

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2024/25



WESTHOLME

PREP | SENIORS | SIXTH FORM



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WESTHOLME SCHOOL

Unrivalled Holistic Excellence

WHAT MAKES WESTHOLME DIFFERENT?

Unrivalled holistic excellence is a unique educational philosophy that puts equal value on subjects, clubs, societies, activities and experiences inside and outside the classroom.

At Westholme, we pride ourselves in offering an unparalleled emphasis on the acquisition of the 21st century essential skills in a happy and fulfilling environment. Many parents remind me on a daily basis that it is not just qualifications that will enable our young people to thrive in life, but it is who they become as a person, their character, leadership, communication skills and so on.

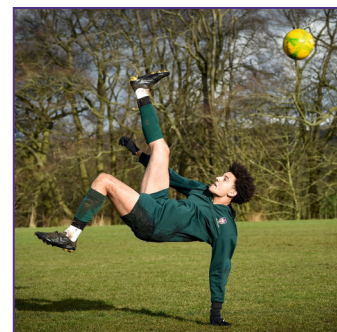
Our students stand out – head and shoulders above their peers because when they leave our INSPIRED Sixth Form at 18 years old, alongside incredible academic rigour, they have enjoyed a wonderfully enriching educational experience. For 100 years, we have believed in offering our students the time to develop their talents, the opportunity to explore their passions and as the late Sir Ken Robinson would have said, the experiences to find their *element*.

We continue to offer unequalled provision outside the classroom for our young people to acquire the 21st century essential skills through fun, excitement and enjoyment. Most clubs, societies, activities and experiences are included within our fees and are provided free of charge by our inspirational teaching staff.

Our extensive Co-Curricular provision is the cornerstone of our distinctive forward-thinking educational ethos and I encourage every Westholmian to think beyond their boundaries, take pleasure in challenging themselves and simply love every single minute of finding their *element*!



"For 100 years, we have believed in offering our students the time to develop their talents, the opportunity to explore their passions and as the late Sir Ken Robinson would have said, the experiences to find their *element*."





Design & Technology Workshop (Years 7 - 13)

The Design and Technology Workshop is for all students to develop their problem-solving abilities, whilst enhancing their technical skills and knowledge. Students encounter iterative journeys using a variety of materials and techniques as they seek to manufacture different products. In our workshop, students can get closer experiences with the tools and machinery that we have in school, with older students mentoring and sharing their skills. During these sessions students are able to collaborate with like-minded students, whilst also developing their skills on Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacturing processes (Laser Cutting and 3D Printing). The students that embrace these opportunities in Lower Seniors provide themselves the best chance for success at both GCSE and A Level.

Textiles Club (Year 9)

Textiles Club is an opportunity for students to have some fun and gain important skills. A range of projects are available from absolute novice to more advanced, and even a chance to work on your own project. Introductory projects help build skills and confidence with both hand and machine sewing, and later projects develop these skills further with more advanced techniques.

Ceramics Club (Years 7 - 13) - Autumn and Spring Term

Ceramics club is an introduction to basic ceramic skills, exploring a diverse range of techniques with clay. Pinchpots, motifs and clay jewellery will be explored in an experimental manner. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a variety of specialist clay paints and glazes to enhance their ceramic outcomes, fired in our specialist kiln. Ceramics club will be supported by our Ceramics specialist art captain, Ruby, who will work alongside the art department to inspire students who wish to embark on their ceramics journey.

Watercolour Workshops (Years 7 - 9) - Summer Term

In the spring, students will be invited to join us in Art to explore watercolour painting. The changing seasons, budding daffodils and bluebells will inspire colours, textures and an exploration of watercolour techniques inspired by nature. Last year, students and staff took part in a watercolour workshop with artist, Joan Aitchinson, whose techniques we will explore in more detail during our series of workshops. Our wide range of watercolour papers, paints and brushes will offer students an elite level of exploration of media and materials.

Graphics Club (Years 7 - 9)

Graphics club will be hosted for lower seniors across the Autumn Term, with the primary focus being design for industry with a specialist focus on greetings cards. Students attending Graphics club will work toward a portfolio of designs, research, media exploration including print and concluding with a range of Festive cards.

Digital Leaders’ Club (Years 7 - 13)

The Digital Leaders are selected from students in all year groups in Seniors. Students must first apply for the position, explaining why they have an interest in online safety. From there, they participate in a training morning and we have weekly meetings to plan whole school initiatives and events. Digital Leaders are highly valued leaders within our school community and they visit Prep, teach Year 7 students and lead assemblies to name but a few opportunities.

Photography Club (Prep 6 & Year 7 - after school)

Photography club will be hosted in termly blocks which will be capped as a small group each time, to offer an exceptional standard of learning in a co-curricular environment. We will focus on Macro and landscape photography inspired by a project of the natural world, influences ranging from historic to contemporary artists and practitioners . Our industry standard equipment from cameras to spectacular lighting, will allow our young photographers to build key technical skills.

Food Science Masterclass (Year 7)

In Food Science Masterclass, students create some gourmet dishes as well as experiment with ingredients. Students learn about the functional and chemical properties of food and look at some biology elements including chemical reactions used in cooking, methods of heat transfer, the effects of heat on starch, the effects of heat on protein, denaturing proteins using acid, plasticity of fats and pastry making, preventing enzymatic browning, gelatinisation of starch, dextrinization of starch, pasta making, filleting fish, deboning chicken, making emulsions such as mayonnaise and hollandaise sauce, tenderising meat through mechanical methods and using marinades. All this will help students to understand how we can make our favourite dishes even more delicious. Use the text from the printed booklet.

