

Westbrook Hay



CO-CURRICULAR
AND
PASTORAL CARE
SENIOR



Introduction

At Westbrook Hay, we are committed to nurturing every child's potential to make a positive impact on the world. We believe that creating an environment where pupils can flourish as happy, confident and successful individuals is essential for them to thrive in their future endeavours. The way in which we approach pastoral care and our co-curricular programme is central to that aim.

Recognising that academic success is just one facet of a fulfilling life, we prioritise personalised learning experiences led by inspirational and specialist teachers. Our focus extends well beyond exam results to encompass the development of independent learners who are equipped with the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of the real world. In an era marked by external pressures on young people, we build confidence through a supportive pastoral framework and foster happiness through a balanced approach to education.

We are committed to holistic development, this is evidenced in our focus on wellbeing, the arts, physical activities and character building. Through outdoor pursuits, sports and adventure, pupils learn invaluable lessons in resilience, teamwork and grace in both triumphs and setbacks. At Westbrook Hay, individuality is celebrated within a nurturing community that values togetherness and team spirit. We put great emphasis on essential life qualities such as responsibility, integrity and empathy, creating a culture where happiness and success go hand in hand.

Our school community is characterised by warmth, pride and inclusivity, where every pupil is cherished and encouraged to express their unique talents. We instil in our pupils a sense of selflessness and a commitment to serving others, preparing them to be compassionate leaders and contributors who actively seek opportunities to make a positive difference in the world. It is the aim of this booklet to give you a little insight into how we achieve this.

In essence, Westbrook Hay is not just a school; it's a vibrant community dedicated to fostering the growth and development of each individual, while instilling values that extend far beyond the classroom.

Mark Brain, Head





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Co-Curricular



Mr Dickon Baird
Senior Deputy Head

The co-curricular side of life at Westbrook Hay both complements and enhances the development of the enquiring mind. Education takes place anywhere and everywhere, at all times of the day. Art, drama, music, sport and other co-curricular activities are not just add-ons; they are an essential part of the Westbrook Hay experience helping our pupils to become well-rounded individuals.



Art

The aim of the Art Department is to provide our pupils with a broad spectrum of skills and opportunities that harness their imagination, develop creative expression and help pupils find and fulfil their artistic potential.

Each summer there is an Art Exhibition which showcases work from across the whole school. This celebration of artwork embodies our ethos that there are opportunities in art for all.

For those that have a particular aptitude or interest there is a weekly Art Club where pupils explore different techniques, styles and mediums.

Our Art Studio has a Fine Art focus and is equipped with 2D and 3D media, including kiln and printing facilities. The department is flexible in accommodating pupils' individual creativity and aspirations. In the Art Studio pupils are able to leave projects out at various stages of development and are welcome to come back in free time in order to work further on them.

An interest in art can lead to exciting cross-curricular opportunities and the Art Department is always fully involved in supporting theatrical productions, from making props and costumes to make-up and scenery. Many of our pupils also enter regional and national competitions to showcase their work.



Drama

Drama offers extensive opportunities within the performing arts that supports those who enjoy this medium as a hobby, as well as additional training and qualifications to those who would like to explore this subject further.

For Senior pupils the regular staging of musicals is a highlight of the Drama Department calendar. These large-scale productions involve a collaborative effort across various disciplines, showcasing the talents of pupils in acting, dancing and singing. They also provide an opportunity to explore the technical side of theatre, contributing to the lighting and sound of the production or costume and make-up.

Alongside the musical productions are smaller play projects and performances, allowing for a deeper exploration of the different dramatic arts. These projects often provide pupils with opportunities to take on diverse roles and experiment with different genres.

LAMDA for Senior pupils offers a structured approach to drama education, as well as UCAS points for university applications. It provides a platform for honing acting, communication, and presentation skills, contributing to the holistic development of pupils.





Willy Russell
BLOOD BROTHERS

Blood Brothers is undoubtedly the most exciting thing to have happened to the English musical theatre in years. It's not only a folk opera, a Liverpool's story, it's a story about two brothers who grow up in opposite sides of the Mersey valley without realising their history.

Willy Russell is not concerned with political sub-intrigues that with entering a career story about the working of life and death. It's a story about two boys who grow up in opposite sides of the Mersey valley.

Blood Brothers is now a major production at the Liverpool Playhouse. It's a story about two boys who grow up in opposite sides of the Mersey valley. It's a story about two boys who grow up in opposite sides of the Mersey valley.

This edition includes an introduction by the author.

**WILLY RUSSELL
BLOOD BROTHERS**

Music

Music is for everyone. At every stage we offer musical opportunities for our pupils and, whilst we hope that many will go on to take it at GCSE, participating in music-making is open to all. We wish for pupils to experience the joy of creativity, expression and imagination which music brings. Senior pupils can take part in choirs, all-comers or auditioned, as well as a jazz band, orchestra and other specialist groups.

