

Newsletter – Term 6

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome to our summer newsletter where I like to share some of the amazing events at the school that have taken place in term 5 and 6.

As always, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your family for your incredible support for the work we do, wish you a restful and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Mr M. Cater – Headteacher

AQA Awards



As part of our inclusion programme we have introduced more opportunities for students to be rewarded for their work. “Yummy” is a programme that has been created and delivered by one of our Sports Coaches Ms Cullen. She has developed this Programme specifically to

help with empowerment and positivity. Students work over a period of weeks to complete an AQA Unit Award Scheme – 82861 – Dealing with Stress & Anxiety during the course.

Our first cohort have now completed their course and celebrated in our main hall at a certificate presentation event. These certificates are official exam board issue and can be used to build a portfolio of skills for CV's.

Wrotham Walk



On Wednesday 19/7/2023 over 600 students took part in our annual Wrotham Walk across the North Downs; walking through Wrotham Village all the way to Kemsing in an assortment of outfits inspired by our theme popular culture. Trekking through fields and woodland, we took a scenic stop at St Clere's Estate to enjoy a picnic. Our walk this year was to promote mindfulness and the importance of taking time out to enjoy the nature and surrounding countryside. All students demonstrated fantastic character and resilience in this whole school event walking 13.5 miles to raise funds for the Young Lives Foundation.

Maths Challenge

In April, nearly 60 Year 7s and Year 8s took part in the Junior Mathematical Challenge 2023. This competition was designed to be engaging and promote problem solving skills. Pupils were challenged with applying reasoning and stretching their critical thinking capacity – the questions are accessible, but are still challenging.

Pupils did really well in the challenge, particularly as the task took them out of their comfort zone both in terms of the setting (in the Hall under formal 'exam conditions'), and in terms of the types of questions asked. Three pupils (Lexi H in Year 8, Alex A and Daisy T in Year 7)

did particularly well and achieved silver awards, with a number of other pupils achieving bronze awards.

The Creative Arts Exhibition 2023



This was a celebration event showcasing the achievements and work from students in Art, Design & Technology, Hospitality & Catering and Photography. The works exhibited were produced by students in year 7 to year 13, demonstrating the creative skills of our students at Wrotham School. An amazing effort from all staff and students involved.

Below is a quote from one of many guests:

"I am absolutely blown away by the quality of what the students have produced! The work is amazing and they should all be so very, very proud of their achievements. Not forgetting the DT department too – a massive well done on the exhibition and to all those involved in supporting the students!"

Year 12 Criminology – Crime Scene in a shoe box



Our Year 12 Criminology group have completed 50% of their course and are moving on to the final two units of their qualification. Unit 3 looks at the 'Crime Scene to court Room' and students have been analysing the role of agencies such as the police, Crime Scene Investigators, Crown Prosecution Service, pathologists and forensics in the impact they have on case studies. They have looked at case studies such as Amanda Knox, Mike O'Leary, Rachel Nickell and Neil Metters. Students need to deep dive in to the crime scene and understand the consequences of the agencies failings. They have reconstructed crime scenes in shoe boxes to fully understand the impact of failed procedures. Some of the excellent work that was produced is below:

Year 11 BBQ – Friday 14th July



Our final farewell! Despite the weather, Year 11's had their last hurrah at the Year 11 BBQ on Friday 14th July. Students got to celebrate their year, get shirts signed, socialise with friends and say their final farewells to staff. We look forward to seeing most of our students back in September for Sixth Form and wish those who are moving on to new ventures the very best of luck. We will miss you all terribly.

Literacy - Creative English Homework – The Tempest



Students in year 8 have been studying “The Tempest” by William Shakespeare, as part of bringing the text to life they have been re-creating scenes from the play in their homework studies. This has yielded some incredible results with students picking apart key scenes and transcribing these to visual, 3D dioramas.

Wellbeing and Mental Health

We place mental health and wellbeing at the centre of our work with students and are very proud of the work we have done this year to enhance and grow our support for those students who need it most. The demand on this work has increased 10 fold in recent years and we continue to add to our offer. Below is a taste of this work.

If you feel your child would benefit from any of these services please contact your child's HOY or the MAC team to start the discussion and see what would be most appropriate to support them.