Foodie Tuesdays (Year 8 only)

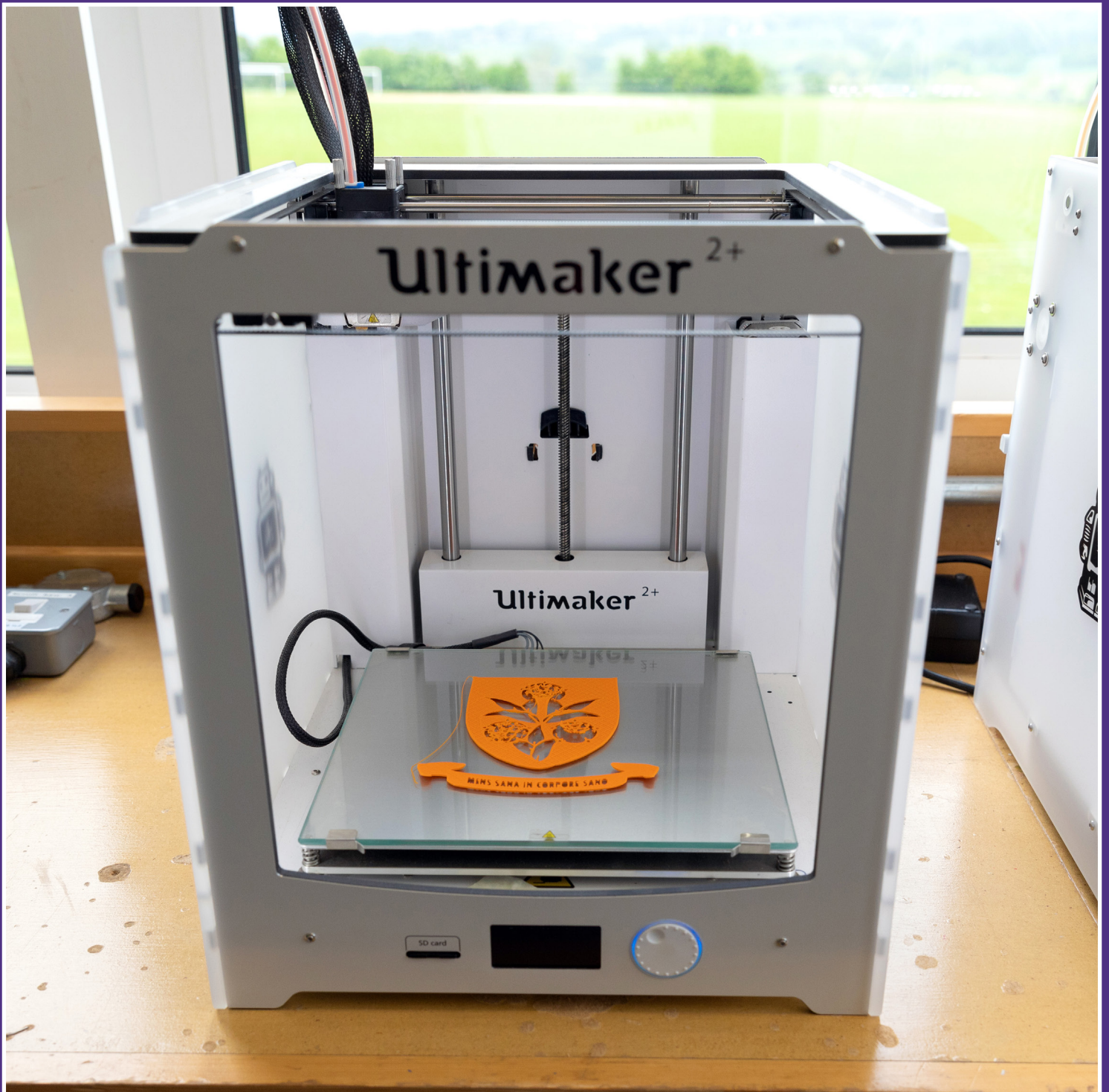
Foodie Tuesday Club is an exciting club exclusively for Year 8 students! Join us every Tuesday for a creative culinary adventure where you can explore the art and science of cooking. You'll get hands-on experience making quick bakes and delicious recipes, all while learning new techniques and tricks. Each session is designed to be fun and engaging, allowing you to experiment with food science and use new kitchen equipment. Our club offers a fantastic opportunity to develop your cooking skills and deepen your understanding of food science in a supportive and enjoyable environment. Whether you're a budding chef or just curious about cooking, Foodie Tuesday club is the perfect place to enhance your culinary knowledge and maybe make some new friends.

