

WKS since 1924

# OUR NEWS

The West Kirby School & College Newsletter



## SUMMER 2025

- Metro Mayor Visit • LitFest • Mental Health Week
- LGBT+ News • Arts Awards • Music News
- Extended Day Update • Meet the Parent Governor
- Mobile Policy Reminder • Centenary Charity Match



**WEST KIRBY  
SCHOOL &  
COLLEGE**  
*Changing Children's Lives*





## Dear readers,



What an extraordinary term this has been! As I write this introduction, I'm struck by the incredible energy and achievement that radiates from every corner of our school. This bumper edition of our newsletter captures just a fraction of the remarkable experiences our students have embraced and the outstanding accomplishments they have achieved.

From the moment our pupils stepped into the spotlight with, not one but two, distinguished political visitors just a week apart – Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, and Matthew Patrick, MP for West Wirral – to hear their voices truly matter, to watching them demonstrate leadership as our dedicated

Pupil Ambassadors; this term has been defined by Pupil Voice, empowerment and growth.

Our literary landscape has flourished beyond imagination. **World Book Day** brought characters to life in our corridors, while **LitFest** had a spectacular summer sunshine festival vibe, with bell tents and bunting! There were four visiting local authors, young and old, sharing their stories, books, illustrations and poetry, a travelling falconry display that brought non-fiction to life (including a three-week-old owl baby) before our pupils' eyes, and an unforgettable visit from Shakespeare himself! These experiences showcased the incredible talent and **passion for reading** that spreads throughout our school community.



WEST KIRBY  
SCHOOL &  
COLLEGE





Our annual **Centenary Community Match** at Prenton Park brought together staff, pupils, parents, friends and families in a celebration of our school's enduring spirit, as they tried to win back the award. Alas, this was not the case, highlighting that we win together but also lose together.

Meanwhile, our creative arts programs have reached new heights, with students expressing themselves through music that moves the soul and visual art that captures the imagination – including our exciting collaboration with **Dot Art**. One of our students had the honour of having artwork displayed at Liverpool's prestigious Walker Art Gallery. This is a **tremendous accomplishment**.

But perhaps what fills me with the greatest pride is witnessing how our students have embraced service to others. Their charity work demonstrates the compassion within our school. The courage shown during **Mental Health Week** – particularly in our Ice Bucket Challenge – perfectly embodies the supportive, brave community we've cultivated together.



We have also strengthened the foundations that support our students' success. From our enhanced **Extended Day Provision** to the valuable **ELSA training** that supports pupil wellbeing, from the clarity of our updated Mobile Policy to the respect shown during our **VE Day** commemorations, every initiative has been designed with our students' **growth and happiness in mind**.

As you read through these pages, I hope you'll feel the same sense of pride and excitement that I experience every day walking through our school. Each story represents not just an event or achievement, but a moment where our students discovered something new about themselves and their potential.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school community so vibrant and successful. Together, we're not just educating pupils – **we're nurturing the leaders, creators, and compassionate citizens of tomorrow**.

Finally, congratulations on your exams, good luck to our leavers and enjoy a restful summer break.

**With warmest regards**

**Richard Hicks**

Award update...

Be  
ENTERP

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Be  
ASPIRATIONAL

MAKE A  
**NOISE**  
ABOUT  
BULLYING

ANTI-BULLYING QUALITY MARK-UK



## Anti-Bullying Quality Mark *We've secured silver again!*

Creating a safe and respectful school for everyone...

At West Kirby School, we know that changing people's lives starts with making sure everyone feels safe, valued, and included. Our ongoing work to prevent bullying and create a safe environment is at the heart of everything we do.

**Our** Anti-Bullying Team, led by Mr Brown from our Pastoral Care Team and Matthew, our Pupil Ambassador in Year 8, works to support and empower everyone in our school community. Staff regularly take part in training so they can offer help and advice to anyone who needs it.

We are proud that our efforts continue to be recognised by the Anti-Bullying Quality Mark, but more importantly, we are dedicated to making sure every pupil knows they have someone to talk to and that bullying will never be tolerated. Our school values – Be Respectful, Be Proactive, Be Kind, Be Enterprising, Be Aspirational, Be Nurturing – provide the foundation for our conduct, behaviour and rewards, helping to ensure West Kirby is a welcoming space for everyone.

