



Happiness, Confidence, Success

Westbrook Hay Prep School

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Westbrook Hay is a thriving independent school which educates boys and girls from rising 3-13 years. The school's beautiful rural location boasts 26 acres of parkland overlooking the Bourne valley. Located just off the A 41, between Berkhamsted and Hemel Hempstead, there is easy access to all major routes. This unique setting offers a secure environment within which children explore and enjoy all that childhood has to offer.

Through visionary teaching in small classes and with a wonderful mixture of purpose built facilities and historic surroundings, our children achieve excellent results, enjoy a broad curriculum, and have the all-important confidence to succeed.

Tour Prospectus Parents

Search GO

Mile to Challenge
19-21 Mar
Several families from Year 1 are taking part in the Sports Relief Mile and are keen for you to join them Under 16 Rugby Festival Superb performance by our U9s at the Festival
Easter egg hunt
Saturday 20th March - Tickets available at the office

Thursday February 11th this year saw the launch of the brand new school website and intranet. Professionally designed, and packed with new features, the site has already drawn many admiring comments. As it is based on a content management system, it can be updated instantly by staff, allowing us, particularly on the intranet, to keep parents and pupils informed about future and past events in school. The intranet is now visible from home and so also provides a vehicle for French and English spellings, match day information, news and much more.

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED...

AND NEW IT SUITE OPENED

2S smiling at the prospect of using all the fabulous hardware, software and peripherals in the new, air-conditioned IT suite.

Full report and pictures on pages 2 and 3



Line-out specialist Ciaran Simpson

EXCELLENT SEASON FOR THE FIRST TEAM

This has been one of the most successful 1st XV seasons in recent years. A mainly inexperienced team at the start of the season worked hard to come together as a complete 15-a-side team.

And.....it was this teamwork that continually shone through in all matches and training. To emphasise this point, tries in matches were scored by no less than thirteen of the team. More on page 7

NEW IT SUITE OPENING MARKED WITH TWO DAYS OF ACTIVITIES

On the 11th of February 2010 Westbrook Hay's brand new IT suite was opened by a member of the royal family! We set up a video conference with Hampton Court Palace where 'King Henry the VIII' appeared to the school gathered in the assembly hall. He declared the suite open in a very regal voice and then answered questions from some of our children. Jeremy Fisher's question "Apart from beheading people, your majesty, what is your favourite pastime?" drew a frosty response!

Middle School classes became big game hunters, but only as observers of a live webcam feed from a game reserve in South Africa. Points were given for every animal the class saw, and as the summer time in South Africa approached evening, lots of game came down to the water holes to drink so that impala, buffalo, elephant, warthog and many more were ticked off.



Radio WBH broadcast live on the internet from the French room, and groups of children recorded and edited reports, commentaries and news items for the station. One of the highlights of the two days was the live interview with Richard Birkett, Wasps and England Saxon rugby player who brought in his favourite music and was asked about it by Year 7 boys.



One of our visitors during the ICT days brought in some Lego Dacta control sets that could be 'programmed' from a computer. The children thoroughly enjoyed Lego buggies that had to be programmed to travel over a set course, and seeing which group's buggy was the best.

ICT@westbrookhay



In a 'virtual' Westbrook Hay School interior, players had to open the doors of classrooms in search of a missing blazer. Doors would only open if the teacher's questions were answered correctly. But aliens had swapped classes around and the right item to open the right door had to be worked out.

Mrs Harris our Head of Science, set up a range of fascinating investigations in the new ICT suite that used USB thermometers to log data about melting points and insulation to the computers and microphones to measure sound levels in different situations.



Using a green background, a video camera and some clever software children could be weather presenters, appearing to stand in front of a weather map and give a forecast, which they had prepared for an 'autocue'. The tricky thing was that the picture was swapped left to right!



The children in the Lower School didn't miss out on the excitement; there were many activities especially for them including a very big 'Touch Screen' which they could operate by using computer programmes and websites where you interact by touching the screen. They were also thrilled to see lots of tiny things magnified enormously by an electronic microscope which showed a view of the object on the big screen.



