

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Westbourne Sports College; a school with a long history and a very exciting future, we have successfully bid to become a Specialist Sports and Science College from September 2006. Although the school dates back to 1939, in many ways it has become a new school since the start of the 21st century. Since the start of the new millennium the school has had: -

- A new headteacher,
- A new school uniform,
- A new school day,
- A new school logo,
- Five new computer suites,
- A new all weather surface,
- Ceiling mounted Data projectors in almost all teaching rooms,
- Eight new science laboratories,
- Most importantly a new sense of purpose that has resulted in record exam results.

These changes have brought about higher standards and higher expectations in: -

The ways pupils learn,
The ways they are taught,
The ways they behave,
The ways they present themselves.

The transformation of the school was confirmed in February 2004 when Ofsted inspected the school (further inspections were carried out in 2008 and 2010).

Our last Ofsted inspection was in October 2010. Our overall effectiveness was judged as being "satisfactory and improving in most areas". Details are available on our [website](#).

These are some of the things they said about us: -

"Westbourne Sports College is an improving school ... a positive impact on provision and, in turn, on outcomes for students"

"The school has a good range of effective partnerships with other schools, businesses and the local community"

"The school has made good progress in ensuring that the progress of individual students, including students with special educational needs"

"The students are particularly enthusiastic about opportunities to contribute to the school and wider community"

"The students have a good awareness of the value of diverse cultures and of moral, spiritual and social issues. This awareness comes as a result of their involvement in a range of activities, including planned events in personal and social development"

"Strong systems are in place to promote attendance and these have resulted in above-average attendance figures and also to a reduction in the number of persistent absentees"

"Good relationships between students and teachers create a positive environment for learning"

"Since the last inspection, the school has continued to develop the curriculum to ensure that it meets the differing needs and aspirations of all groups of students more effectively. The students comment very positively about the range of opportunities available to them, both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities"

"The students are enthusiastic in their praise for the school's good care, guidance and support. The students are well known as individuals and pastoral managers are well organised and effective in providing good support for students"

"The enthusiasm of the headteacher, supported by an effective senior leadership team, has focused the school on raising standards by creating a culture of working together to ensure improvements in the quality of learning and progress for all students"

"The school knows the importance of engaging with parents and carers, in order that they can support their children's learning. The school's promotion of equal opportunities is good"

At Westbourne we value each pupil as an individual and seek to find ways for every pupil to succeed. We believe in keeping class sizes smaller than average, so that each pupil can get more individual attention. For those who find it difficult to succeed in full size classes, we provide smaller classes with specialist teachers, so they can succeed and others can work undisturbed.

We are proud to be seen as the fastest improving school in Ipswich, and very much welcome visits from prospective applicants. If you would like to come and see us during an ordinary working day please phone me on (01473) 466136 and arrange a visit, I look forward to meeting you.

THE COUNTY

Suffolk is a large, predominantly rural County with a population of around 600,000. There are three major centres of population in Ipswich, Lowestoft and Bury St Edmunds and numerous attractive small towns and villages. Transport links improved greatly in recent years and much light industry has developed in the County to complement the mainly agricultural character of the area.

Ipswich is the largest town in Suffolk with a population of about 120,000. Major employers are Insurance, Banking, the Port, Agricultural Machinery Manufacturing and Service industries in general. Ipswich is well served with efficient communications and is some 15 miles from the sea, 60 miles from Cambridge and about 90 miles from London (about one hour's train journey).

THE SCHOOL

Westbourne Sports College is an 11-18 comprehensive school. Numbers on roll are currently 1057 and growing.

CATCHMENT AREA

Year 7	197
Year 8	203
Year 9	213
Year 10	183
Year 11	197
Year 12	0
Year 13	64

The school has a basically urban catchment area and serves much of the north-western sector of the Borough of Ipswich, although the introduction of parental choice has meant that the school is increasingly attracting students from a wider area. The catchment area is balanced and consists of council estates and modern developments; there is a wide level of support for the school amongst both parents and the local community.

At 11+ the school accepts an intake from four major feeder schools.

LIAISON WITH FEEDER SCHOOLS

The school places great importance on developing close links with feeder schools. The school is the apex of a learning pyramid with its feeder primary and infant schools.

INDUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

We offer all our staff a full programme of induction in their first year and continuing professional development in future years.

ACCOMMODATION

The school, which is situated on a large site with first class playing fields, is surrounded by houses on three sides and a park on the remaining side. The accommodation consists of:

- The Main Block which contains offices, staff room, main hall, two computer suites, Learning Centre and teaching bases for, Learning support, English, Music, Design and Technology, Humanities and Maths.
- A Science/Art block which contains eight laboratories on the ground floor and the Art/Textile studios with Food Technology rooms on the first floor and a third computer suite. Complete renewal of the Science laboratories was completed in 2003, which now provide an ideal learning environment.
- A Sixth Form Block finished in 1981 which contains the Sixth Form common room, Language rooms and additional Science laboratories and seminar rooms. A fourth IT room is situated in the block.
- Sports facilities include a new fitness suite with teaching classrooms, a large sports hall, a floodlit all-weather pitch, cricket nets and pitch and several acres of on-site playing fields.

WESTBOURNE STUDENT COUNCIL

Westbourne have an active school council that consists of 16 elected members, from years 8 to 11. The council meets fortnightly and the students are responsible for planning meetings and coming up with solutions to the issues raised. They have already successfully organised school events such as Love Hearts & Rock n Roll, Fright Night and Summer Lovin'. They have also been involved in projects for the refurbishing the girls' and the boys' toilets, redecorating the canteen and redesigning the school uniform. The School Council plays a large part in a number of areas of College life including recruitment of staff, reporting to Governors and facilities development. Members of the council have made the following comments:-

"I think the school council has had a massive impact within the school, many students have felt they could share their ideas with us and together we have put them forward and made many changes in and around school"

Shannon, Year 11

"I feel that because there is now a school council, students find it easier to speak aloud in what they want changing. As we know what changes are needed, we help put these in to action"

Beth, Year 9

"The school council team, I think has been successful within the school. Pupils feel they can talk and pass over their ideas. These ideas are then looked at and discussed during school council meetings. The school council team have made changes within the school and are hoping to make a lot more improvements. We are here to listen to others and take every idea into consideration and hope that we can help others in any way possible"

Luke, Year 11

SUFFOLK ONE

We are fortunate enough to be part of the SWISS group (South West Ipswich and South Suffolk), which as a body are involved in the forefront of 14-19 education in Suffolk. Ultimately, we will be a partner school in one of the most exciting developments in East Anglia. The building of the Suffolk One centre (at Copdock) is the culmination of 3 years of consultation and will provide a learning experience for approaching 2000 students in purpose built facilities. This will provide a large number of our students with additional learning facilities and opportunities for teaching staff to become involved.

EXAM RESULTS

At Westbourne we are proud of our academic success, particularly as we achieve it with all students from the most able to those needing the most support.

Westbourne's results at GCSE place it in the top 20% of similar schools nationally, and make us one of the top 100 most improved schools in England.

