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ISSUE 161 FEBRUARY 2024

Message from the Headteacher:

Following the earliest possible start to the term in the new year on 2nd January, I'm sure our students are ready for a well-deserved break this week! As always, school life has been extremely busy for every year group, not just with academic demands but also with some hugely important messages about the challenges facing young people in today's world. The recent [Drug Sense](#) presentations on vaping and the national [Here4You](#) campaign are just two examples of our wider personal development curriculum.

Thank you again to those of you who joined Ms Rigby at last month's Parent Partnership meeting. You will see her full feedback in this publication, but I would like to make particular mention of the group's appreciation of our enrichment programme. We have a long history of providing these opportunities to our young people at The Weald and we certainly have no intention of scaling back, in spite of the heavy demands on time with the taught curriculum. Our ethos simply demands that we continue to broaden our students' horizons.

As always, I hope you will enjoy this issue of E-Weald; we never tire of showing off our students' achievements and endeavours. I have had the privilege recently of delivering an assembly to different year groups about Tony Hudgell, the 9 year old double amputee who was the youngest ever recipient of the British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours List. Reading his story reminded me that our idols can be of all ages and backgrounds. Our own young people at The Weald certainly inspire our staff to do our best for them every day.

Mrs Sarah Edwards
Headteacher

Children's Mental Health Week 2024



Children's Mental Health Week 2024 is taking place this week from 5-11 February. Place2Be launched the mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK.

Every year Children's Mental Health Week sees hundreds of schools, children, parents and carers taking part. Now in its 10th year, Place2Be hopes to encourage more people than ever to help them reach their goal with the firmly held belief that no child or young person has to face a mental health problem alone.

To see how you can make a difference and to get involved please click this link:

www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/

Message from Chair of Governors

Following the parent governor nominations in the Autumn Term, I am delighted to advise that Jon Williamson and Alex Nicholson have joined the Governing Body. Both Jon and Alex have prior experience of being a school governor and between them have expertise in finance, education and digital learning. We are confident they will be a real asset to the Governing Body.

Mrs N Waters
Chair of Governors

Key Stage 3 - the 'Cinderella' key stage

As you can imagine, when telling someone what I do for work, I am always asked the inevitable question, "What subject do you teach?" Like many teachers, following my answer, I often receive the same response, "Such a fascinating subject. I wish I had concentrated on it more when I was at school. I now appreciate just how interesting it is." I am sure that anyone reading this will recognise this reflection on school - it is often later in life that we recognise the value of the rich and varied curriculum that schools offer. What is also under-appreciated, is that for students in England, many of these fascinating subjects are taught for such a short period of time by specialists in their field. In the vast majority of cases, teachers of secondary subjects have studied that subject to degree level. They are passionate about their subject, and these linguists, artists, geographers, musicians (to name but a few) have a short time to impart their knowledge and passion to their students - that short time is Key Stage 3. Too soon, students select subjects to study for their GCSEs and, necessarily, the number of subjects they are able to study is reduced. Therefore, Key Stage 3 is a very special period of a child's education - it is the time when the curriculum is at its broadest and richest. So, especially as Year 8 students are excitedly considering the subjects they would like to continue into Key Stage 4, I would ask that parents encourage them to get the very most from the months of study they have left at Key Stage 3. Because one day, inevitably, they will wish that they had been more interested and appreciated the experience more!

Ms Z Sorrell
Deputy Headteacher

Our School Network Reads!



In January 2024, students have read...

236 Books

10,614,938 Words

for **26** minutes/day!
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE

Accelerated Reader®

Recommended Reads

Spring forward with our latest recommended reads from The Weald LRC. As we approach World Book Day on Thursday 7 March we look forward to a variety of fun activities taking place including: staff dressing up as book characters, an author visit for Year 8 and a World Book Day voucher for every student which can be used in your nearest high street book shop. On Tuesday 27th February we will be hosting our Weald Book Award evening which our feeder primary schools will be attending and will shortly be launching the Sussex Amazing Book Awards (ABAs) for students in Year 8 and above - look out for more information coming soon!