Students at school have benefitted from a range of interventions this year which have been delivered by the Well-being Team. We have continued to offer twice-weekly well-being clubs at lunchtime for lower and upper school. We have increased our capacity for delivering one-to-one talking therapies. Throughout the year we have offered psychotherapy and counselling with our School Psychotherapist, School Counsellor and Trainee Counsellors to students and staff who have been referred for support.

As well as talking therapies, we have also offered one-to-one and group mentoring for students via external partner agencies such as the Young Lives Foundation, Project Salus and Porchlight.

In addition to our planned interventions, the Well-being Team are also on hand throughout the year to offer unplanned support at times of crisis or when students are feeling overwhelmed.

This year we have continued to offer our Art Therapy Group in collaboration with the school art department offering students a calm and safe space to explore how art and creativity can support their mental health and well-being. We have also delivered additional group interventions around anxiety, healthy relationships and exam stress.

Feedback from students who have access support includes:

‘I can never thank you enough for your support throughout these last years. Your kindness has helped me throughout some difficult times.’

‘Without you I wouldn’t have made it through Year 11, let alone my GCSEs. Thank you so much’

‘You haven’t just helped me with my feelings but making me realise what I am good at and what I am capable of. Thank you for everything.’

‘Thank you so much for all you have done for me. I feel like I have changed and grown so much for the better and my confidence has soared.’

Year 12 Social Sciences - Visit to “The Clink”



As part of their studies, our Year 12 social science took a trip to the clink prison museum near London Bridge. As well as visiting the Victorian jail and museum to learn about how prisons and the justice system have evolved over time they also took part in a macabre Jack the Ripper tour.

Year 8 History Trip



The History Department has been delighted to host trips for four different year groups this year. In February, the Year 10s went to the Centre for Environmental and Military Archaeology, to take part in a day aimed at helping with their understanding of Western Front Medicine, for their GCSE. The students took part in two talks, one of the equipment used by a WW1 soldier, and the other on medicine. These talks used artefacts from the war to bring this to life, as well as student volunteers. The highlight was the exact replica trenches they have there, which the Y10s got to experience, after changing into their wellies! Year 7 went to Hampton Court Palace back in March, for the second year running. This was, once again, a hugely popular trip, in which students had the opportunity to tour Henry VIII's apartments, challenge themselves in the maze, all the while looking into whether Henry's choices were to do with power or pleasure. In March, the Year 9s also went on a trip, to the Imperial War Museum. On this trip, the students had the opportunity to look through the WW1 and WW2 exhibits, but the focus of the trip was on the Holocaust exhibit and learning sessions. Using interactive pads, in pairs, students were able to follow the lives of individuals throughout the Holocaust, and see how their lives changed over time. Finally, in June, Year 8 also went to the Centre for Environmental and Military Archaeology, experiencing the trench, along with an experience looking first at the home front of WW1, and then at the weapons from the front. All of these trips have really helped the students to bring what they learn in the classroom to life!

History Club



This year, the Wrotham School History Club has gone from strength to strength, as it becomes an increasingly popular club. We started the year with our annual History Exhibition, as the students planned, created and presented their own displays in the exhibition, attended by teachers and their peers. Their topics ranged from Dinosaurs, to Ghandi, to the 1980s, and they received glowing reviews from all that attended. We also hosted our annual Historical Banquet, and this year it was Tudor themed. The students enjoyed Tudor dancing, an Archery competition as well as the feast. Finally, we have ended the year by hosting our first, annual History Club Immersive Experience, led by 'the Past Presents' on the Mayans and Aztecs. The students had a fabulous day learning battle tactics, Mayan sports, writing their initials in Mayan letters and learning about human sacrifices. This was a fantastic way to end History Club's best year yet, and we look forward to the fun we will continue to have next year!

STEM



The Design & Technology department entered and took 12 students from year 8 and 9 to a STEM challenge event at the University of Greenwich. *The first ever STEM competition we've entered.*

There were four STEM challenges the students took part in:

The Robotics challenge - programming a robotic vehicle to travel along given paths.

The Vehicle challenge - to construct a battery powered vehicle to travel a distance in the shortest time.

The Diagnostic challenge - to use scientific knowledge and medical instruments to diagnose two patients.

The E-Fit challenge - to create an E-fit image of a suspect using a programme used by the police.

Students were made to work in mixed groups which included students from other schools. There were approximately eight other schools and 96 students altogether. Our students demonstrated excellent communication, creativity and teamwork skills throughout the whole day. The organisers were very impressed and commented on how well the students remembered and followed instructions.