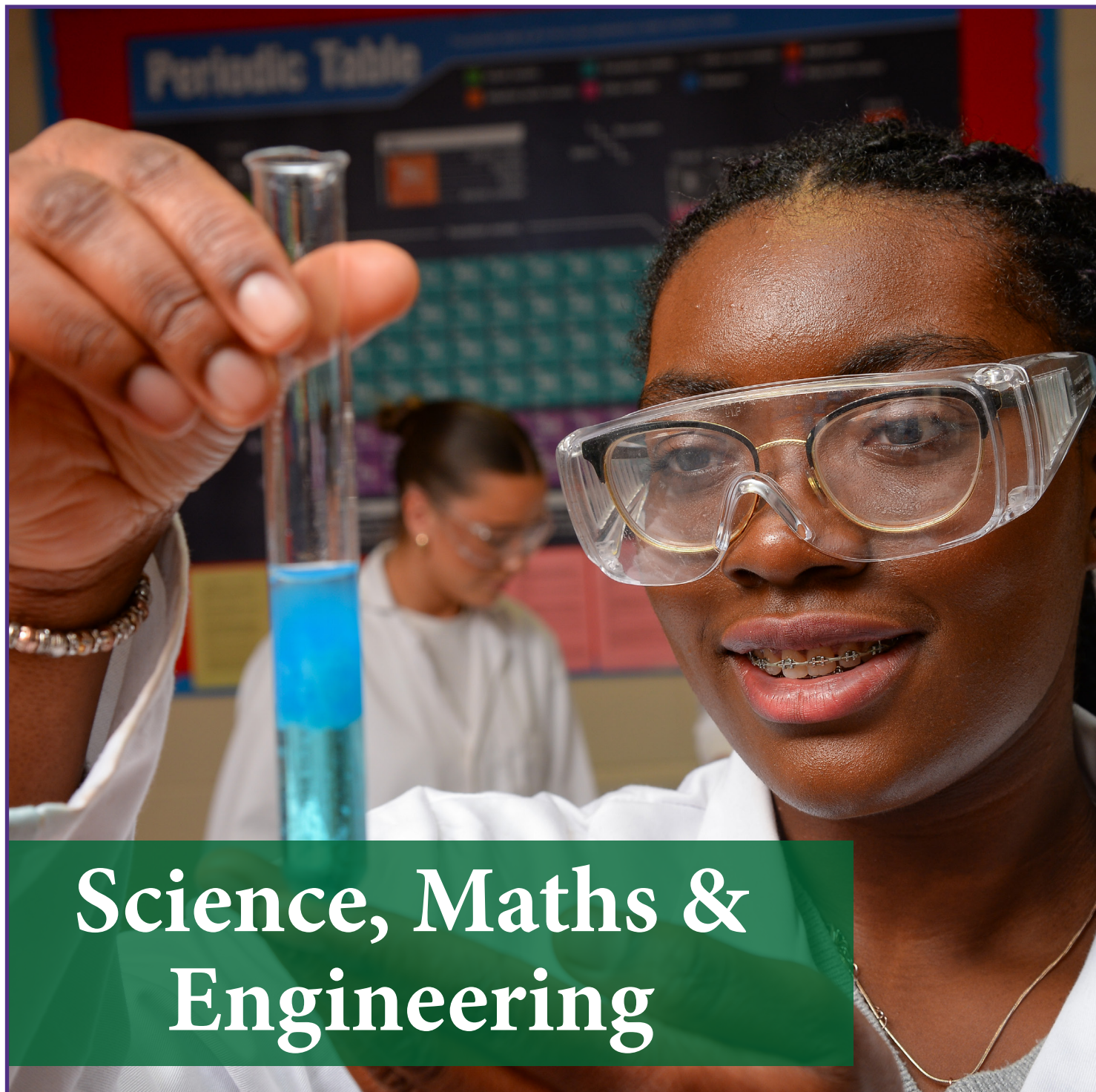
Food Technicians Club (Year 7 only)

Technicians Club is a unique and exciting opportunity exclusively for Year Seven students. Join us and work closely with our food technician and food teacher to help prepare lessons and activities for food students. In the Technicians Club, you'll play a vital role in supporting the food department while learning a wide range of new skills. Your tasks will include weighing and preparing ingredients, organizing equipment and stationery, setting up experiments, and managing various classroom resources. You'll also gain hands-on experience with labeling, laminating, sharpening, measuring, cleaning, and tidying. This club is not only a fun way to help out but also an excellent opportunity to earn holistic awards and house points. Plus, you'll receive edible rewards for your efforts and have the chance to make new friends along the way. Join the Technicians Club and become an essential part of our food department while developing valuable skills and enjoying some tasty treats!

Lego Robotics Club (Years 7 - 13)

Students use the Lego Mindstorm set to learn all about robotics, including using sensors and motors. Lego Robotics Club combines with Technology to participate in the Lego League competition, where students have to work together to create a problem-solving robot!





Science, Maths & Engineering

Biology Society (Years 12 - 13)

Biology Society is a time for INSPIRED Sixth Form students to delve deep into topics they may have never heard of before! Covering themes ranging from, 'protein design and engineering' to 'the bizarre ways we have used animals', allows students to gain an insight into Biology beyond their A Level studies whilst having fun and making friends. The society runs every two weeks, with personal research time in between so students can develop their independent studies as well as teamwork and presenting in front of groups. Materials are collected from a variety of sources such as: TED talks, books, journals, articles from magazines such as New Scientist and National Geographic and many more. This ensures that students can discover a wide range of extra reading in preparation for university. Each session always includes in-depth conversations about the current theme as well as laughs, and some surprised faces in reaction to the many incredible Biology facts we learn!

Year 7 Science Club (Year 7)

If you enjoy all the practical aspects of your Science lessons, then Year 7 Science Club is the place for you! Each week we will choose a practical activity that gives you the opportunity to enjoy the thrills that Science in the laboratory can bring. From heart dissections to building matchstick towers, there will be something for everyone! We look forward to seeing you at Science Club.

Medical Society (Years 12 - 13) – Spring and Summer Terms

Our Medical Society allows students applying for degrees in Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and other allied health professions to come together and develop their experiences in their fields, whilst preparing for their forthcoming applications. Year 13 students impart their knowledge of UCAT and BMAT testing, how to approach their personal statements and applications, the medical interviews, and they all explore additional opportunities for work experience. Through online courses, summer programmes and placements, medical journals and key speakers, students are granted a unique overview of medical opportunities to truly support their aspirations.

Greenpower Society (Years 7 - 11)

Greenpower Society is an exciting STEM project which involves working as a team to design, build and race an electric car. Once the car has been completed, students will have the opportunity to be part of the race team, competing in events around the country and possibly internationally! This project will be of particular interest to anyone aspiring to become an engineer in the future.

Greenpower Car Project (Years 12 - 13)

The Greenpower Car Project builds on the work of the Greenpower Society. INSPIRED Sixth Form students will have the opportunity to build an electric car to their own design, and think about how to improve efficiency and performance. Once the car has been completed, students will have the opportunity to be part of the race team, competing in events around the country and possibly internationally! This project is of particular interest to anyone aspiring to become an engineer in the future.

