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Message from the Headteacher:

It's been an absolute delight to see our new Year 7 and Year 12 students settling so quickly into life at The Weald and we very much hope that they feel well and truly at home. Both cohorts have already been hard at work supporting us to attract new recruits for next September by helping out at the Year 6 and Sixth Form Open Evening!

Our extracurricular activities have been underway for quite a few weeks now, too, and it's wonderful to see so many students involved in the widespread activities on offer, from sports to the arts and plenty more besides. Student leadership opportunities also abound, including our highly successful Green Power Car team, student technicians, peer mentors and librarians to name but a few. Please see our [website](#) for more details - and please remember that all school clubs are completely free of charge, including the late buses to transport students home.

We have greatly enjoyed meeting so many of you in person at our Meet The Tutor event for Year 7, 11 and 12, and our Welcome Event for Year 8, 9 and 10 this term. Please remember that you can get in touch with us (click [here](#) for details) and each week on Wednesday evenings at 5 pm a member of the senior team is available to discuss any urgent issues you may have. Ms Rigby and I are always keen to welcome as many parents/carers to join us for the Parent Voice Partnership meetings each term; the first one this year is Thursday 2nd November at 5 pm in the Learning Resource Centre. There's no need to let us know in advance if you're coming - just turn up and you'll be made welcome!

The next few weeks will be as busy as ever, as students in all year groups begin formal assessments, and on a lighter note we can't wait to see our school production of 'Annie The Musical' on stage at the end of November! Please come and join us if you can.

Mrs Sarah Edwards
Headteacher



A great start for Year 7

Year 7 students have made a fantastic start at The Weald. Their journey began with a welcome breakfast in our E block canteen on Monday 5 September; a great opportunity for them to catch up with old friends from primary school and meet some new ones that they would be sharing form time or lessons with.

They have all looked very smart in their uniform this term, arriving promptly at classrooms with the correct equipment and ready for learning. Keep up the good work!

Message from Chair of Governors

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new students and their families as well as welcoming back our existing families. The start of a new academic year is always a busy time in the governance calendar as we adopt lead roles and plan our monitoring schedule for the year. Currently, we have vacancies for 3 parent governors and will be starting the process of filling these after the half term break. Should you wish to learn more about what this rewarding role involves, there are some resources on the [Governors' page](#) of the school website.

Mrs N Waters
Chair of Governors

Community

Photographs show Japanese football fans cleaning up at the Football World Cup - *A great example of prosocial behaviour*

This term we explored the idea of community with all our students (Year 7 to Year 13) through our whole school assemblies. We looked at what it means to be part of a community and the glue that holds communities together and makes them positive cohesive places. We explained two key concepts: prosocial behaviour and integrity.



Prosocial behaviour is anything that benefits other people or society as a whole, such as helping, sharing, donating, co-operating and volunteering. Other, potentially less obvious, prosocial behaviour is obeying the rules and conforming to socially accepted behaviours such as queuing, saying please and thank you or tidying up after yourself. We explained that all these elements of prosocial behaviour are really important to their school and create a cohesive well functioning community.

We introduced the idea of integrity through a thought experiment - would staff and students hand in a lost £20 note in differing situations. Integrity determines how an individual responds to this situation and it is a quality that is highly valued by employers, friends and family. We explained that integrity is doing the right thing when nobody's watching (eg. handing in the £20 note).

Throughout the year we witness lots of examples of students doing the right thing and have recently been complemented by visitors after our Year 6 Open Evening. Students were kind, polite and supported others. Thank you and well done. We look forward to celebrating further examples as the year progresses and they continue to embody our Ready Respectful Working Safe (RRWS) approach.

Mr S Catt
Deputy Headteacher

Parents' Evenings 2023/24

Following on from last academic year we are continuing to have parents' evenings on the virtual school cloud platform. The feedback received via the questionnaires following the parents' evenings was very positive. In addition to this we have seen an increase in attendance to the meetings across all year groups.

However, we fully appreciate not everyone has had a positive experience with the technology causing some issues with appointments. All the feedback has been passed back to the school cloud customer and technical support teams to improve the product.

