Dear Parents, Pupils, Staff and Governors

Being Headteacher at Westley Middle School is such an enjoyable job because the pupils always amaze me with their talents in music, drama, sport, art and in the classroom. Many pupils have represented the school this term in area, county, regional and national competitions and events. Not only have they all performed superbly but they have also been excellent ambassadors for the school with their behaviour and attitudes. I have had a record number of phone calls from the general public commenting on the excellent behaviour of Westley pupils.

The summer term is always an exciting term, as year 8 pupils get ready for upper school, year 6 pupils take their SATs and year 5 pupils get ready to be guardian angels and welcome the year 4 pupils. It’s also a very important term for year 7 pupils who are thinking of applying to be head pupils or captains.

Wishing you a lovely Easter break to come back refreshed for a very busy summer term.

Nick Templeton
School News

Westley Music
There has been a huge number of musical events and activities taking place over the last half term. Thank you to all pupils and parents who have supported these events. Congratulations to Sarah Burns 8EG, Hannah Curwen 8EG and Erin Calder 8RG who all competed in West Suffolk Young Musician Competition 2012. Erin was awarded a Star Performer certificate.

Our Year 5 pupils attended an energetic workshop from members of the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment. The pupils sang and used their voices and actions in a wide range of activities. The main songs—My Cry and Twangling Instruments were performed in the Apex on Sunday March 25th, along with other Bury school children.

6JC were visited by West Suffolk College Music students in one of their music lessons. In the hour, the groups of 5 children worked with 2 students each to create and perform a song. The music room was buzzing with activity and the final songs were fantastic – well done 6JC.

On Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd March the school choir performed at the Apex in a Joint Schools Choral Prom. Despite being nervous, they performed brilliantly and behaved impeccably – a real credit to Westley. Many parents and teachers from other schools commented on how well they did. A huge WELL DONE and THANK YOU for the hard work and commitment shown by all choir members. A big THANK YOU to Mrs Robson too.

The African drummers also performed in the foyer on Wednesday night – well done and thank you to you, too.

Mrs Robson’s singing pupils and all of the pupils learning an instrument performed in concerts this week. Pupils either performed on their own or in small groups, showing parents what they have learnt and achieved. This is very good experience for all pupils, showing their hard work and commitment to their music playing. Both nights were an enjoyable experience and the cakes (on sale for the World Expedition Challenge) were delicious!

Mrs F Hart – Head of Music

Book Sale
We raised £22 from the book sale. All books were sold at 20p.

A huge thank you to all your support.

Author Visit
We were extremely fortunate to have an author visit from Nicky Singer for Year 7 on Wednesday 7th March.
Nicky is an award winning author who wrote Feather boy, which was made into a t.v series. She talked about her new book, The Flask.
The children took part in a question and answer session and were able to purchase a signed copy of Nicky’s new book.
It was a very enjoyable and informative experience.

Joanna Stott - Librarian
Westley Middle School makes the news with help from the BBC.

On Thursday 15th March, fourteen pupils from Westley Middle School joined up with around 1000 schools across the UK making the news. The pupils took part in BBC News School Report, a BBC project to engage 11-16-year-olds in the news.

Ex-teacher and BBC News presenter, Huw Edwards, is lending his support to the project. He says: “I’m involved because I want to give young people the chance to make the news themselves, and I want to share the principles of good journalism.”

Over the past few months the students in Year 8 have been working hard, training to be top journalists, carrying out interviews and producing reports.

“The students have worked really hard to create interesting stories about a range of events” Mrs Chohan-Jones.

On Thursday the students broadcasted their news, covering the stories of the day as well as their special report including body image, ambitions- how they’ve changed to name a few.

Amidst the hive of activity at Westley Middle School, Luke from Radio Suffolk came to interview our reporters about their experiences of the day.

‘It’s been great fun-my favourite bit so far has been interviewing and filming inside and outside school” Kiran.

You can find more reports from School Reporters on the Westley Middle School website.

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Diabetes Fund Raiser

On the 19th March, I, Eloise Dodman, head girl, ran a charity event for diabetes. Throughout the day there were stalls ran by the school council members with badges, wristbands and bags for sale. All the money was added up and we raised £528! which I will be sending off shortly. I did this for my grandad because he had diabetes, so I hope that if he was still with us he would have been so proud of us all.