We are happy to announce that we had the following winners.

ROBOTICS WINNERS: Riley P and Jean-L-S

OVERALL WINNERS: Gracie C and Zoe T who will now go on to the finals in London in January!

We came away with **5 trophies** altogether and all the students got a certificate each for their achievements.

A very successful day!

Maidstone Museum Design Challenge



This summer our talented Design and Technology students took part in the Maidstone Design Challenge.

They were required to design and make a product that can sell in the museum shop for less than £10. Their products must be sustainable and be able to be batch produced.

Along with making the products they also had to put together a set of slides to show and explain their design process.

Ellie H, Amelia G, Ruby F, ETTY W, Corey W, Max N, Ewan M

Their work has been submitted, now we just wait to see if any of them make it to the final where they pitch their product, Dragons Den style, to a group of judges. The winners get to have their products sold in the museum shop.

SPORTING SUCCESS

Daisy Lewis 6th Form - Sporting achievement June 2023

Daisy Lewis in year 12 has achieved incredible success in show jumping at an incredibly high level. Daisy has written the piece below about this success and experience.



I would like to share with you my greatest sporting achievement so far: I am a keen show jumper and was fortunate to be able to attend the Hickstead Show Jumping Derby Meeting in Sussex last week.

My horse 'Maserati T.V.', is a talented 6 year old gelding whom I have owned since he was nearly 4 years old. We have a good partnership, gaining jumping experience and trust in each other at the jumping shows which I attend all over the country most weekends. Maserati T.V. is extremely fit and needs plenty of exercise.

I competed in a couple of warm-up classes to acclimatise him to the busy surroundings and then on Wednesday, jumped him in the qualifier class for the Main International Arena on Thursday. There were 147 competitors chasing the 15 qualifying places, but 'Maserati T.V.' did not disappoint and gained a Double Clear Round in a fast time, which put us into first place. I was so happy since I had tried hard and really wanted to attempt the Hickstead Novice Championship on Thursday.

On Thursday I was sixth to go into the ring and it was if Maserati T.V knew we had to jump clear and fast. He flew around the huge grass arena, shying slightly at the flowers around the 16ft of open water jump, which – thank goodness – was not part of our course. We gained another Double Clear in a fast time to win this class too. I was proud of our round as the other competitors were all adults and mostly professional riders.

Maserati T.V won a lovely black and gold rug and the steward had to pin the Winners Sash onto my jacket as it was a little bit big for me! I cannot describe the feeling of pride when we did our lap of honour to the band music of 'Sussex by the Sea'. We cantered around the arena where the Al Shira'aa Jumping Derby was to be held on Sunday.

We had one more jumping class to jump on Saturday; it was the same height as the other competitions standing at 1:10cm over 15 jumps. Maserati T.V. was 21st to jump in this one and again was accurate and fast. We had a long wait until the finish of the competition as there were 97 riders entered. When the scores were called out on the public address, we knew we had won again this time by over 5 seconds. We both slept well Sunday night!

I came back to school happy and still could not believe that I had won all three competitions at such a prestigious horse show riding my Maserati T.V. I had never won a Hickstead Rug before so I was over the moon to have been lucky enough to win three runs in 4 days' jumping at Hickstead. I hope to be able to attend The Royal International Show at Hickstead at the end of July and have also been selected to jump for Kent at the Nationals in August.

By Daisy Lewis.

OTHER SPORTS NEWS

It has been another incredible term for Sport at Wrotham School. So much so that it is likely the PE and Sport Department will need their own newsletter next year just to cover the vast range of success and achievements in a variety of sports.

Football:

Our football season concluded with 3 incredible finals at The Gallagher Stadium in Maidstone. Both our Year 7 and 8 Boys and Girls teams made it to the final of the Maidstone Schools Football Premiership – the highest tier of football in the local area. Regardless of the results, the character shown by all of our Students was fantastic and they represented the school with pride. =

Our Year 8 boys' team finished as runners up but our Year 7 Boys and Year 8 Girls managed to defeat Cornwallis and Maidstone Girls Grammar School respectively.

Athletics:

Students from Year 7-10 have been representing the school in local Athletics tournaments recently. Once again the character shown by our students whilst on these events has been fantastic. They competed brilliantly on each occasion, we now look forward to taking part in the finals day next week.

