

Westgate Overseas

Normandy

A few weeks ago, Year 8 had a trip to Normandy. We had to be at school for 05.30 to get to the ferry in time, so everyone was tired but excited. Next followed a 6 and a half hour ferry ride that had some choppy water—not the best for those suffering from seasickness! We visited the Pegasus Bridge and learned some important French and lessons about D Day. We got to the incredible 'Chateau du Molay' and slept well. The next day we went to the market and got some food to make lunch. We were judged by the head chef at the chateau, who was very pleased with us. We spoke to the French shop owners and it turned out they were all very nice. It helped us improve our spontaneous French speaking. On the final day we went to a Peace Museum and a war cemetery. Many of us didn't want to leave and were in pieces reading the heart wrenching messages on the graves. At the Peace Museum we discovered what happened in the war in other countries. We also went to a memorial near one of the D Day beaches. We got back at 11.00pm and fell asleep as soon as the sugar wore off!



Barcelona

2019 has been such a fantastic year for Netball at Westgate. Not only did they go to the World School Games at Loughborough and win Team of the Year at Presentation Evening, but they also had the opportunity to go on tour to Barcelona.

During their stay, pupils went to Port Aventura which is the biggest theme park in Europe! It was such an exciting day, and some of the rides caused many jaw-dropping moments.

The next day, pupils had a masterclass from some prestigious names in the world of Netball, and developed their skills even further. This put them in a good position ready for their tournament.

All teams played incredibly well, with the U15's winning the tournament, U16's second and U14's coming third.



Ypres

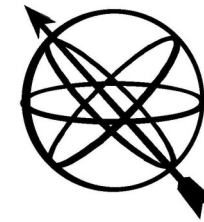
Pupils in Year 9 and 10 went to Belgium as part of the History department study into World War 1. During their time, they went to the Passchendaele Museum where they experience real life trenches and under-group dugouts whilst learning how ever improving technology contributed towards the fighting in World War 1.

Two pupils laid a Westgate wreath of Remembrance at the daily Menin Gate service that commemorates the tens of thousands of soldiers who left Ypres through the gate to the front line, but were never to return.

Not only did the trip provided pupils with the knowledge needed for their History course, but it provided them with such an enriching opportunity.



The Gate



Special Features include:
-Westgate Overseas
-Current House Positions
-Digital Updates
- Year 12 Presentation Report

The gateway to news and events which make our school so great!

November 2019



House Photography Competition Entry—Ella Scott

Current House Positions

1st		2959
2nd		2914
3rd		2892
4th		2881

Congratulations to 7F2 PMI, 8E2 & 8E2, 9F2 MJU, 10A2 SGA, and 11E1 KHU for being the highest scoring tutor groups.

School Ambassador Support

On Friday 4th October a number of Year 10 and 11 pupils attended a Conference which was run by CAMHS (Child Adolescent Mental Health Services) - this was a new initiative to train pupils in local schools to become SAS (School Ambassador Support) This would involve them being part of the wider school support team led by Andy Hider. The day consisted of a number of workshops and discussions around Emotional Health issues and how as pupils, we can support, listen and signpost others to get the right help. As SAS pupils, our aim is to raise awareness of Emotional Health in and around school.

Off the back of the day, we have met as a group and talked about how we can best implement this within school. Anti-bullying week is happened at the start of November and we helped run assemblies during that week (11th – 15th Nov). We are also looking at possibly running a 'drop in' space in the Chat Room (just opposite room T3) during lunchtimes. It is a chance for pupils to pop in and have a chat about anything that is worrying them. Hopefully the team will become well known within school and we will look to recruit more pupils throughout the year.



Welcome to our new School Council!

