

# The Weald Weekly

Term 5, Friday 8 May



Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, huge congratulations to Francesca and Naevia who competed in the British Riding Club National Dressage Finals and to Flavia who qualified for the triathlon XTERRA World Championships in New Mexico in October – truly outstanding performances.

Examination season continues with our Year 11 students completing their GCSE Art examinations and Year 10 students completing their End of Year Speaking Assessments.

Tuesday afternoon we hosted our Year 13 Prize Giving Ceremony. It was a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of so many of our students - congratulations to all award winners and thank you to the parents who attended. We were joined by our guest speaker, Kit Bradshaw-Haydock, a former Weald student, who delivered a very inspiring speech as well as distributing the prizes.

Following that, on Wednesday, we marked Year 13's final day in school before they begin their study leave. As always, everyone was dressed in their old Weald uniform (including the boys!) and there were lots of emotions as well as shirt-signing. We wish them every success as they prepare for and sit their A Level examinations and as a year group they will be sorely missed.

We have also had a number of trips taking place. On Tuesday, our Year 12 Physics and Maths students visited a mechanical workshop at Thorpe Park, gaining valuable insight into real-world engineering applications. On Wednesday evening, students enjoyed a theatre trip to see *Hercules* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. Today, our Year 12 Geography students travelled to Hastings to support their NEA fieldwork - an important component of their course.

Students in Years 7 and 8 have been building and strengthening the eight essential skills through our Skills Builder Programme. We are delighted to launch our Summer Skills Challenge - an exciting opportunity for students to put these skills into action and continue developing them through participation in extra-curricular clubs. Each student has received a Summer Skills Passport, where they can collect points by demonstrating the eight essential skills at any extra-curricular club on offer. The challenge has already begun and will run for the next six weeks, with prizes available for those who earn the highest number of points. We would greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your child to take part and make the most of this opportunity.

Looking ahead, next week is our penultimate week before half term and we will be marking Mental Health Awareness Week. As part of this, we will be holding a 'Comfy Clothes' (non-uniform) day on Friday 15 May to raise funds. Please see the poster in the *Weald Weekly* for further details.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

R V Booth  
Headteacher

## Upcoming Events - May 2026

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Monday 11</b>    | Mental Health Awareness Week<br>Year 10 Languages End of Year Speaking Assessments, until Thursday 14 May<br>U13 and U15 "Chance 2 Compete" Cricket Competition, Sidcup<br>Year 12 (9 students) Royal Society of Chemistry Competition, Tonbridge School |
| <b>Wednesday 13</b> | Year 10 Geography Field Work Trip, Horton Kirby                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Thursday 14</b>  | Year 10 Geography Field Work Trip, Horton Kirby<br>Drama A Level Technical Workshop, Trinity Theatre<br>Art and French Paris Trip Information Evening, Tonbridge, 16:30 - 17:00                                                                          |
| <b>Friday 15</b>    | Comfy Clothes (Non-Uniform) Day for Mental Health Awareness Week<br>English Schools Athletics Track & Field Schools Cup 2026, Round 1, Tonbridge School                                                                                                  |

[Website Calendar](#)

## Careers Newsletter

Please see [here](#) for this week's Careers Newsletter which contains weekly opportunities and information for students.

## Sporting Success

### British Riding Club National Dressage Finals

Francesca riding Roxie and Naevia riding Apache competed in the British Riding Club National Dressage Finals at Arena UK, Grantham at the weekend. They both ride for Sevenoaks riding club in the junior dressage team. They had a brilliant day both remembering all three tests and their team finishing 8th overall. Junior teams are 18 and under so being only 12 and 13 they should be super proud of themselves for such a great result!



### Triathlon Triumph

Congratulations to Flavia, who delivered an outstanding performance to win her category at the XTERRA Weston Park in Staffordshire. The event brought together athletes from across the country to compete in a challenging off-road triathlon, featuring a 400m lake swim, a demanding 8km mountain bike course, and a fast-paced 3km trail run.

