

Insight

Spring Term: Edition 3



Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well.

As you will be aware from our recent communications, we are about to embark on our programme of mass testing of students which will take place from Wednesday 3rd March – Monday 15th March.

I am very grateful for the overwhelming support that we have received from parents and carers in terms of giving consent for testing to take place. I would strongly encourage everyone to take part in testing so that we can gain the greatest benefit as a community. If you have not yet given consent and wish to do so, please use the link that has been sent to you via School Synergy.

The fact that we are in a position now to undertake lateral flow tests with over 1600 of our students demonstrates the strength and resilience of our school. Setting up our Testing Centre and protocols to support the process has been a huge effort and I would like to pay tribute to our wonderful staff team, as well as members of our community who have made it possible.

It will be wonderful to welcome our students back on Monday 15th March which we are all looking forward to very much.

Kind regards,

Simon Corner
Principal



All set & ready to go

Covid 19 update

Mass Testing of students will begin on Wednesday 3rd March with the final session taking place for Year 7 students on the morning of 15th March.

Please refer to the school website where you will find all of the relevant information relating to testing.

Plans for LFD Testing: March 2021

Week 1: Wednesday 3rd March – Monday 15th March

| | | | Wednesday 3 rd March | Thursday 4 th March | Friday 5 th March |
|------------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| AM 8:45am - 11:45am | | | Test 1: Y11 | Test 1: Y9 | Test 1: Y7 |
| PM 12:45 – 3:45pm | | | Test 1: Y10 | Test 1: Y8 | |

Week 2: Monday 8th March – Friday 12th March

| | Monday 8 th March | Tuesday 9 th March | Wednesday 10 th March | Thursday 11 th March | Friday 12 th March |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AM 8:45am - 11:45am | Test 2: Y11 | Test 2: Y9 | Test 2: Y7 | Test 3: Y11 | Test 3: Y9 |
| PM 12:45 – 3:45pm | Test 2: Y10 | Test 2: Y8 | | Test 3: Y10 | Test 3: Y8 |

Week 3: Monday 15th March

| | Monday 15 th March | Tuesday 16 th March | Wednesday 17 th March | Thursday 18 th March | Friday 19 th March |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AM 8:40am - 12:15pm | Test 3: Y7 Y8-Y11 in form | All students in lessons | All students in lessons | All students in lessons | All students in lessons |
| PM 12:15pm – 2:45pm | All students in lessons | All students in lessons | All students in lessons | All students in lessons | All students in lessons |

A huge thank you to all Parents & Carers for your encouragement and support throughout the period of school closure.



Thank you!

School News

World Book Day 4th March

We are very hopeful that all students and staff will have their library memberships ready for WBD 2021!

Watch out for a range of activities and resources to share for WBD 2021 such as favourite books, departmental book recommendations and everyone's favourite: the magnificent 'Books and Spuds' competition. More details to follow.

Here is Miss Jacob's latest book recommendation

Happy World Book Day 😊

My favourite book: *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

Genres: Fiction, mystery, Bildungsroman

Overview: Abandoned by her family members at a young age, Kya must learn to survive on her own. Misunderstood and a loner, she lives off the land by foraging and fishing. Despite her status as an outcast, she befriends some of the local villagers. However, when the body of one is discovered in the marshes Kya lives in, she quickly becomes a prime suspect. The fragile life she has struggled and fought so hard to build is at risk.

It's my favourite book because it's beautifully written, celebrates the intricacies of nature and illustrates how first impressions of people can be erroneous.

As the book is quite new, there isn't a full copy of it available online but you can listen to an excerpt using the link below (also on Synergy) if you like.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ST54Um3hIA>

As part of World Book Day on Thurs, we are organising a Books & Spuds Challenge which we know the kids will love. Please encourage them to get involved.

WORLD BOOK DAY
4 MARCH 2021

**WDHS PRESENTS ...
BOOKS AND SPUDS COMPETITION 2021!**

How to enter: Choose your favourite character from a book and create your own potato head character, like the examples below:

After you have created your character, write a description of your new "Best Spuddy" to showcase your descriptive writing skills!