On Tuesday 5th November, representatives from each focus group and senior prefects met to discuss school issues in the first school council meeting. Eco Group, Charity Group and Wellbeing group were all present along with members of the Lower School's school council to debate on topics such as Meat-Free Mondays, an Eco Group initiated scheme, and the house system, a feature not yet part of Lower School. The meeting has not yet come to a decision about Meat-Free Mondays although it was seen as a positive idea and could be implemented over the week instead of once a day or could be cheaper than the regular food. In addition, Mr Searle joined the conversation to discuss about the house system. Points were raised about house events and whether sporting events should be held during PE lessons instead of tutor time. The conversation also included work about more prizes for winning houses at the end of the year as an incentive to collect merits.



Oktoberfest 2019

On Friday the 18th of October The Westgate school PSA held their second Oktoberfest. Many people wore traditional Bavarian clothing and the evening consisted of traditional German Oompah music and dancing including the traditional German folk dancing: Schuhplatter, which consists of thigh slapping and clapping hands. There were also lots of games and singing with many enthusiastic audience members getting involved. The evening ended with everyone doing a conga around the room, I think it is fair to say it was a fun and eventful evening and everyone is looking forward to the next PSA event, the Christmas Fair!



We'd like to see as many people as possible at the annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 7th December from 11-14:00. Alongside the many different stalls, games, raffle and entertainment, children also have the opportunity to visit Father Christmas. In light of this, please do your very best to sell your raffle tickets as there are some fantastic prizes to be won.

Curriculum Beyond the Classroom

Learning comes in many different forms. At Westgate, pupils are provided with so many enriching opportunities in order to develop a love of learning. Here is what we've been up to in lessons:

Earlier this term, Year 10 History pupils went on a public health walk around Winchester, seeing many hospitals from different periods of time, such as the County Hospital and St Mary Magdalen Leper Hospital (1180). Along the way, pupils learnt a lot about how medicine changed through time, such as the Muckobites vs. Anti-Muckobites argument which led to the Garnier road pumping station being constructed. One of the most interesting parts of the day was learning about how the West Gate had been used to quarantine people during the plague, and that when trading, money was placed in vinegar to help clean it of the disease.

Near the end of September and the beginning of October, the GCSE Drama pupils from Mrs Mahoney and Mr Mills' classes had two days of rehearsals. These were followed by two evenings of amazing, thought-provoking performances, including a range of different themes, from the Hillsborough disaster to bullying. The level of team work and professionalism shown by the pupils was remarkable. Well done to all those pupils who performed!

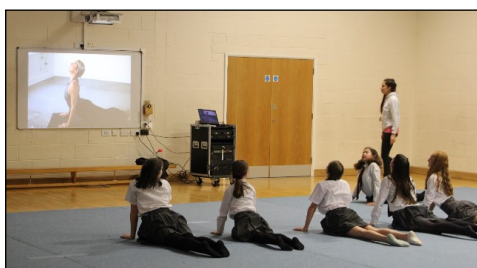
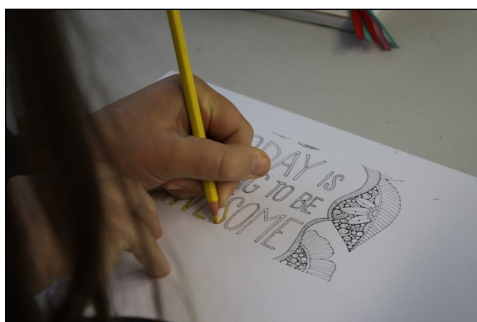
Year 7 pupils have been working hard on a Design and Technology project over the past few weeks. The 'Trash to Treasure' project promotes sustainability through upcycling different items into new reformed objects. We are so impressed with the standard of these projects, and the level of creativity has been incredible. So far, we have had a lamp made from recycled plastic spoons, as well as a desk tidy made from cereal boxes and dog food cans! It really is astonishing how such interesting and useful projects have been created from what would be considered as 'trash'. Well done Year 7!

Wellbeing at Westgate

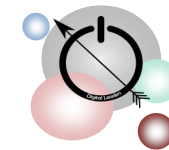
Pupils across the whole school experienced a day devoted to Wellbeing. During the morning tutor session, pupils discovered what wellbeing was, why it's important and also explored different activities to promote and improve their own wellbeing. Within this, some tutor groups listened to uplifting music, others took part in meditation, and some participated in an exercise workout. All pupils had the opportunity to write a positive postcard of thanks or encouragement to a pupil or colleague in the school, which was then delivered in an internal post system by our Wellbeing Group.

