

Young Engineers – Mr Pimblott

The Young Engineer of the Year competition is a year-long event organised by local business KMF, in which students compete to engineer a solution to a problem. In the past, students have designed and tested electric kit cars, robots and scientific experiments bound for the edge of space. The purpose of the competition is to develop students' critical thinking, engineering and collaboration skills and throughout the year they will have the opportunity to meet with relevant local businesses and experts to aid them in their project. The competition is open to all Year 10 students, however, the team is limited to around 10 participants, so interested students will need to apply to join.

Eco-School – Miss Bailey

Eco School is a lunchtime club passionate about engaging young people in environmental education and action. We do this by following a simple, seven-step framework that guides, empowers and motivates pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in our school, local community and beyond. After completing the seven-step process, we plan to apply for Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation, which recognises, rewards and celebrates the environmental achievements of young people.

Our Eco School members meet on a Monday lunchtime every week in room 153 for 30 minutes. In these meetings we work through the seven-step plan set out by the Eco School charity.

Eco School is run by Biology teacher Miss Bailey. Membership is encouraged across all year groups and anyone who is passionate about working towards a more environmentally friendly school environment is welcome to join.

Duke of Edinburgh – Mrs Allen

A life-changing experience. A fun time with friends. An opportunity to discover new interests and talents. A tool to develop essential skills for life and work. A recognised mark of achievement, respected by employers.

14-24 year-olds can complete a DofE programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Any young person can do their DofE – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an Award isn't a competition or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries.

Through the DofE programme at Westwood our young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs as well as university and job applications.

Virtues Group – Mrs Maunders

This group is student led and is focused on encouraging our students to be proud to be part of Westwood College and to appreciate being part of the wider local community of Leek and the surrounding areas. The aim is to make a positive difference to people's lives through our students engaging with their local community. The decide, plan and organise events such as charity fundraising, food donations (for example creating harvest hampers which are delivered to local residents nominated by our students) and random acts of kindness. Through these events our students engage with all different members of our local community demonstrating the virtues of pride and respect.



Beyond the Taught Curriculum

At Westwood College, we recognise that every young person is an individual, that all students are creative, and that all students have their own individual talents. We foster a caring and supportive environment and our curriculum offers wide choice whilst emphasising the emotional, physical, intellectual and cultural development of each young person.

Music / Performing Arts – Mrs Etheridge and Mrs Hutchinson

The instrumental group and vocal group meet on a weekly basis, rehearsing in the Music Room. The intention is to foster a love of shared music-making whilst developing high standards of performance. The groups involve a range of abilities and ages - music is adapted to meet the needs of individuals - and we explore a variety of repertoire, from arrangements of Renaissance vocal music to much more recent film scores and pop songs! Some of the repertoire will be performed in concerts. Additionally, students are welcome to use the department facilities to rehearse on their own projects - whether this is a rock band or a solo pianist.

The Music Department usually stages three concerts each year: an event prior to Christmas (the 'Winter Warmer'), before Easter (the 'Spring Soiree') and a third in the Summer (the 'Summer Sizzler'). The instrumental and vocal groups will perform at these events. They are also open to any individual who wishes to perform, such as singer-guitarists, musical theatre singers, solo pianists and other instrumentalists.

Together with the Drama department, we intend to re-establish the annual production; hugely successful past shows include Les Misérables, Little Shop of Horrors and Annie. This year, we're looking forward to a production of 'Lord of the Flies' planned for November 2023.

For students who wish to pursue instrumental or vocal lessons, we work with Music for Life as our peripatetic music provider. Where possible, the school will support funding for students who may face financial difficulties: funding should not be a barrier to enabling students to achieve their goals in Music.

Reading – Mr Heath

Overall, our aim is to offer extra-curricular reading of whole books that are exciting and challenging but still age appropriate.

