



West Park

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

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Dear West Park Families

It feels a bit early to declare that Spring has sprung as we are in the midst of a cold snap but it is great to be enjoying some lighter mornings and a lengthening of the evenings. It also allows us to look forward to further utilisation of our outdoor facilities and the joy of seeing all of our amazing pupils interacting out on the main school field.

This term passes particularly quickly as we move through the middle part of the academic year. This time is punctuated with numerous opportunities for our pupils alongside a strong push towards the Summer exams.

Last week I was delighted to see so many of our families at the Key Stage 4 curriculum evening and we all really enjoyed having the opportunity to talk to you about the next steps on your child's West Park journey.

Transition

Wednesday 1st March was the national offer date for secondary school places. We have another bumper crop of new recruits joining us in September 2023 and over the next few months we will involve them and their families in a range of transition activities. We have already written to families to confirm their child's place at the school and have provided log-in details so that information relating to their child can be uploaded to our new on-line transition platform Admissions+.

The following transition days/evenings will take place:

- Tuesday 4th July Transition Day 1
- Wednesday 5th July Transition Day 2
- Wednesday 5th July Transition Evening 'X' Band (WESTP)
- Thursday 6th July Transition Day 3
- Thursday 6th July Transition Evening 'Y' Band (ARKCO)

Further details regarding the above days/evenings will be sent to families in due course.

Year 5 Taster Days

We are currently in the midst of a series of Year 5 taster days. This allows Year 5 pupils to visit West Park during the school day and to begin to get accustomed to secondary school life. The pupils have been ably assisted by staff and some of our older pupils and have asked a range of

very interesting questions. My favourite so far was from a little lad who asked me which school building I live in!

House Matters

After a very successful relaunch, our house system is becoming embedded across all aspects of West Park life. Pupils have engaged in a range of house assemblies which stretch across all year groups. We have recently enjoyed watching our Key Stage 3 pupils engage in a very competitive chess tournament and pupils are currently rehearsing for our big house music competition. The annual house competition continues with all pupils contributing as they accumulate their points totals on Epraise.

Epraise

It has been fantastic to see so many of our pupils so highly motivated by our new Epraise rewards system. A huge number of pupils have already accumulated significant points totals and they will have a second opportunity to cash these in when the Epraise shop re-opens at the end of this term. The shop opens on Monday 20th March and will close on Monday 27th March so that purchased items can be distributed prior to the end of term.

Matilda

You know that a school musical has made a real impact on a family when your two-year-old gives you regular renditions of 'sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty!', usually just after she has chased the cat or caused some other 'chaos'. Matilda was a fantastic show that encapsulated everything that is special about our school. The set was incredible, ably designed and put together by our talented art team. The programmes were designed and developed by Mr Holmes in IT and our drama and music departments put in endless hours to prepare the cast to put on 4 astonishing performances. The pupils themselves were astonishing with the full Matilda team contributing significantly. Performing to a packed audience every night really added to the experience for all and it was magical to see the full school community back together again. A huge well done to everyone involved. We are all looking forward to the next West Park production!

Film Project

Carrying on with the dramatic theme, we have a very exciting opportunity coming up over the Easter break. West Park School is being used as a filming venue for a new film which focusses on period poverty. The film is being directed by one of our ex-pupils and will be set around the school and the Spondon area. There is a unique opportunity for our pupils to be involved as extras and potentially in acting roles in the film. Pupils who are interested in getting involved should contact info@lofoufilms.com. Please note that this project is being coordinated by the production company and not West Park School.

Nut Allergies

A number of pupils and staff have very severe nut allergies. At West Park we aim to be a nut free environment, thus protecting these members of our community. Please be mindful of this when you are sending food into school with your children and take the time to remind them of the importance of keeping nuts and nut-based products out of the school buildings.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance to school is absolutely crucial to allow pupils to fully engage in West Park life and to allow them to achieve their potential. Please continue to work with us to ensure that your child attends every day to make the most of opportunities that are available across our school.

Eco-shop

Our Eco-shop continues to open every Thursday and Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. I am absolutely delighted that so many members of our local community access the shop on a weekly basis and benefit from the range of goods that we have on offer. We intend to continue to open the shop into next term but, unfortunately, we will have to slightly increase our charges. This is due to Fareshare (our primary food provider) increasing their charges to all organisations. The increase will result in 10 items being available for £2.40, an increase of 40p. This increase will take place after the Easter holiday.

Non-Uniform/Charity Days

We have two non-uniform/charity days coming up prior to the end of term. These are as follows:

- Friday 17th March: Non-Uniform - Red Nose Day

The theme will be dressing up in RED from head to toe with prizes for the best dressed and best dressed form. There will also be a cake sale on the day with all donations gratefully received.

- Friday 31st March: Non-Uniform - Wear Green for Green Spaces

A non-uniform day with a focus on wearing green in support of Spondon Parks. All money raised will go directly towards Spondon Parks.

I hope that West Park families are keeping well and coping with the range of obstacles that we are challenged with overcoming at this present time.

Stay strong and focus on the important people that you have around you.

Take care



Scott McGregor
Head