

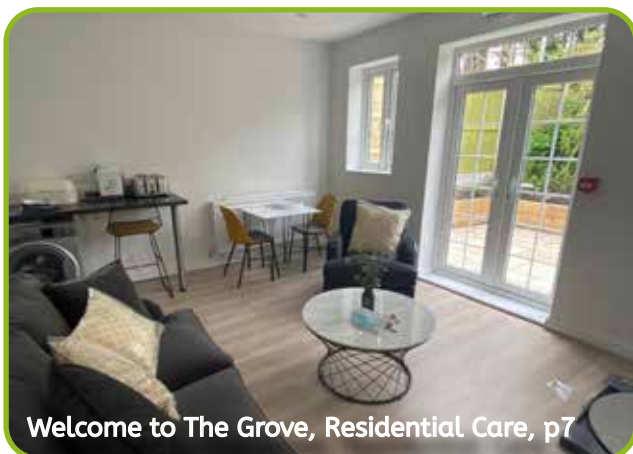
# WEST KIRBY SCHOOL

A DAY AND RESIDENTIAL SPECIALIST SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

## West Kirby News

Spring/Summer 2021

### Welcome to Summer term!



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## Message from our Principal, Miss Thomas



Dear Pupils, Parents, Carers and Friends,

Well, spring has definitely sprung and we are now moving towards summer! Although we spent most of the spring term remote learning or getting back into our established 'bubbles', we are glad to be back at school, learning and working together.

In the spring, we were very pleased to be able to open The Grove, our new semi-independent living provision for pupils who stay in residential during the week. The Grove provides us with an exciting opportunity to support pupils as they learn how to live independently, cooking, cleaning, shopping, washing clothes, budgeting (all the fun stuff!). Pupils are provided with guidance and support which enables them to learn how to live independently as adults. Our pupils are loving the 'grown-up' decor and accommodation, which is set aside from the rest of the residential provision.

In the previous newsletter, we learnt more about Maths from Mr Davey. This term Miss Spence and Mrs Clemenson are sharing more information about learning English with us and parents of pupils in Primary can learn more about Read, Write, Inc. See pages 8-9 for details. English is at the core of our everyday lives, whether we are shopping, cooking, applying for jobs, studying or speaking to others. We aim to make sure that pupils leave WKS with a good reading level and with an English qualification at Y11.

Our staff and pupils celebrated neurodiversity in March, with a range of activities to mark the event. We replicated our umbrella project of a couple of years ago, so that we could show our local community the importance of neurodiversity. Staff and pupils worked together to discuss neurodiversity, following an introductory assembly by Miss Hercules, they then moved on to different activities which recognised strengths.

Our School is committed to supporting pupils in developing ways of managing their own physical and emotional wellbeing. To promote this Mr Musgrave and Mrs Irvin launched #wksmove in the spring term. You may have seen us celebrating the achievements of pupils, staff and classes during our weekly assemblies. Pupils did really well, Post 16 started out strong but were soon overtaken by Y11 and Y10 in the race for who can take the most steps! Mr Musgrave purchase a wrist watch for each primary aged pupil which measures steps and has them all reading numbers into the thousands! Its been a great success.

There are plenty more things we have enjoyed over the term, World Book Day, Peculiar Pets Awards and the Dot Art Schools competition - read all about our successes [here](#).

Have an enjoyable read.

Best wishes

Miss S. Thomas



# A big welcome back!

What a term! Since January we've managed remote learning and welcomed the return to school since March.

We're so proud of what we've achieved, the adaptations, adjustments pupils and staff have made. We praise the resilience and perseverance of the students, especially our remote learners, coupled with the professionalism and creativity of the staff. The combination has provided an admirable learning experience for our pupils.

## Friday Celebration assemblies

We hope you've enjoyed our virtual Friday celebration assemblies. It's important to us to keep our sense of a school community with pupils, families and staff. Thank you for sending news in.



## A big well done to our pupils

We're incredibly proud of those pupils who took part in the Lateral Flow Testing for Covid 19.

Our school nurse, Mrs Halliday commented '*All the pupils have been an absolute credit to themselves and the school. They have conducted themselves in an extremely mature fashion.*'

## Friday wellbeing activities

We're pleased that since March, even through Covid restrictions and bubbles, we've been able to continue our Friday afternoon wellbeing activities.

