



The West Bridgford Post

Issue No. 114

11 January 2019

Parent Newsletter

A comment from...

Mr Mark Deans,

Deputy Headteacher



The Senior Management Team of the West Bridgford School was delighted by the news that we are now a 'Stonewall Gold' organisation. The work done by both students and staff to secure this has been inspiring, with many hundreds of hours engaged in moving this agenda forwards.

On the Stonewall website, Sir Ian McKellen talks about how "Nothing in life is more important to me than helping young people realise that there are better days ahead of them." The work to promote empathy and understanding is one of the truly inspiring parts of school life and the idea that working in education can promote such an ideal is part of what makes teaching a vocation rather than a job.

When I speak to friends and family members who are part of the LGBTQ community and they describe some of the experiences they had at school, then I compare these with where the attitudes of our students are now and the environment it creates, I truly find hope for the future.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 Jan—National UCAS Deadline

16 Jan—Y11/13 Skiers to Snowdome

16 Jan—Oxbridge Info Evening

17 Jan—Y9 Skiers to Snowdome

18 Jan—Y12 progress reports

21 Jan—Y7 Sports Hall Athletics

23 Jan—Y8 Sports hall Athletics

23 Jan—Y11/13 Skiers Snowdome 2

24 Jan—Y9 Skiers to Snowdome 2

25 Jan—Y8 & Y9 HPV Vaccinations

PROUD TO ACHIEVE THE STONEWALL SCHOOL CHAMPION GOLD AWARD! - MISS WILLIAMS

As many of you will no doubt be aware, acknowledging and celebrating diversity is something we are sincerely and whole-heartedly committed to doing here at the West Bridgford School, whether with our lively and colourful culture celebration events, engaging in national and local campaigns or creating thought-provoking work exploring equality, prejudice and discrimination. Culture and diversity initiatives run throughout the year and contribute to helping create a safe, inclusive, happy and proactive environment for all.

Our journey began with the Stephen Lawrence Education Standard back in 2012, which paved the way for us to branch out with confidence to all equality-related themes. As a part of this work, we felt it was the right time for us to put LGBTQ+ equality on the agenda. It has been an exciting and engaging journey and we haven't looked back since!



The Stonewall School Champion programme has provided us with a robust framework to shine a light on policies, tackling bullying, curriculum and support and wider school community and culture in relation to equality for students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and allies. The journey from Bronze through to Gold has been hard work, but very worthwhile. Here are just a few highlights:

- **Back to basics** – staff are trained to challenge bullying, including HBT bullying and language, adding to their already varied 'toolkit', so all make it clear to students that homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying and language (HBT) is wrong. This has been highlighted by:
 - bold poster campaigns around school;
 - terms added to the reporting systems so staff are able to report with clarity, which is then reflected in bullying and behaviour analysis throughout the year, allowing current trends to be spotted with greater accuracy and relevant initiatives put in place;
 - in addition to strong support teams in school, such as our Pastoral Support Team, HBT was also added to the online Report Bullying platform so students have multiple ways to report bullying should they be targeted or witness it. Although students can't report anonymously it does allow them to opt out of being a bystander and take action with discretion

Business as usual - LGBTQ+ equality is embedded across the curriculum, providing students with opportunities to discuss diversity-related themes. We have a wonderful display outside the Main Hall about equality and kindness. Many students contributed to this by sharing why they support equality. One student wrote 'because that's how I was raised' - don't underestimate your input!

[Click here to read full article](#)





Updates to SIMS Agora

SIMS Agora is getting a refresh in the New Year!

As part of this refresh we're changing our name to **SIMS Pay**.

This name change is part of our continued long term commitment to provide schools with secure, seamless payment experiences for their parents and employees that in turn reduces school payment administration.

By changing our name to **SIMS Pay** we will align our service with customer expectations and better equip schools in delivering cutting edge payment technology to their parents and employees.

If you have any queries about this, please speak to your support provider.

