

Prospectus

West Exe School



West Exe School

community • opportunity • success

West Exe School



Julie Fossey

Headteacher

I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of West Exe School, a truly wonderful, fully inclusive secondary school in the beautiful city of Exeter. Here at West Exe, my team and I understand that a thriving, successful school is the beating heart of a community, and West Exe is just that. Students at West Exe know that to be truly successful not just in school, but in life, they need to be curious, adaptable, ambitious, resilient and proud, but most of all, they need to be kind. Every day, we encourage students to be their very #BestExe!

MISSION

We have the highest of expectations of our young people because we expect them to achieve truly great things – and they do; in fact, we are consistently the highest performing comprehensive school in the city. We have an unashamedly academic, knowledge-rich curriculum, high quality teaching and an ambitious cultural capital programme for all. Ofsted recognises that ‘reading is at the heart of our curriculum’ and so it should be no surprise that more than 8 out of 10 students at West Exe achieve the all-important ‘basics’ of English and Maths or that 34.6% achieve grades 7-9 in all subjects.

When our students join us in year 7, they immediately become part of our vibrant West Exe community, and that is the beginning of a five-year adventure. All students at West Exe have the opportunity to learn a new language, to experience an overseas residential, to take part in our exceptional Electives Programme and to become one of our student leaders, whether that be through our well-established student parliament, or through a range of ambassadorial roles.

Through education, we empower our students to be aspirant, to work hard and to transform the lives of those around them. Our Reach Programme prepares students for opportunities beyond West Exe School. If your child is aiming for a Russell Group University, our Reach Programme will help them on their way. So, if you are looking for a school that will encourage your child to be more than they ever dreamed they could be, then West Exe is the school for you and your family.



"Reading is at the heart of this School"

The West Exe Offer

The West Exe Offer is our pledge that every student at West Exe will experience:

- A broad and knowledge rich curriculum, embedded through our extended practise programme
- Inspirational assemblies all linked to our Student Attributes
- A dedicated tutorial session for the West Exe Literary Canon consisting of 20 minutes daily guided reading of our specially selected 25 core text
- A varied weekly Electives programme in Years 7, 8 & 9
- Enrichment week including an offer of a residential in Year 9
- A meaningful and comprehensive careers programme from Year 7 - 11, including work experience in Year 10
- A range of outdoor education experiences
- Disruption free learning environment

As part of the West Exe Offer, we also provide an exciting extra-curricular programme including, the jazz band, Model United Nations, Ten Tors, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, climbing and our School Productions.



All students at West Exe have the opportunity to learn a language, go to the theatre and to experience truly exceptional teaching. They will go on outdoor adventures and take part in a whole range of new sports. More importantly in their classes and tutor groups they will make friends that will last them a lifetime.

Student Leadership

Over 100 students each year volunteer for our growing Student Leadership Team which includes:

- Student Parliament
- The Green Team
- Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Primary Mentors
- Sports Leaders
- and many more roles within our community.

At West Exe, there is always an opportunity out there for every student.

The West Exe Offer Principles

- The offer is underpinned by the School's values of Compassion, Courage and Citizenship.
- Our most disadvantaged students will consistently benefit from the wide, rich set of experiences, where participation is guaranteed rather than optional.
- Experiences are coherently planned and aim to develop the West Exe Student attributes of being: curious, kind, ambitious, resilient, adaptable and proud.
- The offer nurtures, develops and stretches pupils' talents and interests.
- The offer prepares all students for success in their future education and careers.

Student Attributes

At West Exe School, we seek to develop a range of positive student attributes so that our learners are

- Kind, Adaptable, Resilient, Proud, Ambitious, Curious

Students are encouraged to display these attributes in lessons, at social times and through our electives program, during which they will participate in a range of exciting and creative courses that will develop new skills and provide shared experiences beyond the academic curriculum.

Likewise, our reward system is built around the attributes where merits are awarded for all six student attributes, both in lessons and outside of lessons.



West Exe School Library

Our school library is a warm and welcoming space for the whole school community and sits at the heart of our reading school. The library is staffed by our Librarian, Ms Lesley Salter and her Assistant. We also have a team of Student Librarians who help in the library every day.

When is the library open?