Cricket:

A combined Year 7 and 8 team represented Wrotham in the Maidstone Schools soft ball cricket tournament. It was a great experience for the students, many of whom had never represented the school in a sports fixture before. It was also the first time Wrotham have competed in a cricket tournament for at least 5 years. We managed to finish 2nd overall.

UCFB Sport Visitor – Jason Thomas



Jason came into school on **Friday 2nd December** to deliver a talk to Year 9 (whole year group), Year 10 and Year 12 Sport students. Jason spoke confidently to all students about employability skills, character traits and career opportunities in Sport. Students demonstrated excellent open-mindedness and respect throughout with some asking great questions to further their knowledge and understanding. Jason spoke about his own background and how he started out in the Sport Sector which really engaged the students throughout and left students thinking about various higher education pathways in Sport. Students went away with information booklets with sport specific careers to consider and look into.

Peter Pan – Casting and Rehearsal

Auditions and rehearsals are already underway for our Christmas production of Peter Pan! We have cast the main roles earlier this year to give our performers extra time to craft and develop their characters for what is set to be one of the most ambitious performances that Wrotham School has ever created! We can't wait to share more details with you in September, so watch this space!

Year 7 Camping



This year we hosted our 10th Year 7 camping evening on our back field with over 150 students. The students enjoyed a range of experiences including shelter building, rounders, fire lighting and bug eating. The evening was rounded off with a ghost story and sing song around a campfire and students cooked their won breakfast the next morning. No sleep was had by anyone, but the students had a great time by all accounts.

SPORTS DAY



On 17/7 and 18/7 we hosted our annual sports day event. Students competed in houses in a variety of traditional and non-traditional sporting events over the course of a morning and an afternoon. Despite weather interrupting play on the first day, students resumed their final races and events on the following day scoring valuable points and trophies for their houses.

CAREERS

As you will know we have had a significant drive this year on our careers work at the school. Our aim is to offer a first class range of opportunities for students to engage with and develop their careers at all stages of their school experience. Below are some examples of this that have taken place in terms 5 and 6.

Year 7 – MEP Engineering Project

In term 6, Year 7 were set a challenge by MEP – an engineering company who are based in Aylesford and work in space, aerospace, defence and medical engineering. As a local employer who offers apprenticeships up to degree level, they were keen to get involved with inspiring our younger students and setting them a challenge that would help them get a better understanding of the nature of engineering.

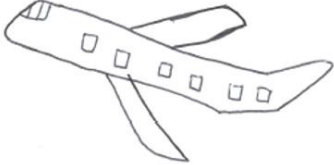
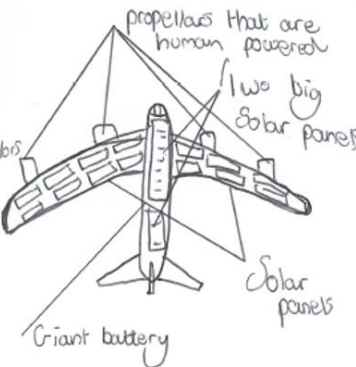
We'd like to thank Owen and Colin for setting the challenge, presenting it in assembly, judging the entries and coming back in to present the prizes. Students had a fantastic opportunity to get a better understanding of the creative and problem-solving nature of engineering, having to design air travel that doesn't rely on jet-fuel. There were some fantastic ideas so well done to everyone who took part – the finalists were selected by student vote and then the final winners were judged by engineers at MEP.

