



WOODRUSHSTAR

SCHOOL NEWS . SPORT . ART . SCIENCE . ENGLISH . HUMANITIES & MORE

WOODRUSH TRIUMPH AT THE WORCESTERSHIRE GAMES



SUPERSTARS!



PG25
MARATHON
MAN!



PG26
MY HOME



PG36
GETTING
CREATIVE!



Dear Parents and Carers...

We hope you enjoy reading our final 'Woodrush Star' for this academic year. With so many highlights of the last year and so many fantastic achievements from our students it's impossible to single any out.

This year we averaged over one extracurricular trip a day and have sent over a thousand students on visits and enrichment activities. Students have been to New York, Spain, Italy and Poland and literally hundreds of locations within our country and locality. Students have experienced a huge variety of in school activities ranging from visiting authors to setting up our very own chicken coop to taking part and succeeding in many sports and teams. We launched our new virtual learning environment 'Frog' and now have hundreds of students regularly accessing materials and resources in the evenings and weekends to extend their learning and parents have recently been given access to this to help support their child and monitor the progress they make.

But above all we continue to be very proud of our students for their effort and work this year and for the progress they have made. This year we again expect an excellent set of examination results from our students with 100% of students in Year 11 predicted to leave with top grades A*-C in at least 5 GCSE's and over 80% of students also gaining top grades A*-C in GCSE English and Mathematics. Students in our sixth form are also looking forward to starting degree courses at universities across the country in a range of subjects.

We have successfully secured funding direct from the Department of Education to help us improve our site and facilities further and we are set to spend over half a million pounds this summer on refurbishments to windows, our internal and external decoration and our ICT facilities including making our entire site Wi-Fi. On that note we look forward to welcoming our students back to enjoy our improvements in

September. Our first day back for all students is Wednesday 4th September with our new Year 7 on site ready for the first bell at 8.35 and Years 8 to 12 in for the start of the second period at 9.55 and finally Year 13 ready to start back on 9th September.

I must finish by thanking all of you for your support and hard work towards making our school the great place it is.

From us all at Woodrush we wish you a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Mr C King

Contents

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Student News | 3 |
| Duke of Edinburgh | 8 |
| Sixth Form | 10 |
| Youth & Community | 12 |
| Staff News | 14 |
| Modern Foreign Languages | 15 |
| English & Library | 17 |
| Humanities | 21 |
| Mr King: Marathon Man! | 25 |
| Wythall Police Station | 26 |
| -My Home | |
| STEM | 27 |
| Sports | 32 |
| Activity Days 2013 | 35 |
| Creative Learning & Teaching Week | 36 |
| Creative Arts | 38 |
| Primary News | 39 |

Free School Meals - are you eligible?

You are able to claim Free School Meals for your child if you, or your partner, receive one or more of the following:-

- Income Support
- Job Seekers Allowance - Income Based
- Employment & Support Allowance – Income Related
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration & Asylum Act 1991
- Child Tax Credit – providing you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, and have an annual income as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs that does not exceed £16,190
- Guarantee element of State Pension Credit



Did you know that:-

- By claiming your eligibility, you and your child can benefit even if they don't always take up the meal.
- You may also qualify for school transport, help with school uniforms and the cost of school trips.
- By claiming your eligibility, you can help your child's school as they can get extra funding based on the number of pupils eligible for a free school meal.

Applying for Free School Meals is easy. You can:-

- Collect an application from Reception or telephone the school on 01564 823777 and we will post one out to you.
- Download the application form which is available on our website. www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk or www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Easter Celebrations In Salou, Spain



The Easter celebrations started early when the Woodrush Year 10's made their way through Dover, France and eventually arriving in Spain. European ties were tested and overcome, when Flemish students met Woodrush students on the ferry. Kirsty entertained the younger children from



all over the globe in her fox onesie.

On arrival the pupils dropped off their baggage and made a bee line for the pool however, they were beaten to it by Mr Hiscocks (Former 100 metre champion in 1934).

The entertainment on the first night

meant the Spanish Grandees had a dance off with Woodrush's finest dancers (Gangnam style) Tom, John, Jake, Connor, Ashon, Joe, Lewis and co were ably helped by the versatile and supple Mr T.

Tarragona was the next destination for the windswept English travellers. A cultural Good Friday tour of the cathedral was followed by a little cultural shopping. Who could forget the lovely artwork etched out in the Roman amphitheatre by Amber, Hollie and Courtne.

Tarragona's Cathedral is an awesome building inside and the students admired the building in a mature and respectful manner. The afternoon was spent throwing each other in the pool and playing sports on the beach. That evening we headed off to the ice-cream parlour and sampled the delights they had to offer whilst celebrating the joint birthday for Jodie and Mr Hiscocks.

Barcelona was the next destination and the weather was starting to improve. Las Ramblas with all its shops, one street entertainer and a market place with every variety of food

on full display for all to see, admire and in some cases feel queasy. A long walk admiring the Gaudi buildings followed, eventually arriving at the Sagrada Familia. For some students this long walk included a detour to the One Direction pop-up shop! Next up was a trip on the Barcelona Metro. For some of our students this was both an exciting and new experience. We travelled on the Funicular to the Olympic stadium. Many students were looking for Alan, but to no avail.

Our final full day was spent enjoying the thrills of Port Aventura theme park. That evening we took ourselves off to an Irish bar where the owner had kindly allowed us to join in with the Karaoke. Fine performances were put in by Drew, Ashon, John, Charlotte, Hannah, Jess and Tay. With some exceptional dance moves led by Kirsty! As we dragged ourselves back to the hotel in the small hours we prepared for the long journey home.

Written by Mr Thewlis

Easter Celebrations

Easter Celebration Assembly was very entertaining with students involved in guessing which photo belonged to which member of staff with picture rounds of 'who knows who's nose' and the 'baby game', races between competitive students on space hoppers and entertainment from the Sixth Pistols! It was an hour of fun packed entertainment, with awards and certificates given out for sporting events, attendance and merits. Students who gain enough merits for the Bronze, Silver and Gold prize draws which are then drawn at random to win Limousine rides, and up to £50 of leisure vouchers!

The lucky winners were:
Brindley :

- Bronze: Joseph D – 8B1**
- Silver: Holly M – 7B2**
- Gold: Jessica M – 7B2**

Cadbury

- Bronze: Kane M – 9C2**
- Silver: Harry S – 7C1**
- Gold: Francesca J – 7C1**

Lanchester

- Bronze: Katie B – 11L1**
- Silver: William B – 7L2**
- Gold: Jay C – 8L2**

Congratulations to all our

winners, continue to work hard and next time the lucky winner could be you....!