Numeracy (Years 7 - 11)

Numeracy Club runs on a weekly basis, providing a fun place where students can come along and strengthen their numeracy skills through exciting tasks and puzzles.

STEM Club (Years 7 - 8)



Mathematics Enrichment Club (Years 7 – 13)

The Mathematics Enrichment Club runs on a weekly basis to encourage talented and enthusiastic mathematicians of all ages. Students work collaboratively on interesting and challenging problems. The students also have the opportunity to work with some of our INSPIRED Sixth Form students including the Mathematics Subject Captains, who often teach students about advanced areas of Mathematics.

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Online Mathematics Club (Years 7 – 13)

If students can't make our Enrichment Club, they can always join our Online Maths Club! Students in all years are encouraged to sign up to optimal extension tasks that are set on a weekly basis via the 'Parallel' website, hosted by the famous mathematician, Simon Singh. Students are also encouraged to attend live online evening lectures, then discuss the subject content with their peers in class and Enrichment Club.

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UKMT Individual Challenges (Years 7 – 13) – Specific dates in the year

The UKMT Individual challenges are lively, intriguing, multiple choice questions, which are designed to stimulate interest in mathematics. Every year thousands of students throughout the UK, including our Westholme students, take part in these challenges and a proportion of them are awarded certificates, with those achieving a silver or gold certificate placed in the top 5% of students nationally. Our top students then compete in the next rounds of the competitions – the Kangaroo and Olympiad.

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UKMT and AMSP Team Challenges (Years 7 – 13) – Specific dates in the year

Every year we invite a small number of students to take part in Team Challenges against other schools. These are fun days out, designed to stretch our most able mathematicians and develop team building and communication skills. Other annual competitions include 'The Westholme Numeracy Challenge' and the 'Mathematical Education on Merseyside Competition'.

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Sixth Form Lectures (Years 12 – 13) – Spring Term

Each year in January our Sixth Form Maths students attend a Florence Nightingale Day event at Lancaster University. This event is aimed to promote Mathematics and Statistics to young women, who will soon be making crucial choices in their career paths. Students are also encouraged to attend online lectures throughout the year run by various mathematical associations.

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Masterclasses – Specific dates in the year

Each year the Royal Institution and Liverpool University run Mathematics Masterclasses. Selected students in Years 8-10 are invited to attend a series of workshops which are led by experts from industry, academia and education. They offer students in-depth investigations of topics in Mathematics and combine theory with interactive exploration.

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Sport & Outdoor Pursuits

Football Club (Years 7 – 13) - Autumn and Spring Term

In football sessions, students develop their technical and tactical knowledge of the game. Sessions look at the fundamental skills but also focus on developing specific aspects of play based on the respective team's performance in fixtures and competitions.

All students are welcome to practices and students attending them will be eligible for weekend and midweek school fixtures. Sessions are delivered by our well qualified PE staff and our ex-professional footballer. Players are encouraged to follow our player pathway and nominations are regularly made for players to attend regional and national trials.

Competitive sport is at the heart of what we offer at Westholme School. Our Saturday sport programme involves matches against other independent schools and some state schools from the North West. We enter various district, regional and national competitions and Saturday morning fixtures include transport and hospitality. Players also get the opportunity to be involved in our biennial overseas sports tours.

Fitness Club (Years 7 – 9) - Autumn and Spring Terms

Fitness Club is an active, sociable and competitive club offered at lunch times, where students attend to improve their fitness and prepare to participate in a 5km fun run. Each week, the students experience different methods of training through a structured training programme designed to suit their ability. Each session is led by an INSPIRED Sixth Form student who specialises in the field of fitness, and assisted by a PE teacher. At the end of each term, a 'themed' run takes place according to the season.

Girls' Football (Years 7 – 13) - Summer Term

Following on from the success of the Lionesses at the Euros, we will continue to run and develop our Girls' Football programme. We will run one session for those girls in Years 7-9 and one session for those in Years 10-13. Any girl is welcome to attend these sessions where we will focus on core skills and applying these in increasingly competitive situations.

Sixth Form Gym (Years 12 - 13)

Following a successful induction, Sixth Formers are permitted to workout in our strength and conditioning gym. Whether they are looking to develop specific areas of their physique or want to improve their overall fitness, the gym has a number of machines, equipment and free weights that will help them to meet their fitness goals.

Hockey Club (Years 7 – 13) – Autumn Term

At Hockey Club players develop numerous skills and techniques as well as working on specific team tactics. All ability levels are welcome to attend practices, whether students are new to the sport or are at representative level. Skills learnt in weekly practices feed into our competitive sporting programme. We have a number of hockey coaches on our staff team including members of staff who coach at regional level and/or currently play within the National League System. U12-U15 teams play weekly matches against teams from around the North West. On Saturday mornings, fixtures are predominantly part of the independent schools circuit and teams up to 1st XI are entered into local, regional and national cup competitions. Hockey teams are also invited to take part in our biennial sports tours.

Swimming Club (Years 7 – 13) – Autumn and Spring Terms

Swimming Club aims to supplement our competitive swimming programme. Stroke development is key and swimmers will work hard to develop their technique and fitness. The team takes part in various fixtures and we have had a number of teams and individuals who have represented the school at regional and national level over recent years.

Development Swimmers (Years 7 – 13, invite only) – Autumn and Spring Terms

Improvers' Swimming Club is for students who have had limited exposure to swimming or aquatics and who are developing their water confidence and stroke development. Sessions are delivered in small groups with well qualified swimming teachers.

Cross-Country Running Club (Years 7 – 13) – Autumn and Spring Terms

Cross-Country Running Club is open to runners of all abilities whether students are taking part to keep fit or to become an elite performer. The club takes advantage of the spectacular countryside surrounding Westholme and sessions can include trails, hill running and various interval training sessions. Throughout the year we enter various events including both district and national championships. Our link with Blackburn Harriers allows specialist coaches to assist our provision in this area.

