

WEST DERBY SCHOOL

Autumn 2025

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas break. The students have had such a fantastic term. Thank you for all your support everyday. We are very proud of each and every boy at West Derby. Please read on to hear about everything your son has had the opportunity to be part of this term.



REMEMBER

**ALL STUDENTS RETURN ON
MONDAY 5TH JAN @ 8.40AM
GATES WILL CLOSE
AT 8.45AM
STUDENTS SHOULD BE
SAT IN THEIR FORMS AT
8.45AM**



AUTUMN 2025 Yr 10 & 11

Year 11 students are powering through to the final terms of their GCSE courses. They have already completed their first round of mock exams, which have been an eye opener for many helping them to understand the importance of being fully prepared for the upcoming exams.

Students have been attending numerous before and after school revision sessions in a range of subjects. Remember revision sessions are as follows; Monday is music, Tuesday is English, Wednesday is options, Thursday is Maths and Friday is PE. These will continue after Christmas and February half term when the students will prepare for their next round of mock exams on Monday 2nd March 2026.

Y11 visited the Liverpool Epstein theatre for a special performance of A Christmas Carol. Performed by Charles Dickens' great-great-grandson. It was a wonderful adaptation of the novella. Y11 higher ability boys also took part in a day of tuition, English Masterclass' and studied ways to attain the highest grades in English Literature.



Our year 11 footballers continued their great run in the National Cup and move on to the 5th round. Unfortunately their unbeaten run was stopped by a very strong Thomas Telford School to knock WDS out of the Elite National Cup. Lessons learned, onwards and upwards to the Nationals.

This has been a very busy term for Year 11 Catering and Hospitality. Each week the boys have spent one lesson focusing on the hospitality sector, learning such as how a restaurant brigade is constructed, roles and responsibilities of hotel staff and even the knowledge of how 5 Star hotels offer pillow menus on arrival! The boys have also cooked many dishes preparing for their external exam. Paella, Thai Green curry, fish goujon sandwiches with homemade bread and chocolate fondants have been just a few of their creations. The boys are unanimous in that the best part of the lesson is the eating!

Year 11 Design Technology students have been busy preparing their prototypes, planning their cutting lists and manufacture processes to produce their final products in January.

Year 10 are well underway with their GCSE courses. Coursework deadlines in drama and PE are already looming and students are working very hard towards these. Our geographers completed their first fieldwork enquiry when they went into Liverpool city centre investigating 'How regeneration has affected Liverpool' and in doing so compared three sites across the city examining environmental quality, land use and pedestrian counts. They were impeccably behaved and a credit to their parents and the school.

Year 10 students visited Liverpool Hope University for their 'Experience of the Workplace' event led by SPF Energy Network. The boys attended and took part in lectures by a variety of employers from future green energy employers. Many boys took part in the Careers Carousel on our personal growth day. They met with a large range of employers from BAE to the NHS trust. This allowed them to explore careers in these sectors, in turn helping them to make informed decisions about their future careers.

Our year 10 Drama students visited LIPA for the musical theatre workshop followed by a visit to The Empire to watch Matilda. They had a thoroughly enjoyable day and were a credit to the school.



AUTUMN 2025

Y7,8+9

KS3 students have dived into their studies very well this term. In English, select KS3 classes in year 7, year 8 and year 9 started Reading Plus. This online reading programme has been introduced to boost fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and reading skills. Students have weekly sessions using the programme and the progress has been brilliant so far!

Pupils in English have also had the opportunity to hone their writing skills for National Poetry Day in October. As part of the celebration, students studied poetry around the theme of 'Play'. They also participated in the Young Writers Competition, creating interesting 100-word stories linked to Grim Tales!

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our Christmas Bingo evening on Friday 12th December. It was a hugely successful event, with great fun had by all and lots raised for charity too. Our resident vocal group performed and again for our carol evening on Wednesday 17th December. This is always a wonderful event and a great way to get in the festive mood.

Year 7 enjoyed taking part in the Liverpool Maths Party Day, working in teams to tackle a variety of fun and challenging problems. Points were awarded for both their effort and their solutions, encouraging teamwork and perseverance throughout the lesson.