Heads of House

The Sixth Pistols

Following our Christmas extravaganza of 'I'm Santa & I know it', the Sixth Formers were back for our second Celebration Assembly performance. We returned with the newly named group of sixth formers the 'Sixth Pistols'. With the help of 23 Sixth Formers, we organised, learnt and performed our melody of dances (featuring: Jai Hoe, YMCA & High School Musical) in under 2 weeks. We even had our very own cast of both The Village People & One Direction! Well done everyone, it looked great! Look out for our amazing new video in the end of term Celebration Assembly.

Oliver (Sixth Form)



Frog has made massive leaps forward this term. Students have access to resources, news and competitions and parents are now on board too.

We even have next year's year 7 students logging onto a website that is just for them! Over the summer holiday Frog will be just as busy as always! You might have holiday work that has been set you by your teacher to either help you progress or prepare you for starting a new course. The weekly Frog poll won't be happening but instead there will be 'Woodrush Around the World!'. Wherever you go this summer, whether it's somewhere local, elsewhere in the UK or further afield enter your destination on Frog and we can track how far and wide Woodrush has spread this summer. As you may have seen we also have a new page which will keep you up to date with the latest pregnancy news so if you want to find out who had what and when then log onto Frog!



PROM NIGHT 2013

A Night to Remember!

The Year 11 graduation took place on Thursday 9th May, some saying farewell to Woodrush High School and beginning preparations for their final GCSE exams this summer. The culmination of the day was the much anticipated Prom which once again took place in the beautiful setting of the Lake at Barston, West Midland Golf Course.

The arrival of students to their Prom is always an exciting time as they pull up to the venue in their stretch limousines, vintage cars, Daimlers and this year a Fire Engine. There was also a promise of a helicopter but due to the poor weather conditions this did not take place.

Many students took the opportunity to have official photos taken with friends to remember their special night, enjoying lovely food before taking to the dance floor. The nominated Prom King and Queen were Jack N and Heather S, who led the evenings dancing after the form tutor gifts were given out.

The rain did not dampen the spirits of year 11 and they seemed to enjoy their evening regardless and as the evening progressed and the rain stopped they were able to make the most of the lovely outside setting.

At 11:45pm staff waved students off on coaches that returned them safely to school. Once again it was a lovely evening all round. Hollywood Coaches phoned Woodrush the following day to say that our students always behave each year, but this year they were impeccable, very polite and well mannered – an absolute credit to Woodrush.

Mrs Hatton

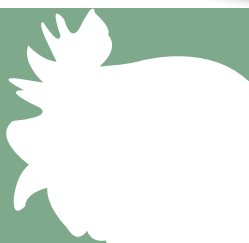


Community Farm

What a year! Last July I saw an opportunity to set up a social enterprise in conjunction with the science department. I approached Miss Parker and we applied for a grant from a fantastic organisation called O2 think big; think big gives young people a chance to make a positive impact in their local community in the form of a small company. We successfully acquired the grant for a community farm consisting of a number of chicken, vegetables and rabbits.

After Christmas as the weather began to improve we cleared our area, built our coop and dug out our vegetable patches. Our chickens have now hatched and been given a variety of unusual names as a result of an interhouse chicken naming competition. We have recently made connections with the Coppice eco warriors who came to put up some brilliant anti littering posters, hold our chicks, learn about the farm and see our rabbits. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and hope to uphold our connections. Also, we have good links with the youth centre and local age UK- we visited an age UK group and took a selection animals for them to hold- we had a lovely time talking with them about their memories and experiences and really hope to visit them again soon as we all found the experience really rewarding!

We hope now to put together a group of new year 7 helpers in September as the early transition students enjoyed holding them and were keen to help. Moreover, soon we hope to be granted a further £2500 from O2 to extend our range of activities and animals in order to hold fun days, parties and more community related projects as I feel that it is important to bring the community together through positive activities that a range of age groups can enjoy.



The Famous Frankie!

Recently, my wonderful collie-cross Frankie (fondly known as Frank the Plank) and I auditioned to take part in the CBBC television programme 'Who Let The Dogs Out?'. We were lucky enough to succeed in making the live shows after several nerve-racking auditions in Manchester, having been judged by Britain's Got Talent winner, Ashleigh Butler herself.

As the first round began, it was revealed to us that the challenge was flyball, a sport of high energy and focus. The aim was to send the dog away over a course of 4 hurdles, for it to retrieve a tennis ball positioned within a flyball box. Having seen that my competition were two ball obsessed dogs, a cocker spaniel, Jake, and a Doug-de-Bordeaux, Bella, handled by two extremely capable trainers, Carl and Daniel, I was getting increasingly nervous. Not helped by the fact that on our second visit, Frankie paid no attention and, to put it bluntly, was absolutely awful. Fully expecting to be going home when ShowTime came, my mum and I had been getting in all the practice we could, even going as far as taking the jumps to the park,

so it came as a complete shock to the both of us when he did all three attempts flawlessly! Because neither of the others had managed to get a better time



than me (Bella had done a hoolie and Jake had missed a couple of hurdles each time), it meant I was through to the semi-finals! To begin with, I was introduced to another pair of cracking handlers, Ellie and Thomas, with their dogs Ruby, a tiny Yorkshire terrier, and Barry yet another Springer spaniel. We all waited very patiently but expectantly back stage, while our 'enchanted' task was being prepared. It was announced that the next of my challenges was the magic box...I had to make Frank the Plank disappear! Each dog had to enter the box from the front door, while the handlers entertained the audience and closed



the opening. By speaking the magic words, the dog then had to disappear via a back curtain, and reappear on command, giving the impression they had vanished! While Ruby and Barry both had the advantage because of the height of their dogs, Frankie still managed to remain focused, and completed

the exercise perfectly each time while practicing at home. Unfortunately for me though, during ShowTime each pair was given a cape for the handler to wear, which got in the way of the 'wait' hand signal. Consequently, when I went around to the front of the box, he'd got back in! However, after a third attempt, he managed to do it correctly, and although this meant that we didn't go through to the final, I was a very happy girl indeed! This just proves what rescue dogs can do when given to the right home!

I'm so proud of Frankie, myself included. It was a fantastic experience that will never be forgotten!

