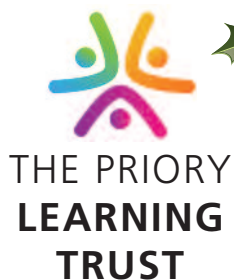




An Academy



WORLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL MAGAZINE  
CHRISTMAS EDITION 2018

## PRINCIPAL'S POST



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn / Winter Newsletter 2018. As usual, we have packed a lot into the last 15 weeks. The two-week October half term seems like a long way away now. Personally, I made the most of an opportunity to get a way for a few days. I hope that

parents managed to get some cheaper deals and enjoyed the break to the long winter term; the two week break will remain a firm feature of the way we structure our term dates here at WCSA.

As always, we remain focused on giving students the best chance we can to succeed. Our Year 11s have gone through their first set of PPE (mock examinations). Year on year, we never cease to be impressed with the maturity and resilience of our Year 11s; this year was no different. Examinations were taken seriously, our P6i (intervention programme for Year 11) is fully established and, I hope, Year 11 are beginning to feel that they will be well prepared and ready for the GCSEs in the summer term. Let's not forget – these examinations creep up on us quickly! We will, of course, add in the usual holiday and Saturday morning revision sessions. Mrs. Mac does a wonderful job leading the upper school and we are always on hand to talk to any parents / carers at any time. In fact, this is one of the aspects of the job we all enjoy.

This last term – Term 2 – has been Charity Term. I love this term as it gives me a chance to see how creative our students can be when it comes to raising money for those less fortunate. I am enjoying my Christmas wreath – made from pompoms by Miss Millar's form group. I have a couple of personalised baubles on my Christmas tree, and I am a little less lean due to the wonderful cakes I have been eating at break time. Our charity this year is *Weston Hospicecare*. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting your children to be creative and get involved.

I also enjoyed the two celebration evenings that took place in the Autumn Term. We said well done to students on The Grand Pier back in October. It was lovely to see so many of our ex Year 11s and hear about the success they are making of their lives. In November, we celebrated with our lower school students here at WCSA, which was another lovely evening. I have been enjoying my hot chocolate break times with students who consistently get a high number of achievement points. Don't forget, we reset behaviour and achievement points at the start of each Learning Cycle. We have 4 Learning Cycles in each school year.

Finally, I do hope that you enjoy reading this newsletter. We are always aiming to improve our communication and to take on board ideas from parents and carers. Certainly, some of our best ideas come from you. We remain focused on getting all students to attend school every day in order to make the most of all the wonderful things that are on offer at WCSA as part of TPLT. Mrs. Venn does a wonderful job with the attendance team and the reward trips will soon be upon us. So, when it's cold and dark, please keep going!

Thank you for your interest and support – please enjoy reading the newsletter.

*Miss Scott, Principal*

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# WELCOME MESSAGES

## TERM 2 UPDATE – PRIORY LEARNING TRUST

Mr. Neville Coles



Once again, I am absolutely delighted to see the positive stories from all our academies. I visit each academy often and continue to be delighted with the conduct of our 5,000 students and 500 staff. Nothing means more to me than to see our staff being positive and optimistic with the students and with each other. We must make sure everyone is feeling motivated and ready to learn and teach. This approach is at the very heart of The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT).

On October 1<sup>st</sup> The King Alfred School in Highbridge became the third secondary academy to join TPLT. Nathan Jenkins is the forward-thinking Principal at our academy there in Somerset. We have started the £1.2million re-roofing project at The King Alfred School – an Academy (TKASA) and all is going very well. So, TKASA is starting to look, and feel like, a TPLT academy with a much-improved site. We are also working hard on improving the approach to teaching and leadership.

The Trust, therefore, continues to grow wisely. We are happily strong with our finances and outcomes. Some of you may have watched the recent BBC 2 documentary called 'School'? The Trust involved in these programmes painted a picture we do not completely recognise. This may be because we have built, over many years at PCSA, and now TPLT, a team of very financially astute business staff. Of course, we'd all like more funding to go into education, however, the main 'income stream' is the number of students; I'm delighted to say that PCSA is well over admission number on first choices for September 2019 entry and WCSA is up 17% on last year's first choices. So, we hope that both our WSM secondary academies will be at 300 students in Year 7 in 2019 and onwards. Both our primary academies at St Anne's and Castle Batch remain very, very popular with parents / carers. Thank you.

We are now able to share our holiday dates for the school year 2019-20. Once again, we will be having a 2-week October break across all our academies. Students will break on Thursday, October 17th and return on Monday, November 4th. Friday, October 18th will be an INSET day for all Trust staff. All staff will be working together on this date. This is the only 'term time' INSET day – all other staff training happens in the evenings so we do not have 'random' INSET days.

Charity is very important to us in our Trust. The recent non-uniform day raised over £4K across our academies - see the precise totals below. This was split between Children in Need and Weston Hospice Care. All other charity events this year will donate to WHC. Many staff, and we hope students, will be taking part in The Mendip Challenge for WHC next summer. This is a long walk for a great cause.

- St Anne's – £361.09
- TKASA - £1,050.17
- WCSA – £1,211.55
- PCSA – £1,138.72
- Castle Batch - £350.50

Please do get in touch by email at [Neville.coles@theplt.org.uk](mailto:Neville.coles@theplt.org.uk) or @nevillecoles on Twitter. We have Facebook feeds for all our academies but please do not expect a reply to questions through Facebook – simply just e-mail us and we will get back to you quickly. If no reply please just e-mail me and I will assist.

Have a great Christmas break.  
Thank you for all your super support.

*Neville Coles – Executive Principal,  
The Priory Learning Trust*





## PARENT/CARER VOICE

We are extremely proud of the sustained and rapid improvement that the school has undergone over the past two years. We endeavour to continue our drive to maintain an environment where all children feel safe, looked after and are able to fulfil their maximum potential. In line with our philosophy that school improvement and success must be in partnership with parents, we would like to run a number of 'Parent/Carer voice' evenings to gather the views of parents and carers on where we are getting it right and where there is room for improvement.

We are keen to invite interested parties to the school on an evening in term 3 to run the first forum. If you would like to attend such an evening, please could you email me to express your interest at: [agriffin@worle-school.org.uk](mailto:agriffin@worle-school.org.uk)

## ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S ANXIETY?

Anxiety is a very common problem nowadays with as many as one in six young people experiencing it at some point. Anxiety is a feeling of fear or panic. Feeling generally anxious sometimes is normal. Most people worry about something – friends, family issues or exams - but once the difficult situation is over, you feel better and calm down. If the problem has gone but the feeling of fear or panic stays or even gets stronger, that's when anxiety becomes a problem.



The school counselling team will be running a series of short courses based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for children who are struggling with their anxiety. These will start during term 3 and take place once a week from 3-4pm for five weeks and could be in groups of up to 10 children. The course will aim to help children to understand their anxiety and give them some tools to help them manage it better. CBT helps by teaching us how to understand the thoughts, behaviours and physical symptoms we experience with anxiety. We can't get rid of anxiety, but we can learn how to deal with it better.

You are invited to attend a Parents' Information Meeting so that we can gauge the level of support for an anxiety management course. This will be an opportunity to find out more about CBT and the course content, and it will be a chance to sign your child up for it if you wish. Please tear off the slip below and return it to the school for the attention of the counselling team to indicate your interest in the Anxiety Management Course.

*Mr. Griffin, Vice Principal*



## FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNSELLING TEAM

*Please delete as appropriate:*

I would like to attend the Parent/Carer Information meeting on the Anxiety Management Course on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 5 pm Yes/No

I am unable to attend the Parent Information meeting but would like my child to attend an Anxiety Management course during term 3 Yes/No

Your name:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your child's name:



## MR. WHITTAKER YEAR 7

The year so far is flying by and it only seems like yesterday I was visiting the Year 6s in their respective primary schools and meeting parents at the transition evenings. I have been really pleased with the move the students have made from Year 6 into Year 7 with the vast majority dealing with the transition process extremely well.

Across the year group I get a lot of positive feedback from both members of staff and students; this news makes my day and I love to hear and see the great work that goes on across Year 7, both in and out of lessons. Please do share with your child's tutor any special achievements outside of school. One great piece of work that sticks out was the recording I was sent by Mrs. Webb-Jones of one of her groups singing the days of the week in French. "Lundi, Mardi, Mercredi ..." (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday ...)

Every Monday we meet as a year group in an assembly and I always share with the Year 7s their great attendance figures (remember our target is 97%) and how many positive points have been recorded by them. At the time of writing, this year group have achieved over 65,000 positive points, which is an

average of 220 per student! This is an amazing number; well done all.

As well as the positives points, we have been handing out badges to pupils to wear on their blazers, which I think make our extremely smart uniform look even better. The most recent badges given out were for the Year 7 Student Leaders - well done to those who received them and please continue to wear them with pride.

As we approach the end of Term 2, I would like to thank the students, parents, teachers and everyone who has worked with the Year 7 team for being really supportive in helping us through the transition process. You have helped everyone to settle into life at WCSA really well.

Year 7 - the academic year will continue to fly by when we return in January 2019. Let's keep up the momentum by achieving the highest number of positive points and praise possible for the rest of the year!

Lastly, I would just like to say that I hope you all really enjoy the Christmas break, making plenty of memories with your family and friends.

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## MRS. PRATLETT YEAR 8

Year 8 have had a really positive start to this important year. It was lovely to see them all again after a successful Year 7. It is a first for me to follow a year group through after Year 7 and look forward to the journey ahead, all the way to Year 11.

We welcomed new tutors to our team this year: Miss Symes, Mr. Judd and Miss Westgate. We also realigned the tutor groups and all the students settled in really well. During tutor time we have a new programme of activities that includes literacy and numeracy, silent reading, attendance and achievements, citizenship and assembly.

We value attendance and know how important it is for students to be in school every day. We have presented awards to Year 8 for top tutor attendance as well as awards for top student attendance. Five special awards were also presented to students in Year 8 for various reasons: honours in badminton; top attainers; and for handing in a lost phone. All worthy of a special mention.

Around the school it is always great to see members of our year group taking part in whole school events and representing Worle Community School Academy. A selection of Year 8 students helped out at Open Evening, welcoming prospective students and demonstrating the values of our school. Our girls and boys have also continued to take part in school sports. Our boys have had success with football in the county cup and our rugby team is also very strong, winning several matches. The girls' netball and hockey teams have also had successes and are building on these. I look forward to supporting them in the

coming terms. We also had several students who not only performed in the school production of Oliver, but also helped out behind the scenes. They all did fantastically well and all the extra rehearsals and extra time they spent definitely paid off. There is a lot of talent in the year group!

In October the school held a celebration of success with an awards evening on Weston Pier. It was well supported and was a pleasure to attend and celebrate these achievements with the year group. This was followed by a well-earned two week half term, which I hope was spent enjoying time together and hopefully taking advantage of a cheap break.

After half term, the school commemorated Remembrance Day. A poignant piece of art work was unveiled during the service and many of our students came in their various uniforms; they all looked very smart. Our students observed a minute's silence and reflected on this important day.