WEEK 1 - w/c 14th January

THE WEST BRIDGFORD SCHOOL MENU 3				
MONDAY Lemon Curry Honey Bread Peanut Butter Custard	TUESDAY Pork & Apple Casseroles Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	WEDNESDAY Beef Chops Butter Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	THURSDAY Beef Chops Pork & Vegetables Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	FRIDAY Beef Chops Pork & Vegetables Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard

KEY FOR ALLERGENS:

CE: CEREAL, EG: EGGS, DA: DAIRY, GL: GLUTEN, MU: MILK, PE: PEANUTS, SO: SOY, AC: ALCOHOL, CH: CHICKEN, SH: SHEEP, SE: SEEDS, NI: NUTS, SP: SPICES, VE: VEGETABLES, FI: FISH, FR: FRUIT, OR: ORANGE, PR: PRAWNS, CR: CRUSTACEANS, LU: LUPINE, CO: COCONUTS, ST: STARCHES, TO: TROPICAL FRUIT, UN: UNKNOWN

WEEK 2 - w/c 21st January




THE WEST BRIDGFORD SCHOOL MENU 1				
MONDAY Lemon Curry Honey Bread Peanut Butter Custard	TUESDAY Pork & Apple Casseroles Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	WEDNESDAY Beef Chops Butter Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	THURSDAY Beef Chops Pork & Vegetables Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard	FRIDAY Beef Chops Pork & Vegetables Peanut Butter Peanut Butter Vegetables Custard

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WBS WELLBEING GARDEN

It has been well documented that spending time outdoors is beneficial to our mental health and wellbeing and as a school we are committed to helping our students in various ways. The gardening club, along with staff volunteers, are creating a wellbeing area between the dome and the greenhouse. We have already built some raised beds and a seating area, but as the weather improves we would like to develop this further. The club has been nominated as one of the good causes for the green token scheme in Asda on Loughborough Road. If you are shopping, please ask for a token and drop it in the box! Hopefully we will receive some funding for our project that will benefit students and staff and help improve our surroundings.

OfSTED PILOT INSPECTION (FEBRUARY HALF TERM – EASTER)

Mr McDonough

You may be aware that OfSTED, under the leadership of their new HMCi Amanda Spielman, are about to publish a revised OfSTED framework. This new framework offers some significant changes in the way schools are inspected, with much greater emphasis on a school’s curriculum provision; its intent, its implementation and its impact. The purpose of these changes are to challenge those schools who narrow down their curriculum in order to ‘teach to the test’. In primary schools, this might occur in Year 6 if schools disproportionately focus on the key stage two tests. In secondary schools, it might occur in Year 8 if children are forced to take their GCSE options early and have to drop other subjects, such as those in the arts.

As you may expect, this new framework offers nothing for us to be concerned about, because our success is built on other factors to do with the hard work of our students, parents and staff rather than the narrowing of our curriculum.

With these changes on the horizon, I was delighted when OfSTED contacted me asking for our help. They asked if they could inspect the West Bridgford School as a pilot under the new draft framework, as they wish to test the new framework on a range of schools in order to see if any modifications of their draft framework are required, prior to its implementation from September.

We have been asked to help for two reasons. Firstly, their inspectors have had a reduced experience of inspecting ‘outstanding’ schools because outstanding schools are exempt from routine inspection. By way of example, our school has not been inspected since 2011. Secondly, that our examination performance has caught their eye. Our data over a number of years tells us that all children at this school, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, race, social background, ability, etc., exceed their potential based on projected national norms from key stage two results. This progress measurement is something we are very proud of and OfSTED would like to see how we achieve this.

I have, therefore, invited OfSTED in to undertake their pilot inspection because, from the school’s perspective, we have much to gain from the exercise. Presently, 59% of my teachers have joined the school after our last inspection and almost all of these have never been through an inspection. This experience will be professionally useful for us all. Furthermore, the report will not be published and inspection judgements are not binding, so it will provide a valuable external audit for staff, governors and senior leaders, albeit against a draft inspection framework which is liable to change.

I do hope you will understand the reasons why we will use this report for internal quality assurance purposes only. It would not be right to put a report into the public domain which is based on a framework which is out for consultation, which might be flawed and which might change. I have also been involved in pilots before and it is my experience that they can sometimes be an overly rigorous experience until matters settle down and normalise. That said I still feel this will be a beneficial experience for us.

I have agreed with OfSTED that they are welcome to visit us after the February half term, but prior to the Easter break so this does not interfere with the examination run-in for Years 11 and 13 and they have agreed to comply with this timescale.

