

The Weald Weekly

Term 5, Friday 22 May



Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of another busy term, I would like to thank all students, staff and families for their continued support and enthusiasm throughout the past few weeks. This edition of the Weald Weekly showcases the incredible talents of our students both academic and sporting successes – we are very proud of you all.

Congratulations to our Year 10 Biologists who came third out of eleven national schools as they competed in a CSI Challenge workshop. They took part in a number of activities, designed to teach real scientific concepts in an engaging and immersive way.

On Monday, our Year 12 Gold Duke of Edinburgh students began their four-day practice expedition in Snowdonia. We hope the weather has been kind to them and look forward to hearing about their achievements on their return.

In the afternoon, we welcomed students from eight other Grammar Schools for the regional heats of the Year 9 Symposium public speaking competition. Well done to Chetna and Nabeeha who took part. More information inside!

On Tuesday, our Year 12 students attended an informative UCAS talk delivered by Jane Marshall as they begin preparing for their next steps beyond school. Tuesday evening also saw our fourth Parent Focus Group take place, where the discussion focused around teaching and learning. We are very grateful to all parents who continue to contribute their valuable feedback and ideas through this group.

Congratulations to the gold award winners in the Year 7 Reading Challenge and the Year 8 Book Blast who received a picnic and a book prize from the library. We hope all involved enjoyed celebrating their reading successes together.

Also, congratulations to Sonia 7H, Alice 9I and Rebecca 9I who took part in the third round of the English-Speaking Union (ESU) Performing Shakespeare Competition at Bede's Prep School on Wednesday. We look forward to hearing from them soon.

Looking ahead to Term 6, our KS3 (Years 7, 8 & 9) End of Year Assessments commence Monday 1 June and finish on Friday 12 June.

Reminder - Future of the PTA is in your hands! The final PTA meeting of this year takes place on Tuesday 9 June. We need as many parents to attend as possible to determine if we have enough people to continue the PTA from September 2026. The PTA play an invaluable role supporting school with the Christmas Fair, organising the Y7 and Y8 student discos and supporting other fundraising events.

Please contact wok-chair@outlook.com to receive a Teams invitation to the PTA meeting.

The PTA also need parent helpers for our Sports Day on Friday 10 July. Sign up is here: <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/wok/>.

As we break for half term, I would like to wish you all a restful and enjoyable holiday.

R V Booth
Headteacher

Upcoming Events - June 2026

Monday 1	Term 6 starts KS3 End of Year Assessments, until Friday 12 June Years 12 and 13 Operation Wallacea Mexico 2026 Information Evening, Tonbridge, 17:30 - 18:30
Wednesday 3	Year 12 EPQ Presentation Evening, Tonbridge, 15:45 - 16:30 for parents (14:15 - 18:30 for EPQ students)
Thursday 4	Year 12 Art NEA, Tonbridge
Friday 5	Year 10 DofE Silver assessed, until Sunday 7 June

[Website Calendar](#)

Working at Weald

The staff at Weald are the driving force behind the school's success and play a huge part in why we are one of the highest performing schools in the country. We currently have a vacancy for a Student Support Officer.

If you, your family or friends possess the skills and passion to contribute to life at Weald, we encourage you to apply [here](#). Feel free to share this information with anyone who might be interested in this role.

Update on Girls' Learning Trust

Joining Girls' Learning Trust (GLT) INSET Day - 2 November 2026

I am writing to confirm an update to the 2026-2027 term dates calendar.

Please note that Monday 2 November 2026, the first day back after the October half-term break, will now be an INSET Day. School will therefore be closed to students on this day.

This additional staff training day will provide an opportunity for colleagues to attend workshops delivered by the Girls' Learning Trust, supporting ongoing professional development and collaboration as we are welcomed to the Trust.

Students will return to school as normal on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

The updated term dates are available on the school website [here](#).

Message from the School Nurse

Energy drinks

Please can we remind you that energy drinks are not allowed in school. Not only is there an age restriction to buy these, but they are also exceptionally bad for your health, and we are seeing an increase in the number of students bringing these to school. Please note this also applies to sugar free versions which still have a very high caffeine content.



Sporting Success

Rounders Glory

Our Year 7/8 and 9/10 Rounders teams recently played Walthamstow Hall School. Both teams came away with impressive wins. The Year 7/8 team won 34 -3! And the Year 9/10 team won 18 - 11.5 Congratulations to both teams on their success.