**If you are worried about bullying or want to talk to someone:**

- Pupils can speak to Mr Brown directly, or to any trusted adult in school.
- Parents and carers can contact their child's Form Tutor, Teaching Assistant, or Mr Brown at [kbrown@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:kbrown@wkrs.co.uk) or [abteam@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:abteam@wkrs.co.uk).

We will continue to work together to make sure West Kirby School is a safe place where everyone feels **ready**, **respected** and **safe** – every day.

**Next stop...Gold!**

*"We did some work on reporting bullying during Anti-Bullying Week, which made me feel proud. I also helped a pupil who felt they were being bullied,"*

Matthew



## Supporting emotions, building independence...

We're proud to share that this term, *West Kirby School* is introducing *ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)* provision.

This exciting development has been led by our Assistant Head and SENCo, *Mrs Jones*, who brought her own ELSA training expertise when she joined last September. Since then, she has been **piloting the programme with pupils** and **introducing it to staff** from different areas of the school.



Meet our three fully trained ELSAs:



Miss Kirkham



Miss Killey



Ms Luscombe

### What is ELSA?

ELSA stands for **Emotional Literacy Support Assistant**. ELSAs are specially trained staff who support pupils in understanding and managing their emotions. They work one-to-one or in small groups, helping pupils to:

- *Build confidence and self-esteem*

- *Learn how to calm down and cope with tricky feelings*
- *Make and keep healthy relationships*
- *Talk about worries in a safe space*
- *Feel more in control and ready to learn*

**ELSA is not therapy or counselling** – it's safe, nurturing support right here in school, designed by educational psychologists to be part of everyday life.



*"I've seen the positive impact of ELSA over many years,"*

*"It's about building trust and helping children feel more secure – both in themselves and in school."*

Mrs Jones.

### Why ELSA matters

At West Kirby, we know how important emotional wellbeing is for feeling **safe, understood and valued**.



## Small acts, big impact...



We believe that small acts of kindness can lead to big change. This year, our amazing pupils and staff have shown true compassion - raising funds, supporting local causes, and spreading positivity through bake sales, sponsored challenges, and creative class projects, with the support of our parents and carers.

This year, our pupils voted to support three charities and the lucky ones were:

Local: **Jackson's Animal Rescue**

National: **Oxfam**

Community-Focused: **The Whitechapel Centre - supporting people facing homelessness.**



### Highlights this year:

- Essentials donated to the Whitechapel Centre
- **£1200** raised for Jackson's Animal Rescue at our Community Charity Cup Match
- We're holding a Whole-School **Sponsored Walk**, as part of our summer term final week activities with pupils taking on 5K, 7K, 10K or even 15K routes! All fundraising will be donated to The Whitechapel Centre. Every step, every effort, every smile counts.
- **Summer Charity Enterprise Market** - a percentage of our classes stall takings will be donated to charity.
- We're proud of the teamwork and heart behind every effort.

*Thank to you to all parents and carers for their ongoing support*



*"Whether it's £1 raised or 100 smiles shared - it all matters." Mrs Dooley*

*"My experience as a Charity Ambassador has been great. I've been able to help people who can't help themselves, and it's been a fantastic experience. We all came together to help and make a difference in the community." Evie*



What a game!



## Centenary Charity Cup: A game of goals and giving!

**West Kirby School and College faced The Observatory School in our second community charity match.**

Staff teams gave it their all on the famous Prenton Park pitch, with Tranmere Rovers' legend Joe Murphy joining in. The crowd: pupils, families and carers, and staff from both schools brought incredible energy, cheering from start to finish.

*"Events like this show the heart of our school: teamwork, kindness, and community spirit."* Mr Hicks, Headteacher.

Christopher Whitehead, Head of PE of The Observatory School said:

*"We didn't only raise money for a good cause but also brought staff, pupils and parents to come together."*

The Observatory School lifted the cup, but the real success was raising £1,200 for Jackson's

Animal Rescue, our chosen local charity. Amy Irwin, from the charity joined us to receive the cheque, *"We're thrilled to be chosen. The money raised will make a big difference to the animals we care for."*

For many pupils, it was their first experience at a football stadium, and together with a sense of community this made it a memorable moment for all.