Emily 9C1

Peer Mentoring Programme

We have very successfully over the last three years offered a peer support scheme involving our year 10 and 11 students. The scheme involves the trained young person (the Peer Mentor) volunteering to support and encourage another young person (the Mentee). This one to one relationship lasts for however long the mentee requires and they can discuss worries, concerns and problems on a weekly or fortnightly basis. The mentors aim to support the students in the following way:

- **Transition – those who find the leap from primary to secondary a bit daunting.**
- **Individual support and attention.**
- **To help build confidence, self-worth, social skills and self-esteem.**

esteem.

- **Reduce unwanted behaviour, such as bullying.**

- **Raise attainment by helping with homework and classroom issues.**

- **Develop a sense of belonging to a school as a community.**

There are many benefits for the mentors who are part of this successful scheme and every year we have plenty of willing volunteers who want to be trained. Mentors learn to become valuable helpers who have something to contribute and by drawing on their own experiences they can guide the younger students. It also helps to build their own confidence and is a fantastic boost to add to their CV.

We are proud of our mentoring



programme as we feel this reassures parents, carers and families that their children are safe and being supported, particularly those who have joined us in year 7. It also promotes and develops a caring community environment within the school and hopefully making our students feel happier.

If you are interested in becoming a peer mentor and you are currently in year 9 please come and see **Mrs Peters** to discuss how you can support, training requirements and what qualities you could bring to the role.

Winning Chicken Names

The Farm Committee chose the winning chick names and points were awarded accordingly.

10 points for a winning name, 1 point for an entry: Jeremy Cluckson - Peter W, Dougetta -

Lauren B, Chickster - Kajol G, Hope - Abbie N, Chuck - Kelesse D, Clara - Mrs Sedgwick

1st - Brindley – 1 winning name + 119 entries = 129 points

2nd – Lanchester – 3 winning names + 73 entries = 103 points

3rd - Cadbury – 2 winning names + 46 entries = 66 points



Charity News 2013

Comic Relief took place on Friday 15th March 2013 and as usual Woodrush students were invited to take part and raise money for a worthy cause.

During the week there were red noses on sale for students to buy and Friday 15th March was also a non-uniform day. Many students in year 7 and 8 decided they would also like to raise money through being sponsored to do things and there were many silent lessons during the day.

We also decided that we would challenge all students and staff to a 'Cake Bake off' during the week of Comic Relief. This was a House competition and all student and staff entries would result in merits being awarded to each House. Each Year group was allocated a cake day and judging took place at break time and then the cakes were sold off at lunchtime to raise even more money for Comic Relief.

The 1st place winners for each year group were:

Year 7: Chloe W, Jessica W

Matthew P, Esther J, Adam F

Year 8: - Josh, Holly R/Abbie S

**Year 9: Toni K, Hollie S/Katie H
Zoe C**

Year 10: Anisha C

Year 11: Heather St

**Staff winners: Ms Williams Mr
Monk Mrs Beddoes Mr Cannon**

**The final House positions after the
Cake Bake off were:**

1st Place Lanchester House

2nd Place Brindley House

3rd place Cadbury House.

**The sixth form also took part in
various activities during the day.**

**The final total raised for
Comic Relief was £1493.07p**



Other Charity News

**St Richard's Hospice Golf
Tournament Programme,
Droitwich Golf Club,
Wednesday 11th September
2013.**

Woodrush have once again been asked to sponsor part of the programme for The Golf Tournament in September to help to raise money for St Richard's Hospice in September 2013.

St Richard's Hospice cares for patients and families in Worcestershire who are living with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Each year we give free care and support to around 2,300 patients and their families – helping them towards the best quality of life possible.

Our sponsorship donation of £185 towards the programme, will help give care to families that need to use the Hospice.

Harlem Shakes Woodrush

For Comic Relief this year Woodrush Sixth Form threw themselves wholeheartedly into the fundraising activities. Focal to our efforts was the decision to join the rest of the internet World and make our own version of the viral sensation, 'The Harlem Shake'. On 15th March, wearing fancy dress, over 40 Sixth formers participated in the event shortly after Sixth Form briefing. Over the following hours, the video was edited and put together for a grand reveal in the School Hall at break time. The video is now available to view online by Searching 'Woodrush Sixth Form's Harlem Shake' on Youtube. Check it out!

Oliver (Sixth Form)



Woodrush High School

An Academy for Students Aged 11 to 18

*The students and staff are proud
to support St Richard's Hospice*

Shawhurst Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire B47 5JW.

Tel: 01564 823777

www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



Transition News

Over the last few months teachers from Maths, English and Science have been to some primary schools delivering different units of work. This has allowed pupils to meet some of the Woodrush staff and get to know the 'Woodrush Way', not to mention earn some merits!

A huge Thank You to the staff and pupils at Hollywood, Coppice, Tidbury Green and Meadow Green.

A BIG Thank You to Miss Holingsworth, Miss Rigley, Miss Ruprai, Mrs Bullivant, Mr Lovell, Miss Packwood and Miss Milne for all their support.

Miss Kaur

Science transition

"Over the last few weeks I have been to visit some of our main feeder schools. They have been completing a science project based around the moon and how craters are formed. The aim is to teach the students the way we carry out science experiments and the key words that we use at Woodrush."

Miss Hollingworth – Science

"I found that all the pupils were really enthusiastic and perceptive. They had some great ideas and all made an effort to be actively involved in the lesson."

Miss Packwood-English

The Coppice Primary School also visited us recently to carry out The Great Bug Hunt 2013, which involved students investigating the school grounds to see what organisms live here.



The Woodrush Award



The Woodrush Award is an opportunity for students in years 7, 8 and 9 to achieve before being able to access Duke of Edinburgh (which starts in year 10).

The Woodrush Ethos and the Woodrush Way are printed in all student planners



Bronze: Year 7

- At least 95% attendance
- At least 50 merits
- Represented Woodrush on a trip/visit
- Represented your House in an event
- Complete all your Independent Study
- Good discipline record
- Take part in an extra-curricular club

Silver: Year 8

- At least 96% attendance
- At least 70 merits
- Represented Woodrush on a trip/visit
- Represented your House in an event
- Complete all your Independent Study
- Good discipline record
- Take part in an extra-curricular club
- Act as a tour guide for a visitor
- Praise for at least 7 subjects in a progress Report

Gold: Year 9

- At least 97% attendance
- At least 90 merits
- Represented Woodrush on a trip/visit
- Represented your House in an event
- Complete all your Independent Study
- Good discipline record
- Take part in an extra-curricular club
- Praise in at least 9 subjects in a progress report

WOODRUSH AWARD PUPILS 2013

BRONZE

Esther 7B1, Ellie-Kay 7B2, Keeley 7B2, Laura 7C2, Lucy 7C2, Emily 7C2

SILVER

Charlotte - 8B2, Megan 8B2, Amari 8B2,

Pay online...
for peace of mind



A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

Making payments is easy

- Log on to the school website and follow the link.
- You should already have your user name and password but if not contact the school at parentpay@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk
- Full instructions on how to pay for school meals and school trips are available on the website
- No need to worry about your child losing money at school
- See a record of what your child is purchasing for lunch
- Log on as see what school trips are available to your child

"No more
having to look
for change or
writing
cheques."
It's so easy
now



ParentPay



Future DofE'ers....