In November we supported Children in Need Day, in conjunction with our school charity Weston Hospicecare, by having a non-uniform day. This was enjoyed by all students and staff, with the money raised going to such great causes.

In the run up to Christmas we had our Charity term. This year the money raised went to Weston Hospicecare and Year 8 have raised an incredible amount so far. There were cake sales, guessing sweets in a jar, sponsored events and many Christmas crafts, including the making of personalised baubles. We also supported Worle's Christmas Fayre by renting a stall and selling our goods. Thank you to all of the people who spent money and donated to this worthy cause.



## YEAR 8 NEWS CONTINUED

A group of students also had the opportunity to visit the University College Weston for a day. They attended an event called "Plan your future". They had the opportunity to attend 2 workshops in the morning and attend taster lessons in the afternoon. To be given this opportunity really helps the

students think about their futures; I know it seems early but Year 11 is just around the corner!

Year 8 have been brilliant these two terms and have had many notable achievements. They continue to make me proud as each term passes. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and prosperous New Year.

## UNIFORM MATTERS...

### ...and here's five reasons why:

1. **First impressions.** Whether we like it or not, we are all judged initially on our appearance, on how we look, on how we are dressed. A smart, well dressed student sends out positive messages about being ready to learn. Talking of impressions...
2. **Reputation.** WCSA's reputation rests in the capable hands of its student population, and this reputation is enhanced when members of the community witness smart, well dressed students on their way to and from school.
3. **Uniform is a great leveller.** Regardless of social background, all students look the same. Uniform, even.
4. **Identity.** Uniform creates an identity for a school, and helps generate a feeling of unity, a sense of belonging, and of pride in WCSA and what it stands for in the community.
5. **Preparation for life.** Well, work life, anyway. Upon entering the world of work there is likely to be a work uniform or dress code to adhere to. Uniform creates a sense of identity in a school and in the workplace beyond school.

## UNIFORM MATTERS...

### ...and here's five matters, for your attention:

1. **Year 11.** All Year 11 students need to be in uniform for all GCSE exams; in particular, they need to wear a school shirt under their hoodie if they wish to take their hoodie off during their exams.
2. **Shoes:** Trainers are not shoes. Therefore, they are not uniform. I am aware of ten students across the whole school with genuine medical conditions that require a soft shoe, or trainer, to be worn. 'My shoes are wet', 'I've forgotten my shoes' and 'What difference does it make what I wear on my feet?' are not plausible excuses for wearing trainers. The latter 'argument' is also applied to other aspects of the uniform requirements.
3. **Trousers:** Leggings and jeans are not trousers. Therefore, they are not uniform.
4. **Skirts:** Skirts should not be too short; if we deem them to be so, we will provide students with a pair of black tights to be worn under the skirt.
5. **Shirts:** Should be tucked in at all times.

We are delighted that the vast majority of our students wear their uniform with pride and are a credit to the school. They quickly amend when asked (if a problem) – they have PRIDE in Worle. Most like our traditional blazer and tie approach. A massive 'thank you' to those parents and carers who reinforce the importance of uniform with their children – we know it is tough at times! It's a joy to strike up a conversation with those students that starts with learning matters, not uniform matters.

*Geoff Dixon*  
Assistant Principal

## MR. DONALDSON YEAR 9

I am delighted to write to parents as Head of Year 9 for the Autumn term magazine. Year 9 now consists of 10 tutor groups and we welcomed two new tutors to year 9, Miss Smart and Miss Nattee at the start of the new academic year. The students are now busy and working hard in their chosen option subjects. Year 9 have really embraced the challenge of taking up their options. I have observed some great work from our students in lessons. Some of our students who took art as an option choice got to spend the day in London at the famous Tate Art Museum. The trip was such an inspiration to our students that a repeat trip will be considered. I have been told that the singing on the coach on the way home was rather good too!

Year 9 also took part in the curriculum enrichment days before the end of term one. The students spent the days learning about sex education for one of the days and the Humanities Department covered the seventieth anniversary of the Windrush generation and diversity in the United Kingdom on the other day.

We also celebrated our students' great success at our awards ceremony in October on The Grand Pier. The evening was very

well attended by families and staff who were clearly delighted to see the great effort by their children, our students, celebrated.

Some of our Year 9 students took to the stage in the fantastic school production of "Oliver!" here at Worle. The performances were amazing and all the hard work clearly paid off, which was evident for all to see.

I was particularly impressed with the due reverence the Year 9 students paid to Remembrance Day. The students were presented with an assembly detailing the history of Armistice Day. Here at WCSA we took part in a minute's silence on the Monday the 12 November and the students were impeccable in paying their respects.

Charity term is upon us and the students have also been working hard to raise funds for our chosen charity; this year it is the Weston Hospice care which I believe is a very worthy cause, helping and supporting many families in the town and surrounding areas.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year for 2019.

## MRS. BRACE YEAR 10

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, I am Rachel Brace and I have taken over as Head of Year 10 following Mrs. Pooley's move to Year 11. Year 10 have been very welcoming and are clearly an exceptionally hardworking year group. I have been chatting to some while out on duty and watching the boys on the football field; we clearly have some very talented sports people amongst us!

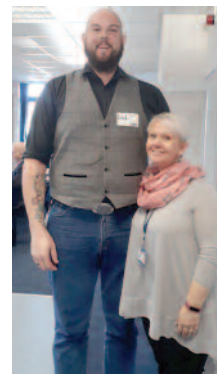
During Term 1 we were focusing on getting work experience placements sorted ready for July next year and had a great 2 days of Curriculum Enrichment enhancing their skills in interviews. The employers were very complimentary about how well they took on the challenge of having an interview and I really enjoyed seeing them all so smart and focused. If students need help securing placements, I would encourage them to speak to Ms. Cuthbertson as a matter of urgency to secure a good quality placement.

*Please see below students having their interviews.*

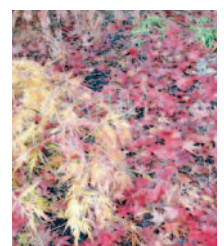


We had a large variety of employers involved, who willingly

gave their time to give our students a real taste of what an interview would be like. I also met the tallest man ever who was one of the employers! *See photograph right.*



While out on duty I have been in awe of the wonderful autumnal colours that are around the site this time of year. Our students studying music are greeted by this sight every time they step foot in the Music department. *How beautiful is nature?*



Term 2 has seen the year group pulling together to raise money for our chosen charity this year, Weston Hospicecare. I have spent a good amount of pennies on arts and crafts and an obscene amount on cakes. Mr. Brace and my daughter have been very grateful for all of your baking efforts Year 10!

It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the Parents' Evening on 13<sup>th</sup> December. Please do not feel you have to wait for a parents' evening to contact us if you have any queries regarding your child's education at WCSA. We are always happy to speak to you in person, on the telephone or via email.

Looking forward towards the spring term, I hope to see the students enjoying the lighter evenings again and getting involved with the Period 6 activities on offer. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a restful New Year. I look forward to seeing you all again in 2019.



## MRS. POOLEY YEAR 11

I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to work with our Year 11 students and their families. This term, with the help of the Year 11 Form Tutors, I have been busy getting to know the students within their cohort. What a brilliant and diverse group they are! We have the very talented Amelia in 11A3, who has been involved in the arrangement of the WCSA Christmas song, Ruby, who is part of the England Pathway Academy for netball, and students regularly competing at a high level in football, boxing, rugby and baseball. We are fostering aspiring lawyers, actors, musicians and doctors, to name but a few. I'm confident that with hard work and a growth mindset, these goals are attainable.



There has been a lot going on in the run up to the festive break. I enjoyed our Awards Evening at the Pier; our Student Leaders

were fantastic! There have been extra revision classes with our P6 interventions and all the year group experienced a taster day of their choice at Weston College before the October break. I had a thoroughly enjoyable day supporting at the South West Skills Centre, where students tried their hand at mechanics, civil engineering, carpentry and plumbing. The college tutors commented on our students' outstanding behaviour, making me very proud indeed. Bridgwater and Taunton College have also offered a taster day to students expressing an interest in completing their post -16 study there. I hope you have taken advantage of the many open evenings that have been put on by local colleges and sixth forms. You really do get a feel for a place by attending these.

Our 'mock' GCSEs (PPEs) have now taken place. Having gone through Year 11 and GCSEs with my two eldest children over the last couple of years, I understand the pressure that some may be feeling at this time. It is of paramount importance that we work together to support your teenager at this time. Exams are important, but good mental health is essential to success. There are lots of strategies that can be used to reduce stress and boost motivation. A common sense approach has always worked with my kids; a healthy sleep pattern, good diet, being hydrated, good time management with breaks and exercise. As with most things in life - if we put in the time and effort, we will reap the rewards. My eldest daughter has just started university this academic year and chose to hand me over her phone each evening when revising for her A-levels, a simple strategy that worked - no distractions!

On November 12<sup>th</sup>, we held a Remembrance event, where we observed a minute's silence at 10.59am, to commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. All Year 11 sat a mock exam which finished a few minutes prior to this and had to make their way back to



the restaurant before the beginning of break. There was the usual animated chatter and excitement that happens after an exam, which seems to amplify a little in the restaurant, due to the acoustics. As soon as the bell went, silence occurred. It was a poignant moment, listening to the sound of The Last Post. Mrs. Mac and I were very proud of the mature young adults they have become.

I wanted to mention attendance for the year group. As the weather becomes colder and wetter, we are all more susceptible to the usual coughs and colds. It may be tempting to stay home in the warm when we have a sore throat or headache, however, during this final year it is of paramount importance to be in school. If late to school, vital information is missed in tutor time; if absent, a whole day's learning is lost. Please let us work together to prepare our young people for an ever increasing competitive workplace; resilience and hard work pays off!

We have raised a lot of money for charity over these two terms. We are supporting Weston Hospicecare at WCSA this year and have also raised money for Children in Need. I have bought lots of cakes to take home and share with my family, as well as Christmas baubles and cards. We all feel very strongly within the Trust that giving back, kindness and helping other people is hugely empowering; making us all feel happier and fulfilled.

At the time of writing this, we have just come back from the cinema, having taken our younger children to see The Grinch; a story which tackles the consumerism that takes place during the Christmas period. I will end on a quote from the book by Dr. Seuss: "Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!" — Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

I thank you all for your support and wish you a happy, peaceful Christmas with your loved ones.





# GCSES ARE COMING

Mrs. Pooley and I have been really proud of the Year 11s in terms one and two, who have greeted the challenges of P6i, P0, walking talking mocks and PPEs with energy, if not always enthusiasm! Long days at school will pay off in the long run and, if they continue working as they are, they will be well prepared for the real exams in May and June – we know it works! Hard work in small chunks over the year will be so much better than panicked revision just before the real thing!

Over Christmas, I would suggest that students have a well-earned break and enjoy time with family and friends so they are ready for increased effort next term!

Here's a little ditty for the Y11s - it's very clear what it should be sung to!

