



## NEWSLETTER

### JANUARY 2020

We would like to wish you a 'Happy New Year' from all staff, governors and students at Wrotham School.

## UNIFORM UPDATE

Following parent feedback on uniform and location of suppliers, I have been in talks with a range of suppliers and am confident that from this summer we will be able to offer a wider choice for parents in locations that will better suit your preferred shopping locations. I have also ensured that online ordering will be easier from all of our school suppliers and that service will be convenient for all parents.

## 'CHARACTER STRENGTH' IN SCHOOL

Since September staff have been recognising 'Character' in students. These 'Character Strength Credits' are based on the outcomes of consultation with parents, students and staff and replaced the old IB credits. Since September we have seen an increase in the number of 'Character Strength Credits' awarded to pupils, averaging out at 4.15 per pupil, per week. We have seen a week on week increase of nearly 8%. This positive engagement will all lead to our most successful graduation evening yet, where this 'character journey' is recognised and celebrated. Those with at least 5 character strength credits in each area, and good academic progress and no more than 30 negative behaviour points will graduate at bronze level, those with 10 character strengths, silver, and those with 30 in each area will graduate at gold.

**The 10 key character strengths that Wrotham School aims to instill in each student are:**





Each year group will also be focusing on three particular character strengths, with ‘respect’ at the core of what we do, so that as they progress through the school, they can build their character and take part in learning opportunities that will enable them to evidence these particular character strengths.

Year Group	Character Strength Priorities
7	<b>Respect</b> Creativity Compassion Integrity
8	<b>Respect</b> Creativity Confidence Teamwork
9	<b>Respect</b> Open-Mindedness Compassion Communication
10	<b>Respect</b> Integrity Motivation Communication
11	<b>Respect</b> Resilience Confidence Motivation
Post 16	<b>All character strengths alongside the IB student profile</b>

## SPORTS HALL UPDATE

We are very pleased with the progress on the Sports Hall build. If all goes to plan, the building should be ready for use from Term 5/6. As you can see from the photos the construction is well underway. This build will provide a state of the art indoor sports facility for all students at the school in both their PE lessons and in their after school clubs and team events.





## TREASURE ISLAND

Thank you to all of the parents, family and staff that came to support our school show. Both nights were completely sold out and a great reminder of how valuable the support of our parents and wider community is in the work we do. The students were thrilled with their achievements and they impressed their audiences on each night and in their performances to local primary schools.

We took a risk this year. We take risks every year but this year in particular, writing the show ourselves, focusing on characters and storytelling rather than spectacle, a lot more focus was put on the quality of the performers and we're pleased to say our students more than rose to the challenge.

If you missed the sold-out performances of the show, this year's production was Treasure Island, but not as you know it. Our adaptation had no pirates, no eye patches or parrots, no trips across the ocean and, in fact, no islands or chests filled with treasure at all. What remained was the story about someone bored with their life, longing for the adventures they've heard about in stories. Someone who finds out that the big wide world was far darker and more dangerous than they could have ever imagined. Particular praise should be directed to our core cast of principal performers. There were more lines to learn and deeper characters than ever this year and **Alfie Nash, Freddie Woodwiss and Scarlett Parker**, as Long John Silver, Jim Hawkins and the insane desert cult leader did an incredible job of bringing the world of the show to life. As always it was an absolute pleasure to work with so many dedicated and professional young people, especially the ensemble cast of year 7s and 8s who matched and at many points exceeded the energy and engagement of our GCSE cast night after night of rigorous rehearsal.

A key mention should go to the 'Treasure Isle Band', whose nights and weekends of rehearsal and dedication led to the delivery of a live score which elevated the production beyond that of anything performed at a school level anywhere else.

Our legacy of past performers returning to direct key scenes continues: we have had four GCSE students and a 6<sup>th</sup> Former present at every rehearsal and their creative input has also become a key element that you will experience throughout the performance. The score for the show has once again been developed by the unstoppable Mr Laviolette and the extraordinary school band, who once again have drawn from a host of creative influences to form a soundtrack both unique and familiar. The music this year in particular is as intrinsic to the performance as the actors themselves and our music department is rightfully proud of their achievement.

