



# this is WESTLANDS

SUMMER TERM 2023



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust  
Providing infinite opportunities

**INSIDE - Football Focus, Student Council, Music, PSA Support, Gardening and more.....**

# A word from the Principal...

Dear students, parents, and carers,

As we come to the end of another eventful and fulfilling academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you. It is with great pride that I commend our students for their positive attitude and dedication, our parents for their unwavering support, and our staff for their tireless commitment to supporting the young people and their families associated with Westlands.



I would also like to offer congratulations to our exceptional Year 11 students. The positive approach to the exams, the perseverance shown, and their determination to succeed have been truly commendable. As they move on to the next chapter of their lives, whether it be further education, apprenticeships, or employment, I have no doubt that the skills and values they acquired at our academy will serve them well.

This year has been filled with a plethora of activities and successes. Our school football team's impressive performance in the league has been a source of immense pride for the entire school community. Their teamwork, sportsmanship, and dedication have been exemplary. Likewise, our successful summer camps have provided wonderful opportunities for our students to engage in enriching activities, make lasting friendships, and create cherished memories.

I would also like to take this moment to express our deepest gratitude to Linda Ollier, who will be retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to our academy. Linda's unwavering commitment to the well-being and success of our students has touched the lives of countless individuals. Her expertise, compassion, and relentless dedication will be greatly missed. We wish Linda a fulfilling and joyous retirement, filled with new adventures and opportunities.

As we approach the summer break, I urge all our students to take the time to rest, recharge, and enjoy the company of family and friends. Your well-being is of utmost importance, and I encourage you to engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation. Please remember to keep yourselves safe.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that we will resume our educational journey together on Tuesday, September 5th. I look forward to welcoming each and every one of you back to our vibrant school community, as we continue to strive for excellence in all areas of education.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break filled with joy, laughter, and happy moments.

Stephen Thomas

Principal  
*WESTLANDS ACADEMY*



Another academic year is nearly over and the Y10s are finishing off the last parts of their coursework for their Open Award qualification. The Y7s have worked well throughout the year and have experienced new things, including playing the keyboards, drums and listened to music they would never listen to. The Y8s have made great progress from Y7, building on their knowledge they were taught last year. Also, the Y9s have gained enough knowledge and understanding of music to be able to work towards their Open Award qualification.



Moving forward, I am looking to enter pupils for a practical qualification, which will give them a graded certificate in keyboard playing. I am also looking at new software for the computers as students like to use the PCs to create new tunes. Don't forget about the lunch time club - learn how to play guitar and other instruments. The club is run by teaching assistant Dean Wilkinson and is very popular—so if you are interested get your name down quick!



*We are also planning to make a proper rehearsal room for the lunch time music club—which has been a great success. Think guitars, keyboards, drums, recording equipment all set up ready for students to use. We have a lot of talented musicians here at Westlands.*

**GRAHAM WYLIE—Music teacher**

## Useful numbers - put me on your fridge!

**OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY DUTY TEAM (TEES WIDE)  
(01642) 524552**

**MULTI AGENCY CHILDREN'S HUB (MIDDLESBROUGH &  
REDCAR & CLEVELAND) (01642) 130700**

**CAMHS CRISIS TEAM (TEESWIDE)**

**03000 132000**

**NHS DIRECT 111**

**POLICE (NON - EMERGENCY) 101**

**NSPCC HELPLINE**

**0808 800500**

**NSPCC (UNDER 18's)**

**0800 1111**

**<https://www.teescpp.org.uk/>**

**<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>**

# Student Council

*Maths/PE teacher Phil Swall has been helping our students run the STUDENT COUNCIL. It is now an important and firmly established part of our school—the students should be very proud of the changes they have managed to achieve, as well as being the voices of the student body. Thanks Phil for writing this update....*

"As we come to the end of another school year it is always nice to reflect on what has been achieved over the last 11 months. Student council have once again done a remarkable job this year. Led by the ever present Chairperson Mackenzie Wright, the council have had a huge part in changes within the school this year. Mackenzie has been involved in the Student Council from its start and has done a fantastic job—it can be very difficult being a the Chair of sometimes very animated meetings and Mackenzie has been outstanding. The position of Chair will take some filling.