On the *first day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *second day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *third day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *fourth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *fifth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *sixth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *seventh day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *eighth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... walking talking mocks, C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *ninth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... nine festive teachers, walking talking mocks, C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *tenth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... college applications, nine festive teachers, walking talking mocks, C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *eleventh day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... year books full of memories, college applications, nine festive teachers, walking talking mocks, C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

On the *twelfth day of Christmas* my hard work brought to me... a fabulous Prom, a year books full of memories, college applications, nine festive teachers, walking talking mocks, C lunch (with no chips), school at 7.30, endless PPEs! threats of no hoodies, Hegarty Maths, lots of revision and a great bunch of GCSEs!

*Have a great Christmas, Year 11!!*

Mrs. Mac



We are very proud of our site at WCSA and continually strive to make ongoing improvements and changes for the benefit of both staff and students alike.

## TOILETS

The building of the new 'Water Worle' toilet facility is progressing apace and is on course to be completed by the end of this term for opening on return of the Christmas break. The roof is completed with just the sky lights/light tubes to be inserted. Inside, the floor has been screeded and the 'first fix' plumbing and electrics have been installed as well as the ventilation array. The plastering is complete and the sixteen cubicles are being fitted. The two hand wash troughs and two bespoke mirror and hand dryer stations will be installed in due course. We are looking forward to this exciting addition and improvement to our facilities being operational.



## DRAMA D02

The total refurbishment of this area is now complete with the theatre grade LED lighting being installed in the two week October term break. We now have a truly fit for purpose multi-use drama/dance space with a new semi-sprung floor, Mirror wall of laminated safety glass and a new ceiling with energy efficient LED lighting, making the space ideal for the performance of GCSE exam pieces by students.



*Mark Antoine, Academy Business Manager*

# CURRICULUM AT WCSA

## OUR MODULAR CURRICULUM

When we first designed the modular curriculum our intent was to provide a rigorous, knowledge-based curriculum that would give each student the opportunity to develop both creatively and academically. We know that in our ever-changing world students need to leave secondary school equipped with transferable skills and a creative outlook that will not only enable them to thrive in the modern work force but to be creators and innovators who will carve their own path towards excellence. We firmly believe that our curriculum offers the variation necessary for this to happen. Our renewed focus on the English-baccalaureate will enable students to become global citizens and collaborate internationally

## THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc) is a combination of subjects that employers and educators have highlighted as having particular merit in our increasingly competitive global job market. The E-Bacc is a combination of option subjects which includes English, maths, science as well as a language and either history or geography. Fierce competition in the work force means that students need to leave school fully

prepared to compete at the highest level. It is with this in mind that WCSA hopes to boost the provision for the E-Bacc pathway to success by re-structuring GCSE options routes to better enable students to study a language as well as a humanities' based discipline. The E-Bacc will no longer be the province of the gifted few, but an option ready for all to take.

As Year 8s approach their option choices, it is vital that they speak to teachers as well as family and friends to choose the courses that will give them greatest life chances.

## HOMEWORK AT WCSA

Our curriculum is designed to work in conjunction with a rigorous and engaging homework programme that not only embeds classroom learning but gives students the opportunity to research and develop in their own time and at their own pace.

As always we welcome feedback and are continuously on the lookout for parents who would be willing to take part in Parent Voice enterprises to help us hone and develop the homework process.

*Chris Pickles, Assistant Principal*

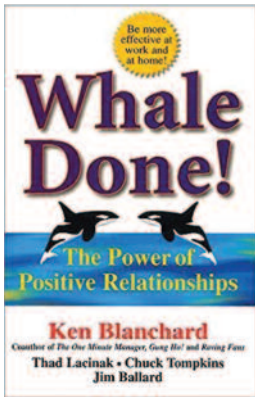


Dear Parents and Carers,

My name is Louise and I have a child in Year 8. I am also a member of the Academy Council. I wrote in the summer months reflecting on my first year's involvement with WCSA, both as a parent and also as an Academy Councillor.

So much goes on in a school like WCSA, which is one of the reasons that I applied to be an Academy Councillor. It allows me to know what is going on all around the school, be involved with plans for the future, and also add my view from a parent's perspective. One of the things that I have noticed at WCSA is the real focus on positive comments, and there are many ways that this is expressed in the school from achievement points, to Friday phone calls home, to the reward days. I know from speaking to both students and parents that they really

value this, and also the teachers love to be able to give positive feedback. It reminded me that many years ago as part of my management career I read a book called 'Whale Done' which talks about the power of positive relationships.



The book explains that both whales and people perform better when you accentuate the positive. It shows how using the techniques of animal trainers - specifically those responsible for the killer whales of

SeaWorld - can supercharge your effectiveness at work and at home. It explains the difference between 'GOTcha' (catching people doing things wrong) and 'Whale Done!' (catching people doing things right).

I do believe that we all like a bit of praise from time to time and it spurs us on to do things better whether that is at school, at work, or at home. This book is a really easy and enjoyable read if you wish to take a look, I'm sure that everyone could take something from it.

New this September the school have badges awarded by each department (see some examples in the picture). These are really fantastic badges of a high quality



and really fun as they each depict the department that awarded them. I'm sure that students will love receiving these and will wear them proudly. I see many students with a huge amount of badges proudly displayed on their blazers.

Miss Scott and everyone at the school are always keen to hear from parents, so please get in touch with them if you want to know anything, or even if you want a tour of the school! I had the pleasure in the summer of spending time in the school during a school day and seeing how things work on a normal day; it was amazing (and very different to when I was at school many moons ago!) I was really impressed with the relationships between teachers and students, and also thought that the students produce a really high quality of work.

Being involved with the Academy Council has shown me many things, and I am still learning. I have been really impressed with the commitment of all the staff at the school (both teaching and non teaching). Should you wish to be more involved and join the Academy Council please contact the school.

I hope that you all have a Happy Christmas and New Year.  
*Louise Haydock, AC Member*

## STUDENT JOURNALISTS

### NEWS FROM THE STUDENT JOURNALIST – OLIVIA FINCH

It has been nearly 20 years since the devastating day Jill Dando was shot dead on her own door step. She was an incredible newsreader, journalist and TV presenter who was prematurely taken from this world. In her memory, WCSA have set up a journalism group, which they have named after her, to inspire teenagers to get involved in journalism. The Jill Dando News Group has been to interview many well-known people, including Jeffery Archer and James Cracknell. They are hoping to get many more interviews and video messages from many more inspirational people.

At the Jill Dando News Centre we find exemplary and talented students in our school and write articles about them. We also report from various school events and celebrations that happen. Everyone has a story and it's our job to find them! We have a school newspaper that gets issued three times a year with our work in and we also have many pieces of our work that go in local newspapers. We meet every Thursday break time and discuss any stories that we have found the previous week.

It is approaching the anniversary of Jill's death and, in her memory, all the newsgroups from schools in our Trust are going to meet at her memorial garden in the New Year. This will be to celebrate and remember Jill.

*Olivia Finch  
Student Journalist*



## SUPPORT TO LEARN UPDATE

The new Support to Learn (S2L) room has been open for almost 2 Learning Cycles (LC) now and is offering core booster classes in English and maths to selected Upper School SEND students. Mrs. Stockham has established a calm, hardworking zone for students to access for a variety of reasons. Students have settled in well and are engaging really well with the learning. They are appreciative of the support being given to them and we believe this will help them in achieving well in Upper School at WCSA.

## DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

We celebrated Dyslexia Awareness Week from 1st to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018. We are committed to raising awareness around dyslexia and the strengths and needs students may experience. Miss Fitzgerald spoke to all students during their assemblies.

From this week we have had several students come and speak to the SEND team with concerns about dyslexia and asking for a referral to complete a screener. We welcome any parents with concerns about dyslexia to get in touch with Miss Fitzgerald.

## TUTOR TIME INTERVENTIONS

The SEND team have been very busy teaching tutor time interventions for all year groups on a variety of topics including numeracy, reading, spelling, handwriting, touch typing and social skills. These sessions are well attended and aim to build skills in students who may otherwise be struggling.

## YEAR 11

Year 11 students are being supported by Mrs. Stockham and Mrs. Kane in preparation for their upcoming GCSEs in the summer through small targeted P6i classes on a Tuesday and Thursday covering topics in English and maths where the students may have gaps and we aim to be confident and resilience ready for the big summer event.

## THE TEAM

Our SEND team has expanded this academic year and we have welcomed some highly skilled and experienced members of staff who have integrated into the team well and they are supporting our students in a variety of ways.

*Miss Fitzgerald, Assistant Principal: Sendco*

## MATTHEW COMMANDER - EXAMS

This has been a very busy time of year for all our students, and Year 11 students are no exception to this as they have recently sat their pre public examinations. We conduct these assessments at regular points throughout the year in order to prepare the students for the GCSE exams in the summer.

The next set of pre public exams will take place over the two weeks beginning 21<sup>st</sup> January, with a final round of exams involving fewer subject areas beginning after Easter on the 24<sup>th</sup> April. These three examination windows are crucial for our students and teaching staff as they help us gauge the progress that students are making and allow students and staff to take the necessary steps to move their understanding and skills to the next level.

The programme for these examination periods will be published shortly on the website. Please look out for this and use it with your child to help them plan and prepare for these exams.

As an early warning we are planning an extensive revision programme for the Easter break to help prepare students for their GCSE exams. Extra classes in English, maths and science will be available during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> April, and more science, humanities, languages and arts subjects will be available from the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> April. The students will be taught by subject specialist staff over these two weeks and also provided with structured and well-resourced activities. Please do look out for the details nearer the time so your child can plan their revision effectively.

I would like to wish our students the best of luck with the upcoming GCSE exams in business studies on the 7<sup>th</sup> December and in the digital applications paper on the 20<sup>th</sup> December.

*Matthew Commander - Assistant Principal*

## AN UPDATE FROM KS3

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to their English studies here at Worle Community School Academy. Students took on the challenge of becoming band managers of the fictional band 'Banned in Bristol' and worked hard to learn the tricks of the trade whilst writing persuasive articles and letters. We also uncovered the hidden talents of quite a few songwriters within the year group who were able to write lyrics worthy of a place in the charts. Year 7 students are now studying war poetry, analysing some of the most famous war poets and their poems from WW1.

Year 8 students have also had a creative start to the year. Students took inspiration from the popular novel and film 'The Hunger Games' to write descriptions of future dystopian settings. Students



thought carefully about character, setting, vocabulary and structure - all skills that are essential for future GCSE English Language papers. They have now started to delve into the magic of literary verse by exploring a range of culturally diverse poetry; they will experience poetry produced by poetic masters from across the globe.

KS3 teachers are very pleased with how well students are working with the Accelerated Reader programme. This year, KS3 students have a weekly 30 minute session in the LRC with access to thousands of books and iPads to take quizzes. Termly Accelerated Reader celebrations will reward our most successful readers. Rewards will also be given to those students who have read the most words throughout the term, as well as celebrations to reward those students who have shown great effort with their reading.




