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Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics during the Autumn Term

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Adventure at High Borrans

Autumn-2022

BrightStart
off to a flying start!

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AUTUMN 2022



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Girls in STEM Extravaganza
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BrightStart

(Nursery to Year 2)

BrightStart have got off to a flying start this new term and school year!

Reception girls loved collecting autumn leaves, conkers and acorns to use in their Maths lessons, sorting, classifying and creating patterns. They selected a range of natural objects to investigate and predict which would float and which would sink. Our Science activities inspired a wonderful history activity, learning about the Mary Rose and the ship's dog Hatch. We also made fantastic clay models of the ship.

To help us understand the festival of Sukkot, BrightStart girls worked very well as a team to build a Sukkah around the willow tree in our garden.

We are very interested in the wide range of cultures and beliefs within our school, our community, and the wider world. We made beautiful, diva lamps when learning about Diwali, and we joined with EYs to celebrate the Christian Baptism of Charlie, our BrightStart baby.

We have engaged in a range of food technology activities this term; we made bread when learning about the Christian harvest festival, tasted honey and apple during Rosh Hashana, made tasty "dragon soup" and even enjoyed an amazing Medieval Banquet!

We are all very excited to take part in a wide range of activities as we approach the Christmas break.

Mrs Alexanders



Building a Sukkah



At the beginning of the year we were invited to apply to become part of the Westfield Sixth Form Prefect Team. The various Prefect roles have been redesigned to support the skills we will need to succeed when we move on from Westfield and I am proud to represent the school as Community and Events' Prefect.

My role is very rewarding as it includes meeting visitors and showing them round the school, supporting charitable events, organising hospitality and arranging whole Sixth Form activities. I am currently helping to plan a three-day visit to London next June which will include visiting the sights, touring the Houses of Parliament, taking a cruise on the River Thames and enjoying a West End show.

Being part of the Prefect Team is a big responsibility; there is a lot to do and we meet regularly as a whole group to focus on how we can support the school community. So far this year, we have delivered a number of assemblies, contributed to the Sixth Form Open Evening and volunteered as part of our new Wellbeing at Westfield initiative. As part of the restructured Prefect roles, we also have new badges which were designed by our Head Girl, Nyasha. This is a great way of making us visible throughout the school and making us feel part of a team.

In my role, I have gained more confidence and growth in my abilities. I have also improved my leadership skills, as I direct ideas and projects. The opportunities and support I have had has been incredible and I know that the skills I have developed, such as problem solving, communication and collaboration, will help me in the future.

*Abbie, Lower 6
Community and Events' Prefect*

Stretch and Challenge

'The List' for house points

Don't forget... the list of challenges are on <https://www.housepoints.info/>.

All you need to do is pick a category from the 'List' menu then give it a go. You can also select a level of difficulty using the stars and then provide some sort of proof, - it can be a quick photo or come and chat about what you did, depending on the challenge.

Furthermore, if you have an idea for a challenge, let Dr Corbin know using the button at the bottom.

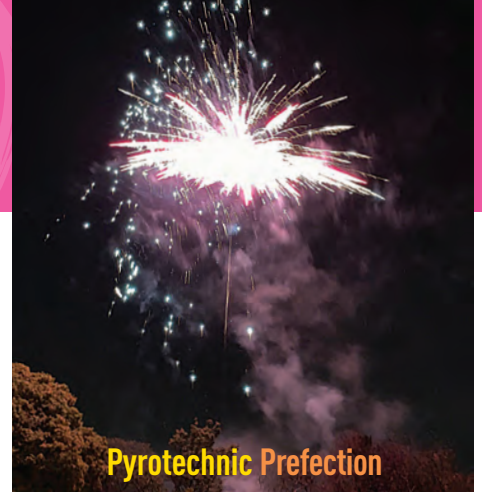


Bonfire Night

Another great night of amazing pyrotechnics and a big thanks to Mr Jeffrey and Mr Keightley for organising the fireworks.

