



## Former Pupils' Day Sunday 22nd May 12.00-14.30

Dear Former Pupils and Parents,

We hope this message arrives with you all in good health. Sadly, we have had to cancel the Former Pupils' Day for the last two years... third time lucky!

With this in mind, we are writing to invite you to our **Former Pupils' and Parents' Day** which will take place on Sunday 22nd May starting at 12:00 and finishing by 14:30. There will be some snacks and soft drinks available in the sunken gardens where we will be gathering. Last year over 400 people confirmed they were coming which was amazing and we know that the opportunity to say goodbye to Stewart Woodward was a significant factor in this high turnout. We are delighted that Stewart and Nicky have agreed to attend this event. Please let us know if you can come by completing the form at <https://www.westbrookhay.co.uk/reunions>.

COVID has been the dominant feature of the last year and it is a relief that, in the last few weeks, we have had no restrictions in the school. This term, we have had over 30% of the pupils confirmed with COVID, and, on a few occasions, had to reintroduce bubbles. For some younger ones, it's difficult for them to remember an environment without restrictions. The implications that this will have in the long-term are far from certain but, throughout the last 2 years, the welfare of our pupils has been of paramount importance and they have shown tremendous resilience throughout this time. Academically, our results show the pupils have not fallen behind and our success in entrance exams reflects this. We are very proud of the 11 scholarships awarded in 2021 and so far, our Year 8 children have achieved 7 scholarships this year.

Despite all the challenges the school has had a fantastic year. Amongst the turmoil of COVID, at a point when we had 40% of the staff absent from school, the inspectors decided to knock on our door! We need not have worried as we gained a glowing report which stated that we were excellent in all aspects. You can find the report [here](#). We have had similarly glowing reports from other school reviews - in the [Good Schools Guide](#) and [The Muddy Stiletto report](#). These can be found on our website [www.westbrookhay.co.uk/schoolreviews](http://www.westbrookhay.co.uk/schoolreviews).

Compared to a year ago, when we were working remotely, it is great to see school matches being played and school events such as the Christmas Fair, school plays, Evensong, and parent events back on the school calendar. We have reintroduced school trips and this year over 80 children are going on the ski trip, the highest number we have ever had. Year 7 have been to Wales and Year 8 have two residential trips organised before the end of this year.

There have been plenty of developments at school. Four classrooms were refurbished this summer and Years 7 and 8 have been the lucky beneficiaries as both year groups now have common rooms! We have introduced a number of exciting changes into Years 7 and 8 including a children's MBA course and we are joining the [Pre Senior Baccalaureate](https://www.psbacc.org/about) (<https://www.psbacc.org/about>) which will develop our curriculum in a stimulating and challenging way. Mr Ndau is running a trip to Iceland for Years 7 and 8 next year. It comes as no surprise that, with all these initiatives, we have a record number of children in Year 7 next year including 6 girls.

The Trafford Allen library has been relocated and the room is now the Woodward Lounge. It is a stunning room which is used for staff breaks, parent functions, school meetings and match teas. We have also introduced a third class into Year 3 to cater for our increasing numbers. To facilitate this the science lab is being split into 2 classrooms so all Years 2-4 classrooms are in one building. The science lab is moving to the old IT suite. The dining room has had a facelift and our new caterers have enhanced both the environment and the food. The increased numbers in the school (we have 370 pupils) has created the need for a new dining room and the Pre-Prep now have their own dining space.

We have a thriving group of Eco Warriors who are looking at ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Our Green Travel Plan has been a very successful initiative including a walking bus in the mornings, a shuttle bus up the drive and a car share scheme. This has also improved the flow of traffic up and down the drive!

Holly Blackwood has joined the school as our Head of Performing Arts and this has allowed all children to have drama as part of the curriculum. This term the Years 5 - 8 play is Aladdin and over 100 children are taking part; it looks like being our biggest production ever.

We try and stay in touch with former pupils and parents through our social media and this includes:  
Facebook @westbrookhay                      Instagram @westbrook\_hay                      Twitter @WestbrookHaySch

We hope we will catch up with as many of you as possible on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May. We have included below some news on former pupils, mainly around sport! Full details and links can be found on the website [www.westbrookhay/formerpupilnews](http://www.westbrookhay/formerpupilnews).

Best regards,

Peter Makower and John James

#### Football

**Luke O’Nien** continues to play for [Sunderland](#) and has captained the team on a number of occasions.

**Lewis Lavin** has represented the [England ISFA team](#).

**Josh Mullins** and **Freddie Moriarty** have been given scholarships at [Watford Football Club](#).

**Max Bustamante-Macaire** is having trials for Stevenage FC. He represented Chile before the pandemic.

#### Rugby

**Charlie Woodmansee** and **Laurie Stredwick** have been selected for [England Lambs squad](#).

**Harry Tannett** is part of the U18 Northampton Saints squad.

**Orlando Bustamante-Macaire, Charlie Woodmansee, and Ben Oldham** were all part of the Berkhamsted U18 squad who won the [Daily Mail Schools Cup](#).

**Harvey Graham** was selected for [England Counties](#).

#### Cricket

**Alex Hales** continues to play franchise cricket around the world including the Hundred in the UK, The IPL, The Big Bash in Australia and the Pakistan Super League and competitions in South Africa and the West Indies.

**Lee Tyrell** played 2<sup>nd</sup> team cricket for Worcestershire last year and is looking for a professional contract this year. We are very grateful for his help with some off-season training with our Year 7 and 8s.

#### Lacrosse

**Grace Milnes** was selected for the England U16 squad and **Imogen Cochran** has been selected for Scotland U19 A lacrosse team. Younger sister **Pippa Cochran** has been selected for Yorkshire U18’s. Grace also won the Hertfordshire Girls U16 cross-country, 3000m and 1500m.

#### Golf

**Finlay Rennie** is representing Herts U16. He now has a handicap of 2.