

6 May 2011

## Westbourne Sports College

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## Headlines

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Firstly we hope you like our new newsletter, which as you will notice has been re-branded. Since our last newsletter many exciting events have taken place at Westbourne, so we have had to make some tough editorial choices as to what is published. It is our intention to publish a newsletter to parents every other week, so in the future there should be plenty of space for all the events that take place at Westbourne.

We have been working very hard to improve parent's access to information about their children and at each of the parent's evenings have been running sessions showing parents how to access the Westbourne Learning Gateway. This internet based programme allows parents to see important information about their child, such as attendance, achievements or detentions, and attainment data. Growing numbers of parents are now using the Gateway to keep up to date with the progress of their children. If you would like access to this powerful new feature, please contact Mrs Tracy Hanson on (01473) 466150 or [thanson@westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:thanson@westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk).



We have a busy term ahead, with the main focus being the exams. We have run, and continue to run, numerous revision sessions to help the students achieve their very best. We have also paid for specialised revision and memory experts to work with our Year 11's and with their parents, all with the one goal of raising examination success. This is traditionally a very challenging time for those taking examinations, and for their families. If you need advice or help please contact us at the school and we will do all that we can to minimise the stress, and maximise the achievement.

## Changing to Academy Status?

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There has been much in the news recently about schools changing to become academies. Many schools in Ipswich and Suffolk are making this change, and it is the position of Suffolk County Council that they will support schools making the change. The Governors have agreed to **consider** this change for Westbourne. We will later this term consult with you about making such a change, and will very much welcome your views. As an Academy we would employ our own staff and own the school building. We would have certain extra freedoms and receive extra funding to pay for things that the County Council provide for us, though we would have to spend this money providing the services ourselves.

The view of the Governors is that, if we chose to make this change, we would benefit from partnering with another academy and we are talking to Hartismere High School (an outstanding school in Eye) as a potential partner. The decision as to whether we would make this change will only be made by governors after the consultation.

On a day to day basis parents and students would notice little different about the college if we became an Academy. We will keep you informed via the website of how this development is progressing.

Westbourne News

## We are a Healthy School.....Officially!

We are pleased to announce that our school has officially been awarded National Healthy School Status. Throughout last term we have collated all of our evidence and completed the necessary forms that confirmed the school had met the criteria in the four key areas; Emotional Health and Wellbeing, PSHE, Physical Activity and Healthy Eating. Our assessment has been accepted by the Quality Assurance Group and has now been recorded on the national database.



## Medical Appointments

If your child has a medical or dental appointment please give Student Services advanced notification of these appointments either by letter given directly to Mrs Herd in Student Services or via your child's form tutor. This helps us when monitoring attendance and punctuality. Thank you.



## School Day Consultation

### CHANGES TO THE COLLEGE DAY FROM SEPTEMBER 2011

As you will be aware from previous letters and the college website we have been consulting on proposals to change our school day.

Thank you for those who gave us their views, we had over 250 responses and a number of parents attended the consultation meeting.

Governors have considered the responses (that can found on the website at

[www.westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk/Proposed-changes-to-the-College-Day](http://www.westbourne.suffolk.sch.uk/Proposed-changes-to-the-College-Day)

and have voted to approve the changes to take effect from the first day of term in September 2011.

The timings of the new day are shown below and the biggest changes are:-

The day will start 5 minutes earlier

Lunchtime will be earlier, starting at 12.30pm rather than 1.10pm

Lunchtime will be shorter, 40 minutes rather than 50 minutes

The day will finish 25 minutes earlier at 2.50pm

The school day would change from five 60 minute lessons to three 100 minute lessons, although for some subjects these would be divided into two 50 minute lessons.

The amended College day will therefore be:-

	Time	Mins
Reg	08:40-08:50	10
P1	08:50-10:30	100
Break	10:30-10:50	20
P2	10:50-12:30	100
Lunch	12:30-13:10	40
P3	13:10-14.50	100

## Congratulations to...

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To Chloe Zagni (8K) and Liam Stewart (10D) who were asked by Mr Herbert to produce a piece of music for the British Safety Council on the theme of safety. This was a national competition. The rap piece that they composed has been selected as one of the top two entries, and they have been invited to perform their piece at the Grosvenor House in London on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. Many congratulations on doing so well, and good luck for the performance later this month. Many thanks to Mr Herbert and to Miss Gallagher for all their support and guidance.

