

WEST KIRBY SCHOOL

A DAY AND RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

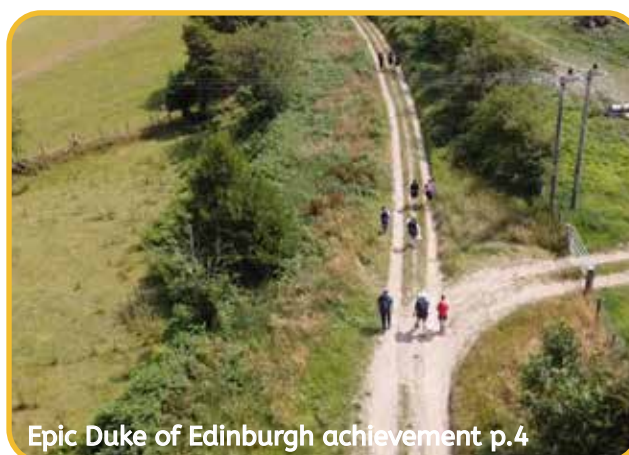
West Kirby News

Summer 2022

Welcome to our celebration of summer term



Enterprise Market p.3



Epic Duke of Edinburgh achievement p.4



Post 16 & Year 11 activities



Primary visit Chinatown p.12



Meet the new additions in Animal Care p.15



Work experience week p.8



Message from our Principal, Miss Thomas

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the end of another busy year, we celebrate a number of fantastic achievements by our young people.

Pupils in KS4 and KS5 completed their Duke of Edinburgh Award assessed expedition. Everybody showed teamwork, determination and resilience and we are hugely proud of them.

All pupils participated in another Enterprise Market, which went exceptionally well. Year 11 and Post 16 pupils excelled in their work experience placements. We received amazing feedback from a number of placements including Tam O'Shanter's Farm.

Our Year 6 pupils have been excellent ambassadors for our school. Even when the going was tough, the team pulled together through some challenging times.

Many of our pupils have engaged with our new animal residents at school. Find out more about them on page 15.

In conclusion, this year has been busy, fun packed and 'Outstanding'!

Thank you to all the parents and carers for their support over the last year. We look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Kind regards

Miss Thomas

Principal

N.B. The slow cooker project will continue after the holiday. If any parents/carers would like to apply for the gift of a slow cooker and meal bags, please let your child's class teacher know.

Enterprise Market

A huge well done to all of our pupils for a fantastic summer Enterprise Market and thanks to so many parents and carers for coming along to support us.

With participation across Primary, Secondary and Post 16, we're sure you'll agree it was a positive, welcoming atmosphere with lots of creative and fun ideas.

Enterprise encourages teamwork within the class with opportunities for pupils to play different roles in their team. We're delighted to see so many pupils involved on the day and it's become one of the highlights of the school calendar.



Duke of Edinburgh Award update



WKS DofE

@WestKirbySchool #wksdofe

At long last after a three year delay we are able to report on expeditions.

Our Bronze teams completed a two day practice expedition in and around the Delamere area towards the end of June. They they had a mixed bag of weather, but took the opportunity to show off both their navigation and campcraft skills.

More recently the pupils successfully completed the two day assessed expedition in the Clwydian range, during the unprecedented conditions of the heatwave!

The leaders were blown away by the effort and determination of the teams. The key was to keep hydrated and as cool as possible; with early morning starts, using wet drapes around the back of necks and finding shade wherever possible. Sleeping at night was tough, with no breeze on site and the temperature not really dipping.

The early morning start meant the teams had completed over half of the second day & the walk before a normal school day had actually started. Morale was good throughout the expedition, all worked together and supported each other bringing teamwork to a new level. I'm sure the leaders nagging about drinking more and keeping hydrated will be an echo in their ears for months to come!

Congratulations to you all, your achievement was amazing. We are all very proud of you.

Keep up the hard work you're doing a great job!

