

## Continue to inculcate that spirit of excellence and service

TIS my great pleasure and honour school has been a standard bearer of strong emphasis on the spiritual, to extend congratulations to the Westwood High School for Girls on the occasion of your 140th anniversary celebrations. In the century and four decades of operations, the

academic excellence, character formation, and inculcation of a sense of civic duty and responsibility.

moral, social and cultural development of all learners, thereby helping them to become responsible citizens and productive members

Your outstanding alumnae have made significant contributions to the development of our society in education, medical sciences, and politics, among others. We salute the pioneering work of past students Amy Ashwood Garvey, a pan-African activist and the first wife of National Hero, Marcus Mosiah Garvey: Iris Collins, the first woman elected to Jamaica's House of Representatives; Gwendolyn Omphroy Spencer, a nurse and midwife who co-founded the Jamaica Midwives' Association in 1960.

tutored many of Jamaica's midwives and spent most her life championing the cause of midwives locally and internationally; Dr Charmaine Scott, paediatric cardiologist and founder of the Jamaica Down's Syndrome Foundation; and Etta Whiteman, first past student to be-

As a boarding institution, Westwood High has helped to

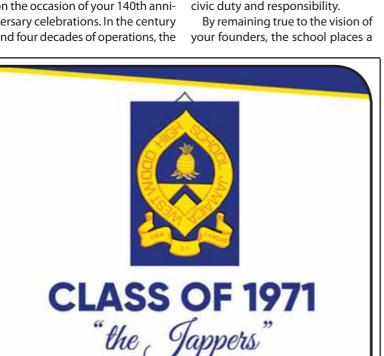
come principal of the school.

develop the spirit of collegiality and extended family among the student population enabling many to form friendships that last for decades after leaving school. The success of the school is no doubt due to the visionary and strong leadership of your boards of management, principals and teachers over the years.

The influence of Westwood and its alumnae extends well beyond the shores of Jamaica. Long may you continue to inculcate that spirit of excellence and service among the young women who pass through the gates of the school.

Congratulations. Well done.

HON FAYVAL WILLIAMS **Minister of Education and** 



### **WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL**

salutes our revered alma mater

140th Anniversary.



## May there be many more great years for Westwood

ESTWOOD IS a renowned educational institution noted for the academic quality of its graduates as well as their deportment and distinction. The position of the school building, on the hilltop of Stewart Town, is an emblematic landmark, symbolic of the esteem in which the school is held by the surrounding community, Trelawny and indeed the nation.

As custos of Trelawny, it makes me extremely proud to know that we have such a renowned institution in our parish. The founder of Westwood, William M. Webb, set high standards in terms of academics and his mission. The school was founded on the premise of providing equal education across the racial divide. It aimed to ensure that all girls could gain a quality education regardless of colour or class. It was a bold move at the time when this was going against the grain of social

norms. One hundred and forty years later, we see in the accomplishments of Westwood graduates, the fulfilment of William Webb's vision.

This moral foundation has not shifted throughout the history of the school. Its continuity has guaranteed the survival of Westwood and has been personified in students past and present. It has indeed been over a century of 'Transformation, Resilience, Growth and Success'.

Westwood has produced many great women and in so doing has made a significant contribution to the development of our nation, our Caribbean region and across the globe. In so doing, their accomplishments and successes provide a great gift for future generations of Westwood students as role models and exemplars to be emulated.

As the custos of our beloved parish, I offer hearty congratulations to the staff and students, past and present. May there be many more great years to come for Westwood Girls High School.

HON HUGH W. GENTLES, CD, JP **Custos Rotolorum of Trelawny** 

## God will continue to journey with Westwood High

INCE 1882, Westwood High School, this noble institution sitting on a hilltop in Stewart Town, Trelawny, has shaped and moulded the lives of young ladies by building their confidence and competencies in preparation for the world at large. We are grateful for the vision of Baptist Minister, Rev William Menzie Webb, and those who helped him realise the vision for unsegregated education; a vision borne out of rejection as well as objection due to colour and class

One hundred and forty years of work and witness must compel us

to reflect on where Westwood High School has come from, the challenges and crises which brought us to this place and the ways we have seized and will continue to seize the opportunities for transformation, growth and success. It is a fact that Westwood High School continues to stand tall above others in the pursuit of academic excellence, continuing development of our young ladies, and the application of strategies and approaches to education.

May this time of celebration and thanksgiving compel the Westwood High School family to appreciate the faithfulness of God on whom the founders of this institution depended in an effort to engage the realities of the time. May this time be a time of deep reflection on new vision(s) to realise and on the hope for new experiences which will further mould and shape the values and attitudes of those who are a part of Westwood.

The Board of Trustees celebrate with the principal, Miss Karen Francis, academic staff, ancillary staff, administrative staff, and all our students. We thank God for what God has enabled in the life of Westwood for 140 years. We celebrate God's faithfulness

which has enabled the many achievements and the accomplishments during these many years. God has journeyed with you and you have benefited from God's sustaining grace. We are confident that God will continue

May this time of celebration and thanksgiving compel the Westwood High School family to appreciate the faithfulness of God on whom the founders of this institution depended in an effort to engage the realities of the time.

to journey with the Westwood High School.

REV KAREN KIRLEW
Chairman, Board of Trustees
Westwood High School

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## We will strive to transform, grow, succeed despite all odds

T IS with a sense of pride and elation that we publish our 140th anniversary supplement to mark this significant milestone and we express gratitude to all those who contributed to making this supplement

a reality.

One hundred and forty years of existence is no easy feat of accomplishment. Westwood High School for Girls has stood tall throughout the years, though it has undergone

numerous changes since its establishment in 1882. The school continues to graduate batches of young ladies who exhibit dignity and decorum. Westwood High School for Girls has grown from six girls to over 800 students and has achieved many successes. In this our anniversary year, the Schools' Challenge Quiz Team reached the semifinals. Equally, despite COVID-19, our students amassed an average of 93 per cent in the 2022 CSEC examinations and 94 per cent in the CAPE.

Nelson Mandela's quote, "Do not judge me by my success, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again", defines our ability to bounce back from the many challenges that we have experienced. It is this indomitable spirit that reverberates our 140th anniversary theme, 'Celebrating 140 years of Transformation, Resilience, Growth and Success'.

We give God thanks for having kept us as a school By Prayer and Work 'Ora et Labore', and as we continue to be High Achievers Throughout all Seasons (HATS), we will strive to transform, grow and succeed

despite all odds. Congratulations, Westwood High School for Girls! Happy 140th anniversary!