### In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place, and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To take you from failing hands we throw  
The torch, be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

**Major John McCrae**  
Canadian doctor and WWI artillery commander

### Lest We Forget

(Photo: Monica Galentino)

We are also very excited to announce that we have been given the opportunity to publish our own work as part of the Priory Learning Trust. KS3 students have been offered the chance to enter their own pieces of writing into a competition which could result in them getting their work published! Once the winning pieces have been collated into a collection of stories, the books will be available to purchase. Watch this space for more news on where and when this work will be up for grabs!

Finally, students have worked incredibly hard on their homework booklets. As always, we would encourage students to attend Whoosh for help with homework after school in the LRC or contact their class teacher if they require any help with the independent learning tasks. Listed below are a number of websites that could also help with Year 7 and Year 8 units.

## YEAR 7

### Learning Cycle 2: War poetry

Assessments: descriptive writing/unseen poetry

Wilfred Owen info

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/wilfred-owen>

Writing to describe

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zpp4kqt/revision/1>

### Learning Cycle 3: Shakespeare - The Tempest

Assessments: extract analysis/speaking and listening

Understanding of the play, key themes and characters

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/the-tempest/the-plot> and

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/shakespeare\\_summaries/the\\_tempest/revision/1/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/shakespeare_summaries/the_tempest/revision/1/)

Speaking and Listening

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zthc9j6/revision/1>

### Learning Cycle 4: The boy in the striped pyjamas

Assessments: narrative writing/ language analysis and

responding to a text

Understanding of the play, key themes and characters  
<https://www.enotes.com/topics/the-boy-in-the-striped-pajamas> and  
<https://www.shmoop.com/boy-in-the-striped-pajamas/summary.html>

Narrative Writing

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zwjsyrd/revision/1>

## YEAR 8

### Learning Cycle 2: Poetry from other cultures

Assessments: poetry comparison

Writing and analysing poetry

<https://www.bbc.com/education/topics/z7gcwmn/resources/1> and <https://www.thetutorpages.com/tutor-article/gcse-english/how-to-analyse-a-poem/2396>

### Learning Cycle 3: Novel - Trash

Assessments: narrative structure analysis/narrative writing  
 Understanding of the plot

<http://www.supersummary.com/trash/summary/> and  
<http://www.bookrags.com/studyguide-trash/#gsc.tab=0>

Narrative Writing

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zwjsyrd/revision/1>

### Learning Cycle 4: Shakespeare - Much Ado about Nothing

Assessments: extract analysis/speaking and listening

Understanding of the play, key themes and characters

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/much-ado-about-nothing/>

Speaking and Listening

<https://www.bbc.com/education/guides/zthc9j6/revision/1>

## AN UPDATE FROM KS4 ENGLISH- MRS. WORTHY

Our Year 11s in English are well underway on the path to summer success. They have engaged really well with the course from the outset of this academic year and are taking advantage of both the P6i and P0 options as a way of boosting their performance; attitude and engagement with both of these initiatives, as well as within lessons, has been very positive this year, so well done to all involved!

To add to these excellent opportunities provided for students, all of our Year 11 students have received the fantastic opportunity of watching a quality performance of 'Romeo and Juliet' direct from the Royal Shakespeare Company, within the comfort of our own auditorium. This has been an enriching opportunity of witnessing 'live' theatre for all of our students here at WCSA, with a "youthful and energetic take on Shakespeare's tragedy" (WHATSONSTAGE). A very engaging way of revising one of the key texts for the summer!



Theatre experiences don't start and end with our Year 11 students though - we are thrilled that our Year 10 students in English will once again have the amazing opportunity of working with the Young Shakespeare Company, who will be visiting the school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019. They will be working with all of Year 10 on preparing them for their study of 'Romeo and Juliet', an experience which will be of great benefit to students in helping them to understand the play as a performance text, something that is vital for their success in their future exam. This is an interactive and engaging performance which truly helps to bring the key ideas and themes of Shakespeare's original text up-to-date, whilst managing to make Shakespeare's original language accessible for all. We would like to thank all parents and carers of Year 10 who have thus far contributed towards this fantastic opportunity for students to experience their Shakespeare exam texts as they were intended. If your child is in Year 10 and you should still wish to contribute towards this interactive teaching experience, please feel free to do so through ParentPay.





Within the confines of the classroom, our KS4 students have already engaged with a wide range of texts and skills during their English lessons. Year 11 have risen to the challenge of translating and mastering Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', as well as developing their analytical skills in the interpretation of poetry; Year 10 have stood up to the challenge of their Speaking and Listening exam presentations, with a range of

fascinating and increasingly original topics being presented, before moving on to the study of 'A Christmas Carol', their first GCSE Literature exam text; Year 9 have hit the ground running with the study of the classic and moving text 'Of Mice and Men', before delving into the world of Gothic Literature – a challenging start to developing their GCSE skills!

Further support for GCSE English Language and English Literature can be located on the following websites:

## USEFUL WEBSITES ENGLISH LITERATURE



<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>  
(specimen papers and mark schemes)



[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english\\_literature/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/)  
(revision sections on Dr Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, Frankenstein, Lord of the Flies and Romeo and Juliet)



<http://www.sparknotes.com/>  
(Online revision guides for all of the novels and plays studied for AQA available)



<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/english-literature-gcse-level>  
(Romeo and Juliet, Frankenstein, Lord of the Flies revision resources)



<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLyAc67GcwZWFwKqHB5H4JpsU1iwpF0yHz>  
A number of the poems from the War and Conflict poetry anthology have revision videos on youtube, targeted at GCSE students

## USEFUL WEBSITES ENGLISH LANGUAGE



<http://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes>  
(search for English Language GCSE, English Language (8700) for specimen papers and mark-schemes)



<http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/> (skills focused GCSE help)



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/>  
(sections on fiction and non-fiction texts, comparison skills and writing styles)



<http://www.educationquizzes.com/gcse/english/>  
(revision quizzes on all aspects of the course)



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english>  
(reading and writing skills, including grammar essentials)

*Miss Clarkson, Head of English*

## ANOTHER FANTASTIC SET OF GCSE MATHS RESULTS HERE AT WCSA!

Following the excellent results achieved in August 2017, I am delighted to say that the Maths Department continued the upward trend this summer, with the best results in Weston for both the Grade 9-4 and Grade 9-5 measures. Both were an improvement on last year, which reflects the hard work put in by students and staff as well as the support of parents and carers at home. Almost 3 quarters of students left WCSA with a Grade 4 or better in maths and nearly 50% achieved at least a Grade 5. We also had five students who achieved the maximum Grade 9, which we were delighted about.

## GCSE MATHS – HIGH HOPES FOR OUR NEW YEAR 11S

The recent results, in my view, are proof that the strategies we have in place are the correct ones and most importantly that they work. We had very good attendance at additional events last year, including Easter School, Saturday revision between the exams and at P6i throughout the year. Please encourage your child to get involved with these events, as achieving their best possible results in maths can make a real difference and open up many future pathways.

P6i (Period 6 maths session, each Thursday) is already well underway and we have been pleased with attendance and the attitude of the students in these sessions. The first set of PPEs (mocks) have also been completed, which is always a challenging time as there are lots of exams in a short space of time. I would like to say a huge well done to the vast majority of students who approached these exams as if they were the real thing, revising thoroughly and making use of every second during the exam. Having this exam routine already in place will mean that when they reach the summer they will have no shocks and they can go in feeling confident and well prepared.

## HEGARTY MATHS



hegartymaths

During the last academic year we introduced Hegarty Maths to students and parents and the response has been great. The site has a proven track record of boosting results and contains almost 900 video and quizzes on the vast majority of topics in the subject. It is growing all the time to make sure that help is at students' fingertips when they need it.

We have also included the use of Hegarty Maths in our homework routines; each Cycle students are required to complete 4 pages of Hegarty Maths revision. We received some



fantastic examples of this during Cycle 1, with students taking a lot of pride in the work they were producing. The aim of this homework is to make sure that every student is able to get the most out of the site; taking notes from the videos, writing down their working from the online quizzes and then recording their scores.

There were also several parent support sessions during Terms 1 and 2 to demonstrate the benefits of the site; thank you for attending and I hope that you found the sessions useful. We will continue to run similar events, as it is our firm belief that the best results are achieved when home and school are working in partnership.

## UNIVERSITY ENRICHMENT SESSIONS

Between November and January we will have 12 students in Year 8 who will be attending Maths Workshops at the University of the West of England in Bristol on Saturday mornings. Schools are normally only allocated 4 places but we had so many students who were keen to get involved that we had to ask for more! I hope that they will enjoy the sessions and that it will be the first step towards studying the subject beyond school.

## UK MATHS CHALLENGE

In the last newsletter we shared the achievements of our students in the maths challenge in the previous academic year. Please find below the dates for this year's competitions;  
**Intermediate (Y9-11) – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Junior (Y7-8) – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019**



As ever, if you have any questions please do get in touch with your child's maths teacher using the links on the website, or by email me directly using [swood@worle-school.org.uk](mailto:swood@worle-school.org.uk).

*Mr. Wood, Head of Maths*



WorleMaths

There's quite a lot to talk about for MFL this newsletter, it's going to be a bit difficult to fit it all in!

All Year 7 and 8 classes have got off to a flying start in MFL this term. The languages are now split 50:50 so it's great to see Spanish going from strength to strength. We will be nominating our MFL Praising Stars pupils shortly who will then be invited to reward break time to celebrate their achievements.

During Learning Cycle 1 in Year 7, we have all been learning the Spanish or French basics and our Year 8s have been developing their knowledge, having a special focus on the topic of free time and entertainment. In the pictures you can see some boys doing their best in their Spanish Knowledge Test, taking pride in their learning and work.

Some of Year 9s have just started learning Spanish. We have set the basics for their Spanish GCSE course, assimilating the essentials to secure the best grades in the future, while Year 9s in French and Year 10 linguists have continued their learning.

Special focus: Year 11 have just gone through the full exam experience for the first time during Learning Cycle 1. Our students are now aware of exactly what to expect in the final exam and have been employing the strategies learnt in reading, speaking, writing and listening activities, realising of their weaknesses but also their potential. We are lucky to be able to offer our support to everyone with P0 and P6 sessions, weekly updates with their class teachers, extra resources on Google Classroom and 1:1 discussions.



## GCSE RESULTS

Hopefully all our current students will be encouraged to 'aim high' after our fantastic languages' GCSE results this year. We were quietly confident that our Year 11 students would do well however, with a new style in GCSE language exams, we had our work cut out for us.

We were very lucky that the Year 11 students were such a hard working bunch and attended regular P6i sessions, extra revision sessions and even came to practice speaking during their break times!

Our results are the evidence of how hard everybody worked: French students achieved 97% grades 9-4 compared to the national average of 70% and Spanish students got 77% grades 9-4 compared to 70% nationally. We also had several students who achieved top grades of 7-9s, not least Miss Scott who achieved a 9 in her French GCSE.



As you can imagine we were all over the moon to see the smiles on the students' faces as they collected their results, it makes it all worth it! CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK FOR THE FUTURE ALL!



## MFL TRIPS

One thing that any MFL department is proud to offer, is the opportunity for their students to experience the language first hand and we've worked hard to lead two very successfully visits abroad in the last few months...