This year they were even accompanied to music! The Camellia Dining Room was brimming with excitement as everyone enjoyed hot drinks, food and sweets. Our Sixth Form were busy offering a glow up and neon face painting service as well as hot chocolate and various sweets. Another big thank you goes to our Parents' Association for helping with the event.

They are also organising a Quiz Night on Friday 20 January and Family Ceilidh on Saturday 3 March 2023. More information will be sent out next term.



Pyrotechnic Prefection



Eva with the Guy

Big Sister Little Sister

It's always great to start school knowing you have a big sister to turn to.

As we welcomed our new Upper 3s to Senior House, our Lower 6 Big Sisters planned, resourced and staged a 'Welcome

to Westfield' party on their first day. It was heart warming to see everyone's happy faces; we all remember how daunting it can be to start a new school and not know anyone but our Big Sisters made sure that

didn't happen. Just after half term, they got together to make Halloween trick or treat bags, working together with their designs and buying their Little Sisters some treats to fill the bags with.

Welcome to Westfield



STEM Stories

'Girls in STEM' Extravaganza 2022

The first of three of our ever popular outreach days took place on the 9 November and we welcomed nearly 70 pupils from Holystone, King Edward's and Kells Lane Primary School.

The girls took part in a fun and engaging day of activities, ranging from fireworks in Chemistry, Engineering challenges and Psychology. We welcomed one of our Junior House parents, Mr Brend, to talk to the girls. As a Zoologist he talked about his career and shared some fascinating facts about the lifecycles of certain animals. Mr Brend is heading up a conservation project called 'The Wild



Oysters', as it has been discovered that oysters play an important role in cleaning our coastal waters and preserving marine life.

In addition, Mr Keightley, an engineer from Northern Powergrid, talked about the work he does supplying power to our homes and the projects he has been involved in abroad, including restoring power across the Caribbean after hurricane Irma destroyed large parts of the infrastructure in 2017.



Pictured above - Holystone girls completing the Safety Quiz.

Below - Testing different salt colours.


Westfield



Out and About

Upper 4 visit High Borrans

Upper 4 headed out for the great outdoors for a residential long weekend of adventure, accompanied by Mr Walker and Miss Masters.

Activities ranged from ghyll scrambling, caving, kayaking and rope obstacle courses.

I absolutely loved it; enjoyed every minute of it. It truly was a fun filled weekend of activities.
Emily

At first, I found some of the activities quite scary but I was helped by our teamwork and my friends around me.
Thandi



We all overcame a few challenges, like caving, but the hot chocolate afterwards when we all came back together was the best I have ever tasted! Holly

I learnt a lot of new skills, and to be confident, courageous as well as the calmness nature brings.
Coco

I loved caving; I also enjoyed leading our group and making sure everyone was ok. Osanna

I loved ghyll scrambling and being able to give everyone a hand going up the waterfall and then jumping into the waterfall from the top. Gracie J





Round Square International Fundraising Day - Fri 25th November



This year's fancy dress theme was based on our IDEALS;

- 'Internationalism'
- 'Democracy'
- 'Environment'
- 'Adventure'
- 'Leadership' and
- 'Service'.



The whole day was dedicated to raising money to sponsor the secondary school education of Maryanne Adera who attends the Starehe Girls' School in Kenya. Fundraising stalls included a bake sale, rave room, face painting, nail parlour, guess the baby, pillow fighting and a mini assault course.



Abbie and Lucy dressed in scrubs, representing 'Service'.

International Fundraising Day - Fri 25th November





Upper 5 Spice Girls represented 'Leadership'.



...And the Spice Girls!

We raised a total of £850 and we look forward to hearing from Maryanne in due course.

£850.00
raised in one afternoon!



The air stewardesses - Miss B and Upper 3 represented 'Internationalism'.

Sporting Round Up

PE this term has been full of excitement. One of the most exciting events in the calendar was the netball tour to La Manga, Spain for our Lower 4 and Upper 4 girls. This was an amazing opportunity for our girls to meet players from around the world as well as receive some high level coaching.



