



# Newsletter 10.11.2023

## Parent Newsletter

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Messages from the Headteacher:

### **Parent/Carer Survey**

Thank you to all parents/carers of our students who took the time to complete the survey giving us feedback on current parent/carers views of our provision. We were delighted to receive 736 responses with excellent levels of engagement from all year groups.

Responses were overwhelmingly positive with 95% of parents/carers reporting that they felt their child/ward was doing well at the school and that the school makes sure students are well behaved, with 99% of parents/carers reporting that their child/ward feels safe.

95% of parents/carers felt that we have high expectations for our students and 96% felt that there is a good range of subjects available to our students.

We recognise that parents/carers would like us to consider how we communicate with them about how students are doing, and what students are studying during the year, as these areas scored a little lower (78% satisfaction for how students are doing and 70% satisfaction for what students will learn).

We will now make these items a priority for development and will be using the newsletter and other school systems for communicating these aspects of school life more clearly.

### **Sixth Form Open Evening**

We are looking forward to hosting our Sixth Form Open Evening on Wednesday 22 November from 6 – 8pm. This evening is designed to be an opportunity for existing and prospective students to gain a further insight into the courses on offer,

what they involve and the wider opportunities available by joining the WKGS Sixth Form.

Prior to the Open Evening, our current Year 11 students will also take part in a Sixth Form Taster Day where they will have the opportunity to try 4 different subjects as well as spend time using the Sixth Form facilities and taking part in a study skills session.

We hope that all our students will want to attend the Open Evening to find out more about life in the WKGS Sixth Form and you can sign up for this event using the link below

<https://wkgs.org/sixth-form-open-evening-1>

### **Celebrating Success**

Thank you to the many students across our school community who were involved in the House Pumpkin Carving and House Music competitions. It is always great to see so many students actively participating in our House events.

Congratulations to Gonner who were the overall winners of House Music.

Further congratulations go to the students in our LAMDA group all of whom passed their LAMDA Grade 4 or 5 with merit or distinction.

There have also been a host of sporting successes again in the past couple of weeks and special congratulations go to Sophie who was selected for the U19 Wales Netball Squad and Sienna who was selected for the U21/23 Wales Squad. We were also delighted for Annabelle who was ranked 15th in the world at the recent Biathe/Triathle World Championships. In team news, we were thrilled that both our Junior and Inter Cross Country teams were placed first in the ESAA Cross Country North West finals, a remarkable achievement and we wish them the best of luck in the national finals which will be held later in the year.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable weekend,

Mr S Clarke

Headteacher

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### **Clubs and Activities 2023-2024**

It's fantastic to see lots of our students participating in a wide range of clubs and activities at lunchtime. Attached is a list of the clubs on offer to students and these can also be found on the clubs app which students can access via the intranet.

## **Duke of Edinburgh**

### **Silver Award**

Important information for parents of students interesting in registering for Silver DofE. We have had 60 expressions of interest in completing the Silver award. Please note that the dates of the **compulsory expeditions** next year are as follows:-

Saturday March 16th - Silver training day

Saturday April 27th - Sunday April 28th - Practice weekend (1 night)

Friday 28th June - Sunday 30th June - Expedition (2 nights)

For Silver, the requirement is 6 months of volunteering and 6 months of either skills or physical (the other can be just 3 months). Activities for these sections can be backdated by 2 months so the sooner we can get students registered, the better.

I will ask again next week for definite names/numbers of those who want to sign up and then issue payment schedule on Scopay.

### **Bronze Award**

Deposits (£80) will need to be paid by Friday November 24th to secure a place.

Reminder that the first payment of £60 was due on 1 November. There are still some payments missing. The next instalment is due in January and the final payment must be made by 31 March 2024.

### **Home Language GCSE**

If students in Y9 or above are hoping to sit a home language GCSE in Summer 2024 including those taught in school, please could parents/carers contact Ms Stenhouse by email ([rstenhouse@wkgs.net](mailto:rstenhouse@wkgs.net)) to register their interest as soon as possible? We are happy to try and help facilitate these GCSEs but our ability to do so can be dependent on finding an examiner for the speaking test and the costs for this.