Flavia rose to the challenge brilliantly, recording the **fastest** swim, bike and run splits to secure a commanding win. By winning her race, Flavia has qualified for the XTERRA World Championships in Ruidoso, New Mexico, USA, this October, where she will compete against some of the best off-road triathletes in the world.

We wish Flavia the very best as she prepares for the world stage!

## Young Poet Laureate Competition

Last Friday, Eloise from year 8 gave a wonderful performance of her poem NERD in the final round of the Young Poet Laureate Competition, along with 19 other finalists from KS2 and KS3. The winning poet will become the Young Poet Laureate for the South-East of England and will perform at public events and festivals to raise the profile of poetry in the coming year. Huge congratulations to Eloise for her success and for being such a superb ambassador for poetry at Weald of Kent Grammar School.



## Sevenoaks Year 11 Prize Giving Ceremony

As Head of Year 11, I was honoured to host and celebrate the achievements of our Year 11 students at this year's Prize Giving Ceremony.

The afternoon provided a fitting opportunity to recognise the dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments of our Year 11 cohort. I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all prize winners. Each award represents not only academic excellence, but also the commitment, integrity, and contribution our students have demonstrated throughout their time at school.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the parents and carers who attended the ceremony. Your continued support and encouragement are invaluable, and it was a pleasure to share such a significant occasion with you.

Particular recognition must be given to a number of individual award recipients. Mandy-Beth is to be warmly commended as the recipient of the Trustees Award, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the life of the school. Anna Haslam was a most deserving recipient of the Headteacher's Award, reflecting her exceptional achievement and sustained dedication.

Finally, Eliza Mitchell was honoured with the Olivia Award, presented in memory of our much-loved student, Olivia James. This award holds special significance within our school community, and Eliza exemplifies the compassion, character, and values that Olivia embodied.

The ceremony was a proud and memorable occasion, celebrating a year group of which we are immensely proud. We extend our very best wishes to all students as they move forward to the next stage of their education and future endeavours.

Mrs Smith, Head of Year 11, Sevenoaks

### Our Sevenoaks Year 11 Award Winners:

|                    |                 |                                                                                            |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Art                | Mya (11J)       | Religious Studies                                                                          | Alice (11J)      |
| Biology            | Vivian (11J)    | Spanish                                                                                    | Phoebe (11J)     |
| Business Studies   | Sara (11H)      | Sports Award (for contribution to school sports)                                           | Maisie (11H)     |
| Chemistry          | Charlotte (11H) | Arts Award (for contribution to the cultural life of the school)                           | Poppy (11I)      |
| Computer Science   | Isabelle (11I)  | GCSE Award (for the highest attainment in Year 11)                                         | Mia (11H)        |
| Design Technology  | June (11H)      | Head of Year Award (for achieving the most house points)                                   | Charlotte (11H)  |
| Drama              | Poppy (11I)     | Headteacher Award (for embodying the school's values of curiosity, compassion and courage) | Eliza (11I)      |
| English Language   | Scarlett (11H)  | Trustee's Community Award (for contribution to the school community)                       | Mandy-Beth (11I) |
| English Literature | Willow (11J)    | Headteacher Award (for embodying the school's values of curiosity, compassion and courage) | Anna (11J)       |
| Food & Nutrition   | Harriette (11H) |                                                                                            |                  |
| French             | Leila (11I)     |                                                                                            |                  |
| Geography          | Lily (11I)      |                                                                                            |                  |
| German             | Katie (11I)     |                                                                                            |                  |
| History            | Lauren (11H)    |                                                                                            |                  |
| Mathematics        | Georgina (11J)  |                                                                                            |                  |
| Music              | Amy (11I)       |                                                                                            |                  |
| Physical Education | Annabel (11J)   |                                                                                            |                  |
| Physics            | Constance (11I) |                                                                                            |                  |

## **Year 11 Final Day - Tonbridge and Sevenoaks**

Year 11 at both the Tonbridge and Sevenoaks campuses marked their final day at school on Friday 1st May with a memorable and emotional farewell. The morning began with breakfast alongside their form tutors, offering a chance to reflect and celebrate the journey they have shared.