From your DofE Staff Team

Mrs Draycott, Miss Killey, Mr Davies,
Mr Cox & Mr Scullion





'I'm proud and think I could do it again' LG

'Tiring but worth it' KM

'I hated it, but I got through it' KP

'The hills were worth the views' AM

'Didn't like the hills but worth it in the end' HW



Thanks to everyone who continues to support our pupils
Please follow us on twitter to keep up with our adventures
@WestKirbySchool #wksdofe

2022 WKS Leavers

"BE BOLD ENOUGH TO USE YOUR VOICE, BRAVE ENOUGH TO LISTEN TO YOUR HEART AND LIVE THE LIFE YOU ALWAYS IMAGINED AND DESERVE " MRS SHALLCROSS, CAREER PATHWAYS

"OUR FAMILY IS GOING TO LOSE ITS SENSE OF HUMOUR AND ITS HEART BEAT. FAREWELL TO ALL OF YOU THAT MADE EVERYDAY DIFFERENT. WE WILL MISS YOU ALL." MR MUSGRAVE

"GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK WISHING YOU WELL ON YOUR FUTURE PATHWAY, YOU'VE GOT THIS!" MR HULME

"GOODBYE, GOOD LUCK AND I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU! " MRS VINE

"I'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN BEING YOUR TEACHER, MENTOR AND SECOND FAMILY THIS YEAR! ALL THE BEST FOR YOUR FUTURE" - MISS MILLINGTON



GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!!

A fond farewell to all of our leavers. We wish you the best of luck for your future beyond West Kirby School.

LEAVERS OF 2022

ALEX - AIDEN - ARCHIE - BEN - BRANDON - DANIEL - HENRY - JACK - JOE
KIAN - KYLE - LEON - LUTFIL - OSCAR - OWEN - RYAN - SCOTT - TOM

“ 2022 was an epic year for pupils transitioning from WKS. We had 18 young people preparing to leave.

There has been a high number of unexpected events that pupils, parents and WKS staff have experienced, with sudden curveballs and barriers that landed at our door. We have dodged, overcome, stood fast and persevered. Our pupils, parents and staff have shown how to stand together to support each other through this transitioning year.

We understand that transition is difficult, however, we wish these amazing young people well on their next step on their journeys.

Each and every one of these young people worked hard, faced the barriers of transition and are looking at bright futures ahead of them.

Huge thanks to all of the following colleges and supported internship providers that have supported WKS.

”

Mrs Helen Shallcross
Career Pathways



Wirral
Metropolitan
College



Derwen College
Where Learning Comes to Life



Cheshire College
South & West



The City
of Liverpool
College



Strathmore
College

Arden
College



Considering your transition or future options?

Please contact Helen Shallcross, WKS Career Pathways Officer on 0151 632 3201 or email hshallcross@wkrs.co.uk

Work experience 2022

Pupils in Year 11 and Post 16 had a successful work placement at the end of term.

One of the benefits of work experience for young people is that they gain practical knowledge and the skills of a workplace environment, and an insight of the world of work. It provides our students with the opportunity to apply soft skills which they have learnt at WKS. All those lessons in PSHEE, Lifeskills, SaLT and OT have provided our pupils with the strategies and soft skills that are demanded in the world of work.

Participating in work experience is always worthwhile. Whatever pupils try, they learn about themselves and working life. It is another step on their future pathway.

As always, we could not have been more proud of our wonderful Year 11s and Post 16 students. They were fantastic!

Altogether our students provided employers with 292 hours of effort, which



equates to eight and half weeks of work.

Finding the right placement that meets requirements and our pupils' needs can be a challenge.

Can you offer a placement for our pupils in summer 2023?

*If so please get in touch with
Mrs Shallcross hshallcross@wkrs.co.uk
or Ms Roberts sroberts@wkrs.co.uk*

Thank you



The work placements were a fantastic achievement for our students, here are some of the tasks they carried out:

- Worked with snakes and reptiles
- Researched websites
- Painted
- Watered and fed animals
- Served food
- Served in the shop
- Handled cash
- Cleared tables
- Planted shrubs and plants
- Litter picked
- Groomed animals
- Weeded and weeded some more
- Worked as team
- Adhered to health and safety protocols
- Interacted with and helped the general public
- Saved pupils from an angry ram (thank you Oscar!)



