



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

West Road
Spondon
Derby
DE21 7BT

Head: **Scott McGregor**
Tel: (01332) 662337
Fax: (01332) 280767
email: info@westpark.derby.sch.uk

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Dear West Park Families

Spring appears to have sprung and we are all enjoying the improved weather as we push through to Easter. This is always a busy time of year, with lots of parents' evenings, Trustee meetings and school events coinciding with a big push towards the summer exams. These short half-terms really do fly by and we will be in full exam season before we know it!

As you will be aware, alongside the Year 11 final GCSE and BTEC exams, we offer a full suite of formal end of year exams to every year group. This provides a 'real' exam experience for all pupils which allows them to prepare for and become more accustomed to, exam practice for later in their school journey. This also encourages pupils to develop revision and independent learning skills, which will help them achieve their potential for years and years to come. I still utilise my own revision and memory strategies that I developed at school, although, as I have got older, remembering a 5-item shopping list for Aldi is proving to be a greater challenge than it should! Joking apart, encouraging your child to review and explain their learning is always of huge benefit.

I am hugely proud of our school and our talented staff team. We are lucky to have staff that come to work with us and choose to stay at West Park, flourishing in our unique environment. The staff are so committed, and for us it is more than a job. We all strive to do the absolute best for your children. Staff are often in school long before the school day officially starts (benefitting from my daily rendition of 'Loch Lomond' if they are in by 7:00 a.m.) and work well into the evening. Staff do not 'leave' at 3:00 p.m. and without being asked, offer a comprehensive 'catch-up' programme so that no pupils are left behind across all year groups. Pupils in Year 10 and Year 11 have additional opportunities compared to their peers in other schools, to acquire the knowledge and skills to be able to tackle their summer exams.

The vast majority of our families support the school in providing these opportunities and ensure that their children attend these sessions. Sadly, we are seeing a number of parents/carers regularly withdrawing their child out of these sessions to the detriment of the member of staff who has planned and is delivering the session and undoubtedly to the child themselves. We are very aware that family life is busy and that unforeseen circumstances crop up and we are fully supportive of this however, once a child has been taken out of several sessions we worry about the medium/long term impact that this is likely to have. Please help us to help your child.

On a positive note, daffodils are sprouting, the barbecue is being dusted off and the tropical board shorts are back in the wardrobe... or is that just me?! Spring always gives us a shot in the arm, an extra bounce in our step and renewed vigour to go about our daily lives. Every day really does count, so please continue to emphasise the importance of school and the need for your child to attend.

I can confidently say that this is the first time I have ever drafted a letter dressed as a giant snail!

Take care and keep in touch

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McGregor', written in a cursive style.

Scott McGregor
Head