

Prospectus

West Exe School



West Exe School

community • opportunity • success



Jamie Engineer

Headteacher

We are West Exe: a vibrant community creating opportunities for all to achieve success.

I am so privileged to be the headteacher here at West Exe, a vibrant, inclusive, and ambitious school. We serve 1250 brilliant young people, all with different passions, desires, and dreams. Nothing gives us more joy at West Exe than seeing children thrive and succeed. I have lived in Exeter for all of my working life, as have countless of our staff, and we are all committed to providing the best education possible for the families and children we serve.

We have a boldly academic, knowledge-rich curriculum, high quality teaching and an ambitious cultural capital programme for all. Ofsted recognises that 'reading is at the heart of our curriculum' and so it should be no surprise that the number of students leaving West Exe with the life changing 5 or above all-important 'basics' of English and Maths is beyond national average, or that a third achieve grades 7-9 in all subjects. This sits alongside our attributes curriculum in which we teach all our students how to really develop their ambition, curiosity, resilience, kindness, pride, and adaptability. We know that developing character and these key attributes is so important in setting our young people up for rich and fulfilling lives.

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

Everything we do at West Exe is in service of our community, ensuring every child has what they need to succeed and thrive regardless of background. This is driven by our fantastic inclusion and SEND team who provide support and guidance to countless of our students. We support all to achieve brilliance not just in their work and academic careers but as individuals and young people. We hope you choose West Exe for your child and family and cannot wait to welcome you to our school.

#BestExe



"Reading is at
the heart of this
School"

The West Exe Offer

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

- A broad and knowledge rich curriculum, embedded through our extended practise programme
- An inspirational attributes and assemblies curriculum
- Dedicated tutorial sessions for the West Exe Literary Canon consisting of 90 minutes across the week of guided reading of our specially selected core texts
- A varied weekly Electives programme in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10
- Enrichment week including an offer of a residential in Year 7 & 9
- A meaningful and comprehensive careers programme from Year 7 - 11, including experiences of the workplace
- A wide range of outdoor education experiences
- A disruption free learning environment

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



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

Student Leadership

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

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

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

The West Exe Offer Principles

- The offer is designed to ensure children live great lives and make the world a better place.
- Our most disadvantaged students will consistently benefit from the wide, rich set of experiences, where participation is guaranteed rather than optional.
- Experiences are coherently planned and aim to develop the West Exe Student attributes of being: curious, kind, ambitious, resilient, adaptable and proud.
- The offer nurtures, develops and stretches pupils' talents and interests.
- The offer prepares all students for success in their future education and careers.

Student Attributes

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

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

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

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



West Exe School Library

Our school library is a warm and welcoming space for the whole school community and sits at the heart of our reading school. The library is staffed by our Library manager and an assistant librarian. We also have a team of Student Librarians who help in the library every day.

When is the library open?

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

What can I do in the library?

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

The library stocks:

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















Stationery Shop

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



The Canon

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

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Cycle 1	<p>You Are Awesome Encouraging teens to find their confidence and daring them to be awesome</p> 	<p>Diary of a Young Girl The diary of a child hiding from the Nazi's for two years</p> 	<p>The Perks of Being a Wallflower A group of teenage friends exploring their own angst and sexuality</p> 	<p>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time A coming-of-age book about a boy and his pet rat who investigate the mysterious death of a dog.</p> 	<p>A Small Island Explores the lives of two Jamaican immigrants, who arrive in post-WW11 London with dreams of a better life.</p> 
Cycle 2	<p>Noughts and Crosses Exploring race and power in an alternate world.</p> 	<p>Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief The story of a troubled 12-year-old boy with a secret unknown even to himself.</p> 	<p>I am Malala The autobiography of the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban.</p> 	<p>The 57 Bus Race, class, gender and crime. A true story of one teen in a skirt, and another with a lighter.</p> 	<p>A Life on Our Planet Attenborough reflects on the changes he has witnessed in nature during his long life, and outlines the urgent issues facing our planet</p> 
Cycle 3	<p>Private Peaceful Brothers Tommo and Charlie, have a tough childhood. Their loyalty to each other pulls them through, until one day they both fall for the same girl. And then the Great War comes.</p> 	<p>Refugee Boy The story of boy called Alem. To protect him from the violence his family faces in Ethiopia and Eritrea, his father travels with him to the UK, then leaves him behind.</p> 	<p>The Five People You Meet in Heaven It follows the life and death of Eddie, who dies and is sent to heaven, where he encounters five people who had a significant impact on him while he was alive.</p> 	<p>The Outsiders The book details the conflict between two rival gangs: the working-class "Greasers" and the upper-middle-class "socs".</p> 	



To see their first Canon text brought to life was an amazing experience that will stay with our students for years to come.
#readingisattheheartofeverythingwedo.

Rewarding positive behaviour

At West Exe we want all our students to love coming to school. To do this we are always looking for the chance to reward children for demonstrating the student attributes. We are committed to the belief that by actively rewarding children and supporting them to reach our high expectation we will help them all live great lives and make the world a better place.

Extended Practice

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

Students receive merit points for the following:

1. Being kind. This is the first and arguably most important attribute. If students are kind they will have stronger relationships, be happier and positively affect those around them.
2. All of our other student attributes. These help them to be emotionally aware and develop their character.
3. Doing the right thing every single day. This includes uniform, effort in class and corridor behaviour.

