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Message from the Headteacher:

As we reach the end of this autumn term, I am grateful to have the opportunity to share with you all just a few highlights of what our wonderful Weald community has been up to over the past 4 months! It has been fantastic to welcome so many of you to the various events we have held - whether that was the Welcome Evenings at the start of term, the Open Evenings, the Parent/Carer Learning Walks, the Parent Partnership Meetings, the sports fixtures, the simply brilliant school production or the music concerts - thank you for joining us.

I hope you already know how important the element of community in our ethos is. Assemblies are one of the most valuable ways for us to communicate this with our students, many of which educate our young people on what it means to be a British citizen. Themes so far this year we have used to teach Fundamental British Values explicitly have been: balancing individual liberty with tolerance of other faiths and beliefs, and the rule of law by discussing the immigration demonstrations from the summer; and mutual respect by thinking about what national, local and school culture means to us, as well as well-being by remembering that being kind to others improves our own self-esteem. We know that this is a huge part of how we continue to foster the warm relationships that our community is known for.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a very fond farewell to 2 members of staff who are leaving us for new ventures. Mr Matthews (Teacher of PE) leaves us after 2 years to work abroad and Ms Moore (Head of Seacole House) leaves us after 2 and a half years for a promotion in another school. 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

The School Production— 'Grease'

The enormity of Grease as a production cannot be understated! To take on a production like this needs commitment and resilience in abundance. The cast, crew, band and production team have been simply incredible. The end product is a testament to all their hard work over many months of rehearsal.



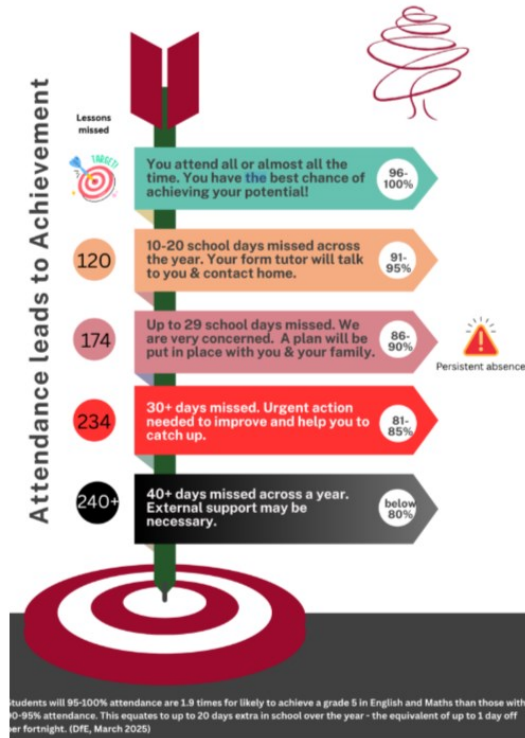
Attendance

We know that when students attend regularly, they are able to access the full curriculum, build positive relationships and share in all the incredible enrichment activities we offer in our community.

We have recently reviewed compelling national research on attendance and attainment, which has reinforced just how powerful regular attendance is. The evidence is clear: students who attend almost all of the time (95-100%) have a 1.9 times greater chance of achieving GCSE grade 5s in both English and Maths compared to students whose attendance falls to 90-95%.

Alongside our continued, personalised support for students with severe attendance challenges, we are prioritising nudging attendance at the top. This means working proactively with our young people and families to ensure that students who already attend well are supported to attend all or almost all of the time so that they are able to achieve their potential across the curriculum. We are grateful for our fantastic team of form tutors that are supporting our young people to have a positive start to their school day every morning.

Miss D McInerney
Assistant Headteacher



Parent Voice Partnership

Items can be raised for discussion via parents@theweald.org.uk. All previous meeting minutes can be found [here on our website](#)

Grease continued..

Grease is set in the 1950s, a very different time to those that our pupils at The Weald are growing up in! But the pupils have embraced all things Grease, fully embodying the characters and relishing the opportunity to perform this all time classic.

The pupils have worked extremely hard, formulating ideas and concepts, pushing themselves in areas that many of them wouldn't have dreamed they would have ever gone to. For this, we are extremely proud of them, they have been courageous, malleable and creative individuals who have challenged and pushed us throughout.

I would just like to thank everyone who came to support our students. I hope that you all enjoyed watching the production as much as we have enjoyed making it.

Miss Newington
Production Director—Drama Teacher



How we have been rising to the challenge in the classroom and beyond!

