



WESTBOURNE
SCHOOL

Welcome to Westbourne School

Welcome to Westbourne School. Within our nurturing and therapeutic learning environment, we want to help each and every one of our pupils to shine. Many of the students who come to us have had challenging journeys within the education system, and we want to provide a space where they feel safe and well supported so they can reach their potential. Put simply, our aim is to equip every child with the skills and knowledge they need to lead healthy, happy, productive lives.

At Westbourne School we support boys and girls between 11 and 18 years of age who have social, emotional and mental health needs. Many of the children we support also have an autism spectrum condition, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and additional communication needs. Whatever the needs of the children who come to Westbourne School, we always seek to develop their innate potential within.

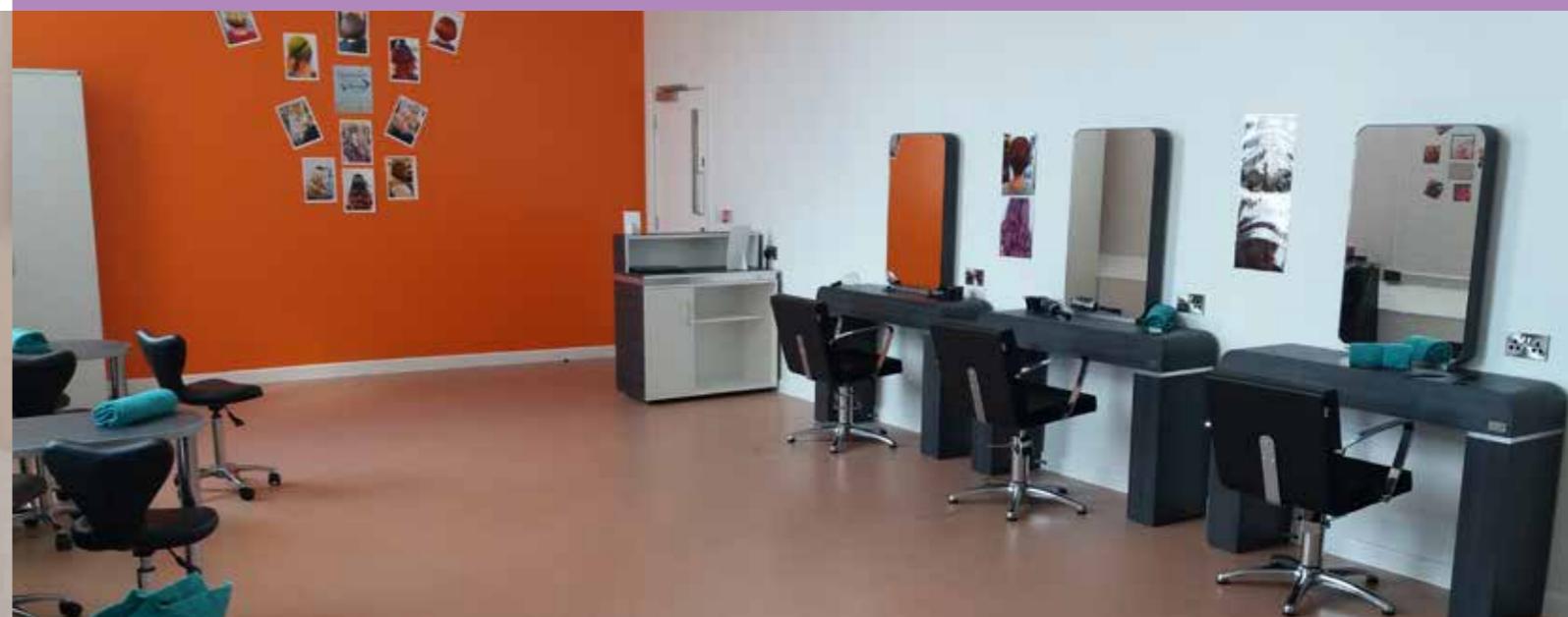
As a brand new school, our students will benefit from state-of-the-art facilities that have been specifically designed with their needs in mind. In addition to spacious well-equipped classrooms, we are fortunate enough to have specialist vocational training units where pupils can develop very practical skills alongside their academic studies.