If you would like to get involved with the DofE award we will be enrolling new participants in September. Year 10 – Bronze, Year 11 – Silver, Year 12 – Gold.

You will need to complete activities for the following sections over the required time:

Volunteering / Physical Skills / Expedition / Residential (Gold only)

| Bronze | | | |
|--|--------|----------|-----------------|
| Volunteering | Skills | Physical | Expedition |
| Two sections for 3 months and one section for 6 months | | | 2 days, 1 night |

| Silver | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Volunteering | Skills | Physical | Expedition |
| 6 months | One for 6 months and one for 3 months | | 3 days, 2 nights |

| Gold | | | | |
|--------------|--|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Volunteering | Skills | Physical | Expedition | Residential |
| 12 months | One for 12 months and one for 6 months | | 4 days, 3 nights | 5 days, 4 nights |

For further information visit www.dofe.org or see Miss Houston. Look out for the enrolment meetings in September!

Bronze DofE Practice Expedition



Well done to the Year 10's who successfully completed their practice expedition for their Bronze DofE on the 15th and 16th June. Each of the four groups spent the Saturday walking across the countryside in Bewdley accompanied by a member of staff, learning valuable navigation skills. Saturday evening they all learnt how to use the gas stoves and cooked themselves a tasty meal (well, tasty if you like very burnt sausages or beans mixed with smash!). On Sunday morning, tents were packed into rucksacks, more bacon was stuck to frying pans and the groups set off unaccompanied. Two groups made it to the first checkpoint in good time and continued on their route. The third group arrived a short while later and the final group eventually got the map the right way up and made it to the checkpoint after covering a few 'leisure miles'. The afternoon was spent walking along the river into Bewdley. A little sunshine was seen over the weekend but the British summertime didn't fail to give us a good soaking too! Good luck to all the Bronze DofE'ers for their assessed expedition in July.

Miss Houston

DofE Achievements:

• Well done to Andy who has achieved his Silver DofE by volunteering at a youth club, paying badminton, learning to cook and completing two 3-day expeditions.

• Well done to Elise who has achieved her Bronze DofE by volunteering with the youth cabinet, dancing, learning the guitar and completing two 2-day expeditions.

• Well done to Kim who has achieved her Bronze DofE by volunteering with a youth group, dancing, developing her drama skills and completing two 2-day expeditions.

• Well done to Alex who has achieved his Silver DofE by volunteering with the cubs, paying badminton, learning the drums and completing two 3-day expeditions.

• Well done to Jess who has achieved her Silver DofE by volunteering with a special needs group, doing pilates, learning to knit and completing two 3-day expeditions.

• Well done to Matt who has achieved his Silver DofE by volunteering at a stables, horse riding, learning the saxophone and completing two 3-day expeditions.

• Well done to Lydia who has achieved her Silver DofE by volunteering at Rainbows, doing ballet, learning the piano and completing two 3-day expeditions.

DofE Mentors:

• A special well done to Lucy and George (Gold DofE'ers) who qualified as DofE mentors and are currently mentoring the Bronze DofE'ers and supporting them with logging evidence on the online part of the award, as part of their own volunteering section.

This year has seen DofE'ers travelling to the following areas:

• **Bronze Practice Bewdley**

• **Bronze Assessed Cotswolds**

• **Silver Practice Long Mynd**

• **Silver Assessed Elan Valley**

• **Gold Practice Brecon Beacons**

• **Gold Assessed Yorkshire Dales**

Silver DofE Practice Expedition

Well done to the 18 Year 11's who successfully completed their practice expedition for their Silver DofE on 18th – 20th April.

They completed three days walking and navigating with not many getting lost. All three groups walked at an impressive speed (often beating the staff to the checkpoints!). They put up tents and cooked for themselves each evening when they reached the campsite. The weather was kind to them in the days but evenings were cold, with frost on the tents in the mornings. They showed good team spirit throughout the expedition and gave the impression it was 'easy' – however, putting themselves to bed at 9.15pm both nights suggested they were at least a little worn out! All groups were fantastic for the whole trip and were a credit to themselves and the school.

Silver DofE Assessed Expedition



Congratulations to the Year 11's who successfully completed their Silver DofE assessed expedition last week. They arrived at Elan Valley on Sunday and prepared all their kit to start their expedition early on Bank Holiday Monday.

Monday was a tough day with each group walking for about 11 hours, arriving at camp with just enough time to set up tents and cook before it got dark (after several tears and comments along the line of "I can't do it, it's too hard!"). Tuesday was another long day with about 10 hours walking and some tricky navigation. The mood in camp was a little

more optimistic in the evening with the knowledge that they were over half way (and the entertainment of knowing Emily had walked nearly all day with her boots on the wrong feet!). Wednesday saw all groups speed along the route finishing early afternoon - all that practice navigating must have paid off (or the promise of a McDonalds on the way home!).

The whole group were absolutely fantastic throughout the trip and



were a credit to the school.

In addition to completing two challenging expeditions they have also been volunteering, learning a skill and participating in a physical activity every week to achieve the full award.

Well done again! Big achievement!
Miss Houston



Gold DofE Practice Expedition

Congratulations to the 7 Year 12's who completed their practice expedition for their Gold award in June. They set off for the Brecon Beacons on Mon 24th June and noticed out of the minibus windows the difference between 'Gold country' and where they were for Bronze and Silver. Monday they spent the afternoon acclimatising with the area, sorting out their kit and resting up ready for the rest of the week.

Tuesday they got up, cooked breakfast, took down their tents and packed up their VERY HEAVY rucksacks. They proved to be competent navigators and worked well as a team but due to such heavy bags slowing them down they had a very long day, walking



for over 11 hours!! Tuesday evening was a quiet one on site with the team having an early night (after only a few tears and doubts that they could do it). Wednesday was an early start and the team organised themselves well, starting walking at 8.30am.

