WEST BUCKLAND
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Forward | Thinking

Forward thinking

Academic integrity and holistic educational experiences are at the forefront of everything we do.

Our commitment to excellence is reflected in our dedication to nurturing and honing the talents and curious minds of each student so that they become the trail blazers of tomorrow.

We pride ourselves on developing core values that are essential for personal growth and future success. Honesty, resilience, kindness, respect, and curiosity are not just words to us; they are the foundation upon which our school is built. These values guide our interactions, shape our curriculum, and inspire our students to become thoughtful, compassionate, and inquisitive individuals who make a difference even when things may seem difficult.

Our students exhibit a willingness to take risks and confront challenges with confidence and fortitude. We cultivate a spirit of innovation and resilience both within the classroom and in broader contexts. Our dedicated staff employ dynamic pedagogical approaches, integrating advanced technology and sustainability principles to ensure that learning is 'way beyond' that of other schools. This approach equips our students with the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving world.

West Buckland is more than just a school; we are a community that celebrates diversity, fosters collaboration, and encourages lifelong learning. We invite you to join us on this exciting journey and become a part of a place where education is not just about academic achievement but about shaping the future thinkers and leaders of tomorrow.

Ms Katie Hill, BA Hons, PGCE, MEd
Head of Middle School

Academic excellence

Learning for achievement, learning for pleasure, learning for life.

Years 7-11 curriculum

At West Buckland we pride ourselves on our broad and balanced curriculum in Years 7-9. Students study a range of subjects that enable them to discover their strengths and develop a good understanding of the world around them. This includes the core subjects of English and Maths. The Sciences are taught as separate disciplines as are the Humanities subjects of History, Geography and Religious Studies. Computer Science is also taught separately. Most students study two languages in Years 7-9, French and Spanish. All the creative arts subjects of Art, Design and Technology, Drama and Music are taught throughout Year 7 and 8. They are asked to select three of the Creative Arts to continue with in Year 9. PE and sport are a big part of the curriculum, and all students have one PE lesson a week and a double games lesson. Students also have regular PSHE lessons focusing on a wide range of different Personal, Social, Health and Emotional areas.

