



West Park

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

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9th September 2022

It is with deep sadness that we received the news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has passed away. Her devotion to public service is an example to us all. We will recognise her passing in different ways throughout next week. We will share more information with you as it becomes available.

Dear West Park Families

Welcome back to a new school year at West Park. This is such an exciting time as staff and pupils return to school and settle back into positive learning routines. Uniform looks particularly impressive this morning, although I am sure that there may be a few tender feet this weekend with the new sparkly shoes that are on show (I learned this the hard way last week!).

This year our return to school feels particularly special as we currently do not have the same pressures in relation to Covid. I hope that this continues through the Autumn Term and that we can focus on our core business, teaching and inspiring our amazing pupils.

Summer Results/Year 11

We really were blessed to have such a fantastic Year 11 in 2021/2022. Throughout key stage 4 they demonstrated a maturity and determination beyond their years and this shone through at their Prom which took place at Derbyshire County Cricket Club on Friday 16th July. The pupils did us proud with their polite, sensible approach and staff and pupils alike filled the dance floor to celebrate late into the evening. Needless to say, I ensured that the Proclaimers featured prominently on the playlist! Year 11 came together again on Thursday 25th August to celebrate an incredible set of Summer results. Pupils of all abilities achieved across the full range of GCSE and BTEC subjects and we were absolutely delighted with our outcomes as a school. These outcomes continue to put West Park significantly ahead of local and national performance measures.

New Year 11

We now have a new Year 11 cohort starting their final chapter with us and the next 9 months will be crucial as we prepare them for their terminal exams. This year group will benefit from outstanding teaching and learning alongside a bespoke catch-up programme to ensure that every

child can achieve their full potential. It is crucial that Year 11 attend all the catch-up sessions provided and that parents and carers are fully supportive of this.

Attendance Matters

Attendance to school every day is crucial and provides a child with a continuity of learning which allows them to develop and be successful throughout their time with us. Schools and Academies are no longer able to grant any request for leave of absence unless this is deemed as an 'exceptional circumstance'. Where a pupil's absence has not been authorised by the school the absence may constitute as an offence. The full details regarding our approach to attendance are included in our new Attendance Policy which is published on the school website and accessible by clicking the link below:

<https://www.westpark.derby.sch.uk/documents/attendance-policy.pdf>

Please work with us to ensure that your child is in school every day and any holidays are taken during school holiday time.

Catering Provider

Our new catering provider, Aspens, has started with us at West Park. This involves a brand-new menu and a range of different foods being available from the food outlets that we now have positioned across the school site. Staff had the pleasure of sampling the food last week and we were very impressed by the taste and quality of the food that is on offer. As part of this work we have had new colourful branding added to the areas around each of the serveries giving a new, modern look. Already some of the older pupils seem to be somewhat reticent to change but I have no doubt that the excitement of the new menu will wear them down over time.

Eco-shop

Our new Eco-shop is opening on Thursday 15th September! I am very excited about this new development as we support the West Park community through some of the challenges which may be coming our way during the winter months.

Every Thursday during term time we will have a bumper food delivery from Fareshare. This delivery will include a range of items which could change from week to week. All food is in date and comes from reliable sources such as local supermarkets. Members of our local community are welcome to attend the shop and will be able to get 10 items for a donation of £2.00. The shop is placed at the top of the West Road car park and is accessible from West Road. The Shop will open as follows and will remain open during these times while there is stock available:

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Every Thursday

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Every Friday

Please spread the word and come and join us in the shop so that we can all do our bit to support each other and help the local environment and to reduce food waste. I look forward to playing the role of the happy shopkeeper and have proudly completed my level 2 food and preparation certificate!

High Standards, Uniform and Punctuality

We pride ourselves on high standards at West Park and this provides us with an environment where pupils can learn and teachers can teach. We have ensured our uniform is simple, accessible and cost effective. Thus, we expect all pupils to wear it with pride and to look smart throughout the school day.

Alongside this we expect all pupils to be punctual to school, this is something that we are always asked about when we provide references and is something that is essential as our pupils begin to enter the work place. I have a particularly eager 7-year-old who wakes us daily at 5 a.m. (even at weekends). Punctuality is certainly not an issue with the McGregor household and there is never a need for an alarm clock!

Cycling

Please remind your child/children to ride their bikes sensibly around the school and in the local community. Bringing bikes onto the school site is a privilege and this will be reviewed for pupils who are observed riding dangerously.

Epraise

There is nothing more powerful than recognising the incredible things that so many of our pupils do on a daily basis and I take such pleasure in seeing their faces beam when they know somebody has noticed their efforts. With this in mind we are launching our new rewards platform, Epraise. Epraise links to Firefly and allows staff to reward pupils for their performance inside and outside of the classroom. Pupils, parents and carers can see Epraise points building up by accessing the Firefly/Epraise App. Further details on Epraise are accessible via the link below:

<https://www.epraise.co.uk/index.php?school=westpark&login=parents>

Covid Information

Although we are hopeful that the worst part of the pandemic is behind us, there are a few key reminders included below. These have been provided through the Derby Covid Control Team and are reflective of current local and national guidance:

- Pupils who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home. They should return to school when they 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.
- Basic hygiene continues to be essential.

Our New Recruits

It has been a real joy to welcome our new Year 7's to their new secondary school. They have joined us as young, inquisitive 11-year olds and will leave us as mature, well rounded 16-year olds ready to contribute to society and take the next steps on their own pathway. They have already impressed us as they have fitted into the school so swiftly. They have been quick to tell me that the food is fantastic and that some of their teachers tell really funny jokes! I have no doubt that

the supply of jokes will run out by mid-September and that normal service will resume! I look forward to seeing this year group develop and throw themselves into all the fantastic opportunities that are prevalent across our school.

Open Evening

No sooner has one-year group started, we are starting the process for a new set of pupils to join our school. The West Park Open Evening takes place on Monday 12th September from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Families of pupils in Year 6 will have an opportunity to walk around the school site, talk to staff, engage in a range of activities, sample the new menu and hear about arrangements in different subject areas. The following talks will also take place in the Main Hall during the evening.

5:30 p.m. Presentation from Mr McGregor

6:00 p.m. Presentation from Mrs Hawkins – SENDCO

6:30 p.m. Presentation from Mr McGregor

Please do come along on the evening to see what we do and to consider if West Park is the best fit for your child/children. Please remember that Monday 12th September is an Inset Day so pupils are not in school.

There are undoubtedly another set of challenges coming our way but we have learnt over the last few years that we are stronger by sticking together and providing care and support.

If you do experience challenging circumstances please do pick up the phone and talk to us. We are always here to help and to offer up a particularly poorly made cup of tea as and when required!

Take care and remain optimistic.

Kind Regards



Scott McGregor
Head