**Mr Brown's match report: A final showdown at Prenton Park**

*For the second successive year, the West Kirby School staff football team took to the hallowed turf at Prenton Park to compete for the WKS Trophy. The match was played in front of a sell-out crowd, with pupils, staff, parents and carers all coming together to create an unforgettable atmosphere.*

*While the team couldn't bring the trophy home this time – or find the back of the net – they played with determination and true team spirit. The camaraderie among the players was second to none, and every year they keep getting better. Next year is definitely going to be our year!*





## Pupil Voice meet local Member of Parliament & Metro Mayor

.....

This term our Pupil Voice team had the opportunity to welcome both local MP Matthew Patrick and Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram into their meetings in the board room.



**Local MP Matthew Patrick** visited and was interested to hear about our pupils' views of lived experiences at a mainstream school with special educational needs, and what more mainstream schools needed to do to be inclusive and why it was different at West Kirby School and College. We were proud of how our Pupil Voice team passionately and eloquently shared their personal stories and views.

**Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram** joined the team and was happy to respond to a room of pre-prepared questions, as an opportunity for our young people to find out more about his personal role and impact on the local Merseyside Region area. Pupils had worked as a team to plan their own questions personal to their interests.

Steve Rotheram chatted with our pupils, with sincerity, genuine relatability and relevance, sharing a great insight into his work and the impact, discussing topics such as local transport development, the environment, accessibility and innovation. He left pupils with a powerful message about their future aspirations, and has since offered our pupil work experience within the rail sector. A memorable visit!

It was excellent for our pupils to have first hand in person experiences and interactions with such key members of the community.



**Next issue:**  
*Houses of Parliament trip!*



# Celebrating our Pupil Ambassadors

Thank you!



We'd like to take a moment to recognise and celebrate the hard work, passion, and leadership of our 2024–2025 Pupil Ambassadors. Each of these pupils has made a meaningful impact on our school community this year:



**Grace (Year 8) – Animal Care Ambassador**

Grace has shown real care and responsibility, helping to promote kindness towards animals and nature.



**Matthew (Year 8) – Anti-Bullying Ambassador**

A strong voice for inclusion and respect, Matthew has worked closely with staff to support a culture of safety and support.



**Evie (Year 8) – Charity Ambassador**

Our Charity Ambassador has helped raise awareness and encourage giving throughout the school.



**Tom (Year 10) – Environmental Ambassador**

Tom has been actively involved in sustainability initiatives, encouraging greener choices and helping to care for our school environment.



**Dan (Post 16) – LGBTQ+ Ambassador**

Dan has worked with staff to champion Pride events and promote inclusion and understanding across the school.



**Harry (Post 16) – Music Ambassador**

With his energy and creativity, Harry has supported school performances, our Talent Show and helped bring musical projects to life.



**Aiden (Post 16) – Sports Ambassador**

Aiden has been a fantastic support to Mr Musgrave, helping organise sports activities and promoting teamwork.



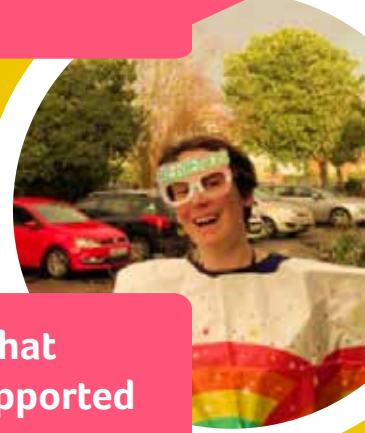
**Melody (Year 11) – Wellbeing Ambassador**

Melody has supported Year 11s through exam season with encouragement and ideas for positive activities.

Thank you to all our Ambassadors for your dedication and for being *role models* within our school. Your contributions help make West Kirby School & College a more *supportive, inclusive, and vibrant* place to learn and grow.

Inclusion...

“It’s not about fitting in, it is about being free to be you.” Miss Killey, LGBTQ+ Lead



“It’s important that students feel supported in school because sometimes people in society put us down. I feel we can be ourselves here.” Dan, LGBTQ+ Ambassador

# COMICS YOUTH<sup>CIC</sup>

## Pride celebration month: 'Be you, proudly'

At West Kirby School & College, we celebrate every identity, every journey, and every voice. This Pride Month, we’re proud to highlight what makes our community so unique and inclusive.