## And...

Brandon Payne in Year 9. We received the following message from the manager of his football team:-

*Brandon Payne (Year 9) is a member of our squad and has helped us to A Cup final and the Ipswich and Suffolk Youth League U14 Division 2 Title. On behalf of Hadleigh Utd FC and the U14 Management team of Neil and Andy would like to thank Brandon for his hard work and good attitude this season which has helped us to this season's success'. WELL DONE.*

*Neil Henderson,  
Hadleigh Utd U14 Manager.*

## Standards

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Over the last few weeks at Westbourne we have been clamping down on the wearing of non uniform items such as hoodies, plus the use of mobile phones, headphones and MP3 players. Items that contravene our rules are confiscated and returned at the end of the day. Repeat offenders are warned by a senior member of staff, and in some cases have their property confiscated until a parent is able to come in to collect them. We are doing this to raise standards and ensure that lessons are not disrupted by students blatantly not following school rules.



## Students Leaving School at Lunchtimes

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We would prefer students to stay at college at lunchtimes, but if you wish your son/daughter to go home for lunch, you are reminded that you must complete an application form, which confirms your permission for them to do so, that you agree to assume full responsibility for them, and as such are responsible for their behaviour and actions.

Students should also be made aware that they must show their photo lunch pass cards on every occasion they wish to leave the site, and that if they do not show a valid card they will have to stay in school.

## **Mock Trial—by Louis Godden - 9D**

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On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 the gifted and talented “mock trial” group, went to the magistrate court in Ipswich. We went to see a real trial to help us learn how a trial works. We left school after registration and went on the minibus to the court. We were told to wait until the first trial to start. The first suspect was not represented by a solicitor. He had been drunk and disorderly yet refused to leave the town centre. When the charges were read out and he pleaded guilty. We sat through a few more including a deaf Romanian who stole perfume, someone who refused arrest, and a couple who denied having a cannabis factory despite over 160 cannabis plants in their loft.

The most interesting was the trial of Mr H. He was brought into court despite being drunk. He knew the judge from a past case in which Mr H was banned from Colchester for a year. He came in shouting abuse, some of which cannot be written in this. We were asked to leave the court. Mr Ismay was told why but we can't be told.

After the trials we went to McDonald's where Jordan Hixson (hamburgler), 9D stole Mr Ismay's milkshake. The trip was a success as we not only learned a lot, but also had a great time.

## **BBC Tours—By Emily Strickland**

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On the Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December a group of students from the sixth form took an end of year trip to London. One of the groups chose to go on the BBC Tour which we found both fun and insightful. At around 1:30 we congregated at the Television Centre and then moved through security checks before starting the tour. Outside the main building we saw the tardis from Doctor Who and then we met our two tour guides who showed us around the centre, giving us talks whilst looking at certain important rooms and sets. We looked at how the news and weather was sourced and produced and even saw behind the scenes of a weather report. We were also allowed in a green room which are dressing rooms used before going on television- some of the stories of demanding celebrities were quite funny! Celebrity spotting was on the list for most of us but the furthest we got to seeing anyone was watching the rehearsals of Strictly Come Dancing. We finished off the tour by having a go at presenting the news and being part of a game show. Our tour guides selected volunteers to help with lighting and sound affects and those to be faces of television. Ms Walter couldn't wait to show off her news skills; we thought you did very well miss- and yes, we do have it on camera! We had a great day and we would definitely recommend it to anyone thinking of going!

## **Litter**

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The dropping of litter is a huge social issue and affects all aspects of our society, and Westbourne is no different. In recent weeks we have attracted criticism for the litter on our site, particularly the back field. We accept this criticism but not the litter. In order to tackle this problem we have purchased 60 litter bins, introduced student litter patrols, run awareness campaigns, increased staff patrols, tackled offenders and created food zones. Despite all this at times our litter problem can rapidly deteriorate. We will continue to look at ways of minimising the problem and would like the support of all our parents in talking to their sons and daughters about the health, environmental and well being impacts of dropping litter. We will run a new litter initiative during the summer term, following on from last year's high profile effort.