The council has been through some changes this year with personal interchanging within form groups which demonstrates how much students want to contribute to the schools way of life. The council finished it's year with the following students as form representatives;

**YEAR 7—Reagan Cann and Kieran Vickers**

**YEAR 8—Harvey Hill and Kaleb Boston**

**YEAR 9—Logan Brazell, Connor Johnson and Jayden Conlan**

**YEAR 10—Mason Libbey and David Notman**

**YEAR 11—Mackenzie Wright.**

One of the first successful changes made by the Student Council this year was trying to come up with ways to reward students for consistently good behaviour. This then led to the introduction of WINSDAY, where students with consistently good behaviour or improving behaviour over a 2 week period get to spend a lesson in the Games Room or cooking in the Food Tech. room. This has been of huge benefit to the students, and is proving very popular.

As we moved through the year the student council continued to have an impact on the school environment. The Senior Leadership Team asked for the Council's thoughts on incentives to help improve attendance. Together they have come up with more rewards for high attending form groups and students. We only have a small dinner hall, so getting to come a few minutes early for dinner is a huge incentive that students can aim for. Good attendance is also rewarded at the end of the term with trips out—crazy golf has proven to be popular among students.

We have lots of ideas that we as a Council want to make happen, next term is going to be a busy as ever. Our first job will be to vote for a new Chair of the Student Council, as well as get our new Year 7 pupils involved as much as we can.

It has been a great pleasure to be involved and part of the student council this year. They have really made a difference to everyone's life at Westlands School and hopefully we can have the same impact in the years to come. If anyone is interested in becoming part of the Student Council then please get speak to me and be a voice for the school!"



Y11 Mackenzie Wright

Chair of the Student Council - Sept 2022 till June 2023



Chair of the Student Council - Sept 2023—???



# Transition Week

*As Summer Term ends and we sadly say goodbye to our Year 11 students, we get the opportunity to welcome our new Year 7 students before they start "big" school in September. Vice-Principal ANDY MURPHY had the task of getting things organised. How did it go Andy?*



"We have just had a very positive transition with our new Year 7 students that are due to start at Westlands in September. The students took part in a range of activities and sampled a normal day here at Westlands. In the PE lesson the Year 6 students visited our fitness suite, learned about health and fitness, and carried out a gym induction. In Food Technology, the students made cakes and decorated them for Parents Evening (and took home some to let their families sample their baking skills!) In Construction, the students had the opportunity to build planters for the school garden. They were shown how to use a range of different tools, including being shown how to use a drill, mix cement, and complete some plastering/rendering. During the Outdoor Education session, the students had the chance to experience the great outdoors, whilst staying safe. They took part in a river walk on the hunt to find the "Red Water" - where the water runs red due to the ghost of 10,000 dead miners. (Actually iron ore deposits from the mine that was there many, many years ago—Editor). They also demonstrated some excellent stone-skimming abilities.

The transition culminated in the Parents Evening where the students had the chance to show their parents/carers what they had done during the transition days and were given a further opportunity for parents/carers to do a tour of the building, meet staff and ask questions in preparation for September. It was great to see the school buzzing again after losing our Y11s—I'm sure once they are settled at Westlands, our new students will achieve great things."

*Following the transition days that Green Gates children have just spent at Westlands, the children were very happy and really enjoyed their time at Westlands. They experienced a number of taster sessions including Outdoor Education — which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children have come back to Green Gates ready and happy about joining Westlands in September.*

*Thank you to Westlands staff for putting a great programme together and making the children feel welcome.*

**MEL LYONS, Principal—GREEN GATES**



# Parent support



Westlands Academy  
Forward Together

## Calling all parents and carers ...



Horizons Specialist Academy Trust  
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Hi I'm Lauren, I am the Parent Support Advisor here at Westland's Academy. I understand being a parent, carer or guardian is hard work! Sometimes we all need a bit of advice, someone to answer our queries or even someone to just tell us if we're on the right track and to talk to. I am here to do just that!