We would like to congratulate and thank the cast and crew for their time, their energy and, most importantly, their imagination. It has been our pleasure to work with such a committed group of talented students and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

**Mr Truss and Mrs Norman**





## CHRISTMAS LUNCH

In true Wrotham School spirit, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December the students enjoyed their annual Christmas dinner. 400+ Xmas dinners and puddings individually plated, served by our canteen staff and enjoyed by our students. A huge thank you to the canteen and support team for pulling off this incredibly complex job and for the staff that helped with the organisation. A wonderful time was had by all.



## YEAR 7 PARENT SURVEY

Thank you to all parents that took part in our year 7 parent views survey. Your views are very important to us and help us address any key issues that arise. We are really pleased with the responses below and are glad that we continue to meet and surpass your expectations.

**Year 7 Parent Survey November 2019 Summary - 106 responses (62% of total year group)**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree	No answer
My child is happy at school	67%	33%		
My child feels safe at school	67%	32%	1%	
My child makes good progress at this school	65%	35%		
My child is well taught at this school	63%	37%		
My child receives appropriate homework	49%	48%	3%	
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	57%	42%		2%
The school effectively deals with bullying	45%	39%		16%
The school is well led and managed	65%	35%		
The school responds well to the concerns I raise	57%	35%		8%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress	58%	40%	2%	
I support my child with managing homework by using Show My Homework	69%	29%		2%
I'm aware of the Character Strengths programme (credits) that reward my child's professional skills.	53%	33%	12%	2%
I use the Parent Portal to check on my child's progress	60%	32%	7%	1%
My child was supported well through the year 6 to 7 transition	66%	33%		1%
My child has been able to engage with extra-curricular activities.	47%	33%	15%	5%
Would you recommend Wrotham School to another parent?	78%	22%		





## PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

As part of working towards the character strength of creativity, Year 7 had the chance to enter a photography competition in term 2. The standard was extremely high and we had over 70 entries from across the year group. Many students achieved a special recognition certificate for their outstanding contribution and Mr Cater and Mrs Hall had great difficulty deciding the eventual winners.

1<sup>st</sup> place – **Holly Doughty 7MSE**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- **Luke Jones 7DLA**

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – **Amelia Taylor 7CBL**

Congratulations to the winner and runners up who win Amazon vouchers and well done to all the students who took part.

**Mrs Hall**

## TURNER GALLERY VISIT

On the 5th December the year 10 art class took a trip to the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate to see the Turner Prize exhibition. They also got to see the site specific sound sculpture “Welcome Chorus” by artist Yuri Suzuki. The students took part in a workshop at the Borough Green library to produce lyrics for the district of Tonbridge and Malling, represented by the red sound horn!

**Mrs Drew**





## CAREERS AND ENTERPRISE



Former Wrotham School student, Alex Turner, visited our KS4 Business Studies students on Friday 27th September to share his journey on the creation of his new business venture 'CaffJuice'. Alex has launched a caffeinated fruit juice, which he says provides the same 'boost' as coffee or more traditional energy drinks, but with added health benefits. Bottles of 'CaffJuice' have already been sold at convenience stores in Wrotham, Gravesend and West Malling.

All KS4 Business Studies students are currently working on creating a Business Plan based on their own business idea and will need to pitch this to a potential investor. Alex provided all students with realistic and advice relating to this.

It was a pleasure to welcome Alex back to the school. We wish him every success with his new business, 'CaffJuice'.

**Mrs Allen**

## AFTERNOON TEA

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of December we welcomed the residents of Lawson House to our annual Christmas Afternoon Tea. This event was hosted by our 6<sup>th</sup> form team as part of their service learning and they organized decoration, food, refreshments, entertainment and presents for the community visitors. Students from KS3 and 4 also helped on the day. The housing officer from Lawson House fed back that everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our students certainly enjoyed chatting to the visitors and shared the festive experience.