In addition to this, as a school we would like to offer further technical support to any family who has experienced a technical issue during a previous parents' evening. If you had issues with a device or internet connection, we are able to provide an area within our LRC for you to login for your virtual parents' evening appointments. If you previously experienced a technical issue we will have drop-in sessions available with our network support team to check your login and test connectivity to appointments, using your device, before parents' evenings. If you would like to benefit from this support please [complete this short form](#).

Parents' evenings have traditionally been on one evening only and we have split these evenly between Wednesday and Thursday evenings across the academic year. We appreciate this may not be the most convenient day of the week for parents and also part time staff are unavailable for appointments on a day they do not work, and this can be a frustration for parents.

With this in mind, we would like to gain your feedback on a proposal around parents' evenings moving forward:

- **Option one** would be to keep the format the same as we currently have, for parents' evenings to be on one evening of the week, either a Wednesday or a Thursday.
- **Option two** would be to move to parents' evenings being spread across two evenings. Parents would know in advance which evening staff are available so you could plan your evenings before bookings opened. Staff would either choose to spread their total available hours for meetings across one or both evenings. It would not be mandatory for staff to be available on both evenings. Part time staff would be able to attend one of the two evenings increasing the accessibility of staff to parents.

To provide your feedback please [complete this short questionnaire](#). The deadline for providing feedback is 9am Monday 13th November.

This proposal has also been put forward to staff following feedback from our staff voice and discussions with other schools who run this parents' evening model. Until feedback has been received from both parents and staff in this consultancy period, no changes will be made to the current parents' evening setup. Further communication will follow to parents after this consultation period has completed during the week beginning 13th November. The next parents' evening in the calendar is Year 12 & 13 on Thursday 7th December.

Mr A Mowforth
Assistant Headteacher



To KS 4&5 Musicians:
You are invited to sign up for the

KS 4&5 CONCERT



Thursday 16th November
at 6.00pm
Open to soloists and small groups

Sign up sheet is on the music office door

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.

September 2023				
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Sienna B Samuel H Emily E Ethan E Jessica R	Dylan P Beau H Emma-Rose T Mia D Katie T	Sophia W Cayden H Amber N Leona W Mae E	James G Mia L Oscar S Hannah A Emily E	Francesca L Charlie C Lily L Augustine B George H



Sparx Reader Stars

This year we have launched the exciting new platform **Sparx Reader** with Year 7, 8 & 9 students to support reading fluency and literacy beyond the classroom. 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](#).

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

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Harriet J. 2869 SRP Abigail W. 1934 SRP Sienna B. 1814 SRP Chloe C. 1768 SRP Evie S. 1328 SRP	Rachel A-D 7842 SRP Albert W. 2855 SRP Mimi O. 2635 SRP Danielle J. 1929 SRP Pip C. 1537 SRP	Amber V. 4163 SRP Shaniya E-S 3886 SRP Matthew J. 3863 SRP Lyra W. 3221 SRP Izzy P. 2764 SRP

Recommended Reads

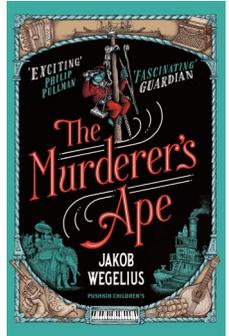
Now we have settled into the Autumn term as the nights draw in and we want to stay in more, why not cosy up with a good book and get lost in a world of adventure, fantasy or mystery.

Here are our reading recommendations for an autumn evening:

KS3 **The Murderer's Ape** by Jakob Wegelius AR Book Level 6.4 AR Pts - 7.0

Sally Jones is an extraordinary gorilla and a brilliant ship's engineer who sails the high seas on The Hudson Queen with her loyal friend the Chief. One day the shipmates are offered a mysterious job that promises to pay big bucks, but then disaster strikes, the job goes wrong and the Chief is falsely convicted of murder.

For Sally Jones this is the start of a grand adventure and a desperate quest to clear her friend's name. By freighter, steam train and bi-plane the intrepid ape journeys from Lisbon to Bombay and beyond in search of the truth. But powerful forces are working against her, and they will do anything to protect their own secrets...



KS4 **Needle** by Patrice Lawrence AR Book Level 4.1 AR Pts - 3.0

Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Medal

Award-winning author Patrice Lawrence explores the harsh reality of the criminal justice system for young people in this riveting teen drama.

Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at. So when her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene loses it and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. It damages a nerve and she gets sucked into the criminal justice system for assault.