I can advise on a whole range of issues to help you with those niggly parenting problems that many of us face. In addition to this, I aim to help you to become more involved in your child's school and their learning.

I can support you with a variety of things, such as:

- Behaviour issues
- Housing issues
- Attendance concerns
- Providing access to activities and adult learning
- Linking to other agencies
- Funding and benefits
- Home or school worries



Support can be provided at school, in the comfort of your own home or somewhere in the local community - wherever you feel most comfortable.

You can contact me via phone or email

[Lauren.Martin@horizonstrust.org.uk](mailto:Lauren.Martin@horizonstrust.org.uk) 07775227460 01642 883030



# HOLIDAYS ARE FUN

Free, fun activities for children aged 5-16 years old this summer.

To be eligible, families must be in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, in receipt of Universal Credit or experiencing financial difficulties.

**BOOK NOW!**

Scan to register:



- [www.stockton.gov.uk/haf](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/haf)
- 01642 527752
- [HAF@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@stockton.gov.uk)



In partnership with



# Parent Support

With the Summer Holidays here and 6 weeks being a long time, we are aware that extra support is needed at times. Therefore, I have listed a few numbers/websites to access if required -

- CHUB (Social Care) - [01429 284284](tel:01429284284)
- Help and Support Team (Early Help) - [01642 528808](tel:01642528808)
- CAMHS - [0300 013 2000](tel:03000132000)
- Information regarding adult mental health support can also be found on - [What to do in a mental health crisis - Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust \(tewv.nhs.uk\)](http://www.tewv.nhs.uk)
- Child's mental health information can be found on - [Crisis and liaison service for children and young people - Tees Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust \(tewv.nhs.uk\)](http://www.tewv.nhs.uk)



**Dear Parent/Carer,**

We need your support! Now is the time for Westlands to re-evaluate our current

## *Leading Parent Partnership Award.*

The purpose of this award is to help focus the schools work with parents and families. Home is the greatest influence on a child's educational performance and at Westlands Academy we want to do everything we possibly can to help parents, carers and families support their children.

### ***So what is the award?***

The LPPA is a nationally recognised award achievable by schools who work closely with the families of their students. The assessment is made by an external advisor.

### ***What difference will the award make to the work done with families at Westlands Academy?***

It will make our work with families even better. It will improve our communication and build more activities for families in school. As you know we are always trying to improve at Westlands and completing this award will help us do that!

### ***How can families help us gain the award?***

- [Read all information that we send out](#)
- [Come along to events we organise if you are able](#)
- [Complete any questionnaires we send out as honestly as you can](#)

If you have any comments or feedback about how the school is doing or how we could improve please contact the LPPA co-ordinators, Lauren Martin (PSA) or James Mellon (Assistant Vice-Principal) on 01642 883030.