Weald Student wins in Football Cup final

Over the previous weekend Rosa in Year 8 had a great time along with her teammates at Chatham FC U13 girls competing in the ESF Football Tournament Cup against teams across the region.

The girls displayed sportsmanship and commitment in every match. Unbeaten throughout the league phase, the team carried their momentum into the final.

They showed tremendous determination, teamwork, and resilience by adding to what has been an amazing season winning the Cup Final with a brilliant performance.

Rosa and her team have now qualified for the ESF26 Grand Finale at St Georges Park home of the England Football Team, taking place later in June of this year. We wish Rosa and her team all the best.

Tennis Triumph

Our Years 7/8 and 9/10 tennis teams played in the annual Bromley tennis tournament last week. The girls played very well and represented the school admirably against some top talent from around the county. The 7/8 team made it to the quarterfinals and the 9/10 team made it into the final 16 elimination round. Great work to all players and both teams!

ESAA English Schools Track & Field Cup 2026 - Tonbridge Friday 15th May

Congratulations to the athletes who represented Weald at the First Round of the ESAA Schools Cup, which was held at Tonbridge School on Friday 15th May. The Junior Girls team took the overall win ahead of Sevenoaks with some outstanding performances. Our top points scorers came from the middle-distance runners with Cora earning a huge 27 points running 2.31 in the 800m. Rosie and Aria gained 22 points each in the 800m and 1500m, posting times of 5.45 for Rosie and 2.46 for Aria. The relay team came home in first place with a fantastic display of teamwork from Martha, Imogen, Georgie, and Jasmine. Congratulation to the Junior team who made it through to the regional round on Wednesday 17th June at Medway Park. Well done and good luck to all.

The Inter-Girls team finished in an impressive 2nd place behind Sevenoaks School. They fought extremely hard throughout the day and came away with some very impressive performances. The top points scorers from the day were Maya with an impressive 43.00 in the 300m and Holly coming home in 5.12 in the 1500m. All students represented Weald with a positive and determined attitude, it was a pleasure to watch them compete at such a high level. Well done and congratulations to all.



Public Speaking Competition for Kent Grammar Schools

KMGSA Symposium 2026 - Regional Heat 1

On 18th May, two of our students represented the school at the KMGSA Symposium Regional Heat 1, a prestigious public speaking competition for Kent grammar schools, hosted by us, at our Tonbridge Campus. The event was organised by Rainham Mark Grammar School.



KMGSA Symposium 2026 continued

Our Students

Chetna and Nabeeha, both in 9A, earned their places at this regional heat by competing against 30 fellow Year 9 students within Weald, a remarkable achievement in itself. They then stepped up as 2 of just 18 regional finalists on the day, representing the school with confidence, poise and real intellectual ambition.

Their topics were:

Nabeeha - 'Dystopian Novels: Fiction or Warning?'

Chetna - 'Psychopath or Sociopath? And Does It Matter?'

Both students spoke brilliantly. Although they did not advance to the final, the competition was exceptionally strong, both in content and delivery, and they should be immensely proud of everything they achieved.



About the Competition

The KMGSA Symposium brings together students from Kent's grammar schools to compete in public speaking on topics of their own choosing. Heat 1 included speakers from nine schools:

Weald of Kent Grammar School (Tonbridge)

Invicta Grammar School

Maidstone Grammar School for Girls

Oakwood Park Grammar School

The Judd School

The Skinners' School

Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School

Wilmington Grammar School for Girls

Wilmington Grammar School for Boys

Topics on the day ranged widely: vaping, immigration and racism, the experience of being a woman in society, how your pencil case reveals your personality, alcoholism, and beauty standards - a testament to the breadth and confidence of young people's thinking.

A Word of Thanks

It was an absolute pleasure to be part of such an exceptional showcase of oracy and young people's voices. We are very grateful to Rainham Mark Grammar School for organising the event with such care, and to Weald of Kent for hosting.

Congratulations to Chetna and Nabeeha, you were a credit to the school!

Special thanks to Lottie (10A), a veteran of last year's competition, having taken part in regional heats and the final, attended this event to support students and help out with the running of the event. Lottie also took part in the judging of our internal heats.

