

Insight

Spring Term: Edition 2



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well.

We are moving now towards our school re opening and we will all be very happy to see our students once again.

This moment gives me the opportunity to reflect on the strength of our school and our community and how we continue to grow together. We have coped incredibly well throughout this difficult period; embracing every challenge and learning so much in the process. These are key markers that reflect a strong and confident school with an exciting future ahead of it.

You will be aware that we have recently been undertaking Covid-19 testing for staff and a small number of students. This has gone well and we are confident now that we can upscale this process in terms of the testing of all students on their return. A big thank you to all staff and community volunteers who have made this possible.

Remote Learning has also gone extremely well. Based on feedback from parents, carers and students, we have made some slight modifications to this, ensuring that there is a manageable balance of direct teacher led remote learning and periods of independent study.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and encouragement.

Stay safe,

Simon Corner
Principal



Covid-19 Updates

Advice from UK Gov: Rapid testing remains a vital part of our plan to suppress this virus. The use of rapid lateral flow tests is already proving beneficial in finding people with coronavirus (COVID-19) before they develop symptoms. We will therefore also be encouraging schools and colleges to increase regular testing of staff to twice weekly as further reassurance and to break chains of transmission during this period. Our guidance for secondary schools and colleges will be updated shortly.

Student testing here at school is progressing really well. A big thank you to everyone for ensuring that the students were well prepared and ready to go. They were fantastic and really took it in their stride.

If you have any feedback about any aspect of the testing (students and staff) then please keep *sending this to myself or Claire Dalton*, as it is really important and valuable to us and can help us to make improvements that are needed.

A big thank you once again to all staff who have volunteered to train and test and especially to those who are taking part each week. Your support, hard work and enthusiasm are appreciated so much.



Miss Batchelor and Miss Woods have put together a great resource for Year 8s in terms of surviving lockdown. Check it out here on the link below!

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/c60be5dc-1a21-4cc5-b676-a875ad2d5540>



As you will be aware, we are signed up to Challenge Partners which allows us to work with other schools across the UK. Wade Deacon is also part of a Hub called The Aspire Hub which allows for schools across the North West to collaborate and share ideas and resources.

Members of the Hub have managed to facilitate some online CPD to support wellbeing, mental health and mindfulness – if you click on the Dropbox link below it will take you to the recorded session and recourses. The first session was focused on Leaders, but there will be further sessions to support teaching / support staff as well.

At a time when it is really important to look after your own wellbeing, hopefully there may be something you find useful in these sessions. I will keep sharing the links as they come through.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/38b0qdkup546ega/AABVkrZrgKv2CPY72RncCGQza?dl=0>



Mrs Noone is setting up Operation Publication from Thurs 28th Jan in order to provide our disadvantaged students, and their families, with some books.

Most of us know how precious the company of a good book can be – especially in difficult times. However, there are many of our learners who don't have that refuge.

If you have any used books that are in very good condition and that you no longer need, please can you consider bringing them into school?

I am collecting books for all age groups – plus suitable books for grown-ups.

All genres are welcome. They do not need to be curriculum-related.

All I ask is that you bring your previously loved books to room 64.

The room will be split in two: books for children and books for grown-ups.