**MISS KAREN FRANCIS Principal** 



Congratulations

to our Alma Mater

### **WESTWOOD**

on your

### 140th anniversary.

May you always be a beacon on the hilltop and impart good learning and discipline so that our graduates will continue to make sterling contributions both locally and internationally

From: Dr Jean Williams-Johnson and The Honourable Miss Justice Paulette Williams

Hats off to 140 years

STAND tall today as a privileged alumna of this noble institution, Westwood High School for Girls. Being a boarding school, this was a place that was home away from home for several years for many of us. We are eternally grateful to our school leaders, including our principals and teachers, who instilled in us the values and discipline that have been the hallmark of this institution over these 140 years. This has stayed with us throughout the various chapters of our lives, allowing us to portray the high qualities and standards that Westwood ladies are known for.

We pay homage to our founder, Rev William Menzie Webb, and co-founders, Rev Henderson and Mrs Trestrail, who were led by God to establish a school for girls, regardless of colour, class or creed. The trust that was established in 1898 with the four church denominations, namely, the Anglican, Baptist, Methodist and former Presbyterian now the United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, carved the path for the establishment of good Christian principles and morals that have guided us over the years.

We are proud that our *alma mater* has continued to embrace these sound principles and has maintained high academic standards and good moral values that have positioned Westwood as one of the leading all-girls high schools in Jamaica and the Caribbean.

Our 135th anniversary in 2017, was marred by a fire that ravished our dining room and kitchen. Our 140th anniversary is threatened by a pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus that has disrupted Westwood's experience of boarding and resulted in teaching and learning being transferred to an Online Virtual Learning Platform. Several of the events planned for the anniversary have also had to be scaled down as we observe the protocols associated with the pandemic.

I implore all old girls to consider the great value that Westwood has added to our lives which has allowed us to excel in our various fields of work and to become who we are. I ask you to make a renewed commitment to support those who will come after us. The need for support is even greater now as our school and the students have been negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Boarding life as we knew it, which has been the focal point of the Westwood experience, resulting in the great bond of sisterhood and friendship many of us experienced and have maintained

throughout our lives, may never be the same.

Westwood has overcome many adversities over these 140 years, and we will not be distracted by the challenges that we face, but with the resilience and that indomitable spirit that we are known to possess, press on to greater heights as we embrace our motto, ORA et LABORE, by Prayer and Work.

Hats off, Westwood, to 140 years of Transformation, Resilience, Growth

May God Bless Westwood and all of us who continue to support this great institution.

**DOREEN KING DIETRICH** President WOGA



## Messages

# Continue to be the Highest Achievers Throughout all Seasons

URVIVING 140 years could not have been a 'walk in the park' for the Noble Westwood High School. The PTA is expressing sincere gratitude to everyone who had and those who are presently working assiduously in keeping the doors of this noble institution open so that

our daughters can not only be afforded sound education, but also ensuring that Jamaica continues to have a positive balance through her output of well-educated, toptier ladies.

As we soar to higher heights, we the PTA members continue to



pledge our unwavering support while we continue to be the voice of our children, fully supporting them on their educational journey and encouraging family life through parental involvement.

We pray that God, Who has brought us thus far, giving us the grace to persevere, especially through trying times, will never cease to shelter Westwood under His wings. May He guide all the leaders and stakeholders of

this institution. May He help us to make solid decisions while prioritising the needs of our children.

CONGRATULATIONS, Westwood High School!! WELL DONE!! Continue to strive. Continue to be the Highest Achievers Throughout all Seasons (HATS).

MISS CAROLYN SINCLAIR
PTA President

History

### WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL: A TOUR THROUGH 140 YEARS

#### Celebrating 140 years of transformation, resilience, growth and success

#### INTRODUCTION

INDOMITABLE, PRESTIGIOUS, remarkable, outstanding; these are just a few words to describe this hallowed institution. Nestled on a hilltop, Westwood High stands tall in celebrating 140 years of transformation, resilience, growth and success. Journey with us as we travel through time to honour this beloved institution that moulded the lives of extraordinary ladies for generations.

#### **MANCHESTER PEN**

The school began in January 1882 in a house in Manchester Pen, about one mile from Stewart Town, Trelawny, with six little girls and a teacher, Miss Annie Fray. The manager was the Reverend William Menzie Webb, pastor of the Stewart Town Baptist Church, whose main interest was transcending the barriers of racial discrimination by

ensuring that girls of dark complexion had access to secondary education.

Reverend Webb, along with his colleague, Rev George Henderson, leased the house in which the school started as Manchester School and after a successful year, another building was erected and the name changed to Trelawny Girls' School. In 1891, the school was moved to its present site and approximately four years later, upon completion of all school buildings, Westwood High School for Girls was opened under the leadership of a new principal, Miss Alice Townsend, sent out and paid by the English Committee.

#### **SCHOOL GATE**

Before climbing the hill, there are two structures to take notice of. The first was recently repainted by the

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, 6





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#### **HISTORY**

**CONTINUED FROM 5** 

Westwood Old Girls' Association, under the leadership of then president, Andrea Crossfield, and is for students travelling to Jackson Town and beyond.

The other is the Zulu Hut, one of the signature landmarks of every Westwood student. Renovated by the Parent-Teacher Association, this gazebo provides a waiting area for those students who travel to Stewart Town and to other destinations in the direction of Brown's Town.

As you climb the hill, the first point of contact is the security post where visitors must state the order of business and all must undergo a sanitisation protocol.

Then comes the deep bend where you will find the principal's flat. This serves as an important marker for students as this is where the silence zone begins.

Approaching the end of a tiring climb, one can see the whitewashed wall which is the point of no return



Westwood High School uniforms.

for students as they are not allowed to leave after passing that point.

The trek over the hill ends in the guadrangle, where you will find the Q classrooms and two tuck shops, as well as the 1891 main building which not only houses the administrative office but also one of the boarding facilities.



Westwood High School gate.

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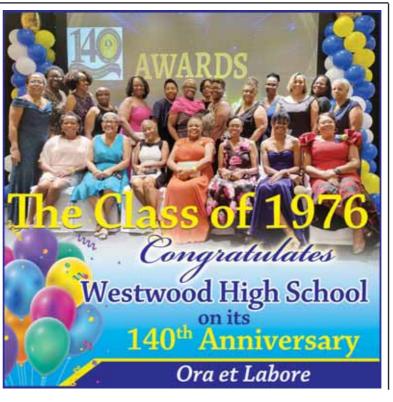
**Westwood High School** 

on your

140th Anniversary

May you enjoy many more years

of success.