Reports and exams

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

Rewards

A Year 7&8 Awards Evening will take place on 11 June 2026 at 5.00pm. In addition, Awards Assemblies for Year 7s are held at the end of each term to celebrate students' achievements.



High Expectations

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

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

Expectations of behaviour are as follows:

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

Digital Devices

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

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

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

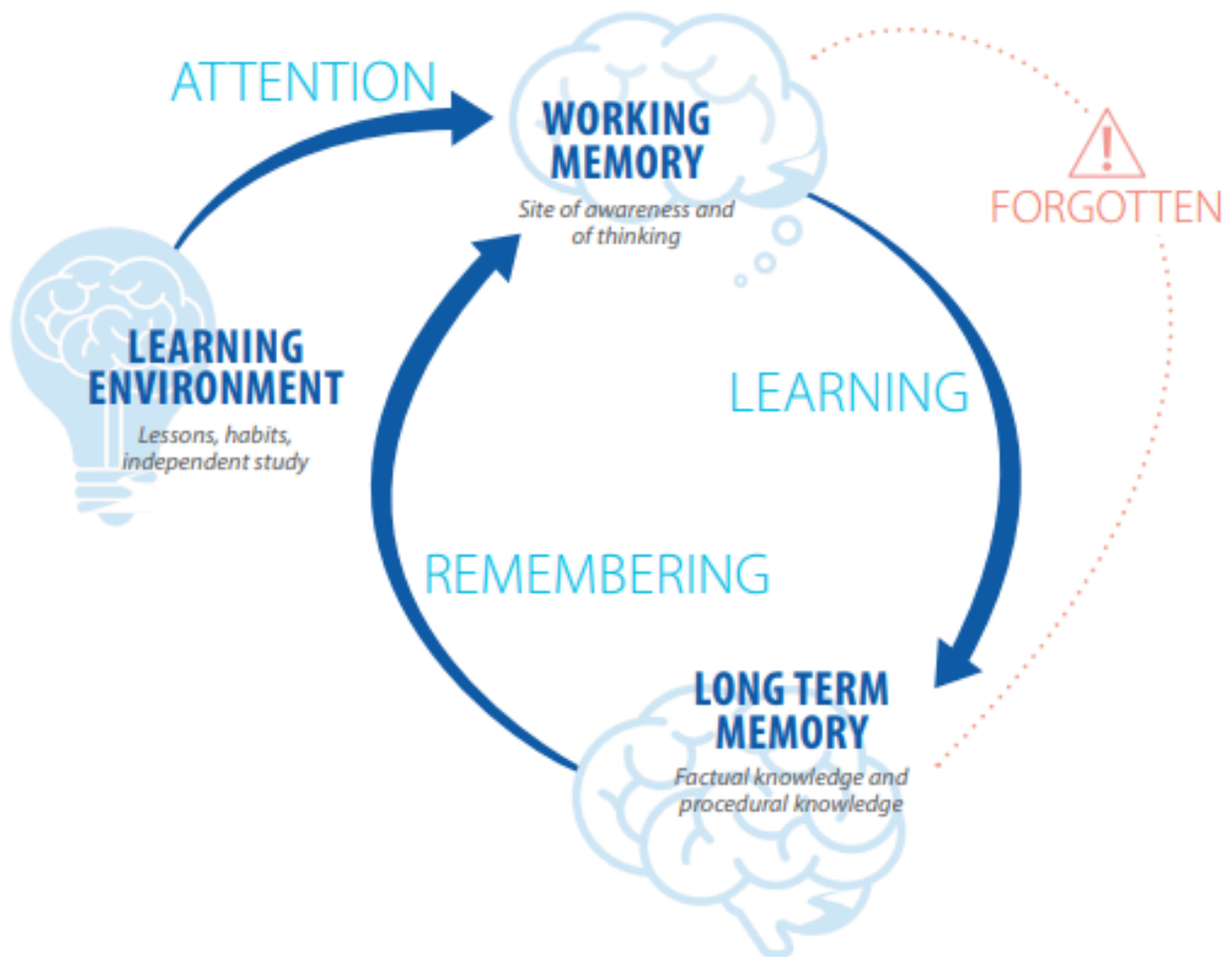
On the second warning in the same week, the phone will be removed, and an afterschool detention given. The phone can be collected after this when the student is leaving for the end of the day. These sanctions reset each week.



"Three quarters of students successfully passed both English and Maths, placing West Exe considerably above the national average yet again."

The West Exe Learning Model

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



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

EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

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Reach Enrichment

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


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

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

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

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

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



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

The Electives programme at West Exe School

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

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

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

Your child's tutor will then help them to select five different activities. They will be allocated three of their five choices which will each last for a cycle (12 weeks). These activities will take place every Wednesday and run from 2:05pm until 3:05pm.

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

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



Electives Programme

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

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Anti-Bullying

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

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

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

West Exe School achieved the ABQM-UK Gold Award for 2024-25 because staff, students, parents and Governors demonstrated that anti-bullying has become embedded in life at the school. Students and parents/carers are actively involved in the development of positive relationships in the school, supported by staff who tailor bullying prevention to individuals and their circumstances.



Further information and contacts


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