The library is open from 8.15 to 16:00 every day.

What can I do in the library?

Students can read, do homework or research and play board games before and after school and during break times.

The library stocks:

- Fiction book
- Non Fiction Books and Reference
- Manga and Graphic Novels
- Books to support dyslexic and less confident readers

Stationery Shop

A wide range of stationery items, ties and sports socks are available to purchase in the Stationery Shop. Revision Guides ordered online may be collected.



The Canon

A literary canon is a collection of texts which hold significant value: both in the style of writing and in the messages that they give. We pondered long and hard over which books would hold significance for our students at West Exe. By the time they leave us, our students will have read 25 magnificent, thought-provoking and hopefully, life changing texts during tutor time: books that will bring depth, colour and culture to their lives; books that allow them to see the world from many varying perspectives and bring a greater understanding of the way the world works; books that will be a pleasure to read.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Cycle 1 Celebrating diversity	WONDER / Noughts and Crosses Starting a new school can be tough when you look different. Exploring race and power in an alternate world.	Refugee boy A heart-warming story examining how we treat refugees.	The Perks of Being a Wall Flower A group of teenage friends exploring their own angst and sexuality.	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time A coming-of-age book of a boy with special needs and a pet rat.	Fathers and Sons A powerful drama of youthful radicalisation.
Widening horizons	The Graveyard Book Traces the story of a boy who is adopted and reared by the supernatural occupants of a graveyard after his family is brutally murdered.	Suffragette the battle for equality An inspiring story of the extraordinary men and women who fought for that vote.	The Five People you Meet in Heaven A man who dies in an accident encounters five people in heaven who had a significant impact on him while he was alive.	Heroes A man returns from WW2 with severe deformities as a result of an incident during the war.	
Cycle 2 Literary non-fiction	You are Awesome Encouraging teens to find their confidence and daring them to be awesome.	Diary of a Young Girl The diary of a child in hiding from the Nazis for two years.	I am Malala The autobiography of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban.	The 57 Bus Race, class, gender and crime. A true story of one teen in a skirt, and another with a lighter.	To Kill a Mockingbird Innocence and experience, kindness and hatred explored in one small town.

Wellbeing dog at West Exe School

This is Ernie and he is a Cockapoo. Ernie is a member of staff at West Exe School and his job is to offer wellbeing support to both students and staff.

Ernie completed all of his assessments and passed with 'flying colours'!

Ernie is a good boy and can sit, stay, lie down and wait (although sometimes pushes his luck), he is very gentle, sleeps all night and I love cuddles!

Ernie enjoys treats when he has been good and gives a high 5 to say thank you!

Ernie's favourite thing is to play ball and can play for a really long time without getting bored but he does seem to go through a lot of tennis balls!



Rewarding positive behaviour

At West Exe School there is a large emphasis upon the reward of positive behaviour. Students engage with a behavioural system which recognises their hard work and their commitment to learning and good behaviour. Parents will have the opportunity to track their child's behaviour and attendance using an online platform.

Extended Practice

Extended practice at West Exe is consistent and purposeful. It is designed to instil knowledge within long term memory. You will be completing approximately one hour per day across four subjects. You will be using a Knowledge Book which will contain all of the key knowledge you will need to learn for every subject for each cycle of learning. By taking this methodical approach to knowledge retention, you will be able to supplement all of the skills and deep understanding of topics taught in class with fact and knowledge retention that will enable your wider understanding of subjects to flourish.

Students receive merit points for the following:

1. Presenting the correct equipment
2. Uniform in tutor time daily will result in a merit for each day
3. Completing Extended Practice on time
3. For the Student Attributes: Kind, Adaptable, Resilient, Curious, Ambitious, Proud

Reports and exams

Reports will be issued three times during the academic year. They will be sent electronically to parents at the end of each term.

Rewards

A Year 7&8 Awards Evening will take place on 13 June 2024 at 5.00pm. In addition, Awards Assemblies for Year 7s are held at the end of each term to celebrate students' achievements.



