

Contents:

|                                                                            |                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Message from Chair of Governors                                            | <u>2</u>              |
| The Power of Routine                                                       | <u>2</u>              |
| Thoughtful                                                                 | <u>3</u>              |
| A 'how to' guide to supporting your child at school                        | <u>3</u>              |
| Gym & Dance display                                                        | <u>4</u>              |
| Parent Voice                                                               | <u>5</u>              |
| Double Bass Lessons                                                        | <u>5</u>              |
| Y11 Geographers represent The Weald at local Geographical Association quiz | <u>5</u>              |
| Recommended Reads                                                          | <u>6 &amp; 7</u>      |
| Science Assembly                                                           | <u>7</u>              |
| Sparx Reader Stars                                                         | <u>8</u>              |
| Sparx Maths                                                                | <u>8</u>              |
| Careers                                                                    | <u>9, 10 &amp; 11</u> |
| Y8 Maths ED2                                                               | <u>11</u>             |
| Support for your child                                                     | <u>12</u>             |
| Dates for your Diary                                                       | <u>12</u>             |

## Message from the Headteacher:

As we reach the end of another busy term, it is only right and proper that I take this opportunity to highlight some of our students' endeavours and successes. As well as managing all of their academic demands, all year groups have had a day off-timetable to participate in enrichment activities be they theatre trips, museum visits, outdoor pursuits, well-being activities, debating with visiting local dignitaries, researching big issues such as human rights and migration. I hope there has been some memorable wider learning opportunities for everyone.

There has also been a myriad of opportunities for your children to demonstrate their tremendous skills: gymnastics and dance competitions and displays, music concerts, sports (girls and boys both excelling in football) to name but a few.

This term has seen the launch of the Thought-Full programme by Mr Mowforth with presentations to parents/carers and to sixth formers on supporting mental health and well-being. Feedback from everyone who has attended these sessions has been extremely positive, so we look forward to more from Greg and his team next term.

Finally, it's almost the time of year when the governors seek the views of all of our stakeholders (namely parents/carers, staff and students) in their annual surveys. Please do take the time to give them your feedback, and please don't hesitate to [get in touch](#) with us before then (or at any time during the year) if you have any specific or general queries. I will be working closely with our new Head and Lead Prefects on making improvements to our School Council, so that we hear from a wider range of students on the issues that matter to them. Much more to come on this soon!

Mrs Sarah Edwards  
Headteacher

## U15& U19 Football Success

Congratulations to our U19 boys football team for beating Imberhorne (on penalties!) to reach the league cup final (as well as the county cup final). Congratulations also to our U15 boys for beating Cardinal Newman to reach the county cup final! That's three finals for The Weald! All the dates, times and locations of the finals will be announced on our social media pages as soon as we have them.



## Message from Chair of Governors

### Governor Monitoring

It is important for governors to spend time in school outside of formal meetings to triangulate the reports they receive from senior leaders across the year.

Members of the governing body are linked both to subjects and to key areas of school life such as safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and wellbeing. Across the year, governors spend time in school talking to staff and students to monitor these areas.

In addition to this ongoing monitoring, this term governors immersed themselves in the school day joining students in lessons across all year groups and in a wide range of subjects. We also talked to students during social times to find out more about their views of the school.

This was a hugely rewarding experience. Governors saw many examples of the school's ethos of 'Opportunity and Community' across the school, noting in particular the high expectations, how well students work together and the mutual respect between students and staff.

Mrs N Waters  
Chair of Governors

## The Power of Routines—Being ready, respectful, working and safe (RRWS)

Creating a good routine for your child is very powerful and a game changer to learning. The key is to involve them in the planning so they understand the reasons and feel ownership of the routine. Routines that include these elements give children the best possible chance to do well at school:

- Set a daily schedule with the same wake-up times and bedtimes for each school day and stick to them
- Make study time for revision and homework part of your child's daily routine (1 hour a day for Y7 and 2 hours a day for Y11), allowing more time for study when assignments or exams are coming up
- Factor in time off - knowing there's a reward for all that hard work is a great motivator

In school the routines are framed around being ready, respectful, working and safe (RRWS). Last term it was all about maximising learning time by being ready i.e. being on time to all lessons. At the start of the day, break and lunch, we have a 4 minute warning bell when students start moving to lessons and students should go to the toilet at break and lunchtime not during lesson time. These simple habits allow students to maximise their learning time in the classroom.

