



Fortnightly Headteacher Update

Welcome to the last Headteacher update of this half-term. There is so much to celebrate.

Year 11 are now just over half way through their exam season, and have conducted themselves with such maturity and resilience. We are so proud of them all.

You will see too, from the celebrations below, that students from every year group have been busy both in and out of school. Thank you so much to all of you who have been sharing your stories with us over the few weeks. It has been a real joy to receive them, and to share them both here and across our school community. Please do keep them coming. On another note, we said goodbye to Miss Clarke who started her maternity leave last week, and to Mr Hallam who left us for an exciting new role in senior leadership. And after 16 years, Caroline Brothwood, a much loved and valued member of our school community, will be leaving West Exe at the end of the summer term to take on her first headship at Honiton Community College. There will be lots of opportunity to recognise Caroline's significant contribution to the West Exe community before she leaves us, and we are delighted she will remain within our family of schools. We wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

All that remains is to wish you all a happy and healthy half term.

Very best wishes,

Julie



Celebrations

- Rosa YR7 started BMXing in 2022 competing in her first racing season a year later going straight into expert rather than novice races. At the end of her first season Rosa ranked 7th in the South West in her age group. This year Rosa has flown and is currently holding 2nd position in her age group in the South West. It takes a lot of dedication and she trains up to 4 times a week throughout the year at Exeter Eagles with lots of great riders who inspire her to try her hardest. Her races take place across Cornwall and Wales, and she will be travelling all the way to Derby to compete in the British National Championships later in the year, with the South West Championships also on the horizon!
- Mourad YR9 and his team (U14 Crediton Youth Football Club) have won the league and the plate this season. Congratulations! to read more on this story [click here](#).
- When Clara was 7 years old, she was diagnosed with Perthes Disease, a rare condition in which the bone of the femur ball joint dies away and means that the hip doesn't work properly. Clara was told not to put any weight on her leg, and left the hospital in a wheelchair. She spent the rest of primary school in a wheelchair and on crutches, having X-Rays and hydrotherapy, waiting for the bone to grow back. This month, Clara strode over the finish line of Ten Tors, having walked for 35 miles over the challenging terrain of Dartmoor. She was inspired by her older sister, Holly, who first did Ten Tors in 2022 and Clara has spent the last two walking seasons building up her stamina and walking further and further distances. She has been amazingly determined, we are so proud of her achievement!
- On Tuesday 14 May Zack, Daisy and Maisie in Year 9 prepared and cooked vegetarian lasagne and apple crumble for St Petrock's Exeter charity to distribute to its homeless patrons as part of our AQA 'Unlocking Potential' social action project. We went to St Petrock's centre in Cathedral Close with our athlete mentor [David Hill](#), [Paralympic Athlete](#), to give them our meal, they showed us round and talked about their work and the issues of homelessness in Exeter. [Click here for the story](#).



Update continued

• Congratulations to Y9 student, Leo D-C, who has recently competed in and won the U15 Devon Fell Race Championships. The race took place around Yes Tor totaling around 4km with a 150m climb. Leo has now been selected to represent Devon at the Junior British Inter-County Hill and Fell Championships in June in Blackburn. We are so proud of you, Leo!

On Tuesday, 11 June 2024, one Year 7 student and three Year 8 students will be taking part in the next round of the Junior Maths Challenge following amazing results back in April. After achieving the highest score across Year 7 and 8 in this Challenge, Ben W will be taking part in the Junior Mathematical Olympiad and Marcel K, Harry A and Terry S will be completing the Junior Kangaroo Paper! Good luck!

• Last week we celebrated World Baking day. In elective, students baked yummy goodies and sold them to raise money for our school charity. Exeter Food Action we have £73.64 to send your way! Thank you to our students that got involved in baking.

• The expedition of DofE is always the highlight for many of our students. 18 of our Bronze students were out completing their practice expedition in East Devon last weekend, the 2nd of our DofE outings. The weather presented a real challenge ranging from monsoon rainfall to brilliant sunshine. Our students were amazing and completed all elements of expedition successfully. We have another practice walk for our second Bronze group on 8-9 June and the qualifier walks for the respective groups are 29-30 June and 22-23 June.

The Silver group had a successful practice walk on Bodmin back in April with their qualifier expedition due to take place on 22-24 July. Anyone who might be interested in completing their DofE award should apply through the Electives Programme or contact Mrs Davies via e-mail chris.davies@westex.devon.sch.uk

• Ten Tors is a challenge for teams of six, aged between 14-19 years. There are three distances (35, 45 and 55 miles) age dependent. All routes must be completed independently in two days finishing before 1700 on Sunday, with teams camping overnight. Jubilee Challenge is suitable for those who cannot access Ten Tors for a range of reasons, and Jubilee Challenge Plus is for those who can manage an overnight stay and a more challenging route.

We had 3 teams entered in the challenge this year. 2x 45 mile and 1 x 35 mile teams. The training season this year was extremely challenging with foul weather for most of the weekends, just getting through the training is an achievement in itself. The commitment and resilience of our students has been amazing – not one moan for 0500hrs starts! The weather this year presented its own challenges with high temperatures and strong sunshine which are unfamiliar to participants and far from ideal for such a high intensity challenge. We know that hundreds of participants withdrew from the challenge this year, mainly because of the effects of the heat. It's hard to overstate the difficulty of managing temperature and water intake while constantly working hard for 12 hours or more. Our students however, looked after themselves expertly!

