

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back. I am so pleased that we are able to report another set of excellent examination results. Well done to all our successful students who proved that a lot of hard work leads to fantastic outcomes.

A particularly warm welcome to our new Year 7 students and parents who are receiving this newsletter for the first time. We will use it to highlight all the great things that happen throughout the school year. I encourage all of our students to make the most of their school years and involve themselves in the clubs, activities and trips that are available. I've always said that with such an array of opportunities at our school there really is something for everyone.

Mr Cox



Mr Cox giving out ice creams



Charlie Chambers shows off his results



Some of our most successful students celebrate their results

EXAMINATION EXCELLENCE

We are pleased to announce another excellent set of GCSE results. Whilst it is difficult to compare this year's results to previous years, (due to huge changes in the structure of the qualifications), we believe our results will show, once again, that pupils at Westlands make outstanding progress. Our Maths results were exceptional, with 139 out of 270 students (52% of our cohort) getting a new grade 5 or above and 199 pupils (74%) getting 4 or above. Science results were also good with 153 (57%) obtaining 2 C grades or higher and Geography results improved more than any other subject, with 86 pupils (59%) obtaining a C grade or above. We also achieved solid results in English (170 pupils, 63% of our cohort achieved a grade 4 or above). 267 of our 270 students finished Year 11 with at least 5 qualifications, and most of them achieved 8 or 9 qualifications in academic, practical, creative and vocational subjects.

Mr Cox, Headteacher, commented, *"It's been tough for this cohort of pupils because of the changes that have been imposed on them. However, I am so pleased that they have achieved a great set of results. I am convinced that when the performance tables are announced later in the year that Westlands will continue to be one of the best performing schools in Kent. Well done to our pupils! They have made both their teachers and parents really proud."*

Some of the pupils who performed particularly well include Catherine Macauley, who achieved the top mark of 9 in English Literature, as well as an 8 in Maths and English Language. She also achieved 3 A*s for Science and History, an A in Spanish, and 2 Distinction*s in Dance and IT. Emily Hall achieved 3 A*s in French, Geography and Science. She also achieved an 8 in Maths, 2 grade 7s for English Literature and English Language, an A for Additional Science and a B for Media Studies. Charlie Chambers achieved a 7 for Maths, a Distinction* for IT, 4 A grades for Geography, Catering and Science Core and Additional, a Distinction for Business Studies and two grade 5s for English Literature and English Language. Finally Jack Bassett achieved an A* for Additional Science, 2 Distinction*s for IT and Engineering, 2 A grades for Geography and Science Core, an 8 for Mathematics, and a 6 for English Language.

HONDURAS ADVENTURES

This summer, a group of Sixth Form students took part in an environmental conservation trip to Honduras, South America. The students collected data on the carbon content of a national park, the diversity and number of species, and the spread and development of the chitrid virus in amphibians. The second week was spent on Roatan Island in the Caribbean circle. Students were given the opportunity to scuba dive, again collecting data on the overall health of the ecosystems in the shallow water around the island. It really was a once in a lifetime opportunity which will allow them to stand out in future endeavours.

ROCKLEY TRIP

In August, 60 students travelled to Mimizan on the annual Rockley Watersports trip. The weather was fantastic all week and students participated in a range of activities including paddle boarding, catamaran sailing, trail biking and windsurfing; there was even an opportunity to climb the high ropes and race down zip-lines! The main highlight for lots of students (and the staff!) was a day out to Aqualand where a range of rides and flumes provided fun for hours! Students were a credit to the school and no one wanted to come home! Watch this space for announcements on Rockley 2018!

SWALE SIXTH FORM SUCCESS

This summer saw the first set of Post 16 outcomes for Swale Sixth Form, our joint provision for students in Sittingbourne, with courses delivered at Westlands School, Sittingbourne Community College and Swale Skills Centre. The inaugural results have proved a triumph, and students are being congratulated on some outstanding outcomes.

Over 170 students have completed Level 3 courses this year across the schools, totalling more than 420 examination entries. Between them they have achieved over 280 A*-B grades, and 363 A*-C grades, in 41 different courses, with the overall A*-E pass rate being 99%.

Traditional subjects such as English and maths continue to achieve excellent results, but we were also particularly pleased to see some impressive outcomes in the sciences this year. All students who completed the Applied Science BTEC course achieved a Distinction* (A* equivalent) and top grades were also secured in Biology, Chemistry and Physics A levels. Other subjects worthy of particular praise include Law, Photography and Finance A levels, and Business, IT, Engineering, Dance, Health and Social Care, Music and Sport BTECs.

There are a significant number of students of whom we are exceptionally proud. For example Ryan Gallop achieved A grades in Chemistry, Maths, Physics and Finance and is heading off to the University of Kent to read mathematics. Taylor Wootton achieved a Distinction* in Engineering, as well as As in Physics and Further Maths, and his twin brother Haydn achieved a Distinction* in Engineering as well as A*s in both Physics and Further Maths. Both boys also achieved A*s in Maths and Distinction* in Sport last year. They are heading to Surrey University to study a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Olivia Carle secured an A in Photography and a Distinction* in both IT and Applied Science and is going to read Illustration at UCA, and Joe Dickson, Daniel Sutton and Jamie Wyper all gained D*D*D* in IT.



Ryan Gallop



Haydn Wootton



Taylor Wootton



Olivia Carle

Mrs Romney, Principal of Swale Sixth Form, commented;

"The real success lies in the numbers of students going on to University placements and high level apprenticeships, We anticipate over 90 students will be heading off to University, and more than 40 students are taking up apprenticeships; which is proof that Swale Sixth Form offers something for everyone.

The success of the students is testament to their hard work and dedication, but also the efforts and commitment of the teaching staff and Sixth Form teams. We would like to wish all our leavers the very best of luck in their next steps – we are immensely proud of you all, and know that your success will inspire our new students as they start their journey with us."

CALENDAR EVENTS FOR 2017-18

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

KEY EVENTS FOR TERMS 1+2

- 8/9/17 – School Photos – Year 7, 9, 11
- 21/9/17 – Year 7 Parents' Information Evening
- 3/10/17 – Careers Fair
- 4/10/17 – Parents' Forum
- 5/10/17 – Open Evening – School closes to students at 12.15pm
- 2/11/17 – Sixth Form Recruitment Evening
- 29/11/17 – Parents' Forum
- 30/11/17 – Winter Concert
- 12+13/12/17 – School Pantomime
- 18/12/17 – Celebration of Christmas
- 19/12/17 – Sixth Form Prize Evening

PARENTS' EVENINGS FOR 2017-18

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| 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 | | |