Submitting entries: Email an image of your character and your character description to Booksandspuds@wadedeacon.co.uk
Competition entries must be in by 11th March.

PRIZES AVAILABLE!

Baku Boxed Off!

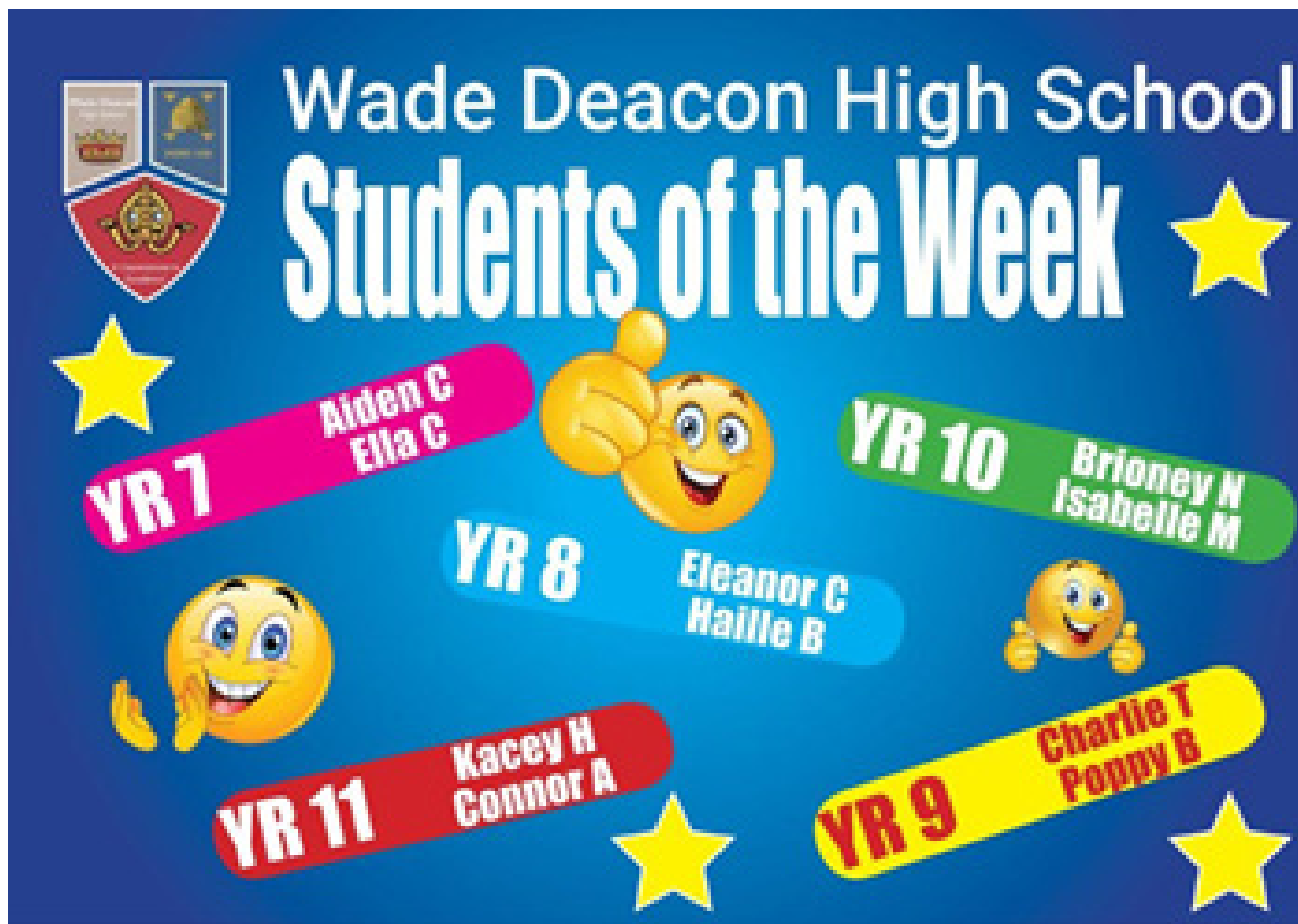
Great news everyone: We have reached Baku!