Using our new electronic tills the Lower School children set up their very own shop and goods could be bought with cash or credit card just like Mum and Dad do.



We connected a class set of voting handsets to a classroom whiteboard and then each person could give their answer to some quiz questions about Westbrook Hay. Everyone enjoyed seeing the responses appear on the screen.

'Talking Points' are small portable voice recorders that will play a recorded message to anyone who presses them. Staff had set up a course for the children so that they had to listen to the next instruction on a 'Talking Point' to know where to go and what they were looking for.



TWO DAYS OF SPECIAL ICT ACTIVITIES AT WESTBROOK HAY



Our programmable 'BeeBots' were very popular as the children got to grips with 'forward', 'right' and 'left' to send the robot on a given route.

Altogether there were 27 different IT related activities for the children to enjoy including a Music Workshop using portable microphones to sample sounds and then when these were uploaded onto the computer edited into a 'composition'. Four Dance mats, connected to laptops, made for a lot of fun as children tried to step to the music as directed by the computer. Scanners were used to create unusual artwork with different arrangements of objects scanned into a photographic file. As well as sessions using stop frame animation, there was good use made of communication over our school network with sessions where children had to email questions to an expert to try and identify an endangered animal and also classes composing poetry with a mysterious 'guest' adding lines on the whiteboard remotely with 'NetMeeting'.

Among our visitors were Professor McOwan from Queen Mary's University who transfixed the children with card tricks that illustrated computing ideas and Dr Steven Hunt from Hertfordshire University whose session 'Computer Science Unplugged' involved interactive games to help us understand the basics of Computer Science. Many thanks to all the parents, staff and visitors who helped to make the days a success for all the children.



TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

The annual technology tournament run by the Dacorum Rotary Club took place at Ashlyns School and saw 35 teams from various schools competing to design a device to make a light flash for as long as possible. Westbrook Hay was represented by three teams from our Year 8, who all showed good team work and problem solving skills to produce the device using a standard set of materials.



Billie Boot, Tom Wright, William Upson, Angela Enweremadu and Hannah Gunn

POETRY IN NATURE

Year 4 braved the cold weather and went on a trip to the Boxmoor Trust. We spent the morning reading poetry, acting out our own poems and taking each other through the woodland blindfolded! We then went back to the warmth of the barn and performed our own mini beast poems in various different ways. The beat boxing rap seemed to be top of the list!

DANCE WORKSHOP

This year we have been lucky to welcome Stuart Bishop, a well known dancer and choreographer from the Pineapple Dance Centre, to host a dance workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed the different styles of dancing and worked very hard to try out the new moves. Stuart teaches Fusion Jazz which is a combination of different dance styles like 'popping', 'locking', 'robotics' and jazz dance.



NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Yusuf Hasnain (above) is fascinated by an exhibit during the Year 6 trip to The Natural History Museum in London

Year 3 were very excited when they had a visit from a local lady Rabbi. She showed them how to write the Hebrew alphabet and talked about what her job entailed. She brought lots of precious artefacts for us to look at and explained about Kosher food. All the children had a lovely time and decided to make their own scrolls with attempts at Hebrew writing on them.

VISITING RABBI



GIRLS AT INTERNATIONAL NETBALL



This was a fantastic opportunity for all the Year 5 and 6 girls to go to the O2 Arena in London on Tuesday 23rd February to watch the England International netball squad take on Australia in the last game of the series. Australia won the first test in Liverpool 41-40; the second test in Nottingham went Australia's way, so everything rested on this 3rd test in London. Unfortunately from having been in the winning position for most of the game, Australia fought back with a final score of 45-43 to take the series 2-1. We were privileged to have been given tickets and to view this fantastic match from a 'box' at the O2 and are extremely grateful to Claire and John Symns for their generosity.

