Weekly Newsletter
Friday 13th June 2025

WELCOME

As we draw another busy and successful week to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable journey of our Year 11 and Year 13 students. This week, we said a fond farewell to these wonderful young people, who have approached their GCSE and A-Level examinations with exceptional resilience, determination, and maturity. Their hard work and commitment over the past months have been truly inspiring, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

For our Year 11 students, we look forward to welcoming many of you back into our Sixth Form in September, where a new chapter of learning and growth awaits. For those moving on to new opportunities, we wish you every success and happiness in whatever path you choose.

To our Year 13 students—many of whom will soon be heading off to universities across the country, embarking on apprenticeships, or stepping into the world of work—we send our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes. You leave us as confident, capable young adults, and we are excited to see all that you will accomplish in the years ahead.
Thank you to all staff, families, and friends who have supported our students throughout their journey. Your encouragement and care have made a lasting difference.

Mr Stephen Grant
Headteacher

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGE

Last month, some of our talented Year 10 students took part in the National Scientific Challenge — a prestigious online competition open to all Year 10 students across the UK.

We're proud to share that:

- Students who ranked in the top 10% nationally earned a Gold Certificate
- Those in the top 25% received a Silver Certificate
- And those in the top 40% were awarded a Bronze Certificate

A huge well done to everyone who participated!

🌟MEET OUR NEW PASTORAL TEAM🌟

We're excited to introduce our newly restructured pastoral team, designed to provide even more effective, consistent support for our students and families. This new structure ensures every young person feels known, cared for, and empowered to succeed.

👥 Year Leaders

Our **Year Leaders** are the first point of contact for students and families. They lead each year group, working closely with form tutors and the wider team to support wellbeing, behaviour, and academic progress.

- **Year 7** – Miss Sophie Weir
- **Year 8** – Mrs Laura Hall
- **Year 9** – Miss Eilis Lightfoot
- **Year 10** – Mr John Boardman

They are a visible presence around school, helping to set the tone for each year group and ensuring every student gets the support they need.

🧩 Pastoral Managers

Our **Pastoral Managers** work alongside Year Leaders to provide day-to-day support, focusing on behaviour, attendance, and wellbeing across each Key Stage:

- **Key Stage 3 (Years 7–9):** Mr Finn Schafer
- **Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11):** Mrs Dana Bennett

They coordinate interventions, provide targeted support for students facing significant challenges, and work with families and external agencies to remove barriers to learning.

Miss Sophie Weir
Year Lead: Year 7
weirs@changinglives.education

Mrs Laura Hall
Year Lead: Year 8
hallll@changinglives.education

Miss Eilis Lightfoot
Year Lead: Year 9
lightfoote@changinglives.education

Mr John Boardman
Year Lead: Year 10
boardmanj@changinglives.education

Mr Finn Schafer
Pastoral Manager:
Key Stage 3 (7-9)
schaferf@changinglives.education

Mrs Dana Bennett
Pastoral Manager:
Key Stage 4 (10-11)
bennettd@changinglives.education

MEET OUR NEW PASTORAL TEAM

Mrs Claire Williamson
Transition and 25/26 Year 7 Lead
williamsonc@changinglives.education

Year 6 Transition and Year 7 Lead for 25/26

- **Mrs Claire Williamson**

Mrs. Williamson plays a vital role in supporting students as they move from Year 6 into secondary school. As our dedicated Transition Lead, she ensures that every child feels welcomed, prepared, and confident as they begin their journey in Year 7. Mrs. Williamson will also be the Year Lead for Year 7 from September, continuing her support and guidance throughout their first year.

Mrs Helen Wilson
Operational Safeguarding Lead
wilsonh@changinglives.education

Operational Safeguarding Lead

- **Mrs Helen Wilson**

Mrs Wilson is currently serving as our **Operational Safeguarding Lead**, ensuring that all safeguarding procedures are followed rigorously and that students are safe, supported, and protected. She works closely with staff, families, and external agencies to respond to concerns and promote a culture of safety and wellbeing across the school.

Miss Christina Thurston
Senior Learning Mentor
thurstonc@changinglives.education

Senior Learning Mentor

- **Miss Christina Thurston**

Miss Thurston leads our mentoring programme, supporting students one-to-one and in small groups. She helps students overcome personal and academic challenges, promotes positive mental health, and works closely with families and staff to ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed.

We believe this new structure will help us work more effectively with students and families, providing the care, support, and consistency our young people deserve.

FAREWELL YEAR 11 AND 13

This week, we said goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 and 13 students at their leavers' assemblies.

Year 13 took a trip down memory lane with a photo montage—seeing their Year 7 selves brought out plenty of laughs and nostalgia! Staff shared messages of good luck and farewell, sending them off with pride as they step into their next chapter.

We also celebrated our fantastic Year 11 students as they marked the end of their GCSE journey. Their final day was filled with smiles, memories, and the much-loved tradition of shirt-signing—a fitting send-off for a brilliant year group. We can't wait to see what both year groups do next and know they'll go on to achieve incredible things.

The two year groups will celebrate further at their upcoming Prom and Leavers' Ball.

SUMMER SPORTS CLUB

West Lakes Academy is hosting Chance Camp's Holiday Sports Club this summer for Years 3 to 7.

Looking for an exciting way to keep your child active and engaged this summer?
Chance Camp's Holiday Sports Programme is coming to West Lakes Academy – and it's all about fun, friendship and fitness for children in Years 3 to 7!

When: Summer 2025 https://www.chancecamp.co.uk/dates-venues

Time: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Where: West Lakes Academy, Egremont

Who: Children currently in Years 3 to 7

Each day is packed with a variety of sports, games, and activities designed to keep kids moving, learning, and smiling all summer.

Find out more and book your child's place here: https://www.chancecamp.co.uk/book-now

Spaces are limited – secure your spot today!