

3 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

GOLD AWARDS AT THE WEALD: An explanation of how we award our prizes

Each year we hold an awards ceremony known to our community as Gold Awards. The aim is to celebrate the efforts and achievements of our students with a prize giving presentation where Gold Award certificates are presented to a number of students in each year group. Gold Awards are awarded for effort, achievement, or both.

Effort awards recognise those students who have made significant and sustained effort throughout the year in a number of subjects. Achievement awards recognise those students whose attainment in a subject is outstanding.

The process of deciding which students should receive **Gold Awards for effort** involves all teachers nominating two or three students in each of their classes for an effort award in their particular subject. We ask staff to base their nominations on the Weald Character Framework that outlines our expectations in all aspects of school. This would highlight students who demonstrate particularly positive attitudes to learning, such that they:

- work hard to understand their goals, have a clear idea of how they are going to achieve them and are willing to work consistently towards achieving their best
- are engaged and interested in lessons
- show resilience and independence in lessons, work hard to manage their own learning and resolve problems; they are also proactive about finding solutions to these problems
- often take a lead in activities or events and encourage others to try new challenges
- are willing to hold leadership positions within the classroom or subject

All students who are nominated by teachers for their effort will receive certificates and a message of congratulations home. Students receiving sufficient nominations from multiple subject areas are awarded a Gold Award for effort and will be invited to the presentation ceremony later in the summer term. This threshold changes each year depending on the pattern of nominations.

Subject Leaders nominate a student in each key stage for **achievement awards**. Students are more likely to receive these awards in the higher year groups within each key stage, for example, years 8, 11 and 13.

Gold Awards for special contribution to extracurricular activities are decided by the staff responsible for those areas. Heads of House decide the student who has made the biggest overall **contribution to each House**.

All winning students receive a Gold Award certificate at the presentation, which states the subject(s) for which they have been nominated. Students receiving achievement awards also receive a £5 gift token for each subject nominated.

There are, in addition, a number of trophies and monetary awards donated by individuals and external organisations, which are presented to students for achievement in particular subjects, or curriculum areas. Students hold these trophies for the summer months, after which time they are returned to the school and displayed alongside the winners' names. They are then awarded to new students the following year.

The Gold Awards ceremony will be held on Thursday 11 July 2024 in school.

This year's guest speaker is Reggie Nelson, author of "Opening Doors" and most recognised by the media as the young man who went 'from East London to the City', by knocking on people's doors in wealthy areas for life advice. As well as giving a talk he will present the awards. The Chair of Governors and Mrs Edwards will give a short talk on events that have taken place during the school year and we will also enjoy music from our talented students as part of the evening.

We are fortunate that the vast majority of students at The Weald are active, hardworking, engaged learners and this means there is strong competition for Gold Awards. **Not every student can win and this in no way detracts from the hard work and commitment the vast majority of our students show which we commend and recognise through other reward systems.**

We are appreciative and proud of the commitment and attitude to learning shown by all our students this year, which is a reflection of their own hard work and the support they receive from you as well as here at school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A Mowforth
Assistant Headteacher