After another 11 hour day, they hobbled into camp and cooked themselves an appetising feast

of chicken fried rice, noodles and pasta, then retired to the tents early as the sunshine had disappeared and the rain had set in (and their feet hurt, and their legs hurt, and their backs hurt, and their knees hurt, and their shoulders hurt!).

Thursday morning was another prompt start, and after nursing blisters and sore feet, boots were on and they were walking by 9am. They once again navigated excellently through woodland, over hills,

via a lake and across open land. Late afternoon the heavens opened and after an initial soaking the group reached woodland which was swarming with midges so they had to pick up speed to try and limit the amount of bites they received. On reaching that evenings campsite, which was also swarming with midges, it was decided that we couldn't stay there without getting eaten alive so we had to move back to the previous nights campsite. After discussing that the main thing the group needed to improve on before the assessed expedition in July was the weight of their bags which was having an effect on their speed, the group reassessed their kit and unloaded several heavy and unnecessary items on to the minibus. This proved to be a success as Friday they walked brilliantly, navigating well and walking at a much better pace! – Lesson learned there for next time?! Overall, a really successful practice expedition with everyone playing a good part in the team and everyone developing their expedition skills and reflecting on what they had learnt for next time!

Well done!

Miss Houston





Sixth Formers at the University of Birmingham Open Day

ON FRIDAY 21st June, our Sixth Formers visited the University of Birmingham Open Day. Over the duration of the day, students attended a programme of different events, including: subject seminars, student accommodation tours, talks on 'tips for applicants' and a tour of the Student Guild. The day provided students with an opportunity to gather lots of information and to sample what life would be like attending one of the country's most prestigious and well-established Universities.

Over the next few months, the majority of our Sixth Formers will be busy deciding and applying for their desired University courses. Attending the University of Birmingham Open Day is just one small part of our programme of support for students in our Sixth Form looking to apply to University. Over subsequent months, we will guide and advise students with all aspects of their University

applications. This will include advice on courses and institutions they should consider, support with the completion of their UCAS applications and guidance on how to complete their personal statements. In addition to this, we provide one on one support for all of our Sixth Formers throughout the entire application process. We ensure that all of our students in the Sixth Form receive all the information, support and guidance they need to make the right decision about life after the Sixth Form.

The students that attended the University of Birmingham Open Day have been further inspired to continue working hard in the Sixth Form, so that they can gain the qualifications they need to achieve a place on their desired University course.

Mr M Sullivan – Head of Sixth Form



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Information and Guidance Workshops

Now that the academic year is coming to a close, many of our Year 12 Sixth Formers are beginning to think about their plans for life after the Sixth Form.

On Wednesday 26th June, a series of presentations and workshops took place in the Sixth Form Centre covering things like University applications, Higher Apprenticeships, Employability and Gap Year Options. Over the course of the day, students were presented with a range of possible pathways for when they leave us in the Sixth Form.

Also, each student was given a Personal Action Plan so that we can track and support their research into University applications (etc) and other post-Sixth Form options. This process will ensure that our students make an informed decision about their futures and feel fully supported over the course of the next year with their various applications.

It is very important to us that every single Sixth Form student is given quality information and guidance. The workshops and presentations that have taken place recently are just part of the extensive support package we offer to our Sixth Formers; a package that is designed to instil confidence in them regarding the important decisions that lie ahead over the next few months.



The Class of 2013: Goodbye and Good Luck to our Year 13 Students

On May 24th, our Year 13's said a fond, and in some students' cases, a tearful farewell to the Sixth Form, as they began their study leave in preparation for sitting their final exams. Over the course of the day we celebrated the time that these students have spent with us. This included reflections on their seven years with us, but it also involved looking forward to what lies ahead for our Sixth Formers as many of them embark upon the next exciting stage in their lives.

Our Year 13 students have now all completed their final examinations and wait with eager anticipation for their final results on August 15th. Please look out for information on our Year 13's successes in the next edition of the 'Woodrush Star'.

We wish all of our Year 13's every success for the future and we look forward to seeing them all again at the Sixth Form end of year celebration on July 19th.



**Woodrush High School**
An Academy for Students Aged 11-18



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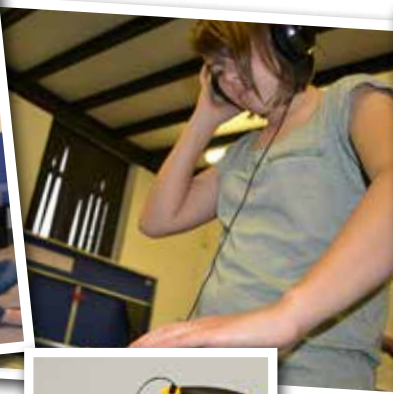
Application forms and a copy of the Sixth Form prospectus are available in the 'Sixth Form' area on the school website

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Woodrush Youth And Community



Welcome!

Over the last few months it has been very busy at Woodrush Youth & Community Centre. We've had football tournaments, a day trip to an Age UK day centre, we've started our very own fundraising campaign, our annual talent showcase Youth's Got Talent and much more. In addition, to this we have also started allowing Year 6 pupils to attend our Junior Night in order to help with transition whilst developing our new welcome pack ready for September. We hope you enjoy reading about all of our fantastic events that have happened over the past few months.



14th July 2013

to buy an Automated External Defibrillator to protect both Woodrush students and users of our Sports facilities. With the support of Worcestershire Ambulance Service, we are also looking to make this life saving device available to save lives in our surrounding community.



In order to raise this money we will be conducting a number of activities on the 12th July during a non-school uniform day with the funds raised going to this worthy cause. Moreover, our Youth Committee decided that we should participate in the Wythall & Hollywood Fun Run and gain sponsorship for doing so. On the 14th July we will be taking part in the race and we are hoping to raise enough money along with the activities we have organised in school to buy this life saving piece of equipment and get it in place for September 2013.

Woodrush Youth and Community visits AGE UK

(Article by Chloe W, Heidi M, Ollie M)

On the 19th June 2013 young people from Woodrush Youth and Community Centre and Woodrush Community Farm went on a visit to Dennis Potter Courts Age UK.