KS3 The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries - Drama and Danger by J T Williams AR level 5.4 points

Twelve-year-olds Lizzie Sancho and Dido Belle are from different worlds - Lizzie lives in Westminster in her dad's tea shop, while Belle is an heiress being brought up by her aunt and uncle at grand Kenwood House - but they both share a love of solving mysteries.

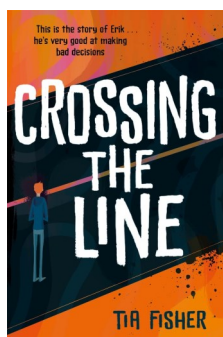
And when their eyes meet in the audience of the Drury Lane theatre one night, both girls are sure they've seen something suspicious on stage.

Lizzie and Belle soon find themselves on the trail of a mystery - and becoming best friends. But can they work out what's going on in time to prevent a murder?



KS4 Crossing the line by Tia Fisher

A powerful novel exploring how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Nominated for the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2024.



Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence.

Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt.

And when his sisters' lives are threatened, Erik will have to cross one more line to save them.

Written in stunning verse, this is a poignant story about seeking safety and asking for help in times of crisis.

KS5 and adult - Before the coffee gets cold by Toshikazu Kawaguchi

In a small back alley in Tokyo, there is a cafe which has been serving carefully brewed coffee for more than one hundred years. But this coffee shop offers its customers a unique experience: the chance to travel back in time.

In *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*, we meet four visitors, each of whom is hoping to make use of the cafe's time-travelling offer, in order to: confront the man who left them, receive a letter from their husband whose memory has been taken by early onset Alzheimer's, to see their sister one last time, and to meet the daughter they never got the chance to know.

But the journey into the past does not come without risks: customers must sit in a particular seat, they cannot leave the cafe, and finally, they must return to the present before the coffee gets cold . . .

Toshikazu Kawaguchi's beautiful, moving story - translated from Japanese by Geoffrey Trousselot - explores the age-old question: what would you change if you could travel back in time? More importantly, who would you want to meet, maybe for one last time?

Ms A Robertson
LRC Manager



Sparx Reader Stars

Students in Year 7, 8 & 9 continue to improve their literacy and comprehension skills outside of the classroom with the platform **Sparx Reader**. A reminder that homework is regularly set on this platform providing students with appropriately challenging reading material and monitoring their reading comprehension. For further support with using Sparx Reader at home, please see [these FAQs](#). In total, students across these year groups have now completed **5,515 hours of careful reading and read 719 books on Sparx Reader**.

Below are our top Sparx Readers for this half term. Well done to all! ★

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Harriet J. 11,560 SRP Sienna B. 8,332 SRP Darcy B. 7,521 SRP Gabby T. 6,584 SRP Ema S. 5,984 SRP	Albert W. 23,520 SRP Rachel A-D 21,165 SRP Mimi O. 15,064 SRP Florrie C-G 7,613 SRP Dexter F. 7,549 SRP	Shaniya E-S. 13,451 SRP Danny B. 13,235 SRP Ollie B. 10,508 SRP Evelyn N. 9,104 SRP Amber V. 8,560 SRP

Parent Voice Partnership

Many thanks to all the parents that joined us for our Parent Voice Partnership meeting on Thursday 24th September. We really appreciate you taking the time to come and discuss what is working well at The Weald and help to proactively find solutions to potential challenges and issues.

A link to our discussion items and the actions following these can be found [here](#).

We look forward to meeting informally with our parents again on Thursday 21st March in the LRC from 5-6pm.

After School Club

A few parents have asked recently about after school clubs. All the information is [here in one place on 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 from their Maths teacher.

