

WEST KIRBY SCHOOL

A DAY AND RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

West Kirby News

News & achievements from summer term 2023

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Message from our Principal, Miss Thomas



Dear Reader,

As we draw to the end of another school year, we yet again celebrate our pupils' fantastic achievements.

First of all, as special mention for the Geography Department, Mr Cox, Miss Allison (and SLT support, Mr Hulme), who took a number of pupils on a Geography residential this term. The pupils were a real pleasure to work with, their behaviour and comportment was exemplary and they made great progress with their learning through fieldwork. Well done to all.

Last week also saw pupils taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver trip. After dodging a huge downpour on Wednesday morning, they worked effectively as a team to undertake a tough walk as part of the award. Pupils and staff kept each other in good spirits through team work and mutual support - staff were really proud of our young people. We haven't been able to have many residential trips over the last few years, yet pupils behaved immaculately on both trips and worked together really effectively. They deserve to be proud of themselves.

We held our bi-yearly Enterprise Market, which saw our pupils making and selling a number of good quality products. The money raised by pupils goes to be spent by each class on activities and treats which they negotiate together. This enables them to see a concrete outcome from their enterprising work and supports team work within classes. Thank you to all parents, carers, families, friends and stakeholders who supported us, and to Mr Saunders who organised the event. Enterprise items are now available in the School Bakery.

Y11 have taken part in STEM and work experience weeks, as part of their end of term activities. We have had really positive reports from our work experience partners and from links such as Liverpool University, where a number of older pupils went for a taster visit. Most pupils on this trip behaved in a mature manner which befitted their age and capabilities and were a credit to the School.

As ever at this time of year, we bid farewell to a number of pupils who are moving on to pastures new. We always welcome ex-pupils back for visits, as we love to hear about their achievements in the 'real' world. Pupils often come to see us during Enterprise events or in The School Bakery and we look forward to catching up.

As ever we thank our friends and stakeholders who support us throughout the year. We are also fortunate in having links with local businesses, who are generous in their support of the work we undertake with pupils and we always appreciate this. Finally, a big THANK YOU to parents and carers who work with us on a day to day basis. We look forward to welcoming your children back in the new academic year.

Kind regards

Sian Thomas
Principal

Blue Light Day

In June we held a 'Blue Light Day'; a fantastic interactive and hands-on event joined by all our local emergency services. Led by Mr Evans, Mrs Shallcross & Mr Gill.

The aim was to support positive relationships with emergency services in the community for pupils and explore future career pathways; it achieved this through face to face employer encounters and the chance to ask questions and find out more.

We extend an enormous thank you to

- North West Ambulance
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Coastguard Rescue Team
- Merseyside Fire Brigade

A big thank you to Mrs Shallcross and Mr Evans for organising the day.



"I really like seeing all the people. I liked all their equipment and it was very kind that they let me have a go of it all. My favourite was the vehicles, it was the best day in school ever." Yr8 Pupil



Year 11 activity weeks

Firstly, a huge well done to our Year 11 for completing their exams in May and June. We saw so many pupils sit GCSE's and BTEC qualifications and were so proud of them, especially given the unprecedented hot weather. Since finishing, they have had a variety of off-timetable activity weeks which also help prepare for the future.

World of work and future pathways week

During the World of Work and Future Pathways week our Year 11 pupils completed work experience across a variety of employers.

Thank you to the employers:

- Homebaked Bakery
- Tam O'Shanter's Farm
- Fallen Industries
- Off the Rocks Cycles

Year 11s and Post 16 also attended the University of Liverpool open event, which gave them the opportunity to explore the thriving three campuses, meet with the teaching staff & students, check out the state of the art facilities and get a taster of life at Uni.



Year 11 STEAM week

In STEAM week pupils explored technologies and got creative outside of their usual subjects. Sessions included recreating famous film posters, a visit from Bloodhound Science and bottle rockets design and launch.

Outdoor pursuits week

To end their time in Year 11 they have a much deserved outdoor pursuits activity week. Activities include Manley Mere, Formby beach, ZipWorld, Escape Rooms, Wildshore Delamere, Chester Zoo, Cafe cafe, Junk Yard Golf and bowling & cinema. We hope they have some fun!