It's been fantastic to see so many girls join our lunchtime clubs. This term we have had netball, netball shooting, hockey, football, volleyball, trampolining, running club and ball skills. I was happy to hear our Year 4 do well in football, especially as Jasmine had never played before.

It's so nice to see our Upper 3 to Upper 4 are doing swimming lessons again. It's also great to mention how well Evie and Ava are doing for Newcastle Swim Team. See our social media pages for all our sporting successes as and when they happen.
Gabby, Sport and Creative Arts Prefect.

And... Football. Well done to our Year 4 football team who had a very successful afternoon at NHSG on the 30th November. The team was led by Lizzy who is also having a successful season with Newcastle United, having been selected for the ETC (Emerging Talent Centre) and Kicks Programme.



Year 4 footballers at NHSG



'Seal spotting
at St Mary's Lighthouse'



Rockpooling



'Seal spotting'

Autumn Poems

Beach School

*How lucky we are to have these chances here,
Beach School and Forest School throughout the year.*

*Hot chocolates too many to count, we have had,
Here's to great memories that make us feel glad.*

*Seaton Sluice what a wonderful place,
we are so lucky to learn outside, in this space.*

*We learned how the oysters filter the water so clear,
that we can see fish, crabs and shells so near.*

*We found sea glass, stones and shells around,
and made jewellery with wire we wound.*

*'What a beautiful necklace' said Mrs McNaught,
'Looks like something one would've bought!'*

OUTDOOR STUDIES



Forest School

*Forest School this term has been a dream,
We've built shelters in the garden in our teams.*

*They were tall, strong and proud,
we weren't worried about any rain clouds.*

*There we huddled warm and dry,
cooking tasty treats to try.*

*Jam doughnuts to name but one,
if you're asking us, we ate a tonne.*

Toasting marshmallows

Miss Brown



Food and Nutrition

Cook of the Year

We were delighted to welcome Mr David Whitehead, owner of The Jolly Fisherman in Craster, to judge our annual Cook of the Year competition



The girls were tasked to research, plan and create two dishes (one savoury and one sweet) with a regal theme.

A variety of recipes were put forward with some all-time favourites like coronation chicken and teriyaki salmon. Desserts included lemon drizzle, rocky road, carrot cake and macarons.



Mr Whitehead said "You have a really impressive group of chefs here; they are all very enthusiastic and have clearly spent a lot of time planning and perfecting their recipes".

Meg, our winner said, "For Cook of the Year, I made lamb rump, fondant potato, pea and mint purée with a red wine jus. For dessert, I made tiramisu with chocolate chards. Throughout the competition, my friends supported me and cheered me on, particularly Ava who gave me lots of advice which really helped boost my confidence. Thembi and I were so nervous at the start but I thought she looked like such a professional. I started to worry as I was running out of time and I ended up burning my red wine jus, but Mr Whitehead helped me through it and I succeeded. I plated up my whole dish and it looked wonderful; I was so happy!"

Meg, Upper 3





Sixth Form Bake Off

Our Lower 6 took part in a fun and festive 'Christmas Bake Off' challenge to celebrate the end of term. Working in teams, they battled a tricky technical challenge of making mince pies with limited instructions before embarking on the showstopper, a two-tier Christmas themed cake. The Bake Off was won by Nikki, Amelia and Lily's stunning red velvet cake with intricate decorations.



"I was really proud of the amount of hard work, planning and problem solving that was on show from all of the Lower 6 students. It was a hugely enjoyable afternoon and I'm very grateful to Mrs Graham for letting the Sixth Form loose in the Food room!"

Mrs McGowan, Head of Sixth Form

Junior House Christmas Performance

On Friday 9th December, our eagerly anticipated BrightStart Nativity and Prep Panto Pandemonium played out in front of a packed house in the Camellia Dining Room.

All the girls performed beautifully and it was lovely to see so many parents and relatives join in; it was hard not to spot a few teary eyes amongst many of us in the room too. The girls have all worked really hard, not just on their performances but throughout the whole term and I couldn't be more proud of them.

Mr Drake



And finally...
We wish you a very
Merry Christmas,
from all at
Westfield School!