Level 2 Qualification in Community Sports Leadership Award (Year 12)

This award is a great opportunity for our INSPIRED Sixth Form students to develop and celebrate their super leadership skills in the field of sport and physical education. There are four units to be completed that include: 1) Building leadership skills; 2) Planning, leading and evaluating sport/physical activity sessions; 3) Assisting in planning and leading a sports/physical activity event; and 4) Leading sport/physical activity sessions in their community.

Athletics Club (Years 7 – 13) - Summer Term

During the Summer Term, Athletics Club is our most popular club. Athletes make use of the excellent facilities at Witton Park during practice sessions and students are taken to this facility by coach. We have close links with Blackburn Harriers who provide us with specialist performance coaches to allow us to cater for specialisms in various track and field events. Teams are selected for national and regional competitions throughout the Summer Term as well as representing their own House at Sports Day, our flagship House competition.

Cricket Club (Years 7 – 13) - Summer Term

Cricket Club concentrates on the fundamental aspects of batting, bowling and fielding. Practices are open to all ability levels and all will have the opportunity to develop their individual techniques. Video analysis is used to fine tune specific aspects of technique in net practices and those who develop a good level of ability are encouraged to take part in competitive fixtures in local and regional competitions.

Rounders Club (Years 7 – 13) - Summer Term

Westholme School has a rich history of excellence in rounders and teams are regularly district champions at various age groups. Practice sessions look at technical and tactical aspects of the sport and all students are encouraged to attend. Fixtures in rounders are played in the local district and we enter cups and league competitions.

Tennis Club (Years 7 – 13) - Summer Term

Tennis Club is delivered by specialist tennis coaches as well as members of PE staff. This allows us to cater for both those who would like to play in social games and those who are already on a pathway to excellence. Fixtures are played against other independent schools and we also enter regional cup competitions.

Netball Club (Years 7 – 13) - Spring Term

Netball Club focuses on key skills such as footwork and passing but also looks more in depth at transitional play and game management as part of team tactics. Our specialist training programme takes into account games-based scenarios from our competitive matches which are played on Saturday mornings and during midweek fixtures. Teams represent the school in national, regional and local competitions and we have a number of players competing at representative level.

Rugby Sevens (Year 7) - Summer Term

Our specialist rugby coach will develop a number of essential skills of rugby sevens from tackling to ball handling skills. Players will also look to develop tactical awareness and work on their decision making in this fast and exciting version of rugby.



Sport & Outdoor Pursuits

Badminton Club (Years 7 – 13) - Autumn and Spring Terms

Badminton Club takes place at lunchtimes in the Sports Hall and is a chance for any student of any ability to pick up a racket and have a go. Led by our Student Executive, with the assistance of PE teachers, the session is a chance to take part in friendly games with a welcoming 'turn up and play' approach.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Years 10 - 13)

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is designed to help participants to develop skills and confidence. Holding one of the DofE Awards demonstrates that participants have developed 21st century essential skills, such as communication, commitment, leadership, teamwork, confidence and resilience. The DofE Awards are nationally and internationally recognised and are also noted by universities and employers as providing evidence of a range of skills beyond those demonstrated by academic qualifications.

Equestrian Club (Years 7 – 13) - All Year

Equestrian Club is the chance for students to learn all about horses and stable management. They will have the opportunity to attend a riding school during each school holiday to put into practice the skills they have learnt, and can earn certificates. Older students who have experience with horses will also have the opportunity to lead some of the lunch time sessions, developing their communication and leadership skills.

Kayaking Club (Years 7 – 13) - All Year

Using our on-site pool, we are able to offer both taster and improver kayaking sessions covering everything from basic skills to rolls and rescues. The skills learnt and developed in these sessions can then be put into practice out on the open water by taking part in one of the kayaking trips that we offer on lakes, canals and rivers across the region.

Mountain Biking Club (Years 7 – 13) - Specific dates throughout the year

We offer students the opportunity to participate in weekend day mountain biking excursions on various trails. Let's go off road and discover the gorgeous Lancashire countryside and some exhilarating routes! A basic level of cycling is required but a variety of abilities and speed all contribute to the fun!

Costume Club (Years 7 – 9)

This is a great way to get involved in the organisation and running of our Narnia-like costume cupboard, with our row upon row of costumes. We store hundreds of items from different eras and for a large array of characters. Grab the opportunity to help in the running and maintenance of this exclusive club.

Dance Club (Years 7 – 13)

Whether you've been a dancer all your life, or you just want to try something new, Dance Club is an exciting new opportunity to get active, and is open to all year groups. In the sessions we explore a range of dance styles, from Ballet and Contemporary, to Tap, Street and even Salsa! The sessions are run both by staff and the INSPIRED Sixth Form students, so there is something for everyone!

Performing Arts Club (Years 7 – 9)

This vibrant and exciting club is an opportunity for all performers in Years 7 to 9 to learn new skills in dramatic and musical theatre performance. Students in the club work with our superb INSPIRED Sixth Form Drama Captains and are invited to perform in our annual Performing Arts Evening in the Croston Theatre each year.

INSPIRED Sixth Form Performing Arts (Years 12 – 13)

Students are given the opportunity to continue to develop their skills and interests in Drama, Music and Dance. Students will have the opportunity to learn about all aspects of the performing arts in more depth including all technical aspects, where students can gain hands-on experience with our state of the art equipment in the Croston Theatre. During this time students can also rehearse and create performances for forthcoming productions, concerts and events as well as preparing for auditions.