Often pupil led choices, there's a range of wellbeing activities on offer for our young people across the school; from Warhammer, local walk, Horticulture, Art, OT room, film, football or our very own hair and beauty salon.



# Neurodiversity celebration

At West Kirby School, Neurodiversity Celebration Week and Autism Awareness Week in March were an opportunity to increase understanding and awareness of neurodiversity and encourage our young people to positively celebrate what makes them unique, their talents and skills.

We were excited to see the return of our umbrella project, originally initiated by ADHD Foundation. Pupils decorated umbrellas with positive thoughts about neurodiversity, difference and their own talents and skills.

We extended involvement to our local schools and church, who have previously worked with us on SEND Community training. These include Leasowe Primary, Thingwall Primary, St Joseph's Upton, Rideway High and Calday Grammar.

Miss Hercules also led our Wednesday assembly for pupils and following on classes held discussions.



## Neurodiversity staff training

Our staff training aims to provide support for our team in understanding our young people in the school. This year our focus was on Dyslexia, Autism and PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance).

Dyslexia was delivered by our own staff members Miss Millington and Miss Dennis, PDA by staff Mr Cox and one of our parents Ms Manca who gave us a valuable insight as a parent.

Thanks also to Dean Beadle, guest Autistic speaker and advocate, who shared first hand experiences of life on the Autism spectrum and the effects of the pandemic.





# Virtual parent carer coffee mornings



In Spring term we held our parent carer coffee mornings virtually for the first time. It was important to keep the sense of school community and communication going. We were really pleased how many parents and carers joined us. Thanks to those who came along and shared their ideas.

Our 'New parent carer welcome coffee morning' was led by Mrs Wilkinson, SENDCo. We aimed to give an insight into how the school works and we talked about the induction period, what assessments we may do and the purpose of the induction review meeting.

In our WKS coffee morning open to all families Miss Thomas, Principal joined us to welcome everyone and we discussed topic ideas for our future parent and carer SEND related workshops.

Overall the feedback is everyone welcomed the opportunity to meet other parents and contributing to ideas for future school parent partnership and workshop topics.



"Really useful, lots of good info!"

## Join us! Summer term coffee morning dates

Thursday 13th May - WKS parent Carer Coffee morning, with Barry Thomas, 'Future Pathways'

Thursday 20th May - New Parent Carer welcome, with Mrs Wilkinson, SENDCo & Deputy Head

## Leading Parent Partnership Award

At West Kirby School, we are working hard towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnership Award. (LPPA). The purpose of this nationally recognised award is to help focus on the school's partnership work with parents and families.

During this process we hope to build on the many strengths the school already has with our parents and carers. We want to provide opportunities for parents to have a voice in everyday school life. At West Kirby School we want to do everything we possibly can to help parents and families support their children. Work to achieve this award started in January 2021 and we hope to achieve the accreditation during academic year 2021 - 2022.

### What difference will the award make to the work done with families at West Kirby School?

We aim for the way we work with families, the way we communicate with families and the way we engage with families to go from strength to strength. As you know we are always trying to improve and completing this award will help us do that!



The long-term benefits of the LPPA include (but are not limited to):

- Increased parent participation and involvement
- Enhanced parents' support in children's learning
- Improved communication between home and school
- Raising achievement by involving parents and carers in the work of our school

### How can families help us gain the award?

- Read all information that we send out
- Come along to events we organise if you are able - mainly virtual at the moment
- Complete any questionnaires we send out as honestly as you can

The LPPA working party is now well established and they meet regularly to work on their action plan and gather the evidence needed to gain the award.

***We will keep you up-to-date of our progress!***

# Residential Care update

## *Hello from us all on the Care Team,*

*It's great to be back at Greasby Hall Farm now that the building works are complete. Once lockdown had finished, we were able to welcome the residential young people back and begin our 'new normal'.*

*Although we have not been able to return to all activities just yet, we can still enjoy a full activity timetable. The group have been participating in indoor activities such as baking, yoga, exercising and mindfulness meditation. They have been having fun playing board games and competitions on various consoles and have been using the garden to play football.*

*Recently, now spring has arrived, some young people have been walking back to the house from school, which is a fantastic achievement. Then of course there's the beautiful beaches and parks around the area which we take full advantage of in the evenings.*

*There are plans in place to go to play crazy golf and foot golf, cycling in the park and the young people already have plans to visit the cinema, swimming baths and bowling once we are able to do so.*