Fun fact: A classroom on the Quad once served as the Chevannes Dormitory.

#### HALL OF FAME (OFFICE **HALLWAY)**

Miss Alice Fray, the Manchester Pen headmistress, Miss McKenzie and Miss Alice Townsend were named as the first principals of Westwood High. The feeling persists, however, that it is friendship and commitment rather than salary and prestige which motivated them to accept the position.

After 140 years of existence in Jamaica, Westwood has had 13 principals, all of whom have been females, the latest being past student, Karen Francis, the second to lead the institution, the first being former principal, Etta Whiteman.

#### WESTWOOD'S **ACHIEVEMENTS (TROPHY** CASE)

Westwood High School for Girls has been synonymous with excellence for 140 years. The school's accolades span the arts, the sciences, mathematics and the vocational disciplines and it is known for strong disciplinary practices. Westwood prides itself in turning the girls who enter the school into ladies by the time they leave. Westwoodites, past and present, continue to make their mark in this world by excelling in academics, sports and various extracurricular activities.

#### **QUIZ TEAM**

The team entered the Schools' Challenge Quiz competition under the leadership of Sixth Form Coordinator, Romain Simmonds, along with other members of staff. While they are yet to bring home the trophy, the team's resilience has earned awards for being the top all-girls school in the country. The school's population is confident that the commitment of the team will reap even greater success in the future.

#### **JACARANDA TREE**

Prior to Hurricane Sandy in 2012, the Jacaranda Tree towered over the amphitheatre, providing shelter from the sun, an eating area for students during break time and a place of serenity for those who needed it.

The amphitheatre in the past was where a smaller population of students gathered for devotions and school-leaving ceremonies.



#### **WILLIAM WEBB AUDITORIUM**

Named in honour of the school's founder, this central heartthrob point is home for school functions such as devotions, graduation ceremonies, PTA meetings and other school events. It is also one of two emergency gathering points.

Ladies will fondly (or not) remember lining up in grades and gathering for worship and also for an overall check by the prefects. Don't you dare forget your hymnals and make sure you are lined up in alphabetical order!

#### **GUN COURT**

The Gun Court, a former block of classrooms, received its name because during the time in which it was built, the Jamaica Gun Court was also established. This block will now serve as a new home for our science labs in honour of past principal, Eileen Piggott.

#### **SCHOOL SONG**

Ever heard angels sing? Westwoodites singing the melodious school song will give you a glimpse. Composed and arranged by Dionne Boreland and Charmaine Jarrett, class of 1982, the school song has been a hallmark of the high standards held by the school and the bond of sisterhood that the institution encourages.



Jacaranda Tree.

#### **PARSONS DINING COMPLEX AND NEW KITCHEN**

The Parsons Dining Complex, consisting of three dining areas: The Foyer, The Henderson and The Intercontinental, (which is the big dining room), a tuck room for boarders, a kitchen and a washroom, accommodated scores of students over the years as they practised the Westwood way – using knives and forks to eat while engaging in polite conversation. Rumour has it that the piano, located in what students called the top dining room, played itself on multiple occasions during the nights.

It is important to note that Henderson was formerly a dormitory,

affectionately called Big Yard as it housed close to 60 boarders.

Westwood has not survived these 140 years without some major challenges. One such tragedy was the fire in May 2017 that destroyed the kitchen and dining room area.

The flames that burnt that night just further ignited the resilience of the staff, students and community as all worked together to rebuild. The temporary new kitchen and dining area was built in September 2019.

#### **SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Westwood students can be identified by their very distinct uniform

PLEASE SEE HISTORY, 8



William Webb Auditorium

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Westwood High School

140th Anniversary



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#### **HISTORY**

**CONTINUED FROM 7** 

which has barely changed over the years. Sixth-form students wear a white blouse along with a navy blue skirt or pants, while other students wear a navy blue tunic with a sweetheart neckline, a white blouse and most notably a 'jippi-jappa' hat. This straw hat is encircled with a navy blue and yellow ribbon to complement the students' tunic. Did you know that Westwood is the only school in Jamaica to maintain the tradition of the jippi-jappa hat? Yes, the hat brings out a style in a tunic which is a common design and may not have otherwise been noticed.

#### **DORMS**

Due to the fact that Westwood is one of the five remaining boarding schools in Jamaica, we attract students from all over the island, highlighting the need for multiple boarding facilities, aka dormitories.



Home Economics Lab

There are currently four boarding facilities under the care and guidance of several house mothers who stand in the gap as parents while the students are away from home.

- The Karl Fuller Hostel, named after the renowned organist and



6th Form

former board chairman, Karl Fuller, was dedicated in February 1994 and accommodates students in grades seven to 10.

- The Princess Alice Building was named after Princess Alice, who opened the building in the 1970s

- The Main Building serves as one of the oldest of the boarding facilities on campus. It serves as a home away from home for students from grades seven to 10.

-The Knight Building was opened to students on Tuesday, June 17, 2003, and currently hosts upper school students. This facility was named after Millicent Knight, another former principal.

In the past, there were the Henderson, Woodlands and Chevannes dormitories.

Did you know that on the Woodlands property is the first guide house in the Western Hemisphere?

### ETTA WHITEMAN BUILDING

Named after past principal, Etta Whiteman, who served from 1976-1988, this building complex holds the school's library, the main computer lab, the art room and two classrooms.

#### **IVIN LOGAN BUILDING**

In honour of Ivin Logan, past principal who served for 11 years, this complex consists of classrooms, a staffroom, the media centre, a computer lab and offices for teachers and guidance counsellors. It represents the backbone of the school's physical infrastructure as there are nine classrooms and it is also the mecca of technological prowess.

#### **CHURCHES**

In 1898, four Jamaican trustees, representing the leading denominations – Baptist, Church of England, Presbyterian and Wesleyan – set up a board of management. Prior to school being thrusted online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, students who were a part of the Baptist, Anglican and Methodist groups in school attended worship services on

a Sunday at their respective churches in Stewart Town. The trust stipulated, among other things, that girls should be admitted regardless of colour, class or creed, and that they should "receive an education at the lowest cost compatible with highest efficiency".

#### **SIXTH FORM**

After 32 years of absolution, the sixth-form programme was re-established in 2014. Now in its eighth year of existence, the programme boasts an exceptional CAPE programme gaining as high as a 98 per cent pass rate in recent years, with students receiving national and regional awards. Ladies from Westwood and other schools eagerly seek entry to study the sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the technical subjects. The sixth-form campus was formerly the Woodlands property which comprised dormitories for students and cottages for teachers.