Welcome to our Residential news update

Hello to everyone and welcome to the residential department news. Here's their update for you...

It's been a fun time in residential this term, as well as working hard on our ASDAN Award 'Towards Independence' modules.

We have a new outdoor table tennis table in the garden, we've all had fun using, as well as the trampoline and other garden games.

We've certainly been getting out and about now that the weather is so nice and the evenings are lighter and longer. We've been to see Antony Gormley's, Another Place in Crosby, had a picnic and fed the birds too. One evening we decided to catch the ferry over to Liverpool. We looked at the cruise ships and then had a walk along the Pier Head then finished off with a nice ice-cream.

Residents have liked Northgate Arena, the pool there has a water fume which we all enjoyed zooming down. Bowling was a blast too. We all managed to score at least one strike.

Residential Care Team



Residential team raise £120 for WaterAid



Our residential team completed a sponsored walk to help the school to raise money for WaterAid, one of our nominated charities. This supported the staff charity triathlon event.

They walked to the smallest of the Hilbre Islands after school. With the generous support of our families and staff they raised a fantastic £120.



WKS Eurovision style Talent

This year we had a Eurovision theme to our traditional end of year Talent Show.

Each class represented a country and we saw some brilliant international themed table decorations and outfits. Our Primary staff and pupil team won the prize for best dressed!

With live and pre-recorded performance options, it gave all pupils the opportunity to get involved in their own way. We saw some real talent from pupils throughout the school, from solo vocals, guitar & ukelele to gymnastics; the finale a staff performance.

It was a real positive supportive atmosphere and we were proud of how many pupils were involved in the performances and engaged for the event.



EURO♥**VISION**
SONG CONTEST



Enterprise Market



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

With so much participation across Primary, Secondary and Post 16, we're sure you'll agree it was a positive, welcoming atmosphere and with even more creative and well crafted products than ever.

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.

We were pleased to welcome visitors into The School Bakery for refreshments too; well done to the pupils who helped.



Duke of Edinburgh Award update



The Duke of Edinburgh Award is offered to our Year 10s, 11s and Post 16. As a licensed hub, DofE is delivered by our own experienced and dedicated staff.

We're very proud of our DofE Silver team this term. They completed a 3 days Silver expedition practice in April and in July completed their final expedition in the Clwydian Range.

Pupils dealt with unseasonable weather covering a distance of approximately 34km over the 3 days, navigating through a selection of different terrains.

Our team showed determination, resilience and teamwork, while supporting each other and even collected rubbish as part of their expedition project.

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

From your DofE Staff Team

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



Thanks to everyone who continues to support our pupils.
Please follow us on twitter to keep up with our adventures
[@WestKirbySchool](https://twitter.com/WestKirbySchool) #wksdofe

School charities update



It's been a successful year supporting our nominated charities, not only with fundraising, but with activities such as donations. Thanks to Mrs Clemenson and our Pupil Ambassador Alfie who have led the charity work.

- WUHT Elf Run raised £185
- A big school raffle for Cancer Research raffle raised £429
- Wirral Foodbank Christmas donation
- Staff charity triathlon event raised £1300 for WaterAid
- Staff lottery fund donation of £500 to Turkey/Syria Disaster Appeal
- RNLI wellthrow - donations TBC

A mention to our pupil Dan, who kindly donated £10 of his Going for Gold reward money to WaterAid. And thank you to our Residential team for raising £120 on a sponsored walk.

Our nominated charities this year were:

Local



National



International



WaterAid staff charity triathlon

Congratulations to our staff team who participated in Southport Triathlon in May as a school fundraising event. Representing the school, as 6 relay teams they took on challenging swim, cycle and run distances and successfully raised £1300. We were so proud of their team spirit and fundraising achievement.



RNLI wellythrow fundraiser

A nominated charity for the school and personal to us; dedicated staff member Mr Jones has served in the RNLI for over 40 years. We held our second wellthrowing competition and had wide participation from classes across the school competing for the longest throw!



An enormous thank you to our parents, carers, friends and staff who have supported us in achieving this.