In the summer term our focus will be the start and end of lessons. This involves calmly entering class on time and immediately starting work to allow the teacher to take the register in silence. At the end of a lesson it will be checking if students have understood the content of the lesson, tidied the classroom and prepared to leave (including wearing the correct uniform) for the next lesson. Practising these routines makes them stick. Sticking to our routines allows our students to learn, consolidate and understand all they are taught every lesson.

Mr S Catt  
Deputy Headteacher

# Thought-Full

As a school we are supported by Thought-Full who are the Mental Health Support Team in Schools for West Sussex. Thought-Full work with us to support students with mild to moderate mental health difficulties. In addition to this, Thought-Full provides parent presentations on different topics around mental health and supports the school with our whole school approach to Mental Health & Wellbeing.

This academic term we have run 3 successful parent presentations including sessions on Exam Stress and Talking to Teens. During the Summer term there will be further presentations we invite you to attend, including a rerun of the Thought-Full launch event from earlier this year in January. This will be our next presentation titled "What is Thought-Full?". It will be held on **Thursday 18 April from 6:00pm-7:30pm** in the school hall hosted by Greg Cronie. To sign up for this presentation please [click here](#).



To continue to support parents/carers within our community we would be interested to hear your feedback on what sessions you would like us to put on for you. Session topics include; Anxiety, The teenage brain, resilience, parent self-care, teenage wellbeing and others. Please [complete this form to provide your feedback](#) and we will use this information to create a programme of parent/carer presentations from the sessions selected.

A number of our students have benefited from small sessions with the Thought-Full team. Last term year 13 students had a session on how to support themselves with exam stress leading up to their A level exams. The students who took part provided really positive feedback and have been given concrete examples to use to support themselves in the coming months. Year 11 students will benefit from further sessions after Easter to support them with their build up to the GCSE exams.

To find out more about Thought-Full do sign-up for the upcoming presentation in April, you can also find more information on the [Thought-Full website](#).

Mr A Mowforth  
Assistant Headteacher

## A 'how to' guide to supporting your child at school

It was great to see so many parents attending the Pupil Premium Parent event on Tuesday 20 March. For those parents unable to attend and for all our parent/carers, [please click here](#) to view the resource booklet called A 'how to' guide to supporting your child at school, that accompanied the event.

The Weald School

A 'how to' guide to supporting your child at school.





# Gym and Dance Display 2024

The annual Gyn and Dance display is very much a reflection of our school ethos 'Opportunity and Community'. Once again the PE Department have created opportunities for pupils across the school to rise to the challenge of performing gymnastics and dance, working together with our technical crew of pupils and staff and many others behind the scenes.

On Wednesday 20 March and Thursday 21 March we welcomed our wider community to share and celebrate our achievements.

This year's display had a range of performances from across the school with over 200 pupils involved!

Mrs J Amerio  
PE Teacher



#Proudofttheweald

## Parent Voice

Our Parent Voice Partnership group met on Thursday 21 March to discuss any emerging issues and topics in our school and wider community with a solution focused approach, as always. We really appreciate the time our parents/carers give to support with this important dialogue between home and school.

A link to our discussion can be found [here](#).

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 6 June from 5-6pm in the LRC. All are welcome to attend. If you would like to express interest in joining us, find out more or raise an issue for discussion please get in contact with us via [parents@theweald.org.uk](mailto:parents@theweald.org.uk)

We are always open to suggestions about how else our parents/carers might be actively engaged with our school community and how we might be able to support one another further.

Ms J Rigby  
Community Engagement

## Double Bass Lessons—Free Term Offer

West Sussex Music are delighted to be offering a term of free Double Bass lessons for year 7/8 students through West Sussex Music Service. The lessons will be with Double Bass teacher, [Caroline Harding - West Sussex Music](#) and will take place on Saturday mornings at Millais School from 10:00-10:30 am. The lessons would begin on Saturday 20 April.