Our 35 team and 45B team successfully completed the challenge and our 45A team did amazingly well to get as far as they did and had a very challenging route. Well done to Teni R, Fleur M, , Evie K, Owen B, Evan O, Joe W, Amiee H, Georgia H, Will W-M, Matthew G, Natan R, Stan T, Jack M, Finley H, Toby R, Casper VdH, Clara K, Xanthe T and Holly K, Marcus K, Bruno M and Rachel D.

Everything we do is about participants getting the best out of a team, not just one individual being excellent. This year we have had a wonderful team to prepare participants, and they've been out with them in all conditions on the moors. They have led these youngsters to success and deserve our thanks: Chris Davies, Kate Fryett, Harry Chambers, Annie Renwick, Zoe Horell, Charlotte Osmond, Charlotte Froom, Ben Lias, Richard Gibby and Andrew McLay. Thanks also go to the parents and carers who have supported their children on this exciting journey.

We look forward to doing it all again next year!



Update continued

- Our Year 9 AQA Unlocking Potential group would like to say a huge thank you to all students, families, and staff who have donated socks to our St Petrock's 'Give a pair to show you care' appeal. Thanks to your generosity we have over two hundred new pairs of socks for their homeless clients. The rough sleepers of Exeter can look forward to dry feet for many weeks!

Whole school information

Dates for the diary

Summer Concert Thursday, 20 June 2024

Day of Sport Tuesday, 25 June 2024

PE Awards Evening Thursday, 11 July 2024

We will be welcoming Year 6 from local Primary Schools to experience lessons such as English, Maths and Science on 10 - 12, July 2024.

Would you like a tour of school and the opportunity to ask questions about West Exe? Come along for a coffee with us at our conversation cafes running through the summer term. Let us know that you are coming, click [here](#) or scan the QR code.



We ask that all our families help to support a stress free drop off and pickup each day for all our road users, pedestrians and cyclists, using the available spaces appropriately to ease congestion.

YEAR GROUP INFORMATION

YEAR 7

Dates for the diary - Awards Evening Thursday, 13 June 2024

Return to school after the half term - Monday, 3 June 2024 to view a full list of term dates [click here](#).

Youth Club continues after half term.

YEAR 8

Dates for the diary - Awards Evening Thursday, 13 June 2024

Return to school after the half term - Monday, 3 June 2024 to view a full list of term dates [click here](#).

Youth Club continues after half term.

YEAR 9

Dates for the diary - Awards Evening Thursday, 27 June 2024

Return to school after the half term - Monday, 3 June 2024 to view a full list of term dates [click here](#).

YEAR 10

Dates for the diary - Awards Evening Thursday, 27 June 2024

Return to school after the half term - Monday, 3 June 2024 to view a full list of term dates [click here](#).

If you haven't yet received an email, you will soon be receiving communication from Careers Southwest (CSW) asking for parental consent, and any medical/health issues that the employer needs to be aware of, in preparation for the work experience week in July. Parental consent will be required before a student can go on placement. Grofar allows one parental contacts email to be uploaded by us to their system. Please do double check your junk folder if you've not yet seen an email in your inbox from CSW. REMINDER: Students without placements can still continue to find a work experience placement through Grofar. There are help videos on Google Classroom in the Yr10 Dashboard on how to access Grofar. If you have recently found a work experience placement, please make sure it is uploaded to the Dashboard and then on Grofar.

Look out for a letter regarding the Year 10 "Gateway to Year 11".

YEAR 11

Important information and updates from your college advisor please [click here](#).

Year 11 Prom - Thursday, 4 July 2024

Return to school after the half term - Monday, 3 June 2024 to view a full list of term dates [click here](#).

Look out for a letter regarding the Year 11 leaving arrangements.





**PL KICKS
IN THE
COMMUNITY**

EXWICK SPORTS HUB

FRIDAY 31ST MAY

6PM-7.30PM

BOOK TODAY

Kicks in the Community
Registration Form

**FREE
TO
PLAY**

**SUITABLE FOR
AGES 11-18**

**NO PLANS THIS
HALF TERM?**

**PLAY FOOTBALL, MAKE
FRIENDS, HAVE FUN**

@EXTERCCT

EXTERCCT.ORG

**IT'S ALL ABOUT
THE JACKET!**

Thursday 6th June

New Topping Trials
Tuna Crunch
Beef Chilli
Chicken or Chick Pea Curry
Grated Cheddar
Homemade Coleslaw

All Served from your main Canteen Counter

2 FILLINGS £2.10
1 FILLING £1.80
EXTRA FILLING 60P

Aspens

**NEW
YOUTH CLUB**

**West Exe School
Years 7 & 8**

**STARTING
FEBRUARY 5TH**

3.30PM - 5PM

**FREE
TO
ATTEND**

@EXTERCCT

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**PLACES LIMITED
SO BOOK TODAY**

CHANCE TO HANG OUT
WITH FRIENDS, LISTEN TO
MUSIC, PLAY GAMES, AND
TAKE PART IN SPORT

THERE WILL BE SNACKS,
SMOOTHIES, GAMES,
TABLE TENNIS AND AN
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
PART IN EXCITING SOCIAL
ACTION AND WELLBEING
ACTIVITIES