**Fun fact:** The Main House at Woodlands was the home of the Reverend Menzie Webb and his family.

#### **HOME ECONOMICS LAB**

Built in 1944, the Domestic Science Centre, affectionately called DS, saw many culinary spectacles as over the years, staff and students honed their skills in the kitchen for various school assignments, bake sales and concerts. It was renamed the Enid Beale Home Economics Centre in 2002 in honour of Enid Beale, who in the past, played the pivotal role of vice-principal.

#### **BIRD HAVEN**

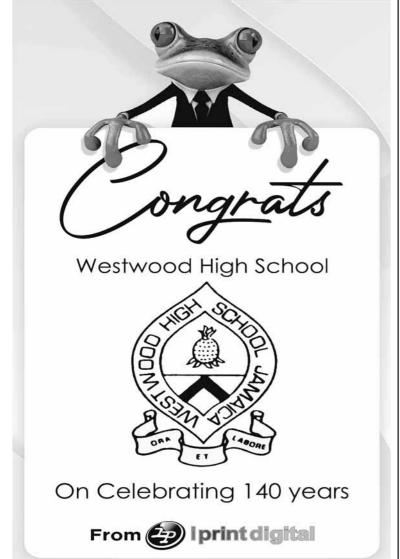
Staff members who reside on campus mainly lodge at Bird Haven, which got its name from the frequent moments in which past principal, Miss May Jeffrey Smith, used to do bird watching.

#### CONCLUSION

Westwood High is proud to claim the friendship of all stakeholders who have added character to the pupils by virtue of their own strength. We forge ahead and will 'By Prayer and By Work', 'Ora et Labore', remain an oasis of courtesy, a commendable seat of learning, and above all, an example of a Christian community.

This beacon on a hill still stands as the standard of excellence in all areas.

Amanda Crawford, Tianna Richards and Natalia Whyte-Gardener







## STAND STRONG

#### By Aneka Spence

140 years and wi still stand strong
140 years of transformation
From 1882 a we did a rule
Now a 2022 and wi a di top school
Kitchen was burnt flat to the ground
COVID bruck loose but wi mind still sound
We continue rise, no wi neva look down
Wi walk confidently with the hat as wi crown

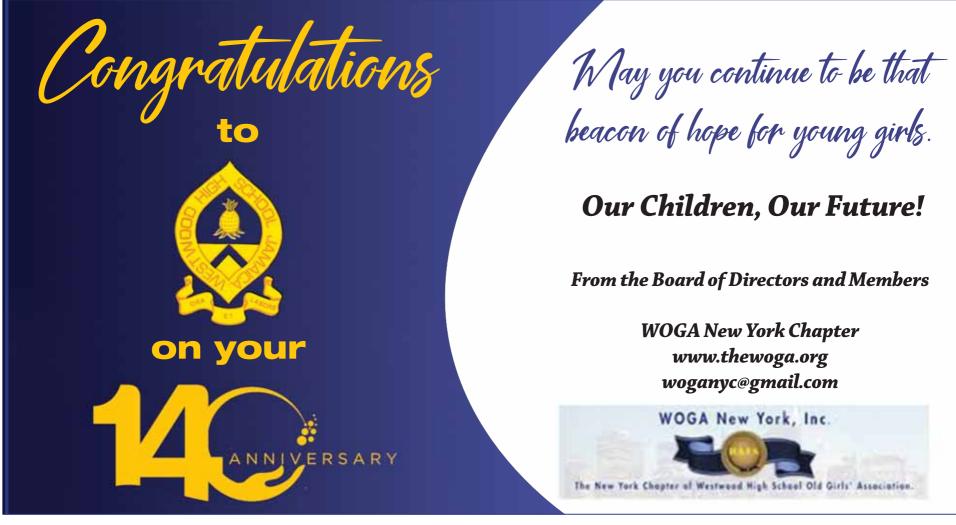
Yes, a we a di best Not only in the west Would a think say a CB cause we a best dressed Still number 1 and a neva contest Straight success, mhmm, nothing less Take a walk up the hill, and you nah see no mess United forever, so wi resilient The sky is the limit, sum'pn like Clarke Kent

140 years and wi still stand strong

140 years of transformation
From 1882 a we did a rule
Now a 2022 and wi a di top school
Kitchen was burnt flat to the ground
Covid bruck loose but wi mind still sound
We continue rise, no wi neva look down
Wi walk confidently with the hat as wi crown

Back to being a young lady
Modest attire, speaking properly
With God as our guide everything will be fine
Dependent on his grace and we do it with pride

140 years and wi still stand strong
140 years of transformation
From 1882 a we did a rule
Now a 2022 and wi a di top school
Kitchen was burnt flat to the ground
COVID bruck loose but wi mind still sound
We continue rise, no wi neva look down
Wi walk confidently with the hat as wi crown



## **ELTHIA WILSON**





.P.J. ABDUL Kalam postulated that, "Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, calibre, and future of an individual. If the people remember me as a good teacher, that will be the biggest honour for me." Mrs Elthia Wilson is remembered and celebrated not only as "a good teacher" but ple to the teachers she supervised in her also as an educator extraordinaire who department and by extension all teachhas served at all levels at Westwood High School, ranging from subject teacher, senior teacher, head of department, grade and obtaining her master's degree. This supervisor to House and club adviser. Paramount to her service as an educator is the fact that she has moulded many lives, and as such has aided many students to realise their innate potentials and students alike, especially in turbulent by personally ensuring that they matric-times. ulated into tertiary institutions.

The quintessential purpose of an educator is to touch lives and to motivate those lives to grasp positive change for self and society. Essentially, Mrs Elthia Wilson fits the description of a true educator. In her capacity as grade nine supervisor, she has had to administer academic counselling to students who were essentially confused about their career goals and by extension subject choices. She opened their eyes to new career choices to ensure their feasibility in the job market force. Some of these very students are trailblazers in non-traditional careers that are not only benefiting them but also the society.

"Dreamers are mocked as impractical. The truth is they are the most practical, as their innovations lead to progress and a better way of life for all of us," says Robin S. Sharma. Mrs Elthia Wilson is always searching for new ways to transform the subject selection pools for grade nines and before these plans are implemented they sometimes seem improbable. Needless to say, eventually, we all come to applaud her ingenious foresight. She embraces change and as such, believes "if you want it does – keep going" – Sam Levenson.



something new, you have to stop doing something old". Equally, she goes beyond the call of duty to fulfil her mandates by not just simply performing the tasks assigned to her but also by adding her creative excellence to them.