We take time to get to know our children and understand their individual situations, so we can put in place the right package of care for them. The aspiration we have is that every child attending Westbourne School will achieve the very best qualifications they can and be well prepared for the next stage of their life, be it in education, training or employment.

We look forward to welcoming you to Westbourne School.

Leo Guy

Headteacher



Our Approach

Therapeutic Care

As specialists in our field we take a holistic approach to learning that wraps therapy and educational support around the individual needs of each child. Through therapeutic provision we focus on creating a nurturing environment where pupils will be able to develop their social and emotional skills as well as the resilience they'll need for life. We strive to help young people to make positive choices with regard to their behaviour, their friendships and their learning. Yet we never lose sight of the importance of academic learning, and our team work hard to create an environment where children can truly flourish in all areas of life.

Child-Centred Education

We aim to make our school a happy place where all our children feel safe and are excited about the learning opportunities available to them. We believe that success in the classroom depends on great relationships between staff and pupils. You'll find the teaching staff sharing breakfast and lunch with the students every day, and playing with them during breaks. This all helps to establish a close and trusting bond between the children and the staff, which is translated into success within the classroom. Many of our children have had negative experiences of school, so we take this into consideration as we personalise their transition into life at Westbourne School. With small classes of no more than seven children, teachers can creatively tailor lessons and work with each child at their own pace.



Involving Parents and Carers

When children have a stable and happy home life they are more likely to blossom in the classroom, so we actively engage families and carers in their children's education from the outset. We make home visits a priority and invite parents and carers to participate in activities at school. Our therapy team also involve parents and carers in the plans for their children so there is consistency of care and complete transparency between home and school. We love nothing more than celebrating the success of our children and when they have a great day we make sure that their parents and carers are informed. This helps to create an open line of communication and families know that we are here to support them if they ever need us.

Celebrating Success

Praise and encouragement is so important for our students, so we create a positive learning environment where they know exactly what is expected of them. Pupils are rewarded for their good behaviour through a credits system and time is set aside on a Friday afternoon to reward them through activities such as bowling, ice skating or swimming. We also build time into our assemblies each week to acknowledge children who have made particular progress - either in their academic studies, their behaviour or their attitude in school.

Managing Behaviour

We have very clear boundaries and expectations when it comes to behaviour, which all our pupils are aware of. Our staff work hard to get to know our young people so they will notice when children are feeling anxious or stressed and can intervene to prevent things from escalating. Through our therapeutic approach, pupils learn to become self-aware and to manage their emotions and behaviour positively. When situations do occur, we help our students to understand why their behaviour was inappropriate and how they can put it right. Every day is a new opportunity for children to make good choices so we encourage them to put the past behind and look to the future.

Education

Curriculum

At Westbourne School we offer the full national curriculum, whilst giving young people the opportunity to pursue individual talents and interests. In addition to GCSEs, students can work towards a wide variety of accredited courses including NCFE and BTEC qualifications. We also offer Entry Level and Functional Skills awards to create truly bespoke curriculums based on the individual needs and abilities of each pupil.

A wide range of vocational courses are taught in our purpose-built units on site, including motor mechanics, construction and hair and beauty. With such great facilities, students can pursue their interests to qualification level, without the disruption of moving to college. We find that as students excel in their vocational courses, it stimulates a new-found confidence that also helps them make great progress academically.

Educational Environment

The infrastructure and layout of the school has been designed specifically to provide a calm environment that will support our children in their learning. All classrooms are spacious and well-equipped with whiteboards and laptops, and we also have more laid back areas within the rooms where children can relax on bean bags or sofas. Children also benefit from having healthy meals prepared for them on site as well as a dedicated sensory room and pastoral area. We take classes both inside and outside and encourage our students to stay fit and active as part of their daily routine.