Thursday 11th March saw a first for a Westbrook Hay 'Away' team... but this team was like no other! Hugh Kelly, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, Marcus Daghljan and Oliver Floyd formed the 'Westbrook Wonderers' a four-strong spelling team entered into the Microsoft sponsored 'Times Spelling Bee 2010', a national spelling competition open to all schools for Year 7 pupils. As it was the first time we have entered anything like this, and with little prior knowledge, the boys did extremely well under the pressure of the lights and cameras in the 'studio' set up at Cine-world, Stevenage. They competed against nineteen other schools that day, with only two schools going through to the next round. Unfortunately they did not take either of the two top slots with these going to two schools experienced in the way the competition worked, however the boys did extremely well, answered well, AND certainly enjoyed the popcorn! Mrs Leach hopes to continue the spelling momentum with the continuation of the new spelling scheme for Upper School and the introduction of a House Spelling Bee next term.



MUMMIES AND PHAROAHS

Year 4 took part in an Egyptian Workshop. This involved dressing up like the Ancient Egyptians, investigating what they used to do for entertainment and examining objects used for mummification. Most importantly the children got to handle some real Egyptian artefacts that were 3000 years old!



RECEPTION LEARN ABOUT PLANTS

Reception "sprang into life" this term during their topic on what plants need to grow. Ibrihim Busari is carefully pouring the water into a beaker while Callum Ogelman and Finnlee Ferguson supervise. The water was coloured and after several hours the children were amazed to see the signs that water had travelled up the stem into the flower.

WAR HORSE



George Lee, George Lewarne and Marcus Alter waiting for 'curtain up'

Following their study of Michael Morpurgo's 'War Horse' and a subsequent unit on War Poetry, 7A English had their hard work rewarded with a trip to see the stage production of 'War Horse' at The New London Theatre, Drury Lane in January. Based on Morpurgo's excellent book, the First World War is the backdrop for this tale of bravery, loyalty, and the extraordinary bond between a young recruit and his horse. Actors, working with astonishing life-sized puppets by the internationally renowned Handspring Puppet Company, thrilled us as we ventured on an unforgettable journey through history. This is a 'must see' show and one the boys thought was excellent. Mrs Leach is really pleased at how well parents and children are receiving the idea of Upper School theatre trips, she said, "War Horse is so good we are offering the rest of Year 7 and Year 8 the chance to go now too. In addition to this, next term we have Year 8 going to Stratford to see Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' and Year 5 going to Wycombe to see Tolkien's 'The Hobbit'. I'm sure the children will gain much from these trips."

All the girls' hockey teams have improved throughout the season. Although there have only been a few wins out of all the age groups, some score lines have been quite close. The U8 teams had a close match against Chesham with goals being scored by Alice Ripper and Angela Enweremadu. Alice has also been playing up in the U9 team and along with Caroline Kelly, Sorchia Bates and Alex Caine they have made their presence felt in the matches. This season the U10s have combined forces with the U11 squad to make an 'A' and 'B' team. Strong performances have come from Hannah Alexander, Teia Griffiths, Paige Symns and Alexandra Bugar.



Natasha Tenty and Miranda Tubb

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Lara Mills, Lysbeth Davis and Alice Ripper show their skill with the stick



UNDER 8 RUGBY

The under 8s rugby season started with a battle against the weather but we persisted against the snow to get as much playing time as possible. When the opportunity came to get the season into full flow the under 8s responded brilliantly and it was clear during our training seasons that we had some very good leaders (Charlie Walter and Joshua Tambwe) in the group as well as strong runners with the ball (Daniel Morrissey, Stephen Smith and Toby Ogelman). Most impressive though was the boys handling skills, especially as some had never played rugby before.