### Creativity with Comics Youth

We were thrilled to host Comics Youth for a zine-making workshop. This brilliant youth-led charity helps young people share their stories and shine through comics and creativity.

Comics Youth delivered a series of workshops that gave our students a taster of their work. Each session introduced students to zine-making; a fun, accessible, and creative way for young people to share their thoughts, stories, and identities on their own terms. Using only pens and paper, students crafted their own zines, with prompts inspired by this year’s Pride theme: **Being Seen, Being Heard**.

### Reminder:

You don’t have to choose between being neurodivergent or LGBTQ+. You can be both. You can be neither. You can just be you, and that’s enough. For support or to learn more, speak to our Pupil Ambassador Dan or visit Pastoral Care.

**Let’s make inclusion something we celebrate every day at West Kirby School.**





Mental Health Week...



# WKS Ice Bucket Challenge 2025

## Freezing for a great cause

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, our incredible staff at West Kirby School bravely took on the WKS Ice Bucket Challenge 2025, and yes, it was just as cold as it sounds.

This reimagined version of the classic trend, quickly grabbed everyone's attention, especially our pupils, and became a perfect way to raise awareness around **mental health and wellbeing**.

Why cold water? Well, it's more than just a shock to the system!

Immersing in cold water is proven to:

- Reduce **cortisol** (our stress hormone)
- Boost **endorphins** (our 'feel good' chemicals)
- Improve **mood** and promote **resilience**

Most importantly, it was a joyful moment of **community spirit**. Pupils and staff came together, laughed, cheered, and got very wet, all in the name of mental health.

A special shoutout to **Miss Kirkham** for leading the week. Big thanks also to **Freya, Matthew, Finley,** and **Sophie** for helping with setup, and of course, for soaking the brave volunteers.



Melody, our Wellbeing Ambassador, said:

*"This year has been amazing, and events like this really help raise awareness about the importance of wellbeing. I've had the chance to share my opinions and feel that my voice has been heard - but also to support the wellbeing of others. Pupils feel they can approach me in the corridors, tell me how they're feeling, and I can listen, support them, and help them feel heard."*

It was a brilliant reminder that looking after our mental health can be fun, active, and shared.

**Let's keep talking, supporting, and lifting each other up!**





WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

Literacy corner...

# World Book Day 2025: *Read your way!*

One of the most exciting events of the year returned full of colour, creativity, and characters. World Book Day 2025 brought our school community together to celebrate the joy of reading in all its forms.



This year's theme, 'Read Your Way', reminded us that reading can look different for everyone. Whether you enjoy audiobooks, picture books, graphic novels or storytelling with friends, all reading is reading, **and it all matters.**

## A visit from storyteller John Row

We were thrilled to welcome John Row, poet and professional storyteller, who shared his original stories and lively rhymes; powerful and fun storytelling can be, even without a book in hand.

John also livestreamed to our friends at **Acre View School**, making sure everyone could take part. His visit inspired pupils and staff alike to think differently about what stories mean to us.

## The Big Book Quiz

In the afternoon, classes joined forces for our famous Big Book Quiz, filled with fun questions, teamwork, and friendly competition. Pupils and staff impressed everyone with their book knowledge.

## Book door competition

This year, each class transformed their door into a creative tribute to a favourite book, thanks to a special initiative from Mr Hicks, our Headteacher. The winning entry came from Miss Meegan's Year 11 Form, with their interactive take on *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.



## Why World Book Day matters

World Book Day is all about inclusion, creativity and connection. At West Kirby School, we celebrate stories in every form, and we're proud to make reading accessible and enjoyable for all learners.



# LIT Fest

LitFest, the inaugural literacy festival, at West Kirby School and College. A low key festival style celebration of the written and spoken word, welcoming local Authors, Illustrator and Poet and West Kirby Bookshop.



Pupil groups from across the school joined throughout the day to experience the event. They listened to readings and engaged in creative workshops at **Tales from the Tent**, with Claire Powell, Sarah Harrison, Terry Caffrey and Avalyn Godfrey.

Our staff created a cosy reading corner in the **Roald Dahl Theatre**, and pupils had the opportunity to create marvellously fun experiments and their own revolting mud burger, thanks to our Science & Food Technology teachers.