We (Chloe, Heidi, Ollie, Lauren, Grace, Lois and Lauren) presented our project to a group of 20 members of the day centre before the animals were let loose for a close encounter with the elderly members of our Community. In the mix were kittens, guinea pigs, rabbits, a bearded dragon and a snake. The



Defibrillator/ Fun Run

(Article by Oliver year 12)

Every week in the UK, 12 apparently fit and healthy young people die from undiagnosed heart conditions. These heart conditions lead to sudden cardiac arrest. This is where a person's heart beat becomes irregular and where CPR and Defibrillation (as you've probably seen in Casualty) is urgently required. Defibrillation (an electric shock) must be delivered within 10 minutes of a person entering cardiac arrest so time is vital.

With the support of Worcestershire Ambulance Service, The British Heart Foundation & Martek Medical, A member of our management team decided to try and raise some money

Youth management consultation with the NHS

Recently a selection of Committee and Management members from Woodrush Youth and Community Centre had a meeting with Ahmed Hussain who is Worcestershire's NHS Community Development Officer. He invited us to have the first input towards a young people's consultancy board. The meeting was productive and we were invited to be part of the boards first set up meeting. On arrival we were able to talk to a range of influential members of the NHS Trust Board including Chris Burdon, Chairman of Worcestershire Health and Care Trust. After a short presentation on the trust itself and the

work they have done so far we then discussed the structure, function and priorities that our youth board will focus on. Our group presented a range of detailed ideas and impressed the staff who highly commended our work. The trust are now collating all our ideas and working towards setting up another meeting. It was a good experience for all involved and we are looking forward to giving young people a voice from Woodrush Youth and Community Centre.

Chloe W , Heidi M & Ryan J



snake was a clear favourite and particularly with Edna and Ian! Surprisingly it wasn't the snake that caused a commotion



but rather one of the rebel rabbits who took a bite out of a lovely member's top!

It was a great opportunity to engage with other members of the local community and the members were very impressed with our presentation and maturity. The trip also gave us an opportunity to talk the community members and hear about their own life experiences.

Our next step is to apply for a further £2,500 for our Community Farm to increase the projects potential and enable us to initiate further outreach into the community. Watch this space!

Junior Youth Club Football Tournament May 2013

Woodrush Sports Centre played host to the junior youth club football tournament in May. 8 teams battled it out to lift the inaugural trophy and be crowned youth club champions. The football was of a high standard and very competitive, and the majority of the matches were decided by the odd goal.

There were some outstanding performances by individuals with Regan (year 7), scoring goal of the tournament from inside his own half to book his teams place in the semi-final.

Two tense semi-finals both needed extra time to decide who would play in the show piece final on a sunny evening on the Astro turf. The final was a fiercely contested fight with the winners eventually emerging. They won the match by 2 goals to 1 after coming from a goal behind to steal it with only seconds left on the clock.

The winning team members were Harry, Olly, Jordan, Luke and Ross

Football is on every week as part of the youth club activities between 6.30 and 8.30 on Tuesday evenings for year 7's and 8's.

Mr Paxton



MONDAY
Senior Night
13 - 18 yrs
19.00 - 21.00

FREE TO MEMBERS

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18.30 - 20.30

THURSDAY
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BABY BOOM!

There's something in the water at Woodrush!

Some of you may already be aware that we currently have a number of pregnant ladies at Woodrush. At the time of going to press we said goodbye to Mrs Price, who has since given birth to a beautiful baby girl called Nicole Amelia, who was born on 3rd July weighing 6lb 14oz. Congratulations from us all. We would like to wish all of our pregnant staff the very best and a safe and healthy arrival of the extended Woodrush family.

In due date order (corresponding to photo from left to right) are Mrs Price, Mrs Michell, Miss Warren, Mrs Martin, Miss Williams, Miss Rejer, Ms Khatri, Mrs Rowe and Mrs Bridgen.

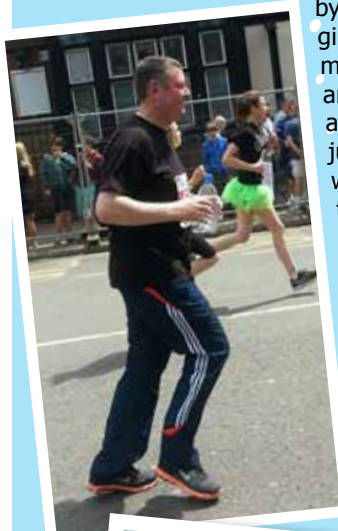
Students and staff can keep up to date with the ever growing Woodrush Family by accessing the 'stork' image on the home page of FROG.

Leprechauns, fire engines, gingerbread men and 8.5 miles....

On Sunday 2nd June two Heads of House, namely Mr Mitchell and Mr Thewlis, attempted the Great Midlands Fun Run. For those that don't know it's an 8.5 mile course through Sutton Coldfield Town centre and park. 7000 adults, children and dogs all take part, usually for a chosen charity.

This year Mr M and Mr T agreed to run for Tilly's Trust (www.tillystrust.co.uk). A small family run charity for anyone affected by the loss of a baby through stillbirth or neonatal death. The day began cloudy but as the race began the sun shone through meaning a tough, hot run ahead. The fifteen strong Tilly's trust team started together but variations in stamina, strength and training meant everyone got separated. However, everyone continued on their own personal journey knowing hard earned charity money was waiting to be collected if we made the finish line. Some of the highlights (or lowlights) were either overtaking or being overtaken

by a gingerbread man, a table and chairs, an annoyance of leprechauns, a fire engine and a 50 year old baby in just a bib, nappy and trainers! The course was hilly so Mr M soon took to walking the ascents and trying to look like Mo Farah on the descents. Mr T was carrying an injury and really hit the pain barrier at 6 miles but ran on to finish in 1 hour 35 minutes. Due to the last 2 miles after the notorious Cardiac Hill being downhill Mr M managed 1 hour 45 minutes. In all, the team managed to raise over £1000 and we'll still gratefully accept donations!



Les Films

Bonjour! Hola! Ciao! Guten Tag! Or as they say in plain, old, boring English, Hello! Fancy a foreign film, but don't know which one to watch, well here's a few I'd recommend:

•**Priceless**; Will a case of mistaken identity stop true love from running its course? Will Gold Digging Irene (Audrey Tautou) and waiter/barman Jean (Gad Elmaleh) ever get together? After Irene's (very) elderly lover gets drunk and falls asleep on her birthday she goes to the bar and she meets Jean. After drinking, several, of his impressive cocktails, they drunkenly retire to the biggest and best suite of the hotel. A year later, Irene and Jacques- her elderly gentleman friend- returns to the hotel where Jacques proposes! But when Jean and Irene meet again, history repeats itself. But as Jacques calls off the engagement to his cheating fiancée, Irene lying about how she and Jacques really ended and Jean's true identity is discovered, will true love run smoothly for our French friends?