"We would like to say a huge thank you to the employers, staff and volunteers at Tam O'Shanter, Scenegraphics Ltd and World of Exotics. You supported, guided and laughed with our students through an amazing couple of weeks." Mrs Shallcross

**THANK
YOU!**

Year 11 achievements & adventures

We're very proud of all our pupils who took GCSE's and exams this year. Big well done to our Year 11s who showed amazing resilience during their exam period. You were outstanding!

Our Year 11s had a much deserved few weeks of adventure and alternative learning after their exams.

From STEM activities, a special picnic lunch, external visitors, trips to the beach, day trip to Liverpool, a WKS Bake Off, to a fun outdoor activity week and finally transition week.

Work experience

Our Year 11s spent a week doing work experience with a variety of different local employers. See page 8 to find out more.

Outdoor activity week

Our young people let their hair down after their work experience, with an outdoor pursuits week, including Wildshore Delamere, Breakout Rooms and and trip to the beach.



Finally, for our pupils moving up to Post 16 and onward to college, they had taster sessions in their new classes and colleges.

For some, this was their final few weeks at WKS before moving on to college - we hope it was memorable!

Well done to you all on a fantastic few weeks!



News from our residential provision

Hello to everyone and welcome to the residential news

It's been a busy and enjoyable summer term for our residents. We've enjoyed welcoming visitors to the house; residents also continue to develop their life & social skills and have worked on charity projects linked to school.

Two of our residents have moved on from our house this summer; Aiden from Post 16 and Henry from Year 11 who are both moving to college for September.

Both boys are sad to be leaving but are excited to be moving onwards, to make new friends and have new challenges. The Greasby team will miss them as they have many fond memories of the two boys over the years and have enjoyed working with them and getting to know them.

From all the Greasby staff.....

"Aiden and Henry - we could not be more proud of you both, for all that you have accomplished in your time with us and in your studies at school. It has been a pleasure seeing you grow. We wish you all the best for the future."

Good Luck!

"Henry, we are all going to miss you so much. I wish you a very happy future and hope that you enjoy life at your new placement." Best wishes from "The Old Hippy"

"Wishing you all the very best for the future Aiden. We hope that you enjoy your new college."



Primary department update

Our growing Primary department had a busy summer term.

Both Pathfinders and Adventurers enjoyed cultural visits and adventure activities, including a trip to Chester Zoo, a book shop in Liverpool, Barnstondale adventure centre, Royden Park outdoor pursuits and well being activities.

One highlight was our trip to a restaurant in Liverpool's Chinatown, a new experience for many.

"Pinch me, I must be dreaming!"



Mini Police Project

During summer term our Primary department completed a six week British Transport Police 'Mini Police Project'. A big thanks to the Police involved for working with us what was a pilot project for themselves.

Pupils had a signing in ceremony and were very excited to receive their uniform and badges. Then followed with workshop sessions on many more serious aspects of policing including rail safety, knife crime and discussions about assault and consequences.



The final day gave the pupils the opportunity to re-create a riot situation and even arrest their teachers for possession of (imaginary) illegal objects!

Fantastic to see so many parents and carers joining us for the final passing out parade.



Year 6 Movers celebrations

Our Year 6 pupils and parents joined us for our Movers' Assembly at the end of summer term - an important part of the transition to Year 7 and joining the Secondary school at WKS.

The assembly celebrated their time in Primary, looking at the year's fantastic learning and exciting activities. Afterwards parents had a chance to look through their books, whilst pupils were able to try on Year 7 uniform and to meet the new Year 7 teachers.

Good luck to you all for your move up to Year 7!



RNLI Mayday Mile welly throwing!

Thanks to Mrs Clemenson, Mr Jones and our parents' donations, we raised £98 for RNLI with our welly throwing competition!



