

11th February 2022

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Dear Parent/Carer

Term 3 Newsletter

It has been a short but busy term at the school so just an appropriately short newsletter from me to keep you updated on the great stuff that has been going on at the school.

Sporting Success

We have had a bumper run of sporting events at the school since returning in January. The most prolific has been our numerous football fixtures and tournaments.

In January we hosted 2 local schools football tournaments for both boys and girls teams. The aim of the event was to give an opportunity for students across the local area to compete in friendly matches and gain the much needed experience of playing other schools/teams.

Our most significant success has been with our new year 7 team who, on the 17th January 2022, played in the Semi Final stage of the Maidstone Schools Premiership and managed to win both games. As a result, we have now progressed to the final which will take place at the Gallagher Stadium in Term 5. The team defeated both Cornwallis and Oakwood Park Grammar School. Oakwood are currently competing in national tournaments and the achievement to beat such a strong side cannot be overestimated. The boys showed incredible resilience to achieve a 1-0 victory.

They always work incredibly well as a team and communicate magnificently. The character and maturity shown by these students is something we are very proud of. They represent Wrotham with pride every time they wear the shirt. The team are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------|
| • Chase C (GK) | • Frankie W | • Harry S |
| • Benjamin W | • Korban E | • Ivan K |
| • Louie S | • Oliver G | • Harley G |
| • Rylee B | • Sam E | • Samuel M |
| • Blake L | • Logan J | |

**HIGH EXPECTATIONS
CHALLENGE
OPPORTUNITY**

wrothamschool.com

One of our parents wrote us the following message after the game:

"I had the pleasure to watch last night's game and the Wrotham School team has some fantastic talent but I think the big differentiator was the teamwork, commitment and great communication between the boys. You really have them playing as a team, the support they give each other and constant encouragement demonstrated a great team spirit. My child is having so much fun at Wrotham and being part of this team and all your classes is a huge factor in that so thanks. I hope the winning run continues but regardless of the result it's great to see the boys having so much fun and supporting one another".

6th Form/Pro Soccer



Congratulations to Bradley who has signed with League 2 Colchester United!

He is the 7th of our Pro-Soccer scholars who have become professional footballers whilst studying at Wrotham School Sixth Form. He has worked incredibly hard whilst balancing his training and fixture commitments with the demands of his studies and preparing for his exams this summer. Well done to Bradley and our PSA coaching team.

If you are in Year 11 and looking for a football academy place where you can study a huge range of A level courses, while getting professional quality coaching, just check out our dedicated 6th Form website for more information.

<https://wrothamschoolsixthform.wordpress.com/>

Recharge

On Wednesday 9th February 2022 we had a visit from the Recharge team. A team of professionals who work in schools to develop, confidence, resilience, teamwork with a focus on Physical and Mental Health. Over 120 KS3 students took part in the event and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity. This work is always important but is particularly vital following the disruption to young people's lives over the last 2 years. Below are some quotes from the participants;

'Miss, I didn't realise I could feel calm by just lying on the floor for five minutes and letting my breathing slow down. That felt really good.' Year 8.

'I think I need to believe in myself more. In the exercise session, I realised I could do a bit more than I thought I could.' Year 8.

'The most helpful thing today was learning to stop and think before I get into an argument with my brothers or my parents. From now on, I'll go for a run to calm down.' Year 7.

'I had a fantastic day, I love it – when are they coming back' Year 8.

Recharge will be returning to roll out more workshops with even more students over the course of the year.

Character Award

We are proud to announce that we have successfully been awarded the Character Kite mark by the Association of Character in Education (ACE) this was confirmed following a rigorous day of lesson observations, student voice and interviews from an inspection team. The team were so impressed with what they saw, what our students told them and the hard work by staff into developing character education at Wrotham School. We passed with flying colours.



School of
CHARACTER

Curriculum

I am sure many of you have experienced the painfully brief and vague conversations with your child when asking “what have you been doing at school today?” We have been working hard to find a way that we can help you with the full answer to that important question.

We have now published our full curriculum for every subject, including character/progress time, in an easy to read but detailed document. This is aimed at allowing anyone who is interested to see exactly what students are learning and when throughout their 5-7 years at the school.

We hope this is informative and interesting and will give you the tools you need to discuss your child's learning and have a more informed understanding of the curriculum when supporting your child.

All subjects full curriculum can be found here:
<https://www.wrothamschool.com/our-curriculum/>

Just click on each subject for a full map and description.

GCSE and A Level Exams and Preparation

As always, our primary focus in term 4 will be the work with our Year 11 and 13 exam classes in ensuring that they have the very best chances of success in their exams this summer. It has been a highly unsettled 2 years for these students and we continue to do everything we can to support them.

Since the start of the year after school/extended day sessions have been in place, half term revision sessions have already started and will now continue throughout the holiday period up until the exams in June.

If you have a child in these year groups and you have received an invite to these sessions please can you encourage them to join in and attend, these are vital to achieving the very best grades and opportunities in the future.

Initial results from the students PPE exams show they are already making very good progress and are set to achieve well this summer.

Attendance

Attendance to school remains the most important factor in ensuring pupils make progress, are safe and develop socially.

Since the pandemic we have seen huge disruption to attendance to school, none of us could do much about this and it is unfortunate. Much of this absence was and is due to Covid isolation measures and a surge in seasonal illness. However, we have also seen an increase in students being taken out of school for other reasons. These include family holidays, anxiety/mental health related issues or for other non-educational purposes.

I must make clear that we cannot and will not approve absence from school without genuine or appropriate reason to do so. We can confidently state that school is the safest and most productive place for young people to be as we emerge from the current situation.

Whilst it is easy to feel that when so many days have already been lost that another few won't matter, this can be a dangerous assumption. The school is not only a place to learn and achieve qualifications but it is a place where students socialise, learn valuable developmental skills and character traits such as confidence, empathy and kindness. If a child is not attending school then there is little we can do to help them and support this growth.

All too often we are seeing students that are reluctant to attend school being kept at home. Once this becomes a regular occurrence it often becomes a habit. Even if a child is anxious about school, not returning them to school will almost certainly make the anxiety worse in the long term.

We have a dedicated team of staff and a long list of external agencies that can support your child with attending school and anything that might be a barrier to them returning to normal. Just contact us and we will be happy to support you and your child.

We have clearly published term dates and holiday periods and insist that family holidays and events should be booked during this time. As per our previous communications, we are not able to approve this type of absence and fines will be issued by the local authority for repeated absence from school.

The school continue to provide online lessons and work for all students absent due to Covid-19. We are not able to provide work for unauthorised absences including term time holidays or family events.

I hope that our students are able to enjoy a restful and well-earned half term break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'M Cater', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Cater
Headteacher