High Expectations

As well as the merits which are added for positive behaviour, students are awarded demerits for breaches of the school behavioural standards and rules. The school's behaviour policy has the following aims:

1. To eliminate disruptive behaviour, so that there is a culture of achievement, ambition and learning everywhere in the school, and no learning time is wasted
2. To provide clarity for staff and students about acceptable behaviour and the consequences of misbehaviour
3. To encourage students to take responsibility for their own actions
4. To enable teachers to deliver engaging and creative lessons, experiment and take risks, without concern for behavioural interruptions as barriers

Expectations of behaviour are as follows:

1. Arrive on time, within 4 minutes of the bell, or before the second bell after break/lunch
2. Sit down calmly where you are asked showing you are ready to learn – equipment out and sit up straight in your chair
3. Listen respectfully (in silence) when others are talking and work in silence when an adult asks you to
4. Show pride in your learning by always working to the best of your ability and promptly attempting all work set
5. Show pride in your behaviour by following all reasonable requests and not distracting others
6. Phones, headphones and other digital devices should be placed in your bag and on silent during the school day including break and lunchtime.

Digital Devices

Mobile phones are to be turned off on arrival and placed in students bags on entry to the school building. They should remain switched off and in students bags for all of the school day.

Should a mobile phone be used by a student without permission:

On the student's first warning, the phone will be taken away and stored very securely until the end of the same day, to be collected by the student.

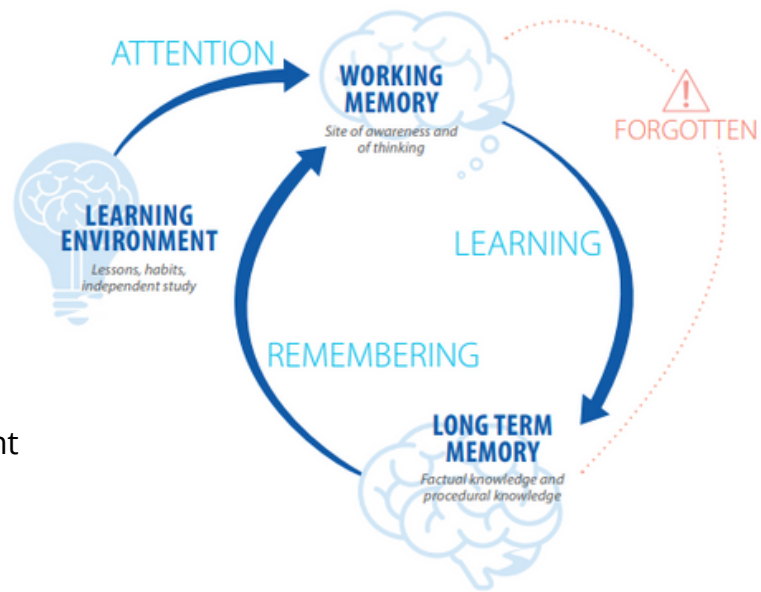
On the second warning in the same week, the phone will be removed, and an afterschool detention given. The phone can be collected after this when the student is leaving for the end of the day. These sanctions reset each week.



"22% of students achieved a grade 7 or above across all subjects in line with the national average and above the South West regional average of 20.8%"

The West Exe Learning Model

Learning is what happens when knowledge moves from the working memory to the long term memory. Practical steps can be taken to improve the ability to remember key information and become a master of learning. Quizzing is a crucial part as we know that this supports retrieval. Extended practice is the work we require our learners to complete outside of class as an opportunity for them to reinforce their understanding of what they have been learning in School. It involves a set of retrieval tasks, consistent across subjects and Year groups and involves a form of self quizzing to cement that knowledge in their long term memory.



What does Extended Practice look like?

Our learners' one hour of extended practice each night comprises a combination of the following tasks:

- Cornell Notes
- Sparx Maths
- Sparx Quizzing
- Sparx Reader / Accelerated Reader
- LanguageNut
- Educake
- Extended writing

Our commitment to Extended Practice has led to West Exe being one of the highest performing Sparx Maths Schools internationally.

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“Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 5 months), particularly with pupils in secondary schools”

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

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Reach Enrichment

This is an opportunity which will be open to students who have achieved an above average Key Stage 2 score and/or are targeting a number of grades 8 and 9 in their GCSE courses. Students will need to apply and commit to approximately 2 hours per week. This will include extra-curricular activities, experiences and study beyond the normal expectations of the school curriculum.