### Year 8 Paris Cultural Visit

Our year 8 PGL trip in July to Chateau du Grande Romaine just South East of Paris was an amazing experience for staff and students alike. We visited the Chateau at Fontainebleau, a chocolate factory, had a day in Paris where we spent time practicing our French in the boutiques of Montmartre, experienced a boat trip on the Seine, appreciated the views over Paris from the Montparnasse Tower and circled the Arc



du Triumph twice! PGL have a pretty impressive set up at Chateau du Grand Romaine, the food was great with all tastes catered for; there were activities each evening and pool was much appreciated in the hot weather. Some of our students were really nervous about going abroad and leaving family behind (often for the first time). Needless to say, they were a real credit to the school and behaved impeccably. I think it's fair to say that some amazing memories were created and we all had a fantastic time.

### Spanish Exchange Trip

What an amazing experience! A number of our Year 11s and 10s lived in Spanish homes with Spanish families. Despite being a bit scared at the beginning, they all wish they could do it again next year and can't wait to host Spanish students in February!

We stayed with the Spanish families for a week in Baza, a small town in Granada on the south of Spain. We learnt about Spanish history, culture and language; students also attended lessons with their host students, but most importantly, shared and learned together as one very united group. We went on trips to beautiful places like Cabo de Gata, Castril and Granada city; we did a treasure hunt in Baza and visited museums with experts sharing their knowledge. We didn't stop!

MUCHÍSIMAS GRACIAS to our brave pioneers and their families who have been extremely supportive and are looking forward to hosting the Spanish students in February: Lucy Frost, Ashleigh Brown, Raluca Moldovan, Rica Kilburn and Willow Alexander, our first international students at WCSA. If you are interested in hosting in February before you go to Baza in October 2019, please come and see Miss Vila.



For both trips, we would like to take the chance to say a big MERCI & GRACIAS to Mark Tong, Jessica Garnett, Matt Commander, Nathan Hancock, Neill Bird, Nikki Page, Emma Harvey and the IT team for their help in making these two trips happen and to everyone who has supported the experience in any way.

Finally, fond farewells and warm welcomes... We are sad to say goodbye to Mr. Turner, he had worked really hard to help us implement a robust curriculum for our students and will be missed. Joining us are Mrs. Khole and Mrs. Bainbridge who have both taught at Worle previously and are very much welcomed back. We look forward to working with you both again.

*Mrs. Webb Jones, Head of MFL*





It was sad to see the final Child Development GCSE group finish their course this summer, but excellent exam results in August certainly made up for this! With three students gaining the highest grade of an A\*, three As and three Bs from others the group really acquitted themselves well. They were a group I shall certainly miss but I wish them all well in their chosen Post 16 choices.

I must also offer congratulations to Hana Pearce in Year 9 who sat the Cambridge National exam in June, two years early! Having studied in her spare time, she achieved a Level 2 pass, the equivalent of a C grade in the old CGSE.

This year there are two Year 9 classes that have opted to take the new Cambridge National course in Child Development as one of their exam subjects, two Year 10 groups and two Year 11 groups, so the subject has never been so well represented in the curriculum!

Child Development is not just an exam subject forming part of the basket of eight subjects that contribute to a student's final result, it is so much more. It truly is a subject for life where important parenting and social skills are learnt and developed. Many of our students go on to take an Early Years course at college with a view to a career working with children, for others it equips them for life as parents. A newspaper article recently showed two male students graduating from the prestigious Norland School of Nannies in Bath who supply nannies to many of the world's rich and famous. So boys, you too can be included! The Cambridge National Child Development course has an emphasis on applying knowledge to real life scenarios and although course work still exists, it now forms only 50% of the final mark (previously 60%). Students will be pleased to realise that the lengthy Child Study has now been compacted into a much shorter but more relevant version.



Year 10 students have now started taking home the Reality Babies and the new program used has really tested their powers of stamina and endurance. Year 9 students are no doubt anxiously awaiting their turn in the New Year!

*Mrs. Ley-Morgan, Head of Child Development*



## SUCCESSFUL P6 AND 0 CLUBS

We are excited to announce a new member of staff, Mr. Connelly, to the ever-increasing ICT and Business Studies Department here at WCSA. Mr. Connelly has come from industry and has excellent knowledge in all things ICT and Computing. We are using his wealth of knowledge during our successful morning programme in which students are given support in computing theory course content and exam technique. Every student involved in the previous cycles programme increased their paper 1 grade by at least two target grades! We are excited to see what this cycle brings. The department has also introduced other additional extra-curricular classes, which are listed below.



## COLLAPSED CURRICULUM DAYS

Collapsed curriculum days were a huge success across the school and in ICT it was no different. As a department, we took a focus on E-Safety and how to stay safe online. The department saw Avon and Somerset's Cyber Protection Unit come into WCSA to discuss why it's important to stay safe online and how to stay safe online. The day included lots of discussion and activities and both Year 7 and 8 acted maturely; the feedback from the cyber protection team was extremely positive and they have agreed to come back later in the year for E-safety day.

## TRIP TO UWE FOR A CYBER TASTER DAY

Ten of our budding Year 8 and 9 programmers were selected to attend UWE for a Cyber Taster Day. The programme included activities and speakers from Leonardo UK, Just Eat, IBM, Vodafone, and Hargreaves Lansdown. The highlight of the day was when students were given the opportunity to listen and speak to Sash Rigby, a cyber-industry expert. Students learnt about what makes secure systems and what digital forensics are and how can the government ensure we are all safe on the internet. By the end of the day all 10 of our students were keen for a career in Cyber security!

*Miss McCorry, Head of ICT & Business Studies*

Day	Subject	Time	Room	Assigned Teacher
Friday	ICT Coursework	3-4pm	L12	Mr. Wagland Mr. Somers
Wednesday	Business Studies	8.00am-8.30.am 3.00pm-4.00pm	L14	Miss McCorry
Thursday	Computer Science(Paper2)	3-3.30pm	L14	Mr. Connelly
Tuesday	Computer Science (Paper 1)	8.00am-8.30am	L14	Miss McCorry

## USEFUL WEBSITES



This website contains key information and revision tips that will help computing students revise for their exam.  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z34k7ty>



This website covers all topics covered at KS3 this can be used as a revision tool or to support homework.  
<http://www.teach-ict.com/>



This websites gives students access to past papers and mark schemes to help prepare for the examined unit in computing  
<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse-computing-j275-from-2012/>



This websites gives students access to past papers and mark schemes to help prepare for CiDA.  
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/ict-2010.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>



There has been a lot going on over in science within the last two terms. Tuesdays, the department runs its weekly Dungeons and Dragons Club, thanks to Mr. Hook and Mr. Griffiths. This club has been extremely well attended and has grown exponentially since its beginning. It is also very pleasing to see so many staff get involved with the pupils too.

Wednesday is a very busy day for our department. The science teachers have willingly given up their free time to help our Year 11s with our revision P6i programme. Mr. Muhiddin has designed and developed the P6i programme to get the students to begin to organise their revision for all the topics across KS4. This entails a science revision booklet which all Year 11 pupils have received. The students are building up their folders of revision over the months leading to Christmas. Beyond this time we will then begin to focus our attentions on using this revision to aid with exam preparation. All pupils, to help revision and exam preparation, have been given a science revision guide each to give them the tools to succeed. Year 11 have completed their science PPEs now and have received their feedback. This is vital information that allows students to understand exactly where they are in terms of their journey towards the summer exam season. I have been pleased overall with how the pupils are growing and building up their confidence and resilience in the lead up to a very busy year ahead.



The Science Department also ran the Sex, Relationships and Education days for Year 9. The days were highly successful, providing the tools and understanding for the journey that all people will take over the course of their lives. We had sessions on building relationships and ethics, STIs, condoms, types of contraceptives and parenting. A big thank you goes to Miss Baber for organising these sessions in conjunction with staff and organisations in the south west, which provided us with the tools to provide informative sessions on sexual health.

We have a belief that we need to provide students with knowledge of future opportunities in science which has led to Miss Vellenoweth to take a group of students to a careers convention in Bristol. Our students met with real academic professors and listened to the latest research they have been doing in the field of science. Our students came back intrigued about the possible future developments that are on their doorsteps and it gave them an insight into job opportunities within the field of science.

*Mr. Davis, Head of Science*





## YEAR 7 RUGBY

Our Year 7 rugby team have been exceptional thus far, really taking to secondary school sport and have thrived on the rugby field. Their first experience as a team was a round-robin tournament against Hans Price and Priory, where our young men put in some sterling performances, not even conceding a try. The main highlight so far was coming away winners of the North Somerset Year 7 Rugby Festival. This was achieved through competing in four fixtures against local schools, eventually coming away with three wins and one draw. We are really excited to see this group of boys mature on the field.



## YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

Our young footballers have had a taste of National Cup competition this year, recording a fantastic away victory against Clevedon School and, after being knocked out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round, cannot wait to put things right in the local competitions after Christmas. A huge well done has to go out to our Year 7 Captain, Archie Taylor, who has also represented North Somerset Schools in the age group above.

## YEAR 8 FOOTBALL

Having unfortunately been knocked out of the National Schools' Cup at the first stage, the boys certainly put things right with a fantastic 4-2 away win in the County Cup competition. They now travel away for a 3rd round tie against Somervale. Best of luck boys!

## YEAR 9 RUGBY

The Year 9 rugby team have had a positive start to the year regarding two strong performances against tough opposition. A core group of players have had a good attendance at rugby club on a Wednesday, which has helped them to develop confidence and understanding of rugby.

The Year 9 team played Hans Price and Priory in a round robin match. It was a great defensive performance from the whole team against Hans Price with conceding no tries. A number of quality individual tries were scored by Will Zeigler, Ollie Chilman and Jamie Allard. It was a tough match against a very experienced Priory team; the lads managed to maintain their physicality but unfortunately lost.



## YEAR 10 RUGBY

We would like to say a huge well done to the Year 10 Rugby team who recently won the North Somerset Schools Rugby Festival. This result was the reward for many hours out on the training pitch after school, showing the dedication, determination and skill level that it would take to win the competition.

## CROSSFIT

Crossfit is really taking off and is proving a positive addition to the sporting offer from the PE Department. Students have been arriving every week at 7:30am to be put through their paces. Students are developing their fitness using functional movements conducted at high intensity. They love it! We think they are mad ...





## GIRLS' YEAR 7 NETBALL

Year 7 netball has been a great success this term with 30 girls turning up every Tuesday evening for practice. We have played against all the local teams with both an A and a B team winning against Hans Price, Broadoak and Churchill schools. There has been some outstanding defending by Maddie and Lily Hulbert who have both progressed to the A team and regularly get Player of the Match awards from the opposing team. Nancy Robson has become a regular goal shooter for the team, scoring lots of goals in her first season. Other outstanding players for the Year 7s have been Elsa Thompson, Mia Chilman, Lara Miller and Demi-Leigh Hoyle, who consistently get voted Players of the Match and have a fantastic work effort.

## GIRLS' YEAR 8 NETBALL

This group of girls have had a great season with five matches played against other North Somerset teams already played. Although they haven't won them all, they have won two of these matches and I have never seen such excitement at those points in the season. They have a tournament at Nailsea School on December 5<sup>th</sup>, where we hope to secure some great performances and plenty of goals.

