

## School In A Bag



On Wednesday 22nd November a number of students visited the School In A Bag pop up shop in the Quedam Shopping Centre to pack the 45 bags which they had funded. School In A Bag is an initiative run by local charity, the Piers Simon Appeal, who the school has built up a strong relationship with over the years. The initiative was created to help poor, orphaned, vulnerable and disaster affected children throughout the world. Each SchoolBag costs £20 and is filled with stationery equipment and resources that will enable a child to write, draw, colour, calculate, express themselves and above all learn. Each SchoolBag delivered to a child will give hope to his or her future and has the potential to transform their lives. Westfield Academy students raised £880 through a variety of activities. A non school uniform day where students paid £1 each to wear their own clothes raised a large proportion of the funds, along with a cake sale, chocolate tombola and raffle. Students will also be helping by bag packing for the charity at Tesco Extra on Saturday 23rd December.



## Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the following students who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Awards; Sophie Clotworthy, Ella White, Luke Hancock, Abbie Duncan and Alex Bartlett who have been working towards their Bronze Award, and Tia Bastin & Poppy Rolls who completed their Gold Award. Well done all!

# Book Buzz



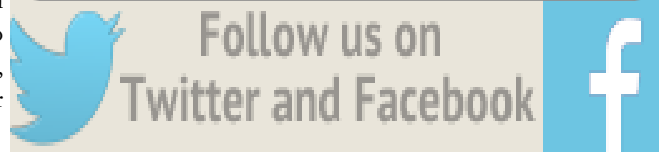
On Monday 11th December, a number of students enjoyed a BookBuzz Brunch in the Library, kindly organised by Mrs Moseley. BookBuzz is a reading programme run by the

BookTrust. It aims to help schools inspire a love of reading in Year 7 & Year 8 students, by giving them the opportunity to choose a book to take home and keep from a list of 17 titles, suitable for 11-13 year olds. When the books arrived, we celebrated with a small brunch allowing students to discuss their books with one another and with staff. We hope all our Y7's & Y8's enjoy their new books.

# Careers News

There are a number of Year 10 students involved in various Talent Academies, which are all about growing our own professionals for the future. All involved have committed to a two year programme which allows them to learn about their chosen industry and the routes in to it. Currently we have opportunities in Aerospace, Nursing & Health, Tomorrow's Teachers and Manufacturing. We also hope to offer opportunities within Early Years work in the not too distant future.

**CHINA TRIP** The planned 2019 trip to China will be going ahead. If anyone would like to join the trip please contact Mr Mounsey for more information at the start of the new school year. We hope more of you will join us!



**PLEASE ENSURE ANY MONEY BEING PAID TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE IS IN A CLEARLY LABELLED, SEALED ENVELOPE.** We need to know the name of the student and what the payment is for eg school trip, books. Thanks.

# Westfield Academy Media Team



At the end of December, the Westfield Academy Media Team had the opportunity to work on an exciting project with the help of Dan Atkins of local company, Louder Than Words Video Production. Over two days the team, made up of 18 Y8, Y9 & Y10 students presented, filmed and edited their very own news bulletin which you can view on our website and Facebook page. We'd like to say well done to our students, not forgetting those behind the scenes, and a huge thank you to Dan for all his help.

## Graeme McKinnon—A Tribute

Students, staff and governors learned of the tragic news in mid November of the passing away of Mr McKinnon. Graeme joined Westfield in 2000 and taught French and Spanish brilliantly. He led the annual school trip to Paris and accompanied students to Barcelona in 2016. He was a great tutor to students currently in Year 11 and took on leadership of the current 10E2 tutor group in September 2017. Approximately 70 students and staff attended his memorial service held in Sherborne Abbey on 5 December at which many people, including Mrs Strange, had the opportunity to pay tribute and remind the congregation of how he brought so much fun and laughter to generations of students and staff. Hundreds of students took the opportunity of writing in The Book of Condolences that will be presented to his family in the New Year. Some typical extracts are included below:

“The most touching moment was only a few weeks ago when he had seen myself and a few other boys at one of our matches in Sherborne and he came over to have a conversation with us. I can’t thank him enough for everything he did.”

“Back in Year 9, you changed my mind set and made me want to do well at school. You had faith in me. Thank you.”

“Your collection of disfigured sweets and candies were just silly. You would keep them at the top of your whiteboard. You had this ridiculous habit of giving them nonsense names. My favourite was “the conjoined beans of hubris”. You were like a silly teacher from a children’s book. You were a great person and a great teacher.”

“You helped shape the person I am today. Your jokes were never the best but you made many people laugh. I am thankful for everything you helped me with. Best tutor by far!!”