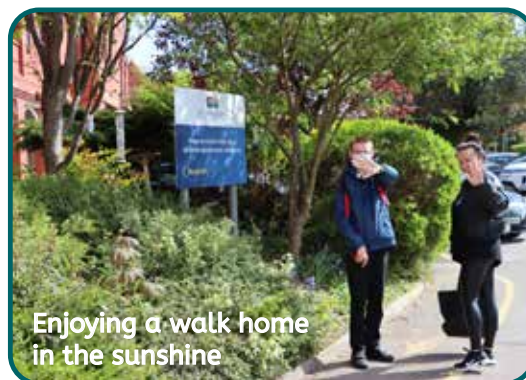
*As well as all of these fun activities, the young people manage to find time to work on OCR Life and Living Skills, which serve to equip them with the skills required to move into our new semi independent provision, The Grove.*

*One young person is very much looking forward to moving into The Grove this term.*

*And of course, a very big welcome to our new member of staff Maddy!*

*Thank you all*

**Care Team**



## *One resident said...*

*" I love staying at GHF because I like the activities like football, DVD night and using the computer to play Roblox. I have learned to cook and do yoga. At bedtime I like to do mindfulness meditation to go to sleep. "*

**We're pleased to offer spaces from September in The Grove, our new residential care provision. Visit our website to find out more.**

# Welcome to The Grove

**The Grove is an exciting new development within our residential care provision for pupils of West Kirby School and College.**

This is a semi-independent provision attached to the main residential house. The aim of this is for residents to have more responsibility, continuing personal development and life skills towards independence.

We currently have two spaces available for September 2021. We offer a range of packages to support residents, their parents/carers and their referring local authority, including extended days allow pupils to join one of two residential groups for the evening. We also offer, when spaces are available, residential packages of one to four nights per week.

Utilising a seamless approach from education to care, we are able to enhance the learning of the individual. This enables West Kirby School to support the development of the young people across all areas. Staff are available across the 24-hour period to monitor and support our children and young people with their needs.

For more information, to organise a visit or admissions enquiries please contact [schooloffice@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@wkrs.co.uk) or visit [www.wkrs.co.uk](http://www.wkrs.co.uk)



One resident said...

“ I like how much I’ve been able to progress and how the staff are able to support my needs. It’s a great place to learn new skills and make friends. I’m looking forward to moving into The Grove as the support I have been given has made me more confident in my independence. ”



“Children learn and socialise in a tolerant and co-operative community where positive and affectionate relationships help them to thrive.”

“Parents say that their children enjoy school, and really look forward to staying in the residence because they have fun, make friends and learn so much about living in society.”

“Children experience high levels of pastoral care.”





# WELCOME TO ENGLISH

## FROM MRS CLEMENSON & MISS SPENCE

Welcome to English. We are a creative and inspiring department, working closely together with the Reading and Library team, as well as Drama and other cross curricular subjects.



Meet our team! Mrs Clemenson, Miss Spence, Mrs Abernethy, Miss Dennis, Mrs Hesketh and Mrs Brown

Nobody could have prepared us for the unusual year we have experienced together in these unprecedented times. Our pupils have continued to show resilience and determination whilst working remotely and dealing with changes in school. We would like to thank all the pupils for their hard work and we are very proud of them all, especially to our Year 11 and Post 16 who have completed their mock exams.

As a department we have implemented a five year learning journey from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 (Years 7-11), where pupils can gain qualifications such as Entry Level and GCSE. We offer GCSE English Language and Literature separately, to ensure pupils meet their full potential.

Within English we feel it is important for the pupils to not only develop English as an essential life skill, but to also have a love of reading and be exposed to a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. In Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9) we have covered poetry from different cultures and time periods, dramas such as Blood Brothers and Romeo and Juliet as well as prose like War Horse. In Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11) the pupils are preparing for GCSE and have covered a range of fiction and non-fiction texts from different time periods such as extracts from novels, short stories, diary entries and newspaper articles.

Our Secondary pupils have been exposed to current and topical events such as famous speech makers from the United Kingdom and the United



States. This has supported them with their speaking and listening skills in their oral exams for both Entry level and GCSE.

Our students have the opportunity at Post 16 to continue their English journey in preparation for their college courses and further education. They also have the opportunity to improve their grades and undertake English Literature if they wish to do so.