School Production Rehearsals (Years 7 – 13)

School Production Rehearsals exist to encourage performers of all ages to develop their skills in the Performing Arts. Students work in groups with a director and creative team to devise an exciting live performance in the Croston Theatre. We are so lucky to have the use of an amazing professional theatre every day so come along and find your West End vibe! **Aladdin for the Autumn Term will be for Years 8 - 10 only.**

Dance Rehearsal (Years 7 – 13)

Dance rehearsals are for everybody involved in productions and performances in school to come along and refine their skills and knowledge of the routines. When we're not in rehearsal, these sessions are for more experienced dancers to come along and just enjoy getting to move during the school day. Whether your experience is in Ballet and Lyrical, or Tap and Hip Hop, this group is for you!

Theatre Tech Club (Years 7 – 13)

Come and experience the behind the scenes magic in our technical theatre club. Learn how the lighting and sound desks work, learn how to create exciting lighting and sound scenes. Learn and explore aspects of set design and what happens backstage during a production.

Westholme Show Choir – WSC (Years 9 – 13) – Audition only

Are you already a member of the A Capella and Chamber Choir? Do you have a passion for Musical Theatre and Popular Music? If the answer is "YES" then come and be a part of Westholme's first Show Choir! Membership is by audition only and you need to be a member of our other wonderful choirs to be eligible to audition. We will sing and perform pieces from some of the world's best loved musicals and popular songs. Come and be a part of our 'Greatest Show'!

Elite Dance Club (Years 9 - 12) - Audition only for Dance Scholars

As a member of our Dance Company, you will be taking part in intensive training sessions to improve your technique, strength and flexibility. You will also have the opportunity to prepare for local and national performances and competitions. If you are thinking of pursuing a career in dance or performing arts then this is for you!





Performing Arts

Orchestra (Years 7 – 13) - After School

The Senior School Orchestra is the flagship ensemble of the school. We welcome players of all orchestral instruments to come along and perform a wide range of orchestral repertoire, from film music to symphonies, concerti to musicals. The school orchestra performs at our Carol Service, termly concerts, and other events, allowing our students to regularly perform together. All are welcome!

Swing Band (Years 7 – 13) - Lunchtimes

Westholme's Swing Band is a traditional Jazz ensemble, covering a range of styles from the golden age of swing through to more modern jazz arrangements. This is the place to learn to improvise, to take a solo part, or to have a go at directing an ensemble for the first time. Swing Band performs at many different events throughout the school year and never fails to impress (even if we do blow our own trumpet!)

Wind Band (Years 7 – 13)

Wind Band is a small chamber wind ensemble, which performs a variety of genres. This is aimed at beginners upwards, giving all wind players the opportunity to perform in a group as early as possible in their playing career.

Chamber Choirs (Years 7 – 13)

Lower Senior Chamber Choir and Upper Senior Chamber Choir provide an opportunity to sing as part of a larger group. They are compulsory for those who have singing lessons in school but all other students are welcome to join too. They are designed to be both enjoyable and challenging, rehearsing weekly in order to be ready to perform at school events such as the Carol Service, Prizegiving and various concerts. They are teacher-led, singing a range of repertoire from traditional/pop songs to musical theatre items and established works by composers such as Handel.

Guitar Club

A guitar is not a solitary animal! Guitar group gives budding guitarists the chance to play with others in a band situation, to develop valuable skills as a group performer.

Flute Choir

Flute group is an ensemble just for flautists of all levels. It provides an opportunity for beginners to get used to playing in a group, and also allows more experienced players to take a more leading role.



World Languages

German Club (Years 7 – 8) - Autumn Term

In German Club we blend culture and conversation! We learn all about German-speaking countries whilst practising the language and even enjoying some German treats!

Mandarin Club (Years 7 – 8)

Mandarin Club is a fun way to lay the foundations for further study of the subject. It also provides the opportunity for young learners to explore the country, its people, the rich history and diverse culture. There are also after-school sessions which focus on skills including speaking, translation and writing.

Spanish (Years 7 – 8) - Summer Term

In Spanish club, we learn about other Spanish-speaking countries and practise some of the language we have been learning in lessons throughout the year. We enjoy the opportunities to play Blooket and other language games.

Introduction to Italian (Years 10 – 13) - Autumn Term

Introduction to Italian is a club for students to further their passion for languages. For those avid linguists who enjoy French, Spanish and German, Introduction to Italian gives students the opportunity to test their skills in a brand new language - just for fun! They will learn the basics of conversational Italian - giving them enough to be able to travel to Italy confidently, knowing they can strike up a conversation with a local or ask for food or directions.

Classics and Ancient Greek Club (Years 7 – 9)

In addition to learning the intricacies of the Latin language in lessons, students are given the opportunity to take up Ancient Greek at Classics and Greek Club. Students develop their understanding of the language alongside the cultural backdrop of the Hellene world. Additionally, the club gives students the opportunity to delve further into topics studied in lessons, ranging from mythology and ancient history to the social, political and cultural climate of Rome and Greece. The club is supported by the more senior Classics students, mentoring our younger enthusiasts in the exciting world of Classical Civilisation.

Speech and Poetry Club (Years 7 – 13) - Spring Term

Speech and Poetry Club runs to help support and prepare students for the annual Blackburn Speech Festival which is held and hosted at Westholme School. Students are encouraged to partake in all forms of performance, from duologues to recitals of poetry and prose. Whatever the competition class or text type, Speech and Poetry Club aims to equip students with the skills and confidence to engage and bring texts to life through successful vocal variety and delivery. The ability to speak to an audience with eloquence is something we pride ourselves on at Westholme, and our collection of trophies at this year's Festival shows we're also pretty good at it!

The Westholme Debating Society (Years 7 – 13)

Do you like to argue? Our loquacious English teacher, Mr Fialho, likes nothing more than a good argument. If you have aspirations of a career in politics, or just love a verbal battle, come along and join in the debate. Nothing is off the table. Jaffa cakes: biscuits or cakes? Or 'Should we introduce the death penalty?' Come along and share your ideas. We can't wait to hear them!