A highlight was the interactive

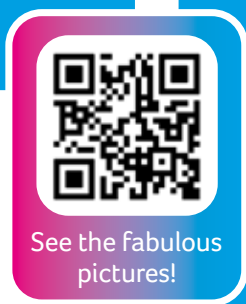
**Falconry Corner** display, pedaling a smoothie with Mrs Draycott, not to mention reading along with our entertaining walking talking theatre characters, Mr Macdonald and Mr Nicholson.

We were delighted to be joined by Eagle and Starling classes at Acre View Primary School, part of our charity West Kirby Educational Trust.

A successful, relaxed, immersive literacy experience! And we were proud of how pupils engaged with our external visitors.



## A Festival OF Words AND Imagination



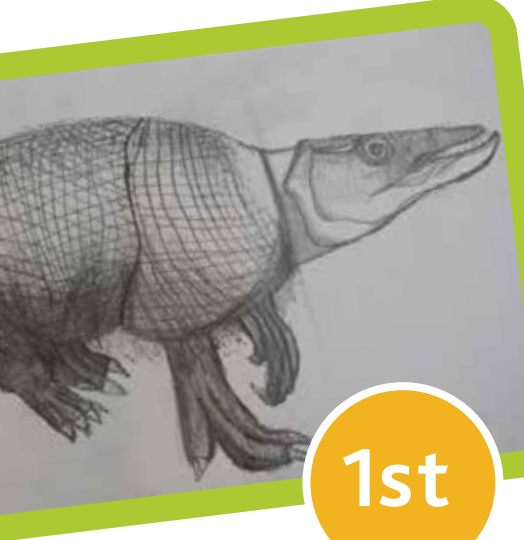
See the fabulous pictures!



1st

### Art update

# Celebrating our young artists: *Dot Art & Art Bytes finalists*

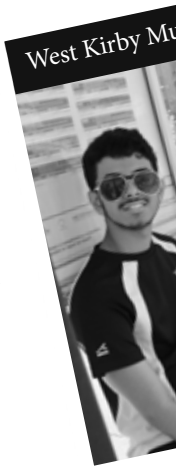


1st

We are so proud of our pupils who have been recognised in two prestigious art competitions this year: Dot Art Schools and Art Bytes.

### Dot Art success

Each year, Dot Art invites schools to showcase student creativity, with top entries chosen by judges and voted on by the public. This year, Paul, Zachi, and Sofia were our talented finalists. We're thrilled Paul's artwork made it to the final exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery for the whole of June, and that all three pupils were honoured at a special prize-giving at St George's Hall.



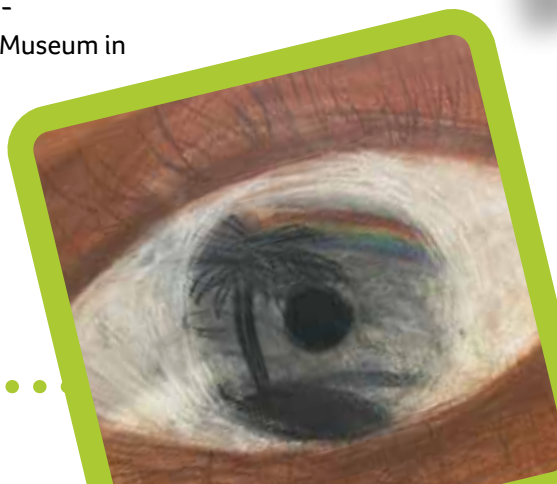
### Art Bytes achievement

In the Art Bytes competition, we're delighted to share that Zachi has taken first prize. His winning artwork will feature in an exclusive online gallery and will be displayed during a prize-giving ceremony at the Victoria Gallery & Museum in Liverpool. Zachi's fellow finalists, Mikey and Harriet, have also been invited to the celebration.



A fantastic achievement for all three!

***Well done to everyone who took part.  
Your creativity and confidence inspire us all!***





## Music news...

### A special visit to the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Dan, Harry, Leon, Paul, and Finn had an unforgettable experience attending the live concert, A World in One Journey, at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. This long-running concert has been inspiring young audiences for 80 years, and we were proud to be among the 18,000 young people attending this year. The highlight? Meeting the orchestra leader and joining in a group singalong. Afterwards, they explored the Anglican Cathedral to discover how sound behaves in large spaces like churches. Everyone enjoyed this fantastic day.