Teachers at the Weald seek to teach in a way which makes the most impact with the precious time we have with our students. To do this we have been using a suite of research informed principles called the 6Rs for some years now. Last year we shared these with our students as a set of simple steps to learning in order that they will better understand and use them in the classroom and beyond.

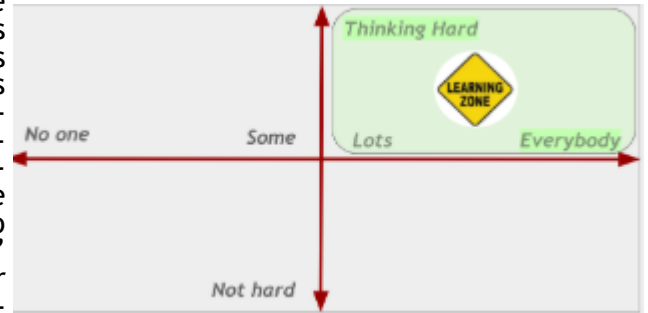
Some of these have been well known to our students for some time such as RRWS (our behaviour expectations of Ready, Respectful, Working & Safe) and RED Review (how we revise to help learning stick!). However others are less familiar and whilst we introduced these to students last year, we will need to keep revisiting them to embed them in how we work well at The Weald. We do this in a range of ways such as assemblies and tutor time discussions and activities. Teachers all have this poster in their classroom and refer to it when teaching so that students can experience and understand each simple step as they use it in each subject.

How we have been rising to the challenge in the classroom and beyond! Continued..

What does working well look like at The Weald?



Teachers and students have a half termly focus on each 6R as we move through the school year so that we can explicitly teach and learn with these steps together. This half term we have been focusing on Ratio. This means that in our classrooms we want the ratio of students who are engaged and challenged to be really high, ensuring that students are in the optimum learning zone. We have tied this into really trying to unpick what 'doing our best' looks like (which is part of our ethos of opportunity and community; to do our best and be kind).



This half term we have been working on thinking harder, for longer in lessons and at home, particularly when learning feels hard. Part of what allows us to build neural pathways is that very struggle, so we can't avoid learning sometimes feeling challenging, in fact, that difficulty is desirable. So we have outlined 5 ways to do this - which might be useful at home too!

These include sitting with it. Our brains can sometimes fire like making popcorn in the microwave. Nothing happens at first then one pops and lots follow until they begin to slow down, when there might still be one or two after they seem to stop. We encourage students to sit with it and see what 'pops'. If this doesn't work then doing something with the learning - reading it through, drawing it, putting it into a sequence, saying it out loud - anything to make a start really helps. Next use the tools you have - Knowledge organisers, books, worked (correct) answers to see 'what a good one looks like' can all help. Making a mistake is a brilliant way to keep going. Even if you know it is wrong, your brain having to struggle and then correcting an incorrect answer really helps the right answer to stick in the end. Lastly, talking it through, even in your own head, step by step, to work out where you get stuck will help.

The challenge of learning is like a bear hunt; you can't go under it, you can't go over it - you have to go through it. So when students need to think harder for longer, maybe one of these strategies could support them!

Miss A Cortizo
Deputy Headteacher

1. Sit with it! 	2. Do something with the learning! 	3. Use what you have! 	4. Do it wrong! 	5. Explain yourself!
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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.

October 2025			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Kumudh A Thomas C Avannah R Abigail H Dylan M	Kipp N Dylan F Isaac E Oskar F Irmak K	Julia M Eva B Freya W Chloe C Lillie B	Archie H Jason A Mya N Joseph G Caoimhe R



November 2025			
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Kumudh A Leo R Thomas C Isla B Abigail H	Isaac E Kipp N Freya A Elliot M Hugo W	Chloe C Julia M Reggie H Alba P Lucas S	Dylan P Lucy F Tilly W Thomas J Ally H

Enrichment Day 1!

Thursday, November 27 saw the entire school set aside the usual timetable for a dynamic day of enrichment, opportunity, and hands-on learning. The day was a resounding success, offering tailored experiences for every year group.

YEAR 7: TEAMWORK AND COMMUNITY

Our newest students focused on building strong bonds and essential soft skills. The **team-building activities** utilised fun, cooperative challenges designed to enhance communication, problem-solving, and collaboration, setting a strong foundation for their journey through the school.