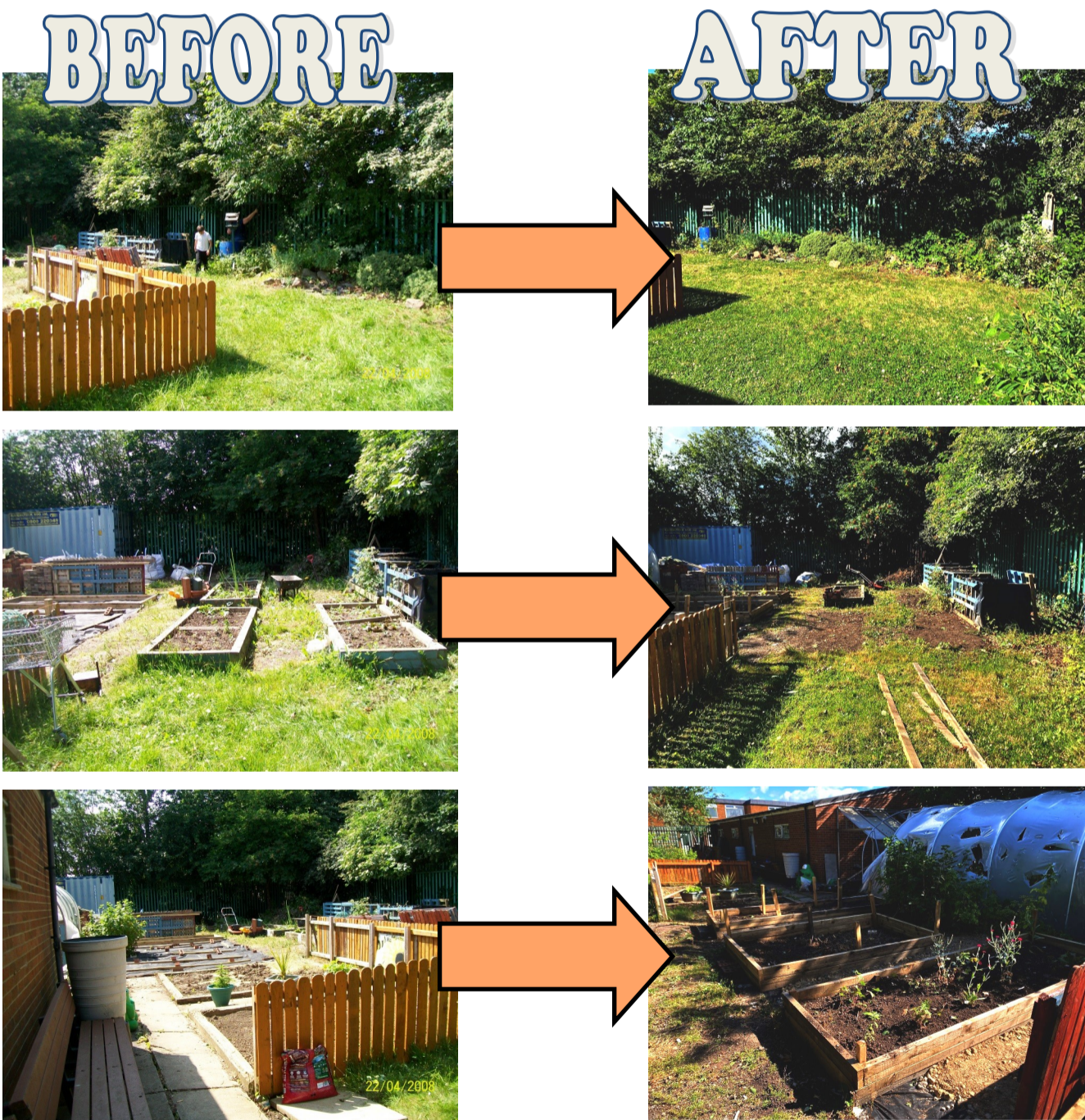
# Construction

As the warmer weather hits us and summer officially starts, our students get the opportunity to get outside in the garden. Its been a lot of fun improving the garden – it doesn't take long to grow and look a little wild. DT teacher, **Brendan Harrison**, has been busy over in the DT block. What's been going on Bren?

"Last year we had a lot of timber donated from Travis Perkins builders merchants, and this year we have been donated a lot of dolomite from Ingleby Cycle Coaching Club. Very much appreciated...but what to do with it?

We got thinking and decided that the garden area was looking a little tired, so with the help from students and staff across the whole school, we have made a huge impact in transforming the garden area to make it more user friendly. We dug out and placed weed fabric and cardboard next to the poly tunnel to stop the weeds growing, then created three new planters with the timber donated from Travis Perkins. We dismantled the old planters and reused the soil to fill up the new ones. We then used the dolomite from Ingleby Cycle Coaching Club to start the process of creating walkways in-between the planters. Our garden is right next to a small thicket of trees so its almost a constant battle to stop them growing into the garden, so they have been cut back quite a bit. The rockery was also a bit of a mess thanks to the trees, so that has also been tidied up.

Next term, we will continue with these projects; but we also have future plans. We will continue work on the walkways, the poly tunnel will be fixed and then we can begin to grow more produce. To add to this we will make new planters where the old ones were.