Over the next academic year, the West Exe Reach Programme will afford students opportunities to participate in:

- Public speaking / debating / discussion opportunities
- Team building residential activities
- Visits to top UK Universities including Oxford and Cambridge
- Electronic mentoring.
- Work experience and internship opportunities
- Conferences
- Inspirational, informative and engaging lectures from leaders in a range of different professions
- Meetings with students from Universities and Colleges who have followed a similar pathway to the student's ambitions

The ambition of this is to see students' aspirations rise, their understanding of the available opportunities to widen and ultimately to encourage them to set the bar high and strive to achieve more.

Support: Students will receive support through additional mentoring, consisting of meetings where they will be able to review their academic progress and ensure that plans are in place to maximise their academic achievement.

Post 16 Academic Elite: To ensure that all West Exe School Reach Programme students are able to move onto an elite destination of their choice, the West Exe School Reach Programme will provide assistance with the completion of strong Exeter College Reach Academy applications. Working in partnership with Exeter College to support and prepare in the application process for Exeter Maths School and if appropriate, support toward securing scholarships for other elite progression routes as available.



"I achieved ten grade 9's at West Exe this summer and now I am embarking on a scholarship at The Maynard School 6th form whilst considering my university options at Oxbridge."
- Year 11 student

The Electives programme at West Exe School

At West Exe School, we understand that elective programmes are an integral way in which schools can engage students in the wider community and teach important life skills. They are an opportunity for students to engage in subjects away from the pressures of academic performance.

We believe that now, more than ever, a thriving elective programme is an essential part of promoting employability, academic attainment and teaching young people the skills they need to make good life choices. These skills have benefits well beyond the classroom.

Therefore, when your child joins us, they will attend our incredibly exciting 'Fresher's Fair'. At this event, your child will have an opportunity to visit every department area from across the school to discover what activities are being offered by each subject.

Your child's tutor will then help them to select five different activities. They will be allocated three of their five choices which will each last for a cycle (12 weeks). These activities will take place every Wednesday and run from 1:35pm until 3:05pm.

The type of elective activities that will be available may include; Philosophy, First Aid, Forensics, Politics, Expedition Training, Photography, Sign Language, studying a Drama performance, Music Technology and Fitness club plus many more!

We have an extensive extra elective programme which also provides our students with further opportunities. These clubs will continue to run outside of this programme which students are welcome to attend as they wish.



Electives Programme

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Master Chef – “ I enjoyed making pizza.. I liked planning the recipes and then making the food, it made me think about what I was doing. From the skills I learned at the Elective I have gone on to cook at home. I think it has helped me become more independent and might help me when I go on to university ...where I will need to cook all my own food!

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Wellbeing HUB

This innovative hub is dedicated to supporting students to maintain positive wellbeing and mental health. The centre is run by dedicated and experienced staff who will work 1-2-1 with students or on a more informal and drop-in basis.

The role of the hub is to also support vulnerable students and those needing emergency or long term emotional support.

Students are referred into 1-2-1 or group mentoring sessions. We support and work closely with Wellbeing Exeter - 'Community Connectors' <https://www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk/community-connecting>. We have a team of Student Mental Health Ambassadors who are trained by the NHS mental health support team and help to run support break time supervision rooms, help promote mental health awareness days and look at ways we can improve the Mental Health support we offer at West Exe.



Anti-Bullying

Our community at West Exe School believes in Courage, Compassion and Citizenship.



Courage – We are brave in our actions and ambitious in our dreams.



Compassion -Through kindness and empathy, we care for ourselves and others.



Citizenship - Through respect, responsibility and integrity we make the world a better place

West Exe School are proud to have been awarded the Anti-bullying Silver Kitemark Award by the Anti-bullying Alliance (ABA).

The Anti-Bullying Quality Mark is a national scheme which endorses how good schools are at preventing bullying. It challenges them to establish effective, sustainable anti-bullying policies and strategies.

West Exe School achieved the ABQM-UK Silver Award for 2023-24 because staff, students, parents and Governors demonstrated that anti-bullying has become embedded in life at the school. Students and parents/carers are actively involved in the development of positive relationships in the school, supported by staff who tailor bullying prevention to individuals and their circumstances.

Further information and contacts


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