

I hope this headteacher's update finds you well. As we approach the end of another fortnight, I am filled with immense pride as I reflect upon the remarkable achievements of our students over the past two weeks. It is always a privilege to witness their hard work, determination and enthusiasm, and I would like to take a moment to share some of their accomplishments with you.

Academic endeavours

Students have continued to excel in their studies and I am delighted to share with you several outstanding endeavours. Year 11 have shown exceptional dedication in their recent mock exams, which started this week, with many demonstrating real resilience and determination. Year 10 also sat their English Literature paper one mock today – displaying real maturity and a developing readiness for the real thing next summer. We are so proud of them all.

Community and leadership

Well beyond the classroom and school, West Exe students have continued to make positive contributions to the wider community. We continue with our support of St Petrocks (Exeter) with a donation of food and socks – very timely as winter certainly arrived last week!

A small group of students spent several weeks designing and creating this year's remembrance display which is hanging proudly in the eye. It is a beautiful tribute to those who we remember each year.

Looking ahead

As we move into December, we have many exciting events on the horizon, including the much-anticipated Christmas concert. It's a real celebration of the diverse talents of our students, and I wholeheartedly encourage you to attend. We are also looking forward to the Year 7 disco – now an annual event on the West Exe student calendar! Much fun will be had by all.

Finally, I want to thank you for your ongoing support of our school community. It is through our partnership and togetherness that we can continue to nurture and celebrate the achievements of every young person at West Exe.

Wishing you and your loved ones a restful weekend ahead.

Julie

Celebrations

One of our recent workshops with Exeter University has been celebrated and published on their website <https://zurl.co/UX4e> Please do have a look, our students have produced amazing work.

A handful of our students are today designing a new outdoor space for Exeter Library working with the council.

Over the weekend, Sam W represented Devon and the South West in the national finals for his age group, in the lead and bouldering climbing events. Sam finished in the top 3 within the South West region (Devon, Cornwall, Somerset & Dorset to qualify. Sam surpassed expectations and made an incredible achievement in reaching the national finals that were held in Leeds on Saturday and Sunday, which is a team GB standard event.



Update continued

Despite Storm Bert interference, Sam competed proudly to represent the far South West region in the youth climbing series national final. He was ranked 23 nationally over the two disciplines in his age group. It was tough, but he is ambitious and resilient and coped well with it all. Well done Sam!

Our brilliant Year 11 prefects Harry, Ella, Mia, Abigail, and Keira with our House week charity collection of long life food and socks for St Petrock's (Exeter) Ltd. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Whole school information

We look forward to celebrating National Jumper day on Thursday, 12 December 2024. Students are invited to wear a Christmas jumper in place of their school jumper, plus the usual school uniform.



Our annual Christmas concert packed with lots of festive music and performances is taking place on Thursday, 19 December tickets are now on sale via your MCAS account. Staff and students are looking forward to welcoming you into our school.

We want to hear from you to give a 'shout out' for your child/children involved in a club/group, activity or just trying something new outside of school. Please email admin@westexe.devon.sch.uk with photos and a brief explanation and we will celebrate this in our next update.

Key dates

Non-pupil day/Staff Development Day: Monday, 9 December 2024

Last day of term: Friday, 20 December 2024

Spring Term

Term commences Monday, 6 January 2025

Half Term: Monday, 17 – Friday, 21 February 2025

You can also visit our website [here](#).

A group of students spent several weeks designing and creating this year's Remembrance display for the school. The students spent time researching the most suitable and powerful way to help the school reflect including the creation of our beautiful wreath and Remembrance poems.

A new community gardening group holding sessions and workshops in St Thomas is available to you [click here](#) to find out more.

YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

YEAR 7

Year 7 Disco is happening Friday, 13 December 2024, tickets are on sale now via your MCAS account. Details can be found in the poster attached.

Year 8

Year 8 have been carrying out dissections in Science this term. They have had an excellent start to their student reception role and student MP's met for the first time this term to feedback to senior leaders.

Year 9

Year 9 Subject Evening, 30 January 2025

Empowering Girls provides a female mentoring programme to girls in Year 9, delivered by a range of inspiring businesswomen from across Devon. West Exe School have been invited to take part in delivering this project to our students.

Year 10

10BL will be taking part in dodgeball as the winners of our welcome week competition. Good luck!

Work experience sessions will also continue to run in tutor times.

Year 10 Progress Event, 13 February 2025

Year 11

Mock Exams have started, the timetable can be viewed on our website [here](#). Good luck to all our students, You've got this!



'Meet the team' continues.

We thought it would be helpful to continue with a roles and responsibilities of our Senior Leadership Team, as well as provide an opportunity to get to know the team a little better.



Roger Bicheno
Assistant Headteacher, Science

I discovered a strong passion for the natural world whilst travelling and on returning to the UK set out to retrain as a science teacher. I have been at West Exe for 10 years and have been fortunate enough to have been able to share my love of science with our amazing students. Whilst working here I have held a variety of roles in the science department and for the last two years have been head of science. Outside of work, I enjoy cycling and travelling, as both activities allow me to experience nature first hand and discover new places.



Chris Davies
Associate Senior Leader

Growing up in rural Wales, I developed a deep connection with the outdoors being surrounded by the natural beauty of the Welsh hills. Exploring Snowdonia and the Lake District sparked a lifelong passion for outdoor activities like hill walking, mountain biking, kayaking, and climbing, extending to diving, underwater videography, where I've been fortunate to dive in remarkable locations around the world. Alongside my personal pursuits, I've always been drawn to sports, enjoying hockey, badminton, rugby, always seeking new ways to stay active. For the past 34 years I have worked at West Exe School, and led the Sports, Health and Nutrition department and more recently have taken on Senior Leadership Team responsibilities. I'm passionate about helping students develop confidence and widen their horizons by providing opportunities both within the curriculum and through the enrichment curriculum in events like Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh, residential trips and our school's Electives programme. I feel very privileged to be part of the West Exe community and to work with such amazing people.



Damian Bartholomew
Senior Leader, Head of History

Having studied at the University of Exeter as both an undergraduate and trainee teacher, it has been my great pleasure to work here for the majority of my career. The opportunity to engage learners in the study of the past (history being my subject area) and the merits of preparing for academic success (developing effective study habits that will last a lifetime) has never lost its appeal. It is my privilege to work in such a positive and supportive environment in the heart of this beautiful, historic and culturally-rich city.



Emma Hague
Director of Sport, Health
and Nutrition

It was my own journey through school where I found my love for PE, Food and Nutrition. From there on, I decided this is where I wanted to go and I wanted to work in education. I studied at Bath Spa university, and whilst studying, I ran holiday camps for children, running different activities, which further cemented my desire to work with young people. I am so happy and excited to be at West Exe in my role as Director of Sport, Health and Nutrition. Having only joined in September 2023 I quickly became part of the warm and vibrant community. It is an honor to work with such amazing staff and students alike.