•**Coco before Chanel**: Gabrielle Chanel finds herself working in a bar, several years after leaving the orphanage where her father had abandoned her. She is both a seamstress and a singer, earning her the nickname 'Coco' from the songs she sings with her sister. After a liaison with the charismatic Baron Balsan gives her entry into French High Society and a chance to develop her gift for designing really popular hats.



Will falling in love with English Businessman Arthur Capel see Coco's life run smoothly? But is Arthur Capel really what he seems and will his past catch up with him?

•**Puss in Boots**: Who can beat Shrek's feline accomplice? Who can beat him speaking pure SPANISH! Childhood friends and his hometown test Puss' loyalty in this animated fairy tale comedy. Will Humpty Dumpty have egg on his face? (I'm so sorry I had to CRACK a joke! I'm so sorry; I don't know what came over me, it shan't happen again I assure you). Will the Mother Goose succeed in finding her baby? And will romance between Puss and Kitty Softpaws blossom? Or will it be sour milk?

All three films are HIGHLY recommended and I'm sure you'll enjoy watching them.

Why Not See What The Future Holds For Film Club:
Lunchtimes in Mrs Monk/Mrs Bennett's Room; L4
Until then: Au Revoir, Adios, Ciao, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye

**By Jamie
8B1**

A taste of Europe

THIS term in the MFL department we made food in Italian lessons. After learning a bit about food Mrs Croxall let use make pizzas and the day after all the groups got to do a food tasting with food from Italy, Spain, France and Germany!

Firstly, the pizza making was fantastic. We had a recipe which was written in Italian and we had to use our Italian skills to work out what the recipe said. We had to do it step by step and it was a lot of fun and tasted delicious!

A day after, all language groups took part in food tasting from the different countries that we learn about in lessons. My favourite was Spain as the food was hot, spicy and delicious! I also enjoyed the Italian food as well which was really tasty. Overall, I enjoyed these two activities and would definitely do them again!

By Callum

THIS term in Italian we did food as a topic. We got to do a food tasting day where we tried lots of different foods from Italy, Spain, France and Germany. The French brioche and pain au chocolat were my favourites but I also ate many other things from the other countries such as squid from Spain and cheese and ham from Germany. In another lesson we also went into the food technology rooms and made our own Italian pizzas with the help of a recipe which was in Italian so it was quite hard. By using a baguette and a range of toppings such as chicken, tomato, cheese and pineapple, we produced a simple pizza. It was really tasty and I really hope we can do it again.

By food tasting James.



Pizza

IN ITALY food is very important so we in 8C1 and 8C2 decided with the help from Mrs Croxall we should have a go at making the amazing tastes of Italy. We went to food technology and made a plain pizza, extremely simple with an immense taste. We had to follow an Italian recipe and use Italian tomatoes and many toppings including pepperoni, ham, cheese, peppers and sweet corn. Then we put them in an oven for about 5 minutes and then, BOOM, we had a delicious pizza. It was really interesting the next day to study pizza in class and we found out many facts and weird topping combinations. The lesson was really good and we should do more.

Harry 8C2

An Interview with Miss Jack (PGCE student)

1. Dites-moi un peu au sujet de vous-même.

Je suis passionnée par tous ce qui est français: la langue, la nourriture, la culture...J'aime aussi voyager et découvrir des autres pays et cultures différentes. J'aime beaucoup le sport, surtout les sports nautiques et les sports qu'on peut faire aux montagnes.

2. Vous venez d'où, et où êtes-vous allée à l'université?

Je viens de Bromsgrove qui n'est pas loin d'ici mais je suis allée à l'université de Cardiff.

3. Pourquoi avez-vous décidé de devenir professeur?

Je voulais utiliser le français tous les jours ce qui est possible dans cet emploi. Aussi, je crois que le rôle d'un prof est enrichissant et j'aime le fait qu'on apprend des nouvelles choses chaque jour.

4. Combien de langues parlez-vous et lesquelles?

À part d'anglais, je parle le français aussi que l'espagnol. Vu que j'habitais dans le Pays de Galles je peux aussi parler un peu de gallois.

5. Dites-moi de quand vous êtes restée en France pendant l'université (l'année à l'étranger). Quelle région? C'était comment? J'ai passé une année à Grenoble en tant qu'assistante d'anglais dans un lycée (pour les élèves de 15 à 18 ans). C'était une expérience super surtout parce que la ville de Grenoble se trouve dans la région Rhône-Alpes et j'ai pu faire du ski et des randonnées aux montagnes. Je me suis éclatée! J'ai parlé du français la plupart du temps et donc mon français a beaucoup amélioré. Aujourd'hui j'ai toujours des amis qui habitent là-bas et j'y retourne souvent.

6. Décrivez vos projets après que vous quittez Woodrush en juin.

Je déménage dans le sud d'Angleterre dans le Devon parce que je vais enseigner dans une école là-bas. Je suis contente que je serai près de la mer. Cependant, avant Septembre, je vais voyager en France et en Italie. Les vacances sont très importantes!

7. Que seriez-vous si vous n'étiez pas professeur?

Je serais la propriétaire d'une boulangerie ou d'une pâtisserie quelque part en France.

8. Finalement, quel est votre mot préféré? le pamplemousse



Lundi 28 janvier Amour film review

Lundi 28 janvier, la section de langues étrangères est allée avec des élèves de langues pour regarder un film français qui s'appelle « Amour » au cinéma

Artrix. Le film se situe dans un appartement à Paris et Emmanuelle Riva joue le rôle d'Anne et Jean-Louis Trintignant celui de George. Ils sont un couple de musiciens retraités avec une fille absente qui a trouvé la vie d'être difficile après qu'Anne a souffert une attaque d'apoplexie. L'histoire traite les thèmes

de la maladie, le vieillissement et le mort et le film demande la question- est-ce qu'on dépasserait les bornes pour quelque qu'un qu'on adore? Emmanuelle Riva est devenue la femme la plus vieille d'être nominée pour l'« Oscar » de « meilleure actrice » parce qu'à mon avis elle joue le rôle parfaitement et avec de la sensibilité et de la dignité. De même, Trintignant est très convaincant comme un homme qui fait face à une perte bouleversante. « Amour » est un film avec un rythme lent mais est vraiment théâtral aussi. Bien qu'il s'agisse de l'idée difficile de la mort, personnellement je ne pense pas que cela devrait vous arrêter de regarder ce film.