Thanks to Ms Cope and Ms Butler for running the Symposium as a lunchtime club throughout the year, facilitating our internal heats and providing oracy coaching to our Year 9 participants, and to Mrs Creak for overseeing the competition, and joining the internal judges' panel.

School Trips

Year 10 CSI Challenge – The IVF Enigma

On Monday 18th of May, four students from Year 10 competed against 10 other school teams at Walthamstow Hall School undertaking a series of challenges around the theme of IVF, placing third place overall. Professor Lord Robert Winston was the guest of honour, presiding over the debating session and giving a short lecture at the end.

"Participating in this workshop was a lovely opportunity to have been given! All the different stations and the practicals were very well set up, and it was amazing to meet Lord Robert Winston! We had a lot of fun working together on all the investigative and collaborative work such as microscopy, debating, etc. For example, searching for different stages of mitosis with samples that go beyond the GCSE curriculum, doing a practical involving different concentrations of incubation fluids for modelling osmosis in cells and embryonic cells in order to find information about the ongoing mystery...so overall it was a great experience!"

Also thank you Ms Loveridge for taking us there, we really enjoyed ourselves and appreciated it!"
Wynn timer, Eleanor, Taya and Keira



Year 10 Trip to Horton Kirby

Year 10 geographers recently visited Horton Kirby to carry out fieldwork along the River Darent. The aim of the trip was to investigate how the river changes downstream, as well as to assess whether South Darenth provides a high-quality living environment.

Students completed a range of field measurements along the river, including width, depth, and sediment size, helping them build an understanding of how river characteristics vary downstream. They also considered human and physical factors affecting the local environment, completing soundscapes and environmental quality surveys at different sites.

Although the sunny condition in the photo may suggest otherwise, the group experienced a rare break in cloud and some very wet weather during the day. Despite this, students remained in good spirits and engaged well with the fieldwork throughout.

This experience will provide valuable preparation for their Paper 3 exam next year, where they will be required to apply their fieldwork knowledge and skills.



Year 12 Geography Field Trip to Hastings

On the 8th of May, our Year 12 geographers took part in a fieldwork trip to Hastings in preparation for their NEA. The visit provided students with the opportunity to apply classroom learning in a real-world coastal environment, strengthening their understanding of key physical geography concepts.

Students investigated beach morphology along the coastline, carefully examining changes in beach profiles and identifying the processes shaping the coastal landscape. A key focus of the day was groyne analysis, where students explored how these structures influence sediment movement and deposition along the shore. Pupils also carried out detailed sediment analysis, collecting and comparing samples from different parts of the beach to assess variations in size, shape, and sorting. This hands-on approach helped develop essential fieldwork skills, including data collection, recording techniques, and geographical enquiry methods required for their NEA.

Overall, the visit to Hastings was a valuable and enjoyable experience, bringing geography to life beyond the classroom and providing a strong foundation for their upcoming NEA investigations.



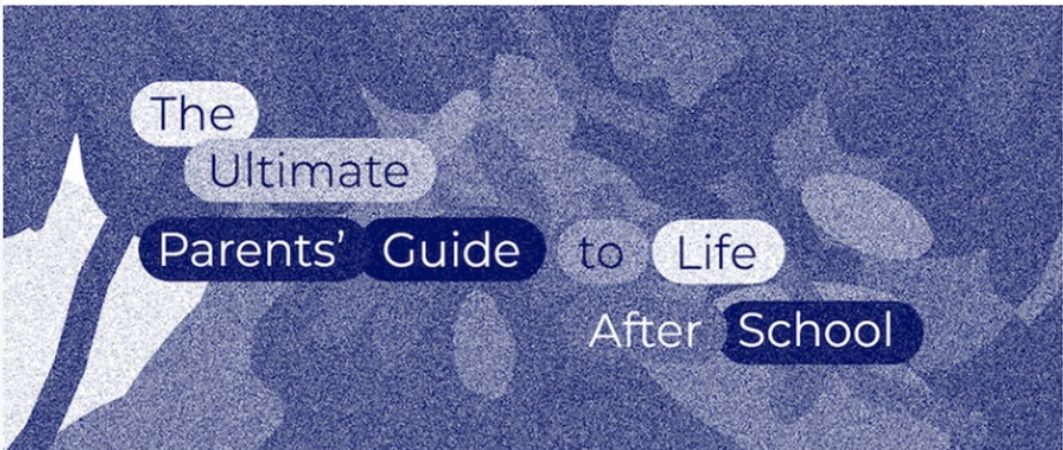
Careers Newsletter

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

InvestIN - The Ultimate Parents' Guide to Life After School

Free Parent Resource

INVESTIN



The
Ultimate
Parents' Guide to Life
After School

Parent Questions Answered: Life After School

Following our recent webinar on life after school, we were struck by the sheer volume of questions we received from parents. It is clear that families are looking for more support than ever when it comes to navigating the transition from school to the professional world, and that this preparation must begin while students are still in the classroom.