## NUFFIELD RESEARCH PLACEMENT

Year 13 student Thomas Henning spent 4 weeks of his summer holiday at The University of Kent working on a Nuffield Research Placement project. He worked with a professor and an undergraduate on Verifiable Credentials, which is an idea that will allow people to verify their credentials such as age without using passwords, but biometrics or a PIN number. Thomas was tasked to code this program and create a prototype of the system that would handle the credentials. He worked from a diagram showing all the handling of the keys and had to analyse and create an algorithm to understand how the keys would be passed between providers and the user. Then he created a front end that the user would see on their machine.

Thomas produced a 12 page scientific report and a poster on his work including introduction, abstract, methodology, results, discussion, evaluation, appendix, references and bibliography. This was great practice for the future when writing reports at university. His work was on display at a celebration and presentation evening at Delphi Technologies. Mrs Parry and Mrs Zdzylowski were proud to attend to see Thomas receive his certificate from the Mayor of Medway. This achievement is a great addition to his CV.

### Mrs Parry





## RECHARGE DAYS

We are very proud of all students who took part in "Recharge" activities last year as part of our work to help young people build resilience, empathy and achieve amazing things. One of our students, Elizabeth won an award for communication at the annual Recharge Awards ceremony. You can hear Elizabeth speaking about her experiences on Radio Kent by following this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0711htv>



## LANGUAGES NEWS

### Target language Champions:

KS3 –James Banks, Millie Barlow, Aoife Oates, Lola Leonard, Teddy Pusser, Nicolas Bartlett, Louie Miles, Lola Seston, Nicola Kentish, Ife Oladipupo

KS4 – Finlay Collins, Harry Rowland, Oliver Pitchell, Katie Sizmur, Jo Addinson, Thomas Wilkinson, Megan Sycklemoore, Edward Bartlett.

A special mention to our YR 8 students that distinguished themselves during the weather forecast presentations in class. They demonstrated excellent improvisational skills in their target language.

**Deanne Steel** gave an excellent performance; **Millie Barlow** and **Evie Sturge** made fantastic efforts and **Saffy Wagland** who showed perseverance and resilience. In 8C we had **Elysia Curd** and **William Delf** added creative elements such as greetings to make their presentations sound more natural.

### European language Day

The MFL Department celebrated and hosted European language Day with the Kent Chamber of Commerce. Year 7 and 8 students were given presentations by business leaders who use European language skills in their business.







## Movie Club

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Languages based Movie Club has been held showing the French film “Le Petit Nicolas” with popcorn for all that attended. There will be more films shown throughout the next term. See Ms Segurini for dates of the next showing.

## Language show and visiting interpreters

Earlier in the year the languages department took student to a language show in London to look at how languages are used in business and society. Following this visit we got in touch with some official translators and interpreters who will be coming as guests in YR 8 sessions next term.

Mrs Segurini and Miss Blamire

## SPORTING NEWS

Term 1 and Term 2 at Wrotham School Sport was extremely busy with fixtures being played in Football for both boys and girls across all year groups, Girls being unbeaten so far, along with the Pro Soccer Academy currently sitting top of the academies league and successfully making their way through to the Semi-finals of the Kent Academies league cup winning 2-1 to Brompton Academy this week. There has also been a real surge in the number of students taking part in Lunchtime Clubs, with Gymnastics for both boys and girls seeing numbers reach over 30 at each club which is a significant increase on last year.

October 2019 saw the PE Department take part in the national initiative “**Restart a Heart day**”, over 200 students from across the school were taught lifesaving skills in PE lessons. Students that were involved were incredibly receptive to this were able to practice these skills on incredible equipment thanks to our link with the British Heart Foundation.

