



The Westgate School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020 Issue #1



Headteacher Welcome

A warm welcome. It has been a term like no other, but I can honestly say I cannot be prouder of #TeamWestgate. As a school community we have supported each other with compassion and kindness throughout these challenging times. Every single person has a personal story and has been touched in some way by Covid-19. Being vulnerable and sharing our struggles along the way has supported us all. Together, we have continued to put the wellbeing of our whole school community first so that we can learn and grow together. We thank our local community for their unwavering support so that together we can make a difference.

Challenging situations bring new appreciations and opportunities to push ourselves outside our comfort zones. It is clear to see how much our students have appreciated being back in school connecting with others and learning face to face. I am sure parents were glad to be relieved of home schooling too. It was tough, wasn't it, juggling this with all our usual activities? We are creatures of habits and lots of us I know missed our daily routines. We missed seeing our students each day on the gate and around school. Yet students have navigated the 'new normal' in a way which is truly remarkable. We have enjoyed reconnecting in the classroom and being focused on making those times count.

Our focus as a school will be to ensure we are 'smart' about what we do and how we do it to secure positive outcomes and ensure students are equipped for life. Ensuring we are Covid-19 secure will underpin all we do to ensure that The Westgate School is a safe and healthy place to learn and work. Wellbeing and learning will drive all we do, so that despite the challenging context, we achieve positive outcomes for all. Supporting all of our school community to remove any barriers or obstacles is essential to make this happen. Your continued support, honest feedback and compassion enables us to continue to make The Westgate School a school of choice for the local community.

World Teachers' Day 2020

This year, World Teachers' Day will surround the theme entitled, 'Teachers: leading in crisis, reimagining the future'. With learning being an essential part of life and human development, teachers play an immensely valuable role in society. This is a wonderful chance to celebrate the profession on a global scale. Undeniably, the Covid-19 pandemic played a significant challenge for teachers. A major global event with unprecedented effects, this leads to enormous pressure on teachers. Many had to adapt to new alternative ways of teaching and looking after their students. At home, parents had to become the teachers, helping their children to learn whilst juggling work and many other priorities.

World Teachers' Day holds more importance than ever before. Together we can celebrate their huge value to children, teenagers and adults when the world is rapidly changing.

Do you have a teacher you would like to shoutout? Email ska@westgate.slough.sch.uk with their name and what makes them special and we will mention them in the next newsletter.

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 'Celebrations through the lens'

With the following months being full of celebrations we will be running a photography competition. Do you have an eye for catching something special, full of joy, fun and laughter, or maybe something more abstract? We want your entries. There will be prizes for the top 3 photographs. The winners and photographs will be announced in our Christmas Newsletter.

Open to students and staff!

(All entries must be submitted to ce@westgate.slough.sch.uk by no later than 11th December)



The Westgate Community needs you!

Have you ever wanted to change something?
Do you think you have the qualities and attitude to make a real difference?
Looking for volunteer opportunities?
Want to be a part of change?

If the answer is YES, we invite you to apply to become our first #WestgateTeam of Elite Community Champions to work within school and in our local community.

We are seeking enthusiastic, hardworking and highly organised students to join the team and work to enhance and #giveback to The Westgate School Community and beyond. As part of an elite team you will be responsible for innovative projects which aim to make a change to your local community.

You will receive training and guidance as part of the team, this will allow you to build on your skill set opening up external opportunities such as Slough Youth Parliament, Duke of Edinburgh and Breaking Boundaries.

The ideal candidates will have excellent communication skills, confidence to present in front of an audience and a persuasive personality.

If this is you, we have a seat waiting for you at our Community Champions table!

Please email ska@westgate.slough.sch.uk for an application form by Friday 6th November. All application forms will be considered, successful candidates will be invited to an interview next half-term.



Good luck!

Help & Advice

Local and national support available:

- www.publichealthslough.co.uk/campaigns/one-slough
- slough.foodbank.org.uk
- www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- www.citizensadvice.org.uk
- www.nspcc.org.uk
- www.mind.org.uk/information-support

With the arrival of winter and an increase in the number of cases of coronavirus (Covid-19), it is more important than ever that we all take steps to reduce the spread of infection in the community to save lives and protect the NHS.



