



# The Westgate School

## Spring Term 2 2021 Issue 4

# Newsletter

### Find Your Calm

Wow, what a year! Thank goodness we are being released from another lockdown. I wonder what your experience has been like? Different friends of mine have varying experiences of lockdown; for some this has been a real opportunity to do something different. I have reacquainted myself with my guitar and Spanish via Duolingo. Now I can say things like "Como estas amigo" to friends who haven't got a clue what I am saying and rehearse guitar solos which my family members are forced to listen to again and again... I wonder what you have been up to?

A number of years ago I spent two years living in India. The most challenging part of integrating interestingly wasn't my time over there, it was upon my return to England. Life had changed. I had "moved on", some friends had other's hadn't. "Big Brother" had been embraced and life was anything but normal. Stuff like that can create it's own anxiety. I am sure you have had your own experiences of change and how to respond (or maybe not!).

We have an opportunity as lockdown eases. I wonder what you might do with the opportunity that might be on its way? Coming out of lockdown will no doubt be complex. I want to encourage you, we are in this together. Your experience may be unique, but you are not alone. Maybe its time you caught up with those friends you had put to the back of your mind. For some it may be time to wander by the river and breathe in some fresh air. For others, time to release some of that creativity that has been building up and now needs to be expressed. Whatever it is, can I encourage you to put aside your fear and instead welcome that courage which you have known at different times in your life.

Before I let you go, I was reminded of Elton John's song "I'm still standing" (I haven't heard this song for years but it started playing in my mind when I began to write). A verse of that song along with the chorus goes as follows:

*You know I'm still standing better than I ever did  
Looking like a true survivor, feeling like a little kid  
I'm still standing after all this time  
Picking up the pieces of my life without you on my mind  
I'm still standing. Yeah, yeah, yeah  
I'm still standing. Yeah, yeah, yeah*

You're still standing. Time to take a bow! We look forward to seeing you soon!

**Sashi Sehgal**



### Art Corner

Year 7 are currently working on a colour project. Students were asked to choose a colour from the colour wheel and collect objects relating to that colour and to present them as a composition.

**Iris G**

**Gurdev D**

**Summer-Louise S-M**



### Help & Advice

<https://helpyouchoose.org/content/infoadvice/help-information-advice/>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/mental-health-tips>

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>



# Bright Spots

## Promoting a love of problem solving

The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge is a 60-minute, multiple-choice competition aimed at students across the UK.

It encourages **mathematical reasoning**, **precision of thought**, and **fluency** in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

The problems on the Intermediate Mathematical Challenge are **designed to make students think**. Most are **accessible**, yet still challenge those with more experience.

Year 9		Year 10	
Mohez T	Gold	Darren H	Gold
Arifin R	Gold	Freya K	Gold
Zainab H	Silver	Tyra C	Silver
Aqsa A	Bronze	Mohammad I	Bronze
Oluwanisola O	Bronze	Danielle J	Bronze
		Kuvalayan K	Bronze

Mrs Farhan said she was impressed and blown away by how well students performed and is excited to find out the next set of results.



## Drama Puppetiers

Year 8s have been working hard creating puppets as part of their Peter Pan module in Drama.



**Bailee B**



**Khushi S**



**Jasmin M**



**Megan D**

## Student Shoutouts

**Safa S** Yr.11– Always gets on with her work even throughout remote learning. Safa is one of our quiet students that goes under the radar but is very hard working. Mrs Bliss

**Elvis A** Yr.9 - Outstanding contribution in lesson and in remote learning. Mrs Akram

**Hannah M & Nikolas T** Yr. 7– For their hard work in Westgate6 and producing excellent presentations. Miss Annesley

**Daya B** Yr.9 - Amazing dedication and ambition to learn every single lesson even during lockdown. Always sending work. A star pupil in the set. Mrs Dale

**Mari D** Yr. 13 - Very, focused on A Level English Literature work, revising and enhancing knowledge gained by reading round the texts. Mr Lilley

**Aaliyah W** Yr. 8– gives everything 100%. Goes above and beyond. Mr Vashisht

**Callum N** Yr.12– Amazing participation and engagement throughout lockdown and in lesson. Miss Edwards

I would like to give a big shout out to **all students** who behaved in an excellent manner during the Lateral Flow testing in school. Mr Newport



# Westgate students raise thousands for charity

Year 8 students at The Westgate School, Slough have **raised over £2000 during lockdown** in their phenomenal effort to support **Cancer Research UK**. They ended the project in the **top 5% of all fundraisers for February, on Just Giving**

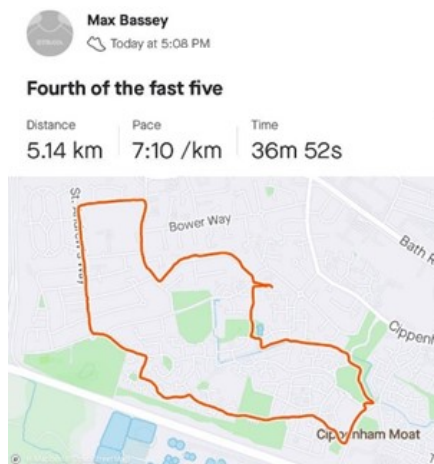
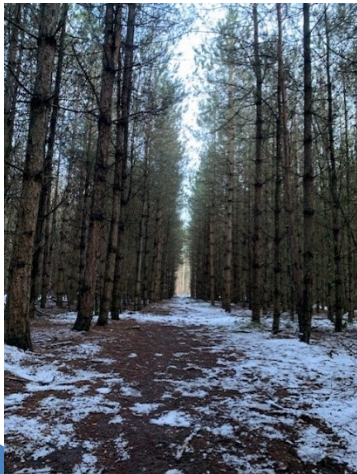
At Key Stage 3, students study a bespoke curriculum called '**The Westgate 6**' that comprises of six essential skills to equip students for the wider world. During these lessons in the Spring Half Term, students were asked to be proactive and think creatively to help support their community through these challenging and unprecedented times.

