

Dear families,

Welcome to the first Headteacher update of the summer term. While the weather has been kind and got us all into that summer spirit, it remains one of the busiest and most exciting parts of the school calendar.

Our Year 11 students start their GCSE's next week and we are working hard to support them through this time which marks the culmination of their school journey. I am sure for many of you Year 11 parents, like it does for us, it will feel like their 5 years at West Exe has flown by. We want them to know we are with them every step of the way and I know you will all be wishing them the best of luck. It may seem like a massive undertaking, but in a few short weeks, it will all be over and we can get ready for one of the real highlights of the summer calendar: the Year 11 Prom.

While Year 11 ready themselves, the rest of the school carries on learning amazing things and embracing amazing opportunities. We have already kicked off the new term with a Year 7 Subject Evening last night, and it is always a delight to throw our doors open to families.

Outside of the curriculum, we have launched our third electives cycle, hosted Year 11 drama performances, been a polling station for the community and are continuing with the final preparations for those intrepid West Exe students embarking on Ten Tors. So whether your child is approaching the end of their time in school or are just beginning, there is so much to look forward to in the coming months. I cannot wait to share it all with you.

Very best wishes,

Julie

Celebrations

Ten Tors Teams Ready for the Challenge!

After months of dedication, determination, and tough training, our Ten Tors teams have completed their final preparations and are ready for the big event on 10–11 May. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and commitment shown by every student throughout the training period.

This year, we're thrilled to have two 35-mile teams and one 45-mile team taking part in this legendary challenge across Dartmoor. The atmosphere is a mix of excitement and nerves as they prepare to put their hard work to the test.

We wish all our students the very best of luck as they take on this incredible adventure. We also encourage families and friends to head to Okehampton to cheer the teams over the finish line—your support means the world to them!

You'll be able to track their progress via social media throughout the event. If you're visiting the area, please feel free to come into camp and say hello—we'd love to see you! (Please note: parking must be paid for in advance using the QR code provided—cash payments are not accepted this year.)

To learn more about this fantastic event, check out [our last training session recap](#) or visit the official Army Ten Tors website for live updates and event details.

Molly in Year 7 has been going great guns with her Trampolining. Thanks to Molly's fantastic performances in last year's competitions, we received the wonderful news just before the Christmas break that Molly has been selected to join the 2025 England Double Mini Trampoline (DMT) Foundation Squad!

This incredible achievement means she'll now take part in additional weekend training camps with England coaches. Even more exciting is the possibility of an international training camp and the chance to represent England in a competition abroad later this year. We're so proud of Molly and look forward to seeing what she achieves next!

A huge well done to our Year 7 students who took part in the ESF Football Tournament in Minehead this weekend (25–26 April), representing their grassroots club with pride. The boys displayed fantastic teamwork, spirit, and sportsmanship throughout. Special mention to Niall W for his outstanding leadership as team captain.

🌟 Jack S, Niall W, Jake C, Harry L, Noah, Seth F, Henry T, Jake M, Ian S, Jackson T – we're proud of you all!

🚴 Great news to share! Harvey S Year 9 has been excelling in cycle speedway and recently achieved an impressive second place in a competition in Newport! 🏆 He proudly brought in his medal this week to show me, and it was fantastic to see how proud he is of his accomplishment. Well done Harvey, we are so proud of you!



Update continued

Whole school information

Term dates for 2025-2026: these have now been confirmed, please do check the dates below as they have been updated.

May Day Holiday - Monday, 5 May 2025

Half Term - Monday, 26 – Friday, 30 May 2025

Last day of term - Friday, 18 July 2025

Autumn Term

Non-pupil staff development days Monday, 1 – Tuesday, 2 September 2025

Term commences for Year 7 only: Wednesday, 3 September 2025

Term commences for Year 8-11 (inc Y7): Thursday, 4 September 2025

Half Term: Monday, 27 October – Friday, 7 November 2025

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

We are posting fortnightly on our social channels, E-Safety posters surrounding different topics - keep an eye out for these when they land. They will also be available on our [website](#).

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

Year Group Information

Year 7

Our year 7 students have been busy signing up for the Exe Valley Challenge which takes place on Sunday July 13 – this is a 10 miles walking challenge along the river Exe in teams of 4. Time is running out for your child to sign up to the Exe Valley Challenge or Jurassic Coast Challenge (see Year 8 update), so if your child is interested advise them to tell a PE member of staff and they will help them through the easy sign up process in school.

Year 7s have applied and will soon find out if they have been successful to be primary mentors for our upcoming Year 6 cohort.

Year 8

Our year 8 students have been signing up for the Jurassic Coast Challenge which takes place on Friday June 13. This is a walking challenge which begins in Lyme Regis and involves walking the coastal path back to Branscombe (Bronze), Sidmouth (Silver) or Exmouth (Gold). Last year we were oversubscribed and it has proved to be very popular again this year – even the 0500 early start hasn't put students off!

Year 9

Year 9 students have now chosen their humanities options for next year.

Year 9s have applied and will soon find out if they have been successful to be primary mentors for our upcoming year 6 cohort.

Our Year 9 students have been busy preparing for their Duke of Edinburgh Award expeditions, with practice walks scheduled for 21-22 June and their qualifying expedition on 28-29 June. They have tested their outdoor cooking skills using Trangias, rating the results of their meal choices. For many, this is the final step in their Bronze Award journey, having already completed the Skills, Physical, and Volunteering sections over the past 3-6 months. We've seen impressive baking projects and meaningful volunteering efforts both in school and in the wider community. Those who complete their Bronze Award will have the chance to progress to Silver next year. For more info click [here](#).

Year 10

English Literature revision sessions on Thursday after school for exam on 12 May.

Students are completing work experience sessions in tutor time.

Year 11

Get ready for an unforgettable night — our Year 11 Prom at Woodbury Park is set for 10 July 2025, and full details were emailed home on Tuesday 29 April!

New books!

Now available to borrow



A gallery of rogues
Beth Lincoln



A really short history of words
Bill Bryson



American mystery
Anthony S. Kessel



Catch your death
Ravena Guron



Escaping peril
Tui Sutherland



Graphic novel builder
Edward Ross



Jo
Katherine Gros



Like a girl
Rebecca Westcott



Northern soul
Phil Earle



The boy at the window
Lucy Strange



The Cartoonists Club
Raina Telgemeier



The first year
Matt Goodfellow



The line they drew through us
Hiba Noor Khan



The not-so-secret diary of a footballer
Ella Toone

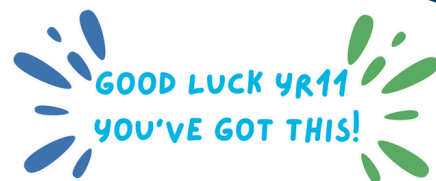


The Stitchwort curse
Alexandra Dawe



This is how you fall in love
Anika Hussain

Peters This poster was created for west_exe_school at peters.co.uk



Ted Wragg



NEW FOR 2025/26



**EXMOUTH SIXTH FORM
FOOTBALL ACADEMY**
WITH EXETER RTC



Register your interest
via the QR code