Our after school cookery club runs every evening and has been one of the most popular clubs running this term. A huge number of boys have signed up so we had to create a waiting list! And my goodness it is worth waiting for. So far boys have made homemade vegetable soup, chicken pasta, mini pizzas, apple crumble and Oreo chocolate truffles. A big thank you to Mrs Evans who runs this club every evening, with the help of Mrs Beresford and a number of year 9 boys.

On the personal growth day year 9 students also had the opportunity to work with a professional chef. They asked insightful questions about his experience within this sector, watched him demonstrate some elaborate techniques, then made their own chocolate crepe to top it off!

In year 9 catering lessons, the boys have made a number of delicious dishes including curry, nachos, burritos, fajitas, salt and pepper wedges and spaghetti bolognese. They have grown in confidence week after week improving knife skills, cooking techniques and presentation. The best part of the lesson is that they get to eat their creations at the end. They have even become very skilled at doing the washing up so put them to work at home!

Back in October a lucky group of year 8 spent the weekend at Boreatton Park Lodges in Shrewsbury. They took part in a range of outdoor activities such as Year 8 had a spectacular day in Liverpool city centre visiting the Catholic and Anglican cathedrals along with The Abdullah Quilliam Mosque as part of our PSHE and RS curriculum. This was coupled with an hysterically entertaining trip to see Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the M&S arena.



AUTUMN 2025

What have Y7 been learning and what's to come!

Subject	Year 7 Autumn Term	Year 7 Spring Term
English	Storyworld: Pupils explored the conventions of story writing, looking closely at different texts particularly those from the Fantasy genre. Pupils considered the beginnings of storytelling, reaching back to myths and legends, the ways writers use characterisation to create interesting characters. Pupils delved into various interesting storyworlds created by writers.	Oliver Twist: Charles Dickens is a celebrated writer of the 19th Century. Pupils will study Oliver Twist to be transported directly to that period. They will explore key characters like the eponymous character Oliver Twist and the crafty Artful Dodger! They will read the novel, watch aspects of the musical, examine key aspects of setting and characterisation to consider Charles Dickens' viewpoint of the world he lived in.
Maths	The Number System Operating with Number Fractions & Percentages	Ratio & Proportion Expressions, Functions and Formula Analysing & Displaying Data Probability
Science	Cells, The particle model and Forces	Organisation of living things, The Periodic Table and Energy
History	How dark were the dark ages? How powerful was the Pope? What travelled the Silk Roads?	How did a Norman become King of England? How far did the Normans disrupt England? What were the Crusades?
Geography	How has geography shaped the UK?	What processes shape the land? Rivers, coasts, and glaciers. What processes shape our urban areas?
Religious Studies	What are the key beliefs and practices of Buddhism?	What are the key beliefs and practices of Sikhism?
Spanish	Personal information describing family members.	Describing your school.
PE	Basketball, health related fitness and rugby	Football, badminton and table tennis
Music	Introduction to Music - Pulse & Rhythm: Students learned how to play in time with a steady pulse, to read rhythm notation and to play simple rhythms on a percussion instrument. Took part in whole class ensemble performances on West African djembe drums and compose and perform their own call and response piece using polyrhythms. Vocal Skills & Whole Class Rock Band: Students developed their ability to sing in tune and with good technique by performing the melody to 'We Will Rock You' by Queen in unison.	Beginner Keyboard Skills: Students begin by learning a simple right-hand melody from Ode to Joy by one of the great composers Beethoven. They will then progress to a more difficult piece requiring the use of both hands - a left-hand bass line and right-hand melody (7 Years by Lukas Graham).
Drama	Slapstick Comedy- features of Slapstick and how to practically apply these in our performances.	Stanislavski- understand the techniques used in the Stanislavski 9 Point System to make believable performance.
Computing	Modelling Data: Spreadsheets	Networks and the Internet
Art	The Fundamentals: The work of Hundertwasser	Pop Art: Ceramic Pizza slices
PSHE and RSE	Students have looked at gratitude and being thankful. Personal hygiene, puberty and mindfulness	Relationships: Recognising those that may be toxic. Banter V Bullying (online and in person). Romance and healthy relationships. Living a healthy lifestyle. British Values and Radicalisation.