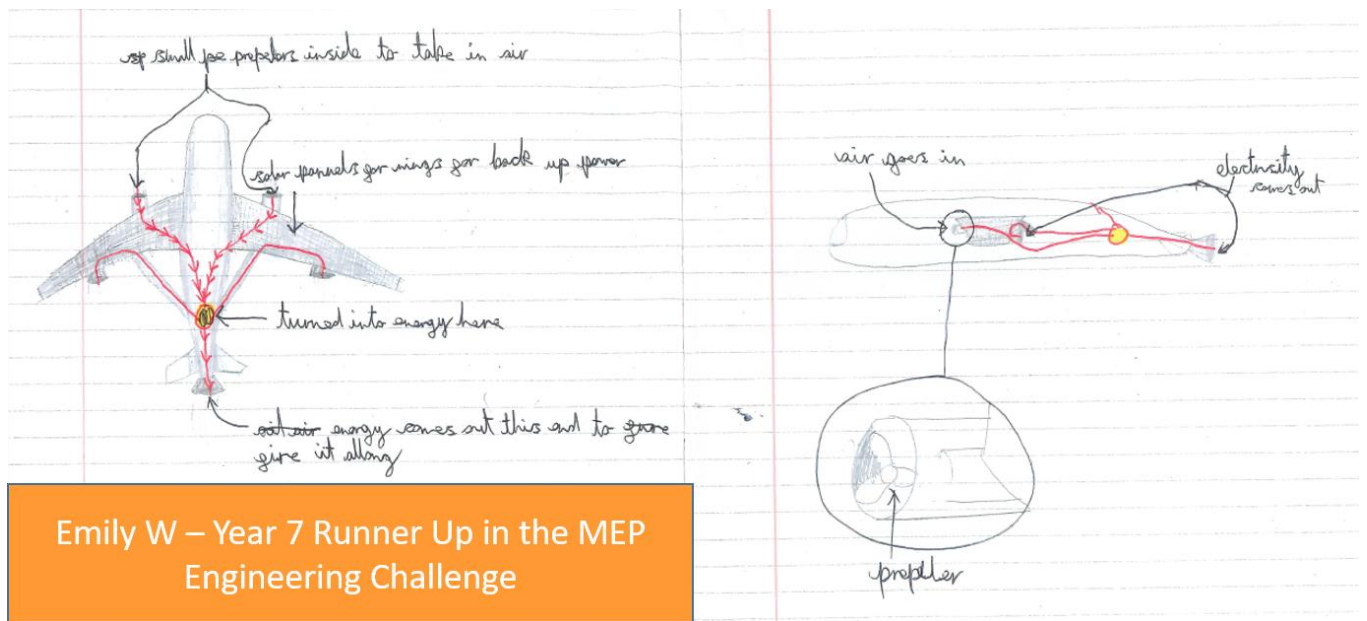
Finalists: AJ S, Archie B, Corey W, Daisy R, Emily W, Freya W, George S, Harrison W, Henry A, Jack N, James A, James R, Jaylee J, Luc D, Poppy L, Reuben H, and Scott S.

George S was the **overall winner** and won a Lego Technic Firefighter Aircraft Set.

Emily W was a very close **runner up** and won a £10 Amazon voucher.

Mrs Hollinshead – Careers Leader

<h1 style="font-family: cursive;">FUTURE PLANE</h1>	<p>George S – Year 7 Winner of the MEP Engineering Challenge</p>
<p>Global warming is increasing and harming our environment, so surely soon we need to come up with a way to power our aircraft without using jetfuel.</p>	
<p>Human-powered power^{option} - In every portwell there is a set of pedals and if you pedal for the whole plane journey (under 3 hour flight) you get 60% of your money back. This helps power the plane instead of using up all the solar energy which can be used for future flights.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Solar Power</u></p>	<p>By using solar power to fuel an aircraft may^{so} could be our future idea. I came up with the idea of adding solar panels to the exterior of the plane so it^{it} can use the sunlight to power the aircraft from one place to another.</p>

