

Westlands News

END OF TERM 4

3 APRIL 09

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Headteacher's Message

As usual, we have had a very busy term here at Westlands, with a huge amount of energy being directed towards ensuring that all pupils gain the best possible set of results in the forthcoming examinations. We are hopeful that 2009 will see the best set of examination results the school has seen to date, building upon strong performances in recent years. However, whilst high quality examination performance is the key to what our school does, it can only be achieved by ensuring that the school is a happy, thriving community where pupils enjoy a wide range of extra curricular activities.

Since Christmas, we have seen some wonderful examples of this, which have contributed significantly to the life of the school. Our Dance Show gave over 100 pupils the opportunity to showcase their talents. What struck me most about this particular event was the extent to which pupils enjoyed the experience. During this week alone we have seen our Year 9 BTEC drama pupils perform in the evening to an audience of family and friends, and on Wednesday evening we saw our talented musicians perform a series of pieces under the theme Decades. Both events were of a high standard and gave many pupils the opportunity to demonstrate a wide range of artistic skills.

Our Year 8 girls' football team have performed exceptionally well this season reaching the final of the Kent Cup narrowly losing 2-3 earlier this week. Whilst this was not the result they were looking for, it was a fabulous achievement in itself, of which we are all very proud. This was on top of many other sporting successes either on an individual basis or through school and community teams.

I would like to congratulate everyone who has contributed to the above events and any other activities that contribute to our shared sense of community.

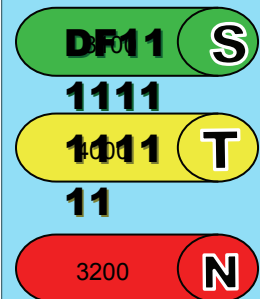
I wish everyone connected with our school community a relaxing Easter break and we all look forward to a equally successful Term 5.

J Whitcombe
Headteacher

Kent Cup U13 Football

Defending champions, Westlands, once again faced Bexleyheath in the U13 Kent Cup final at Dartford. Sadly for us there was to be no repeat of last year's triumph as Bexleyheath won 3-2. Westlands did not give up their crown easily and a late surge nearly rescued the game, but time ran out and Bexleyheath ran out deserved winners. They were the stronger team from the start with pace and power up front and before too long their pressure told and they took the lead as their centre forward prodded the ball home. Westlands hit back when Adelaide Ruskin was fouled in the area and Kit Graham put the penalty away. A mistake in the Westlands 'defence allowed Bexleyheath to re-take the lead and the game seemed out of touch when a wonderful strike extended the lead. However, Westlands would not give up and fought back strongly. Kit Graham, by far the best player on the pitch, was magnificent and inspired her team mates. Adelaide Ruskin was lively

SPORTS SCOREBOARD



Visit our website for more details!

up front and Jemma Cook was proving more of a threat. Kit Graham's shot reduced it to 2-3, but Westlands could not grab the vital leveller. Indeed, only the safe hands of Matilda Butler prevented more goals being lost. Nevertheless well done to all of the squad and Miss Pitt their coach for getting so far.

We hope for better things from the U14 Girls who play their final after Easter against Dane Court.

Kit Graham has been selected for potential England training at Lillishall over the Easter holiday so well done to her.

Fabulous Art

Pupils in Visual Arts have been busy completing their final GCSE exams over the last two weeks and are now on the final countdown before completing the course completely. After spending 4 long weeks preparing their ideas, they spend a gruelling 10 hours in the exam room showing off their skills. The work looks fabulous and we look forward to putting it on show at the end of the year.

CREATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

A team of teachers and pupils are very excited about the prospect of working on a new Creative Partnerships Project. Already pupils from 9t3 have been doing exciting workshops looking at ways of linking drama to other subjects None of them ever thought that they would be learning maths through drama games on the school field!! This week, they will really get a taste for what is to come in their project that is inspired by theatre and performance when they visit the Royal Opera House in London and watch the stage performance of 'The Lion King'..... Creative learning at its best!!

Chelsea 's Top Signal

Chelsea Nicholson took part in an Insight Course, as part of her work experience, with the Royal Signals at the beginning of March, where she travelled to Hampshire and back on her own. She achieved an excellent on everything and was voted top female of the week.