AUTUMN 2025

What have Y8 been learning and what's to come!

Subject	Year 8 Autumn Term	Year 8 Spring Term
English	Character Voices: Pupils studied a range of fiction text extracts. This allowed them to consider characterisation as well as explore the different relationships characters have in the chosen extracts	Romeo & Juliet: Pupils will develop an appreciation for William Shakespeare the world famous dramatist. They will study his popular and well-known tragedy, Romeo and Juliet by exploring key characters and consider their interactions and behaviours.
Maths	Number, Decimals and Ratio, Calculating with Fractions	Percentages, Decimals and Fractions, Area and Volume, Expressions and Equations, Straight-line Graphs
Science	Electricity, Acids and Reproduction	Waves, Chemical Reaction and Adaptations
History	Why did Henry VIII break with Rome? Was the Elizabethan era a Golden age? Why did the English fight the English?	How far did England change in the 1600s? Did the Enlightenment fuel the revolutions?
Geography	How diverse is the continent of Africa?	Can we ever know enough about tectonics to live safely?
Religious Studies	Is death the end?	How radical was Jesus?
Spanish	Talking about technology, music and TV and holidays in the past tense.	Talking about eating habits, the differences between Spanish and the UK and healthy lifestyles.
PE	Basketball, health related fitness and rugby	Football, badminton and table tennis
Music	Beginner Guitar Skills, Keyboard Skills & Film Music: Students build upon the guitar and ukulele skills they acquired in Year 7. Mrs. Vanlint's students build upon the keyboard skills they acquired in Year 7 by learning a more advanced piece - the Jurassic Park Theme by John Williams.	Beginner Drum Kit Skills: Students develop their sense of coordination and ability to perform in time to a steady pulse. The piece of music they will learn will be much more challenging than the basic drum beat they learnt at the beginning of Year 7.
Drama	Naturalism and Stanislavski-the links between the style of Naturalism and the Stanislavski theory and the application of both to performance.	Brecht- exploring the very contrasting techniques and intentions of this theorist through practical performance.
Computing	HTML coding	Python programming
Art	Day of the Dead	Marine Life
PSHE and RSE	Sex, Relationships and Conflict: Consent, Contraception, Dangers of Pornography, Sexting, STIs, Body Image and Domestic Conflict. Careers, Finance and Budgeting.	Prejudice, Values, Extremism + Cults 1.British Values and tolerance 2.Radicalisation and Extremism

AUTUMN 2025

What have Y9 been learning and what's to come!

Subject	Year 9 Autumn Term	Year 9 Spring Term
English	Gothic Fiction: Pupils identified the conventions of The Gothic genre through film clips and fiction extracts. Pupils were introduced to interesting characters and settings and described them using descriptive and figurative language.	Great Expectations: Pupils will continue to develop and deepen knowledge of the seminal author, Charles Dickens, and his authorial intentions. They will explore Dickens' portrayal of Victorian society and British culture of 19th Century.
Maths	Indices and Standard Form, Expressions and Formulae, Dealing with Data, Multiplicative Reasoning	Sequences, Inequalities, Equations and Proportion Circles, Pythagoras and Prisms, Graphs
Science	Atomic Structure, Energy and equations and Cell Biology	Features of the periodic table, Particles & Pressure and Organisation in Humans and Plants.
History	Was World War One the war to end all wars? What were the Bolsheviks trying to achieve?	Why did the fascists gain support? How were people controlled in totalitarian states?
Geography	Why is the Middle East an important world region?	Is the geography of Russia a cost or a benefit? How is climate changing and what can we do to ensure a sustainable future?
Religious Studies	What is philosophy and can we prove the existence of God?	Is religion a power for peace or conflict?
Catering	Pupils have made chicken noodles, nachos, Fajitas, burritos and spaghetti bolognase	Pupils will be making fried rice, kebab skewers, burgers and fish cakes.
Spanish	Talking about likes and dislikes, weekly activities, birthdays and cinema trips. Talking about fitness, food and exercise.	Talking about careers, ambitions and future plans. Talking about local and global issues, inequalities and injustice.
PE	Basketball, health related fitness and rugby.	Football, badminton and table tennis
Music	Intermediate Keyboard Skills: Students learned how to play a more advanced solo piece (Bohemian Rhapsody) on the keyboard using both hands. Intermediate Drum Kit Skills: Students built upon the drum kit skills they acquired in Year 8 by learning a more difficult piece.	Rock & Pop Band Skills (Mrs. Vanlint HT 3 & 4, Miss Ellison HT 4 & 5): Students prepare a performance of a chosen rock or pop song in groups.
Drama	Reproducing a Repertoire-understanding the skill of creating performance through learning the processes of devising.	Devising Political Theatre-exploring current themes and issues in society and finding ways to communicate these through performance.
Computing	Data Science	Media - animations
Art	Portraiture	Surrealism
PSHE and RSE	Mental Health, Positivity and Sleep. Healthy Eating, Prescription Drugs, First Aid, CPR and Gambling.	Community, Anti-Social Behaviour, Financial Responsibility, Workplace Skills and Volunteering. The Option Process, Online Profiles and Algorithms.

