Ms A Robertson
LRC Manager



'70 Years of memories'

Did you know that The Weald Community School and Sixth Form is celebrating it's 70 th Birthday this year?

The school first opened its doors in 1956 and has seen over 15,000 students pass through in that time.

We are celebrating this huge milestone anniversary as part of WealdFest on the 18 th July and we need your help! Did you come here as a student or maybe a parent or even a grandparent did?

Do you have any pictures or stories we can share on the day?

We are currently putting together a '70 Years of Memories' exhibition and we would like pictures, newspaper cuttings, trophies and any other memorabilia you may have stashed away.

We would love to include as many memories as we can, so please email details to:

alumni@theweald.org.uk

Sporting Success

Date	Fixture	Results and information
24/02/2026	Year 7 Girls' Football	An excellent match for the Y7 Girls' Football team, away to Forest in the league. They played really well and lost to a last minute winner from Forest 1-0. A special mention to Lily T who was player of the match and made some amazing saves in goal to keep The Weald in the game!
24/02/2026	Year 7 Rugby	Congratulations to the Y7 Rugby squad who have progressed to the County Cup final at Brighton Rugby club next week after winning against St Phillip Howard and Downlands. An excellent draw against Seaford college gives them the opportunity to play in the final.
26/02/2026	U14 Girls' Football	The U14 Girls played 5 very close matches in the District Tournament - well played!
02/03/2026	U14 Girls' Football	The U14 Girls played a great game of football against Sackville School but, unfortunately, lost to a strong team that contained some County players.
03/03/2026	Year 7 Netball	It was the girls' first ever tournament; they represented the school well and improved dramatically over the afternoon. This was a great start to netball at The Weald. We came 8th out of 11.
03/03/2026	Year 7 Rugby	A huge well done to the Y7 Boys' Rugby team who were runners up in the County Cup final after a spirited effort against King's. Trailing by 5 tries at half time, it would have been easy to give up but we drew the second half 2 tries each. An excellent start to the season - well done!

Sporting Success continued..

Date	Fixture	Results and information
05/03/2026	Year 7 Girls' Football	Well done to the Y7 Girls' Football team who played really well in the District Tournament. They played 4 matches in their group without losing any games; finishing top in the group. The semi-final was level after normal time, level after extra-time, level at 5 penalties each. Unfortunately we lost on sudden death penalties to Tanbridge who went on to win the final so we finished 3rd out of 10 teams in the tournament!
10/03/2026	Year 8 Boys' Rugby	Our Y8 boys lost 6 tries to 5 in a great match against Warden Park.
11/03/2026	Year 7 Boys' Rugby	Y7 boys beat Tanbridge 45-0 with 2 tries from Tobias P.
12/03/2026	Year 9 Boys' Football	Y9 boys claimed a 5-0 win against Bohunt in the County Shield. This Included a screamer from Kana J!
12/03/2026	U19 Football	We lost 7-1 to a very strong Chichester High School.
17/03/2026	Year 7 and 8 Netball	A mixed team of Y7 and Y8 played against four strong teams from across the Country. Two of the games were extremely close. It was a great start to their netball journey at the Weald.
17/03/2026	Year 7 Girls' Football	A great game in which we were at home against a strong Millais school and eventually lost 3-1.
13/03/2026	Year 8 Boys' Rugby	We won 6 tries to 2 against Downlands School.
18/03/2026	Year 11 Rugby	Y11 claimed a 22-10 win against Forest School.
18/03/2026	U19 Football	We lost 3-1 to Brighton, Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College.

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:

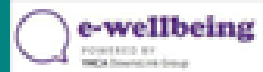
<https://www.samaritans.org/>

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
13 Apr 2026	Summer Term commences (Week B)
22 May 2026	Last day for Year 11 students
25 May 2026	Half term week commences
1 Jun 2026	Return to school (Week B)
22 Jul 2026	Last day of Summer Term

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

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 <https://www.instagram.com/>