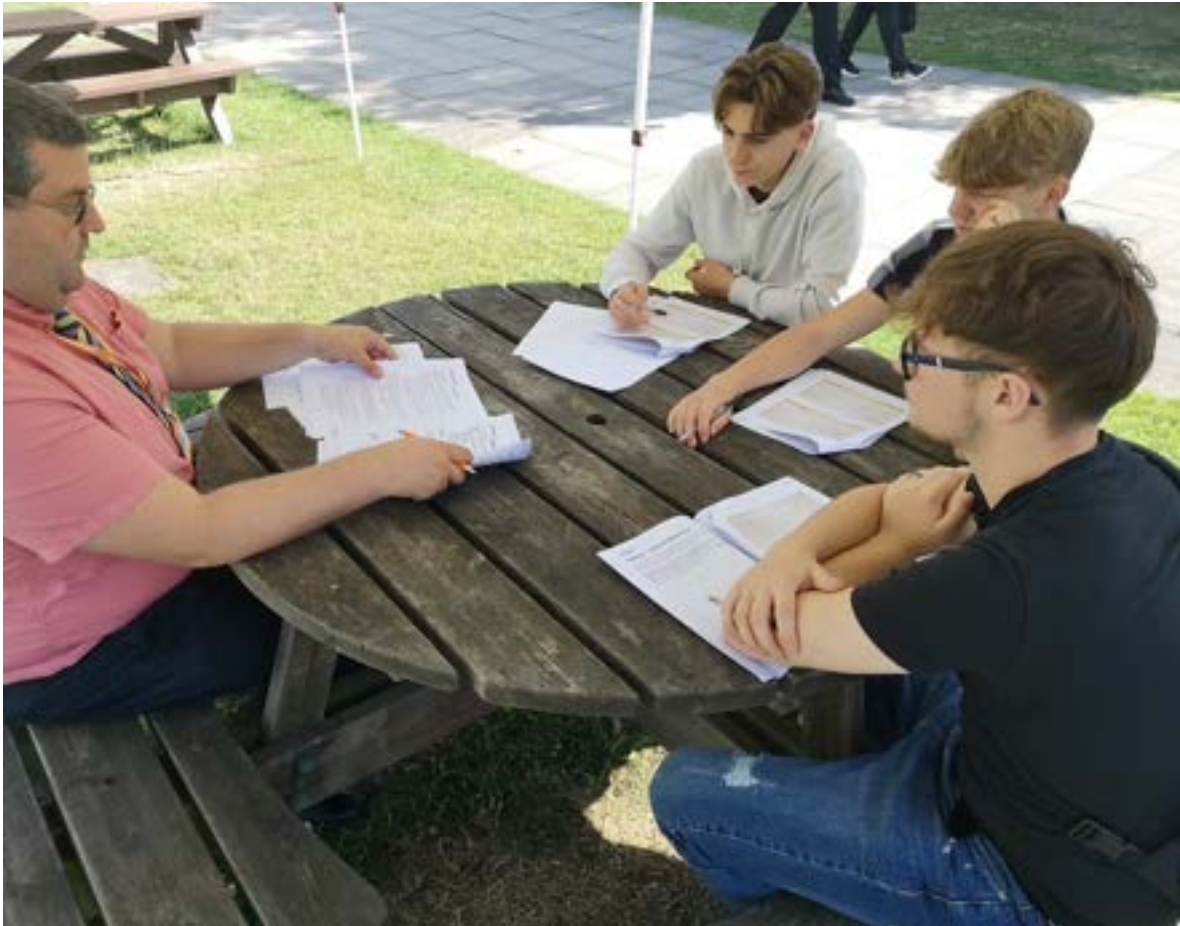


Emily W – Year 7 Runner Up in the MEP Engineering Challenge

Year 12 Work Experience Week

It was quieter around school in the week from 3rd-7th July because Year 12 had their Work Experience Week – the majority of them were out on placements near and far, and we had a group of students in school who completed various challenges to improve their employability skills and work on a local employer’s project. Two people even managed to squeeze in an open day at the University of Cambridge – it was definitely a busy week for them!

Those who were out for the week went to a variety of placements, which included hospitals, water sports centres, wealth management companies, schools and nurseries, construction firms, air fields, Ferrari sales centres, consultant firms, retail and hospitality settings and so much more. We had over 80 different employers support our students and we’d like to extend our gratitude for the opportunity that they gave to our students. One aspect of the work experience programme that we are very proud of is that the students are responsible for sourcing their own placement, contacting employers and applying themselves. This simply would not be possible without the help of the sixth form team (especially Mrs Cheval) and the connections, advice and time of the families of our students. It’s a huge team effort and a great example of what young people can do when their whole network supports them – at school and at home. Thank you.



Year 12 students finding out about the different routes into accounting from our Director of Finance, Mr Newman – this was before some of them then went to see Chancery Mortgage Services.

Those in school had a full week of activities – they worked on understanding what a professional network is, how to nurture it and why it is useful. They even had their first set of conversations where the sole purpose was exploring networks with the help of a set of staff volunteers. As well as undertaking virtual work experience in areas ranging from the British Library, to solicitors, to sustainable careers and to psychology (to name a few), they also went out and had shorter visits to local employers, so also had a physical work experience. We would like to specifically thank Borough Green Library, Chancery Mortgage Services, Unicom, Sears Funerals, and the Woodland Chiropractic Clinic, and our Director of Finance Mr Newman, for their generosity with their time, advice and expertise.