Charlene's not sorry and she's never apologised to anyone in her life. But people keep telling her that if she says sorry, they'll go easier on her. Can she bring herself to say it and not mean it when her freedom's at stake?

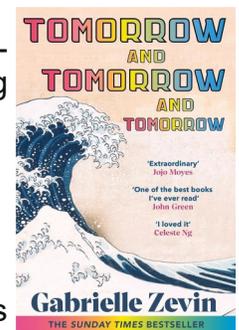
KS5 & Adult **Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow** by Gabrielle Zevin

This is the story of Sam and Sadie. It's not a romance, but it is about love.

When Sam catches sight of Sadie at a crowded train station one morning he is catapulted straight back to childhood, and the hours they spent immersed in playing games.

Their spark is instantly reignited and sets off a creative collaboration that will make them superstars. It is the 90s, and anything is possible.

What comes next is a decades-long tale of friendship and rivalry, fame and art, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.



CONGRATULATIONS

on becoming a Renaissance Accelerated Reader

WORD MILLIONAIRE

Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires

Our KS3 students have made a fantastic start with the Accelerated Reader Programme so far this year. We are delighted to announce that we already have three 'Word Millionaires'!

Year 7: Max T. (2,286,320 words) and Holly T. (1,084,625 words)
Year 8: Emily-Rose T. (1,057,556)

All students will receive the prestigious 'Word Millionaire' badge and will be invited to a celebratory event with other 'Word Millionaires' in the summer term. Well done!



I am Miss O'Brien and I joined The Weald as the new Careers Manager at the start of September with all our wonderful new Year 7 students.

I am excited to be working with, and supporting, all our students through the next academic year. Whether that be a Careers Interview or organising a Career Related Event, each and every student will be provided with the knowledge, skills and opportunities to allow them to make the best informed decisions about their futures.

Please do [visit our website](#) to read through our full career programme.

31st Oct 2023 - Year 7 & Year 12 Unifrog Launch Assembly
 1st Nov 2023 - Year 12 Work Experience Launch
 23rd Nov 2023 - Enrichment Day 1 - Year 10 Future Choices Day

Miss O'Brien
Careers Manager



Sporting Success

Date	Fixture	Result and info
14/9/23	Y8 Football v Tanbridge	Lost 8-1
14/9/23	Y10 Rugby v Tanbridge	Lost 20-23
15/9/23	U16 Girls Cricket	Finished 2nd in County Finals Tournament
20/9/23	Y7 Football (boys) vs Forest	Drew 2-2
20-9-23	Year 9 Football vs Tanbridge	Lost 3-1 Tom L scored, competitive game in horrific conditions
27/9/23	Y11 Rugby (boys) vs Forest	Lost 38-28 Great first game
27/09/23	Y11 Netball (girls) tournament	Joint 3rd overall
4/10/23	Y7 Football (boys) vs Priory (County Cup)	Won 5-1
1/10/23	Year 10 Rugby (League) v St Pauls	Won 63-7
3-10-23	Y9 Football (Boys) vs Warden Park (District League)	Won 4-1 Scorers: Freddie S, Tom H x2, Alfie S
5/10/23	Y10 Boys (Boys) National Cup Football v All Hallows	Won 2-1 after stoppage time equaliser from Harry J and last minute winner from Jackson B
5/10/23	Y9 Football (Boys) vs Bohunt Hors-ham (District League)	Won 5-2, went behind twice and showed great resilience to come back each time and then win Scorers: Charlie A, Rowan L x2, Callum D, Ollie V
10 / 10 / 23	Y9 Football (Boys) vs Cardinal Newman	1-0 Down at half time 8-3 Win Scorers : Ollie V - Hatrick , Tom H - Hatrick , Charlie A & Freddie S
10/10/23	Y8 Girls Netball	Came 5th out of 8 teams.
10/10/23	Y11 (Boys) Rugby v Warden Park	5 Tries to 1 loss against a very strong Warden park Team, special mention for Luke S and Josh W for playing a year up.
11/10/23.	U19 vs Varndean.	3-1 win
12/10/23	Y10 Boys Football v Uckfield college	5-2 win
12/10/23	Y7 Boys Football v Petersfield	Drew 2-2 then lost 3-2 on Pens
13/10/23	U14 Girls Football	Lost away at Sackville in the County Cup
16/10/23	Y7 Boys Football vs Tanbridge House	Won 4-1. Superb team performance. Incredible solo goal from Jack E

'Annie The Musical' - our annual school production!