Mrs Wilson served as a glowing examers. She believed in academic personal development as seen in her reading for achievement encouraged many other teachers to follow suit. She had vibrancy, Christ-like attributes and a ready laughter that infected and endeared her colleagues

In the Words of Ricky Martin, "Heroes represent the best of ourselves, respecting that we are human beings. A hero can be anyone from Gandhi to your classroom teacher, anyone who can show courage when faced with a problem. A hero is someone who is willing to help others in his or her best capacity."

Mrs Elthia Wilson is lauded as a hero and a general of the education system. She has given 26 years of service to Westwood High School and many more to the field of education. She has given the best years of her life in unstinting service to humanity and nation-building. For sure, she will continue to be of service to humanity due to her multifaceted nature.

Mrs Elthia Wilson, the Westwood High School family salutes you for the invaluable contributions you have made to the development of our school. You have etched your name in the history of this school, never to be forgotten. May God continue to bless and sustain you in all your future endeavours.

'Re-tyre' and continue to shine, Mrs Wilson! "Don't watch the clock – do what



## Litation GERALDINE ALLEN



ily as for the Lord and not for for the students to know how they men, knowing that from the Lord are graded and her lesson plans your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ'.

I have no doubt in my mind that Geraldine Allen mulled over these words when she was accepted as a teacher at Westwood High School. Based on her performance over the years, she must have decided to serve as the scripture dictates.

Westwood High School as subject teacher, senior teacher, head of department, grade supervisor, house attending her class. and club advisor with distinction.

Geraldine is detailed oriented and she kept immaculate records. Everyone who knows Miss Allen well would admit to how organised she she supervised to reward their work her agenda must be ready for each ment, one could depend on Miss

work done.

Miss Geraldine Allen embodied sonal and professional life. She also to its Walk-a-Ton project. required her students to produce Miss Allen's students would normally do their mirror check before

who valued students and staff alike. persons. She was one to give tokens to students and team members whom

THE GOOD Book says, meeting that she chairs, her criteria Allen to offer detailed and skilfully 'Whatever you do, work heart- for marking papers must be laid out crafted notes to communicate comfort and support.

Geraldine is very optimistic and you will receive the inheritance as must be detailed with even sam- she started all her classes with a ples showing the quality of work quote and prayer to ensure her stushe expects from her students. She dents heard a positive word each worked until midnight to get the day. She boldly shared her Christian faith with others and even served as staff advisor to the Inter School excellence in all aspects of her per- Christian Fellowship and treasurer

Miss Allen was a quiet philanthrowork of excellent standard as well pist who often gave financial sup-Miss Geraldine Allen served as speak and dress well at all times. port to several students for school fees, bus fare, tuck and examination fees. When she was unable to help, she could be counted to rally family Miss Geri is a very caring person and friends to assist these needy

Miss Gerri was considerate about her students' holistic development, and as such she communicated reghas been during her tenure here – of excellence. In times of bereave- ularly with parents about students'

PLEASE SEE **ALLEN**. 12



#### **ALLEN**

**CONTINUED FROM 11** 

social and emotional well-being. She understood that students' personal life affected their academic performance and tried to alleviate these problems.

Miss Geraldine Allen knew all her students very well. When colleagues wanted any information on students she was the person on whom to call.

Miss Allen never raised her voice; she was a gentle giant in this respect. She gave very quiet commands which were clearly understood by her students. Additionally, she was a disciplinarian who respected everyone, including her students whom

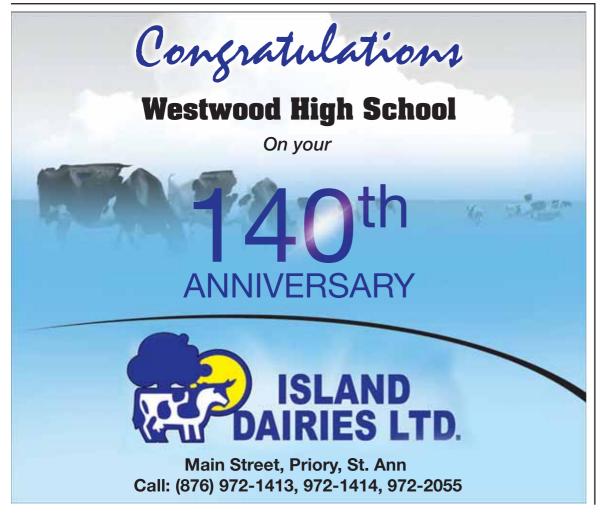
she addressed as Miss followed by their surnames.

Miss Geraldine Allen was a teacher extraordinaire. Her lessons were lauded by the National Education Inspectorate who encouraged staff to emulate her lessons and evaluation as she was the standard-bearer. She was also awarded by Jamaica Teaching Council with the Excellent Teacher Award in 2011. Miss Allen never sought praise or public accolades and even declined to be nominated for the Lasco Teacher of Year Award.

Viva, teacher par excellence, Geraldine Ionie Allen! We hail you for your commitment to students' well-being and education. Thank you for your unwavering 36 years of service to Westwood High School. Your impact will be forever etched in our hearts.

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Student Council Body 2020-2021

## STUDENT COUNCIL

FROM STUDENT COUNCIL BODY – 2021-2022

President – Tiana Brown Vice President – Halima Haughton

HE PRIVILEGE to serve as the Student Council Body in our beloved school's 140th Anniversary is one like no other. We join in with pride and appreciation as Westwood High School celebrates its transformation, resilience, growth and success. This is what the celebration means to us:

Transformation – Though we have a tradition of excellence, we are always open to positive change. This aptly aids in the progressive transformation over the years, for which we are grateful.

Resilience – We bounce back! Like any other institution, we have our difficulties, but our resilience sets us apart. Even though the odds may be



Tiana Brown President

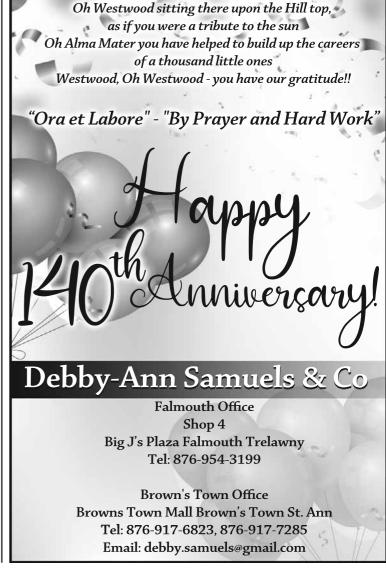
against us, for example, the fire of May 02, 2017, we got up, brushed off, and went on our route to excellent again!