YEAR 8: PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD ▯

To complement their studies, Year 8 embarked on an exciting historical journey to **Portsmouth Historic Dockyard**. Students explored the rich naval history of Britain, walking the decks of legendary warships and gaining an invaluable, tangible link to the past that classroom lessons alone cannot provide. Students who remained in school also participated in beneficial team-building activities.

Enrichment Day 1!

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YEAR 9: HIDDEN FIGURES AND HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Year 9 celebrated **Diversity Day** in school, focusing on the often-unsung contributions of African-American women to space exploration. Through the powerful medium of film, discussion, and engaging writing tasks, students broadened their **historical and cultural knowledge**, particularly regarding the vital role of these "Hidden Figures" in sending the first men into space.

YEAR 10: TRIPS GALORE!

Year 10 students had a vast menu of specialised, off-site trips and crucial compulsory fieldwork:

- **Geography GCSE Fieldwork:** Students studying GCSE Geography undertook their required **coastal fieldwork trip in Worthing**, collecting essential data and applying classroom theories in a real-world environment.
- **Theatrical Delight:** Students enjoyed the matinee performance of the hit musical, *Mamma Mia!*, *offering a vibrant cultural experience*.
- **Media and Design Technology (DT):** Media and DT students took a magical trip to **Harry Potter Studios**, linking their curriculum to real-world set design, production, and media creation.
- A group visited **Butlin's PlayXperience** for a business-based activity day. This included a deep dive into the **finances of the Play Experience building** with a PX leader, alongside fun activities like Laser Tag and Tech Putt.

YEAR 11: THE SIXTH FORM LEAP

A pivotal day for our Year 11s who participated in the **Sixth Form Taster Day**. Students wore their own clothes and experienced a day in the life of a Sixth Form student, including:

- Choosing and experiencing **Sixth Form lessons** (A-Level/BTEC tasters).
- An introduction to the **EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)**.

This day provided essential insight, following the Open Evening, to help students make informed decisions about their post-16 education.

The success of the day relied on the excellent planning by staff, the fantastic external providers, and, most importantly, the impeccable behaviour and engagement of our students. Enrichment Days are a vital part of our curriculum, broadening horizons and inspiring future choices.

We look forward to the next round of exciting opportunities in March 2026!

Miss E Sperring

Deputy Head of Geography



Recommended Reads

As we rush around doing Christmas shopping, decorating trees and trying to attend Christmas fairs, nativity plays, friends and family, it is also important for us to look after ourselves. Sitting with a book relaxing is a great way to become more mindful and take the time to rest our mind. The National Year of Reading has been set for 2026 by the government, this will be a perfect opportunity for adults, teenagers and children to make a New Year's resolution to read for pleasure. Go all in and discover how reading in all its forms can unlock more of what we love - it is a great way to reduce the busy minds that social media and our phones deliver to us daily. This Christmas, pick up a book and put down your phone.

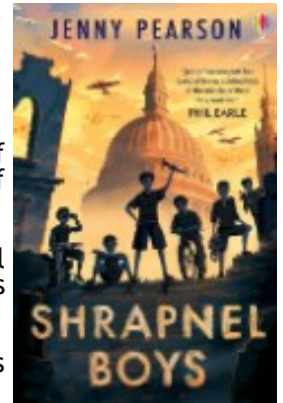
KS3: Shrapnel Boys by Jenny Pearson

There's a war going on out there, and I'm missing it.

When war comes to London in 1939, Ronnie Smith is scared and excited: scared of the bombs that fall at night, but excited to race his friends to collect the best bits of shrapnel every morning.

But for Ronnie, the battles aren't just in the sky and on the streets. They're at school and at home too. His little brother is up to no good with a secret job and dangerous new friends, and Ronnie's worried he's getting himself into big trouble.

Ronnie's desperate to help his little brother. But he isn't expecting to uncover secrets that could change the fate of the whole war...



KS4: Sixteen Souls by Rosie Talbot

Someone is stripping Europe's most haunted city of its spirits. When self-destructive, 16-year-old seer, Charlie Frith, realises that one of his own ghostly friends has gone missing, he must put aside his own safety - and reclusive existence - if he is to find them.

Charlie reluctantly teams up with Sam Harrow - the new seer in town - and a rag-tag group of ghosts, to save their friends from a fate literally worse than death.

