



Westfield Arts College

Parents Newsletter

Headteacher's News

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which once again features a wide range of activities and events which have been taking place over the last term.

Over the Easter holiday we had our new Green Gym installed on the school field. This is a project that we have been fundraising for and were fortunate to receive donations from Hanger's Heroes and the Friends of Westfield, as well as some specialist funding for outdoor projects. Our PE teacher, Mr Dailey, was involved in choosing pieces of equipment which he felt would be most useful and enjoyable for our pupils, and this includes pieces which are accessible for those who use a wheelchair. We think it looks fantastic, and are very pleased with the result. Not only do we have the gym, but also a new ramp for wheelchair users to access the school field and the Gould building.

We have also recently completed another project to improve our outdoor spaces. We have a wonderful playground with some great activities and a mound for running up and down. However, some of the trees and plant life were becoming damaged due to their location on the paths where people were running. We held an assembly to bring the problem to the attention of the pupils, and the School Council asked for help in finding solutions. Some of the pupils produced designs for the area, and we have now installed new wooden posts and ropes to protect the trees on the path and to make it clear where pupils can play. In the areas which are not for playing we have planted new trees and shrubs, and the whole area now looks very attractive. A big thank you to Mrs Hales and the pupils who helped with the digging and planting. They have done a brilliant job and we are very grateful.

We were very proud of our KS4 and Sixth Form pupils who performed at the National Theatre Connections Festival and those who took part in the Jubilee Challenge. Both were amazing opportunities which they will remember for a long time.

We have our Sports Day in July, as well as end of year parents meetings and reports. Lots still to do, but lots to look back on. Enjoy reading this newsletter, and don't forget that you can follow us on Facebook and Instagram to find out what pupils are up to.

Best wishes
Seán Kretz

Green Gym and New Ramp



Please see page 2 inside for further information

SOME LOVELY NEWS

Later this year we are hoping to introduce a therapy dog in the school, to spend time with pupils and support them with their wellbeing. It's well known that looking after animals has many benefits to children and young people.

The idea of the therapy dog came from our teacher, Alice Dell'Oca, who will own and train the dog and bring it into school with her.

The litter was born a couple of weeks ago and here is a photograph. The girls are in pink, lime green, purple and yellow collars, and one of them will be our dog. We will bring you more news when we have it.



Upwey Class

Upwey class have been taking part in Outdoor Adventurous Activities this term. For our first trip we visited Bowleaze Cove to look at the rocks and pebbles on the beach. We painted some pebbles to hide for other people to find.



Helen Collinson

Green Gym and New Ramp



Whilst we were enjoying the Easter holidays, there was lots of work going on at the school. We've had a Green Gym installed on the field, and a new ramp to enable access to the field for wheelchair users. Some of the gym equipment is also accessible to everyone. We're really pleased with it, and it has already had a lot of use since it was installed.

We received funding for the Green Gym but also had donations from Friends of Westfield and Hanger's Heroes, so a huge thank you to them for making this possible.

Seán Kretz, Headteacher

Jubilee Challenge 2019



Once again our Westfield Jubilee Challenge team excelled themselves, their team work, behaviour and camaraderie this year was exceptional. Twenty four young people took

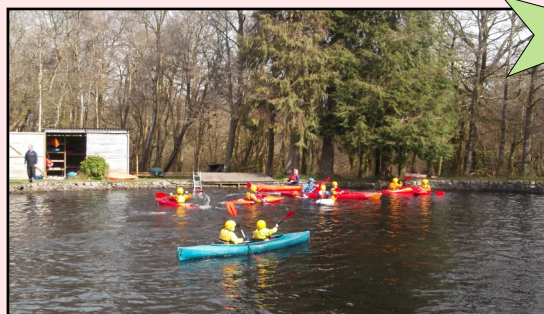
part in the event walking one of the four routes - 7.8 miles, 8.9 miles, 11.2 miles and 15 miles. This was the first year that our students were awake before Chariots of Fire was blasted across the camp site. The girls were warming up with star jumps at 4.45am!

A very big thank you to the 19 staff, ex-staff and parents who helped to make a memory that will be with the students for life. Well done to everyone - we are really proud of you. Students have worn their blue hoodies in school today and they look great.

A special thanks must go to Graham Keates who is retiring this year after being in charge of the campsite and paperwork for the last few years. He will be sorely missed.

Susie Jeffcott
Head of Sixth Form

Lulworth Residential



Between 2nd - 4th April, Lulworth enjoyed a fantastic residential stay at Heatree Activity Centre on Dartmoor National Park.

Heatree Outdoor Education team specialises in creating bespoke activity programmes for schools all year round. All the Lulworth pupils participated in the National Outdoor Learning Award (NOLA) activity programme and every member who participated was successful in achieving the award. Well Done! The activities that Lulworth undertook were:-

Team Quest
Rock Scramble
Low Adventure
Kayaking

As you can see from the picture above everyone fully engaged with the activities and had an immense amount of fun.