On 24th February we travelled over to Heath Mount School to play hockey. Initially the U9 girls struggled to maintain their positions to use the whole of the pitch, after half time they came out to play a more controlled game and just before the end of the match Alexandra Caine managed to score, so we finished on a 1-1 draw. There was also superb defensive play from Caroline Kelly who definitely stopped Heath Mount from scoring more goals. Player of the Match was awarded to Alexandra Caine. The team was: Alexandra Caine, Caroline Kelly, Sorchia Bates (Captain for the match), Alice Ripper, Hannah Gunn, Charlie Bugar and Ellie Hunt. The U11/U10 girl's match found them struggling in the first half with the speed of the ball and not holding their position but in the second half there were greater attacking moves and Bolade Ladipo out on the wing, never gave up in chasing down balls, tackling players and getting her stick onto the ball to create opportunities for the other girls. Our fortune held out as just before the final whistle, Teia Griffiths managed to control the ball, running it into the shooting area and beating the goalie to score the winning goal 1-0 to Westbrook Hay. Player of the Match went to Bolade Ladipo. The team was: Teia Griffiths, Paige Symns, Natasha Tenty (Captain for the match), Bolade Ladipo, Miranda Tubb, Ffyna Spreyer, Annabel O'Sullivan and Isabel O'Sullivan.

The Under 9s have enjoyed another excellent term. As a collective they have probably been the best U9 group I have worked with on the rugby field – a big compliment with some of the teams we have had in the past! Their ability to take on advice and suggestions to improve their games has been first-rate. The term started very brightly with both the A and B teams enjoying good wins against Edge Grove and it really kicked off from there. While the weather halted developments midway in the term, we were quickly back into our stride when the snow melted as the big wins against Heath Mount showed! Late in the term, the A squad participated in the annual festival at Edge Grove. The boys started the afternoon by winning the 9-a-side relay by a canter and then proceeded to beat Arnold House 25-0. We went on to beat Heath Mount, Edge Grove, St Martins and Beechwood Park without conceding a try and throughout the afternoon won all of the tug-of-war contests! We finished 2nd overall – a great performance! Billie Busari, who scored 6, was named one of the players of the tournament for his dynamic running and try scoring. While we have run in a lot of tries, our defence has been a key part of our game. The tackling has been fierce and the team's rucking has developed no end. Their willingness to go in to contact has been great to see. Jamie Irwin, Ed Bryant, Alex Wilkinson, Harvey Graham and Tom Holes have been key players in this area.



UNDER 9 RUGBY

Taken during the rugby festival at Edge Grove School

Back: Thomas Holes, Tom Wright, Alex Wilkinson, Jamie Irwin, Dominic Young, Billie Busari, Billy Boot

Front: Joshua Kerr, Joshua Young, Alistair Bond and Harvey Graham



1st XV RUGBY

Played 6 Won 4 Drawn 1 Lost 1

Points for: 187 Points against: 56

v. Edge Grove won 10 – 21

v. Beechwood Park drawn 24 - 24

v. Heath Mount won 52 – 0

v. Lockers Park lost 22 – 19

v. Heath Mount won 38 – 0



All players showed a lot of character as seen in the draw with Beechwood Park when we had to come back from a 14 point deficit with 10 minutes to play! The team was ably led by Chris Bauldreay who scored a magnificent 40 points with the boot. The leading try scorer was Alistair Walters (scrum leader) with a total of 10 tries; Alistair also scored in every match! Well done to one and all!

The following represented the 1st XV:

Chris Bauldreay, Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson, Jasper Exley, Rhys Gordon, Muzammil Hussain, Arman Jena, Fred Kelly, Kevin Kirwan, Lanre Ladipo, Charles Martindale, Reece Pitaman-Willcock, Ciaran Simpson, William Tse, Lee Tyrell, Alistair Walters and Scott Wilson. (Ciaran Simpson was receiving treatment for an injury when the photograph was taken)



2nd XV RUGBY

The 2nds had a successful season winning three of their five matches. Led for much of the season by Kevin Kirwan the team improved throughout the season. Charlie Dennes was our most dangerous runner but tries were shared around the team. Storm Fachaux-Davies and George Lewarne were our most improved players and it was pleasing to see them represent the 1st XV by the end of the season.

