



West Park

'A caring school where we put pupils and their achievement first'

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Dear West Park Families

Finally, the sun is shining and it looks like Summer may actually be on its way. Unfortunately, the last time that I announced that, we were hit with a torrential rainstorm which gave us a thorough soaking as we moved around the school site!

This is always a very exciting time of the school year, never more so than in 2022. We are finally starting to see a minimised impact from Covid and have the pleasure of being able to enjoy shared experiences and plan significant events across the school.

Our fantastic Year 11 cohort have already commenced with their final exams journey. Members of the Year 11 team have submitted coursework, completed French speaking, participated in PE moderation and engaged in BTEC assessments. The pupils have really thrown themselves into these opportunities and have demonstrated a real resilience and determination throughout. Our full cohort exams start on Monday 16th May in the Sports Hall and I hope that they all achieve the grades that they undoubtedly deserve. Myself and all of the West Park team want to wish all of our year 11s the very best. As always, life at West Park is a massive team effort. During the exams it is crucial that pupils in the other year groups remain calm and sensible throughout. Please discuss this with your child/children, their turn will come around quicker than they can imagine!

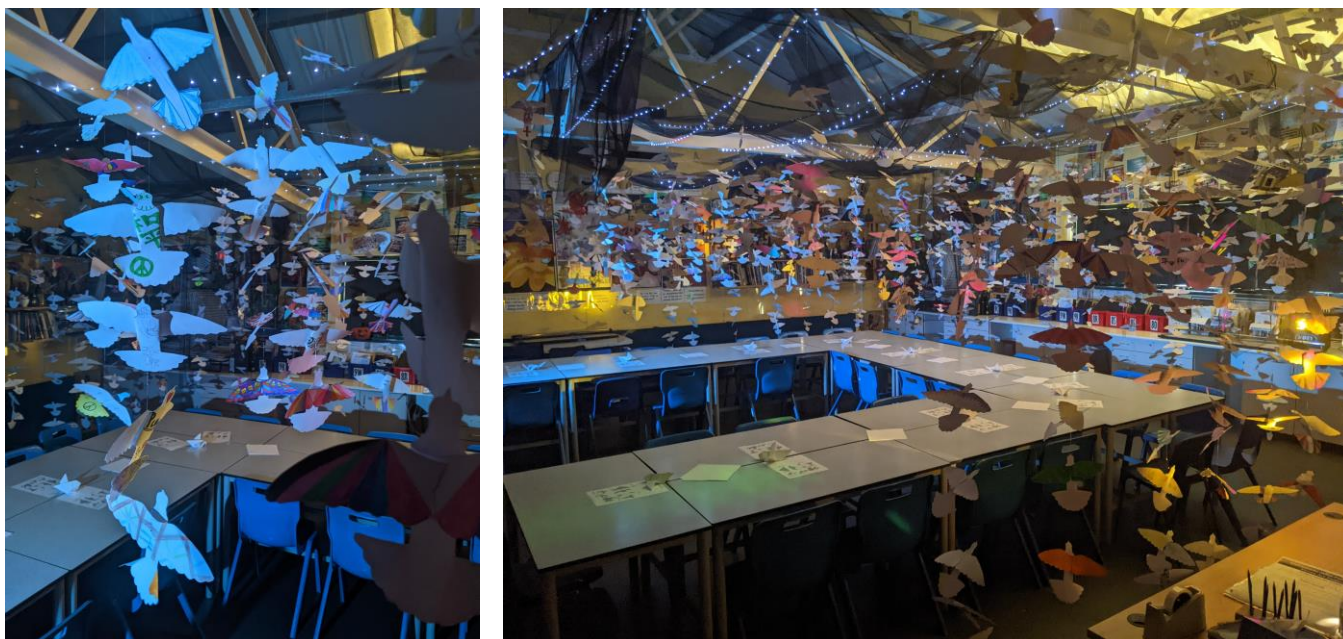
As part of our roadmap to normality (I am not sure if any of us really knows what this is anymore!) we have relaunched our assembly programme. This provides an excellent opportunity to get year groups together to talk to them about pertinent issues and to continue to develop our unique ethos and environment. After over two years without assemblies it is incredible to see 300 pupils sitting together, listening intently as they are spoken to by members of the pastoral team. Over the next few weeks we will have assemblies delivered by West Park staff and visiting community groups.