#StudentShoutouts

Mahnoor S Year 11 shows the key values The Westgate holds, from her kindness to others, to her drive to always achieve her best. We are so very proud. Mrs. Corby DOL Year 11

Dinel G has really grown from Year 9 into Year 10 and has made an outstanding start across subjects. His ability to combine his personality and work rate is a particular high point! Mr. Shepherd DOL Year 10

I am extremely proud of the commitment and dedication of the **Year 12 Chemists** in preparing for their first assessed Core Practical in Chemistry, where they have risen to the challenges of A Level Chemistry, a huge well done! Mrs. Sandhu

Shelique P has made such a fantastic start to Year 10 & her GCSE's. Staff regularly praise her for her work ethic and achievement!

Michael A has set the bar high this term, with 100% attendance and dedication to his studies he has remained focused and determined to always achieve his best. Mrs. Corby DOL Year 11

Year 13
Our students have come back motivated, determined to succeed where they have been focusing on bridging the gap demonstrating a real positive can do attitude. Mr. Clark Head of Sixth Form



Poppy H Year 11 volunteered with St Johns Ambulance to check in on the mental wellbeing of the elderly members of her community. #compassionbeyondtheclassroom

Top Achievers

	7	8	9	10	11
McGowan	Kevin 24 pts	Fozan 40 pts	Holly 37 pts	Jodie 24 pts	Ella 15 pts
Peters	Manveer 25 pts	Holly 44 pts	Abbey 27 pts	Tiya 23 pts	Hemanth 11 pts
Hackett	Arnott 33 pts	Pranava 40 pts	Kezia 28 pts	Firdaus 19 pts	Harleen 12 pts
Thomas	Burhan 31 pts	Evan 31 pts	Gurleen 30 pts	Katie 24 pts	Mahnoor 21 pts

Year 7 Kindness Challenge Competition Winners 2020

The Kindness Challenges were set over Summer as a way for our new Year 7 cohort to transition into secondary school and begin to feel apart of The Westgate School community. Every new student was sent a virtual link to a booklet that had a range of challenges to complete showing an **act of kindness**.

The winners listed below went **above and beyond** and exceeded in these tasks, showing **excellent initiative, compassion and care**. Not only did the students win individual prizes, but they also gained achievement points for their school community.

- 1st Prize – Manveer P
- Joint 2nd Prize – Thomas S & Jake R
- Joint 3rd Prize - Lucas A & Ayden C



Yuvraj P, Year 11 student Summer 2020, got creative upcycling old pallets into garden furniture for the local community. #proud #learningbeyondtheclassroom



#LockdownHereos

Half Term Highlights

Students were encouraged to run, jog or walk up to 2.6 miles (1/10th of a marathon). Our PE team were amazed by so many students and we wish we could list them all in our newsletter. Next term our new Community board by the Hub will have all nominations, check it out!

Matthew M Year 8 "Excelled in the mini marathon going above and beyond completing 10.5 laps in less than the allocated time due to the effort and determination he displayed. Matthew and I were super proud of what he had achieved." Mrs. Ridsdale

Kate S Year 11 "Fantastic effort in which she showed resilience to complete the mini marathon; there were many times she could have given up!" Miss. Bicknell

Danielle C Year 11 "Worked hard to sustain a pace for the entire challenge; initially she found it challenging but carried on and completed it. Great effort!" Miss. Bicknell

Emma T and **Niamh L** Year 11 "Worked together to complete what they initially thought was an impossible task; then sprinted to the end of what they thought was the last lap only to find they had one more to go. They didn't give up and even sprinted for a second time to complete the challenge!" Miss. Bicknell

Key Events

October is Black History Month in the UK, an event that has been celebrated nationwide for more than 30 years. The month was founded to recognise the contributions that people of African and Caribbean backgrounds have made to the UK over many generations. "History has shown us that **courage** can be **contagious** and **hope** can take on a life of its own," Michelle Obama.

World Mental Health Day October 2020 An important event for many of us. The months of lockdown and loss have had a huge impact on us all and prioritising mental health has never been more important than it is now. That's why this year we want to bring everyone together to mark the day by each doing one thing for better mental health. Making a positive change can seem so hard, especially during uncertain times. Sometimes, it can be difficult to know where to start. Take the opportunity this World Mental Health Day to find out more about how you can start with one thing.



LONDON MARATHON



Have your say