My 'player of the season' goes to Eve McCartney and 'most improved player' goes to Megan White. I am also pleased to see three new players join the squad just recently, adding a bit more strength around the court.

## GIRLS' YEAR 9 NETBALL

I am very proud to be able to say that there are more girls still playing their school netball in this age group than there have been for a few years. The girls in both the A and B teams are

amazing players, not only for their skill level (thanks to Mrs. Rihan's coaching in previous years), but also for their dedication to training. They are really keen to learn and practice and, as a result, they have won virtually all their matches. They make me feel very proud to be a teacher at Worle and they are lovely characters too, showing respect for the opposition as well as each other. I hope they do well at the Year 9 Tournament on 4<sup>th</sup> December, as they deserve to reach the semi-finals if not challenge for the final. My 'player of the season' is Millie Smith and my 'most improved players' are Lottie Gillard and Esme Tavner.

## P0 HOCKEY ACADEMY

What a pleasure it has been to coach this squad of passionate, enthusiastic and dedicated Hockey Players. A number of girls and boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 have been coming along to morning academy no matter what the weather, to participate in a number of team drills, fun games and matches to then put their skills into practice. This will hopefully put them in good stead for after Christmas when their hockey term begins, their after school clubs start and fixtures against other school take place.

## YEAR 10 HOCKEY TEAM

The Year 10 Hockey team have proven, once again, that they are a force to be reckoned with. Currently unbeaten in all of their fixtures against other local schools, the girls, alongside 4 year 11 students, took the trip to Clifton College to take on schools from the independent sector. They performed honourably as a team in the pool stages and held their own in a gruelling semi-final match. The U16 team came away with an admirable 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Well done to each and every one of you!

*Callum Thompson, Head of PE*



As we end 2018, we have had some great reasons to celebrate. The Art Exhibition, which showcased the work of our very talented Year 11 Fine Art and Photography students, consisted of a wide range of artistic styles and creative talents which was greatly enjoyed by staff, parents and pupils. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase to our younger students what they can achieve with us in GCSE Art.

Entering 2019, Year 11 will be issued with their Externally Set Assignment, which will be worth 40% of their overall GCSE grade. They will have until April to develop their ideas, based on one of the themes issued; this gives students the opportunity to develop their own artistic style under the guidance of experienced staff. P6 sessions will continue to be run every Wednesday between 1500 and 1700. We have high attendance at these sessions, which will help us nurture the development of their project under our guidance whilst allowing the use of our equipment.

Our GCSE Fine Art & Digital Art courses are full of innovative ideas and concepts. Students in both courses are beginning to develop their own creative identity. They are taught to understand the importance of taking influence from current affairs and other artists when developing their coursework; it is exciting as teachers to see students evolving their own ideas and themes and being so dedicated to the arts. Students are able to create work which shows a creative journey throughout their coursework, with many having created work beyond their years.

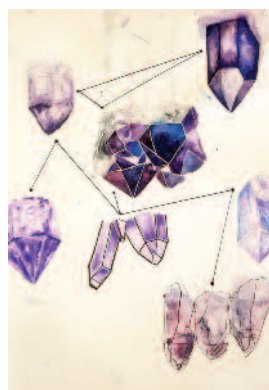
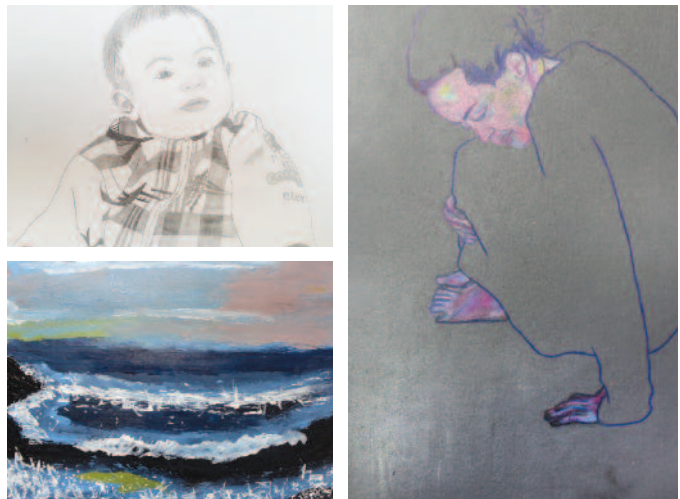
In Key Stage 3 we have covered a range of topics. Year 7 have looked at colour, the impressionists, insects and the work of Abby Diamond and Claude Monet. Students have been enjoying experimenting in the style of artists and using a range of materials. Year 8 have covered sea life. During this topic students explored the use of experiment with a range of materials and techniques, creating a personal response on their findings. This project was linked to looking at creative careers such as interior design, wallpaper designers and printmakers, demonstrating to students the wide range of creative careers available to them. Year 9 have started their GCSEs, taking part in their skills development year, with Fine Art students working on light and dark and a colour project, exploring the use of a

range of materials and techniques. Photographers are working on their techniques and expressive editing portfolios exploring the styles of artists and photographers to inform their coursework.

As a department, we are keen to nurture and enhance the development of creative talent. We are able to offer students the opportunity to receive teacher support on Wednesday between 15:00 - 17:00 for GCSE students, Art club is on a Thursday 15:00 - 16:00 for Key Stage 3 students and is run by Mr. Archer.

I would recommend that any students wishing to work within a creative industry attend as many college open days and evenings as possible in order to gain knowledge on further education course available. These open days and evenings are advertised to the students or by the colleges on their websites.

*Miss Millar, Head of Art*







WCSA Drama department kicked off the year with a triumphant start with our school production of the timeless classic “Oliver!” which we performed in October. Over 50 students from Years 7 to 11 worked incredibly hard for over 9 months rehearsing for over 150 hours in their own time to produce 5 incredible shows. The students performed to students from Ashcombe primary school and to hundreds of audience members who came to support them in their performance in the Auditorium.

We have always held a strong reputation for incredible performances at WCSA and each year we struggle to imagine the students surpassing the standard of the previous year. I am very proud to say that each year we are wrong, as the students demonstrate a whole new level of commitment, skill and professionalism. Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Burlinson and I were extremely proud to work with such a talented, humble, committed and lovely cast. We believe our annual performances are essential for our young people as our community production gives students the opportunity to make memories, friendships and develop such confidence. We are really thankful to everyone that was involved and will be announcing the next school production very soon. If you missed the opportunity to get involved in Oliver! please do get involved in our next production.

Year 7 have had a fantastic start to drama at WCSA. They have been exploring the ancient art of mime, looking at skills in nonverbal communication and looking at mime classics such as Charlie Chaplin and Mr. Bean. Year 8 have been experimenting with Trestle masks, creating symbolic performances that incorporate music, lighting and projections. Meanwhile, our GCSE Drama students in Years 9 and 10 have been exploring a range of different stimuli and using this as a starting point for creating their own devised dramas as a mock for the examined unit. Year 11 have just completed their examined unit on AQA’s Devising Drama, where they created performances from the medieval morality play “Everyman”. Students created their piece from scratch, creating the story line, assigning characters and designing their own lighting, costume, sound and set. These pieces ranged from educational plays about moral dilemmas, satire explorations about what is right and wrong and docudramas about mental health.



The Drama Department has also been extremely fortunate to have one of our studios refurbished over the summer. This studio has been fitted with a partially sprung floor, mirrored wall, ballet bar and state of the art LED lighting. This space is of great benefit to our students, as they have the opportunity to

work within a professional studio and gain further knowledge about technical aspects of theatre.

Students have numerous opportunities to see great examples of theatre at our weekly Theatre Thursdays where we stream past productions and professional theatre from across the world. We are also greatly looking forward to our theatre trips to see Wise Children in February, Matilda in May and the Kneehigh Theatre Company in July, to name a few.

Students can also get involved in the extra-curricular drama club which begins in January. The club is open to any student who wants to get further experience in performing arts, build confidence, meet new people or get involved in the next production.



## SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Every term the drama teachers highlight 2 students from each year group for the Drama Department Spotlight Award. These students have received the Spotlight award for continued excellence in the subject through their performance skills, collaboration qualities in the rehearsal process, fantastic understanding of the drama medium; they have a fantastic attitude to all aspects of learning in the subject and in some cases commitment to the Drama Department. Many congratulations to them all!

- Year 7:** Lily Miller and Jackson Clay
- Year 8:** Jacob Allen and Natalie Maciejczyk
- Year 9:** Harrison Eley and Sophie Hillier
- Year 10:** Charlotte Taylor and Neave Southcombe
- Year 11:** Jasmine Winter and Lauren Wall

*Mrs. Davies, Head of Drama*



## OLIVER!

Back in October students put on 4 amazing performances of Oliver. Students worked extremely hard for months preparing their parts for this famous musical.



## EMILIO SANTORO

One of our Year 11 musicians is making it big as a professional Elvis Presley impersonator. He was recently in the news after becoming one of only 15 invited to perform at Benidorm's Elvis Festival.



## WORLE CHORALE

Three of our music students performed alongside Worle Chorale on Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> at St Mark's Church. Year 8 student Natalie Page performed a grade 7 piece Ave Maria by Gounod on the cello. Year 9 students Maria Singh and Eve Banks performed a piano and vocal duet Dying in LA by Panic at the Disco.

## WORLE COMMUNITY CHOIR

On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> December Worle Community School Youth Choir will join Worle Community Choir at Priory School for their Christmas concert. The choir is run by Benjamin Gutsell a past student from Worle School who has recently accepted an amazing opportunity to work as a Music tutor in China.



Benjamin Gutsell is a dynamic Singing Teacher, Conductor and Tenor working in the South West of England. He graduated from Cardiff University with a Bachelor of Music Degree with Honours where he was awarded the David Lloyd Vocal Scholarship. He now enjoys a varied career as a Freelance Musician.

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

This years Christmas Carol Service was on the 12<sup>th</sup> December at Milton Baptist Church. It is wonderful way to start the Christmas Festivities with an evening of music from our 3 choirs - Musica Viva, Elite choir and Youth Choir, soloists and chamber Orchestra.

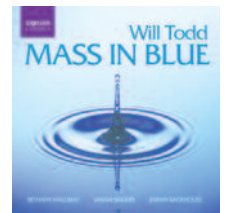
## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Worle Community School annual Christmas Concert will take place in the Auditorium on the 19<sup>th</sup> December. The programme will include orchestras, choirs, rock bands, instrumental and singing groups, soloists and lots more. This has always been a wonderful evening staging our outstanding musicians and singers. There will be mince pies and refreshments to enjoy on the evening.



## MASS IN BLUE

On Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> June Worle Community School Youth Choir will be joining Weston Choral Society to perform *Mass in Blue* by composer Will Todd.



Will Todd is one of the UK's leading contemporary composers and students will work along side Will and his jazz quartet to put on this amazing work.

## CURRICULUM

Year 7 are currently studying African music and preparing a performance using polyrhythms and song. Students will also be creating an African instrument to use in their final performance.