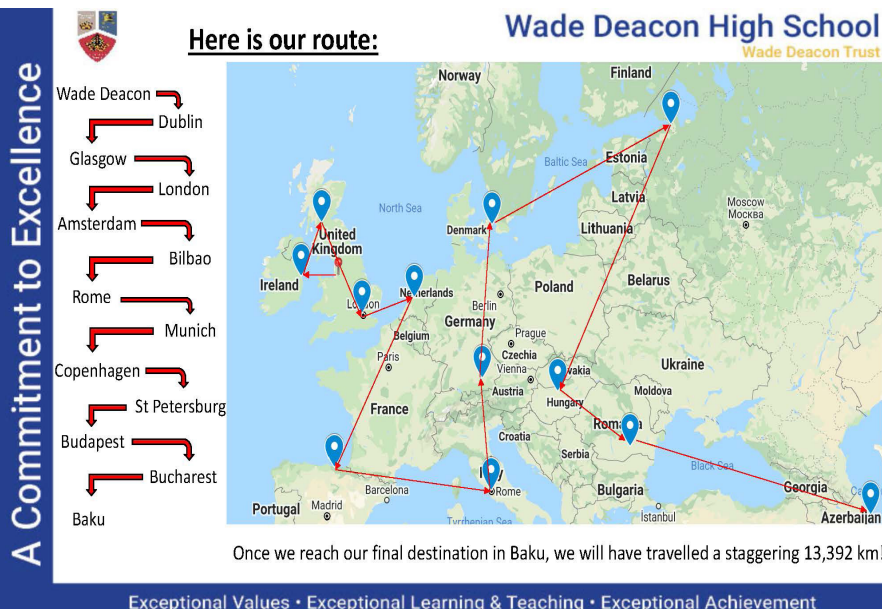
We'll also have spaces for fiction (stories / made-up writing) and non-fiction (real life – biographies, sports, cookery...) Just pop the books in an appropriate space.

Thank you so much for changing children's lives.