## Westfield Pride

Westfield's Pride group has been running since September 2017. This has been highly successful at bringing young people together. The aim of the group is to encourage young people to feel comfortable with their sexuality and gain confidence from others, as well as being able to seek advice and guidance around issues relevant to their situation. The key message at group is that we accept everybody for who they are. The group has been running on a Wednesday lunch time, however this will change after the Christmas holiday. Please keep an eye on Student Briefing and the LGBT boards for further information. We would also like to say a special thanks to Lisa and Michael from 2BU for all their support. 2BU is a Somerset based service who provide advice and support for all young people whatever their situation is. Information can be found for students and parents on: [www.2bu-somerset.co.uk](http://www.2bu-somerset.co.uk).

## Term dates

	Term begins	Term ends	Half Term
Spring Term	Mon 8th Jan 2018	Fri 23rd March 2018	Mon 12th - Fri 16th Feb (INSET 9th Feb)
Summer Term	Mon 9th April 2018	Fri 20th July 2018	Mon 28th May — Fri 1st June 2018

## Sports Round-Up

It's been a fantastic term for sport at Westfield Academy. Here are a few of our highlights...

### CROSS COUNTRY

Students spent the afternoon at Kings School, Bruton in early December where they took part in a Cross Country competition. Finishing in the top 20 qualified them to take part for the Yeovil Area County Schools Championships on 20th January. Well done to all the students who took part in the events and good luck to all taking part in the Championships at the start of 2018.

### FOOTBALL NEWS

Mr Riley took a team of five Year 7 students to the English Schools Football Association South Somerset Playoffs and we are thrilled to announce they won the tournament, meaning they now go on to the South West Playoffs. Huge well done team, you played brilliantly!



Our U13 & U15 girls football teams also came second recently in our area competitions. Well done.

### RUGBY NEWS

The Year 7 rugby team beat both Preston and Bucklers Mead in a triangular tournament. A fantastic team effort but a special mention for Ben Taylor, Ben Evans and Dan Forsyth who played really well. We also had success for the Year 7, 8 & 9 teams who are all through to the Area Cup semi finals. The Year 8, 9 & 11 teams are also preparing for forthcoming County Cup fixtures

### HOCKEY NEWS

Well done to the Y8 hockey girls who started the season with a few difficult defeats but worked really hard all term resulting in a win for their final game. Great effort!

### BOCCIA NEWS

We are thrilled to have two Boccia teams through to the County Finals in Taunton in February. Congratulations on your success so far and good luck for February.

### ATHLETICS

Everyone who competed in the Area Sports Hall Athletics competition in November did a great job. The Y8 girls came a close second, Y7 girls and boys were third and the Y8 boys were fourth. Some fantastic individual performances as well as a great team effort.

### THANK YOU

Finally thank you to all our teams and leaders this year!

## Music News

**CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT**  
Another wonderful concert this term which included fantastic performances from all our musical extra-curricular clubs plus some brilliant solos. Thank you to all who came and supported the event. We hope it left you feeling festive!  
**WELL DONE FROM MISS WOODALL**  
Miss Woodall would like to congratulate and thank all the students who have been involved in the various musical clubs and concerts this year and wishes you (and your families) a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
**MUSIC EXAM SUCCESS**  
Congratulations to Ella White who recently passed her Grade 8 Piano exam with distinction! This is an amazing achievement. Don't forget to let Miss Woodall know your results if you're taking a music exam or have recently taken one. We'd love to hear more success stories from our talented musicians and music department next year.

## Student Achievements

**Harrison Caine** has made the semi finals in the U12 Quickstep, Waltz and 4 Dance Latin. He also had to step in for the U16's team match....who went on to make the finals!  
**James Bamford** successfully auditioned for Youth Musical Theatre UK a little while ago where he was cast as Toby in A Teenage Opera, making him part of the original cast before it hopefully makes its way to the West End. He also gained a Trinity College Distinction Level 8. More recently James also took part in a flash mob with the Royal Academy of Dance in London, and was nominated for a local Gold Star Award.

Parents are reminded that vehicles are not permitted on site to drop off or collect children at the start or end of the school day, or allowed to stop on the zig zag yellow lines outside. This is an important safety measure. Thank you.

## GCSE Celebration Night

We were thrilled to welcome back our leavers recently as part of our Celebration Evening. A special mention must go to Jamie-Leigh Walker who treated us all to her beautiful rendition of 'Yours' accompanied by Miss Woodall on piano. Thank you to everyone who attended and well done to all those who received awards during the night. Remember, we're always keen to hear from past pupils and regularly invite previous students back to school as guest speakers, be that in lessons or as part of events such as the Celebration Evenings. Keep in touch with us via the school Facebook page or you can email us through the contact us form on the Westfield Academy website. We look forward to hearing about what life after Westfield brings for you all.