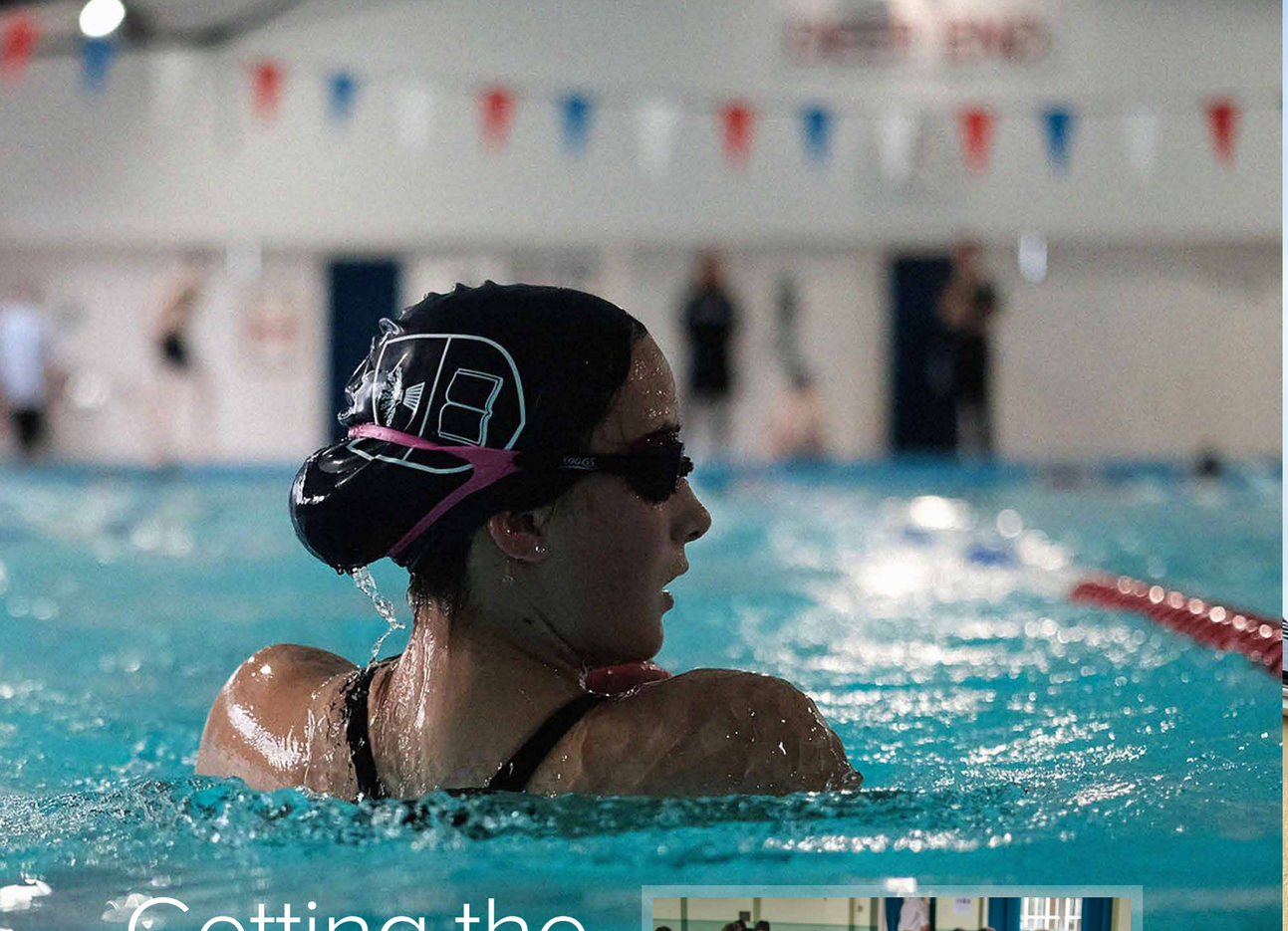
In Year 10 students begin studying subjects at GCSE level. They are asked to choose their GCSE options at the end of Year 9. Students also have the opportunity to study for a Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) from a range of topics such as artificial intelligence and sustainability. For more information, please follow the QR code to the West Buckland GCSE Options booklet.

Personalised Learning and Development

The PLD offer a variety of ways to support your child in Years 7-11. Academically in Years 7-9 we offer additional English and maths intervention for students who may need this additional support. These lessons would take place instead of taking a second modern foreign language, and be taught in the PLD classroom. In Years 10-11 students have the option to drop a GCSE and take PLD, where we continue with the English and maths support but focusing on the English Language paper and exam technique for Maths GCSE. In addition to this we have PLAs (Personalised Learning Assistants) in Year 7 English and Maths lessons, as well as supporting targeted sets in English and Maths in Years 8-11. There is also an option of 1:1 lessons in the PLD, at an additional cost, where the support is bespoke to the student's needs.

Pastorally, we have a member of the PLD always available to support your child before school, during lunchtimes and during ECAs. This support can be help with homework, organising workload or even dealing with friendship concerns. We are here to listen.

Students from overseas receive individual support from the **English as an Additional Language** department through a mixture of individual, group and self-access courses.



Getting the balance right

We believe that education should be part of living and not separate from it.

Our co-curricular programme has been carefully devised to make a wider impact on our students: to influence character development; to develop teamwork; to inspire service to others; to promote a healthy lifestyle and to pursue excellence.

We believe in this wholeheartedly, so we have shaped the weekly timetable accordingly, so that it includes, amongst other things, MAD (Make a Difference) Monday – allowing a full afternoon a week to dedicate to co-curricular activities such as CCF, sport, charity work, creative arts, academic extension or outdoor pursuits.

Boarding

Students thrive in a caring and happy community.

Pastoral care is a vital element in the success of our pupils' education - pupils thrive in a happy environment where they feel well-known and well cared for.

Pastoral care comes in many different layers. Every pupil belongs to one of our four houses and are members of a tutor group which meets daily. Houseparents work closely with tutors to ensure that the children's welfare is monitored as carefully as their academic progress and that communication between school and home is effective. In addition, we have regular team building activities, peer-to-peer mentoring and access to on-site counsellors and wellbeing experts, offering reassurance, support and advice.