English Speaking Board (Years 12 – 13) - Spring Term

The English Speaking Board is an official qualification that requires students to demonstrate skills in English language and communication, for which they will prepare a formal presentation to be delivered to an external examiner. They are also required to précis a newspaper article on a controversial topic and conduct a debate on this subject with their peers. Finally, they are expected to make a book recommendation and read an extract from their choice of literature. Overall, the skills gained equip our INSPIRED Sixth Form students well for the demands of university life and professional careers.

The Corrigan and Fialho Book Club (Years 7 –13) - Spring Term

Forget Richard and Judy's Book Club, Westholme is the place to discuss literature. Mr Fialho and Mrs Corrigan are keen to share their literary recommendations and hear yours. We aim to read a book every half term and meet to discuss them. We will bring the biscuits, and you can bring your own ideas!





Holistic Enrichment

Lego Club (Years 7 – 9)

Come along and have a go at the weekly Lego challenge, such as build a free standing tower as tall as you or build a structure with two moving parts. Or simply enjoy 30 minutes playing with Lego!

Knitting for Charity (Years 7 – 13)

Whether you can knit or want to learn a new skill – come and enjoy knitting and nattering. You can start by knitting simple squares to be sewn together to make blankets for Syria, or for animal shelters. Maybe move on to making hats for the homeless or for premature babies.

Chess / Cribbage and Games Club (Years 7 – 13)

Knowledge and skills are acquired as much from play as from study! Students have access to a range of games in the LRC and these are available during every break and lunchtime. From centuries old classics such as cribbage, to modern day UNO, card games are always fun and interactive favourites. Sharpen your motor skills with a game of Jenga, test your general knowledge with Trivial Pursuit or land a triple word score in Scrabble. Not forgetting Chess, which at Westholme School remains as popular as ever, with games regularly attracting spectators. Whatever the game, tuition is available for all those interested in learning how to play. Expect strategic thinking, problem solving, abstract reasoning, vocabulary expansion, sportsmanship, knowledge enhancement... but most of all fun!

Careers Guidance (Years 7 – 13)

Students are encouraged to visit the Careers room during lunch time sessions to explore careers and university courses or to ask questions about subject choices, apprenticeships or work experience opportunities. Advice and guidance are always available to students and they are supported in their research. Throughout the year, career professionals, many of whom are Old Westholmians, visit school to talk to students about their role and the different careers in their areas of work. All students are welcome to attend and benefit from the wealth of knowledge and advice offered by our visiting professionals.

Charity Team (Years 12 – 13)

Our Charity Team works together to establish, advertise and run all of our charitable initiatives throughout the calendar year. Working together for a multitude of incredible causes, they raise money through non-uniform days, cake sales, activity days and much more. They are the platform through which the entire Westholme family come together to demonstrate their generosity, each year raising thousands of pounds for so many charities. There is such an incredible giving nature at Westholme School, and led by our INSPIRED Sixth Form leaders we are given the opportunity to donate and help those in need.

Psychology Film Club (Years 11 – 13)

In Psychology Film Club, students can watch a series of films and documentaries that every aspiring Psychologist should watch. These will range from A Beautiful Mind and Dangerous Method, to Stephen Fry: The Secret Life of the Manic Depressive. If this sounds like the kind of thing you'd be interested in then why not give it a try?

Amnesty International Human Rights Group (Years 12 – 13)

This group is led by an INSPIRED Sixth Form leadership team and students in all years have the opportunity to join in with the campaigns which they lead. The group have the aim of promoting awareness about global human rights issues within school, whilst also seeking to make a change in the world and endeavour to stop human suffering and injustice.

Philosophy Club (Years 7 – 8) - Autumn and Spring Terms

This club provides students with the forum to express thought and speech on a range of abstract concepts and philosophical ideas. Various mind-bending thinking games will be used as warm-ups before allowing deeper discussion on a range of stimuli. Students develop and question each other's ideas through the use of critical thinking skills. As Socrates said: "Strong minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, weak minds discuss people." All students are welcome, whether they are seeking to broaden their perspectives on life or just enjoy contemplating issues in an open environment.

First Aid Club (Years 7 – 13)

This club offers students the opportunity to learn basic first aid skills such as calling for help, stings and dealing with minor bleeding, as well as covering more advanced topics such as asthma, allergies, choking and CPR. The sessions will be run by our highly qualified School Nurse who believes that learning first aid is an invaluable life skill. Not only will it help our students become more risk aware it will also equip them with the skills to help keep themselves and others safe and potentially save a life.

WSS News (Years 12 – 13)

WSS News, or the Westholme Student School News team, is our in-house school broadcast team who works together to produce incredible journalistic episodes about life at Westholme School. Students develop their journalistic skills in script writing, video editing, camera work, presenting and interviewing by creating fun, collaborative pieces about school life. They enlist help from various year groups and showcase everything our wonderfully holistic school has to offer. One week they will be interviewing a celebrity in the Croston Theatre or showing highlights from our school productions, the next they will be producing amazing insights into each subject, various activities or the talents of students in every year group. Working in WSS News really is a creative privilege, enabling a unique opportunity to develop media skills, all whilst bringing together everything at Westholme School so that we can all share the amazing education being shared by every student and member of staff.





Westies Enterprise (Years 12 – 13)

Our INSPIRED Sixth Form Business and Economics students are afforded the incredible experience of running their own independent business in ‘Westies’, our school shop! They each take a position within the company, taking on roles such as Managing Director, Finance Manager, Operations, Marketing and Sales. Students are in charge of managing stock, placing and collecting orders, promoting the business and ensuring the it is an effectively functioning part of the school. Taking a role at ‘Westies’ certainly adds such weight to Sixth Form applications for higher education, as students are gaining first-hand experience alongside their A Levels in running a business, something you just don’t find anywhere else.

