



West Park

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

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Dear West Park Families

We have made it through to the end of another challenging and eventful term. Things continue to be very different from normal but alongside this it has been absolutely brilliant to see our pupils starting to re-engage in a wide variety of school and community-based events and activities.

Our sporting teams continue to flourish and I am very proud that we are again City and County champions in a range of sports and across different age groups. A big thank you to our PE team who give up so much time to provide clubs, practices and fixtures to the huge number of pupils who love sport and physical activity. Some of our intrepid Year 9's have started on their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and are learning a variety of skills including map reading, how to pitch a tent and how to identify hazards in the countryside. Based on previous groups I hope we have covered the 'how to cope when you see a herd of cows in the field you are in' scenario as this has caused panic and a number of hasty exits through hedges and over fences. There are certain things that you don't experience when you live in the city!

A number of our pupils have been involved in 'The Great British Spring Clean' and spent a morning enhancing some of the communal areas in Spondon Village. These pupils did a tremendous job alongside other local volunteers. Our new VEX Robotics team have qualified for the Nationals at their first attempt and will represent West Park at an arena event over two days during the Easter holidays. Sadly, I find the basics of building a simple Lego castle are way beyond me (all 3 of my daughters will confirm that this is true!) so, the fact that they build the robot and also program it to perform a range of tasks is truly mind blowing.

The Year 7 cohort took part in a full enterprise day this week working with people from different industries in a range of challenges. The winning teams 'pitched' to a team of judges during the afternoon and really showcased their developing confidence, clarity of communication and creativity in getting their message across. The ability of West Park pupils to communicate to a range of audiences was further exemplified by our all-conquering school debate teams. Our Year 9 and 10 teams are progressing through the rounds of the competition organised by Derby University and Derby Law Society.

Alongside these significant accomplishments we have still been dealing with numerous obstacles that the pandemic throws our way. Changes in testing and isolation requirements have kept us all

on our toes and we have aimed to give you prompt updates through this ever-evolving situation. As we move through the 'Living with Covid' plan, please be mindful of the following:

- Pupils who are unwell and have a high temperature should self-isolate. They should return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.
- Adults with a positive test should isolate for 5 days.
- Pupils with a positive test should isolate for 3 days.
- There will be no LFT testing at the end of self-isolation.
- No test kits can be given out to staff, pupils or families

As we move into this new way of living with Covid we will be returning to our normal attendance procedures. We want all pupils to be in school to gain the huge benefits of daily face to face education. If a pupil is absent this will be because they are unwell and thus they should take the time to rest and recover to hasten their return to West Park. From Monday 25th April we will no longer be setting work for pupils to complete when they are at home. This will be important as it will allow us to have the capacity to continue to re-introduce different opportunities to enhance day to day West Park life. I am very proud that through a huge team effort and no small amount of creativity we have managed to keep all of our pupils in classrooms, experiencing face to face learning throughout this term. At times, this has been achieved with somewhat of a skeleton staff but this stresses the commitment that we all have to West Park pupils and their families.

Our amazing Year 11 cohort are on the final straight as they prepare for their GCSE and BTEC exams. This year group have worked determinedly and maturely through Year 10 and 11 and are in a really positive place to perform at their best during the exam period. We are delighted that we have managed to facilitate a full catch-up programme this year and have delivered a large amount of additional learning hours to our Year 11. With this in mind, we will not be running additional revision sessions during the Easter holidays. All Year 11 pupils have been given a wider range of independent revision and study resources and instructed on how to utilise these. Please encourage your Year 11 child to structure their revision time alongside opportunities for rest and recuperation. It is never too early to develop good revision skills.

Revision resources, tips and techniques for all pupils and families are accessible on firefly through Resources > Subjects > Revision.

As part of our curriculum offer we deliver a full personal development programme to all year groups. Please see the additional information from our PSHE lead, Mr Herzberg:

As a part of your child's education at West Park School, we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education programme. PSHE education is the curriculum subject that gives young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

Your child's class are taking part in lessons which will focus on the relationships and sex education (RSE) aspect of this programme. RSE lessons cover a range of topics including; Healthy relationships, including friendships and intimate relationships; families; growing and changing, including puberty; personal hygiene; changing feelings; becoming more independent; keeping safe and consent. Pupils will also have opportunities to ask questions that help prepare them for relationships of all kinds in the modern world.

PSHE education is taught throughout the school in every year group and is monitored and reviewed regularly by the staff and governing body. Please visit the school's website: (<https://www.westpark.derby.sch.uk/curriculum.php>) for more detail about our PSHE curriculum. All PSHE teaching takes place will take place in a safe learning environment and is underpinned by our school ethos and values.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents; recent parental feedback has indicated that the overwhelming majority of parents continue to be highly supportive of the relationships and sex education programme. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please contact our PSHE Co-Ordinator at the following email address: matthew.herzberg@westpark.derby.sch.uk

We have finished off the term with a non-uniform day. This will be used to raise money for 'Spondon Green Spaces' so that we can support the development and upkeep of the communal parks and spaces in our local area. We are privileged to have so many members of our local community who are committed to doing their bit for the local environment and are committed to supporting this at school.

During the year we have worked closely with 'Trees for Spondon' to plant 2,500 trees around the periphery of our middle field. Sadly, some of these trees have been destroyed by the pointless and selfish actions of some local youths. We are working with the local police on this issue so please do pass on any information, regarding the damage, to the school.

As we (hopefully) move into the Summer months you may be looking at adding to your child's uniform collection. Please ensure that you refer to our website prior to making any purchases. This provides a user-friendly guide for what we see as uniform. As has always been policy, handbags are not allowed!

A number of people in our community are currently fasting during the month of Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak to these members of the West Park family.

Unbelievably, after Easter we move into the final term of the academic year. This is a very fast-moving term which includes Year 11 exams and Year 7 – 10 final assessments. Alongside this there are lots of opportunities for fun which include; Year 11 Prom, whole school Sports Day, The Queen's Jubilee Birthday Bash, ECO-Shop launch and West Fest, to name but a few. Definitely time to dust off those running spikes in anticipation of the return of the very competitive staff relay!

Have an enjoyable Easter.

Kind Regards



Scott McGregor
Head