Lulworth Class Team

Sixth Form



Our Sixth Form Community Action Groups were given a variety of choices to help within the community. They chose litter picking around Weymouth College and the Lodmoor area and had a big black bag full within an hour, and they really enjoyed it!

Amelia Warr

Autism Top Tip

The summer term is always such a lovely time, with residentials, days out, off time table activities (Den Day is coming up on Friday 24th).

It is worth remembering that our children often need that bit more preparation and support when things are going to be different. Even when that 'different' is a really positive experience.

Visually presented information is always so much easier for our children to process. Use a calendar to help them plan what is going on over the next week, month, or term.

Preparation for sensory experiences such as the noise, smells, number of people can also help. There's a good example of a sensory information guide on the SS Great Britain website. <https://www.ssgreatbritain.org/your-visit/access-all>

With half term approaching don't forget to think ahead, plan schedule and have a back up plan!
Aisla, Caroline and Kate (NAS EarlyBird Trainers)

ICT

This half term in Computing students have been using 3D modelling software to design a variety of creations. We have purchased a 3D printer so the students are able to bring their designs to life. We have seen some excellent and fun designs from keyrings to make-up pots.



Matt Delany

National Theatre Connections Festival



Westfield have once again taken part in the National Theatre Connections Festival. Each year the National Theatre commissions ten new plays for young people to perform. 300 youth theatre groups and schools and over 6,000 young people are then chosen to perform the plays in professional theatres as part of the National Connections Festival. Of all the plays performed, 10 are then chosen to go on to perform at the National Theatre in London.

This will be Westfield's third year of taking part in the festival and this year the group of students, aged 15-18, performed Variations by Katie Hims. After several months of rehearsals, the play was performed twice in The Studio@Westfield and then again on May 7th at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. Westfield were the first of 10 drama groups to perform at the Theatre Royal's festival.

After an amazingly busy day of workshops and a 4 hour dress and technical rehearsal the students performed at 7pm to a full theatre of parents, other theatre groups and a National Theatre Director.

Our cast worked so hard to get the play ready for the performance, learning lines in their own time, attending rehearsals for some months, not to mention the 16 hour day on the 7th May! They should be incredibly proud of themselves, their performance was superb!

A huge well done to our cast!



Mandy Gould

Kairuni

We are presently in the process of re-establishing our links with Kairuni school in Kenya. We have been successful in a bid to set up connecting classrooms with the British Council which is part of a Global Learning Programme. We are working in partnership with some other local schools on this. We will have Kenyan teachers visiting us next year and two members of our staff team will be going to work in Kenya during the half term. This will be happening in the spring and summer terms of 2020. This will also hopefully mean that Westfield can complete the intermediate level of the International Schools Award.



Naomi Holloway

Save the Date

Westfield Showcase - All Day Event
Tuesday 16th July at
Westfield Arts College



Celebrate all the students' achievements
 (More information will follow in due course)

Jackie Kelly-McGhee

Friends of Westfield

We are delighted to announce the new accessible green gym, (see photo on the front page) funded partly by Friends of Westfield, was installed over Easter and has proved a fantastic hit with all the students and staff. The new large flatscreen in the hall has also been connected and is being used and enjoyed by all on a daily basis. The Spring Family Disco was a great success with free refreshments provided by Friends of Westfield. Students and their families boogied the evening away, some even made use of the green gym whilst taking a break from the dancing!

Sarah, Debbie and Carol

Sixth Form Easter Enterprise Scheme

Sixth Form staff and students would like to thank you all for your kind support with the Easter Garden Party. It was so lovely to see so many people down at the bungalow.

A great time was had by all, our target was to raise £500 so that Lloyds would match it through the Enterprise scheme.

We have absolutely smashed that target, we have raised £1300 and Lloyds have donated £500. So our total for the day was £1800 WOW! Thank you to everyone for your support.



Westfield Arts College

£5 Per Pitch - No Need to Book!

All proceeds to go to
Friends of Westfield
 Sellers can arrive from 10am



Dates for your Diary

Fri 24th May - Break up for Half Term

Fri 24th May - Den Day (see below)

Mon 3rd June - Pupils Return to School

Mon 3rd June - Fri 7th June - Newquay Residential

Mon 3rd June - Weds 5th June - Sandbanks Residential

Weds 12th June - Crealy Day Out

Fri 14th June - Year 11 and Sixth Form Prom

Weds 26th June - Big Dorset Cuppa Cake Sale in support of Weldmar Hospice care

Weds 3rd July - Sports Day, Art Exhibition and Summer Fayre

Den Day



Den Day will be held on the afternoon of Friday 24th May 2019. Pupils will get the chance to build dens on the school field and bring in £1 to support the Save the Children charity, who are aiming to help homeless children around the world.

Mark Holloway

Rights Respecting Schools and Primary School Council

Our focus is on the environment. This term and after half term we will be announcing exciting news about a whole school event coming later in the year, so watch this space.

Helen Collinson