December 2023				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jess S Freya W Chloe C Sienna B Lilia G	Abigail B Maddumage J Thomas M Charlie K Luna V	Rachel V Leona W Amber N Cayden H Oliver F	Ruby M Aaron R Katie H Lexie W Josh W	Augustine B Sam H Reuben E Henry R Shawnee W



January 2024				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Evie C Scarlett T Tristan H Abigail W Chloe C	Isabella B Maddumage J Daniel W Esme D Charlie K	Amber N Cayden H Oliver F Mae E Olivia R	Aeiwarin S Oscar S James G Graice S Jackson B	Xavier M Isabel M Charlie C Anastasija K Isaac D

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winter school

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Save up to £80 with our Early Booking offer and your entrance discount! Book by 15th February to guarantee your limited weekly slots!

Visit barracudas.co.uk
or call 01480 467 567

BARRACUDAS
CHILDREN'S CLUB

*Not available at February & March

Storrington Tennis Club



DON'T MISS OUT ON OUR FREE 3 MONTH TRIAL
JANUARY – 31ST MARCH 2024

Situated just a short walk from Storrington High Street, in an idyllic location at the foothills of the beautiful South Downs, there is no better place to play tennis, whether you are a beginner, social, team player, adult or junior you will be made very welcome. For more information, please click on the following link:

<https://clubhouse.barracudas.co.uk/StorringtonTennisClub/MemberShipJoin>

Take a look at our new "You Tube" video which showcases our beautiful club. Click the link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0bG7m315c>

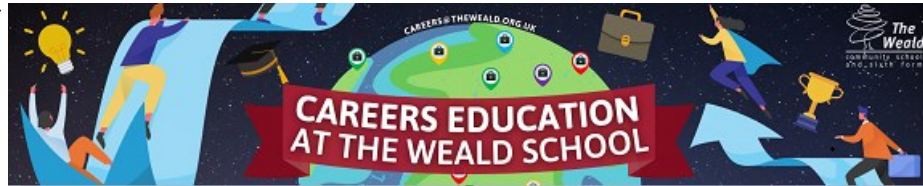
Sunflower Group

A small weekly group for Young People aged 13-16 years, who are struggling with anxiety, emotional well-being difficulties or managing social situations.

The sessions will allow for a safe space to be, meet with Youth Workers and have a little creative fun, with tea and toast optional. The sessions can be reserved at <https://bookwhen.com/4theyouthclub> or just come along and give it a try. For more information or a chat, call Paula on 07916 736646 or email: paula.lintott@4theyouth.org.uk

Starting on Thursday 22nd February, 4pm-6pm Held at Hurst Cafe, Hurst Road, Horsham





Ms Armstrong



Mrs Thompson

Y10 Career Interviews

Year 10 students have all been allocated a Career Interview with one of our qualified and CDI-registered careers guidance practitioners. Students have been supported in their careers interview to explore their aspirations, plan their future study pathways, and research their employment options. Please encourage your child(ren) to check their school email for their appointment slot if they have not yet had a career interview.

After their careers interview, each student has received a careers action plan with personalised targets to complete and aim towards; this is uploaded to their Unifrog profile.

In addition to our Year 10 Career Interviews, Miss O'Brien has been supporting Year 11, 12 & 13 with 1-1 sessions to talk through their Post 16 & Post 18 plans and aspirations.

Y11 Post 16 Intentions

The start of the academic year saw us host assemblies from Chichester College Group, Collyer's, The Weald Sixth Form and ASK Apprenticeships to support Year 11 with exploring the range of options open to them at Post 16.

All students should now have applied to college, whether that is a sixth form or vocational college, and received an invitation to attend a college interview. For those students who are considering an Apprenticeship you too should have applied to college as a 'backup' plan. If any students need any support or assistance please do pop along to B30 to discuss with Miss O'Brien or alternatively email kobrien@theweald.org.uk

Please could ALL Year 11 students ensure they have entered their intended destinations onto Unifrog by *Monday 19th February 2024*.