November 2019 saw the PE department invite a number of schools to compete as part of the **Maidstone School Cross Country Competition**. Over 283 students from across the area competed with notable performances from Wrotham Students including **Charlie Taylor** (7) finishing 14<sup>th</sup>, **Ella Houghton** (10) finishing 11<sup>th</sup>, **Harry Norman** (9) finishing 13<sup>th</sup>, **Jake Sprosen** finishing 17<sup>th</sup>, **Jensen Miles** finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> and **Chris Archer** finishing 7<sup>th</sup>. All students above have successfully qualified for the Kent School race in Dover in January 2019. Well done to them.



Mr Friend





### Visit To CCU

As part of our work with Canterbury Christchurch University we spent the day experiencing PE and Sport courses at university.



### Football Success

In term one our girls football team celebrated a 2-0 win against Aylesford and a 1-0 win against Maplesden Noakes.



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

2019 has been another successful year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award here at Wrotham. 76% of our cohort have achieved their award this year which is a great percentage with the national average being 55.5%. Such fantastic results were due to another year of brilliant expeditions.

Feedback from their assessors included;

*'They displayed excellent navigation skills and map skills with good fitness and pace. Camp craft was good with teamwork excelling as they put up tents and cooked together their evening meal. Well done and I look forward to seeing you all progress to your Silver award'*

**Bronze assessed September '19**

*'The team were well organised & demonstrated good motivation & communication throughout. You all had an excellent attitude & approach to problem-solving some of the navigational issues including the many footpaths that were so overgrown or heavily muddy they were nearly impassable.'*

**Silver Assessed October '19**





The expedition section is only one element of the programme, and I am also proud to report that the cohort as a collective spent over 500 hours volunteering in the local community, another 500 hours learning new skills and another 500 hours completing a physical activity. These are incredible numbers which they all completed in addition to their school hours.

As always the cohort have been a pleasure to work with and a true credit to the school.

In October, we welcomed our new participants and we look forward to seeing these pupils progress through the award programme.



Miss Flannery

## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENDATIONS

Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies  
Business Studies

**Megan Gillett**  
**Tobias Davies**  
**Oliver Ashdown**  
**Jack Nuttall**  
**Lucy Richards**  
**Ben Toscani-Pay**  
**Ben Bartropp**  
**Alafair Shove**

12JSM- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
12JSM- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
12NDR- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
13FFE- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
12JBL- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
12JSM- Achieving a Distinction grade in the first coursework task  
9CAL- Excellent effort, focus and achievement in developing a small business plan  
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Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7  
Year 7

**Teddy Pusser**  
**Ife Oladipupo**  
**Aoife Oates**  
**Josh Moriarty**  
**Rio Hassani**  
**Chloe Furneaux**  
**Emelia Davenport**  
**James Banks**  
**Imogen Ashford**

7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (117)  
7MSE- Excellent Character Point total (96)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (110)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (91)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (96)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (93)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (95)  
7JTR- Excellent Character Point total (94)  
7RMO- Excellent Character Point total (95)

Spanish  
Spanish  
Spanish  
Spanish

**Sienna Button**  
**Daisy Warr**  
**Matthew Brown**  
**Catherine Dolley**

11JJA For her dedication, effort and hard work in Spanish this year  
10BMC For her improved attainment in Spanish and hard work  
10MFR For his consistently positive attitude in Spanish  
9PBR For her effort and attainment in Spanish where she is excelling. Well done!





French	<b>Jack Weinman</b>	8API	For his great effort, positive attitude and helpfulness in French.
French	<b>Hannah-Rose Hobson</b>	7RMO	Going above and beyond expectation and excelling in this subject.
English Lit	<b>Emily Dean</b>	Yr13	For an outstanding piece of coursework in English Literature
Extra-Curricular	<b>Louie Houlding</b>	7MSE	Won the national finals with his Rollerblade Hockey Team in his age division.

Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support of the work at the school.

Kind regards

**Mr M. Cater**

**Headteacher**

**Wrotham School**

**END**





**Kind regards**

**Mr M. Cater  
Headteacher**