The Summer term would be free of charge and includes free instrument hire, you will be able to take the instrument home to practice. There will also be the opportunity to be fast tracked into one of the string orchestras after a term of lessons. At the end of the free lesson period, should your child like to continue the lessons, the cost would be £70 per term plus instrument hire of £33 a term. There are bursaries and funding options for students that receive free school meals or other benefits [Help with costs - West Sussex Music](#).

If you would like to take up this opportunity please contact [music.centres@westsussexmusic.co.uk](mailto:music.centres@westsussexmusic.co.uk), and one of their team will be in touch to confirm details.

## Y11 Geographers represent The Weald at local Geographical Association Quiz

On Thursday 21 March, six of our GCSE geography students ventured to Varndean College in Brighton to represent The Weald in the local Geographical Association WorldWide Quiz.

The quiz saw ten teams from schools across the county answering questions on fieldwork, map skills, landmarks and an "alphabet" round. The teams did well and are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and excellent conduct throughout.

If your child is in Year 10 and studying Geography please tell them to look out for next year's competition!

Miss C Power  
Subject Leader—Geography



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## Recommended Reads

Earlier this half term we hosted the Weald Book Award with our Weald Book Club students and local feeder schools joined by four authors in person and two online. The evening was a tremendous success with all four authors impressed by the quality of work produced by those attending and pleased to see how it brought their books to life. The winner of the Weald Book Award was, Thomas Leeds with *Jayben and the Golden Torch*, a recommended read this eWeald.

We have also had World Book Day where: a host of staff dressed up, every student was given a £1 World Book Day Token before half term, Click Clack the Rattlebag by Neil Gaiman was read by three members of staff in a pre-recorded video for all year 7 - 11s and we had a quiz in form time.

After the Easter break we will be hosting a book club after school on a Wednesday in the LRC for Year 9 and 10 students as part of the Sussex [Amazing Book Awards](#).

### KS3 *Jayben and the Golden Torch* by Thomas Leeds (Weald Book Award Winner)

Can one boy with no memories save the world?

In the Earth world, a boy dreams of faraway lands to escape life with his horrible aunt. In the Elf world, he wakes up with a mysterious golden torch but without any clue who he is ...except for the compass he pulls from his pocket, engraved with one name: Jayben.

Jayben discovers that many moons ago, a giant put a dark spell on the golden torch, and the elves forgot everything that had come before. Now they hang precious memories in jars on trees, just to try to remember. But a new darkness grows among them.

An evil villain called Null is burning down the forests, hellbent on finding the torch and becoming the most powerful being ever to live. If Jayben can find his own magic and ignite the torch with its fierce violet flame, his power will be unstoppable ... Can Jayben save the world before the lights go out forever?

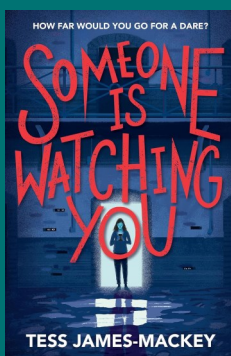
### KS4 *Someone is Watching You* by Tess James Mackey

An abandoned prison. A deadly game. How far would you go for a dare?

Nia would do anything to win the approval of her boyfriend Scott and his friends, especially mean girl Olivia. When Olivia dares Nia to explore an abandoned prison, she sees it as the perfect opportunity to prove herself. Facing dark tunnels, distant noises and creepy mementoes left behind by incarcerated criminals will surely all be worth it.

But it isn't long before Nia and her little sister, Kayla, find themselves trapped inside. And then Kayla vanishes.

Suddenly, this feels like more than a game gone wrong. Someone is hellbent on making Nia and Kayla the prison's last inmates . .





## Recommended Reads continued

**KS5 and adult - *Homecoming* by Kate Morton**

**Adelaide Hills, 1959.** At the end of a scorching hot day, in the grounds of a grand country house, a local man makes a terrible discovery. Police are called, and the small town of Tambilla becomes embroiled in one of the most mystifying murder investigations in the history of Australia.

**London, 2018.** Jess is a journalist in search of a story. Having lived and worked in London for nearly two decades, a phone call summons her back to Sydney, where her beloved grandmother, Nora, has suffered a fall and is seriously ill in hospital.