Boarders in Years 7 - 11 enjoy a close community in our co-ed boarding house, Boyer. All boarders can take part in an extensive choice of evening and weekend boarding activities including surfing, coasteering, cooking, swimming and yoga.

Boarding does not replace family life but supplements and strengthens it and the house forms a supportive and friendly bond. Our weekly boarding offer is increasingly popular. Boarders benefit from easy access to sport and study facilities and also from being part of the vibrant boarding community.

Whilst the school is built on Christian values, our community consists of many different faiths.

School Transport

Our extensive daily bus service covers North Devon and beyond to ensure as many of our local pupils as possible have access to the service. Most weekday sporting and extra-curricular activities will conclude in time for buses home in the evening.

We operate a pick up and drop off service to Heathrow at the start and end of every term for our international boarders.

Developing active minds, promoting active lives

West Buckland has a long and established tradition in sport and outdoor learning.

Our students enjoy impressive sporting facilities, including the Jonathan Edwards Sports Centre which includes a first-class fitness suite and full size sports hall, with capacity for a basketball court, four badminton courts, four cricket nets, indoor tennis, hockey, netball, and five-a-side football.

Outdoor sports facilities include cricket, rugby and football pitches, an all-weather hockey pitch, sixteen tennis courts, two squash courts, two shooting ranges and a 25m indoor pool.

In addition to an extensive fixture list for rugby, hockey, netball, cricket, basketball and tennis, we also offer coaching and competition in cross-country, athletics, swimming, football, shooting and squash.

Our performance programmes in tennis, boys hockey and netball support talented sportsmen and women through a pathway that will ensure their development.

Physical challenges are not restricted to the sports field. We hold regular strength and conditioning sessions for senior students and have recently introduced classes in yoga, meditation and martial arts, which are extremely popular and form an important role in ensuring student wellbeing.

Dance is also extremely popular, with a wide range of dance disciplines available to all ages.

The Exmoor Run, which has been an annual cross-country event for over 150 years, is an exciting event for the school and a notable feature of the Spring Term.

A leader in the arts

The performing and creative arts are of great significance at West Buckland and we set high standards which our students constantly exceed.

The 150 Building is a superb statement of the school's commitment to creativity with facilities that rival the best in the country. Many of our artists go on to study art or architecture at some of the country's best universities and art colleges.

Design Technology students work in two first class workshops together with a dedicated ICT room. They have opportunities to employ a wide range of media and cutting-edge techniques.

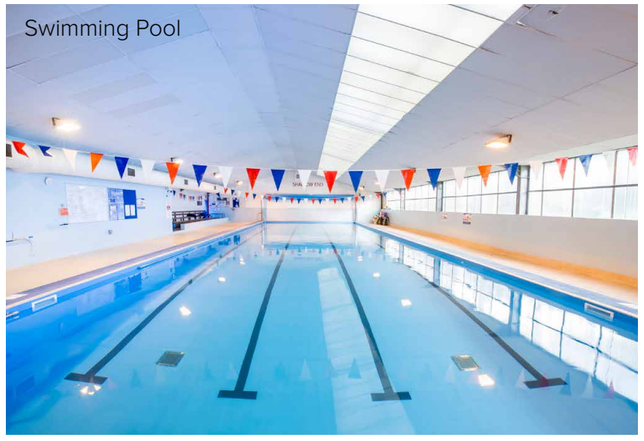
The 150 Building also includes a fine 100-seat theatre, used for curriculum drama, dance and school performances. Many pupils embark on LAMDA exams and specialist speech and drama lessons. All students are encouraged to take part in the house and school drama programme, enhancing their skills in directing, producing, scriptwriting and acting .

The lively, vibrant Music Department runs a wide range of junior and senior choirs, orchestras, jazz and concert bands and chamber groups. These have numerous opportunities to perform throughout the year within and outside of school.

Individual instrumental and singing lessons are available taught by our team of Visiting Music Teachers, many of whom also lead busy performing careers.

The perfect environment for learning and discovery

The Jonathan Edwards Sports Centre


Swimming Pool

Michael Morpurgo Library

"Pupils across all ages show very positive and productive attitudes towards their learning – with senior pupils developing greater independent learning skills as they move up the school."

