

## Westbourne Sports College

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# Westbourne News

## Headlines

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We are coming to the close of the first half term since we changed the school day and we are pleased with the impact these changes have made to the school. Getting used to longer learning sessions has been a challenge for staff and for students but overall the feedback has been very positive. We continue to invest a great deal of time in the development of our skills and knowledge so that our teaching utilises this extra time as effectively as possible. Senior staff have been working with subject leaders to monitor the lessons and will continue to do so.

During this half term the senior staff have been meeting with the governors to help construct our long and short term plans. These discussions have been very fruitful and the plans are being drawn up – they focus on ensuring that our young people make the very best progress whilst in our care. The Governors play an integral role in the life of the school and we currently have vacancies - if you would like more details please contact Jo Powley, PA to Mr Edwards.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the school, and wish our students an enjoyable half term (with a note to Year 10 and 11 to get revising!)

## Exams

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After half term the exam season gets underway, with the November maths and science exams taking place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of November. Students have been preparing for these exams in their lessons and also in extra revision sessions provided by staff. The exams focus on Year 10 and 11 students and those affected have been issued with timetables.

It is important that students use their half term wisely and plan their revision carefully. It is all about being organised so as to ensure the balance between hard work and rest is achieved. Working out a timetable for the holiday that factors in key rest times is invaluable, particularly if this is discussed and agreed on by parents and carers.

If you have any questions regarding the examinations please contact the relevant Head of Year via the main school office.

## Non-Uniform Tops

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As winter approaches can I remind all students and parents of our very clear rules regarding coats and tops. None of us like to see young people getting cold and so a warm winter top is an essential item of wear. The official Westbourne zip up fleece is an ideal item or plain black jumpers or cardigans are allowed, Students may wear other coats as long as they are coats not sweat tops, jumpers hoodies or other leisure wear. We operate a zero tolerance rule on these items, and they will be confiscated until the end of the day.

On the 13 October Westbourne held its Open Evening. The importance of the evening to the school's continued success cannot be underestimated as it is at this event that prospective parents get to form their first impression of the school.

Since the start of term staff had been preparing for the evening, organising the events that they would run and ensuring that the building looked its very best. There were a few changes to the evening from previous years, including an earlier start time and a massive increase in the number of student guides.

The event was a great success. Most pleasing of all were the numbers of parents who stopped staff on their way out to praise the quality of the evening and the excellent tour they had experienced. The young people we had either working within classrooms or being a guide were great ambassadors for Westbourne. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their quite brilliant efforts.

Some quotes from parents;

'There were lots of different activities, all interactive and challenging'

'The Open Evening just keeps getting bigger and bigger – it's amazing!'

'The school is very friendly and welcoming.'

## Underline the Sky

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On Monday 10 October some very lucky Westbourne students took part in music workshops led by a local up and coming band, 'Underline the Sky'. During lessons one and two students worked on exploring the blues and understanding its connection to modern rock and pop songs. This was then developed by allowing the students the opportunity to write and perform their own songs under the watchful guidance of the band. Underline the Sky had previously won the prestigious 'Road to V' and had then opened the V festival in Chelmsford, and they proved to be great at working with our students, commenting that they had rarely had such a warm reception and fruitful response from a school's audience.

For students the highlight came during lesson three, when the band performed a 40 minute set in the main hall. Year 9 students and the Year 10 and 11 GCSE music students proved to be a fantastic audience for the young band who greatly impressed with their tight, pacey set.

Activities such as this one contribute enormously to the varied curriculum for students and go along to extending the experience of our young people. Many thanks to Miss Hurrell for her work in organising this event and to the students who behaved impeccably throughout.



## Learning Resource Centre

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The Learning Resource Centre is open every lunchtime and after school to all year groups. Please encourage your child to use this facility to complete homework or do any independent research.