Year 8 are using their musical skills to learn the song by the popular artist George Ezra. Many students are discovering a newfound interest in learning a new instrument, and there have been many excellent performances so far this year.

RSL students are preparing for live performances as part of the course which they will perform live to the whole school on the last day of term. As well as performing a fifteen-minute set to a professional standard.



Y11 GCSE students have all completed excellent composing and performance coursework.

## INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

Many of our students play an instrument in school and we have had over 30 year 7 students start an orchestral instrument this term with the support of North Somerset Music Service.

## INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS AND HOW TO START LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT

We have a superb team of instrumental tutors who offer lessons on a range of instruments. If your son/daughter has expressed an interest in learning an instrument and you would like them to start lessons then please contact Mrs. Burlinson for more information.



eburlinson@worle-school.org.uk and music tuition@worle-school.org.uk

## RECORDING STUDIO

The recording studio is one of the best equipped of any school in the South West, and students from all year groups have been using it to produce some excellent sounding music.



Access to Music students, Tyler Cox and Joel Pring (Year 9), have been recording bands, while Amelia Griffiths (Year 10) has been creatively using sampling techniques by recording everyday objects and applying effects to produce an unusual musical soundscape.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have a wide range of extra curricular activities in the music department with something for everybody. We have numerous choirs for all year groups and vocal abilities, swing band, and orchestra. Some students take it upon themselves to set up their own band. If your child is interested in joining any of these groups, please contact Mrs. Burlinson eburlinson@worle-school.org.uk



**Worle Community Choir**  
With Special Guests  
**WCSA Youth Choir**

# Christmas Concert

**A Celebration of Festive Music**

**PRIORY COMMUNITY SCHOOL**  
Queensway, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 6BP

**Saturday 1st December**  
**7pm**

Tickets at £6.00 for adults / £3.00 for Children  
from 01934 622542 or 07972 909939

Registered Charity No. 1170439

## WEBSITE

Further information about the Music Department can be found at our website: [worleschoolmusic@wixsite.com/wcsmusic](http://worleschoolmusic@wixsite.com/wcsmusic)

Check our upcoming events, use online resources to revise, and listen to recordings of students' compositions and live performances.

Please encourage your child to get involved. Our aim in the Music Department is to get as many of our students singing and playing music in a relaxed but stimulating environment. Whether your son/daughter is an experienced singer, blows a wind instrument or just wants to rock, the opportunities are there. I am looking forward to seeing more students joining us in the Music Department.

*Mrs. Burlinson, Head of Music*



Attendance is a key priority for us at Worle and to make progress here we rely on students, parents and staff working together.

For a school to be rated as good it has to achieve at least the National Average for Attendance. For a secondary school that is 94.6%. Last year, we finished just over 94%. This is something we are really hoping to improve this year and I am hoping we can all work together to improve this as it requires a concerted effort from everyone.

All students (and staff!) started the year with 100% attendance. This is something that we would like all students to maintain for as long as possible. As I write staff attendance is currently at 98% and students almost 95%. It would be wonderful if students could match the staff. In September Miss Scott and I met all students who had managed to achieve 100% last year. We congratulated them on this and awarded them with a 100% attendance badge. You can see a small selection of students who were awarded this honour here.

We are aware that there are mixed feelings nationally about celebrating 100% achievement. Things happen in life that cannot be controlled; illness or bereavement being just a few examples. We understand this and this is why we set a school target of 96% for all students by the end of the year. We allow them to track this weekly in tutor time so they can see what their attendance is at any point in time. We also want them to feel valued for coming to school. There is a competitive element in all year groups, with Heads of Year producing a weekly presentation that ranks the tutor groups and the highest attending tutor group winning a prize each Learning Cycle. We continue to link the weekly percentages to the languages ladder so students know what their figure means in practice.

## WHY IS ATTENDANCE SO IMPORTANT?

Research clearly tells us that attendance and success are linked. **17 days off school leads to students receiving, on average, a whole GCSE grade lower in each subject.** We also need to think strongly about preparing students for life after school. We live in an ever competitive and commercial world. Frequent periods of absence are not tolerated and at work you could expect to be put on an action plan.

As the days grow shorter, we are approaching the time of year when illnesses become more frequent. In our attendance policy, which you can find on the school website, we offer the following advice about whether students need a day off school:

- Will this illness prevent my child learning at school today?
- When was the last time your child was absent from school?
- Could there be another reason why they don't want to be in school?
- As a parent/carer would I take a day off work for the same condition?

Common conditions such as headaches, colds, periods and sore throats can be treated with over the counter pain relief and students should be able to attend school. Often, students feel 'better' later in the morning. In that case they can still come into school in time for the afternoon registration. Every session really does count and helps to close valuable gaps in learning. Sickness bugs can also be rife in secondary schools. If a student has vomited and the parent/carer is aware of the reason and know that this is not related to a sickness bug, students can attend school. There is no 48 hour rule for students to be absent from school. However, we do ask common sense should be applied.



As with everything, we seek to reward students who get it right most of the time. Last year, the **Rewards' Trip to Thorpe Park in July** was a great success and we had many students who delighted in taking part. We will be running this initiative again this year with the following criteria:

- An average attendance of 96%
- Fewer than 4 lates to school (which are beyond your control);
- Fewer than 10 conduct incidents;
- No serious behaviour incidents (such as FTE or Room 1);
- An average effort grade of 3 or above on PS3.

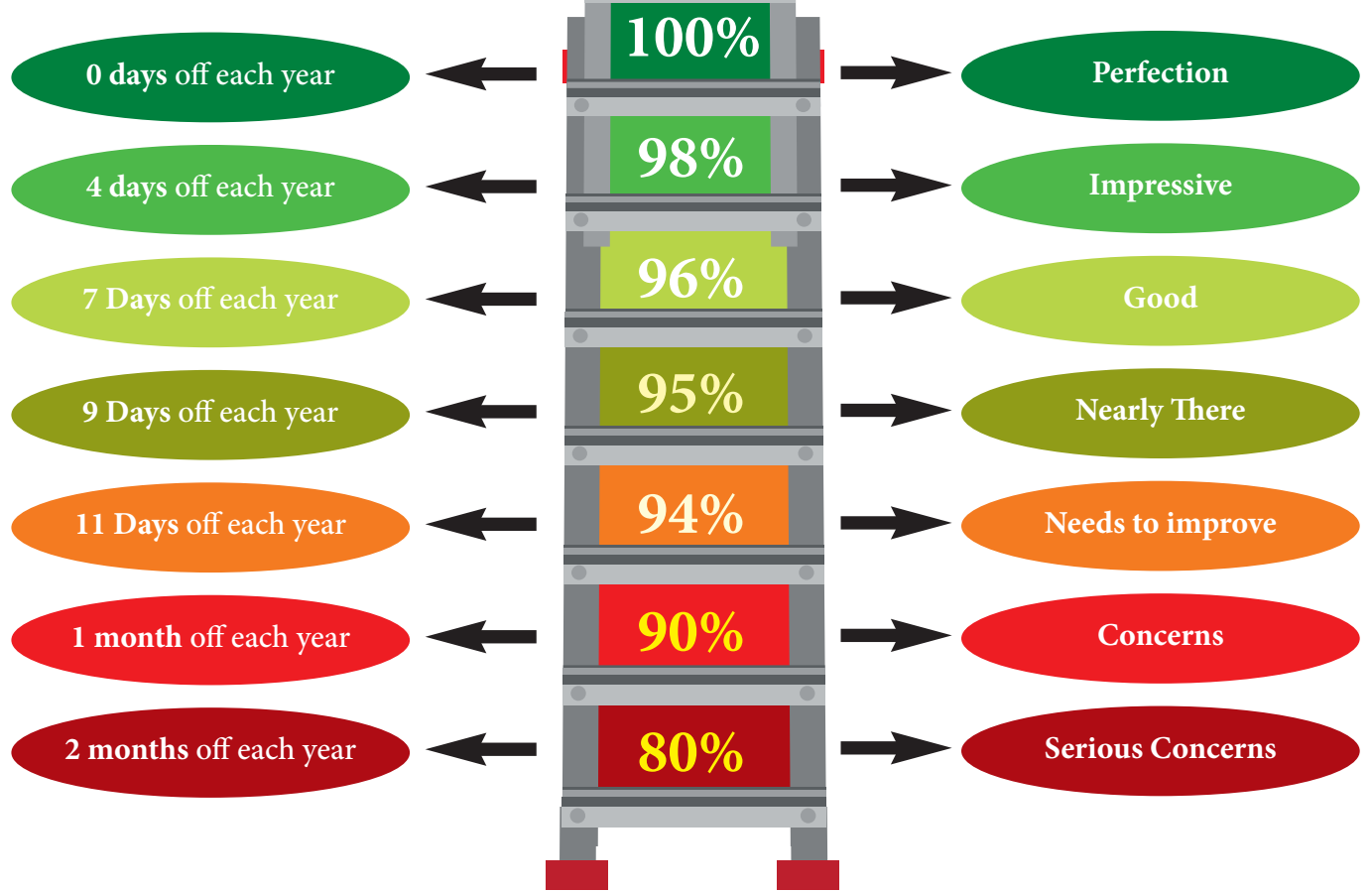
If a student has a genuine medical appointment that cannot be arranged out of school hours, please provide us with a copy of the appointment letter. We will then ensure this does not count towards the attendance figure for the trip. We will also be sending home a print out of the attendance card with each Praising Stars Report so that parents can have a full overview of the attendance figure.

Attendance is an area where it is hard to have initiatives that play to everyone's strengths. All of us can need time off for one reason or another at some point. The attitude we are trying to instil in students is that they only take a day off when it is really necessary and they come back as soon as possible. We are always looking for new ways to improve so if you have any good ideas please do let me know.

Mrs. Venn, Assistant Principal



**EQUIVALENT TO**



## AUTHOR AND FILM MAKER INSPIRES STUDENTS



Author Matt Dickinson visited Worle Community School on the 26<sup>th</sup> September. He spoke to the Year 7s and 8s about his experiences of climbing Mount Everest and the books he has written based on some of the dangers that he faced along the way. Matt also showed the students photos and film footage from his expeditions, which included frost bitten fingers and huge crevices he climbed over.

Matt Dickinson is an award-winning writer and filmmaker with a passion for climbing and adventure. During his filmmaking career he has worked as a director/cameraman for National Geographic television, the Discovery Channel, the BBC and Channel 4. His film projects have taken him to Antarctica, Africa and the Himalayas. His most notable film success was 'Summit Fever' in which Matt reached the summit of Everest via the treacherous North Face. His book *The Death Zone* tells the true story of that ascent.



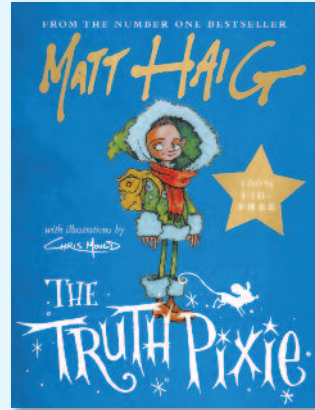
Later on in the day Matt spoke to some students from Castle Batch Primary School, Ashcombe Primary School, Priory Community School, and St Anne's Primary School. The students heard all about his latest book 'Popcorn Eating Squirrels of the World Unite' as well as his Everest adventures. Matt explained what inspired him to write his new book and how he developed the storyline.