There are a wide variety of visiting peripatetic music teachers, a vastly experienced

group of dedicated and experienced musicians, many of them manage their teaching load on top of a thriving performing career.

Many of our pupils choose to undertake individual music lessons on one or more instruments including: piano, violin, cello, harp, flute, recorder, saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, cornet, trombone, drum kit, electric guitar, acoustic guitar and singing. Termly Associated Board of the Royal School of Music (ABRSM) examinations are held in school.

For Senior pupils there are a variety of opportunities to perform using our 'Performance Pathway', in a setting that is comfortable for each person. This might be in a concert, House Music Competitions or forming a band with peers.

In addition to the regular traditions, such as the Carol Service, there are also yearly projects which bring together the various creative departments, such as the Shakespeare Festival, workshops with external specialists and trips to see professional performances.





Sport



Sport and Physical Education play an important part of everyday life at Westbrook Hay and there is an impressive range of options for pupils. The school takes great pride in its inclusive approach and all pupils are encouraged to pursue any sport that interests them. Westbrook Hay pupils are given support to develop and achieve to the best of their ability, competing at the level of competition that is appropriate to their progress. The PE curriculum is designed to promote positive attitudes to emotional, mental and physical health, which will remain with pupils for the rest of their lives. Senior pupils are given more choice in the sports they participate in as our model moves from one of 'Sport for All' through to 'Sport for Life' programme.

Sport for All

'All' means everyone involved, irrespective of ability. There is a focus on building a team ethos, where all pupils are given the opportunity to participate and play competitive sports together, against peers or other schools. Pupils also learn value of perseverance, with plenty of space and time given to late developers or newcomers to join in and 'have a go'.

Sport for Life

For pupils in Upper Senior, 'Sport for All' moves to 'Sport for Life' and this change of ethos poses the question: what sports do you see yourself playing in 10 years time? For some, this will mean continuing with core sports of Football, Netball, Rugby and Cricket, for others this might be more specialised or individual, such as badminton, long distance running and climbing. Research shows that, the more sports teenagers are introduced to during those crucial years, the more likely they are to develop exercise habits that last a lifetime.

There are many extra-curricular sports on offer at the school, of which swimming is popular, and the school recently refurbished its heated outdoor swimming pool. The school also has a competitive swimming team and has been proud of various individuals who have represented Westbrook Hay nationally in recent years.

These additional sporting opportunities are provided via the Westbrook+ after school programme which regularly provides options such as: ballet, basketball, fencing, golf, shooting, skiing, squash, street dance and taekwondo, in addition to other opportunities on rotation and preparation for major sports the term prior to whole school participation.



Westbrook+

All Upper Senior pupils participate in our extensive Westbrook+ enrichment programme, where they have the opportunity to cultivate and refine talents, pursue current interests, or try something completely new.

Pupils can choose from a programme of a wide variety of endeavours which offers choice each term. Wednesday afternoons find pupils involved in something adventurous, creative, cultural or scientific.

At various points during the school year there is an evening programme that incorporates activities, societies and talks. Most societies and talks are linked to a particular academic department but some also offer insight into future career options, such as law and medicine.



Pastoral Care



Mrs Emilie Loveless
Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Known for our outstanding pastoral care and trusting partnerships with parents, the pastoral care system at Westbrook Hay underpins everything that we do. Alongside excellent teaching and learning, it ensures the happiness, confidence and success of the children in our care, so they flourish academically and socially. Westbrook Hay is distinguished by being a place where every pupil is known by name, by face and by character.



Personal Tutor



For Lower Senior pupils, a Form Tutor maintains the academic and pastoral overview for each pupil in their care, acting as the first point of call for that pupil and their parents. For Upper Senior pupils, they are each carefully assigned a Personal Tutor. For existing pupils there is an element of choice and for those joining at the 13+ entry point, the decision will be based on what is learned about the pupils during the admissions process about their individual interests and character. The Personal Tutor takes care of the pupil's academic, pastoral and extra-curricular growth throughout their time at Westbrook Hay.

The Personal Tutor and tutee meet at least once a week, with an emphasis placed on individualised care and support. This ensures that every pupil, regardless of their ability, is able to discuss their studies, their co-curricular commitments, their achievements and aspirations, as well as their challenges and concerns, throughout their years in the most senior part of the school.

Pastoral House System

All Upper Senior pupils belong to one of two Houses, Rye and Hinwick, the first and second historic locations of the school, which are run by a Housemaster or Housemistress. The House is pivotal in the life of Westbrook Hay, providing an important sense of belonging and togetherness for each pupil. There is a designated area for the pupils in each House to socialise, which also acts as a base for personal belongings and where registrations take place.