Phonics support is provided throughout the key stages and is implemented through Read Write Inc. Fresh Start for pupils Year 7 and above. This helps target gaps in pupils reading and writing. Additional support is also provided through GCSE Plus, where pupils can build on their skills and understanding.

As a department we feel it is important to celebrate pupils' achievements within writing. We do this by entering pupils' in national and school literary competitions such as Engage Awards, Young Writers and Write Path. We also promote a love of reading by having author visits organised by Mrs Abernethy and Miss Dennis. These have proved very successful and pupils have engaged well and helped develop their creative writing skills.

We are fortunate to have close links with the English department at Calday Grange Grammar School, who we have been able to moderate with on a number of occasions. This has proven to be valuable to ensure consistency and corroboration.

## IN THE WORDS OF SHAKESPEARE....

.....WE BID YOU FAREWELL!

*Mrs Clemenson and Miss Spence*



# New phonics scheme

In September 2020, the Primary department introduced a new phonics scheme Read, Write Inc. (RWI). This gives us a consistent approach to teaching phonics so that all children age 5-11 years make speedy progress in reading.

Mrs Eccles is our RWI lead teacher. Most of our pupils are taught on a one-to-one basis or groups of two, according to their ability levels and different gaps in phonic knowledge.

Pupils are assessed every six weeks by the RWI lead. Their progress is tracked and their teaching changed to meet their individual needs at every stage.

All teaching staff wear aprons containing target graphemes or tricky words that individuals are focusing on. Throughout the school day, they create opportunities to practice reading the sounds or words displayed to reinforce the learning.

Mrs Eccles has observed a huge boost in pupils' confidence and levels of determination. The impact this has had on our pupils' reading ability is huge. This is in spite of Covid restrictions and home learning.



## RWI Fresh Start

Our school have also implemented 'RWI Fresh Start', an intervention programme. It follows a similar format to RWI Phonics but is aimed at children age 9 and above, who have reading ages below 9 or the National Curriculum expectations in England. It uses age-appropriate texts that are suitable for older pupils.

This is led by our Reading Mentor Mrs Abernethy. She currently supports the readings skills of a number of pupils across KS2, KS3 and KS4.

*Mrs Wynne*

Deputy Headteacher (Quality of Education)

## Literacy counts - Read to Write

As well as the Read Write Inc phonics scheme at West Kirby, we have Literacy Counts - Read to Write.

Read to Write is a scheme which supports the teaching of high quality writing through high quality literature known as 'Vehicle Texts'. The units of work provide engaging, vocabulary rich texts within a wealth of writing opportunities.

The pupils thoroughly enjoy working within the texts and have produced wonderful pieces of writing including



stories traditional tales with a twist, predictions, captions, sequencing and planning.

Well done to all our pupils for their creative literacy work!

# Primary Department update



We now have two Primary classes at West Kirby School – ‘Pathfinders’ and ‘Adventurers’. Read on for an update of what we’ve been up to.

Primary have had a busy summer term. During lockdown we were so proud of our pupils and the way they adapted to the changes in school and the pupils who engaged so positively with their work at home. We have been pleased to welcome new pupils to our Primary classes, they have settled in well to the school and have helped enrich our thriving department.

## Pathfinders news

We have welcomed three new pupils into Pathfinders and created a new class Pathfinders 2 with Miss Mault teaching the class.

This term Pathfinders have read ‘Little Red’, by Bethan Woolvin. They have enjoyed describing Little Red and planning and writing their own tradition tale with a twist.



They have also read ‘Paper Planes’ by Jim Helmore. They have enjoyed developing their vocabulary, writing predictions and planning and writing a story about a magnificent vehicle.

In Maths Pathfinders have been learning fact families, length, subtraction and divisions.

In Read, Write Inc sessions, Pathfinders have reading their story books and are now working on their ‘Speed Sounds’ and completing ‘Get Write’ each day. They still love being read to each day and

completing their Accelerated Quizzes.

In ‘Learning Means the World’, they have completed 2 topics. In ‘Never Eat Shredded Wheat’, they enjoyed looking at maps and naming key features. Pathfinders have used compasses and read maps.

In their second Topic ‘Unity in the community’ they have enjoyed learning about being part of different communities and have been able to develop their geographical skills. As part of Project Chicken, we really enjoyed making a ladder for the chicken coop!



## Our Highlights

**Mrs Eccles**, “I am so proud of their handwriting this term. They have worked so hard to improve it and taking pride in their work.”