But there is a dark purpose behind these disappearances - more sinister than Charlie could ever have imagined. And, as he slowly comes to terms with his romantic feelings for Sam, the stakes become even higher as time quickly runs out

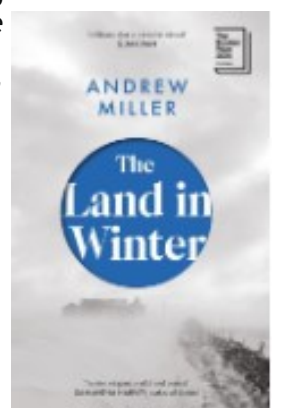


KS5 and Adult: 'Graveyard Shift' by M. L. Rio

DECEMBER 1962, THE WEST COUNTRY.

Local doctor Eric Parry, mulling secrets, sets out on his rounds, while his pregnant wife sleeps on in the warmth of their cottage. Across the field, funny, troubled Rita Simmons is also asleep, her head full of images of a past life her husband prefers to ignore. He's been up for hours, tending to the needs of the small dairy farm where he hoped to create a new version of himself, a project that's already faltering.

But when the ordinary cold of an English December gives way to violent blizzards, the two couples find their lives beginning to unravel.



Ms A Robertson
LRC Manager

Sporting Success

Date	Fixture	Result and info
6 November	U16 Girls Football	Well done to the U16 Girls Football team who played in the District Tournament. They played 6 games all of which were very tight, we won some, drew some and lost some. The highlight being a comfortable win against Bohunt Horsham.
6 November	Year 9 Girls Netball league at St Paul	Played well unfortunately lost to Oathall
11 November	U14 Girls Football	The U14 Girls Football team played a very good Durrington team but unfortunately lost. It was a very close second half and the team displayed a lot of resilience which was great to see!
11 November	Year 9 Dance Workshop	They had great enthusiasm and worked so hard throughout the workshop. Thank you to the Stopgap dance company.
11 November	Year 7 Boys Football	A great win in the County cup, in a tough game against Seaford Head School. An outstanding goal from Oscar D secured the 2-0 win
12 November	Year 9 Boys Football	1-1 Draw in their final league game of the Season, goal from Olly B.
13 November	Year 9 Netball League	Two amazing wins against Millais and The Burgess Hill Academy and one close defeat to Downlands.
17 November	Year 7 Girls Football	Played well but lost to Tanbridge in their first league game
19 November	Year 7 Boys football	Good effort played well in cold conditions but lost to a great Tanbridge team.
24 November	Year 7 Girls Football	Played really well but lost 2-1 to Bohunt, Horsham in a very close game
2 December	Year 7 Boys District league football	Year 7 boys showed the strength and quality in the squad with an excellent 1-0 win over Bohunt and could have scored more goals.



Date	Fixture	Result and info
3 December	Year 7 Boys County Cup football	The team have moved into the quarter finals of the County cup with another hard fought win over St Pauls to maintain an excellent cup run. Oscar D scored the match winning goal.
9 December	U14 Girls Football	Excellent performance in the league, despite the torrential rain and wind, to beat Bohunt Horsham a massive 6-1! This included a great hat-trick from Ashling Q.

Celebrating success in the Boxing Program

The school community may already be aware of James W's continued involvement in the WBC boxing club, but we are delighted to share an update on his impressive progress and dedication. Through consistent training, commitment, and hard work, James is preparing for his very first competitive bout in the boxing ring – a significant milestone in his sporting journey.

We are incredibly proud of James and of the boxing programme at The Weald. The club has gone from strength to strength and continues to be extremely popular and well attended. A key part of this success is the programme's location at The Weald School, and we are very grateful for the school's ongoing support in hosting the club.

James's story highlights the positive impact of the boxing programme, not only in developing sporting skills but also in fostering discipline, confidence, and resilience. His achievements have generated wider interest, with content being shared through local press and radio to celebrate both individual success and the value of the programme.



FREE
in Billingshurst

WBC CARES

YOUTH BOXING PROGRAMME

Wednesdays
3.15pm - 4.15pm

The Old Dance Studio
at The Weald School,
Station Road, Billingshurst
RH14 9RY

Free Boxing programme run by WBC Cares Boxing for young people age 11-17. No need to book, just come along and try it out!

For more info please contact your Neighbourhood Wardens
Call: 07796 051516 | 07796 051529
Email: billingshurstwardens@horsham.gov.uk

Horsham District Council

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

YOUNG MINDS

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
5 January	Start of term Week A
13 February	Last day of the Half Term
28 February	Start of term

If you are interested in the Parent Voice Partnership, 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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