

April 2018

Dear Former Pupils,

We hope that you will be able to attend this summer's reunion on **Sunday 20th May 2018**. It will start at 12.00 noon and finish by 2.30pm, with the barbecue starting at about 1.30pm. **On your arrival please go to the sunken gardens.** This reunion is an excellent opportunity to meet old friends and staff and it is always a pleasure to also see your parents, who are very welcome to join us in the sunken gardens from 2.00pm.

We have had another very successful year. We have gained numerous awards in the entrance exams including Academic, Music, Sporting and D&T scholarships. Once again, these reflect the very high standards the school is reaching across the curriculum and it is wonderful to see the progress we are making.

The front of the school was painted last summer and this makes a great impact when you arrive though the gates. It is part of a long term goal to make the environment of WBH better and we hope to continue this by redecorating other areas of the school. We have renovated the veranda and this enhances the whole area attached to the sunken gardens.

The Performing Arts Centre has made a huge impact on the school and the school plays have been great. Last term the Middle School had a wonderful production of the 'Amazing Adventures of Superstan'. As I write, we are in the full throws of a Mr Woodward spectacular of 'Oliver!'.

The choir remain a great strength of the school and were exceptional at our Christmas Carol Service which took place at a full St John's Church, Boxmoor. The music is flourishing under the guidance of Chris Wagstaff with the choir performing at the Royal Albert Hall and the O2. We have a Windband, guitar ensemble and an Orchestra. Hot off the press is our dominance at the Watford Music festival where we have won 6 cups!

The last year has seen plenty of sporting success with the 1st team winning the prep school U13 6-a-side competition for the second year on the trot. A truly amazing achievement and something Mr Stedman is rightly very proud of. The 1st team cricket reached the county semi-finals to be knocked out by the eventual winner, Haberdashers' Aske's. Our rugby team took part in the national small schools 7-a-side competition for the first time. We are proud that a former pupil has been picked for the Independent School England U14 football team and that a current pupil has made the Independent Prep Schools national team. Another former pupil captained the Midlands U15s for cricket. The girls' sport continues to flourish and in keeping with modern times we are now playing cricket instead of rounders in the summer, and football in the Christmas term.

It is with sadness we see staff depart, especially when they have been part of our community for so long. Teresa Henderson has decided to hang up her dancing shoes at the end of the Easter term.

WESTBROOK HAY, LONDON ROAD,
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HERTS HP1 2RF
Telephone: (01442) 256143 Fax (01442) 232076
Website: www.westbrookhay.co.uk
E-mail: peter_makower@westbrookhay.co.uk

Westbrook Hay Prep School



Before her arrival, dance was not on the curriculum. In recent years, the dance display has become so huge that we have needed to split it into two events. Teresa's abundant energy has been an inspiration to many former pupils. Many of you will remember her daughters Melanie and Stephanie. Sheila Kirwan has been a Reception and Year 2 teacher for 17 years. Her results speak for themselves and her teaching has been an exemplar for the rest of her staff. She epitomizes everything the school is about. Finally, Ben Agboke decided to leave at the end of the Christmas term to follow his calling to the Church. In his 7 years at the school, he made a massive impact and contributed both in the classroom and with his outstanding pastoral care. A huge lose to the school but a massive saving to our food budget!

Mr Young has also announced that he will be retiring in the summer of 2019. To celebrate Keith's huge contribution to the school we intend to have a Ball on Saturday 6th July 2019... a long way off but it would be lovely if former pupils (of a suitable age!) and parents were to join us for this.

The former pupils' Facebook group (the group name is Westbrook Hay School) has an ever-increasing membership with numerous pupils joining in the last year and now has nearly 400 members. If you or your friends from the school have not yet joined, please ask for a friend request and I will add you to the group. You can also keep up with our news on social media by liking the school Facebook page 'Westbrook Hay Prep School' and following us on twitter @westbrookhaysch.

As you will have read in the news, Data Protection is a topic all businesses have to address. The school has legal responsibilities to safeguard your data. We have given an outline of our data protection for former pupils in the enclosed document but if you want further details they can be found on our website from 25th May.

Please do make the effort to come along on Sunday 20th May. It will be great for the staff to see the faces from the past and catch up with what you have all been up to. The cost is £6 and this can be paid directly into our school bank account (details below).

Our bank details are: Allied Irish Bank, A/C Westbrook Hay Educational Trust Ltd, **Sort Code:** 23 84 85, **Account No:** 01108083, **Reference:** OBS + surname.

Either way, can you let us know if you are attending by email or by completing the website form, which can be found at the 'former pupil' page on our new website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Makower', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Peter Makower
peter_makower@westbrookhay.co.uk