**Mr Morgan**, “My highlight was creating the Fantasy Island, they all came up with great ideas and produced stunning work.”

**Miss Mault**, “I have really enjoyed getting to know the new pupils in my class, they have settled so well into West Kirby School.”

**Miss Hearfield**, “I really enjoyed working with the pupils to complete PowerPoints for their annual reviews and learning more about them.”

**Mrs Wynne**, “My highlight has been watching the Read, Write Inc sessions and seeing the progress in their books.”



## Adventurers news

It's been another busy term in Adventurers. We have also had three new pupils joining our class.

In English we have read 'Rapunzel' by Bethan Wolvern.

We have been writing instructional text including how to catch a witch. We have also read 'Hermelin' by Mini Grey. Using this novel we wrote 'ridiculous' stories and letters.



In Maths we learnt multiplication, division, place value and measuring. In our measuring topic we really enjoyed measuring each other.

For our Learning Means the World topic, we have been learning all about Ancient Greece. We have looked at the Olympic Games, democracy and we have really enjoyed making Greek pots. In DT we really enjoyed making rafts, we were so pleased that no one sunk!

In PE we have been using the exercise equipment and completing a sensory circuit.



We have also made a perch for the hens as part of our project chicken activity. Read more on page 12.

### Our Highlights

**Mrs Fitzgerald**, "I have really enjoyed all their hard work with writing this term and reading their super stories."

**Mrs Draycott**, "I have really enjoyed seeing the improvement they have made with their Read, Write, Inc."

**Mr Pickering**, "My highlight has been the DT lesson, I loved watching and helping them all make the boats."

**Miss Gilmartin**, "I have really enjoyed seeing them developing their speaking and listening skills"

**Mrs Hughes**, "My highlight has been getting to know such a lovely form."



# Horticulture update

It's a busy time of year for our Horticulture team with Miss Harris and Mr Jones. Our young people have been filling the raised beds with fresh compost ready for planting, sowing vegetable seeds, doing lots of potting on and nurturing their seedlings in the polytunnel.

Pupils also get the opportunity to enjoy Horticulture as a new Friday Wellbeing option.

Part of our Horticulture area is also 'Project Chicken', our new chicken coop build. This is an important part of the developments in our curriculum, with options choices at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) including BTEC Horticulture and BTEC Animal Care, new for



## PROJECT CHICKEN NEWS



Working with local builder, Craig Newton, Wirral Structural Services, this is a pupil led life skills and Horticulture project. Our Post 16 group produced the coop design and costings. The build is a completely joint project as a unique learning experience, for students from across the school, including Horticulture and Life Skills groups.

Project Chicken has now progressed to a building site, each team appointing a Site Manager and our young people have to be dressed appropriately before entering the site area.

Project Chicken is ideal for developing life skills including following rules, team



work, leadership as well all the practical construction skills! The outdoor activities are excellent for pupil wellbeing and being involved in the build will give pupils a real sense of ownership once it's built.

We'll be posting updates on social media and the website so keep in touch!







## WKS MOVE FITNESS AND WELLBEING INITIATIVE

The PE and Occupational Therapy (OT) departments launched a new initiative for the pupils and staff - #WKSMove.

An initiative from Mr Musgrave, PE lead and our OT team Mrs Irvin and Mrs Taplin, is aimed at a positive approach fitness and wellbeing, to encourage more movement. Particularly important during lockdown and for our remote learners.

#WKSMove is focused on getting moving; increasing steps and having more active time throughout the day, as this all has a big impact on our overall mental and physical well being.



T-shirts designed by Post 16

## Sensory circuits

Sensory circuits is a whole school approach of sensory integration informed activities for the pupils, incorporated into the PE curriculum. It is delivered to each class on a rolling half term rota and aims to provide a 6 week block.

Each sensory circuit is designed by an Occupational Therapist to incorporate a number of sensory activities to aid self regulation, improve body awareness and improve their motor skills. This also allows our Occupational Therapy staff to informally assess our pupils motor skills. Benefits include:

- Self regulation
- Improve fine and gross motor skills
- Improve co-ordination
- Improve core muscles
- Increase strength and fitness
- Improve body awareness



# WKS pupils on AQA Unlocking Potential programme

**We're very excited our pupils have places on the AQA Unlocking Potential programme, run jointly with the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust. West Kirby School were one of only 20 selected from 86 schools nationwide.**

The programme aims to bring out the best in young people so that they can achieve their goals by taking them on a personal journey that will develop their skills and knowledge, increases their confidence, self-belief and motivation and raises their aspirations and encourages them to aim high in life.