### Music Medals & Exam Success

This term, 28 pupils earned Bronze Music Medals across piano, DJing, guitar, and drums. Even more impressive:

- Two pupils received Silver Music Medals
- Three pupils passed Guitar Grade One
- One pupil passed Electric Guitar Grade Four
- One pupil passed Drum Kit Grade Two

### DJ course complete!

Zeke, Cooper, Cy, Noah and Lucas took part in a special DJ course run over 8 weeks online. They learned lots of cool DJ skills, made their own mixes, and received certificates and music medals.



Music Records. 2025

## The Mondays

### Our School Band rocks Manchester

Congratulations to our school band, The Mondays, for their outstanding performance at the National Engage Awards in Manchester last May. They wowed the audience with hits by George Ezra and a beautiful Schubert piano piece performed by Post 16 student Finn. The crowd was impressed by their professionalism and confidence on stage and we couldn't be prouder.



### Did you know?

Over 62 pupils - more than 50% of our students - take music lessons with external teachers and have the chance to work towards official music grades.



## Sports update...

# Teamwork makes the dream work



This term, our pupils have been moving, learning and having fun together through an exciting mix of sports activities. Whether it's scoring hoops or building teamwork, every session has helped grow confidence, friendship and resilience across our school.



### Hoops for Health with the champions!

We were proud to welcome back Cheshire Phoenix, the BBL Trophy-winning basketball team, for our annual Hoops for Health day.

Pupils took part in three brilliant sessions on a carousel:

- **Basketball Skills**

**In the Sports Hall**

Learning how to dribble, pass and shoot like the pros!

- **Healthy eating**

**In the DoFE Room**

Exploring what makes a balanced meal and why healthy fuel is key for active bodies.

- **Teamwork**

**In the Dance Studio**

Taking on fun challenges that needed communication, cooperation and kindness.



Everyone got involved and had a fantastic time. The players from Cheshire Phoenix were inspiring role models, and many of our pupils showed real skill - future basketball stars in the making!

### Friday football fun

Every Friday, pupils laced up their boots for weekly football coaching from two professional coaches. The sessions focused on building confidence, learning new skills, and, most importantly, working together.

Whether it was passing the ball or encouraging each other, pupils learned how being a good teammate can help on and off the pitch.



### Dodgeball tournament

Mr Musgrave accompanied pupils to an external dodgeball event. We faced some strong competition, but our pupils gave it their all and represented West Kirby School with pride.

Team spirit, fair play and perseverance were all on show and they had plenty of fun in the process.





## Unlocking our pupil's potential...

This year, a group of pupils took part in the **AQA Unlocking Potential** programme, run in partnership with the **Dame Kelly Holmes Trust**. The initiative helps young people build **confidence, resilience, and life skills** through mentoring from elite athletes.

Our pupils were mentored by **Neil Danns**, a former GB skateboarder, who guided them through a year of workshops, events, and one-to-one sessions. They developed skills in leadership, teamwork, communication, and goal-setting – all helping them move closer to their future ambitions.

As part of the programme, pupils planned and delivered a **community social action project**, designing a fun and engaging **wellness circuit** for West Kirby Primary School children. They confidently presented their work to a packed room of athlete mentors, peers, and 'dragons', and impressed everyone with their maturity and creativity.

In a recent trial session, **Luke** confidently led a scooter safety and skills activity – impressive, given it was his first time delivering to a group, which left Neil amazed. **Ryan** ran balloon games and, despite some initial nerves, brought great energy and humour, learning from the experience and growing in confidence for next time.

This programme has helped pupils unlock new strengths in themselves. Their growth in confidence and self-belief has been fantastic to see, and we know they'll carry these skills into the future.

**Well done to all involved!**

Mr Musgrave said:

"The group's behaviour and attitude were outstanding. They delivered their project with confidence and pride. A highlight was Ryan asking a dragon, 'When are you free?' after she offered presentation advice – a great moment that showed his growing confidence."

Duke of Edinburgh...



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

## Duke of Edinburgh Award: *pushing boundaries, building confidence*

At West Kirby School, we're proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh Award to our Year 10, 11, and Post 16 pupils, led by our trained and dedicated DoFE staff team.

