

### Dates for your Diary

Last day of term 19th December.

First day of term Monday 5th January 2026

# Westbury Termly Times

*Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter*

It really has been a great term, a term that has been extremely busy and purposeful with so much to celebrate. Here are some of the highlights from the last fourteen weeks. I hope you find it an informative and interesting read. I would like to thank all of our pupils and staff for their efforts.

The school will close for the Christmas holiday at lunchtime (12.45 pm) on the final day: Friday 19th December. I would like to wish you all a peaceful time together over the Christmas period and, on behalf of all the staff, I look forward to seeing all of our pupils return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### Local MP Christmas Card Competition

#### Pumpkin Carving

Pupils in year 8 had a fantastic time taking part in pumpkin carving for Halloween. They worked carefully to design and carve their own spooky creations, showing great creativity. The activity brought lots of excitement to the classroom and helped everyone get into the Halloween experience and deepen their understanding of Mexican history and traditions.



#### Chocolate Making

Year 7 pupils recently enjoyed an exciting chocolate-making workshop as part of their 'Hola Mexico' topic. Pupils learned about the origins of chocolate before trying their hand at crafting their own tasty creations. The session was a fun, hands-on way to bring their learning to life and deepen their understanding of Mexican history and traditions.



Pupils across the school took part in a Christmas card competition from our local MP, Lillian Greenwood, who is also Minister for Local Transport. Entries included classic Christmas scenes,



with some pupils including types of transport to echo her job in government. Congratulations to Princewill in year 7 who the best in school award.



### Boxing Course

Pupils in our Preparation Phase celebrated the completion of their boxing course this week with a special visit to a local boxing gym. During the visit, pupils had the exciting opportunity to meet a professional boxing coach asking questions and learning more about training, discipline, and the dedication behind the sport. The coach was full of praise for their enthusiasm and effort throughout the course.



To mark their achievements, each pupil was presented with a medal and certificate in recognition of their hard work. Well done to all involved!

# News and events from around our school

## Football Competition

Pupils in Years 5 and 6 pupils attended The Place Independent school for a football game. They cruised to victory with an 8-1 win. But not only this, they represented Westbury in an amazing way, showing great sportsmanship, teamwork and courage.



## Christmas placemat Competition

We're delighted to share the fantastic designs from our recent Christmas placemat competition! Congratulations to Rico whose design will be used on Christmas Dinner day! Also a huge well done to our runners up Tyler and Jason for their brilliant contributions.



## The Future Chef Competition

Two year 11 pupils entered and competed in The Future Chef competition. Pupils made chicken linguine and chorizo cod. They were both very focused on the day and showed great skills whilst cooking. Their dishes were tasty and well presented.



## Year 3 and 4 Nurture Class

Our topic this term was 'Long ago'. What excitement. We designed, built and painted a go-kart, created colour wheel spinning tops and we experienced what a Victorian classroom would have been like.



## National Civil War Museum

Pupils in year 8 visited the National Civil War Museum in Newark. After studying the English Civil War in history lessons, pupils were able to better understand the turbulent period in a town ravaged by its battles. After reenacting the trial and execution of Charles I in costume, the



pupils got the opportunity to handle replica weapons, wear armour, investigate battlefield injuries, take part in musket-loading drills and even simulate a pike fight using foam tubes! It was a busy day of living history – one the pupils will not forget!

## Dodgeball Competition

A mixture of year 7, 8 and 9 pupils brought incredible teamwork and energy to the recent Dodgeball trip at



Harvey Hadden Sports Village. Every pupil relished the challenge of competition and showed fantastic sportsmanship. Win or lose, the team gave 100%. Well done to all involved.



## Local business visit

Pupils in year 9 attended Jake's Breaks trading card shop in Beeston as part of the PSHE and careers curriculum. Pupils learnt about the entrepreneurial



start to the shop and even got to take some trading cards home!



# Curriculum Corner

# News and events from around our school

## Lunchtime Reading Club

At lunchtime, we encourage our children to join our Reading Club, where younger pupils read to and with their older peers. The sessions help build confidence on both sides, strengthen friendships across year groups, and



make reading feel fun and special. It's a simple idea that brings our whole school community together.

## Primary Parliament Visit

Pupils from our Pupil Council visited the Primary Parliament at Nottingham's Council House to share their ideas and make



young people's voices heard. They spoke confidently about how to improve Nottingham for children and helped shape plans for a better future. We are proud of the thoughtful contributions they made on behalf of our school.



## Children in Need



Pupils visited a local care home where they spent time playing games, sharing a buffet, and talking with the residents. Staff members explained the different roles involved in running the home, giving the pupils a clearer understanding of how care is provided and the teamwork it requires. The visit offered a meaningful chance to build connections, learn about the setting, and contribute positively to the day for residents and pupils alike.



## Music Mark of Recognition

We are delighted to share that Westbury Academy has been awarded the Music Mark of Recognition for 2025-26, acknowledging Westbury's dedication and improvement in music education.



## Remembrance Service



We attended the annual Remembrance Service on the Market Square, Nottingham. Pupils spoke to Veterans who invited them to participate in the Service and shared their war time



## Table Cricket

Year 7 and 8 pupils took part in a local table cricket tournament. Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent respect, character and resilience, representing Westbury Academy superbly. The team finished an impressive second place overall



and has now progressed to the next round of the competition, which will take place in February. Well done to all pupils involved.