This was followed by a special assembly, where tutors spoke warmly about their forms. At Sevenoaks our Deputy Head Student, Moorkwi, delivered a heartfelt final message. Moorkwi also created a beautiful video featuring photographs and messages from staff, which was met with great appreciation - and a few tears from students! At Tonbridge, Megan and Mandalay reflected warmly on their memories of life at Weald, while Year Representatives Beth and Rashidatu spoke about the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. There were certainly plenty of tears in the room! We were also delighted to welcome back Ms Morris for the occasion during her maternity leave.

The celebrations concluded with shirt signing and ice creams, providing a relaxed and joyful opportunity to spend time together and mark the end of their journey at Weald.

It was a fantastic send-off for a truly special year group, and we wish them every success as they move on to the next stage of their journey.

Mrs Smith, Head of Year 11, Sevenoaks

Mrs Riley, Head of Year 11 Tonbridge (Maternity cover)

### **Sevenoaks Year 11**





## Year 13 Final Day

### A Fond Farewell to Our Fantastic Year 13s!

This week has been filled with celebration, reflection, and a few happy tears as we marked the final leavers' events for our wonderful Year 13 students.

The festivities began with our annual Prize Giving Ceremony on Tuesday 5th May - a truly special occasion. We were delighted to welcome guests including alumni Kit Bradshaw-Haydock and representatives from the Tonbridge Lions Club, Phil and Jo Jesson. The atmosphere was full of warmth and pride, with students showing incredible support as their peers stepped forward to receive well-deserved awards. Heartfelt reflections from our Head and Deputy Head Girls, Jess and Abi, captured memories from the past seven years and left many in the audience deeply moved.

Celebrations continued on Wednesday morning with the much-loved Leavers' Assembly, led by Mr Morgan. With the perfect blend of humour and nostalgia, students were taken on a journey through their Sixth Form years. In true Weald tradition, everyone embraced the fun by dressing in their old school uniforms - complete with some creative twists! Laughter filled the air as students enjoyed the sunshine, ate ice creams, and signed shirts and yearbooks, creating lasting memories together.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 cohort. Their hard work, dedication, and strong sense of community have been evident throughout their time here, and especially in the way they celebrated and supported one another this week. Their gratitude towards staff and genuine camaraderie have made a lasting impression.

While we say farewell for now, it's certainly not goodbye. We look forward to seeing all that they achieve in the future and hope they'll stay connected as part of our school community.

**Once part of Weald, always part of Weald - best of luck on your next adventure!**



## Summer Skills Challenge for Years 7 and 8



**Years 7 & 8**

# SUMMER SKILLS CHALLENGE

**Starting on 5<sup>th</sup> May until 12<sup>th</sup> June**  
Attend as many extra-curricular clubs to demonstrate the 8 essential skills.  
Make sure the club teacher signs your passport.  
Prizes up for grabs!

## Summer Football in Sevenoaks (Funded by the PTA!)

After School Football Club starts on Monday 11 May. FREE to join.



**AFTER-SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB**  
(AGES 11 – 16)

- FREE TO JOIN – FUNDED BY THE PTA

Season finished... but still need your football fix  
Want to keep your fitness levels high for next season?  
Ready to sharpen your skills in a fun, supportive environment

**MONDAYS — 15:45 to 16:45**  
No sign up required – just turn up and play

Led by UEFA C Qualified Coach  
Chris Bright

- Learn new skills
- Improve your technique
- Build confidence
- Play in a relaxed but progressive environment

Train with friends in the lighter, warmer evenings

For more information contact Mr Misener  
**Starts 11/05/26**

# COMFY CLOTHES DAY



West Kent

FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

Let's get comfortable, support mental wellbeing and end the stigma.