### Bronze success

Well done to our Bronze participants who completed a tough two-day practice expedition in Delamere. In the heat, they used map skills, followed the Countryside Code, and showed great resilience. Since then, they've reflected, fine-tuned their prep, and refreshed their first aid and CPR knowledge, tailored to individual sensory needs.

### Beyond the classroom

Our pupils are making fantastic progress in their DoFE sections:

- **MICHAEL** climbed a mountain for his physical challenge
- **AREND** is learning guitar
- **SAM** volunteers at Horse Sense
- **MELODY** has mastered crochet

Each one shows real commitment, giving up time weekly to grow, give back, and stay active.

### Behind the scenes

Staff are staying expedition-ready too. Miss Killey and Mrs Draycott are soon completing advanced first aid training to keep everyone safe.

**Well done, DoFE team - you're doing brilliantly!**

*Mrs Draycott, Miss Killey & Mr Scullion*





## Exploring the wider community...

At West Kirby School & College, trips are a vital part of learning, helping pupils grow in confidence, independence, and social understanding while creating lasting memories.

Year 8 visited **Bundobust** in Liverpool to explore independence and healthy cooking—an exciting first for many.

Post 16 celebrated completing their Functional Skills English course with a fun day at **Knowsley Safari Park**.

Pathfinders Class enjoyed a group-bonding trip to **Knowsley Safari Park** with close-up animal encounters as well.

Primary pupils attended **Emergency Services Day** in Wallasey, meeting first responders and learning about safety.

Pupils visited a motorbike garage to learn about mechanics and engineering in action.

A hands-on **Stone Age Cave experience day** brought history to life, with tools, fossils, and fun costumes.

*These enriching experiences go far beyond the classroom, supporting personal growth and real-world learning.*



“It was great seeing the people dressed up in fur and getting to try the handaxes.” Pupil



# Welcome to our new Parent Governor: *Clare Boulton*

We are very pleased to introduce our new Parent Governor, Mrs Clare Boulton, to the School Board of West Kirby School and College. Clare begins her role this summer term and brings with her a wealth of personal insight and a deep commitment to supporting inclusive education.

Clare is the proud parent of a child at our school and has a strong personal interest in Special Educational Needs. She told us...

*"I applied for the role of Parent Governor because I have a real passion for SEN. My experiences as a parent have shown me how vital inclusive education and personalised support are for children to truly thrive. I want to be a voice for all parents navigating similar journeys."*

Clare hopes to work closely with Mr Hicks, Headteacher, Governors, and our charity Trustees to help ensure all pupils feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

When she's not cheering on her beloved Everton FC or watching snooker, Clare enjoys spending time watching films — her favourite film being Stand By Me, a story she says reflects the values of friendship, resilience and growth.

She brings a wonderfully optimistic outlook to the team, living by the words:

***"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says 'I'm possible!'" – Audrey Hepburn***

We warmly welcome Clare to our Governing Board and look forward to the difference she will make in helping our school community grow stronger together.



## VE Day celebration at West Kirby School...

This year, we marked Victory in Europe Day with a special celebration in the school's MUGA, bringing our community together to honour a key moment in history: the end of World War II in Europe.

Pupils and staff enjoyed delicious food, music, and shared stories, creating a lively and respectful atmosphere. Flags flew, smiles were shared, and the sense of unity was clear.

**Remembering VE Day matters.** It reminds us of the bravery, sacrifice, and resilience shown by those who lived through the war. It also helps us appreciate the peace we have today, and the value of coming together as a community.

It was a day of learning, respect and celebration. One we'll remember.



## Staff spotlight...

### Mr Gill receives his North Wales Rugby Wheelchair International Cap!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news from our very own staff team. **Mr Gill**, a valued member of West Kirby School, has been capped for the **North Wales Crusaders Rugby Team**, a team we work in partnership with.

We caught up with Mr Gill for a quick interview to find out more about this fantastic achievement...