At the beginning of Lockdown 3.0, Year 8 researched different charities and creative fundraising ideas to help understand the importance of charity fundraising. After sharing their ideas, they voted to fundraise for one charity collectively, Cancer Research UK.

Cancer Research UK is the largest charity in the UK. Over the past 40 years they have put up a great fight against Cancer and survival has doubled. However, there is always more we can do to help support and raise awareness of such an incredible cause, that has unfortunately impacted so many of our lives.

**Through compassion, care, resilience and determination** during these challenging times, our Year 8 collectively exceeded the target of £600 and raised a staggering amount, of over £2000 for such a noble cause. Some students who went above and beyond were, **Pranava B-T who cycled 100km, Maxwell B who ran 25km, Liana C who walked over 120km, and Nate O who walked over 80km**. These students raised tremendous amounts and challenged themselves with great will power, resilience, and courage.

**"I feel like we made people happy so I am just I'm really happy that we could do that" Nate O (Year 8)**



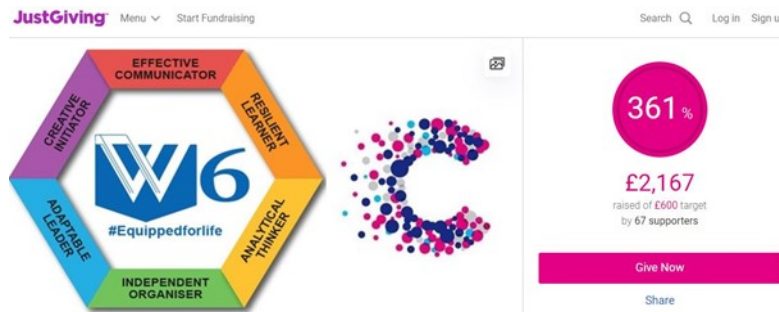
**"Cancer Research UK is an important charity to many of us. I know a few people who have had cancer and due to the amazing research, that has been carried out those people are still living a good life after having treatment."**  
– Liana C (Year 8)

**"The hardest part was every day going out and doing my challenge for 5 days in a row. But when I completed my challenge, I felt proud of myself."** – Max B (Year 8)

**"I would definitely do this again as we have raised so much money that could help so many people around the world."** -Pranava B-T (Year 8)

The kindness and compassion these students share are **notably heart warming** and we are so proud to celebrate their successes and achievements. The challenge not only benefited the student's wellbeing whilst in lockdown by giving them a goal to strive for but has also showed positivity and the act of togetherness.

We are so proud of all the hard work the students have put into supporting such a noble cause. They have overcome barriers, problem solved and shown excellence in all their fundraising efforts. We couldn't be any prouder of our Westgate community and would like to **thank all of those that helped** to support our students along the way.



# Passion for Poetry

## Competition Winners

### Day after day

Day after day, day after day,  
Doing what I'm told,  
Day after day, day after day,  
Always being controlled,  
Day after day, day after day,  
Can't stand up and be bold  
Day after day, day after day,  
I'm only growing old.

Day after day, day after day,  
Putting on a mask,  
Day after day, day after day,  
Following simple tasks,  
Day after day, day after day  
Hands, face, space,  
Day after day, day after day,  
Keeping others safe.

Day after day, day after day,  
Listen and obey.  
Day after day, day after day,  
All is do is hope and pray.  
Day after day, day after day,  
The end is drawing near  
Day after day, day after day,  
What a confusing year.

**8G3 English— Miss Root**



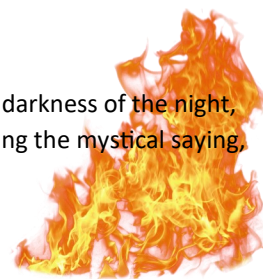
### Fire Scars Forever

Heat ravaged the land as wicked as a storm,  
It was now a barren site overflowing with death and destruction,  
The land and sky were torn,  
Where the land turned into a ruthless eruption.

No water, no food, just pain  
A great burning pain called grief,  
Our families mercilessly slain,  
Nothing was left no trees, no signs of life ever being here not even a leaf.

A dim light beckoned me forth in the darkness of the night,  
Hypnotised I raced towards it forgetting the mystical saying,  
Never run towards the light...

**Safiya M**



## Coming up

Every item of uniform brought in can be swapped for a different piece. The aim of the Uniform Swap Shop allows families to swap the school uniform they've finished with for different sizes or items. We hope this will save our parents money and cut down on waste.

### How The Uniform Swapping Works

1. Students will bring uniform to school on selected days ( Parents will be sent a letter listing the days). The uniform needs to be good quality, clean and folded. It can be any item of the uniform, including PE kit.
2. Students will swap for another item of clothing they need. Swap depends on availability of items for swapping. Swaps cannot be returned after the event. Donations can also be taken without swaps.



For more information email:  
[community@westgate.slough.sch.uk](mailto:community@westgate.slough.sch.uk)

## Festivals

**Holi:** Monday 29th March



**Easter Weekend:** Friday 2nd April– Monday 5th April



**Ramadan & Eid Al Fitr:** Tuesday 13th April– Thursday 13th May



**St George's Day:** Friday 23rd April

**Wishing all of the Westgate community Happy Celebrations!**

