

Dear families,

As we approach the half term break, there is so much to celebrate from this half term. We have had Year 11 beginning their GCSE examinations with resilience and pride. A personal highlight was seeing so many of them at a breakfast session with Maths before their exam. They are giving it their all and we are with them every step of the way. At the same time Ten Tors and the wonderful primary sports festivals have showcased the community and wider West Exe offer that makes this school so special and makes me feel both humble and proud to be the Headteacher.

However, I really must end with some news which is very exciting, and sad in equal amounts. After 23 years at West Exe, Nicky Lewis will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term to take on the role of Headteacher at Tiverton High School. We will be sorry to see her go, as Nicky has played a pivotal role in shaping and leading the school over many years. She has been vital in our pioneering anti-bullying work, including helping us achieve our national anti-bullying gold award, and Tiverton are really lucky to have someone with such drive and experience joining their team. We wish Nicky all the very best for her new adventure!

That leaves me to introduce our new Head of School from September 25, Jamie Engineer. Jamie is delighted to be joining our community and is looking forward to spending time with us between now and the end of the academic year to prepare well for September and the exciting next steps in our West Exe journey. I'll hand over here for Jamie to say a few words to you himself, Julie.

I am so excited to start as Head of School at West Exe in September and cannot wait to meet and get to know as many of you as possible.

I love Exeter and this community and have lived in the catchment for West Exe since I started teaching and moved to Devon. In my opinion, there is no better and more joyful community anywhere! You'll find me at weekends running down by the quayside or at the Picturehouse Cinema in town.

I have worked in schools across Torquay, Plymouth, and Exeter and at heart will always be an English teacher with a love of books and stories.

Do say hello when you see me on the gate in September!

Jamie

## Celebrations

Last weekend, WES proudly entered three teams into the prestigious Ten Tors event—two 35-mile teams and one 45-mile team. After months of committed training, our students arrived at the start line on Saturday morning filled with a mix of nerves and excitement. The event began in style with an impressive aerial display from the parachute team, setting the tone for an unforgettable weekend.

Both our 35 and 45-mile teams set off strongly, but a technology glitch on day one left us unsure of their precise locations. Thankfully, the Army team was incredibly supportive, providing our Team Managers with regular updates so we could track the students' progress and share it with their supporters.

By the end of day one, one of our 35 teams had set up camp at Postbridge, while the other reached Stannon Tor. Our determined 45 team pushed beyond White Barrow, finally setting up camp after 10pm.

Day two saw all three teams make remarkable progress—clearly, a good night's sleep worked wonders! With early starts and impressive pace, our teams achieved some of WES's fastest finishing times ever: the 45-mile team completed the course by 1:50pm, and both 35-mile teams followed closely behind, finishing between 3:00 and 3:30pm.

Throughout the weekend, the support from staff and families was incredible—with some even stepping in to help with cooking. It truly was a team effort in every sense.

We are immensely proud of our students and all they've achieved—not only during the event but throughout their training. Their resilience, teamwork, and determination will undoubtedly shape their futures in powerful ways.

Last week, 130 students from Years 7 and 8 took part in the national Junior Maths Challenge, showcasing impressive problem-solving skills and mathematical thinking. An incredible 70 students earned certificates, with awards spanning Gold, Silver, and Bronze. Special congratulations go to Emilio M, Freddy R, Alex G, Jedidiah M, Charlie R, Marcel K, and Daniel S, who have been invited to compete in the next round of the competition. A particular highlight: Emilio M Year 7 student to earn a Gold certificate, and Freddy R achieved the highest score among all participants from both year groups. Well done to everyone involved!

On Thursday, 15 May, 11 of our talented Year 10 musicians took to the stage at Devon County Show to showcase some of the fantastic work that they have done with various performances from this half term. All performances were warmly received by the large audience and they truly demonstrated their talents!





# Update continued

Following the ArtBytes competition. Alice P, Freddie C and Cora H have had their work selected as the top 3 artworks from West Exe. Alice placed 1st, Freddie placed 2nd and Cora placed 3rd. The 2024-25 public vote has now closed. Thank you to all for voting and championing young creativity! The top three placed artworks are marked with a 1st, 2nd or 3rd trophy. The 1st placed artwork wins a place in our virtual gallery exhibition, as well as going forward for regional, and possibly national award consideration by our esteemed judging panel.

Alice P received 1st place out of our West Exe entries and therefore will have her work entered into the regional stage. Well done to everyone who took part!

## Whole school information

As part of our commitment to improving the experience of students and families, we are currently looking at our homework and extended practice offer and we need your help. If you could complete the quick form below detailing your child's experience of homework we would really appreciate it. Your voice will help us improve our homework offer so that your child gets the support, challenge and success they deserve. [Homework survey](#)

Auditions are taking place next week for the summer concert which will be held on Thursday, 19 June starting 5:30pm, watch this space for tickets sales.

This week in science, students across all year groups have been engaged in a range of exciting and challenging topics. Year 7 students have been exploring chemical reactions through practical investigations, including testing for different gases and observing the thermal decomposition of copper carbonate using a Bunsen burner. Year 8 have been learning about static electricity and had great fun using the Van de Graaff generator to explore how static electricity behaves. Year 9 have been developing their understanding of motion by interpreting distance-time graphs and calculating speed. Year 10 have delved into the dangers of radiation, with discussions linked to real-world events such as the Chernobyl disaster. Meanwhile, Year 11 have completed their first Biology paper and are now focused on revising for their remaining science exams.

### 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](mailto: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 & Year 8

This week, we were pleased to welcome the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) into our assemblies as part of Mental Health Awareness Week.

They spoke with our students about the importance of looking after our mental wellbeing, shared practical tips on how to care for ourselves, and reminded us that it's always okay to ask for help.

### Year 9

On Tuesday 11 year 9 girls attended a workshop at local law firm Michelmores.

The girls took part in a workshop about confidence and then met some Law trainees working at the firm and had a tour around the office.

This is following on from the mentoring they have been receiving from local women in the community about career aspirations. The girls will be attending a graduation ceremony at Winslade Manor next month where they will meet more inspiration women from our local community.

This opportunity has got them thinking about their futures and possible career options in the southwest.

### Year 10

Students will be uploading their placement details onto Unifrog in their next work experience session.

### Year 11

We had a fantastic turnout from our Year 11s at this morning's Maths Breakfast prior to there exam! Great to see so many students starting the day with enthusiasm (and equations!)



We need your help



Homework survey