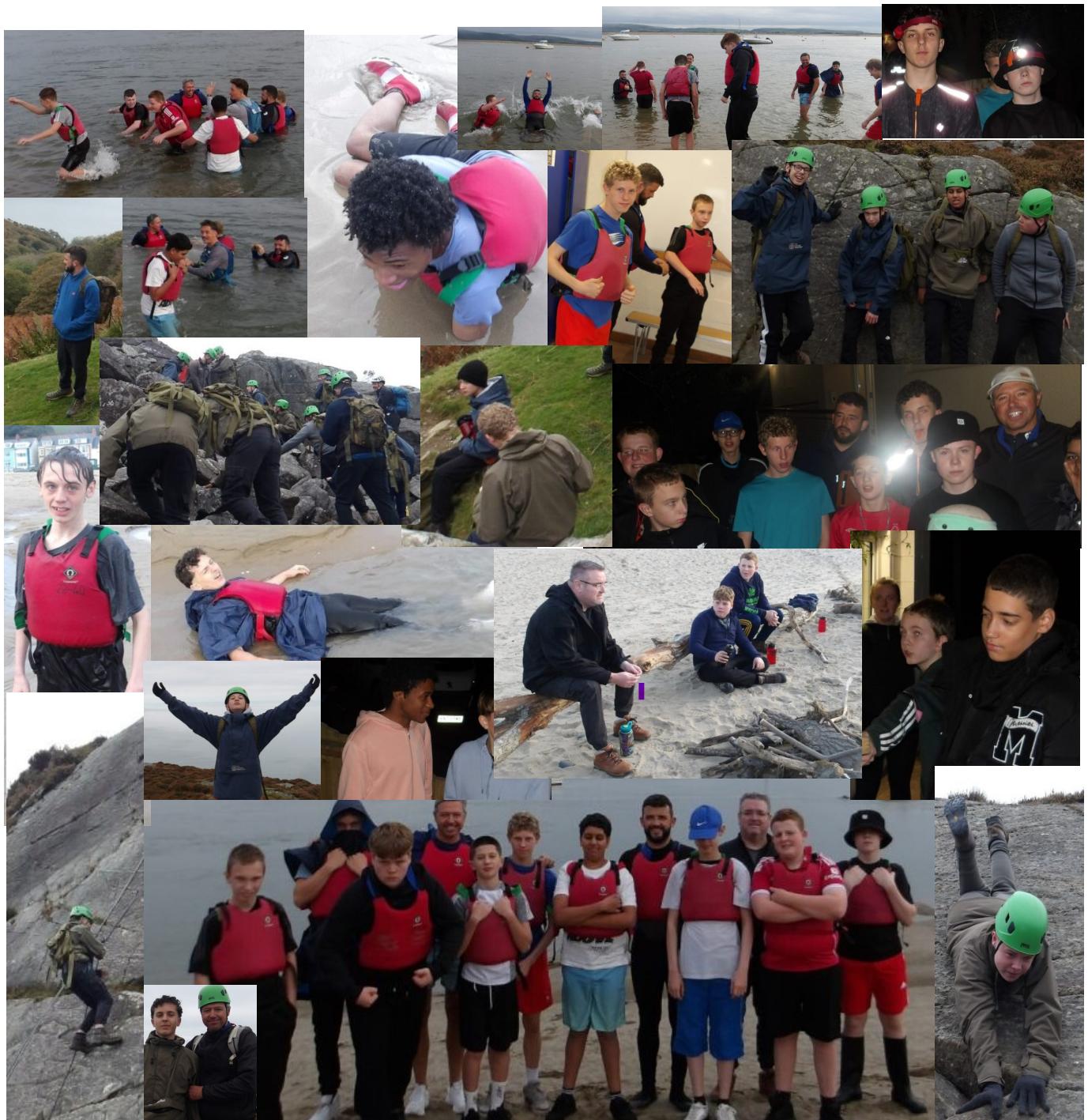


# Curriculum Corner

## The Outward Bound Trust Residential

Pupils from Westbury Academy recently enjoyed an unforgettable October weekend adventure with The Outward Bound Trust. Set against a stunning coastal backdrop in Aberdovey, Wales, the experience gave pupils the chance to challenge themselves against a range of outdoor team-building activities that included rock scrambling, orienteering, abseiling and maintaining a campfire during the hours of darkness. One pupil commented "I did not think this would be on my bucket list of things to do."

A clear favourite activity was jetty jumping. Standing at the edge of the jetty looking out to sea, pupils cheered each other on before taking the plunge. The sea may have been chilly, but the laughter and excitement quickly warmed everyone up. It was the perfect reminder that facing fears can be both fun and unforgettable.



# Curriculum Corner

## Nativity Performance

This year, in partnership with the Freedom Foundation performing arts organisation, Westbury proudly hosted its first ever Christmas Nativity!

Pupils from the Preparation Phase began working on the nativity in September and rehearsed weekly to ensure the performance was ready. In addition to learning their roles, pupils practised songs and dance routines, while also taking part in planning and creating the stage design, costumes, props, animals and backdrop. Every element of the production was carefully thought out and brought to life by the pupils themselves. The pride we felt watching our pupils perform in front of parents, carers and their peers is immeasurable. They showed incredible confidence, teamwork and creativity, and we cannot wait to begin work on our next show!