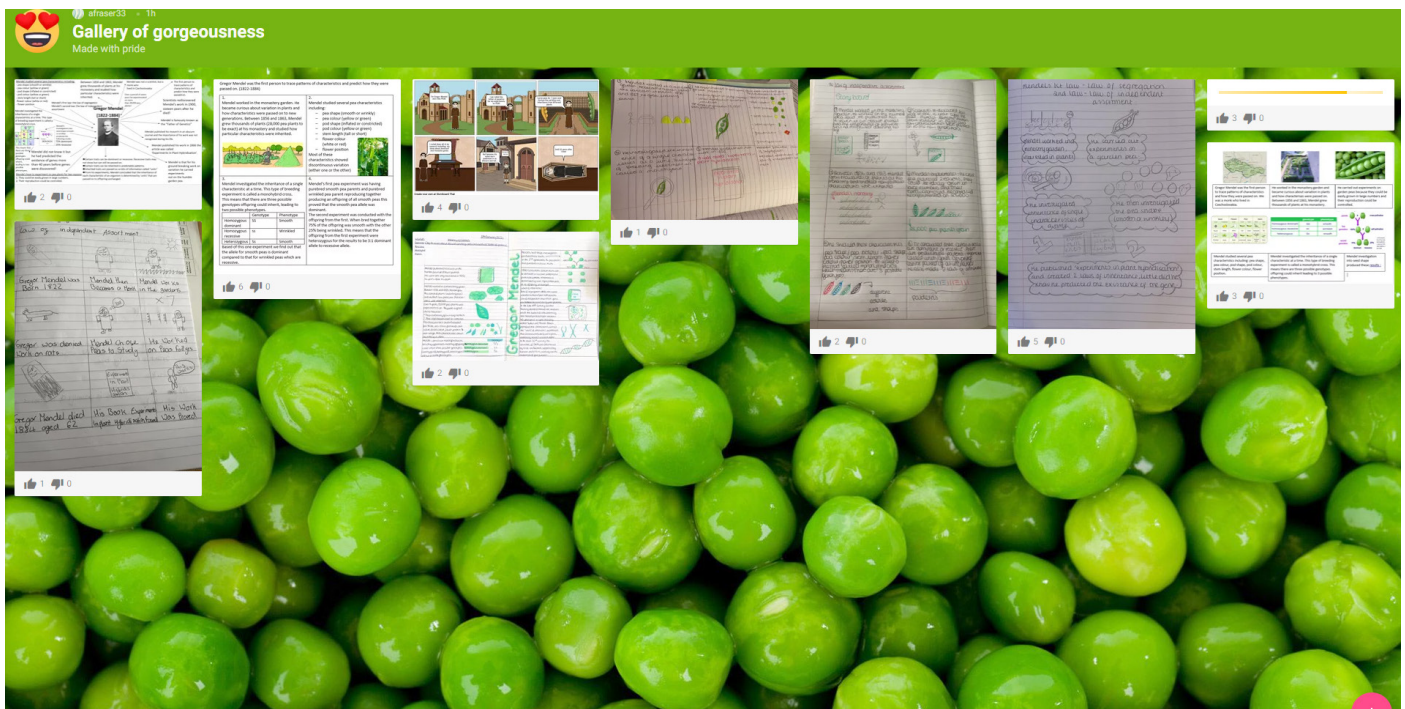
The Road to Baku

Just an update on our Road to Baku Challenge which has involved staff, students, parents and carers which has been brilliant.

We have now reached Location 8 in Copenhagen, which sees us enter Parken Stadium. We have covered nearly 1000km in less than 2 days, which means we should be arriving at Location 9, St Petersburg within the coming days.



Mrs Fraser's Gallery of Gorgeoussness!



<https://padlet.com/afraser33/z3kupm885782qcnv>

Some great work here from Mrs Fraser's Year 11 class who have been researching Gregor Mendel – The Father of Genetics. Fantastic effort and commitment from Mrs Fraser's students. Brilliant! This is a dynamic page which will constantly change as students upload their work.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE



John Russell



Retirement of Wade Deacon Legend

One of our longest serving members of staff, John Russell has just retired from Wade Deacon. John has been on the Site Management Team for 18 years and the place won't be the same without him. John has been such an important part of the Wade Deacon family and staff and students will miss him so much. We all wish John a happy and long retirement.

We are in the process of putting together a book of memories for John, that we know he will love.



SMSC Morning



Our Year 7s had a great morning as part of our SMSC programme: The kids really got stuck in to yoga, embroidery, Pictionary; as well as sessions from Joe Wicks – all sorts! Our youngsters are wonderful, don't you think?

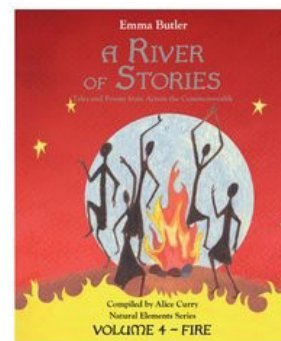
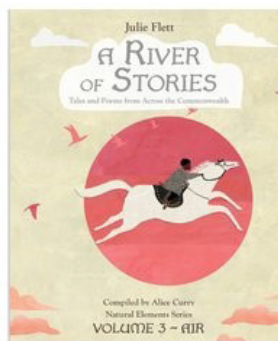
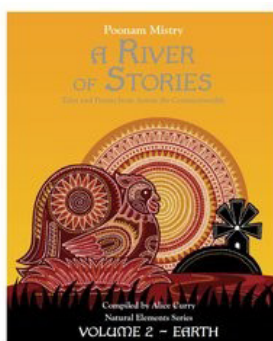
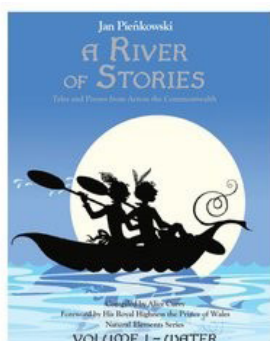


The Borrow Box

We are teaming up with Halton Libraries to organise library membership for all WDHS students. Membership will give youngsters access to a huge variety of books, e-books and audiobooks - ideal in these Lockdown times. And the best thing is – it's all free! Watch this space!

National Literacy Trust: A River of Stories

We are currently developing a range of resources around a beautiful selection of short stories called A River of Stories taken from around the Commonwealth and published by The National Literacy Trust. These are principally targeted at our Key Stage 3 students with many of the stories being made available as sound files – read by Wade Deacon's dynamic team of Literacy Leaders! This is all very relevant given that we are currently celebrating National Storytelling Week.