All classes have worked hard this term and long may it continue! Shout out to Lacie Hawkes, Camron Hardie and Sarah Barnett for continued enthusiasm and help. I can't wait till we get the poly tunnel fixed and we can get growing plants and flowers.

**BRENDAN HARRISON—DT teacher**



# Attendance

After talking to the Student Council, we have been trying to raise school attendance with the help of prize draws. The prize this year has been mystery hampers and if you have 100% attendance for the half term you are put into the draw. There are six half terms in a school year—here are the winners so far...

HALF TERM 1 (Autumn ) - **JAMES WELCH**  
HALF TERM 2 (Autumn/winter) - **KION SOUTHALL**  
HALF TERM 3 (Winter) - **NOAH SEDGEWICK**  
HALF TERM 4 (Winter/Spring) - **SONNIE FURBY**  
HALF TERM 5 (Spring/summer) - **ARRON BOLTON**  
HALF TERM 6 (Summer) - ????????

We also have a couple of students who deserve special recognition. Y11 student NOAH has just left after completing his GCSEs, he also leaves with a FIVE YEAR 100% attendance record. He has never missed a day of school in 5 years—what a fantastic achievement! Y10 student ANDREW BIELBY has also been with us since Y7 and has not missed a day in 4 years...only one more year to go Andrew and you will have done a "Noah"!



Y8 Noah and Y11 Noah

All these students have over 95% attendance this academic year

## ATTENDANCE SUPERSTARS

**STUDENTS in GREEN have 100% ATTENDANCE SINCE SEPTEMBER 2022**

<b>ANDREW BIELBY</b>	<b>MAISIE WHITE</b>	<b>JAMES WELCH</b>	<b>NOAH SEDGEWICK</b>
<b>LEWIS SMITH</b>	<b>KIERAN VICKERS</b>	<b>KALEB BOSTON</b>	<b>McKENZI MOCKLER</b>
<b>JOSHUA McLUCAS</b>	<b>LIAM MULLINS-BUNN</b>	<b>CALLUM SHAKESHAF</b>	<b>CONNOR JOHNSON</b>
<b>J P SIMPSON</b>	<b>KENZIE - LEE WATERS</b>	<b>ANTHONY TYE</b>	<b>SONNIE FURBY</b>
<b>AARON WESTON</b>	<b>MASON LIBBEY</b>	<b>ARRON BOLTON</b>	<b>TYLER KER</b>
<b>CAMERON MARSHALL</b>		<b>JOSH BULMER</b>	

# English

Head of English, *Clare McCarthy*, has seen a massive increase in the use of the school library. We now have a large core group of students who read for pleasure and they are always in and out of the library changing books. Students are also reading at home, which is absolutely fantastic! *Clare* has been busy compiling some great information on tips to keep your child reading in the holidays....

"During summer holidays, it's important for children to rest, have fun, and stay active, but we also want to provide them with mental stimulation to ease their transition back to school in September. Children who love books may continue reading as a leisure activity in summer, while others may need encouragement.

Reading is the backbone of learning, and summer provides a good time for students to boost their reading. Summer reading is essential for students to retain skills and knowledge acquired in the previous year. Children who do not engage in summer reading are at risk of lagging behind their classmates. Please try and ensure that your child keeps reading throughout the summer to avoid summer learning loss."

## ***How can Parents Boost Summer Reading at Home?***

**Make time for reading:** Parents should set aside time for reading and include the session in the summer activities plan.

**Different types of reading material:** Have different types of reading materials, including books, magazines, newspapers, and brochures.

**Beat boredom through reading:** Children can read to beat boredom and as a source of entertainment during the long holidays. Some of the books they may enjoy include fiction, nonfiction, arts and crafts books, fun fact books, project books, hands-on activities, and cookbooks.

**Read aloud:** Parents can beat summer reading resistance by reading aloud to their children. Reading aloud benefits both children and teenagers, especially among struggling readers.

**Encourage your child to learn new words:** Introduce a new word to your child daily. Talk about the meaning of the words and how they can apply them in their communication.