Details of languages offered by Edexcel are available here: [Edexcel GCSE Modern Languages | Pearson qualifications](#)

Details of languages offered by AQA are available here: [AQA | Subjects | Languages](#)

### **Mock Interviews - Oxbridge, Medicine, Vet Science and Dentistry**

We would be interested and very grateful to hear from any parents who would be willing to assist with some practice interviews with our Y13 students over the next few weeks in preparation for university interviews.

### **Non-Uniform Day - Children in Need**

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday 17 November to raise funds for Children in Need. A suggested donation of £2 can be paid via Scopay. Students will be allowed to wear their own clothes and are expected to adhere to the following expectations: no jewellery or acrylic nails as usual for Years 7-11. Sensible footwear to allow safe movement around school. Own clothes can be worn provided clothes are not too revealing ie. no crop tops, bare midriffs, no short skirts or shorts, no see through leggings, no nightwear including onesies. Thank you to everyone in advance for their support.

### **Places Available at West Kirby Grammar School for Year 7 Entry in January 2024**

There are a small number of places available for students to join WKGS in Year 7 in January 2024.

If you have any friends or family with a daughter who is in Year 7 this September, and who might be interested in transferring to WKGS, we would be grateful if you can make them aware of this opportunity.

In all instances, applications are to be made online at [Apply for a transfer to a Wirral primary or secondary school](#) or complete an '[In Year Transfer for Secondary aged children](#)' form and e-mail to: [schooladmissions@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@wirral.gov.uk) The application will then be forwarded to ourselves.

To assist us with tracking the applications it would be helpful if parents/carers can complete our [online form](#) so that we can track the applications with the Local Authority.

The next assessment date is on November 29th and we will contact parents/carers to confirm the time and arrangements for the assessment.

Assessments papers are National Curriculum based in both Mathematics and English and a verbal reasoning paper.

### **SENDLO Live event - Thursday 23 November, Floral Pavilion, from 1 - 8 pm For SEND practitioners, parents & carers and children**

As part of the launch of SENDLO Local Authority Wirral are hosting an event that will help really bring SENDLO to life and reach out to more of our SEND families. It is hoped that parents/carers will leave better informed, supported and be confident that they have a go to place for answers and/or signposting. There will be a marketplace of services across Health, Education and Social Care.

There will be live dance performances from our SEND young people, workshops, demos, opportunities to 'have your say' and loads more. There is also a sensory room for visitors who may find the noise, lighting, number of people a tad overwhelming.

### **Y12 GCSE Presentation Event**

We are delighted to be able to celebrate the success of all the Year 12 students, class of 2023, by presenting GCSE certificates to students who sat their GCSEs at WKGS, and to present certificates to our new Y12s to recognise their success. The presentation ceremony is on Tuesday 14th November 9.00 - 10.00am.

Students may invite **one** guest to attend the occasion. Parents/carers should arrive at 8.45am at the entrance at the centre of the school near the main hall - not at the usual Reception area. All Y12 students have received an email with a link to a Microsoft Form to complete regarding the event, and to indicate whether a guest will be attending. The form must be completed by Friday 10th November.



## **What we've been up to...**

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The Shawwal crescent moon has been sighted in Saudi Arabia! #EidUIFitr will be on Friday 21 April. 🌙 Eid Mubarak to all celebrating in our school community #WKGS\_RS #WKGS <https://t.co/RRGFvw2MK5>



Miss Higham has finally received her medal for 100km of running in February - continuing to add to her 2023 target of 1000km 🏃 [@WestKirbyGS](https://t.co/DInSiVNads) <https://t.co/DInSiVNads>

## upcoming events



16 x Y12 Bar Mock Trial Heats

11th November



U13s Netball

13th November



Y12 GCSE Presentation Ceremony - rehearsal

13th November



House Poetry Entry competition deadline




13th November



VIEW OUR EVENTS CALENDAR





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