#### How did this come about?

*"Having stopped running rugby due to injuries, I was excited to try a team sport again. I loved the session and later joined two open tasters at Deeside. I genuinely enjoyed it. With my rugby background, I picked it up quickly, and with training and support, I made it to the Wales trials, and was proud to be selected for the International Team.."*

#### What does this mean to you?

*"Being invited to play at international level is a huge honour. I'm incredibly proud to represent everyone who's supported me along the way West Kirby School, who've sponsored our team over the past two years"*

*From all of us at West Kirby School - well done, Mr Gill! We're proud to have an 'international' sporting star on our staff team!*





**Positive Behaviour update...**

# Supporting focus, wellbeing & success: *Our Mobile Phone Policy*

At West Kirby School & College, we are committed to creating a calm, focused, and supportive environment. That's why we've renewed our Mobile Phone Policy to help pupils thrive.



**What changed?**

- Pupils should not bring phones, tablets, or smartwatches to school.
- If a phone is needed for travel, it must be handed to staff on arrival and will be securely stored until home time.

**Why it matters:**

- Fewer distractions = better focus
- Improved social skills through face-to-face interaction
- Reduced anxiety and better emotional regulation
- Lower risk of damage, loss, or online issues

This policy helps pupils be ready to learn, part of our school's Code of Conduct. It supports learning, builds confidence, and promotes wellbeing, ensuring every student can make the most of their time in school.

We continue to teach digital skills in class, but this is about protecting learning time and mental health.

If you need to reach your child during the day, please contact the school office.

***Thank you for your continued support.***



# Our Extended Day Provision: A year of socialising, smiles, and shared success

Launched in September, our Extended Day Provision (EDP) has become a vibrant part of school life, offering pupils a calm, supportive space to unwind, connect, and grow beyond the classroom.

“Hello everyone, and a big welcome from the Extended Day Provision team!

Unlike traditional after-school clubs, EDP creates a relaxed, social environment with structured activities and flexible options. Pupils of all ages enjoy mixing, building friendships, and gaining life skills while choosing how they spend their time, whether it’s preparing a light tea, gaming, or exploring new group ideas.

As the weather warmed, we embraced the outdoors with trips to New Brighton, Parkgate, local parks, and the shoreline, making the most of nature and sunshine. On campus, our OT room, games consoles, laptops, and playgrounds have helped foster an inclusive and fun space for all.

It’s been especially heart-warming to see pupils of different ages mixing, playing, and choosing how they spend their time together; whether it’s picking out the evening’s light tea or suggesting fun group activities.

As we approach the end of our first full academic year, we’re proud of how successful the provision has been. It has offered not only a safe and fun environment for students but also extra support for families. It’s been wonderful to see the social bonds and confidence it’s helped to build.

Thanks, as always, for your support.”

**Gary & Maria**  
*Extended Day Provision Team*



**Extended Day Provision** at  
*West Kirby School & College*

### Want to get involved?

Pick up an Expression of Interest form from the school office or visit our website for more information.

We’re excited to build on this year’s success with even more great activities next year.





## To our leavers...

To all our leavers this year, whether you've been with us for a long time or just a short while, you will always be a part of the West Kirby School family.

You have each been an **essential part of our community**. You've made us laugh, inspired us, and reminded us why we do what we do every single day.

We've watched you **grow, overcome challenges, and achieve your goals**. Your journey has made us incredibly proud, and we can't wait to see where life takes you next.

No matter where you go, remember:

**You matter. You're capable. And you are welcome to come and visit us anytime.**

Wishing you all happiness, success and plenty of new adventures.

**Kind Regards,  
All of us at West Kirby School**



## Exam update....

### WELL DONE!

A big well done to all our pupils who sat exams this summer. *We're very proud of you!*

**A LEVEL RESULTS DAY: THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST**

*Collect from school - 9.30am - 10.30am or  
by telephone 10.45am - 11.15am*

**GCSE/BTEC RESULTS DAY: THURSDAY 21ST AUGUST**

*Collect from school 9.30am - 11.30am or  
by telephone 11.45am - 12.45pm*

All results will also be posted home to pupils on the day of results via Royal Mail 1st Class



### Acre View Primary School celebrate Ofsted success

We are proud to share that Acre View Primary School, part of our charity West Kirby Educational Trust, has been judged as 'Good' in their recent first full Ofsted inspection, with two 'Outstanding' areas in 'Personal Development' and 'Behaviour & Attitudes'. A huge well done to the whole team.

***"Positive relationships, kindness and respect are at the heart of everything that this school does."*** Ofsted 2025.