Student Rewards

Just an update for you on some of the rewards that our students receive. They try so hard and we are incredibly proud of them. We have:

Student of the Week: selected by Progress Leaders & Assistant Progress Leaders.

Learner of the Month: Pupils selected via Subject Leaders.

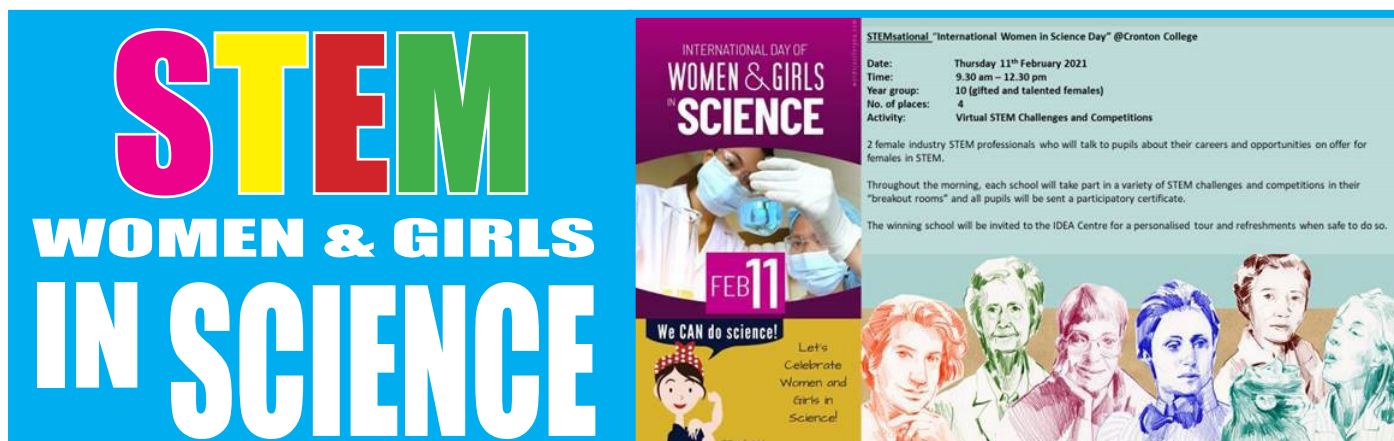
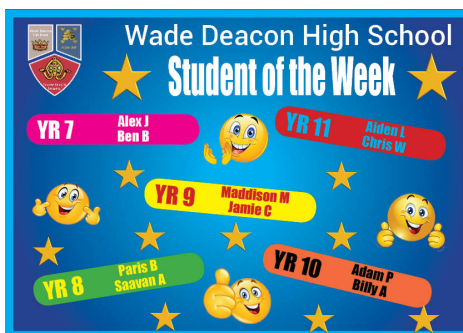
Learner of the Month: Pupils selected via Subject Leaders.

Achievement Points: Awarded currently for exceptional contribution to live/remote lessons.

RISE Points: Celebrating students' exceptional qualities in a range of areas, including 'Inspirational Commitment to Community.'

Breakfast with the Principal. This celebrates students' outstanding attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning.

WadFlix: Time out at key points in the year to enjoy a movie. Pupils are selected based on excellent attendance, behaviour and attitude to learning. 473 ploughed through the popcorn before Christmas. Chaos!



Four of our Year 10 girls will be attending a Virtual Morning at Cronton College next week to celebrate "Women in Science Day 2021." Our girls will compete in a series of STEM challenges against 3 other schools and of course, we wish them the best of luck.

2 female industry STEM professionals who will talk to students about their careers and opportunities on offer for females in STEM.

Throughout the morning, each school will take part in a variety of STEM challenges and competitions in their "breakout rooms" and all pupils will be sent a participatory certificate.

The winning school will be invited to the IDEA Centre at Cronton College for a personalised tour.

Staff in the Spotlight

Ms Graham

Leader of SMSC & Teacher of PE



Being such a sporty kid and coming from such a busy and active family, I always found reading something that I didn't have time for. It was only ever for homework.