Social and team building activities are organised through the House and Inter-House Competitions are always a highlight of the school year. The pupils have every opportunity to mix with those from the other house throughout the day, during lessons and breaks.



Co-Education



We believe that co-education is pivotal for holistic development, social progress and academic excellence. By embracing co-education, we aim to equip pupils with the skills and mindset needed to thrive in an ever-changing society, making it a cornerstone of our educational ethos.

Whatever the balance of boys and girls in the class, through the teacher's skillful use of questioning, boys and girls are given equal opportunity to engage in the learning. Our Lower and Upper Senior pupils

act as role models to our younger pupils and we are proud when they break stereotypes that may exist in society.

Through interactions with peers of the opposite gender, pupils learn to navigate complex social dynamics, develop emotional intelligence and cultivate empathy. These skills are invaluable for success in all facets of life, from personal relationships to professional endeavours. Our co-educational nature prepares pupils to become active and

engaged citizens, capable of navigating the complexities of what is a diverse society.

By learning alongside peers of both genders, pupils develop the skills necessary for effective communication, collaboration, and importantly, leadership. Girls learn how to lead boys and vice-versa. These leadership opportunities develop attributes that are essential for the growth of self-confidence that will be essential when our young people move on to sixth forms, universities and the workplace.

Leadership Opportunities

We are conscious of our duty to equip young people to exercise leadership not as an expression of personal ambition but as a form of service to others. The school has a strong commitment to 'pupil voice', Lower Senior pupils lead a number of committees that focus on charitable endeavour, environmental protection and school improvement.

All Upper Senior pupils are provided with opportunities to act as 'Senior Mentors' to areas of life further down the school where they have an expertise or interest, whether they are academics, actors, artists or athletes. In Year 11

there are positions of responsibility to apply for, such as Head Pupil or a Head of House, and to contribute to the running of the school as a Senior Prefect.

We also expect our pupils to look beyond Westbrook Hay and to understand their responsibilities to broader communities and a wider society. They develop this perspective through charity work, community service and partnerships with other schools. Opportunities for pupil-led initiatives are encouraged and all year groups are invited to air their views and make things happen.



Developing Independence



Our pastoral care is designed to instil independence, while providing a safety net for pupils, as they navigate the complexities of adolescence. We believe that empowering pupils to take ownership of their learning journey cultivates resilience, self-reliance and critical thinking skills essential for their future success. Whether through participation in academic lessons, sports teams, the arts or enrichment programme, pupils are encouraged to pursue their passions and develop leadership skills in a supportive environment.

By taking on responsibilities such as organising events, managing team dynamics, initiating projects or even using public transport to travel to school, pupils learn to navigate challenges, make decisions and collaborate effectively. These are crucial skills that extend beyond the classroom and into adulthood. Upper Senior pupils have the opportunity to put this into practice through participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which provides an excellent

qualification for further education, but also the chance to build on their self-confidence and teamwork. Pupils commit to a hobby, sport and volunteering, which many of them are already doing through various programmes at the school, and an out of school expedition.

Trips also form a crucial part of the independence journey, a chance to step outside into the wider world and develop an appreciation for different cultures. Lower Senior pupils attend a residential History trip to Canterbury Cathedral and Hastings Battlefield in their first term, every other year there is a trip abroad in the Spring Term, recent destinations have included Iceland and Rome. Through the GCSE curriculum trips, Upper Senior pupils have opportunities to visit exciting European locations such as: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Florence, Paris, Sevilla, Sicily and the Azores. As pupils move through their final years at Westbrook Hay the onus will be on them to be self-sufficient learners, ready and prepared for the next stage of their learning journey.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

In addition to the Personal Tutor and Housemaster or Housemistress, the Head of Senior holds pastoral oversight of all Senior pupils. They are an important voice in the Pastoral Leadership Team meetings and ensure that all pupils in their section receive the care that they need. There is a designated 'wellbeing hub' for senior pupils to visit, access to secondary-trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistants and the school works with an external School Counsellor who offers a number of our pupils an additional level of support.



All pupils have a weekly PSHE lesson. These are held, wherever possible, in a more relaxed and informal setting such as House rooms, where pupils are more likely to contribute in an active manner to discussions. The content of the lessons delivered to Senior pupils becomes much more focused on real life situations that teenagers may face. The subject's aim is to reflect the needs of the pupils and their circumstances, and it encourages them to make mature and considered decisions when dealing with personal, social and health situations both now and in later life. Topics include hygiene, healthy lifestyles, sex and relationships, drug awareness, alcohol abuse, smoking, vaping, eating disorders, self-esteem, bereavement, e-safety and bullying.



Westbrook Hay



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