For Year 9, we are running a book club focused on Young Teen Fiction (YTF). For YTF, students nominate titles themselves that have been published in the last year; a shortlist is announced in February. Ms Whitehouse is responsible for the club and will be liaising with Year 9 tutors and English teachers to encourage students to nominate books. She will then share the short list when it's ready.

For Years 10 and 11, we also run a book club. This one focuses on the National Teen Book Club (NTBC). There are a total of six books offered by the NTBC, with two having been announced so far. They are 'The Upper World' by Femi Fadugba and 'One of Us Is Lying' Karen M. McManus.

Inspire Cafes – Mr Wallinger

Inspire Cafes aim to deliver Super-Curricular input from University Professors on a range of subjects from Linguistics to Law, Spying in the Cold War to Sustainability in Geography. These take place after school from twice per term and are targeted at Year 12 and Year 13 students, but aspiring Year 11 students are often invited to sessions on Pharmacy for instance. These can be live or virtual sessions, but they always involve tea, coffee and cake!

Extra-Curricular Sports – Mrs Moore

Westwood run a comprehensive range of sports opportunities throughout the year.

The Inter-house sport programme is open to all students and runs on a Friday lunchtime each week, with the four houses of Stafford, Lichfield, Davenport and Johnson competing across seven different sports and 3 years groups every half term.

We also have recreational, team selection and training sessions after school and at lunchtimes which everyone is invited to attend.

Finally, we do very well in many sports fixtures both competing in district, county and even national competitions. We regularly compete in football, netball, basketball, tennis, swimming, cross country, rugby, cricket, rounders, futsal, athletics, table tennis and hockey.

School Council – Mr Spragg

Westwood Student Council is an open forum led by Mr Spragg which captures lower-school Student Voice. We invite representatives from Years 9, 10 and 11 to attend face to face meetings during term time where we follow an Agenda which incorporates whole school events and also welcomes individual student requests of ideas and suggestions. Preparation for meetings takes place during Tutor Time where student representatives will discuss agenda items with their peers and gain wide and contrasting views. Our representatives then bring these views to council meetings where we hold open discussions. We finalise events by making plans using student commitment and volunteering. We also answer queries from students using invaluable information from Mr Spragg who can share the Senior Leadership Team's priorities, which students can then take back to their peers. We pride ourselves on promoting two-way conversations where we reassure students with information and use their perspectives to inform collaborative planning.

Careers – Mr Wallinger and Mr Hillman

During their time at Westwood College, students will take part in a careers programme in Tutor Time, assemblies and off-timetable events to enable them to make an informed decision about their future. The careers programme includes activities which discuss definitions of work and workplaces, discuss workplace rights and responsibilities and help students to understand the changing nature of life and work roles. Students are supported in understanding how subjects are useful in a career, working through the skills learned in school which apply to today's 'World Of Work'. They research the job market, develop a list of preferred occupations and work out steps that need to be taken for further training or match them with skills already obtained.

Raising Aspirations – Mrs Hilton

The Raising Aspirations group supports students who come from low-income families throughout their School journey. The aim is to enhance attainment and improve learning outcomes for all students. The funding provided by the government contributes to several factors such as high-quality teaching, staff professional development, targeted academic support (such as school-led tutoring) and wider strategies to address non-academic barriers to success in schools, such as attendance, behaviour, and social and emotional support. The aim is to ensure that students who are part of the Raising Aspirations group are not disadvantaged.

Maths Leaders – Miss Loft

The Leadership Skills Programme is a ground-breaking qualification that brings leadership into the classroom. Delivered through Maths, students will learn and demonstrate basic leadership skills that will help themselves and others improve their attainment and engagement with this core subject. The programme is delivered over the course of 10 hours of guided learning that complements the national curriculum. Learners learn to deliver basic sessions to younger students, gaining a nationally recognised qualification in the process. The students will use specially designed resources to help them learn invaluable leadership skills, improve personal & academic confidence and prepare for engaging peer-to-peer learning.