Together, our school community - students, parents, carers and staff have managed to travel 13,392km since returning back from our Christmas holidays. This translates to 2000 bouts of exercise completed by over 400 people. Unbelievable!

So many people to thank. This has been a phenomenal effort and has really brought us all together.

We hope very much that we can continue this kind of challenge in the future, both for our own health and well - being and to raise funds for our community. Brilliant! Thank you all.

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.

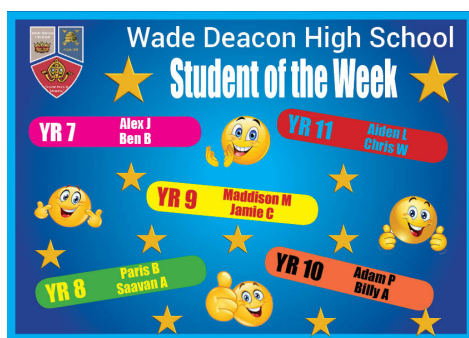
Learner of the Month: Pupils selected via Subject Leaders.

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!



Student Projects



Let Them Eat Cake!

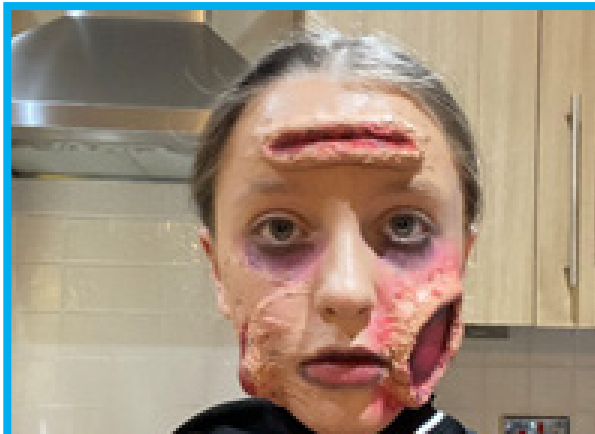
Mr Perritt has sent us some fantastic examples of students' work from competition winners Jessica Mines in Year 7 and Emily Waller in Year 8.

Following feedback from Pupil Voice regarding screen time, the Geography Department launched a competition for students to spend two lessons away from the computer, creating something to show their learning from this academic year. The results were incredible with cakes being particularly popular! Pictured are our winning entries: Jessica's River Landforms Cake and Emily's Plate Tectonics Cake. Superb – and delicious as well: what's not to love?



Horrible History!

Our Year 7s have been doing some brilliant project work looking at the impact of The Black Death. Here's Jessica Mines who looks decidedly peaky! But again, this is a great example of the effort that the kids are putting in at the moment. They are trying so hard. Brilliant!



Staff Articles

Staff Lockdown Challenge

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| 1st Art | 45 |
| 2nd Mentors | 44 |
| 3rd Maths 2 | 41 |
| 4th Geography | 34 |
| 5th Maths 1 | 27 |
| 6th Performance | 18 |
| 7th PE | 16 |
| 8th English | 13 |
| 9th ICT | 12 |
| 10th Languages | 10 |

Check out the Leaderboard following our latest Pancake Flipping Challenge. Mr Moran stole the show with 89 flips!!

During Lockdown, our staff team have been involved in a series of challenges in order to keep the spirits up.

A big thank you to Miss Woods, Mr Maybury and Mr Tutty for organising this.



Parent & Carer Voice Survey

Here are the results of Mrs Mawdsley's survey which has gathered some excellent information regarding our students' period of Remote Learning. Thanks so much to all Parents & Carers for your contributions.



Your thoughts, our actions!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contribution to our Parent Voice survey on Remote Learning. Our Senior Leadership and Pastoral Teams have reflected on the the responses so that we can continue to improve our provision. Please see below the outcomes and implementations so far based on your comments, along with some of the key findings. We will continue to seek Parent Voice and work with all of our stakeholders to improve all aspects of provision at Wade Deacon High School.

Has your child encountered any barriers to remote learning?