NCS - National Citizens Service

Joe Morris from NCS hosted an assembly to our Year 11 students in relation to the programmes they have on offer to help prepare students for their Post 16 & 18 transitions. So far we have had 15 students register and enrol for the Away From Home programme, which promises to enhance and support young people to find their strengths and become world and work ready. If your son/ daughter would like to sign up there is still time. Head over to their [website](#) to register.

Year 12 Personal Statements

Whether you are considering university, apprenticeships, a gap year or employment at Post 18 it is still very beneficial and highly recommended that you complete your draft personal statement on Unifrog. You will look at this in greater depth during Tutor Time and RHPD sessions but ideally you will need to have started this by early May, continuing through the summer ready for the start of Year 13. The Sixth Form Team and Miss O'Brien are on hand to support and encourage students with this.

unifrog





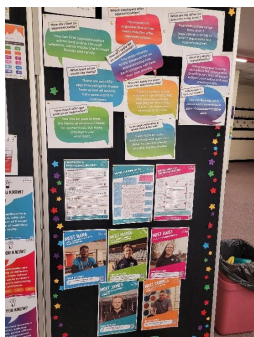
Year 10 Work Experience Launch

Year 10 had their work experience launch assembly on Wednesday 24th January 2024 delivered by Miss O'Brien, Careers Manager. Students will be undertaking work experience during ACE Week (1st July - 5th July 2024) and are responsible for sourcing and securing their own placements. We have around 300 Year 10 students hoping to secure a placement with employers in the local community and slightly further afield; other local secondary schools will be competing for placements during the same week. For this reason, we are always looking for employers who are happy to offer our young people the opportunity to join them on placement. If you would like to, or are able to, support our work experience programme then please do feel free to email me kobrien@theweald.org.uk to discuss further.

National Apprenticeship Week 5th - 11th February 2024

The Weald participated in the 17th annual celebration of National Apprenticeship Week and the theme this year was 'Skills for Life'. NAW is a chance for students to learn more about apprenticeships and figure out if they could be the right next step for them. During Tutor Time students will be looking at the different entry levels and requirements alongside the types of industries and qualifications you can gain.

Students will also be able to discover more about their current subjects and the transferable life skills these offer, as well as the career pathways these can lead to. The LRC hosts an informative Apprenticeship noticeboard where students can learn, explore and discover even more useful information to help them when making their decisions at Post 16, 18 and beyond.



Coming up

National Career Week and Future Choices Fair

Monday 4th March is the start of National Careers Week 2024. Staff and students across all year groups at The Weald will be participating. There will be a range of exciting, interactive, thought provoking careers activities for all students to get involved in. It will also see us host our annual Future Choices Careers Fair with over 45 exhibitors visiting The Weald to share their education, training and employment opportunities with our students. This will also be open to all year groups and their families after school on Thursday 7th March 2024 until 16.15.

If your company/organisation would like to exhibit at our Future Choices Fair please feel free to email kobrien@theweald.org.uk for a registration form.

Miss K O'Brien
Careers Manager

National Careers Week

NCW

Celebrating sport

Date	Fixture	Result and information
12/1/24	U16 Girls Football	Lost, away at Shoreham in the County Cup
23/1/24	U16 Girls Football	Lost 5-2 at home v Downlands
30/1/24	U14 Girls Football	Won 4-0 at home v Millais
30/1/24	U16 Girls Rugby	Came third out of 12 teams in the Worthing Rugby Festival
1/2/24	Y8 Girls Football	Came runners-up in the District 6-a-side tournament, only losing on penalties in the final
1/2/23	U14 Girls Cricket	County indoor cricket – students played really well coming second place in the group. Two games won against Dorothy Stringer and BACA but after a close game lost to Oathall.