Therapeutic Support

We are fortunate to have a whole range of therapists, including a speech and language therapist, psychologist and psychotherapist, who come into the school on a regular basis to work with individual children. These specialists provide one-to-one interventions and therapy sessions to meet the wider individual needs of each child without interrupting their education. Therapists also support the wider staff team, so there is consistency in the care that's provided throughout the school. Trusting relationships are really at the heart of the nurturing environment at Westbourne School, so we create opportunities for children to build positive relationships with all the staff. Each student will also have a key member of staff who they can go to with any specific worries, concerns or anxieties.

Community Involvement

It is important to us that we play an active role in our community and encourage our young people to see the positive contribution they can make in the world around them. Whenever we can, we take our students on trips and visits to local places of interest that will bring the learning they are doing in the classroom to life. We invite a whole range of speakers into school to share their experience and expertise with our children. We also hold many charity events, such as car washes, through which we seek to build good relationships with our community as well as raising important funds.

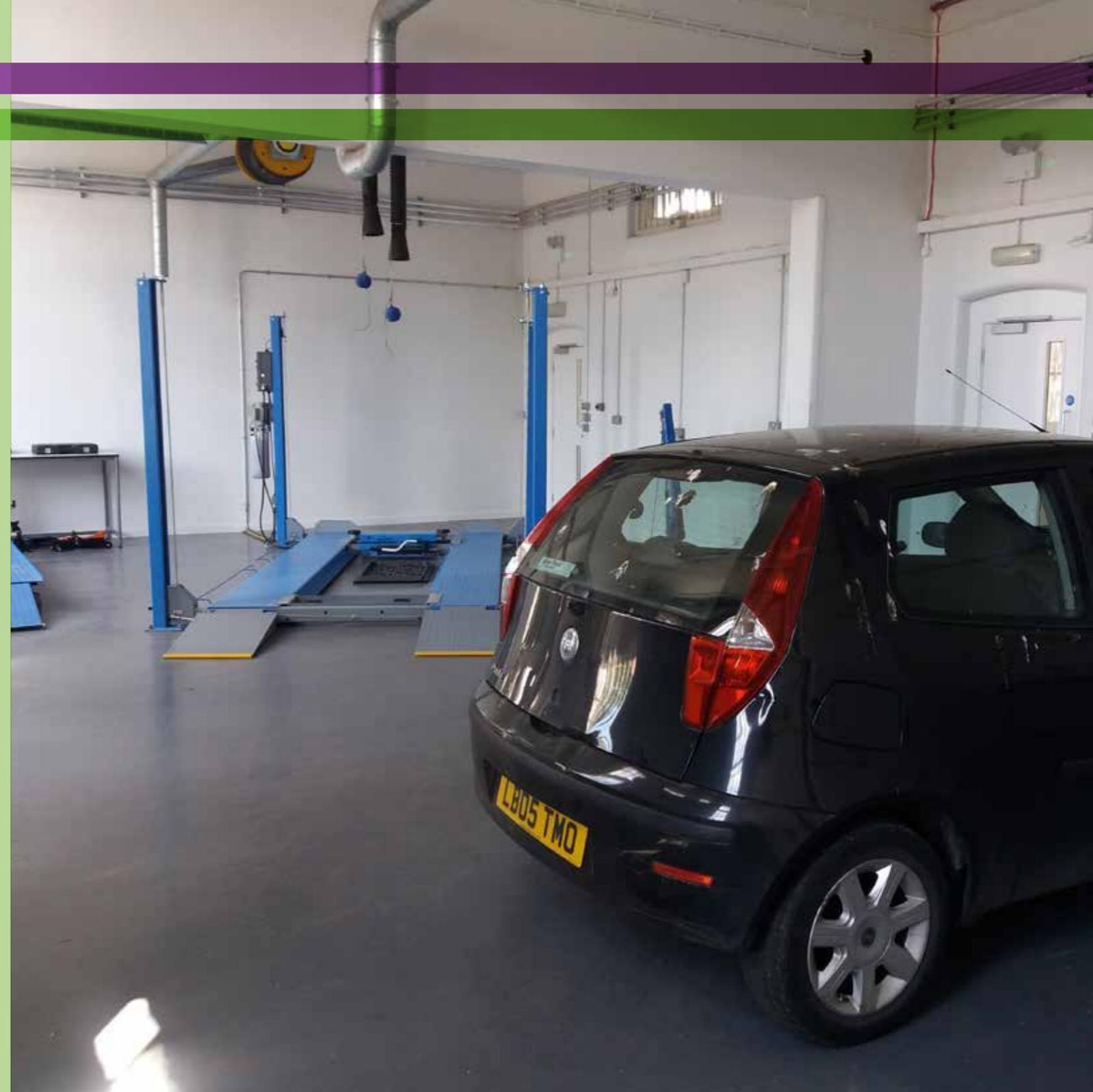
Beyond School

Life Skills

We pride ourselves on preparing all our pupils for the next stage of their life – not just academically but socially and emotionally too. The strong links we develop within the local area mean we can provide our students with valuable work experience placements as they move up in the school. We have plans in place to establish a Duke of Edinburgh scheme and to take our students on residential trips to help them gain self-confidence and self-esteem. Through our life skills classes, students will learn about budgeting, cooking, navigating public transport and taking care of themselves and their home. Armed with these skills we want to ensure that when pupils move on from Westbourne School they are independent, self-sufficient young adults who can make good decisions about their future.

Further Education

When our children leave Westbourne School, we want to make sure that they successfully progress to further education or have a work placement or apprenticeship. Our dedicated careers advisor supports our students as they make plans for both their short and long-term future. Through our great links with local colleges in the area we can also help students to successfully transition to the next stage of their life. Through college visits, interviews and by inviting visitors into the school, children have every opportunity to develop real insight into a variety of professions and employment opportunities that are available to them. When our students have made the transition to college or work, they know that we are always here for them, if they need us.