Independent Schools Inspectorate

Sixth Form and beyond:
Future ready

The Sixth Form is the pinnacle of school life and we encourage our students to express their own views, think independently, develop their own ideas and gain the confidence to succeed in life beyond school. Students choose from a wide range of A-level and BTEC subjects. Both academic and vocational pathways, or a combination, support entry to higher education, employment and apprenticeships, including globally renown universities and companies.

Our Sixth Form house, Parkers, has created a friendly and close-knit community. As well as 70 single en-suite bedrooms, Parker's has vibrant and welcoming communal areas where both boarders and day pupils can relax and socialise, creating a strong identity for Sixth Form students.

The Michael Morpurgo Library has a dedicated area for Sixth Formers, providing an ideal working environment for advanced study.

Boarding is very popular in the Sixth Form and many students choose to weekly or full board, enabling them to use the facilities and access the schedule of extra-curricular activities in the evenings.

Students receive extensive advice on career, higher education and apprenticeship options from and external providers and industry leaders, along with regular updates and ideas from our excellent HE and Careers Department. We also have a vibrant programme in our MaD Monday programme such as academic writing, personal finance and self-reflection.

Sixth Form Diploma

Our Sixth Form Diploma has been developed as part of our commitment to prepare students for an enriching future. It encourages our students to explore and experience a range of co-curricular activities and challenges, ranging from academic enrichment to service in the community and sport, to develop the character values that form the very core of the school. Students are encouraged to reflect on their choices and what they have learned.

The Great Outdoors

With a strong focus on wellbeing and providing a healthy lifestyle for our students, we offer a balanced curriculum which includes numerous opportunities to take part in outdoor learning and adventure.

From Year 9, pupils can join the Combined Cadet Force, engaging in activities from flying and sailing to shooting, camping and first aid, as well as weekends on Dartmoor and Exmoor.

Our busy outdoor learning department provides opportunities to climb, kayak, surf, coasteer and trek both in North Devon and further afield. We enter multiple teams into the famous 'Ten Tors' expedition on Dartmoor and support impressive numbers of students through their Duke of Edinburgh Awards at all levels.

Making the most of our outstanding location.

West Buckland Nursery and Preparatory School

West Buckland's Nursery and Preparatory School provide an excellent start for children between the ages of three and eleven.

The nursery and prep are located within the one school estate, with their own secure grounds adjacent to the Senior School, therefore benefiting from all excellent facilities, including Michael Morpurgo Library, swimming pool and art studios.

We have created an atmosphere that is secure, exciting and dynamic because we believe that a happy child feels free to explore, to discover and to learn.

Please contact us if you would like a personal tour to explore the school further.

Foundation, OWBA & Parents' Association

The West Buckland School community embraces current and past pupils, parents and staff.

Our long-term development is supported by the West Buckland School Foundation whose role is to raise money for capital projects. The Foundation also funds transformational bursaries for students who would otherwise not be able to attend West Buckland School.