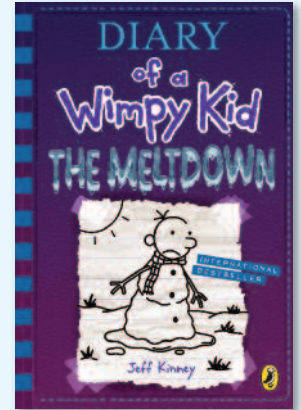
Matt then had lunch with some of the students and was interviewed by the Press Pack representatives from the various schools. The day was a huge success and students were keen to purchase and read Matt's Books. Copies of his books are available to borrow in the Library.

## 6 BOOKS TO READ OR GIVE THIS CHRISTMAS

Below are a few fabulous new books to help keep students reading this summer. Why not try a couple?



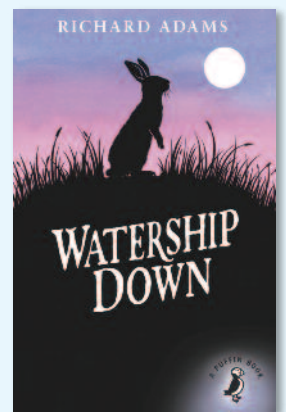
The Truth Pixie  
By Matt Haig



Diary of a Wimpy Kid:  
The Meltdown  
By Jeff Kinney



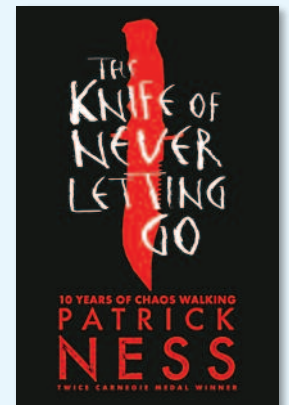
The Crimes of Grindelwald  
By J K Rowling



Watership Down  
By Richard Adams  
Mini-series on BBC 1  
this Christmas.



The Ice Monster  
By David Walliams



Chaos Walking  
By Patrick Ness  
Film to be released in March 2019.

## BOOKBUZZ 2018

This year we were again able to participate with the above reading programme. Bookbuzz is a reading scheme organised by Book Trust. It supports and encourages students to read for pleasure, make individual choices and helps to embed a whole school reading culture. Every Year 7 was able to choose a free book during Term 1. There were 15 titles to choose from



which had been selected by an expert panel from Book Trust. During Term 2 the books arrived in school and were given to the students. We hope your child enjoyed their book.

## CELEBRATION OF READING

On the 19<sup>th</sup> July, in very hot conditions, we celebrated all our amazing readers in school. Following on from the successful inaugural event last year, we decided to repeat it this year. Students were invited to join us for lunch and to celebrate their achievements. Mr. Pickles did a reading for the students and had us all spellbound. Awards for reading achievements, good

effort, reading millionaires and service to the library were then presented by Mr. Coles and Miss Scott, who were accompanied by Jeffrey, the dog. Everybody was awarded a certificate and badge and Mrs. Sellers had made goody bags for students to take home.

*Mrs. Sellers, Librarian*



Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with events in the LRC. @WCS\_Booklovers



We are incredibly proud of the journey undertaken since becoming an Academy. Year on year we have seen improvements in progress and outcomes of our students. We are passionate that our provision meets the needs of our students and that during every lesson our young people receive the highest quality experience. We are a school that places paramount importance on the quality of everything we do. We are highly reflective: we ask questions about the impact of everything we do in order to ensure that we are constantly improving and refining what we do. To do this, we have a robust quality assurance system that covers all aspects of what we do.

Our day starts with tutor time. This is a taught programme where data, literacy, numeracy, British Values and citizenship are delivered. We have a focus on students being 'Ready to Learn' meaning that they are equipped for the day to ensure no lesson time is wasted. These taught sessions are planned and resourced by specialists. The quality of delivery is monitored by Heads of Year and the Leadership Team daily. It is important to us that students receive a high quality weekly assembly. These are quality assured and linked into national themes such as anti-bullying, remembrance and women's history month.

The quality of teaching is monitored informally and formally. Leadership team walk the site daily taking a 'temperature of learning'. We are quick to praise staff and share good practice Academy wide. If we have concerns with quality, staff are challenged and supported so students receive the highest quality learning experience. Teaching is also monitored formally. This is done through termly 'Learning drop ins' and observations.

Trends for improvement across the academy are determined and professional development opportunities for staff are put in place.

We have a regular cycle that monitors the quality of work produced by students. We monitor compliance of academy policy and look at the impact of teacher feedback on progress made by students. As part of our learning cycles, students have 'Super Teaching Week' where all make improvements to assessed pieces of work in order to demonstrate rapid progress. We are a data savvy school. We ensure quality and accuracy by using a range of evidence to support our predictions. After data is captured, teachers meet with their line managers to discuss what the data tells us and next steps. This then informs lesson planning so that students are receiving the highest quality learning experiences.

Outlined above is just a flavour of the quality assurance work that I lead in our academy. Alongside this we regularly review the schemes of learning and GCSE courses that we deliver for quality and to ensure they meet the needs of our young people. We consult and review on home learning: we aim to tweak and refine our systems continually in order that they are of the highest quality and are fit for purpose.

We are all incredibly passionate about the quality of all experiences that our young people receive. Please get in contact if you have any questions about how a specific area of our academy is monitored for quality.

*Mark Tong - Assistant Principal*





## ★ WORLE STARS ★

TOP 20 STUDENTS IN EACH YEAR GROUP FOR POSITIVE ACHIEVEMENTS - From September 2018 to time of publication

Well Done - a fantastic achievement



YEAR 7	
Mark Ordog Kieran Van Rassel Darcey Callister Morgan Fowler Keira Ball Carrie Halls-Pithie Chanelle Young Eric Piackus Roo Beckett Lilly Simes	Amy Lear Gabriel Toth Demi-Leigh Hoyle Lily Hulbert Ashton Forman Murphy Lynn George Penny Liam Barry Ruby Currell Shannon Creighton

YEAR 8	
Callum Bailey Becky Collings Harriet Ball Troy Parsons Ashley Wilkins-Headford Molly Taylor Oli Jeal Henry Brown Alfie Dunn Callum Lambert	Charlie Hague Thomas Duford Amy Winsborrow Natalie Page Isabelle Poole Stefan Sechel Shannon Davidson Ellie Overbury Aimee Hands Jasmyn Rogers

YEAR 9	
Liam Graham Ethan Crayford Jake Hall Alex Clifford Will Ziegler Kaidan Williams Cross Joel Harvey Andy Day Holly Best Kaylee Page	Sidney Pugh Darja Kutumova Kacie-Leigh Sweeting Debbie Sander Andi Bliss Lilly Shirlow Louie Miller Cameron Snook Simon Griffiths Daisy Monckton-Rickett

YEAR 10	
Ameila Harrison Olivia Williams Gabrielle Flower Emily Bull Finley Hulbert Shannon Harvey Laura Cashmore Aga Maciejczyk Sophie Box Poppy Hooper	Emily Chilcott Kaci Moger Emily Poynton Emma O'Driscoll Daisy Dennett Megan Baker Cherry Barr Bethan Townsend Hana Pearce Rayne Higgins-Burgess

YEAR 11	
Pheabe Stratford Katie Mousley Katelyn Mitchell Emily Robson Libby Moss Bethany Hibbert Charlotte Dickson Amelia Griffiths Samantha Crockett Tabitha Sturdy	Jake Roberts Ami Harrison-Guest Charlie Dunn Ellie Jackson Grace Burman Maria Rodrigues Megan Lewis Grace Kirkham Tegan Myers Katie Nash



## PRAISING OUR STARS





Dear Parents and Students,

We are Amelia Griffiths, Toby Lythgoe, Sophie Adams and Lewis Lightfoot and we are also known the Student Leadership Team. We feel very fortunate to have been given this position by Miss Scott and Mrs. Mac. Since being given our positions in September we have done a variety of assignments for the school including: speaking at assemblies and open evenings and helping to arrange our Year 11 Prom next year. Some of these events have pushed us to our boundaries and tested our skills, but we are pleased that we have been able to represent the school.

One of our duties since being a part of the team is to help to set up a Student Council. This is where a group of student from each year group will be able to voice their concerns and opinions. These suggestions will be talked over with a view to making some changes to the school; any decisions made in the meetings will be taken further up the School. We believe that the student voice is the most important as we are the ones wanting to feel safe and comfortable in a learning environment which is best suited to us. So we would say to all students,

“Don’t hesitate to get involved in any possible opportunities that the school has to offer!”

Any concerns that students have, or troubles they are facing we would encourage them to speak to one of us. Even if it’s just a friendly face to speak to that they need, we are here for everyone and this includes parents. If you would like to speak to a student within WCSA about any problems then don’t hesitate to get hold of one of us, we are here to help!

Amelia Griffiths, *Head Girl*  
19\_agr842@worle-school.org.uk

Toby Lythgoe, *Head Boy*  
19\_tly473@worle-school.org.uk

Sophie Adams, *Deputy Head Girl*  
19\_sad232@worle-school.org.uk

Lewis Lightfoot, *Deputy Head Boy*  
19\_lll377@worle-school.org.uk

## STUDENT SERVICES

We are located downstairs in the Jill Dando Centre which is the two-storey building in the middle of the school. We are able to assist with all student queries including:

- Uniform Issues
- First Aid/Medication.
- Attendance
- Lost Property.
- Confiscations

### FIRST AID

We have a large team of first aiders in school and a number of Advanced First Aid Responders. Students will only be allowed to leave lessons if the teacher decides they need urgent medical attention.

We do ask the student not to use their mobile phones to contact parents during the school day if they feel unwell, as our staff will call parents (where appropriate) after they present themselves to Student Services to ask for medical aid or support.

If a student has a long term medical condition or needs, we encourage you to contact our Student Services Coordinator, Miss Harvey, to discuss these. An appropriate plan will be put in place to support the student whilst they are in school.

We do not allow students to carry medication in school, unless it has been agreed. Parents will need to give consent for medication to be administered. Please complete the consent to administer medication form available from Reception and Student Services, if required.

If you have any medical concerns please email: [eharvey@worle-school.org.uk](mailto:eharvey@worle-school.org.uk)





# TERM DATES 2018/19

TERM 1	Starts	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018</b> Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018, school will be closed to students with the exception of Year 7 who will come in on the morning from 8:40am - 11:30am (only). <b>ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018</b>
	Ends	<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018</b>
TERM 2	Starts	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018</b>
	Ends	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018</b>
TERM 3	Starts	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019</b>
	Ends	<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
TERM 4	Starts	<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019</b>
	Ends	<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019</b>
TERM 5	Starts	<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019</b>
	Ends	<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b>
TERM 6	Starts	<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019</b>
	Ends	<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019</b>

