



Wednesday Whistle

The last week has flown by seeing our schools busy on all fronts. Our new children are settling into their learning environments and our secondary schools are hosting Year 5 and 6 Open Evenings.

I thought I would take a moment out of the hectic schedule to share and revisit WeST's Visions and Values.

In last weeks 'Wednesday Whistle' I signposted the 'Key Principles' on which we base our daily work.

Here, I share what we hope to achieve and some of the qualities and the treasured manner by which we do things.

It is always a good touchstone to reflect on why we do what we do!

WeST holds a firm belief in giving each child every opportunity to learn and succeed in all that they do. Whilst we are a united family of schools who share common values and beliefs, all our schools are unique and hold their own identity. We believe that by working collectively, sharing what works well and jointly developing best practice we are stronger together and can provide the very best education for our children. We are proud of our schools, staff and children, and thrive on the constant challenge to do better

Vision

We believe that by working together or collective children will be afforded improved life chances through academic success and positive relationships. Every school in the Trust will be considered great and our performance will be ranked in the top 20% nationally.

Values

Our vision is supported through our deeply held values:

1. We care passionately about our children and want them all to succeed regardless of background or starting point.
2. Relationships are the life-blood of our schools and trust is a key value of our Trust. We will work collaboratively with honesty and transparency.
3. Teaching and learning is our core purpose
4. We believe in high quality continuous professional development (drawn from evidenced based research) to constantly develop staff.
5. We aim to be an employer of choice - acting with integrity and providing rewarding career pathways that are carefully scaffolded.



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What does it mean to be a WeST School?

We believe passionately in our vision that together we can deliver the highest quality education in great schools: schools where a child can flourish within a rich and exciting curriculum and is given the opportunity to develop a deep-seated love of learning. Each school within the family is both a 'giver and a receiver' of support, sharing a common desire to nurture children on their learning journey from two to nineteen.

- Schools within WeST are individual, have a clear identity but are well-known and valued.
- Each school actively exhibits a thirst for continual improvement in educational standards.
- Access to a rich and engaging curriculum is an entitlement for all our children.
- Our Trust aims to impact positively upon its communities, recognising the importance of education to the wellbeing and prospects of the local community it serves.

Rob Haring
CEO

WeST Governor Conference 2019/2020



Thank you to everyone who was able to attend last years conference, I hope you found it useful and informative.

As a consequence of some of the feedback we are moving this years conference to 'front' the academic year in the autumn term.

Further details will follow shortly but please do try and hold the date of **Monday, 25 November** at the China Fleet Country Club.

What's Happening

- 19 Sept - Callington LGB, 5pm, Callington Community College
- 19 Sept - Education Standards Committee Meeting, 5pm, Ivybridge Community College
- 23 Sept - WeST Leadership Conference, Plymstock School, 4.00pm
- 23 Sept - Estates Committee Meeting, 5.45pm, Hele's School
- 24 Sept - Audit Committee Meeting, 5pm, Ivybridge Community College



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Exiting the European Union



With the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without a deal on 31 October it's important that our UK-based EU employees are aware of the process of making applications for the government's EU Settlement Scheme in order that they are enabled (as EU citizens) to get the immigration status they need.

If you are an EU citizen, you and your family members need to apply to the **EU Settlement Scheme** to continue living in the UK. The EU Settlement Scheme allows you and your family members to get the immigration status you will need to continue to live, work and study in the UK and you will continue to be eligible for:

- public services, such as healthcare and schools
- public funds and pensions
- British citizenship, if you want to apply and meet the requirements

Employees who are EU citizens may wish to take the opportunity to confirm their status ahead of the October deadline – the online systems are expected to be overwhelmed with applications in the last few days before the official date of the UK leaving the EU so early action is recommended.

A summary of key points and comprehensive advice and guidance on why and how to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme is available via the following links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/799886/EU_Settlement_Scheme_Employer_briefing_information.pdf

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please do bring these to the attention of your senior leaders, or contact the HR team directly, so that we can ensure we provide the support you need.

The HR Team

Email: hr@westst.org.uk

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HR NEWS!



'HR Resources' Intranet Folder

A reminder that there is now a platform to share HR resources with all Senior Leadership, Line Managers and Senior Administrators within the Trust. Various HR resources which are available include; policies, toolkits and letter templates.

Why have a 'HR Resources' folder?

Documents within this folder will be the most up to date versions and is therefore a working platform. This folder will be your point of access to **ALL** HR resources! Simply look

Some areas will be blank. This will mean that resources are in working progress and will be live soon. Announcements will also be made in the Wednesday Whistle of any updated or new documents in the folder.

How to access?

A 'HR Resources' folder will have automatically appeared in your network drive. Your local IT department have already provided access to the relevant members of staff within your school. If you have not been given access and feel that you should, please contact your local IT department.

When is 'HR Resources' available?

The HR Resources folder is available NOW!!!

If there is a folder that you feel would benefit yourself and others being available, please contact HR@westst.org.uk

Y6 Cardboard Boat Race



On Saturday 14th September our Y6 team took part in the 'Cardboard Boat Race'.

They had the opportunity to work alongside STEM Plymouth and Wonder Workshops in the summer term. The children worked together to design and make their boats using cardboard, tape and paint. The Orca Ducks raced against the clock and other primary schools, clocking a winning time of 6 minutes 44 seconds!



**TELL ME AND I FORGET.
TEACH ME AND I REMEMBER.
INVOLVE ME AND I LEARN.**

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

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New Library Celebrations



The children and parents of WPPS had the official opening of their new library on Friday. Parents were invited into school to attend a reading open morning and then were able to look around the library and see the hundreds of new books upon shelf after shelf.

The children who hadn't seen the final look until Friday were so excited to go in and be able to choose brand new reading books. There were many exclamations of 'Wow!' The staff are so pleased to have created such a stimulating and positive environment to enrich the children's reading experiences and look forward to a few more additions that will arrive over the next couple of weeks. Classes will enjoy story times on the new cushions and already children are wanting to change their reading books to choose another new and exciting book!



Wild Tribe Practitioner training at Yealmpton Primary



We are excited to celebrate our next Science initiative for this academic year. The teachers at Yealmpton Primary had our first Wild Tribe Practitioners training session last week.

We learnt about how to stay safe and establish boundaries and routines with children during a Wild Tribe session. The sun shone as we ventured up to the orchard where we used natural crafts to make our wild tribe necklace from elder wood. We explored how to use tools to peel bark from sticks safely and built a fire to brew a delicious cup of hot chocolate before indulging in marshmallows. One of the best insets we have had and great team building, too!

This week the children have been enjoying their first Wild Tribe sessions in school and we are all excited about embarking on our Wild Tribe journey to create memorable classroom experiences for our children