I have also given clear instructions to my staff that they are not to undertake any additional preparatory work for this inspection. I do not want this to be an additional burden for my staff and I very much want OfSTED just to see our normal, everyday practice because I am confident that it is excellent.



BARCELONA TRIP 2018 - HOLLY MOUNSER & MADDIE CARNILL

To think we went to Barcelona weeks ago is crazy! From the surprise tickets to watch FC Barcelona v Cultural Leonesa, to the hours spent on a coach lost in the city, there wasn't a moment we weren't smiling or laughing. The Barcelona Trip 2018 is a memory we will never forget!

All the talk and conversation about the "do's and don'ts" led to the excitement and trepidation to overwhelm us all; combining this with a lack of sleep (2:30am start on the first day!) just asked for our sanity to be thrown out the window immediately! The coach journey consisted of the teachers and half of the students falling fast asleep, with the others singing and dancing in their seats. However, this came to an end when we finally arrived at Luton Airport.

Once we had landed in Barcelona and collected our belongings, we were on our way to the hostel where we would be staying for the next few days. Throughout the 5-day trip we had two 3-hour Spanish lessons and by the end of the second lesson on Wednesday we had all bonded with our teachers and never wanted to say goodbye. To think that we were all paranoid about being separated into smaller groups, having to be without our teachers and speaking to fluent Spanish teachers, we ended up loving every second of it. The teachers were engaging and affable by playing charades or Who Am I?

[Click here to read full article](#)



WEST BRIDGFORD Y9 GIRLS—TENNIS SCHOOLS COUNTY CHAMPIONS!

A team of Year 9 girls have been crowned County Champions after a hard fought set of matches over the last few months.

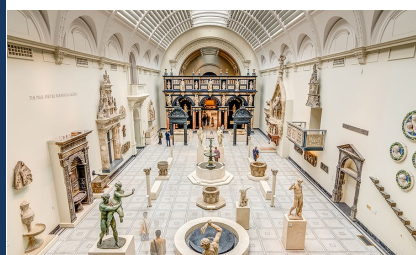
Building on this success, the team of Jess Spencer, Eva Straw, Grace Spencer and Hannah Vernalls travelled to the Midlands Regional Finals in Tipton, West Midlands to compete against three other schools for the chance of a place in the National Finals.

Their first round against Twycross House School ended in a draw with them winning two matches each in the singles and one match each in the doubles. However, the West Bridgford team secured their place in the final round after a convincing 10-2 win in the tie-break. For the final, they were pitched against Ellesmere College, one of the UK's top tennis schools. After battling all afternoon, the teams remained tied following all the scheduled matches which meant that a one-game tie-break was needed to decide the Regional Champions. In an agonisingly close match, they just missed out, losing 10-6, but having built our reputation as one of the strongest teams in the Region. Well done girls! Bring on next season.



TATE AND V & A TRIP REPORT—GRACE RIGBY YEAR 12

The trip to the Victoria and Albert museum and Tate Modern in London gave us the unique opportunity to look at both traditional and modern art & design, letting us see how it has developed and changed over the years.



Our first gallery visit of the day was to the V & A, which architecturally could in itself be a piece of art, with regal marble staircases and incredible stone sculptures around the doorways, not to mention the detailed biblical paintings on the rooves of the hallways. Although the large stone sculptures that were exhibited at the V & A may not have been my preferred style of working I could appreciate the skill that had evidently gone into making them.

The exhibition I most preferred in the V & A was the 'McCartney photography collection', which consisted of lots of photos all of candid moments and scenes. I liked the naturalness of these shots and how each told the story of the everyday lives of everyday people.

Next we visited my personal favourite, the Tate Modern, with its contemporary and more conceptual Art. I particularly liked the work of Dod Proctor's piece 'Morning 1926', a detailed and realistic monumental portrait. Viewing this piece in person allowed me to gain a real appreciation for the huge scale of the painting which is roughly 2m x 1m. Sandra Gamarra was another artist whose work was displayed at the Tate Modern and which I really enjoyed, her series 'Masculine', which consisted of 24 small paintings, each done of men she'd found in the media, were painted in an abstract style as a way of commenting on this engrained idea of what masculinity should be. It was this abstract style which drew me to the paintings and I hope to experiment with this style at a later date in class.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to view a vast range of art and design first hand.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson>

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