Oxbridge Society (Year 12) - Spring Term

Led by the Head of INSPIRED Sixth Form and successful Year 13 Oxbridge applicants, Year 12 students who are considering and actually applying for an Undergraduate Degree at Oxford or Cambridge University have a preparation series scheduled for the Spring Term. The series includes information about the application process, course requirements, the Oxbridge interview, personal statements and much more. It also includes a virtual visit, lectures from current alumni studying at Oxbridge and preparation for a group visit on scheduled Open Days.

INSPIRED Academic Scholarship Programme (Years 12 – 13)

Our INSPIRED Sixth Form Academic Scholars are given a specialised programme of events over the duration of their time in the Sixth Form, focused on developing their 21st century skill set and ensuring they have the opportunity to showcase why they are the academic elite in the school. Students can volunteer to take part in a number of specialised activities, each of which gives students focused tuition and opportunities to practice and hone the skills in debate, public speaking, analytical thinking, financial awareness and much more. Examples from within the programme include The Plato Programme, which focuses on great thinkers and scholars, such as artists, philosophers, writers and political thinkers, culminating in the “Plato Exhibition”, which is led by the students themselves. Our Current Affairs group enjoy regular debates about news items, and our Spotlight series allows students to prepare and lead an assembly, deliver performances on stage to a unique audience, prepare a vlog or a segment for WSS News. These and many other initiatives ensure our Academic Scholars are pushed to demonstrate why they have been granted such a prestigious award to study at our INSPIRED Sixth Form.

Peer Mentoring (Year 12) – (As required throughout the year)

In Year 12, our INSPIRED Sixth Form students are given the opportunity to become peer mentors for younger students, for both academic and pastoral support. In partnership with Kidscape, students are given comprehensive training to develop the skills to support one another. Following their training, subject staff and Heads of Year match mentors with mentees from other year groups in one-on-one friendships so that they can provide guidance and support, serving as positive senior role models. As peer mentors they listen and support their fellow students, helping them with challenges academically and socially.

Eco Club (Years 7 – 13) - Monthly

INSPIRED Sixth Form, Senior and Prep students work together in the Eco Club to promote recycling, gardening and generally keeping our beautiful environment clean and green! We have a member of the Youth Council for the Lancashire Wildlife Trust on board to make sure we're thinking about the natural habitats around us, too.

Cooking on a Budget (Years 12 – 13) – Spring Term

Students are given the opportunity to develop their culinary skills through a gourmet cookery class aimed at teaching them a variety of recipes they can impress friends with at university. They work to a budget and source their ingredients carefully, researching costs from multiple sources in order to keep their overall expenditure as low as possible. The range of recipes include an array of delectable dishes, from Italian to Indian, breakfast to baked goods. By the end of the course, our students are budding Michelin Star chefs, all whilst working to a budget.

Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition

The Blue Ocean Student Entrepreneur Competition is a virtual competition that attracts the very best high school aged entrepreneurs from all over the world. Every year, thousands of high school students pitch their innovative business concepts to experienced entrepreneurs and business-people, receive feedback on their ideas, join a community of like-minded students, and compete for thousands in cash prizes. The competition is based on creating a business idea which will benefit the world and a sustainable solution to 21st century problems. If your interested in business, geography, physics, sustainability then this is the club and competition for you!







Academic Enrichment

Academic Enrichment

Academic rigour is one of the pillars of Westholme and a wide variety of Subject Clinics are available to students of all ages throughout the week. Teachers are on hand during these sessions to provide students with the help and personalised 1:1 guidance that they need to excel in their academic studies.

Art & Photography Years 10 – 13 (Art/Photography Rm): Thursday, 1st lunch
Biology Years 7 – 13 (Rm 39): Friday, 1st lunch
Business & Economics: 1:1 support offered as required
Chemistry Years 7 – 13: (Rm A11): Thursday, 1st lunch
Computer Science All Years (Rm A7): Wednesday, 2nd lunch
Design & Technology - Product Design Years 10 – 13 (Workshop): Tuesday, 2nd lunch
Drama Revision Years 10 – 13 (Theatre): Wednesday, 2nd lunch
English Years 10 – 13 (LRC): Monday, 2nd lunch
EPR Year 11 (Rm A15): Thursday, 1st lunch
Food & Nutrition Years 10 – 12 (Rm B19): Monday and Friday, 2nd lunch
French Years 10 – 13 (Rm 16): Thursday, 1st lunch
Further Maths Year 11 (Rm A38/A39): Tuesday, after school
German Years 10 – 11 (Rm 19): Tuesday, 2nd lunch

Geography Years 10 – 13 (Rm A2): Tuesday, 2nd lunch
History Years 10 – 11 (Rm A6): Wednesday, 1st lunch
History Breakfast Club Years 12 & 13: Thursday, before school (Common Room)
Latin & Classics Years 10 – 13 (Rm A65): Friday, 2nd lunch
Mandarin Year 9 (Rm 15): Friday, 1st lunch
Maths Years 7 – 11 (Rm A37): Tuesday, 2nd lunch
Maths Year 11 (Rm A38): Wednesday, 2nd lunch
Maths Years 12 – 13 (Rm A36): Monday, 2nd lunch
PE Year 11 (RM 15): Monday, 2nd lunch
PE Years 12 – 13 (Silent Study Room): Monday, 2nd lunch
Physics Years 9 – 13 (Rm 32/33): Monday, 1st lunch
Psychology Years 12 and 13 (Rm A64): Wednesday, 1st lunch
Spanish Year 11 (Rm 22): Monday, 1st lunch
Sociology Years 12 – 13 (Rm A64): Tuesday, 1st lunch
Textiles Years 10 – 13 (Rm B12): Monday and Friday, 2nd lunch



WESTHOLME

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