Your comment

The largest response to this question was '*no issues at all.*' Parents reported in the '*other*' free type option that pupils had struggled to access meetings via the lobby, had internet issues, issues accessing Teams on older devices and some functionality issues on iPads. 12 parents reported that their child '*did not have access to a computer or tablet suitable for remote learning*'.

Our response

Pastoral Leaders spoke with parents and pupils reporting that they did not have a device sufficient for remote learning and organised for the distribution of devices where necessary. Staff have created Stream videos for training purposes to show how to use multiple screens in order to keep constant view of the lobby area of Teams.

Do you feel the remote learning opportunities are sufficiently interactive?

Your comment

32% of parents surveyed think that '*all are*' and 62% of parents think that '*some are*'.

Our response

Our incredible LEAP (Learn Evolve, Apply, Progress) Team have delivered bespoke whole school Continuous Professional Development/Training to support staff in utilising further functions in Microsoft Teams and Assignments. Departmental teams have been working to utilise a wide range of apps such as Whiteboard, Nearpod and Class Notebook to support and improve remote learning.

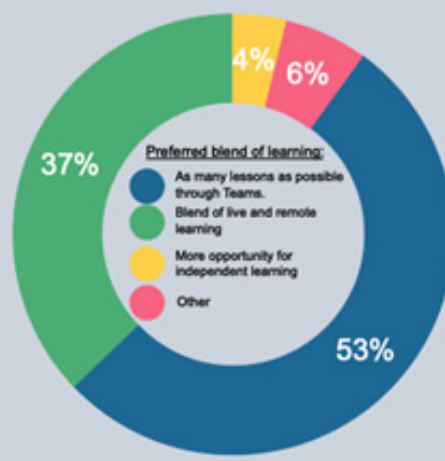
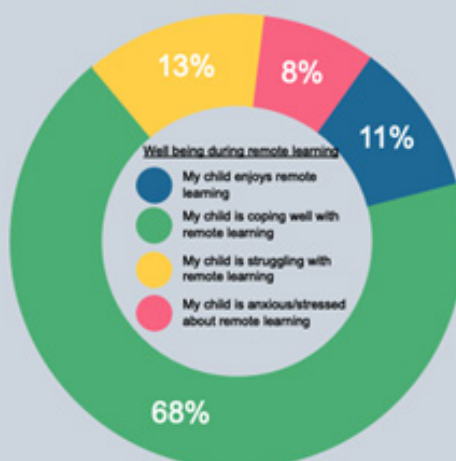
Which option describes the preferred blend of remote learning for your child?

Your comment

53% of parents think that as many lessons as possible should be '*delivered live*' through Teams, 37% of parents think it would be beneficial for there to be a '*blend of live lessons and remote learning*'. When asked how we could further improve our provision, some parents expressed concern over screen time and how a more blended approach may help to reduce this.

Our response

The Senior Leadership Team reviewed the live online provision by subject area curriculum time and have now implemented guidance to teaching staff on delivering a specific number of lessons across the two week timetable in a more independent learning style in order to reduce screen time.



Staff in the Spotlight

Mrs Oldfield

Student Support Co-ordinator



My working time at Wade Deacon started on the 1st November 1993. I took up a position of Dinner Lady in what was then known as the 'kitchen'. I remained there for 9 years. Although I was employed by Halton Borough Council, I would always tell people that I worked at Wade Deacon! During my time as Dinner Lady, I found that I had a natural aptitude for empathising with our students.

I then took up the position of Corridor Supervisor. While working in this position, the then SEN Leader suggested that I train to become a Teaching Assistant. So, at the age of fifty-one, I embarked on a two-year night course at Halton College. To say that this course challenged me, is an understatement, as I had been out of the 'classroom' for 36 years! But my passion to work with the students, and determination to make a difference to their lives were the drivers I needed. With immense pride, I passed the course with flying colours!