## ***How can I make reading part of summer fun?***

**Explore your local library:** Visit your local library with your child to check magazines and books that they have never read before. Many libraries have book clubs, reading contests, and summer reading programs even for young readers. In addition, the libraries may offer rewards such as free books for kids who complete their summer reading lists. You can also give your child the privilege of owning a library card and checking their books.

**Read when travelling:** Ensure that your child has their favourite books when travelling in a car, bus or 'plane. You can read aloud together if you are not driving. You can also opt for audiobooks to listen to together as a family whilst travelling.

**Write letters:** Your child does not have to travel away from the family to write letters. Instead, you can encourage them to send letters, postcards, emails, and letters to family and relatives. Ask friends and relatives to be your child's pen pal to keep them writing.

**Encourage a reading routine:** It does not matter how busy your summer is; always set aside time for reading, and make it a routine. Please read daily with your children, whether before bedtime, in a quiet afternoon, or in the park. Importantly, make the reading session fun, and they will look out for the moment!

THE MORE THAT YOU READ,  
THE MORE THINGS YOU WILL  
KNOW. THE MORE THAT YOU  
LEARN, THE MORE PLACES  
YOU'LL GO.

—Dr. Seuss



@weareteachers

THINK BEFORE YOU  
SPEAK. READ BEFORE  
YOU THINK.

—Fran Lebowitz



@weareteachers

WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT  
READING: IT GIVES YOU THE  
ABILITY TO REACH HIGHER  
GROUND. AND KEEP CLIMBING.

—Oprah Winfrey

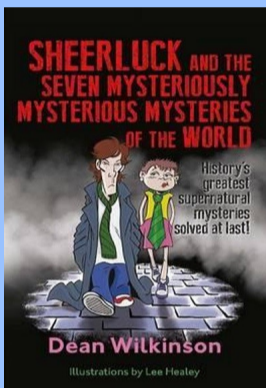


@weareteachers

## What are our students reading right now?

Scott Conlan – Attack on Titan by Hajime Isayama.

Attack on Titan is a great manga and anime series loved by millions of people. It is an amazing read and watch with dark twists, a great story and a plot perfect for late night binges when you are bored or winding down for bed. There are many books in the series and it will take a while to finish. Eren was only a child when he lost his mother to the Titans when the wall



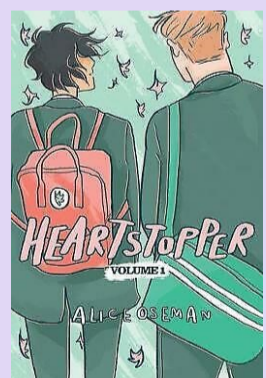
Lewis Smith – Sheerluck and the Seven Mysteriously Mysterious Mysteries of the World by Dean Wilkinson

The book is about all the mysterious mysteries or the word like alien abduction to the Bermuda triangle. There is a detective called Sheerluck and his partner Watson goes around the world solving these mysteries.

I would recommend this because if you like mysterious stuff you can read this and it shows you that sometimes it's just your imagination playing tricks on you.

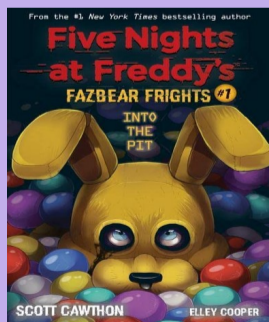
Mason Libbey and Sonnie Furby – Match magazine

This is a magazine for all football fans. It includes transfer updates, player fact files, and the latest match statistics and formations. It is great - if you love football and want to keep up with all the news about your favourite team and your country, this is the magazine for you!



Tyler Ker – Heartstopper by Alice Oseman

Heartstopper is a modern love story about two boys who are attracted to one another. They feel the need to keep this relationship quiet, fearing homophobia, ridicule and bullying. They feel like outcasts and as if they will be judged for their relationships. Through the novel, they discover and find their feelings for each other during the stages of their relationships, and learn how to deal with the mental health challenges that arise.