Seeking comfort in her past, Jess discovers a true crime book at Nora's house chronicling a long-buried police case: the Turner Family Tragedy of 1959. And within its pages she finds a shocking personal connection to this notorious event - a crime that has never truly been solved.

Ms A Robertson  
LRC Manager



## Science Assembly - St Mary's Primary School

On Tuesday 12 March three Year 12 students, Amelie, Troy and Annabel, presented an assembly to over a hundred and fifty students at St Mary's Primary School in Pulborough as part of Science week.

Technical issues meant that the first 15 minutes of their assembly had to be given without the support or prompting from their slides and they did an amazing job.

They introduced the students to cells and reflex actions for Biology; particles and reactions for Chemistry and static electricity and space for Physics.

The primary students were engaged throughout, eager to volunteer and asked our students such questions as, 'What causes the northern lights?' and 'What is the difference between gravity and Earth's magnetic field?'. They did a fantastic job of answering these questions and the students would have kept them there for much longer if they had their way!

They left St Mary's students with a challenge to produce a poster as to what life will be like in the Year 3000 and we await their creative responses. They worked hard to create an assembly that the primary students were sure to still be talking about once they returned to their lessons!

Well done again to Amelie, Troy and Annabel.


Miss F Elston  
Deputy Head of Science

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## 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 **6,813 hours of careful reading and read 961 books on Sparx Reader**.

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

| Year 7                                                                                                        | Year 8                                                                                                                | Year 9                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sienna B. 16,407 SRP<br>Harriet J. 13,478 SRP<br>Darcy B. 9,128 SRP<br>Gabby T. 8,155 SRP<br>Ema S. 7,501 SRP | Albert W. 26,046 SRP<br>Rachel A-D 21,165 SRP<br>Mimi O. 16,613 SRP<br>Florrie C-G 9,137 SRP<br>Marianna K. 8,932 SRP | Danny B. 15,835 SRP<br>Shaniya E-S. 15,269 SRP<br>Ollie B. 13,080 SRP<br>Evelyn N. 10,595 SRP<br>Amelia S.. 10,133 SRP |



## 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.

| February 2024                                       |                                                        |                                                         |                                                               |                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Year 7                                              | Year 8                                                 | Year 9                                                  | Year 10                                                       | Year 11                                              |
| Evie C<br>Mikela M<br>Lillie B<br>Chloe C<br>Noah A | Dylan P<br>Amelia R<br>Maddumage J<br>Sofia W<br>Max H | Alexander V<br>Mae E<br>Shaniya E<br>Jack S<br>Oliver D | Rosy W<br>Ashlin S<br>James G<br><u>Aeiwarin S</u><br>Oscar S | Leo F<br>William T<br>Emmi C<br>Isabel M<br>Sophie R |





National Careers Week



**National Careers Week 4 - 8 March**

The week commencing 4 March saw The Weald support National Careers Week by offering all students a range of exciting, interactive, thought provoking careers activities to get involved in. Each house had a guest speaker to host a 'What's My Job?' assembly. We had representatives from Kreston Reeves, Border Force, Cripps, All About Horsham, AW Ship Management, Eurotherm and the Department for Education.

Tuesday 5th March saw Year 12 students attend the UCAS Fair at the University of Surrey to explore their Post 18 options and pathways. The trip was successful and all students took away a backpack full of prospectuses and leaflets as well as a few freebies!

Students in Years 10 - 13 also attended the Future choices Fair on Thursday 7 March. The event was then open to all year groups as well as parents after school and was well attended.

The Careers noticeboard in the LRC played an important role in allowing students to explore over 30+ careers ranging from salaries and progression to the qualifications and subjects required.

Students also had a whole school assembly on Friday 8 March to finish the week with the clear message that 'no qualification is a bad qualification'. We looked at transferable skills both hard and soft and how these combined will see you have a successful career in the future.

**Future Choices Fair**

On Thursday 7 March The Weald hosted its annual careers fair which saw over 40 exhibitors ranging from Higher Education providers, training providers, FE Colleges and employers all come together to help students explore their future choices.

