



Fortnightly Headteacher Update



Welcome back! It was fantastic to welcome the students back this week. We have hit the ground running this week already...

We have welcomed three of our local primary schools into West Exe this week for our year 4 cross country event organised by our Sarah Blackburn and our own student Sports leaders. It was a great opportunity for our younger community members to take part in a fun, physical activity, whilst getting to know West Exe and our team. We look forward to seeing them all again very soon.

From the moors to the theatre, a group of year 10 and year 11 students travelled to Plymouth on Wednesday evening to see Matthew Bourne's production: Swan Lake. It was a cultural event not to be missed, and all came away inspired by the experience. It was a fantastic opportunity to discuss the creative and artistic decisions made, and how they impact our enjoyment of a familiar tale.

The Ten Tors teams were out last weekend for their introductory walk for the challenge that they will be training for over the next six months. Good luck to them as they build up their strength, stamina and leadership skills, ready for the big event in May.

Looking back into the half-term break, our annual Aspire conference took place on the last Friday of the holiday. It is designed to broaden students' awareness of the opportunities available to them, and to encourage them to have the greatest aspirations for themselves. We welcomed year 10 and 11 students from across Devon to join us for a day of inspirational talks, workshops and interactive tasks and challenges. A great day was had by all.

As part of our ongoing improvement of the school building, various works were done over the summer and half term to improve West Exe for our students and wider community. As part of these works, updates were made to our outdoor sports facilities, a SEND nurture hub was created to host English and Maths recovery sessions and external doors have been re-instated on two of our smaller sets of toilets following student voice to support student comfort and safety. These doors remain open in between lessons. All other toilet facilities have remained unchanged. We were delighted to be able to respond to parent and student feedback and improve our facilities, while ensuring we providing a wider choice to students of to the type of toilets they would like to use. Staff continue to provide duty cover outside of all toilets to ensure that all children feel safe and able to use the facilities in confidence. If you or your children have any queries please do not hesitate to reach out via your child's Head of Year in the first instance.

While it is fantastic we have been able to respond to you and your children some of the initial feedback, we are committed to continuing to improve the school facilities for your children. As such we are investing in a huge refurbishment programme which will commence in later in the year of the summer of 2025. This will allow us to offer brand new bright, fresh and modern toilet facilities. We look forward to working with students over the coming months on the design of these new facilities, and to updating you about this in the future so watch this space!

Celebrations

We held our annual Year 4 Cross Country Event at Cowick Barton on the 13, November. Three of our local primary schools took part Exwick Heights, St Thomas and Alphington, with over a 100 keen and eager Year 4 students. We had a glorious day with very impressive individual runs from the primary school students. The morning was organised and officiated by our brilliant WES Sports Leaders who took on the role of race marshals, position and record keepers and pace runners. Well done to all competitors and thank you to our sports leaders, you were all amazing!

Our Y11 public speaking team competed in the first round of the English Speaking Union's Schools' Mace Debating competition. They had to argue in favour of a ban on facial recognition technology, which is not the easiest subject. This involved giving short speeches, answering questions and challenging the points made by the opposition. They were competing against Colyton Grammar, Churston Grammar, Truro School and Blundell's. Our students did brilliantly, and argued their points really well. The judge was very impressed with their performance and selected the West Exe team as one of those to go forward to the next round in January. Congratulations!



Update continued

WES held an Aspire Conference with around 100 students from our family of schools to hear inspirational speakers and take part in engaging workshops. The whole day was engaging and inspirational for everyone that attended.

Ella and Flavia Year 7 who swim for Exeter City Club competed in October at The Lindsay Powell Memorial, Plymouth Life Centre. A fast and fun meet that attracts the best swimmers from clubs across Westcountry. Participating swimmers need to achieve strict qualifying times, which are at county level. Ella and Flavia beat many of their personal best times and won several medals. Ella won silver in 200m and 100m back, Flavia won silver in 400m freestyle and bronze in 200m, 100m, 50m breast and 200m Individual Medley. Well done girls and keep up a good work.

Whole school information

Our annual Christmas concert packed with lots of festive music and performances is taking place on Thursday, 19 December we will advertise when tickets are available to book.

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 dmin@westexe.devon.sch.uk with photos and a brief explanation and we will celebrate this in our next update.

Ten Tors Day walk 2 – Sunday, 24 Nov

Ten Tors day Walk 3 – Sunday, 1 Dec

Ten Tors day walk 4 – Sunday, 15 Dec

Ten Tors participants Go Outdoors session – Weds, 27 Nov – 6.20 onwards - WES staff will be available to advise families on the clothing and equipment needed for the walks on Dartmoor.

Next DofE session – Weds, 20 Nov

DofE participants Go Outdoors session – Weds Nov 27th – 6.20 onwards

After Christmas – all DofE sessions will be during electives

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](#).

YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

YEAR 7

Date for your diaries - Y7 Disco Friday 13 December 2024

Year 8

We had a wonderful evening for Year 8 Subject evening with parent meeting with subject teachers. Winter 7's' Netball Tournament at Isca is happening on Tuesday, 19 November, good luck to our Netball Team.

Year 9

Winter 7's' Netball Tournament at Isca is happening on Tuesday, 19 November, good luck to our Netball Team.

Year 9 Subject Evening, 30 January 2025

Year 10

A handful of students went to Plymouth

Winter 7's' Netball Tournament at Isca is happening on Tuesday, 19 November, good luck to our Netball Team.

Year 10 Progress Event, 13 February 2025

Year 11

Exeter College Parent Newsletter has been published please do take a look [here](#).

Our Apprenticeship Expo will be happening on Thursday 13th February, as part of National Apprenticeships Week! This event will take place in our Sports Hall from 1pm until 5pm, and is a fantastic opportunity for all learners to explore the different apprenticeship opportunities available to them. Please visit the following link if you're interested in bringing a group of students during the day, and please also pass on to parents/guardians for them to register their interest: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=j_KcdCNmEqH7icfHn5_ZaigmHvCKPdGtY-Xlw_NGmtUNUINT1dPSERIOUNNR0E3UDUzTENXR1JEUSQIQCN0PWcu.

You are welcome to contact my colleagues in the Apprenticeship Team for more information: apprentices@exe-coll.ac.uk/ 01392 400800

Year 11 Subject Evening 16 January 2025



FREE FAMILY EVENT
SUNDAY 08.50 AM
2KM RUN # AGES 4 - 14

REGISTER HERE

SCAN ME

SCAN ME

TO VOLUNTEER

COWICK BARTON JUNIOR PARKRUN

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

SCAN ME

'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.



Libby Smith

I have been teaching Geography for 14 years and have experience in a range of roles in schools including leading A Level, being Head of Department and a school governor. 3 years ago, I made the decision to leave London and move towards the moorlands and coasts of Devon, and to work at West Exe School. I have been warmly welcomed by everyone and have loved getting know the young people and school community. West Exe values are close to my own so supporting our students to be kind and work hard is an utter joy every day.



Richard Claydon

I have proudly worked at West Exe School for the last six years, and for four years as Head of Year 7. My role involves supporting students as they transition from Primary to Secondary school, ensuring a smooth and positive experience. As the Associate Leader for Community, I cherish the opportunities to build strong connections with Primary schools and other community groups. Working at West Exe is incredibly rewarding due to the wonderful students and dedicated staff.