AUTUMN 2025

What have Y10 been learning and what's to come!

Subject	Year 10 Autumn Term	Year 10 Spring Term
English	A Christmas Carol: Pupils read the timeless and moving Christmas moral tale by Charles Dickens. They examined characters in depth and considered the effects of linguistic and literary devices used by the writer to shape meaning.	Macbeth: Pupils will study the bloody reign of terror of the eponymous Macbeth. They will build upon their existing knowledge of Elizabethan/Jacobean society and their understanding of Shakespearean language. They will consider the key themes of the play: power, ambition, witchcraft, and death.
Maths	Higher: Powers, Roots, Indices and Surds, Expressions, Formulae and Proof, Averages and Range Foundation: Rounding and Estimation, Laws of Indices, Algebra: Expressions, Expanding and Factorising, Drawing and Interpreting Graphs, Tables and Charts	Higher: Fractions, Percentages & Ratio Angles, polygons, Pythagoras and Trigonometry Foundation: Fractions and Percentages, Equations, Inequalities and Sequences, Angles, Polygons and Parallel Lines
Science	Electricity, Diseases and Chemical Changes	Electromagnetism, Bioenergetics and Organic Chemistry
History	Anglo Saxon and Norman England	Superpower Relations and the Cold War
Geography	Paper Three Geographical Applications. Human fieldwork enquiry write up – How has regeneration affected Liverpool? and paper one Living with the physical environment: The living world – Ecosystems.	Paper One Living with the physical environment: The Living World – Tropical rainforests (Malaysia) and deserts (Thar Example). Followed by Physical landscapes in the UK – Coastal landscapes.
Religious Studies	Christianity: Beliefs and practices Religion, relationships and families	Christian Practices Islam: Beliefs & Teachings
Spanish	Me, my family and friends, technology and social media and free time.	Customs and festivals. Home, town, neighbourhood and region.
PE	Core PE has an activity option system. OCR Sports Science have been working on sports nutrition R183.	Core PE has an activity option system. OCR Sports Science will continue to work on their coursework module on sports nutrition R183 up until February half term.
Music	Students began with Component 1, Task 1. This involved learning about the musical features of rock 'n' roll music, presenting their research in a PowerPoint. Students completed one of their Task 2 practical tasks – an arrangement of a rock 'n' roll song using Logic Pro.	Students continue with Component 1 in preparation for May 2024 submission. They learn about the features of reggae, Chicago blues and film music, presenting their research in a PowerPoint. Students complete two further practical tasks – a live performance and a composition for film/tv/video game.
Drama	Teaching and completion of Component 1-Exploring the Performing Arts	Teaching of Component 3 exam skills and participation in NOW Festival competition performance.
Computing	Data Representation. Python Programming	Computer Networks Python Programming
Graphic Communication	Principles of Graphic Design & Basic Photoshop Skills	Develop a Brand & Advertising Campaign for a fictional product
Photography	Photography & Photoshop Introduction. Lines Project.	Portrait Project focusing on lights, location, DSLR settings and editing techniques in photoshop
PSHE and RSE	Mental Health and Well Being: Illness, Grief and Bereavement, Managing Anxiety, Self-Esteem, Health and well being	The Wider World and Respectful Relationships: Friendship, Families, Internet Safety and Harms

AUTUMN 2025

What have Y11 been learning and what's to come!

