



Newsletter



A very Happy Birthday - Exam Results Records Broken

This September marks the 70th Birthday of the school and the start of my 10th year as Headteacher. It was therefore very pleasing to see that in this summer exams we had achieved our highest ever GCSE exam results, and were Suffolk's number one improved school. 58% of our students achieved 5 or more high GCSE grades, and 41% achieved the new "gold standard" of 5 high passes with English and Maths. Our results were 16% up on last year and I was proud to receive letters of praise from the Jeremy Pemberton, Leader of Suffolk County Council, praising us for being Suffolk's fastest improving school, and Simon White, the new Director for Children and Young People inviting us to share the secrets of our success with other schools.

To me there are no secrets to the consistent record of success we have achieved since I came here in May 2000, it is based on dedicated and talented staff who go the extra mile, students who take full advantage of the opportunities a school like ours provides and parents who work with us to support their youngsters; all within a school with a well ordered and friendly environment.

So many of our students exceeded their targets I would like to name them all in the Newsletter; but I have space only to mention two Katie Stone and Rhianna Wingar both achieved 12 GCSEs all A* and A grades, a fantastic achievement.

Food Zones

This summer we have completed another set of improvements to the site. Eight further classrooms were redecorated, but perhaps the most exciting development of the summer was our new Maths Learning Suite with 4 interactive boards and 60 palmtop computers.

We completed the remodeling of the space at the front of the school to make a more welcoming environment and safer for pedestrians.

The biggest change however is our campaign to reduce litter by establishing two Food Zones around the site. Students who want to eat outside can now only eat in the two areas marked Food Zone. Each Zone has new outdoor seating with tables and plenty of bins. So far students have responded to this very well, though they do need to be regularly reminded. Parents can help by making lunches with less "packaging". We all know litter is a menace and we are keen to reduce it.



Forthcoming dates

- 1st October Open Evening 7.00 – 9.00pm
- 2nd October Review Day
- 12th October Yr10 & 11 Girls 2nd HPV Vaccination
- 15th October Yr11 Transition Evening (Suffolk One, Otley & Suffolk Colleges)
- 22nd & 23rd October Non Pupil Days
- 26th – 30th October Half Term Holiday
- 5th, 10th & 13th November Year 11 Maths Exam
- 9th & 11th November Year 11 English Exam
- Week commencing 16th November Year 11, 12 & 13 Mock Exams
- 10th December Year 12 & 13 Parents Evening
- 14th December Year 8 Girls HPV Vaccination
- 18th December End of Term
- Monday 4th January students return to College

Review Day

We build a lot of our success around helping parents keep informed of how their children are progressing towards their targets. A reminder that Friday 2nd October is our annual Review Day where you can come into school and meet with your daughter or son's tutor and discuss how they are progressing. If you cannot make it during the day, your child must still attend the Review meeting, but you can make an evening appointment with myself or my senior staff to come in and discuss progress.

Please phone 466136 or
email wsc@westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk
if you would like an evening or early morning appointment on another day.

Attendance and Getting in touch

At Westbourne we not only have record results we have record Attendance. You can help us by making sure you let us know if your child is absent.

Our phone system is designed to make contacting us easier. Parents have two telephone numbers dedicated just to them. You can get in contact by dialling the College's main switchboard number and pressing 1 (for Absences) or 2 (for everything else); or you can dial them **direct: 466145** to report an absence: and **466161** for everything else to do with your child.

Open Evening

Thursday 1st October is our Open Evening for new and existing parents, a chance for you to see the many improvements we have made and hear what makes us so successful. Students may only attend if they are with their parents or taking part in the event.

We would love to see you that evening, starting 7.00pm.

Summer Lovin'

As you can see from the picture Westbourne Sports College is not just about hard work and passing exams. We started the Term off with our annual extravaganza "Summer Lovin'" planned and organised by our Student Council.

Students (and staff!) had great fun on the wide range of inflatable rides and games; possibly the most popular being the SumoSuits. As Headteacher I had to show everyone how to ride the **Bronco Bull**, and if you want to see the pictures of me falling off you'll have to come to Open Evening!

Well done to the Student Council for organising such a splendid event.

New Staff

The start of a new year always brings new names and faces to the teaching staff of the College. This year we welcome Mr Peter Stiven, Associate Deputy Headteacher; who joins us whilst Miss Gibson is working with Suffolk & Norfolk Teacher Training Scheme.

In Technology we welcome Mrs Sue Irons in Food Technology and Mr Daniel Wright in ICT. In English we are pleased to welcome Miss Phillipa Wilkinson and Mr Jo Connell, and in Languages Mrs Martine Wheatley and Mrs Jane Miller are with us whilst Mrs Woodhouse is on Maternity leave (another delightful baby boy.) In PE we welcome Miss Jill Rastall and Miss Lindsay Annandale as Mrs Barber is also on Maternity leave following the birth of her second son.

Looking for somewhere good to go after school each night?

Why not come to **Mates Den**? This is our after school club created as a result of feedback from our students and parents. The aim of the club is to provide a safe place for students to go after school. **The Mates Den** is an area where students can relax, unwind and socialise in a safe and secure environment. Year 7 parents will have received a letter telling them about arrangements for the Den. The club is located in the Youth Club from 3.15 to 5.30 every week night. The club offers a Wii, PsPs, sporting activities, homework and study support, craft activities and much more.

The cost is **just 50p per night** or free if students receive Free School Meals. We currently have funding to provide two dedicated After School Club Co-ordinators, which is why we can offer this at such an amazing price. 70 students accessed the Club last term and a large number of Year 7 students have participated in the free trial week and are now regular attenders. If your child is interested in attending they can go along to the Youth Club after school and sign up.

