



# 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](mailto:info@westpark.derby.sch.uk)

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Dear West Park Families

It is incredible that we are approaching the final half term of another action-packed year at our school. This half term always passes incredibly quickly as we move out of spring into the positively tropical start of summer! Let's hope that we haven't committed to our paddling pools, barbecues and flip flops too quickly and the early summer sun is sustained throughout June, July and August. Fortunately, our amazing site team facilitated the installation of our new air conditioning units in S Block and at the top of T Block over the Easter break which has already made a huge difference to the learning environment in these areas. As we all know, the optimum temperature for a teenager is 17°C. (anything lower is way too cold and anything hotter is absolutely stifling!) but even they have positively commented on the improvements.

Our school really comes to life during the good weather and our pupils love socialising in our large outdoor spaces during break and lunch time. Pupil behaviour has been exceptionally good on our main field this year and it is a joy to behold the multiple games of football, volleyball, rugby and frisbee that take place on a daily basis.

## **Exam Season**

We are currently in the midst of exam season with our Year 11 cohort engaging impressively with revision and formal examinations. I am delighted that our committed staff pull together to provide a bespoke revision programme through to the last exam. This is a very unique model and allows us to deliver key input prior to each individual exam. By half-term, our Year 11 pupils will be over halfway and will be ready for a well-earned rest. Getting the balance of revision, recovery and recuperation over the break is crucial, so that they are in the best place possible to do the best they can through their final exams.

It is not only our Year 11 cohort who do formal exams; indeed, we replicate our exam processes for every year group, including Year 7. This allows our pupils to become accustomed with whole school exam practices throughout their West Park journey and also encourages them to get into good practice regarding revision and retrieval.

## **Staffing**

You will be only too aware that the recruitment and retention of school staff is a huge challenge at the moment. We are very lucky to have a very stable staffing team and a group of staff who are very committed to our school. I am delighted to inform you that we have a full staff team for next year, across all subjects and areas of the school.

## Year 6 Transition

This year we have over 300 eager Year 6 pupils eager to start their West Park journey. A number of these pupils will already have visited us in Year 5 and experienced West Park on our Open Evening, but there is nothing like experiencing a full school day. On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July, we will welcome our new cohort to West Park for our annual transition days. The Year 6 pupils will attend in their primary school uniforms and these provide a kaleidoscope of colour across the astroturf as they meet their form tutor and form class for the very first time. The move to secondary school life can be a challenging one but we have an experienced and caring team who will support these children from day one. It is always great to know that you have made a positive impact on our Year 7s. At the weekend, I bumped into one of our current Year 7 (whom I have known for almost a year). He paused, looked me up and down and said, 'wait a minute, don't you work at West Park?' I am always delighted to have made such an impression on young minds.

## Success

We all thrive when we experience success and it is wonderful to see the accomplishments of children from across our school: from artistic and musical talent to maths enquiry and reading passion; from sporting prowess to community involvement, to peer mentoring and house coordination, West Park pupils really do have it all.

I am delighted that so many pupils excel in their area of expertise and I am always clear with pupils that doing 'your best' is always enough.

As we move through and out of the exam period, there are numerous opportunities for pupils to exhibit their talents in a time of recognition and celebration as detailed below:

Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	West Park Sports Day
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	City Sports
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Colour Run (Rainbow Club) 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 11 Prom
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July –	
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Diversity Week
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	WEST FEST
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	WEST FEST

There will even be time to squeeze in a blast of Scottish Country Dancing before the end of term. I would hate my daughters to be deprived of the opportunity of seeing me in 'that weird Scottish dress!!'

Take care and enjoy the next few months as we accelerate towards the summer break.



Scott McGregor  
Head