The Ultimate Parents' Guide to Life After School

The report offers families a comprehensive look at the professional world today, featuring:

- ✓ The options and pathways available to students
- ✓ The rise of AI and advanced technology
- ✓ How to engaged in career-focused conversations with your child
- ✓ Advice from our network of industry professionals
- ✓ Top tips for parents & carers

View the Report [here](#)

EPQ Exhibition Evening

EPQ EXHIBITION EVENING - WEDNESDAY JUNE 3RD 2026

Year 12 students will be showcasing their independent EPQ projects in the Main Hall (Tonbridge Campus) from 3.45pm - 4.30pm.



This event may be of interest to parents of current EPQ students, and Year 11 students (and their parents) who are considering undertaking an EPQ in Year 12.

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is an independent A-Level qualification in which students choose a topic, conduct research, produce either a 5,000-word essay or an artefact, and deliver an exhibition and presentation reflecting on the process.



REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE - NO NEED TO BOOK

Tonbridge Lions Club – Membership Opportunity

Tonbridge Lions Club is inviting staff, parents and PTA members to consider joining their long-established community organisation.

Founded in 1950, Tonbridge Lions Club was the first Lions club in the UK and remains one of the largest. The club supports local charities, families and individuals through fundraising events and community projects across Tonbridge and the surrounding area.

Events organised or supported by the club include:

- Dragon Boat Racing
- Tonbridge Community Fete
- Tonbridge Triathlon & Half Marathon
- Junior School Choir Concert
- Musical Memories Choir
- Diabetes and PSA screening events

Membership involves attending monthly meetings and volunteering at fundraising and community events throughout the year.

For more information, please visit [Tonbridge Lions Club](https://www.tonbridgelions.org) or contact:

- Owen Baldock (Membership & Recruitment Chair): owenbaldock56@gmail.com
- General enquiries: info@tonbridgelions.org

Summer Skills Challenge for Years 7 and 8



The graphic features a central title 'Years 7 & 8 SUMMER SKILLS CHALLENGE' in a mix of black, purple, and green fonts. Surrounding the title are eight circular icons representing different skills: Listening (ear), Creativity (lightbulb), Problem Solving (puzzle pieces), Adapting (leaf), Planning (checklist), Teamwork (gears), Leadership (arrow), and Speaking (speech bubble). Above the title is a row of eight small icons: a runner, a paint palette, a clapperboard, a person running, a pencil, a baseball bat, a musical note, and a chess knight. Below the title, text states: 'Starting on 5th May until 12th June', 'Attend as many extra-curricular clubs to demonstrate the 8 essential skills.', 'Make sure the club teacher signs your passport.', and 'Prizes up for grabs!'.

8billionideas Leadership Conference

The Leadership Accelerator

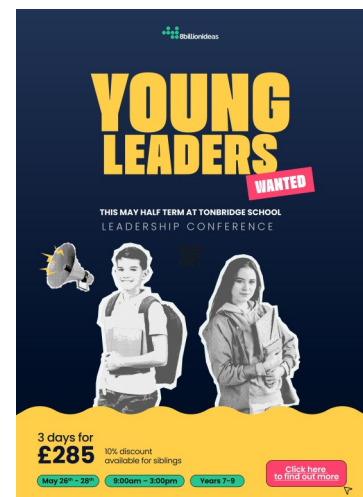
An immersive three-day experience where students discover their unique leadership profile, establish their first planetary government, build a constitution and lead their planet through real-world challenges.

Venue: Tonbridge School

Dates: 26 - 28 May 2026

Year Groups: Years 7 - 9

Click on the poster for more details.



WoK Drama presents: Arabian Nights

Performance Dates: 25th and 26th June, 5pm

Tickets are available via ParentPay at £5 each.

