



Message from the Headteacher

This school year has been one of building upon the school's strong foundations and developing areas to improve. I recently saw a statement that commented 'the only constant is change', something we have to embrace in education. However, I have always believed that there is 'no magic wand' when it comes to creating an outstanding school. It takes a common sense approach, a smattering of imagination and a lot of hard work. With all the changes occurring to all the qualifications students now study we have relied upon our common sense approach that has served us well over the years. In developing our pupil voice and pupil leadership we have been more imaginative. And of course, in terms of running the school on a daily basis I have relied on the hard work of both my staff and the students.

We wish those students who are receiving results this August and moving on to pastures new the brightest of futures. To all the families connected to Westlands School I wish you a restful, healthy and hopefully sunny summer break. *Mr Cox*

In the Footsteps of Anne Frank

On 27 May the History Department set off with a group of students to Amsterdam to take part in an emotional insight into Anne Frank's final years, and the horrors of the Nazi regime in Europe in the 1930s and 1940s.

Visiting places like the Anne Frank House, Westerbork Transit Camp and Bergen Belsen Concentration Camp allowed students to imagine what life would have been like for all those innocent people who unnecessarily lost their lives during the Holocaust. It was amazing to see so many young people being moved by this story and developing a determination to not let history repeat itself. The trip was a great success, leaving many with eye watering stories to share.



Lady Life Skills

On 16 June, members of the Lady Life Skills group organised a charity day for Demelza. They sold cakes and sweets, washed staff cars and completed a fun run. It was a great day and the girls worked really hard, and have raised over £355. They also served an afternoon tea for staff at the end of the summer term.



National Writing Day

On 21 June students and staff took part in the National Writing Day competition during their English lessons. The English Media Centre provided three stimuli to choose from. Everyone was given thirty minutes to write their piece, which was not expected to be polished or redrafted. The focus was on creativity.

Staff then voted on the winning pieces of writing – which were completed by Emerald Cox (Year 7), Veronika Parfjonova (Year 8), Isobelle Cox (Year 9) and Ethan Sheppard (Year 10).

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

TERM DATES FOR 2017-18

Term 1 – Tuesday 29/8/17 to Friday 13/10/17
 Term 2 – Monday 30/10/17 to Wednesday 20/12/17
 Term 3 – Thursday 4/1/18 to Friday 9/2/18
 Term 4 – Monday 19/2/18 to Thursday 29/3/18
 Term 5 – Monday 16/4/18 to Friday 25/5/18
 Term 6 – Monday 4/6/18 to Wednesday 25/7/18

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2017-18

The school is closed to students on these dates:

Tuesday 29/8/17
 Monday 27/11/17
 Thursday 29/3/18
 Friday 29/6/18
 Wednesday 25/7/18

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS – SEPTEMBER 2017

Tue 29/8/17 – Staff Development Day – no students in school
 Wed 30/8/17 – Year 7 and 11 students in school only
 Thur 31/8/17 – Years 7-11 students in school
 Swale Sixth Form Enrolment Day
 Friday 1/9/17 – Years 7-11 in school. No Sixth Form lessons
 Monday 4/9/17 – Sixth Form lessons start

PARENTS' EVENINGS FOR 2017-18

Year 7	8/2/18	Year 11	14/9/17 + 22/3/18
Year 8	25/1/18	Year 12	1/2/18
Year 9	24/5/18	Year 13	29/11/17
Year 10	23/11/17		

KMFM Visit

On 21 April Year 12 Media Studies students visited the KMFM Radio studios in Medway. Part of their AS Level exam was about radio, so the trip was to not only give students a glimpse of how the radio industry works but to also speak to presenters and staff and gain useful information for their exam. Andy Walker, Daytime Presenter, is an ex-Westlands student, so it was interesting to hear about his role and how he got there. All students found the experience to be extremely worthwhile.



Year 10 Sixth Form 'Taster'

During the week of 26-30 June all Year 10 students took part in a Sixth Form Taster Session. As part of this they spent an afternoon working with the Sixth Form team to help them start thinking about their options after the end of Year 11. The events included careers and progression information, a sample of a Sixth Form tutor session, and 'subject speed dating' where students were given time to speak to staff about the different courses on offer in the Sixth Form, and the skills and opportunities they provide.

We are very lucky that at Swale Sixth Form we can build our curriculum around the students, and therefore we also wanted to know from the students which courses they would want to see included for them. This starts the beginning of a year-long process for our new Year 11 students, where the Sixth Form team will work with them every step of the way to help them make the right choices for their future.



Fantastic Food

The Food department have been very busy this year, with lots of great cooking taking place. Students in Year 10 visited the Catering Department at Swale Skills Centre, which included a tour of the professional kitchens and information about the courses available at Post 16 as well as careers in the Catering industry.

Year 11 students have completed their Catering exams, with students cooking a wide variety of dishes from a country of their choice. There were some excellent final dishes which tasted and smelt amazing.

The Year 7 and 8 cookery club is also growing in popularity, with students creating dishes including cheesecake, homemade pasta and pizza. If you haven't yet been along to a session make sure you get involved and find out more.



Success on Stage

Westlands has some amazingly talented performing arts students, and this term we have been treated to some fantastic performances in music, dance and drama. Westlands has been part of the 'Sounds of Swale' joint music concerts this year, and staff and 30 students from the school choir participated in a concert on 3 July hosted by Fulston Manor. In addition the music department are hosting their Summer Concert on 18 July. It would be great to see lots of students and parents there. On 27 and 28 June Westlands also hosted the annual dance show, which was a spectacular event, and included a range of talented and dedicated performers. The theme this year was 'Dear Diary'. Finally, on 4 and 5 July we presented 'School of Rock' – one of only a few schools who were chosen to be able to perform the musical. Anyone who attended will agree that our students were fantastic, and were led and supported by our superb drama and music departments.



Calling All Adventurers!

Are you currently Year 9 and starting Year 10 in September 2017? Do you want to do something that is great fun, will help you learn new skills and will enhance your CV?

Sign up **now** for **The Duke of Edinburgh's Award**.

Collect a registration form from the school library or ask **Mr Lowe** for more information. You can also visit the official DofE website for more information: www.dofe.org