With the recent dry weather the course at Kingshott was firm and fast and the competition was very strong. All three of our teams performed better than expected. The best team performance came from the U 13s who came 4th overall but the result was very close and it could quite easily have been 2nd place. In practice the girls had not looked too good at all but on the day they all ran exceptionally well finishing 3rd overall. Luke Armstrong in the U11 boys recorded our best individual finish, recording 4th place, just failing to win a medal. Luke Woodmansee was 7th in the U11 boys race. Other top 10 finishers in their races were Hannah Alexander coming 9th in the U11 girls race and Jasper Exley and Frazer Ellis-Jenkinson 7th and 8th respectively in the U13 boys race.

CROSS COUNTRY



Kevin Kirwan, Alistair Walters and Fred Kelly, Isobel Kirwan, Alexandra Atkinson and Hannah Alexander

COLTS RUGBY

2010 has been a difficult season for the entire Colts age group. In matches against other schools in the main we have struggled. Normally there are just a couple of Year 5 boys in the Colts A but this year more than half the team are from the lower age group so it has been an "uneven struggle". Results have improved as the season has progressed and there is no doubt that as a team, the As have improved. Their best day was the 7s at Heath Mount where 3 out of 4 matches were won. It was a fairly similar story for the B team with crucial positions being occupied by "little men". The C team won just the one match but here too progress is noted as one or two of their number were elevated to the B team and kept their place in the team!

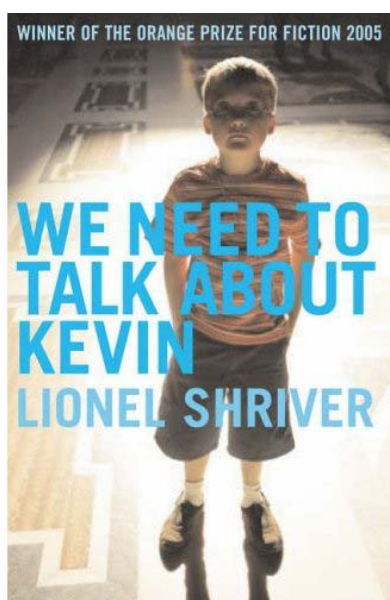




We had tremendous support for the "Right to Play" second hand sale on Friday 12th March, making a record £480. With 40 pupils participating in the charity committee, there was plenty of help on hand for moving, displaying and selling the wonderful array of second hand items which the children had brought in. In addition to the books, teddies, toys and DVDs, we sold "Right to Play" wristbands and enjoyed Chef's delicious flapjacks with some reviving tea and coffee on hand for parents. Thank you so much to the many staff and parents who gave so generously of their time to make the sale such a success.

"RIGHT TO PLAY" SECOND HAND SALE

WESTBROOK HAY BOOK CLUB



The Book Club continues to grow and with up to eight Mums at some of the sessions there is plenty of discussion! One of the books on the current list is "We need to talk about Kevin" by Lionel Shriver and some of us are off to listen to the author speak during the Easter holidays, so that should add an extra dimension to our discussion at the next meeting. New members are always welcome, the next meeting is on Wednesday 5th May in the library at 9.30.



Angus Coles with his gold chocolate bunny

FAMILY EASTER EGG HUNT

One hundred and sixty five children descended on the dining room (don't tell chef!) and the 'hanging gardens' of Westbrook Hay in search of the Easter bunny. Despite the sodden turf, children, friends, parents and grandparents were thrilled to find their golden Lindt bunny and a cup of tea at the end of the day. Well done and thank you to Mrs Ripper and the WHA for their time and organisation of another wonderful event at the School.

BOOK FAIR

Another successful book fair – this time from Travelling Books – generated £700 of commission which will be used towards the library and classroom collections. Being able to use the World Book Day tokens at the fair was an added bonus this time round. The library now has brand new software thanks to the generosity of the WHA, and the 4,000 plus books currently held in the library are gradually being transferred over to the new system, with a general weed and stock check taking place at the same time!

Contributions to the newsletter should be sent to:

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