Meet the Headteacher

Leo Guy

Headteacher Leo brings with him extensive experience from his time as deputy head at The Grange, a fellow school within the Acorn Care network. While at The Grange, Leo helped to deliver exceptional care for the children, which was recognised with outstanding Ofsted outcomes.

After qualifying as a PE teacher, Leo's passion for education was really ignited when he began working with children who had social, emotional and mental health needs. Leo's philosophy for education revolves around creating the optimum environment in which children are supported in every area of their life.

Leo believes the relationship between staff and pupils is key to their success. He is relentless in his desire to see the children at Westbourne School develop a passion for learning alongside the social and emotional skills they need to succeed in life.



Westbourne School at a Glance

How old are the children at Westbourne School?

We support boys and girls from 11-18 years of age.

How many children attend?

The school provides places for up to 49 children.

Where is the school located?

Westbourne School is a brand new school in Sutton-in-Ashfield, just 16 miles north of Nottingham City Centre.

How long is the school year?

The school year follows the same 39-week timetable as mainstream schools within the area.

What special needs do children at Westbourne School have?

All the children who attend the school will have social, emotional and mental health needs. Many will have an autism spectrum condition or additional learning or communication difficulties too.

If you are interested in visiting Westbourne School or finding out more about the support we provide, please e-mail leo.guy@westbourneschool.org

How far do children travel to attend the school?

The majority of children at Westbourne School live within an hour's drive from the school.

What extra support is provided?

Our multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, teaching assistants and external therapists who support our children who have specific needs. We also have a family liaison officer who works directly with our children's families and carers.

What facilities are available onsite?

Westbourne School has modern, spacious classrooms with dedicated science, art, and catering facilities. In addition, pupils benefit from purpose-built vocational training units and a multi-use games area outside.

Westbourne School

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