## Snape Festival

Congratulations and many thanks to Tom Wilmot, his samba band and the rest of the music department for what was reported as an incredible performance at Snape Maltings on Friday 11th March. The samba band were the final act of the evening and by all accounts blew the audience away with their tight intensive drumming. All the other performers and schools present were very impressed with the group's performance, enthusiasm and behaviour. "Everyone was talking about Westbourne" is a direct quote from a teacher from another school who was there. We've also been contacted by a primary school asking if the Samba Band could do a workshop and take part in their street carnival in the summer.

### Report by James Aleksic—8W

*Wow! On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March, I along with the rest of samba band performed an amazing set at Snape Maltings Concert Hall. It was an incredible experience! The 45 minute mini-bus ride was enough to make anyone suggest they had a great day out, but our day had only just started. When we arrived, we went backstage through the 'Artist's Entrance'. We were treated like professionals as we were taken to our dressing room. It was a proper dressing room with lights around mirrors and a door saying 'Wardrobe Department'! At 3.20, it was time for our rehearsal. It went amazingly apart from me dropping the drum-stick! Two hours, one broken drum and a few toilet breaks later, it was time to re-hearse the finale piece: 'Wish'. We had a one hour workshop with Jason Singh and Bex Mather who taught us the lead vocal, harmony and beat-boxing parts. These two led us at the end of the concert later on. We had no idea about this until around 5pm on the day, bearing in mind the concert was at 7!*

*Then, it was time for the performance. We sat in the 832 seat auditorium and watched all of the other schools perform. There was a really wide variety, from choirs to school bands to African drumming – but nothing like us! We were on last so had a lot to follow. This was good as we could get everybody excited for the finale song! It went really well. The audience gave us a standing ovation and the biggest clap of the night.*

*After the finale we could all relax and go home! One thing that made this such an amazing event was the Snape Maltings venue. The ceiling was very high and supported by wooden beams and the whole place had a really nice feel (apart from the fake UFO outside which was a bit creepy at 9pm)! It was a very interesting place. It was originally a malthouse but was officially opened as a concert hall in 1967 by HM Queen Elizabeth II. The hall suffered serious fire damage after the opening night of the Aldeburgh Festival in 1969, but re-opened in time for the Aldeburgh Festival the following year.*

*Overall it was a great experience and I would love to go again! I look forward to see what we get up to in the future!*



## NatWest School Bank

A group of nine Yr10 Business Studies students have been working with Natwest Bank and have set up Westbourne Sports College's very own School Bank for students. The School Bank is part of the *School Money* project run in conjunction with Natwest Bank and Mr Hinchcliffe.

The *School Money* service provides students with first-hand experience of managing money. It provides the foundation for the continued experience of having a bank account and managing their own finances.

*School Money* is part of *Moneysense for Schools*, a financial education programme that aims to teach personal money management to students in schools.

The bank operates every Wednesday lunchtime and students can open an account any time throughout the year. Withdrawals can only be made at a Natwest Bank branch or ATM.

The School Bank is open to all students from Yr7 to Yr13. Any student interested in opening a Natwest School Bank Account can pick up and return a parental/guardian consent form from the School Bank which is situated in the school canteen or from Student Services

### **Bank Account details and features:**

Name: Natwest 'Adapt' Account  
 Age range: 11-19 yrs old  
 Features: Paying in book, ATM cashcard (optional)

The following students involved in the project are:

Jenna Parnell, Jordan Bell, Connor Grimwood, Calsea Fuller, Robyn Holland, Sean Burgess, Tom Elsom and Ruben Elsom

Any details or questions please see Mr Hinchcliffe



## Rewards Trips

We have now run three end of term Reward Trips. Students with good attendance and behavioural records qualified to attend the subsidised trips and most recently went either Paintballing in Thetford or on a trip to Cadbury World. Whilst paintballing was great fun, it was reportedly painful, whilst the Cadbury trip was fascinating but not good for those watching their diets!

The trips demonstrate our determination to focus on and reward the very best of Westbourne. Students who qualify to attend have a great time, and the staff who attend enjoy seeing the student's in a completely different context. We are currently planning the summer term trips, and hope to see even larger numbers of our students attending.



### Key Dates

12 May 2011:	Year 10 Parents Evening
16 May 2011:	GCE & GCSE Summer Exam Series start
27 May 2011:	Year 11 and Year 13 Stand down
30 May 2011- 3 June 2011	Half Term

### 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).