Thank you to everyone for contributing to this day. Eloise Dodman
**Olympic Torch**

Now as we all know, the Olympics is coming up fast and schools are celebrating this in different ways. Westley Academy decided to celebrate in a very different way indeed. Along with its partner Horringer Middle, Westley recreated the Olympic torch run. They did this by lining the roughly 1-mile stretch from Horringer to Westley with the pupils of the two schools. There was a crossover point in the middle where the Westley kids finished and the Horringer kids started. At this point there were a few selected County Upper children. The idea was to pass on an Olympic torch from Horringer to Westley and one from Westley to Horringer, hopefully these two torches would cross in the middle and make a very good photo for the Bury Free Press who were covering the event. Many other items such as Olympic rings and sporting items were also passed both ways along the line. It was a brilliant afternoon for all and really showed the strong bond between the three schools and their Olympic spirit. The event was also covered by BBC Look East on that evenings news. And many curious neighbours and passing motorists joined in the Olympic fun.

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**A Radiant Performance Night**

On the 22nd March 2012, Westley Middle School decided, along with many other middle and upper schools, to perform their musical talents to the public.

The performers warmed up their voices with an animated practice to prepare them for their audience. Whilst the middle schools were performing, County Upper School choir rehearsed in the café giving onlookers a taste of what was to come. The concert then started at 7:00 and the show began with King Edwards VI School Choir singing “God So Loved the World”. This was a calm, peaceful song encouraging the audience to sit back, relax and enjoy the harmony. This song was defiantly sung from within the heart.

After King Edwards VI School Choir, Horringer Court, St Louis junior and senior were Westley Middle school. They took to the stage and performed two first-rate performances with fantastic lyrics all in perfect timing. The first song ‘Jubilate’ was quite sharp and the pitch was growing giving an intense affect within the Apex. Their second song ‘The Lord is my Shepherd’ was a harmonised song with lots of practice, they performed a splendid routine and marvellous voices were defiantly heard with a strong solo performance from Daniel in year 7. The set was completed with ‘Brand New You’ including a memorable solo performance given by Grace in year 8 who was breath-taking. All the schools that took part were amazing. They showcased their skills and obvious commitment to producing high quality performances.

Finally the schools who had sat watching the other performers hurried down to sing in the grand finale! Every middle school sung the beautiful song ‘Believe’ which was followed by an incredible performance from the upper schools of ‘Perfect Day’. Then all together, both middle and upper schools sang a final song of ‘Ain’t no Mountain High Enough.’ To this the audience (who had been prepped earlier by the conductor) joined in and there was a fabulous end to two nights of fantastic music.

One of the students involved said ‘It was a great opportunity to see what other schools do and perform in front of an audience!’ Mrs Robson, Westley middle school teacher said ‘The choral prom was a phenomenal and exciting project for all the students and the audience too’

It was obvious that the second ever ‘schools choral prom’ was a great success and we expect that there are to be many yet to come. Everyone who took part should be very proud of themselves and pleased that the hard work paid
Sporting Achievements

Winter Sporting Successes 2011/2012

Sportshall Athletics

Yr 5&6 Boys—Suffolk Champions
Yr 5&6 Girls—Suffolk Champions
Yr 8 Girls—Suffolk Champions

Cross Country

Suffolk round of National U13 Girls—1st, Boys—2nd
West Suffolk Invitation Event at Culford—Overall Winners

Mikayela Sealby, Chris Cogan and Beth Bradshaw selected to represent Suffolk.

Football

U11 Girls—West Suffolk Champions—Suffolk 5th Place
U11 Boys—Suffolk Champions
U10 Boys B team—3rd in West Suffolk
U11 Boys B team—West Suffolk runners-up
U12 Boys 11 a side—West Suffolk Champions
U13 Girls 11 a side—Suffolk Semi-finalists

Rugby

U13 Boys—West Suffolk Plate joint winners, equal 4th at Suffolk finals
U13 Girls—3rd at West Suffolk Finals, 3rd at Suffolk finals—qualified for regional finals
U12 Boys—entered West Suffolk tournament
U11 Mixed tag Rugby—2nd in Bury event

Netball

U13 Girls—reached U13 1/4 finals
U12, U11 and U10—tournaments after Easter

More friendly matches played than in previous years.
Football

U10 B, U11 A and U11 B 7-a-side teams reached the West Suffolk Finals played on Thursday 29th March.
Results: U10 B
U11 A
U12 B
Our U11 boys 7-a-side team won the Suffolk Championship before Easter and last Saturday went to the regional final in London. Unfortunately they lost 4 games and drew one albeit losing each game by one goal. The U12 (Yr 6&7) boys 11-a-side team reached the West Suffolk Final after beating Great Cornard in a penalty shoot out, with everyone in the team taking a penalty!