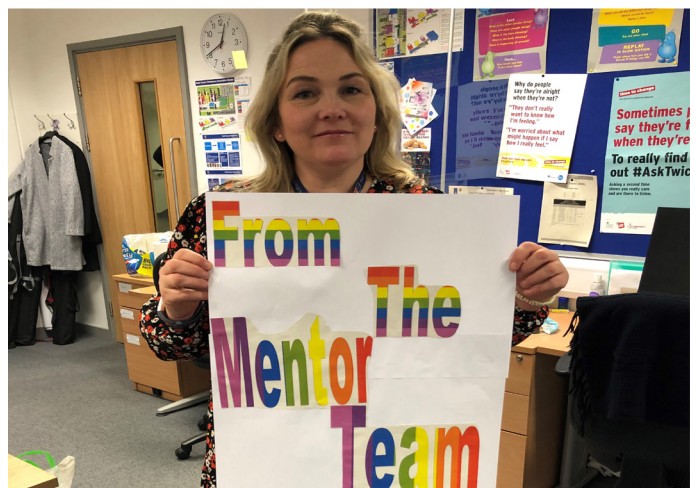
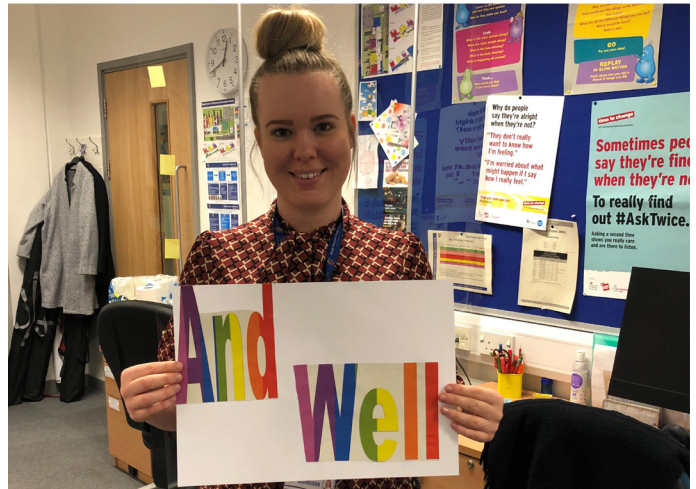
And so, in May 2007 I was accepted as a full – time Teaching Assistant in the Achievement Centre. To this day I can honestly say I cherish my role.

In my personal life, I am Mum to Paul. I am extremely proud of his achievements and the work ethic he put in at school, college and university to accomplish his ambition of becoming an architect. I have a few hobbies which include gardening (weather permitting!), decorating and interior design. I watch all interior design shows on the TV! In between all the above, I do find time to read which has impacted on Paul as he is an avid reader.

To people out there who feel that they have not found their true vocation in life: please don't despair, as I found mine at fifty - one!



A Message to our students from our Mentor Team...



Safeguarding Update

Supporting a child returning to school after lockdown



We are really looking forward to all of our students returning to school, however after a period of absence it is only natural that some students may be anxious.

Here are some tips for parents to support their children as they return to school;

1; Talk to your child about how they are feeling about going back to school and try not to make assumptions. Ask them if they are worried or feel scared about anything, but also if they are excited about or looking forward to something. No matter how your child feels, let them know that it is completely normal to feel a mixture of emotions and that everyone will be in the same boat. .

2; Talk with your child about strategies that help them to express and manage their anxiety. This could be spending time with particular friends, listening to music, reading, playing sport, drawing, writing their worries in a journal, cooking or watching a favorite film.

3; Plan a regular morning routine that can be followed each day – from getting up to having breakfast, getting dressed, leaving the house and arriving at school. This will help to create a sense of security. Try to provide your child with as much information about their routine/ any changes as you can.

4; Talk with your child about ways they can stay safe at school, such as washing their hands before and after eating, and wearing their mask, reassure them that the school are putting measures in place to keep them safe.

5; Think ahead. As well as reflecting on what has happened during the past few weeks, it is important to help children develop hope and a sense of excitement for the future. At a time like this, it can be hard to feel positive, but identifying the things that they can look forward to will help them to realise that the current situation won't last forever and their feelings will change.

6. Seek support if you need it. Transitioning back to school after being in lockdown is no easy task. You may find that your child struggles to get back into school or experiences difficulties while they're at school. If this is the case, contact us so that we can work together to support your child.

The Pastoral Team and Care Guidance and Support team are always here to help.