Students spent time walking around engaging with exhibitors gaining deeper insights and improving their understanding of qualification requirements, career pathways, entry routes and much more.

Students had the opportunity to speak to The British Army, Thakeham Homes, Creative Technology, University of Chichester, Kingston University, The Weald Sixth Form, Coco's Styles, Brighter Horizons, Oyster Worldwide, ASK Apprenticeships, Rewards Training, Forza Doors and Windows, Surrey and Sussex Police, Breathe HR and many many more. Thank you to all our exhibitors for giving up their free time to support our students.





### Y8 Options Evening

This year saw The Weald host its first Y8 Options Evening for students and parents. Miss O'Brien was in attendance and on hand to discuss the importance of making sure students choose the right subjects at GCSE and how this can support their future.

The evening was to support students with making better informed decisions at GCSE to allow them to build the best set of foundations to build upon at Post 16, Post 18 and beyond.

### Y12 career interviews

Year 12 students have all been offered a Career Interview with one of our qualified, and CDI-registered, careers guidance practitioners. Students will be supported in their careers interview to explore their aspirations, plan their future study pathways, and research their employment options.

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

### Unifrog

All students have a Unifrog account which they are supported and encouraged to access during RHPD, subjects and in their own time.

Unifrog is an online destinations platform used by students at The Weald across our careers programme to support with researching their study and employment interests.

Students can progressively add to their accounts providing them with regular opportunities to reflect on their achievements inside and outside of school. This also gathers a body of evidence to demonstrate the employability skills students have developed over time. This can, in turn, be used by students to support their next steps after Year 11 and Year 13, including applying for apprenticeships, employment, and further and higher education studies.

### Year 12 Personal Statements

Whether you are considering University, Apprenticeships, Gap Year or Employment at Post 18 it is still incredibly 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.



### Year 10 Work Experience

Students will be undertaking work experience during ACE Week, w/c 1 July - 5 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. With other local secondary schools competing for placements during the same week, it is important students are reaching out to employers to ask for placements and avoid leaving it until the last minute.

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](mailto:kobrien@theweald.org.uk) to discuss further.

### Year 12 Work Experience

A gentle reminder that Year 12 work experience is fast approaching and the deadline to complete placements on Unifrog has now passed. Placements are hard to secure and it is a big ask of any employer but remember it isn't always about securing a placement to support your future career. Think about the skills that might be useful for your future and what other opportunities might help you develop some of these.

I would urge students to upload their placements onto Unifrog as soon as possible. Please do speak to Miss O'Brien if you have any questions or queries or require any support [kobrien@theweald.org.uk](mailto:kobrien@theweald.org.uk)

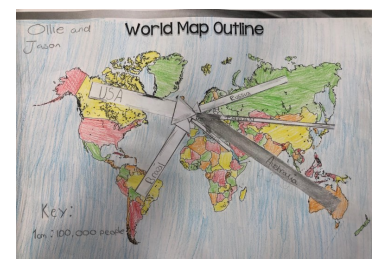
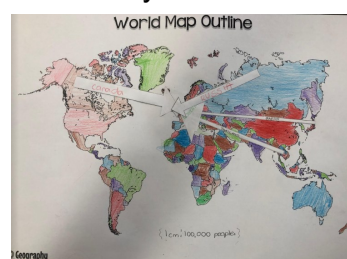
Miss K O'Brien  
Careers Manager

## Y8 Maths ED2

Year 8 students had a brilliant time in their Maths lessons on Enrichment Day by making migration flow diagrams. Using their knowledge of scale drawings they placed arrows on a world map displaying how many people migrate to the UK and from which countries. Students were surprised and interested to discover which countries the majority of migrants were arriving from.

Alongside their time in Languages and Geography, this helped Year 8 students to better appreciate the positive effects of migration on the UK. This was a great example of cross curricular learning in action.

To the right are two of the best examples from across the day.



# 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



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 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                    |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| 15 April      | First day of term—Week A |
| 24 & 25 April | Y9 Parents' Evening      |
| 6 May         | Bank Holiday Monday      |
| 24 May        | Last day of term         |
| 3 June        | 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](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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