In the final they played Ixworth at Ixworth. Bearing in mind we lost to Hardwick 8-1 in the first game of the competition and then Ixworth beat Hardwick 7-1 in the quarter final we feared the worst! However, on the night, the boys were absolutely brilliant giving 100% for the whole game and eventually winning 3-1 to become West Suffolk U12 Champions! Everyone played superbly, but Lewis Tebbit and George Sanders had outstanding games.

Rugby

U12 (Yr 6&7) lost in the semi-final of the West Suffolk shield against Needham Market.
U13 (Yr7&8) boys were joint champions of the West Suffolk shield and then finished equal third at the County finals.

The U13 (Yr7&8) girls tag rugby team finished 3rd in the West Suffolk tournament and then finished 3rd in Suffolk. They qualified for the regional finals but unfortunately, we couldn’t take them to this event due to staff shortages. U11 tag rugby team came 2nd to St James at the 6 team Bury tournament.

An extract from a letter received from the Bury Under 10 Rugby organisers:

“Yesterday, Sunday March 4th, Bury St Edmunds Under 10 rugby players travelled to Leicester Tigers rugby ground to play in the final of their Prima cup.
They won the game 1-0.
We are very proud of all the boys and wanted to share this with you all.

I don’t know if you do celebration assemblies but we would love it if you could share your pupil/s success with their peers. We are always ready to welcome other children into the team.”

Many thanks

Sarah Peacock, Bury St Edmunds Under 10s team manager.

From Westley Middle- Harvey Williams and Gregor Stewart

Girls Cricket

The U13 (Yr7&8) girls indoor cricket team won a very close Bury competition and qualified for the Suffolk finals. At the finals in Ipswich, they performed really well and finished as Suffolk U13 runners-up.

Fixtures at the start of Summer Term

U11 (Yr 5&6) Contact rugby festival at Westley – Tues April 17th 4.00-5.30pm
Yr 6,7,8 Girls Sportshall Athletics at Hemel Hempstead – Thurs April 19th
**Basketball**

U13 boys – West Suffolk Champions 3rd in Suffolk Final  
U12 girls – West Suffolk and Suffolk Champions

Both the U12 girls and U13 boys won their respective West Suffolk tournament before half term and therefore qualified for the county finals.

In the U13 boys we faced Copleston who really gave us a big beating 64-20. This Copleston team was probably one of the strongest boys teams I have seen but nevertheless, I felt our boys should have done better.

In the 3rd/4th play off, they narrowly beat Farlingaye 24-23 to clinch 3rd place in Suffolk 2012.

The U12 (Yr6&7) girls went one better by beating Farlingaye easily in the semi-final and once again faced Horringer in the Final. Again, a very good performance against an improved Horringer team saw us win 29-6 – most of the points were scored by Jasmin Tebbit – Well done Jasmin!

This result made us Suffolk U12 girls champions for the 3rd time in 4 years. 5 girls impressed the Suffolk coaches and have been invited for Suffolk trials: Jasmin, Maya Price, Suzie Brawn, Shanelle Owen and Amy Ward.

**Hockey**

The year 7&8 boys came 2nd to St Louis in the Bury Tournament.

Miss Booth took 30 Yr7&8 pupils to a really good coaching session and tournament which was run by 2 Olympic hockey players at Nowton Park.

**Yr 5&6 Swimming**

Last Thursday, Miss Booth took a Yr 5&6 team to the Bury Schools swimming gala. The team did really well winning the event and they now progress to the Suffolk Finals. This will be a massive event to celebrate Suffolk Sport and the Olympics on July 6th and there will be teams competing from Yr 5 to Yr13 in different sports.

The event is held in Bury and the only other chance Westley pupils will have of getting to this event is to win the Bury Yr5&6 quadkids (athletics) or the Bury Yr 7&8 Super 8 (athletics). Well done swimmers!

**Sporting Achievements**

Finally, I would like to say a massive thanks to our Groundsman, Mr Oliver Cornish. We have hosted:

- 10 West Suffolk soccer tournaments plus the West Suffolk Finals night involving 32 teams!
- The Suffolk U11 girls and boys final - 18 teams
- The West Suffolk U12 & U13 boys rugby festival
- Bury U11 tag rugby festival

And in the summer, we will host 3-4 netball tournaments. These tournaments give Westley fantastic coverage when other schools visit and the fields especially are always in brilliant condition.