Subject	Year 11 Autumn Term	Year 11 Spring Term
English	<p>Power & Conflict Poetry: Pupils studied poems related to the themes of power and conflict. They focused on form, structure, language and authorial intent to develop an understanding of poetic devices and how they shape meaning.</p> <p>English Language Component 2: Pupils studied non-fiction texts from the 19th and 21st Century that are thematically linked. They wrote in a variety of forms: letters, articles, speeches, reports and reviews.</p>	<p>An Inspector Calls: Pupils will study Priestley's play about social class injustice and consider the key character and themes. They will build upon their understanding of dramatic conventions and consider how staging and dialogue convey meaning.</p> <p>English Language Component 1: Pupils will study fiction extracts from the 20th Century and examine how writers use language for effect.</p> <p>Pupils will also redraft a narrative piece by carefully structuring plot and developing characters.</p>
Maths	<p>Higher: Transformations & Constructions, Inequalities & Equations, Multiplicative Reasoning, Further Statistics.</p> <p>Foundation: Transformations and Vectors, Ratio, Direct & Inverse Proportion, Multiplicative Reasoning, Similarity</p>	<p>Higher: Probability, Functions & Surds, Similarity & Trigonometry Quadratics & Cubics, Circle, Algebraic Fractions.</p> <p>Foundation: Probability, Perimeter, Area & Volume 2, Fractions, Indices & Standard Form, Right-Angled Triangles</p>
Science	Chemical Calculations, Electrolysis, Motion, Reproduction and Genetics.	Rate of reactions, Waves and Homeostasis.
History	Crime and punishment through time	Superpower Relations and the Cold War
Geography	Paper Two Challenges in the Human Environment. Section B Changing Economic World; UK Section. Paper One Living with the Physical Environment. Section A The Challenge of natural hazards 3.1.1.2 Tectonic Hazards.	Paper One Living with the Physical Environment. Section A The Challenge of natural hazards 3.1.1.2 Tectonic Hazards. 3.1.1.3 Weather Hazards. Paper One Living with the physical environment walk through prior to mock examinations.
Design Technology	Pupils have modelled their design in a variety of ways and media. Using past experience of CAD and their portfolio of evidence, they have refined their ideas whilst designing and developing, using the variety of techniques and skills from previous CAD tasks to work independently & competently.	Pupils will complete the manufacturing section of the project, producing a prototype which is complete and which demonstrates a high level of skill. They will have tested and evaluated the completed outcome, then suggested improvements and modifications and gathered the opinion of others on the outcome.
Catering	Practising the dishes that will be cooked for the controlled assessment	Completion of controlled assessment
Spanish	Theme 3: Communication and the world around us. (Travel, tourism and places of interest, media and technology, the environment and where people live).	Revision: Theme 1 (People and Lifestyle) Theme 2 (Popular Culture)
PE	Core PE has an activity option system. OCR Sports Science will be completing unit R181.	Core PE has an activity option system. OCR Sports Science will begin their exam preparation for R180 in May.
Music	Students complete Component 1 Tasks 1 and 2 for a December 2025 submission.	Students begin work on Components 2 & 3 for a May 2026 submission.
Computing	Paper 2: Programming Concepts & Algorithms (Section 4)	Paper 1: Ethical and Legal Issues.
Photography	Component 1 Photography Portfolio. Focus on completing student independent projects.	Complete Component 1 Portfolio. Prepare for Component 2 Exam.
Graphic Communication	Component 1 Graphic Design Portfolio. Focus on completing student independent projects.	Complete Component 1 Portfolio. Prepare for Component 2 Exam.
PSHE and RSE	Mental Health and Well- Being Living Responsibly	Relationships and Sex Respectful Relationships
Business	Performing market research and creating product designs for Best Burgers.	Identifying and calculating costs for Best Burgers and creating a brand identity.