In addition to all of these brilliant activities, colleagues gave up their time to run sessions at break and lunch. This included a yoga session, mindfulness colouring, health and fitness, sewing, weaving, sing-a-long and so many more. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time to make these activities such a success.

The Wellbeing Group are looking forward to organising the next day, and ask that if anyone has any ideas or requests, that they come along to room H1 on Wednesday break times to share them.

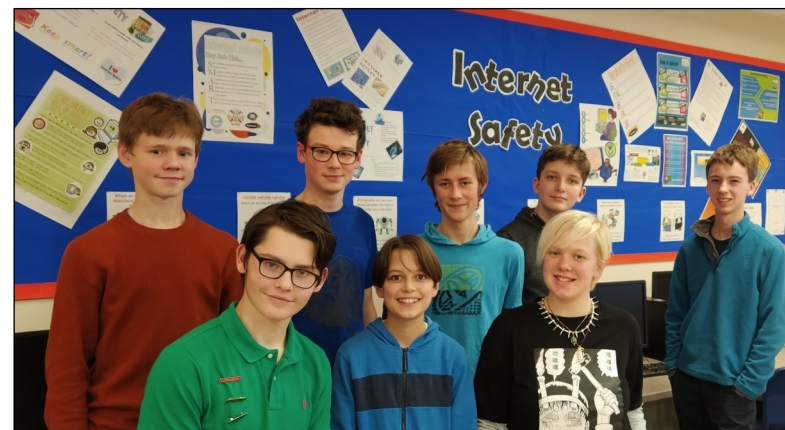


Digital Download!



A progress update from our Digital Leaders

As part of Digital Leaders, one of the projects we did earlier this year was the creation and launch of Coding Club. A team of Digital Leaders created a space where Year 7 and 8 pupils can develop their coding skills and have an environment where they can receive support with their digital abilities. We also bought some robots to show off the possibilities of how software and hardware can be combined. Another thing that we have done is apply for the Promethean grant, an annual competition where schools create a video in which they explain their need for a promethean whiteboard; we entered and won! It is now in use in M10. Finally, last year our team promoted the use of Kahoot. We spent several weeks familiarizing ourselves with it before leading a data-gathering assembly for the current Year 8's and 9's, and then led a training session for teachers in which we taught them how to use Kahoot. We have also trained and supported teachers in the use of their interactive whiteboards and other digital tools.



House Benchball

In October the House Benchball Competition took place. One at a time, all year groups competed against each other in the sports hall. Beforehand, each tutor group had picked 10 pupils to represent their tutor in the tournament. The Sports Hall was filled with excitement as the pupils took their seats in the viewing gallery. The teams rotated around the hall, so that in the end, each team had played everybody else taking part. It was a close competition with all teams trying their hardest. In the end, Air house won overall. Well done to everyone who took part.

Congratulations to the Class of 2019

On Wednesday 20th November, the annual Year 12 presentation evening was held at Winchester Guildhall. Pupils received their GCSE certificates and were inspired by speeches from Mr Damant, our Head Boy & Head Girl, and our guest speaker, Rev Thea Smith—who is part of the Westgate alumni. Extra awards were given by our House Leaders to pupils who have made a significant contribution. Well done to Florence Couper, Will Bunn, Evie Scott, Brian Skeen, Lucie Harrison, Archie Thornton, Luke Watson and Padma Rowland-Stevens who received these awards. After the evening, guest speaker Rev Thea said: "It was an honour to speak to a huge room of passionate, talented, brave future leaders in Winchester Guildhall tonight. Think big, start small. Go first, start now. Tell stories, take others. Keep going". We wish the class of 2019 a successful, happy and healthy future.



Head Boy Benedict Robinson receives the Headteachers Award from Chair of Governors Penny Catchpole.