A big part of West Park is our links to the local community. We have continued with this work during the pandemic and we are very excited about the increased opportunities that will come about in the next few months. We are playing a central role in local celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and will be hosting the 'Queen's Birthday Bash' event on the school field on Saturday 11th June. This will be a low-cost event which is open to all local families with free entry and a range of displays, performances and taster activities alongside a range of craft, food and

interactive stalls. Please come down on the day to join in the fun and to throw wet sponges at your local Headteacher. I will be contacting local primaries to see which Headteacher is up for this and will ensure that the supply of sponges is plentiful.

We continue with our development of a school based ECO-Shop. This has taken longer than expected as we have had to complete relevant Health and Safety and environmental health documentation. We have now laid vinyl across the shop space and have two glistening new display fridges and an equally stunning display freezer. These have been provided by a sizeable and very kind donation from Spondon Relief in Need. I will confirm an opening date shortly and details on how our shop will run.

Pupils in the art department have been exceptionally busy creating a Peace Dove display in W9. This involved 800 origami doves with effect lighting creating an incredible visual feast. This links to the Peace Dove display that will be taking place at Derby Cathedral. On Friday 6th May it was a true pleasure to see so many of our pupils awestruck by the doves and the live performance provided by some of our talented musicians. Well done to all involved and the incredible Kim Fowler for her creativity in putting this together.



In further positive news four of our Year 9 pupils gave up a weekend to support the set-up of the new Derby Computing Museum. Izzy, Emily, Molly and Freya worked hard painting rooms and created a very positive impression about our school. Lloyd Evans plays ice hockey for the Nottingham Lions U12's and they have won the Midlands Division following a victory away at Telford. Well done, we are very proud of you all.

In less positive news we have had reports of fires being deliberately lit on Willowcroft Road Park and West Park Nature Reserves. This is incredibly dangerous and brings huge risk to local people, local animals and their natural habitats. We have already shared information about the dangers involved with our pupils and will run a week of assemblies on this topic after half term in

conjunction with the fire service. Anyone who has any information about the fires should pass it on to Firestoppers on the link below as well as making us aware at the school:

<http://www.firestoppersreport.co.uk/>

We are delighted that so many of our pupils' cycle to school each day and the vast majority of them do this safely. Can you please stress to all of our local bike riders that they should ride their bikes sensibly and walk them through pedestrianised areas. Pupils should be riding solo without another human draped across their back or positioned on the front forks of their bicycle. I am presuming that tandems are unlikely to have sprung back into fashion! This safety message is very important as one of our pupils was injured earlier in the week due to someone riding through people on one of the local paths.

As we move through the Summer term, pupils in all years will be completing a range of assessments. Year 10 will be completing these in the Sports Hall as we continue to prepare them for Year 11, terminal BTEC and GCSE exams and the final leg of their West Park journey. Year 7 to 9 will complete assessments in classrooms as we continue to bed them into these processes as we come through the pandemic.

At the other end of the West Park journey our new recruits are already gearing up to join us in September. It is such an exciting time for them as they finish their SATs, celebrate their years at primary and get excited about joining their new secondary school with all the opportunities that that will offer. New West Park families have already received information about their place at the school and have been completing a 'Who am I' booklet so that we can begin to get to know them and put together 10 new form classes. Thank you to the Year 6 pupil who took the time to say hello to me as I valiantly chased my 2-year-old around Asda last Saturday. I didn't have time to chat, but I will see you in July!

We will continue to communicate with our new families as we prepare 3 amazing transition days for them. These will be structured as detailed below:

Pupil Induction Days - Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th July.

Each day pupils are asked to arrive at the Park Road Gates by 8.30 a.m. During the days, pupils will have the opportunity to meet with their new form tutor. They will take part in team building activities with their form tutor and new form and they will also sample a large selection of West Park lessons. Thumbprints will be taken to enable the pupils to access the catering facilities in September. All pupils are planned to have a PE lesson at some point during one of the days. School will finish at 3.00 p.m. each day. We also plan to have two New Parents' Evenings on the night of Wednesday 6th July and Thursday 7th July. One night for the X Band parents (forms W,E,S,T,P) and one for the Y Band parents (forms A,R,K,C,O). During this event parents will hear from myself and other relevant school staff and will meet with their child's form teacher. Further details regarding the transition days and evenings will be sent to our new families in due course.

During this half term there will be a real need for us to work as a West Park team. The world is not an easy place at the moment with the cost of living crisis really beginning to bite and the terrible events in the Ukraine shocking us all on a daily basis. However, it is during this time that community and family can pull together to make a difference. We are really committed to supporting all of our families during this time and to working creatively to find positive outcomes, even in the toughest situations.

Take care of yourselves and I look forward to seeing you as the Summer term progresses.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McGregor', written in a cursive style.

Scott McGregor
Head