Growth – It is not the destination that matters, it is the journey to get

there. The journey that includes the obstacles and challenges, as well as the improvement and growth. Our school has indeed grown academically, socially, and even physically over 140 years. It is beautiful to see the changes, and we acknowledge each key player in making our growth possible.

Success – At the Westwood High School, success is not a strange word. Success is a way of life. Students, and teachers alike, have worked assiduously over the years to carry on the heritage of success, and we celebrate them on this our 140th year.

Undoubtedly, we are proud of our institution! For doing this, and so much more for 140 years. The Student Council Body acknowledges this milestone, and looks forward to working together to make this institution even better for the years to come.



## TEACHERS

UR JOB is not to prepare students for something. Our job is to help students prepare themselves for anything". At my institution, we are prepared to become masterpieces of the future laying ahead of us. Accepting another milestone in our life is the same as accepting that this noble institution creates masterpieces. After 140 years of existence, our

dear school, Westwood High School, is one of the best schools in Jamaica. It opens the door for teachers, to enhance their talent and skills. Here at Westwood teachers are tasked daily to maintain being our role models and as such, they are doing an outstanding job. Teachers here are key role models, who influence the attitudes, values, and behaviours of the students. Role models are

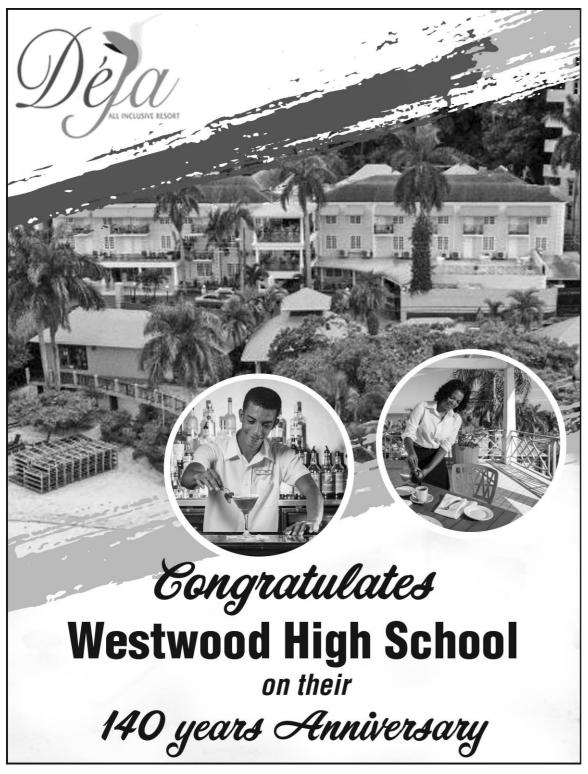
people who influence others by serving examples. The girls here are often admired by the teachers who emulate them. Through their perceived personal qualities, behaviours, or achievements, they can inspire others to strive and develop without providing any direct instruction.

Many years have passed and lots of girls have been moulded that are now interacting with different professions in our society. Changes occur, and as it happens, our school is standing strong for improving lives to betterment. From generation to generation, many had seen how Westwood High School grow and compete with any other school in the town.

Though it started as a little home for the girls, it is so surprising to see our school as it is now. A qualified school of excellent minds and

teaching forces sharing broader knowledge. And now, as we are continuing the bigger world, for progression, it is so impressive that Westwood High School has reached this far

Let us all reminisce about the memories of yesterday. Let us support and show our endless love for the school and celebrate our teachers who have allowed us to reach thus far. Thank you, Teachers!





## he hill to succ

URING MY first walk up the hill, I wondered, "When will I reach the top?" September 2017 was just the beginning of many things for me. It was the beginning of many sleepless nights I would experience in my bid to prepare for assignments, it was the beginning of my daily walks from the hostel to the main campus, and it was the beginning of my introduction to silence during prep and meals.

I was not accustomed to this setting, but I exercised PRIDE; Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence. This was the school's theme when I arrived in Grade 7 and as such, I began to revamp. This was not as challenging as I thought since we were placed in dormitories with seniors who played the roles of our big sisters away from home. They served as a guide in terms of academics, social skills and to simply brush our hair in the mornings.

I soon overcame my feelings of peculiarity, anxiety, and somewhat, inferiority. I became more of who I am today; outgoing, sociable, and integrous. I began participating in more

As Westwood celebrates its 140th year of transformation, resilience, growth, and success, I too celebrate my 6th year of transforming and growing into a wellrounded individual and portraying resilience, despite whatever hardship, to reap the mindset of success.

extra-curricular activities and vying for various competition for the year 2022. leadership roles in classes and clubs.

Eventually, my self-growth was impacted by the infamous COVID-19 pandemic. However, upon reflection, I was nourished rather than stunted since It was during this period that I joined the Schools' Challenge Quiz Club and was awarded the opportunity of being a part of the team which was placed fourth in the

The preparation for the 2022 CSEC examinations also started during said pandemic and this was very tedious considering the lack of face-to-face engagement.

I yearned for the physical reopening of school and was granted this almost 2 years later. Once again, like a champion, I had to adjust in keeping with the school's theme

for that year, "Champions Adjust". No more TikTok, no more Netflix, and no more procrastination. It was full speed ahead since exams were just around the corner.

Fortunately, there was a deferral of the examinations' date. Who could it be but God? I took this time to do my final preparations and to attain the best possible SBA grades to secure those passes. Indeed, I did secure the best passes, gaining all Grade Ones in the nine subjects I sat, and being deemed the top CSEC student in my school.

As Westwood celebrates its 140th year of transformation, resilience, growth, and success, I too celebrate my 6th year of transforming and growing into a well-rounded individual and portraying resilience, despite whatever hardship, to reap the mindset of

Though I am still on the slope of the hill, I will remain undeterred until I reach the

HAPPY 140TH ANNIVERSARY, WESTWOOD!

**ANEKA SPENCE** 



Email: priceright\_hardware@yahoo.com



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR HIGH ACHIEVERS

NE HUNDRED and forty years! A great milestone for a great institution. Founded in 1882, Manchester School, now known as the prestigious Westwood High School, sought to have the highest level of inclusion, barring no one from education due to colour, class or creed. This noble institution continues to accomplish this goal,

remaining among the top schools in Jamaica and being one of the top girls' school in this island we call home. With pass rates in CSEC and CAPE being above 90 per cent annually, the fire with which this school was started continues to burn brightly.