I suppose as a young child, I didn't really think it counted that a parent or grandparent was reading to me at bedtime, as it wasn't me doing the reading, and I assumed that my dad reading his newspaper from back to front and then back again every day, wasn't reading as it wasn't a book. But when I look back, reading was everywhere and actually a big part of my growing up and my 'switch – off time.'

Back then, I wasn't reading that regularly like some people did, and even now, I can go for weeks or months without sitting down and purposefully reading something. But when I do, I definitely use reading as an escape. I particularly love the idea of a series, rather than a standalone story, as I love to get to the end of a book and know that I can read the next in the series and find out even more about the characters.

One way I have found that really works for me is audiobooks. I have managed to complete the full Harry Potter collection, whilst still getting things done in the house or driving to work. I will take some time to relax and pick up a real book and read, but audiobooks are a brilliant way of listening to the vocabulary used, whilst still being able to use my imagination to bring the characters to life. I always get so disappointed with the characters they cast for the movie version as they never match the image I have in my head and that's what I love most about reading.

During this academic year, I tried to set myself a little goal to read more and having finished the Harry Potter books, I really didn't know what to start next. Because of this, I turned to a friend who is a primary school teacher, who is currently off on maternity leave and who sells novels through 'Usborne Books.'

She focuses very much on children's books, but as a few people had asked her for recommendations, she set up her own little book club called 'Reading with Hope.' Once a month, we receive a new title and some accompanying treats to sit and enjoy our books with, which for me, has really helped me dedicate some time to actually sitting down to read, rather than wasting time.

I still use my audiobooks when I'm cleaning the house and the Kindle will always be my travelling companion on holidays - if we ever get to fly anywhere again! But for me, there is nothing better than sitting down with a cup of tea and a good book and letting my mind escape into the worlds the stories create. 'Reading with Hope' has really reminded me of that and I look forward every month to receiving a new title, as well as the treats that are included. Perfect!

The 1st-7th February 2021 is Children's Mental Health week and the theme is "Express yourself".

Throughout school we are doing a number of activities to support this.

The Wade Deacon Wellbeing Instagram page will have great resources and advice throughout the week so be sure to follow us @wdhswellbeing

It is important to regularly speak to your child about their mental health, especially during this time, so here are some top tips;



Talking to your child about mental health

FAMILY WELLBEING PROJECT

TOP TIPS

We understand it can seem difficult to talk to your child about their emotional health. Here are some top tips for starting the conversation.

- Start small**
You don't need to set hours aside to chat, just opening up conversation can make a difference
- Let them know**
Let your children know you are happy to talk and listen to them about any worries they may have
- Keep it informal**
Informal spaces like car journeys or whilst watching TV allow great opportunities to talk about serious topics in a relaxed way. TV shows and characters are a good way to bring up the topic
- Use appropriate language**
Talk in their language rather than using terminology they may not understand, but most children will understand the idea of feeling stressed, anxious or low. Explain this is what is meant by mental health
- Use face flash cards**
Younger children will probably not understand feelings as well as older children. Use pictures of different facial expressions e.g. happy, sad, angry, surprised, to help them identify and understand mental health
- Keep an open mind**
Avoid being critical or dismissive of children's feelings and be accepting in order to normalise talking about it.

The Care Guidance and Support Team are still in school each day and are here to help! Please contact if you would like some advice or support in relation to your child;

Leader of Care Guidance and Support – Mrs Harrison

Leader of Parent Engagement – Mrs Bairstow

Mentor Co – Ordinator – Mrs Bryan



Year 7 – Miss Speed/ Miss Black

Year 8 – Miss Webster

Year 9 – Mrs Edwards

Year 10 – Miss Rylands

Year 11 – Mrs Greaves



Mrs Harrison



Mrs Bryan



Mrs Speed



Miss Webster



Mrs Black



Mrs Edwards



Mrs Rylands



Mrs Greaves



Mrs Bairstow