Work Shadowing Day – Years 8-10

On Friday 14th July, we had a HUGE number of students out of school on work shadowing placements with members of their family – it was the largest uptake we've ever had and we couldn't be more excited by that. They're out shadowing people in school and nursery settings, cafés and restaurants, construction companies, theatres, salons, accounting and finance companies, working with IT consultants, in marketing, engineering and so much more that it's impossible to list them all here. We even had one person shadowing with the Ministry of Defence!



We can't wait to hear from students (and their families) what they got up to and how they had this amazing opportunity to develop their character in new ways. If you have any photos or stories you'd like us to celebrate, please email ahollinshead@wrotham.kent.sch.uk and copy in their head of year.

Sixth Form Induction Day



On Tuesday 6th July, we welcomed a large number of our prospective sixth form students to our induction day. We had a full timetable ready for them, with information events, individual meetings about subject choices, taster sessions and team-building activities. It was fantastic to see so many new faces with an increasing number of applicants from other schools joining us every year.

A huge thank you to all of the staff involved in delivering such challenging lessons, giving the visitors a real taste of what sixth form learning is like – a very important part of helping them to make informed decisions. Some of the activities included:

English students comparing poems and then writing their own to show their learning

Product Design students taking on an employers' challenge and going through the full design process under strict time constraints

Biology students taking part in a dissection

Psychology students pulling case studies apart to get a greater understanding of ethical experiments

And so much more!

It was wonderful to see how involved and engaged the students were – they were definitely up for the challenge and we are so excited that they are choosing to continue their studies at Wrotham School's sixth form.

Mrs Hollinshead – Careers Leader

Yr. 13 Leaving Party



Yr. 13's enjoyed a lovely end of year party at The Moat in Wrotham where they celebrated all their hard work. Lots of students are leaving us to go off to University in September, jobs and apprenticeships. We await their final results in August, but we are very proud of their success. We would like to wish them the very best of luck with their next steps.

Year 11 Prom – Wednesday 5th July



On Wednesday 5th July, Year 11 celebrated the end of their GCSE's and potentially the end of their time at Wrotham School at the Year 11 Prom. The Moat was decorated beautifully, students were very well dressed for the occasion and the DJ had the best playlist to make sure the best time was had by all. A three course meal was served and Year awards were given out and celebrated. The students were an excellent representation of Wrotham School and we were incredibly proud of them all. We thank all Year 11's and their families for their hard work, cooperation and determination this year. They have served themselves very well and we wish them all the luck in the future.

Sixth Form Open Events

Even though our year 10 students have barely finished their first year of GCSE study it is already time to be thinking about next steps following the final exams next summer. There is a huge range of support for students who are considering their next steps and for many of our students this will be about preparing to join our thriving sixth form.

Our open events start next term and due to very high demand require booking in advance. You can do this by following the link or scanning the QR code below.

<https://WS-Sixth-Form-Open-Evening-051023.eventbrite.co.uk?aff=oddtcreator>



The Summer Break

We would like to wish everyone in our school community and relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Good luck to those collecting results and welcome to those preparing to join us in September.

Communication and Key Dates

The school is fully closed during the school break and staff will not be available on-site or by email/ phone except at key times as we approach the return to school and on exam days.

The leadership team and I will be available from **28/8/2023** to answer urgent email communications.

If you have a safeguarding concern for a child to report, you can use the following website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/protecting-children>

Please find attached a list of mental health information and support services which may be helpful over the summer break.

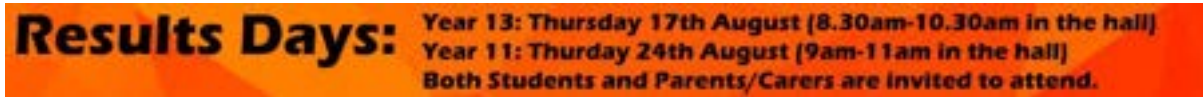
There are also some resources for young people to use to support their self-care over the holidays:

Self-care for Secondary School Students

<https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/resources/my-self-care-plan-secondary/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/self-care-support-over-the-summer-holidays/>

Results Days



TERM DATES FOR 2023/2024

<https://www.wrothamschool.com/term-dates-2023-2024/>

New Year 7 and 12 students start back on **4/9/2023** and **ALL students** return in full, from **5/9/2023**.

Have a great summer!

Kind regards

Mr M. Cater

Headteacher