As Westwood High School celebrates 140 years of excellence,



As we continue to celebrate our 140th anniversary, we "PIVOT" and remain "Powered up for Success"! As the torch remains lit and passed on, the Westwood girls continue to have "Positive Thoughts, Positive Thinking, Positive Life Experiences" and reach for "Excellence through Discipline, Decorum and Dignity".

Congratulations
Westwood High School

on your

140<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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we immerse ourselves in a time of appreciation and fun. A video, shedding light on the history of the school and its founders, was created, providing viewers with a tour and an aerial view. With 140 years of history being embedded in the very walls of this institution, each building on the property has its own story to tell, a story which was told in this video graphic tour. It may be 140 years that this school has been achieving a myriad of accomplishments but it has definitely surpassed 140 victories in the many fields we pursue and dominate.

"A people without knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots" are the wise and applicable words of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Hero to Jamaica and husband to Amy Ashwood Garvey, an alumni of Westwood High School. In celebrating our successes, we must pay tribute to the past and to the individuals who contributed, both great and small, to the school, the Westwood Old Girls. These ladies have dedicated their time and efforts in mastering the theme "Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence (PRIDE)". They were given the opportunity to have "a trip down memory lane" with a tour of the institution to witness the progress the school has made over the many years. After this, these well-achieved ladies were refreshed, entertained and of course, quizzed, teasing the memories of their most valued moments in this family, friendly and Christoriented finishing school.

One hundred and forty years! The big celebration! A big achievement! The major event of the Westwood Old Girls to celebrate the 140th year was the Awards Gala. An epic night enjoyed by many year groups, sharing with one another their stories and experiences which have helped to mould them into the successful ladies they have become. While their achievements were too great to simply fit into one room, their success was celebrated, with the school recognising the aid that these girls have given to not only Jamaica but also to the entire world in various ways. This night was followed by an Anniversary Church Service to show our gratitude to God for keeping this school upright and for allowing us to remain a mass producer of future leaders.

One hundred and forty years! This is no simple achievement. It is an extraordinary one. Westwood High School is celebrating 140 year groups, 140 years of defeated obstacles, 140 years of victories, 140 years of "Champions Adjusting" to any circumstance. From placing fourth in the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the year 2022 to bringing home awards for sports such as table tennis, to being ranked in the top eight in the ongoing "All Together Sing competition", we continue to prove that we are a melting pot for talents, not solely academic scholars for which we are known.

As we continue to celebrate our 140th anniversary, we "PIVOT" and remain "Powered up for Success"! As the torch remains lit and passed on, the Westwood girls continue to have "Positive Thoughts, Positive Thinking, Positive Life Experiences" and reach for "Excellence through Discipline, Decorum and Dignity".

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO OUR HIGH ACHIEVERS THROUGHOUT ALL SEASONS (HATS)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL!!

**SHOII-ANNE SMITH** 

### WESTWOOD'S 140th **ANNIVERSARY**

has engraved itself in my heart as it has taught me many valuable life lessons. It has taught me to be resilient, confident and independent. In my first year at this prestigious institution, I was a very docile and shy individual but it was through the resounding words of encouragement from our principal, that we should strive for "Success through Discipline,

somed into this confident and resilient individual and for that, I am thankful. I am eternally grateful that I was able to attend this noble institution. It has allowed me to come out of my shell and I am confident that it has done the same for my fellow Westwoodites.

Equally, it is truly an honour to be able to attend the alma mater of not only the first wife of pan-African

ESTWOOD HIGH School Decorum and Dignity", that I blos- activist, Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey, but also that of the first woman elected to the House of Representative, Iris Collins. Importantly, the school's motto, 'Ora et labore', has taught me that it is truly by prayer and work that we will be successful and for this, Westwood High School will always have a special place in my heart.

#### **AVALISA DALEY**



### 140 years of being the best

By: Soraya Gabbidon

#### Verse 1

Westwood a likkle school inna Trelawny We might likkle bit but dat no stop we From changing the world one girl at a time And yuh don' wah hear bout d hill we haffi climb

We deh right pon a hill Up here cool and chill **But sometimes** Sun up yah fi kill Always admired for our little straw hats In our blue tunic and our socks to match We are sisters by choice We share one voice And for many Westwood was the first choice

#### Chorus

140 years of transforming lives 140 of making young women wise 140 years of being on top 140 years and we cah flop

#### Verse 2

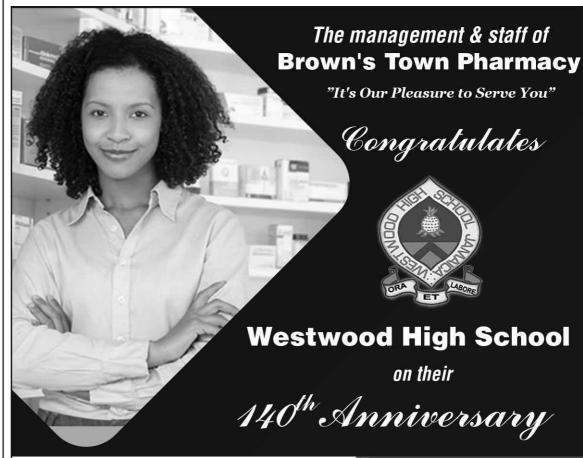
A we say praya, hard work and determination Because we know one day we will run d nation Whenever we lack motivation We are reminded

#### **PAUSE**

That through resilience comes great success Dont stress cause Westwood girls are the best

High achievers Innovators Outstanding in all we do Well mannered Responsible and dedicated too! We celebrate 140 years of resilience, transformation and growth Standards and discipline we have them both

#### Chorus ×2



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## It's been quite a journey

By Geanna Thompson

its 140th anniversary. One Hundred and Forty years and this noble institution is still standing firm. The school has overcome and achieved so much by being true to its motto, 'Ora Et Labore' – By prayer and by work. Despite the many challenges that Westwood has been faced with over the years, the school continues to

persevere, rise to the radar, outdo other schools and create well-rounded ladies who continue to perform well in CSEC and CAPE. A true manifestation of the theme, "Strive for Excellence, Powered up for Success".