## Christmas Rewards Trips

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The next set of Rewards Trips are planned for 19th December 2011. These trips reward the majority of students who do the right thing all of the time and are offered to students with exemplary attendance and behaviour records. Choices will include Christmas shopping, a trip to the West End and more!  
Further details to follow.

## Anti-Bullying Week

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Anti-bullying week is week commencing 14th November 2011. This year's theme is 'STOP AND THINK—WORDS CAN HURT' and aims to tackle verbal bullying. There will be various events and activities throughout the week culminating in a civvies day on Friday 18th November 2011. There will also be anti-bullying wristbands for sale. Further details to follow.



## Artists of the Month September 2011

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Bailey Fairweather	7H
Natasha Ranger	7W
Jamie Robertson	8K
Caitlin Chatfield	8R
Loron Hurd	9D
Callum Gibbins	9K
Hannah Starling	10K
Luke Harper	10L
Molly Page	11H
Jordan Bell	11W

## Linguists of the Month September 2011

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Abdullah Karim	7K
Samuel Loose	8T
Aiden Clarke	9W

## Scientists of the Month September 2011

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Manpreet Kour	7N
Star Fox	8N
Chloe Johnson	9N
Alex Holland	10N

*Well done to all of you!*

## Year 9 Restorative Justice Resolution Counsellors

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Congratulations to the following Year Nine students who have successfully completed their training in conflict resolution. Well done to Karri Crisp, Carman Pooley, Hiyam Sediek, Chloe Jones, Georgia Laughlin, Lauren Page, Yasmin Pulham, Chloe Smith, Charlotte Sutton, Teliah Turner, Niamh McCullough, Ellie-Rose McLellan, Ashley Milne, Megan Minns, Ayr Sunil, Emily Webb, Jasmin Gilbertson-Saggers, Lauren Bruen, India Hare, Antonio Frost, Liam Garwood and Diana Ramalho. These students will mediate between groups of year 7 and 8 students who have friendship issues.

## Impress Projects



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This year has seen the introduction of a new homework scheme called IMPRESS. The idea is to give students greater opportunities to impress staff with their skills and knowledge by setting more open ended tasks for homework, and also setting them over longer timescales.

We have seen some fantastic results already. During the Open Evening Mr Emmanuel was proudly displaying some quite extraordinary videos made by students in Year 8 for their Monsters and Villians project. These examples show just how creative and dedicated our students can be when given the opportunity.

There have been some teething issues regarding the dates of the projects, leading to some students being overloaded with 4 or 5 projects. This was not our intention and if your son or daughter is struggling to manage the workload please contact their tutor and discuss the issues that they face. We will do our very best to be as accommodating as possible. The original timetable was established so as to not require more than two projects due at any one time (with one exception). Unfortunately this has not worked as well as we would have liked but we are responding to the concerns raised.

We will be running an evaluation in November of the projects and pupils, staff and parents will be able to contribute to that process.

## Canteen News

**Special Offer – until November**

**£ 2.00 Meal Deal (Meal of the Day)**

and look out for our new **£1** range of sandwiches.

Look out for a new, exciting menu in the canteen after Christmas, further details to follow....!

**zone**  
food

### Key Dates

- 24 October–28 October–Half Term
- 3 November–Year 11 Transition Evening

### Contact Westbourne News

If you would like us to include anything in the Westbourne News please email to [Westbourne.news@westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:Westbourne.news@westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk).

**Westbourne News**



# WANTED

## Volunteer Money Advisers

We have the **OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN** you to volunteer as a Volunteer Money Adviser with Ipswich Housing Action Group.

We require a minimum 2 days per week. Training will be provided.

A good standard of Maths and English is essential.

Unfortunately the office is not wheelchair accessible.

Genuine and reasonable travel and childcare costs will be reimbursed.

For further details about this post visit [www.ihag.co.uk/jobs.php](http://www.ihag.co.uk/jobs.php) or by visiting the IHAG offices for an informal event on volunteering within IHAG.

Visit IHAG web site for volunteering event details

Community  
Legal Service