We are very proud and excited to announce our forthcoming school production of 'The Annie. The Musical'.

Set in 1930s New York during The Great Depression, brave young Annie is forced to live a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage. Her luck soon changes when she's chosen to spend a fairytale Christmas with famous billionaire, Oliver Warbucks. Meanwhile, spiteful Miss Hannigan has other ideas and hatches a plan to spoil Annie's search for her true family. With its award-winning book and score, including the unforgettable songs 'It's The Hard-Knock Life', 'Easy Street', 'I Don't Need Anything But You' and 'Tomorrow', you can bet your bottom dollar that you'll love it!

Students and staff have been working tirelessly since the start of term with simultaneous acting, singing and dancing rehearsals to create what is promised to be a fantastic musical production. It has also been wonderful to see so many new students participate for the first time. We hope you will be impressed with what we have achieved together. Don't miss out!

The performance dates are **Wednesday 29th November to Friday 1st December at 7pm in the School Hall**. We ask for a donation of £8 for an entry pass, which can be collected from the production box office in the Drama foyer at lunchtimes from 1pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Despite the School being cashless, this production can be paid for by cash, card or cheques. This is to enable the student Box Office Team, run by cast members, to fully run it. Reservations are not able to be made without full payment, unfortunately. Cheques should be made payable to The Weald School and have the **student name written on the reverse**.

A licensed bar and refreshments will be available in the Canteen before the show and during the interval. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Elmer
Co-director and Production Manager

The Weald School Charitable Trust

The Weald School Charitable Trust is a registered charity that receives its 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.

Over the last two years we have provided items including a display cabinet for Ceramics, cameras for photography, keyboards for Music, a 3D printer for DT, lighting for Drama, Football and Netball kits for competitions, board games for a lunch club, and resources for PD including breast and testicle models for improved health education.

Another way to help us raise money 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 £1,350.00 from **Easyfundraising**. Please use this link to register:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wealdsbillingshurst/?q=weald%20school&cat=cause-autosuggest>

Thank you for support
The Weald School Charitable Trust



#HelloYellow

On 10 October, it was fantastic to see so many students and staff wearing yellow in support of World Mental Health Day. It's never too late, you can still donate to this amazing charity, **Young Minds**, by [clicking here](#)—they do a brilliant job in supporting, children, young adults and parents.



In the week leading up to World Mental Health Day, our students took part in assemblies and various tutor time activities around the theme 'you're not alone'. The video linked below was shown to all students and staff. We are incredibly proud of our students for taking part in such an important assembly and hope you enjoy it and feel as moved as we did by it. ([Hello Yellow assembly](#))



Join us

Support staff vacancies

[Minibus driver](#)

NJC Grade 3 Points 3-4

£10.79 - £10.98 (+ holiday entitlement of £1.30 - £1.33 per hour)

Term time only. 10 hours per week - working hours are: 7.00-9.00am Monday to Friday

Cleaner:

Full time and part time available

Required to start as soon as possible

Please email jobs@theweald.org.uk for more information

[Cover Supervisor:](#)

Full and part time positions available

Full time hours would be: 34 hours a week - Actual working hours: 8.30am-3.05pm

Additional time of 4h per week is planning time

NJC Grade 6 Points 9 to 12 (£23,194 - £24,496 per annum full time equivalent)

£17,952-£18,960 actual salary for term time only (38 weeks)

[Premises Assistant](#)

Grade 3/4

Full and Part time contracts available - hours worked between 7am and 7pm on a flexible shift basis.

Grade 3 £20,812 - £21,186 pa

[Business Manager](#)

Full time - All Year Round

Hay Grade D/E Salary Range (from £63,294 - £73,113 depending on experience)

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



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/>



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>



CalmHarm 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
30 October	First day of new half term
2 November	Parent Voice Partnership meeting—LRC
16 November	Influenza Nasal spray vaccination
24 November	Inset Day
15 December	Last days of term—Early finish
2 January	First day of term

If you are interested in the Parent Voice Partnership or would like to raise a topic for discussion, 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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<https://www.instagram.com/>