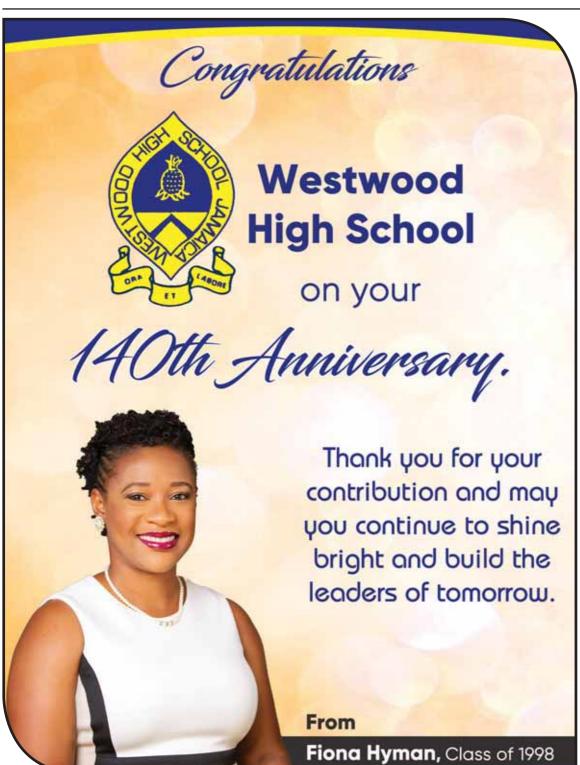
This prestigious institution is a school of discipline, decorum and principle with the aim of building strong, eloquent, independent and confident young ladies. Westwood has always been a school to look up to, not just because of our Jippi Jappa hat but for the way the ladies of this institution operate differently from those in other schools. My school is what it is today and what it was back then because of the students, members of staff and its high standards. That is why Westwood and has always been the school of choice for many. The school has developed over the years, keeping its doors open for 140 years to provide happiness, protection, friendships, a



family and a home for many. Being able to look at Westwood's history and see where it has led many young girls, produces an amazing feeling.

I have been at Westwood for 4 years and a few months and it has been quite a journey for me. I have learnt so many life lessons along the path that have served me well throughout the years and will benefit me in the future. Westwood has taught me to be responsible, independent, confident and even to be able to speak publicly. All the rules and regulations at Westwood

have moulded me into a strong young lady who is ready to take on whatever task is thrown her way. Westwood has taught me to make the impossible possible, to see light in the darkness, to work my hardest at all times, to see that success begins with me and to understand that there is no such option as giving up. Each and every girl who attends and has attended this institution, can say that she has learnt so many life lessons, she has matured in many different ways and she has been impacted positively. Hats off Westwood! Happy 140th anniversary.



## Westwood changes lives and views

**By Shanoy Reid** 

THIS YEAR marks the 140th anniversary of the Westwood High School for Girls! We are celebrating 140 years of nurturing young ladies into powerful leaders of society, 140 years of new opportunities for young girls, 140 years of unsegregated education for girls, 140 years of sisterhood.

The origin of our school traces back to 1881 and the intent of a man named William Webb. Reverend Webb considered the greatest need of Jamaica, at that time, was 'a high school for the training of native girls, along with others, regardless of class or colour'. With the aid of Mrs Trestrail, the school began in January of 1882, in a house in Manchester Pen, with six (6) girls and the first teacher, Miss Annie Fray and Rev. William Webb managing the school. Coming from humble beginnings, Westwood has risen to become the pride and joy, it is today, of many of its students – present and past.

Over the 140 years, Westwood

PLEASE SEE LIVES, 19

## **SUCCESS**

#### By Natalia White Gardener

Success is a mindset A determination that against all odds I can achieve It is a belief that whatever setback I face, I can and will finish strong Success means that despite obstacles; death, loss, pandemic or defeat, I can and will finish strong Success is a resolve, I will to do anything I set my mind to Success is a burning desire, a passion to do my best and to give my best at all times despite what I face I can and will finish strong Success is knowing that I have what it takes to finish even when everything is going wrong Success is what the class of 2022 of the Westwood High School has We have finished strong, and like our Alma Mata we are determined



and resilient to give our best and to do our best at all times Success is achieved through Ora et Labore

By prayer and by work

### LIVES

**CONTINUED FROM 18** 

has attained numerous achievements and awards. In multiple years, Westwood was labelled as the 'Top Girls School', including the present year, 2022. Our intelligent quiz girls continue to represent us well in the Schools' Challenge Quiz competitions. Additionally, our athletes perform excellently at track meets and other sport events. So too other clubs and societies also regularly go on trips to gatherings to represent our school.

Students are given numerous educational opportunities throughout their years at Westwood and with an excellent academic staff, it is incredibly common that girls excel in all they do. Secondly, several rules are instilled through our excellent system of discipline and with staff and student representatives always present, it is typical that girls are kept in line - at school and on excursions. Last but not least, Westwood not only has a positive impact on a girl's academics and her behaviour but also on her characteristics as a lady. Throughout their years, the girls are exposed to and taught various things: how to conduct themselves at the dining



room table, virtues of a proper lady, simple acts of respect, and the list continues. In conclusion, through education, discipline and etiquette, Westwood changes the lives and views of many of its ladies.

My experience at Westwood has not been a long one but it has surely been an enjoyable and rather effective one. During my first months here, I met some amazing people whom I am proud to call my friends. I admire my teachers a lot because of the effort they continuously put out to educate, even when the odds are against them. For my Vice Principal, Miss Maureen Johnson, I possess remarkable respect and admiration. She is always working non-stop, ensuring her boarders are alright and in the best place they could be, whether, academically or otherwise.

Westwood, I salute you wholeheartedly!

#### **140 YEARS - A TENURE OF GREATNESS**

#### By Tiana Brown

I have not been here for 140 years, So why is this so special to me? I have not been in Trelawny from 1882, So why does this appreciation come so easily?

My tenure, only 5 years, I have realized, For over 140 years, Westwood High School has changed lives

For 140 years, this school has impacted each girl, For 140 years, students have made this their home. For 140 years, past students have changed the world, For 140 years, this school manufactured excellence from its very own.

For 140 years, various values were instilled, For 140 years, this school made others find themselves. For 140 years, passions were discovered and refilled, For 140 years, girls followed their dreams and nothing else.

I am honoured to have been a part of this legacy, And I am certain it does not end with me. Westwood High School - the home of greatness, undoubtedly,

I will forever stand by my jippy joppa hat, proudly.





For generations of women in Jamaica, Westwood High School has been a guiding light, serving as a symbol of perseverance, strength, and achievement.

Thank you for your tremendous contribution to nation building and the empowerment of women throughout the island and across the globe.

Empowering People. Unlocking Dreams. Building Communities