The selected pupils across KS3,4 & 5 invited two pupil mentors to join the group whilst working in the bubbles! The WKS Team is Ben, Thom, Ryan, Harvey, Corey and Aiden, who are supported by Mr Evans and Mr Walker (who are organised by Mrs Shallcross!)

What a journey we have all been on. We have faced many challenges, lockdowns, covid bubbles, covid restrictions and IT glitches, room changes, GCSE lessons and



sports injuries. We've zoomed, we've teamed and we finally met our Olympic Athlete Mentor, Henry Cookey who, not only was GB Taekwondo champion and Ninja Warrior UK 2016 semi finalist, he trained for the 2016 Olympics and is a fully qualified personal trainer with his own Ninja Warrior Gym in Liverpool.



We are very proud of our pupils and very excited to work with Henry. We have a social community project that we are working on, so we will keep you all updated.

## Celebrating World Book Day

A big day in the school events calendar, despite Covid. For World Book day we invited all staff and pupils to dress up as a character from their favourite book.

Thanks to our Reading team, Miss Abernethy & Miss Dennis we held virtual quizzes. The Roald Dahl quiz for Primary and a whole school Big World Book day quiz! Thanks to everyone who joined in to keep our love of books spirit going!





In February the Primary pupils entered their poems in the Young Writers Poetry competition. The theme of the poem was 'Peculiar Pets'. The pupils were asked to take their classroom on an adventure that was creative, exciting and to let their imaginations run wild.

This gave pupils the opportunity to showcase poetic techniques such as imagery and alliteration. All the pupils engaged in the completion and the poems have been displayed in school.



Peculiar Pets took our classroom on an adventure that was exciting, creative and let our imaginations run wild!



From all the poems submitted, three poems were awarded prizes by the Young Writers judges and the pupils work will be published in the book, 'Peculiar Pets - Into the Wild!'

It's a brilliant and fantastic opportunity for West Kirby School & College pupils to share their creative writing talent.

*Well done to all the Primary pupils for your efforts.*

## Dot Art Schools competition

West Kirby School are proud to be involved in the dot-art schools competition.

dot-art schools is an interactive, online, inter-school, art competition, taking place annually and culminating in a public exhibition of the winning artworks and prize giving.

We're proud of all our talented pupils who submitted artwork for the competition.

Here's the 3 shortlisted pieces of artwork representing our school for the final. The winning artwork for each school is now down to a public vote! Good luck to you all!



*Surreal Room by Amy*  
Watercolour and Pencil, 27cm x 37cm



*Gryffindor by Riley*  
Acrylic paint, 58cm x 40cm



*Blood Moon by Kieran*  
Spray paint, 42cm x 29cm

# Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) update

## Hello to our WKS pupils, families and local community

Welcome back to many of our pupils who were learning at home last term. We have missed you!

You engaged really well with remote learning, but it is great to have most of you back in school with us.

There have been changes in school to keep us safe. The Government rules about COVID are sometimes changing too. This can be a worrying time for young people and adults alike.

Sometimes change is difficult. Sometimes the unknown is difficult and confusing. Sometimes this makes us feel anxious / nervous / worried / scared / angry / sad. Can you think of any emotion words to describe how you feel?

Sometimes the change can be easy, sometimes it's tricky. Everyone is different, so everyone will have different thoughts, feelings or ideas about how to cope.

It helps if we talk to each other about how we feel. It helps us if we use positive strategies to help us. This might be listening to music, drawing, reading, playing a game, doing exercise, being outdoors, using sensory equipment, getting rest or being active. Everyone copes differently.

Parents and Carers - here are a few ideas to support young people through anxiety relating to COVID.

