

Westfield News

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Westfield Academy, Watford



@Westfield_Acad

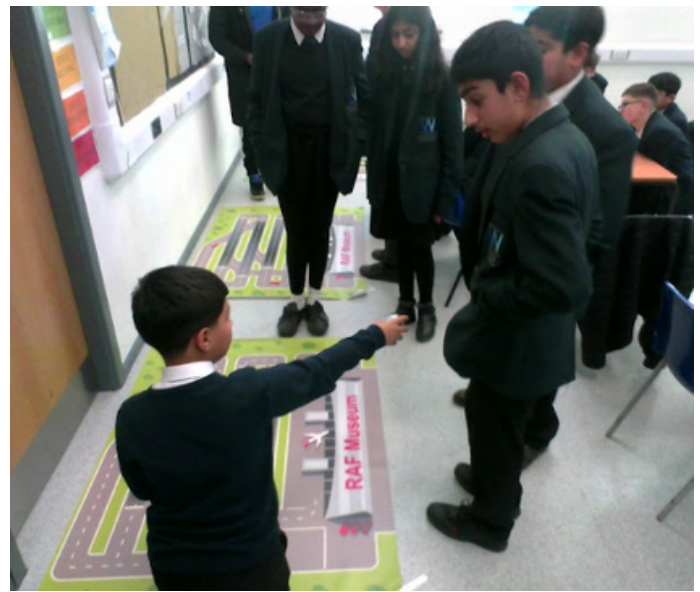


December 2023

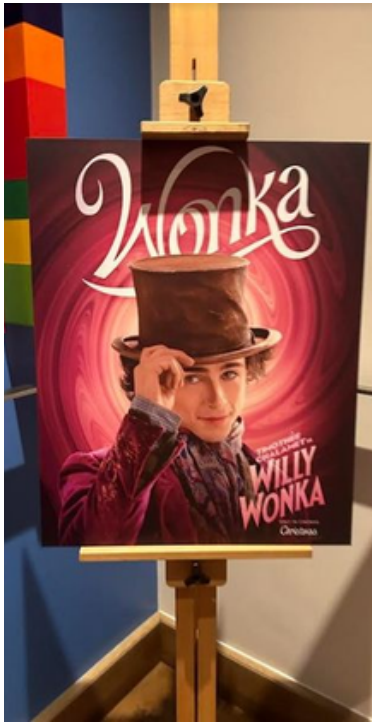


RAF drones & coding at Westfield

The Royal Air Force Youth Engagement Team visited Westfield Academy to enable our Years 7 & 8 to have hands-on flying drones and coding experiences with their Sphero robots. This was part of their STEM outreach days. Students were able to fly the drones in the hall, in groups, and it was amazingly engaging and fun - with competing groups trying to be the first to get their drones in the air.



CAREERS DAY WITH WARNER BROS. CREW HQ



We are delighted that three of our Year 13 students had the opportunity to attend a Careers Day with Warner Bros. Crew HQ Partners. The event celebrated the release of 'Wonka' on Tuesday, 5th December and took place at The Soho Hotel in London. Bianca, Huma & Haidar had the opportunity to preview the screening of the film, take part in a follow-up Q&A session with a panel and attend breakout sessions to learn about the different roles in the film & media industry. The three of them even had the chance to try some of the food from the film! They had an amazing time and thoroughly enjoyed the film! Haidar even made the most of the opportunity to network with all the producers of the film!



DISNEY INTERVIEW



The 6th Form Society organised an interview on 15th December with the producers of the new Disney show, produced by Dan Shotz and John Steinberg. We went to Leicester Square in London for the premiere show, where the cast and crew attended. They were all given Camp Half Blood t-shirts, where they embraced their inner demi-god. Everyone absolutely loved the first two episodes. A huge thank you to Disney+ and Rick Riordan.



Mrs Abuelreesh

SARACENS MENTORING AND CARE HOME VISIT

Jack Wright (Saracens) has been working with some of our students on a mentoring programme in school on Tuesdays.

The girls group created a podcast which discussed self image, mental health, bullying, social media and general wellbeing. This was an excellent way for them to express their thoughts and emotions in a structured way. This had a very positive impact on the girls and they all engaged really well in the podcast.

On 5th December, all the students that are part of the mentoring programme were involved in arranging a visit to a local care home for the elderly. The students made mince pies, cupcakes and prepared bags of sweets to give out to the residents on the visit.

This was a huge success. All students' interactions with the elderly residents and staff was a pleasure to experience. They all shone and were a real credit to themselves and Westfield Academy.

Students involved:

Ilyas
Callum
Alisha
Angelina
Neve
Italia
Ciaria



STEM FOR KEY STAGE 3 WITH THE ROYAL INSTITUTION



This event was tailored for our Key Stage 3 students to foster a deeper understanding and passion for Science.



We bid for this and were lucky enough to be selected for this special event. The Royal Institution has a storied history of promoting science for the benefit of the general public, and their interactive sessions are known to be both enlightening and engaging. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to enhance their knowledge, interact with experts, and participate in hands-on experiments.

READATHON 2023-24

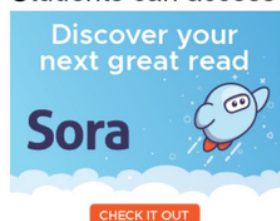
Last March we launched our **READATHON** to coincide with World Book Day.

This year we are running our **READATHON** from November to the end of January.

READATHON promotes reading and encourages our students to read and listen to fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats.

Reading is one of **THE** best things your child can do to help themselves progress at school.