Engage in their future award winners

We're really proud of our pupils who won places in the Engage in their future awards 2022 and were invited to the awards ceremony.

Bronze - Team of The Year
Corey, Joe and Myla

Bronze - Innovation and Creativity Award
Kyle

Bronze - Good Citizen Award
Harvey



Engage in their future is an organisation that partners with schools to improve life chances for children experiencing Social, Emotional and Mental Health challenges.

www.engageintheirfuture.org



Development projects in school

We have some very exciting new developments well underway to improve our school environment and develop resources in place to support our diverse and exciting curriculum.

“Leaders have given much thought to developing a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum; thought very carefully about the strengths and interests of pupils; they offer courses and subjects suit pupils well. They have introduced Animal Husbandry and BTEC Sports Science.” Ofsted 2021

The School Bakery is a unique life skills enterprise linked to Post 16 BTEC catering.

It brings together meaningful learning, a bakery/cafe and our school community. We look forward to opening and welcoming parents and carers in.



We're extending our learning environment with an outdoor classroom.

Based within our Horticulture and Animal Care areas this is a quiet learning space away from the main school. This supports the BTEC Animal Care and Horticulture qualifications, as well as an additional informal learning space which benefits many of the pupils.



Building on the success of our Animal Care department, the newest development for autumn term will be a Rabbitry.

This allows for more 'small mammals' to support the BTEC Animal Care curriculum. This will be in the Horticulture area near to the chicken coop.

We're renovating our sports hall space to incorporate an up-to-date fitness suite, dance studio and refurbished shower and toilet facilities.

This supports the development of vocational and practical areas of the curriculum, such as BTEC Sports Science; along with wellbeing, health and fitness opportunities for the pupils. The improvements will also benefit the community hire facilities of the MUGA and sports hall.



Animal Care update

Our Animal Care department is a great success and continues to grow.

New animal introductions

Our most recent animals to join our mini zoo are our hedgehog, snake and guinea pigs.

Meet Mr Knuckles

An African pygmy hedgehog, Mr Knuckles enjoys staying cosy. He has a bonding team set up for him to help him settle in and loves being in his cosy bag or house.

Rescue guinea pigs

Joining our guinea pig family are some rescues. We've already seen how well they are doing and pupils are helping them settle in. Watch this space for names!

Corn snake - Zeus

An addition to our reptile family, Zeus is a friendly corn snake; she has the most beautiful colourings.



New animal enclosures

Big thanks to our maintenance team members Les and Ste, who made beautiful, bespoke enclosures for our tortoise and bearded dragon.



Parent and Carer Coffee mornings

In summer term we were pleased to welcome parents and carers into school for our termly WKS Coffee Morning.

Guest speakers - Career Pathways

Our Career Pathways team, Helen Shallcross and Barry Thomas, joined parents and carers as guest speakers. They shared valuable information about future pathways for WKS pupils and had an open question and answer session and 1:1s.

Look out for the autumn term Coffee Morning dates



Community SEND training

Our series of summer term community SEND training sessions with Dr Ze'ev Levita, Clinical Psychologist were well attended and received; covering topics including Autism, ADHD and Positive Psychology.

We welcomed local primary, secondary and special schools, also community groups and services supporting children with special educational needs and disabilities. Here's some of the feedback:

"The courses are invaluable as they have allowed me to cascade the information back to colleagues."

"Personally, my practice has changed as a result of the training"

"I appreciate the wide range of courses available"

"Thank you so much for such an amazing opportunity"



Keep in touch!

Keep in touch with school news and updates. Download the school App 'School News' and follow us on social media



West Kirby School and College

Meols Drive, West Kirby, Wirral, CH48 5DH Tel: 0151 632 3201 Email: schooloffice@wkrs.co.uk

Twitter @westkirbyschool Facebook [westkirbyschoolandcollege](https://www.facebook.com/westkirbyschoolandcollege) www.wkrs.co.uk



2021-2024

2022-2023