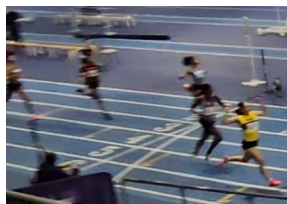


Success on the athletics track

Isabella in Year 10 has been a member of Crawley Athletics club since age 6. She trains four times a week for around 1-2 hours, training across a variety of events.

She competes twice a month for her club and very recently came an amazing 1st place in the 200m and 2nd in the 60m sprint, both amazing achievements.

Isabella is currently training for the Southern Nationals which take place in a couple of weeks time. We wish her lots of luck and look forward to hearing more about her achievements.



The Weald School Charitable Trust

The Weald School Charitable Trust is a registered charity that receives funds through voluntary donations made on Parent pay. Funds are used to provide facilities that are not available through the budget provided by the Local Authority.

A great way to help us raise money at no cost to yourselves, is by registering with Easyfundraising which means over 6,000 shops and sites will donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them. So far we have raised over £1,400.00 from Easyfundraising. Please use this link to register:

[Easyfundraising](#)

Thank you very much for your support

The Weald School Charitable Trust



Can you help the Textiles department?

Textiles at the Weald is always on the lookout for materials our students can use to create fabulous GCSE and A-level pieces. We know that the Textiles industry is one of the biggest polluters on the planet, so we are always looking for ways to resource our students without contributing to waste.

Could you help us by donating any of the following resources?

- Old (clean) sheets or bedding - plain or white is best
- Old or broken jewellery (beaded are especially useful, but anything can be used)
- Yarns or threads you may no longer use
- Buttons
- Ribbons/sequin/ haberdashery
- Vintage tablecloths - even if they are stained or torn
- Lace and ribbons
- Craft supplies such as raffia, hama beads etc.



If you are clearing out your sewing cupboard at home, we always welcome fabrics or supplies of any kind - although we **cannot use upholstery fabric**, so please no upholstery fabric books, old curtains or cushions. Thank you!

Are you interested in teaching?

Are you interested in becoming a teacher or know someone that is? Tanbridge Teacher Training is hosting a free online 'Train to Teach' information session on Thursday 7 March 17.00-18.00. During this session, you will gain valuable knowledge about transitioning into teaching, and how a passion for education can play a pivotal role in shaping the minds of tomorrow that you could be part of.

For further information and to register for this free event please either click and register on the Eventbrite link below, contact teachertraining@ths.uk.net or visit our website

<https://www.inspiringfutureteachers.org/tanbridge>

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-train-to-teach-all-questions-answered-tickets-823708804207?aff=oddtcreator>

A promotional poster for a training session. It features a dark blue background with white text. At the top, it asks 'HLTA? LSA? INTERESTED IN TRAINING TO TEACH IN YOUR LOCAL SCHOOLS?'. Below this, it says 'Come along to our CPD event and find out about the different routes into teaching, including our SCITT programme. Learn how your already great influence can extend well beyond the classroom and into the future.' There is a photo of two people working at a table. The event details are 'Thursday 22nd February / 15:30-16:30 via Zoom'. At the bottom, it says 'REGISTER HERE SCAN OR CLICK' with a QR code and a logo for 'INSPIRING FUTURE TEACHERS'.

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



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

Call: 0800 030 9500



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

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

Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT
19 February	First day of term
21 February	Y8 Options Evening
27 February	Weald Book Awards
28 February	Y8 Options Drop-in
29 February	Thought-Full presentation— Exam stress, parent/carers Y11 & 13
7 March	Future Choices Fair & Year 8 Parents' Evening
12 March	Thought-Full presentation— Talking to teens, open to all
13 March	Enrichment Day
14 March	Spring Concert
20 & 21 March	Gym & Dance Display
21 March	Parent Voice meeting
26 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
27 March	Last day of term
28 March	Inset Day
15 April	First day of term

If you are interested in the Parent Voice Partnership or would like to raise an item to discuss, please email parents@theweald.org.uk

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

kferrone@theweald.org.uk



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<http://twitter.com/TheWeald>

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