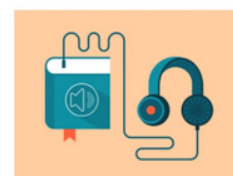
Students can access e books and audio titles through their free to use SORA accounts in term time and holidays as well as borrow titles from our library.



This year for **READATHON** students can record what they read, how long for and rate each title using **Track My Read**.



Please encourage your child to complete their tracker each time they read or listen to anything for fun. They will see different encouraging messages as they report their reading, and they will be contributing to their form's reading target.



Information for parents on Track My Read - Helping children to love reading!

Reading for pleasure - whether reading on their own or sharing a story - is one of the best ways a child can spend their time.

Research shows that:

- Reading each day can help children improve in all their school subjects
- Reading for just 6 minutes a day can reduce stress by 68%
- Children who read for pleasure are more likely to do well at GCSEs

Choosing to read provides all sorts of benefits - it's comforting, relaxing, reduces anxiety, builds empathy and understanding and aids learning... but above all it's fun!

Track My Read is a new tool from national charity, Read for Good, designed to encourage pupils to read regularly and to help schools understand more about what and how pupils want to read.

Each time your child reads or listens to a fiction or non-fiction title they will make a record using our school tracker.

To access the school tracker, use <https://trackmyread.org/school/westfield-academy-937107>

Log in using the pass code your child received in school.

Record a new book in their Reading Minutes by selecting **Log a new read**

Answer a few questions after each reading session.

- What did you choose to read? (from a dropdown list including audio book, comic, book etc.)
- What's the title?
- How did you read? (from a dropdown list)
- How long did you read for? (+/- 5 minute intervals)
- How did you feel when you were reading? (a choice of 5 emojis)
- Give your book a star rating
- Record any other comments you want to make about your read – would you recommend the title to a friend?

Then select **Submit**.

NEURODIVERSITY SUPPORT HUB

Neurodiversity Support Hub for parents, carers and professionals, and there is a phone number to call for support with neuro-divergent children.

For more information please see the poster featuring full details.

For Parents, Carers and Professionals

We can offer support, signposting and guidance about a whole range of things including but not limited to:

- Understanding ADHD/Autism
- Distressed Behaviours
- Anxiety
- School

No
Diagnosis
Required

The phones are answered by our team of parents and carers of neurodivergent children and young people

Are you a
Parent, Carer
or
Professional?



01727 833963



supporthub@add-vance.org

Open Monday-Friday
9 AM - 1PM



We Can't:

- Give updates/ fast track places on waiting lists
- Recommend specific private assessors

Here to support, reach out for a listening ear



LIFE PROJECT WITH THE LFB

LIFE - London intervention Fire Education

In November, Trey in Year 9 and Robyn in Year 7, were selected to attend the LIFE project that runs from Watford fire station.

The course ran from 27th-30th November. The purpose of the course is to build resilience, work as a team, follow instructions and be prepared to work hard throughout the week. Fifteen students started the course and only ten completed it by the end of the week.

Trey and Robyn excelled on the course with positive feedback. They ended the last day with a passing-out ceremony, and display of all the aspects they had learnt throughout the week for family, friends and schools to attend and celebrate their achievement.

Congratulations to Trey and Robyn!



Your support, their future
Local Intervention Fire Education (LIFE)

LFB
LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

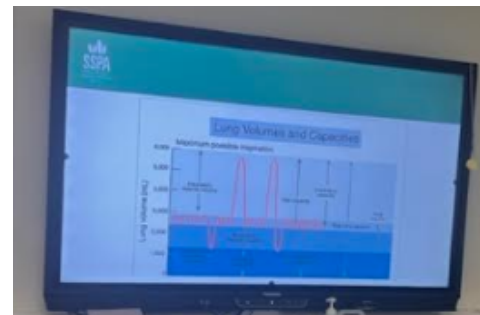
More groups of students in Year 10 have continued to go to Stratford to complete their Geography fieldwork. Featuring interviews, and gathering evidence for their course.



UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE

Students across Years 12 & 13 experienced a live Pulmonary and Force Workshop by Bedfordshire University. All students participated, and really enjoyed learning about the impact of both functions in sport, as well as the sports science courses available to them at the University.

The Sixth Form team worked together in unison to ensure the event went successfully. A big thank you to the "Sixth Form Dream Team".



SPORTS NEWS

Badminton:



A great effort at Westfield's first Badminton tournament against St Margaret's and Watford Boys. Although Westfield's Year 7 & 9 A-teams beat St Margaret's, it was Watford Boys who took the tournament and came out on top.

A big well done to Kieran, Ka wai, Adrit, Keval, Viyat and Ayaan for putting in 110% effort and showing great sportsmanship.

Football:

The year 8's won 3-1 v Bushey Meads on Monday, 11th December. We went 1-0 down early on, however, yet again, the players displayed fantastic determination and ability to turn it around. Two goals from Cosmin, and one from George B, was enough to give us the another three points to add to our tally for the season so far.

The group of players have grown so much over the past year, and it is great to see the hard work starting to pay off as Year 8 are into the final and could win the league if they win the final!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE



As we draw near to the end of 2023, we remember the amazing achievements of our students. The exam results in August were met with happy tears and stories of University places secured. The Duke of Edinburgh Award saw another cohort of successful students who had strived and achieved their certification.

Staff have organised trips to France, Poland, Iceland, as well as visits into London with, most recently, Year 10 students completing their Geography fieldwork in Stratford.

We would like to wish all students, staff and their families a very Merry Christmas and a well-earned rest.

We look forward to welcoming you back in 2024.