From Miss Gilmartin, Miss Lambert, Mrs Mellors and Miss Callaghan

Sources: <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/sltcovid19>

What (NOT!) to say to an anxious person about COVID-19			
Try not to...	If you say....	They will think..	Instead you could try...
Ignore it!	<i>Don't be silly! Everything is fine!</i>	<i>No one else feels like this! What is wrong with me?</i>	<i>'Lots of things have changed and people are worried, but this will not be forever. The scientific and medical experts are working on a solution. That is <b>their</b> job. <b>We</b> need to think about the things <b>we</b> can do at home that make us feel happy.'</i>
Join in!	<i>It's not just you...we are all upset!</i>	<i>This must be REALLY bad if you are upset too!</i>	<i>'It is an upsetting time for everyone but try to take a break from media coverage during the day. Information is coming in very quickly and people have lots of opinions - not all of them helpful! Instead distract yourselves by being outside when you can, noticing the signs change in nature, playing a game or completing a project. It will help you both.'</i>
Predict the worst!	<i>If you don't wash your hands properly Grandad might catch it.</i>	<i>If my Grandad gets sick then it is my fault!</i>	<i>'You are being really careful about washing your hands and that will help Grandad stay healthy!'</i>



# Duke of Edinburgh Award @WestKirbySchool #wksdofe



## WKS DofE update

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) group are persevering with their expedition training, although we know they are desperate to get out and put it into practice. Now the restrictions are beginning to be lifted we are excited to say that we have a couple of dates in the diary for later this term.

We continue to be pleased with the progress pupils are making on the other award sections, well done to you all.

The staff team are currently planning ahead for the end of the Summer term, we hope to be able to run both a practice and assessed expedition so fingers crossed.

You're all showing great resilience, we're 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, Miss Gilmartin,  
Mr Cox, Mr Scullion

*If you're aged 14 or older and are interested in joining the adventure, speak to Mrs Draycott to find out more!*



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

# Options evening

We held our virtual Options information evening in March for Year 9 pupils and their families.

A big thanks for all those parents who joined us. The virtual format with 'drop-in' breakout rooms gave an opportunity to discuss subjects with teachers in more detail and ask any questions.

We're proud to offer a range of both academic and vocational subjects for our young people at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11). Popular choices for next year include our new subjects GCSE Classics and BTEC Animal Care, along with GCSE English



Literature, GCSE Plus, BTEC Horticulture, Food Technology and GCSE History, Art and Design Technology.

To find out more visit our website [www.wkrs.co.uk/curriculum](http://www.wkrs.co.uk/curriculum)

## Improving wayfinding

Earlier this year we installed new wayfinding signage around the school. We hope this will help our pupils to navigate the building, move from subject to subject and support Autistic pupils with a visual approach. For each subject we created an icon which appears on the signs and also the room door.

The visitor rooms and hall are now also more welcoming with our school vision and values. Feedback from pupils and even staff has been very positive!





# Merseyside Police and National Autism support

We're pleased to be partnering with Merseyside Police and National Police Autism Association. We're looking forward to the positive opportunities it can bring to the school and our young people.

National Police Autism Association assist police forces in supporting neurodiversity in all its forms. They aim to end the stigma, prejudice and ignorance surrounding neurodivergent conditions. The NPAA also promotes and shares best practices for working with the autistic community, such as autism alert cards.

## Lynsay Armbruster came to meet us.

"Hello, I am Lynsay Armbruster and I am a police Detective Inspector in Merseyside. I work in Wirral and my job is Child Protection.



I have been in the police for 17 years and really enjoy my job. I am married, a mum to two sons and also have 2 lovely fluffy dogs. After my eldest son was diagnosed with Asperger's I became really interested in autism spectrum conditions and decided to learn more about it. I undertook a number of training courses and qualifications to improve my knowledge. This later led me to taking up an extra role in policing as the



**National Police  
Autism Association**



force lead for autism. I have been doing this for around 5 years and it makes me very proud.

I therefore am the Lead Co-ordinator of the National Police Autism Association (NPAA). NPAA is privately run group of police officers and staff established to support colleagues affected by autism and other neurodivergent conditions. This helps to demonstrate Merseyside Police's commitment to our autistic community.

I do a lot of work around autism and other neurodiversity conditions for the police such as training internally to improve our knowledge. I do this to support the community and people like yourselves.

It is really important that the police understand how best to support our autistic community and it is equally important that I help our autistic community manage interactions with police safely and happily."

Free feel to follow me  
twitter @Merseysidenpaa



**Meet Oxberry, Jake and Beau**

#autismawarenessweek



## STAR ARTWORK CORNER

This term we're very proud of our two young people for their creative expression and talent.

Dylan, 'Breaking through', Year 10 (Left)  
Paige, Year 8 (Below)



## Exam results dates

Tuesday 10th August

AS Level results

Thursday 12th August

GCSE, Cambridge Nationals and vocational subjects

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