Kaleb Boston – Five Night's at Freddy's, Fazbear Frights by Scott Cawthon and Elley Cooper

This is a horror series with the common theme of killer robots. All the stories are different but they are all spooky stories so if you like horrors, then I recommend this series. Over 13s only!!



Arron Bolton – Top Gear magazine

This is a magazine about cars. It shows different types of cars, both old and new, such as Lamborghinis and Bugattis. There are some great cars and one day I will get one of them.

# Football

Our football team has always been popular, but this year it has really taken off. Led by football team manager **RORY McCARTHY**, it is now a big part of the school community. The football team gives everyone in school the chance to compete—and with more tournaments next year there will be more opportunities for everyone to get involved. Manager McCarthy wrote this review of the season...

"This year football at Westlands has gone from strength to strength. Our football team has been participating in the DCSSSA Football League. We have been competing against schools from all over County Durham and managed to secure a 4th place finish. A particular highlight for our students was taking part in the Spennymoor Town Football Festival. The students were able to have a day out of school and play against several teams. Westlands A and B team played brilliantly well and were able to reach the latter stages of the tournament. We have played some great games with a very young team and we achieved some fantastic results — back to back victories against Beaumont Hill, a great 5–0 win against Hollis and an away victory against Elemore Hall on the daisy field. The behaviour from the football team has been exemplary and it has been pleasing to see our students showing good sportsmanship by shaking hands, whether they win or lose.

We are looking to build on our progress this year and our young team is eager to improve and achieve a higher finish in the league next season. Staff have been particularly impressed with the number of students who participate in football at break and lunch time. So if you want to break into the football team then get out at break time and come to training!

I have really enjoyed seeing our players develop into good players, next year I'm sure we will push on and challenge for the title"

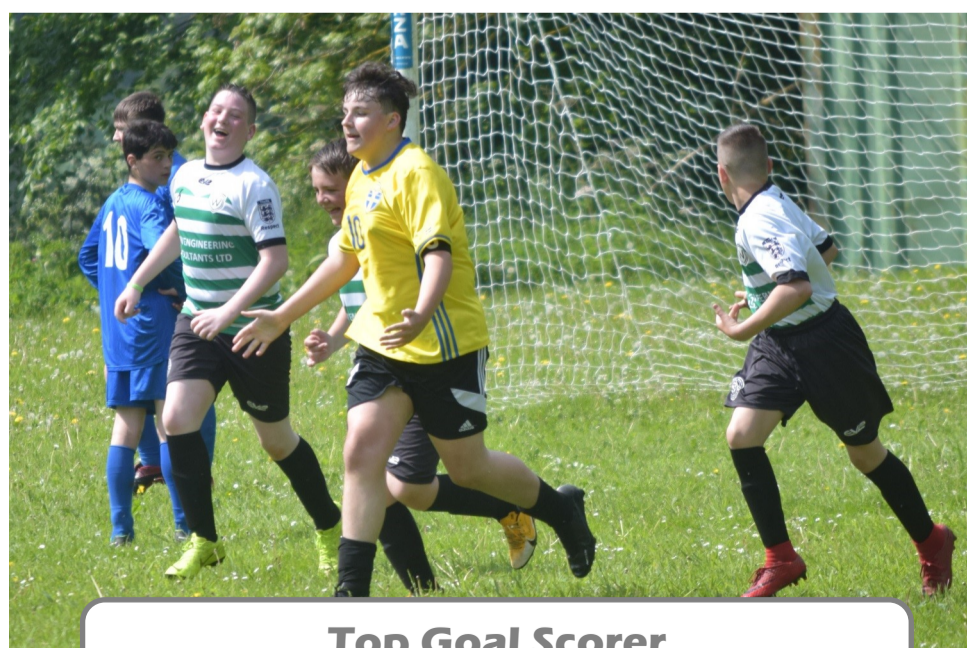
## Football awards for the 2022/23 season



**Managers Player of The Year**  
**Scott Conlan**



**Players Player of The Year**  
**Brooke Raywood**



**Top Goal Scorer**  
**Jackson Cook**



**Most Improved Player**  
**Tyler Ker**