Again, many, many thanks.  

Wyn Jones Head of PE
CONGRATULATIONS to the following pupils:

**Student of the Month - February**

**Year 5**
- Harvey Williams
- Daniel Williams
- Owen Jones
- Emily French

**Year 6**
- Charlotte Treagus
- Matt Spurling
- Oliver McAndrew
- Lauren Murtagh

**Year 7**
- Michael Williams
- Jamie Shapland
- Rhianna Burns
- Jasmine Radford

**Year 8**
- Millie Pearce
- Tony Lawrence
- Brandon Hurrell
- Ed Ramsey

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**Schools’ Art Exhibition**

If you find yourself in the town centre over the next few weeks with a little time to spare, do try and visit the Art Exhibition on show upstairs at the Apex.

There is a fantastic variety of work on display from the local middle and upper schools which includes 31 pieces of work from Westley!

At the end of January some of our most artistic pupils worked with local artist Kim Whittingham for a day on an architectural project. The final results from that day are our contribution to the exhibition.

These watercolour paintings look magnificent and we are very proud of the high quality paintings our pupils produced.

C. Robertson

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**Activities Week - 28 May to 1 June 2012**

The due date for the final balance to be paid for your child to take part in the above week has now passed. Please ensure that if you have not paid the balance, that this is sent to school after the Easter holidays.

Any pupils that we have not received a payment for, will be staying in school unless we have been advised otherwise.

Final information for parents will be issued at the beginning of the school term.

Activities Week does not apply to your child if they are attending one of the residential trips, (Hilltop YR6 and France YR8). Thank you.

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**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**Term Dates 2012-2013**

- **Wednesday 5th Sep – Back to School**
- **W/C Monday 29th Oct – ½ Term**
- **Friday 21st December – Last day of term**
- **Tuesday 8th January – Back to school**
- **W/C Monday 18th Feb – ½ Term**
- **Thursday 28th March – Last day of term**
- **Tuesday 16th April – Back to school**
- **W/C Monday 27th May – ½ Term**
- **Tuesday 23rd July – Last day of term**
- **PD Days**
  - Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th Sept 2012
  - Friday 26th October 2012
  - Monday 7th January 2013
  - Monday 15th April 2013
Forthcoming Events & Reminders

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

It is now quicker and easier to apply for Free School Meals. For the majority of claimants you will no longer need to send proof of your benefits with the application form. Suffolk County Council will check your eligibility against the Government’s benefits database and as long as you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, the provision of Free School Meals will commence. An application form is available from the school office or can be downloaded at www.suffolk.gov.uk

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Parents/Carers should be reminded that the website to access the online payment facility of meals is www.eats-catering.co.uk. Click onto the ‘Menu – Middle Schools’ link, followed by ‘Prepay for Primary & Middle School Meals’. Select the school entering the school name ‘Westley Middle School’. Enter your child’s name and number of meals required. Confirm your requirements. Enter your payment details (this is a secure site). Confirm payment.

DINNER DEBTS

If a pupil forgets or loses his/her dinner money, they should see the office staff at lunch-time to borrow sufficient cash for the purchase of a meal. Please be aware we only hold a small float for lending cash to pupils for a school meal and as such the money must be repaid to the office staff the following day.

Guidance for Diarrhea and vomiting illnesses in school

We are from time to time asked by parents what to do when pupils are off with sickness bugs. Therefore we have taken guidance from the Health Protection Agency and we recommend pupils are kept away from school for 24 hours from the last episode of diarrhea or vomiting.

Term dates

- Friday 30th Mar – Last day of term
- Tuesday 17th Apr – Start of Summer Term
- W/C Monday 4th June – ½ Term
- Monday 11th June – Back to school
- Friday 20th Jul – Last day of term

PD Days

- Monday 16th Apr - No pupils in school.

Parentmail, Plus Pay & Text service

If you have regular access to a computer, and would like to receive letters via email, please contact the school office to request a registration form. For every letter sent relevant to your child, you will receive a text message to advise you to check your email inbox.

In addition to this, we now offer the facility to grant permission and pay for school trips online through the secure Parentmail website. This involves a simple, one-off registration procedure which in turn will grant you access to every payment item that is relevant to your child, 24/7 access with due dates, an electronic receipt and payment history reports.

For further information or assistance in activating your on-line account, please contact Mel Hadfield in the Finance Office who will be happy to help on 01284 755144, option 2.