FRIDAY  
MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>



## YOU CAN WEAR:



PAJAMA SETS



PAJAMA  
BOTTOMS



JOGGERS



T SHIRTS



HOODIES



LONG SLEEVE  
TOPS



Being comfortable helps us feel good,  
so we can be kind to our minds.  
**TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**



## YOU CAN'T WEAR:



SHORTS



VEST TOPS



Let's choose comfort  
and compassion!



West Kent



Thank you for supporting  
West Kent Mind and  
mental health for all!



Small actions  
can make a  
big difference.

Find out more about West Kent Mind:  
[www.westkentmind.org.uk](http://www.westkentmind.org.uk)

# FREE WEBINAR: HOW TO FIND WORK EXPERIENCE

WEDNESDAY 13TH MAY, 6PM (BST)

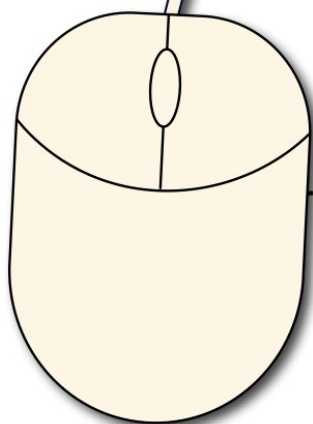
## 2 in 5

18 to 24-year-olds have never  
completed any work experience

With fewer opportunities available to students today, it can be hard to know how to find work experience. That's why we're hosting a free webinar for students and parents, sharing our top tips for securing valuable work experience placements in 2026.

### JOIN US AS WE EXPLORE:

The value of work experience  
What counts as work experience  
How to maximise your experience  
Where to find work experience and next steps



**REGISTER NOW**

Remember, if you can't  
attend live, you can still  
register to receive the  
webinar recording!

## 8billionideas Leadership Conference

### The Leadership Accelerator

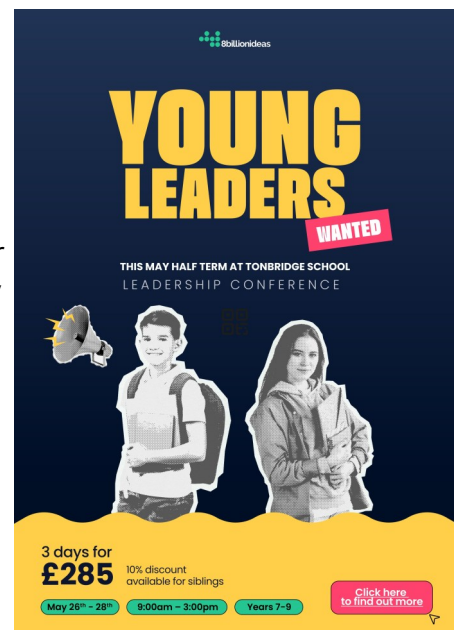
An immersive three-day experience where students discover their unique leadership profile, establish their first planetary government, build a constitution and lead their planet through real-world challenges.

Venue: Tonbridge School

Dates: 26 - 28 May 2026

Year Groups: Years 7 - 9

Click on the poster for more details.



## Message from National Highways Limited

We'll soon be returning to continue our refurbishment works in the central reservation to the bridge deck of the Westerham Road overbridge that goes over the A21.

To undertake these works safely we'll need to close the westbound carriageway of the A25 Westerham Road overbridge with a lane closure on the eastbound carriageway for weekend and overnight works between the hours of 8pm to 6am, including the A21 southbound off slip that joins the A25 Westerham Road.

### Closure information

Westbound A25 Westerham Road overbridge including the A21 southbound off slip to join A25 Westerham Road.

### Overnight closures

Monday 18 May for four nights

Friday 19 June for three nights

Friday 26 June for three nights

### Weekend Closures

8pm Friday 29 May – 6am Monday 1 June

8pm Friday 5 June – 6am Monday 8 June

8pm Friday 12 June – 6am Monday 15 June

### Diversion information

Traffic for the off slip and westbound A25 Westerham Road, will be diverted down the A21 to turn around at the next junction and back.

There will be further works to undertake later in the year which we will update you closer to the time.