RUGBY FOR EAST KENT

Congratulations DANNY WILKINSON (U15) and HAYDEN STRINGER-THOMPSON (Under 14) who recently represented East Kent at rugby.

Fashion Forward!

A number of our sixth form students took part in the Fashion Forward Careers Symposium earlier in the term. This involved displays of textiles and fashion work from across schools and colleges in the county; a careers seminar for students interested in careers in fashion and textiles; and a fashion show. Work from The Westlands School took pride of place in the exhibition hall and received commendation for setting such a high standard. For coverage of the event go to www.kenttv.com and search for "Fashion Forward into Careers"

Dance Leadership

The following pupils have participated in a Dance Leadership course and have successfully completed the award with a work placement at local primary schools.

Jody Clinch
Cayce Collins
Chloe Kearnes
Jennifer Bidgood
Lauren Rook
Kristen Pye

CLUBS CLUBS CLUBS

Just a reminder to all students on BTEC, GCSE and A'LEVEL courses that after school catch up sessions run every Tuesday from 3pm until 4.30pm.



A lunchtime club for all other pupils will begin after the Easter Holidays

Samantha Inge
Chloe- Leigh Donaghy
Charley Dennis



A big congratulations to Kristen Pye and Lauren Rook for establishing a long term after school club at Minterne Primary School and preparing a performance for the Minterne Dance festival last week.

COMIC RELIEF SUCCESS

£2,400

On Thursday 12 March 2009 Westlands' pupils enjoyed a fun day raising money for Comic Relief. Pupils arrived in non-uniform, witnessed teachers having their legs waxed, took penalties at staff, with many choosing to come to school in fancy dress to raise extra money.

For the first time, schools have been able to decide how the money is spent and our pupils have chosen to spend the money on children caring for their own families both in the UK and Africa.

News from the farm

We have had many visits from local schools and clubs this term. The farm sets up numerous displays for pupils see what happens on a farm. Activities include lamb and dog walking, weighing animals (and sometimes pupils) in the weigh crate, small pet grooming and handling (including the snake and bearded dragon) and for older pupils sometimes cattle walking. Many thanks to my BTEC pupils and Young Farmers for helping with these visits.

Internally, the farm has been visited by the art department to draw the new born lambs, science for the Year 7 walk and talk tour of the farm and Mr Willis' maths groups.

Mr Willis' groups are conducting a long term project on lamb growth rates. This involves weighing and taking measurements of length of limbs. They are also going to compare how growth rates differ between mum-fed lambs and sock lambs (bottle fed lambs). All of the pupils have done very well considering most have had little experience with farm animals and handling and I find it encouraging to see them all pitching in. I am looking forward to see the final results of this task and hope pupils benefit from seeing a real application to what is taught in lessons.



A Reminder to All Pupils

Please be courteous on your way to and from school. It should be remembered that, even out of school, pupils represent Westlands and their conduct is carefully scrutinised by the general public. They will judge our school from the behaviour and dress of our pupils. Senior staff are always present along the A2 each evening at the crossing points to ensure pupil safety. Beyond this point we ask that pupils are respectful to the community around us.

Thank You

Dates for Your Diary

Date				Event
Monday	20	April	2009	Start of Term 5
Monday	4	May	2009	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday	5	May	2009	Year 8 and 9 exams all week
Monday	11	May	2009	Start of Year 11 exams
Wednesday	13	May	2009	Parents' Forum
Thursday	14	May	2009	BTEC Music Evening
Monday	18	May	2009	Start of Year 10 exams
Friday	22	May	2009	End of Term 5



Absent? Late for School?

TELEPHONE :
412944

Please note that pupils recorded late before 08:45 may receive a lunch-time detention, but any unauthorised lateness after that time may result in an after school detention.

Holidays in Term Time

Permission for pupils to take a holiday during term time will not be allowed unless there are exceptional difficulties due to family circumstances.

Parents must put their request in writing to the Headteacher well in advance of booking a holiday.



Don't Forget ...

Parents should not bring cars on to the school site to drop off or pick up children.