Refugee week

For Refugee Week we welcomed a guest speaker from Hearts for Refugees, who spoke with pupils in assembly. The aim was to promote a better understanding of why people seek asylum, the topic of refugees & migration in general.



Sports update

This term we've continued with inter-school sporting competitions.

We had a great time at a basketball tournament at Clare Mount School. Big well done to Jacob, who received player of the tournament.

A group of pupils from across the whole school have also participated in the Panathlon games athletics competition. Every pupil taking part has successfully won a Gold, Silver or Bronze.

Finally, we took part in the North West 10 pin bowling finals. We're proud to say our pupils are excellent representatives of the school and it's brilliant to see such a range of pupils getting involved in these community sporting events.



Eurovision cheerleading

Our pupils got to share the Eurovision buzz through attending the live performances in Liverpool.

Our Primary department also got involved with a local community Eurovision cheerleading project, together with Clare Mount School, organised by Kate Hughes of KH2 Community Link Services CIC.

Local MP Margaret Greenwood joined one of the sessions. She commented *"The pupils showed a huge amount of energy and commitment to put on a fantastic performance. They should all be extremely proud of themselves. Their Eurovision performance promises to be a wonderful celebration of dance and music"*.

Primary Mini Police project



This term British Transport Police returned to work with our Primary Pathfinders class on a 'Mini Police' project. The aim was to give our children an insight into their work and creating positive relationships. The project finished with a fantastic interactive session and the opportunity to handle equipment and see inside the van. We were very proud of our pupils and how they interacted.



Humanities update

Lake District Residential for GCSE Geography group

GCSE Geography is one of the options at KS4 for our pupils. This term our Year 10 Geography group set off for a Residential field trip to the Lake District.

One of our pupils shared their experiences with us: "On Wednesday 28th June the GCSE Geography group; Alex, Marco and Mia along with Mr Cox, Miss Allison and Mr Hulme set off for the Lake District.

The group were completing a fieldwork assignment as part of their GCSE. This consisted of following a river a source to mouth whilst analysing how it changes. To find the source (or one of them) pupils had to climb Fox Fold off the Honister Pass and follow the small stream uphill. Pupils measured width and depth as well as recording sample sizes of river sediment along the rivers course.

The team then travelled North towards Cockermouth to view and measure the middle course of the river. Cockermouth is prone to flooding and has had some devastating disasters due to its position at the confluence of the River Cocker and the River Derwent.



Pupils visited some of the hard and soft engineering projects around the town, built in place to protect the town and its residents from future floods."

Pupils and staff had a great time on what was for many, their first residential trip with West Kirby and are excited to plan their next educational field-trip (adventure!).

Primary go sailing

In June our Primary Adventurers & Navigators classes went for an introduction to sailing, with Merseyside Waterports at West Kirby Marine Lake.

It was a fantastic experience, a first for many, learning key sailing skills and working together in teams to sail the boat. The pupils took on the new challenge well and a big thank you to the staff .



Pride month @ WKS

Merseyside Police promote LGBT

As part of celebrating Pride month we had a insightful assembly visit from Merseyside Police. Kriss Hubbard, Lead Officer for promoting equality and LGBT+ in the police force spoke to Primary and Secondary pupils about why Pride is important and a discussion about hate crime.



Visit us at New Brighton Pride event

Miss Killey, our LGBT+ Lead will be representing West Kirby School at this Wirral pride event on Saturday 12th August. We'd love to see you, come along!



Community update

St Vincent's School visit

This term we were pleased to welcome students and staff from St Vincent's School, Liverpool who came to visit The School Bakery. Our pupils were excellent hosts chatting with the visitors, serving refreshments.



Parent Carer SEND training & coffee mornings

We've held a very successful series of Parent Carer SEND workshops with Dr Ze'ev Levita. The sessions provide essential insight into understanding our children, and have facilitated increasingly positive relationships & beneficial support between the parents & carers joining us.

Big thank you Ellie, staff member from the Pastoral Care Team, who joined us to talk about Sleep.



Exam results

A Level (GCE) results

Thursday 17th August 2023

GCSE results

Thursday 24th August 2023



Keep in touch - follow us!

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West Kirby School and College

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2021-2024

2022-2025