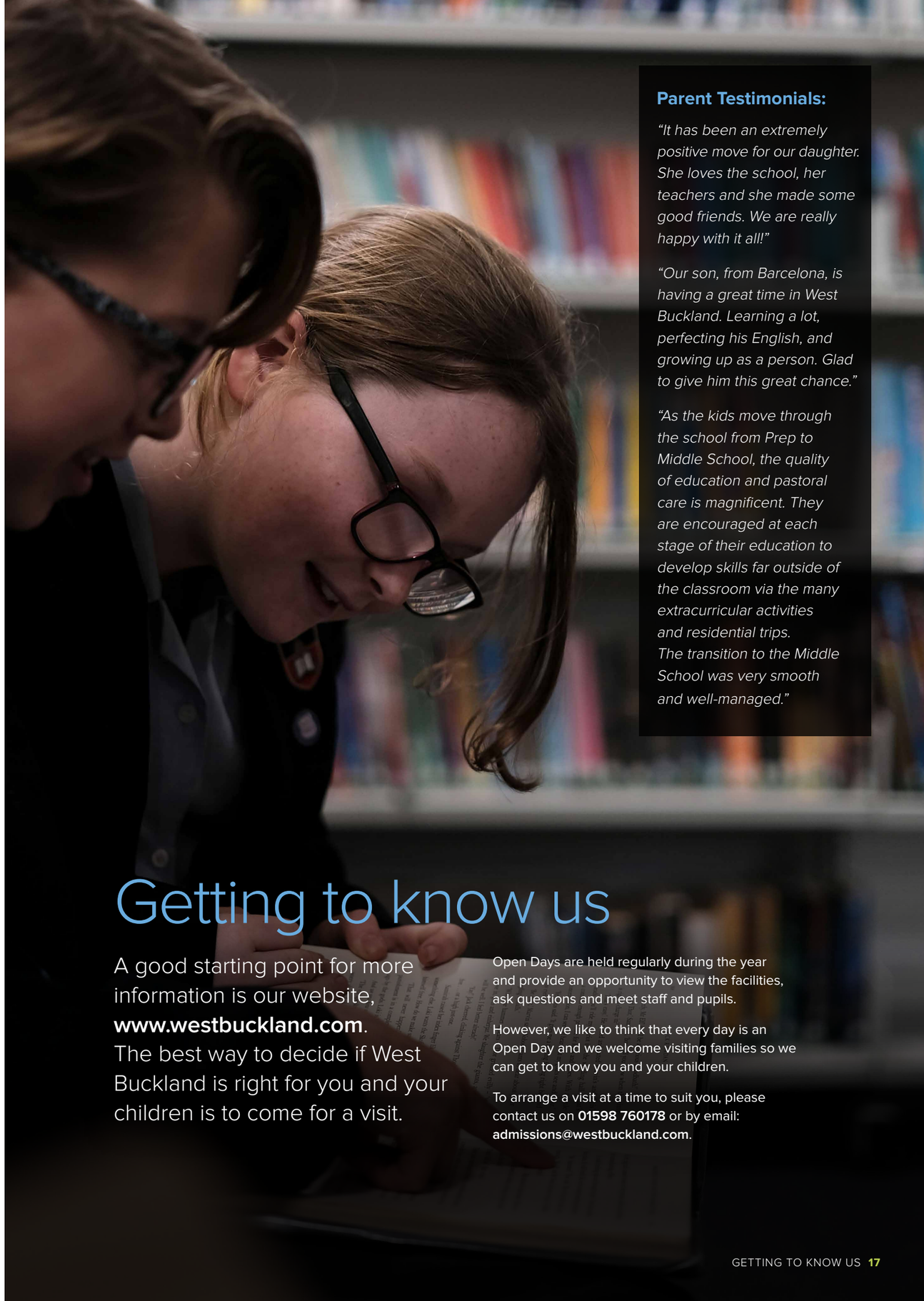
The Old West Buckland Association (OWBA) maintains a strong relationship with our Alumni, building a global network of Old West Bucklanders who are happy to support the school and form connections with current students through careers dinners, sporting and social events.

The Parents' Association organise a host of events for all parents to enjoy throughout the year, raising money for the whole school.

Together these groups contribute to the richness of life at West Buckland School. Providing a great deal of practical support for the school and developing our community both locally and globally.

WEST BUCKLAND SCHOOL FOUNDATION

OWBA



Parent Testimonials:

"It has been an extremely positive move for our daughter. She loves the school, her teachers and she made some good friends. We are really happy with it all!"

"Our son, from Barcelona, is having a great time in West Buckland. Learning a lot, perfecting his English, and growing up as a person. Glad to give him this great chance."

"As the kids move through the school from Prep to Middle School, the quality of education and pastoral care is magnificent. They are encouraged at each stage of their education to develop skills far outside of the classroom via the many extracurricular activities and residential trips. The transition to the Middle School was very smooth and well-managed."

Getting to know us

A good starting point for more information is our website, **www.westbuckland.com**. The best way to decide if West Buckland is right for you and your children is to come for a visit.

Open Days are held regularly during the year and provide an opportunity to view the facilities, ask questions and meet staff and pupils.

However, we like to think that every day is an Open Day and we welcome visiting families so we can get to know you and your children.

To arrange a visit at a time to suit you, please contact us on **01598 760178** or by email: **admissions@westbuckland.com**.

The perfect environment
for learning and discovery

WEST BUCKLAND
SCHOOL

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