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Borderlines Film Festival

ON 7TH March students from Woodrush Film attended the Borderlines Film Festival for a special screening of *The Life of Pi*. Students enjoyed the film which was both visually striking and thought provoking. At the end of the screening students were given the opportunity to write their own reviews on the spot (The FilmClub charity actively encourages participants to write and submit film reviews on their website) and William Boucher won the prize for the best review of the six schools represented.



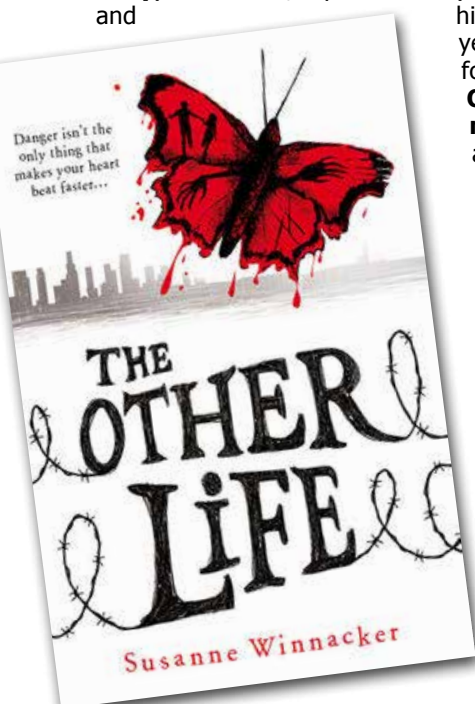
Woodrush Winners!

Our students who, along with others from around the county, had been reading six books shortlisted for the Worcestershire Teen Book Award, were invited to the presentation afternoon at County Hall to discover which title had been voted the overall winner. The event opened with an inter-school quiz in which we entered our strongest team to date, Holly, Louisa, Luke and Maisy. Their extensive knowledge of the books and authors ensured that they lead throughout the competition until the final round, which saw three teams in equal place; Maisy's quick reactions, much to the evident delight of our students, ensured we won the tie-breaker and some new books for the school library! After enjoying the unexpected sunshine and a picnic lunch by the duck pond, we were treated to an extremely entertaining talk from Joe Craig, author of the Jimmy Coates series of books.

The Shortlist catered for all tastes from comedy (**Socks are not Enough**) and ghost stories (**The Haunting of Tabitha Grey**) to thrillers, mysteries and (**Girl Stolen** and **Dead Time**), historical (**Soldier Dog**). This year's winning book, as voted for by the students, is **The Other Life** by **Susanne Winnacker**. This book, which was a very popular choice with our students, tells the story of first love, survival and family loyalty in a dystopian world.

All shortlisted books are available for loan from the school library.

To view the trailer which Woodrush students created for the presentation afternoon follow the link on Frog – Curriculum – Library – Year 8.



Worcestershire County Council Libraries & Learning

Volunteer in your local library this Summer

Are you looking for something worthwhile and fun to do this summer?

Do you want to gain great skills and experience for your personal statement or CV?

The Summer Reading Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 12 to read six books during the summer holiday.

We want to help lots of children to complete the challenge this year. So if you can commit to volunteering a minimum of 5 hours this summer, please text **Natalie** on **07876 144905** with your name to find out more.

As a volunteer you'll get valuable work experience, a certificate, the opportunity to develop your confidence and skills and a chance to make new friends.



CREEPY HOUSE
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2013

Volunteering for the Summer Reading Challenge, you get to see just how enthusiastic children are about reading. I was nervous at the beginning, but I'm a far more confident person for it and I'm looking forward to helping again this year.

Emma Fresham Library

www.worcestershire.gov.uk

worcestershire
county council

Bromsgrove Debate

Early this year Nicola and Jay from year 12 competed in the Bromsgrove Schools Debating Competition. They were both completely new to debating and were up against some outstanding schools from the area.

However, Jay and Nicola responded excellently to the pressure of debating in front of local luminaries including MP Sajid Javid. They blew away the Hagley Roman Catholic School in the first heat with excellent points of information offered and some first class rebuttal. In the semi-final they were

even better. They had thoroughly prepared their opposition to the motion that "this house believes that the UK government should not provide aid to third world countries." Their points

were incredibly strong and they successfully disrupted the flow of their opponents with ease. It was no surprise when they comprehensively qualified for the final.

In the final debate Jay and Nicola were once again excellent in arguing that MPs are paid too much (a controversial topic with an MP among the judges). They outlined their argument superbly and were able to deal with some very pointed questions from the audience. In an incredibly close call they came runners-up. Let's hope for even better next year.



Jay and Nicola with MP Sajid Javid

Spelling Bee

On Tuesday 25th June, we visited Hollywood primary school to take part in an inter-school spelling competition. The students from Hollywood had spent many weeks practising and the best spellers from Years 5 and 6 were selected to come and compete against some of our Year 7s! There were a number of rounds including a knock-out round which was won by Alex R from Woodrush. The final round involved students choosing the level of difficulty to determine the number of points they won. The points were then added up and the winners were announced and unfortunately, we were beaten! Well done to all at Hollywood that took part; they were really impressive!

Finally, thanks must go to Hollywood for hosting and for those that acted as the judge, timekeeper and spellmaster-without their help, the competition would not have run so smoothly.

We look forward to the next competition sometime next year!

Miss Ludford and Miss Packwood

Andy Mulligan visits Woodrush

Woodrush had the great honour of seeing Andy Mulligan come to represent his new book The Boy with 2Heads. Andy Mulligan is a great author with inspirational life stories.

The event started with all the children gathering in the hall. The hall was buzzing and to add to the excitement a rock band was playing as we all entered the hall. There were lots of primary schools that had come especially to see Andy Mulligan. He was introduced by Mrs Lawson, our assistant head teacher.

Andy started by telling us how he got his idea for his book Trash. He was originally a teacher here in England, however he moved to the Philippines in search of more excitement! He ended up in a school in the capital city, Manila, teaching the children of rich businessmen and government officials. These children were used to expensive 4x4 cars and had bodyguards to protect them. Poverty is rife in Manila and Andy thought it was important to teach his privileged students something about the poverty all around them. He arranged a visit to show them the rubbish heaps and the children who work on them. He told us an inspiring story of a young boy he met working on the dumpsite. We were shocked by the working conditions of such young children. Trash is about a boy who finds a key in a wallet on the rubbish dump. The police are searching for the wallet. The boy and his friends discover the locker which the key fits; they open it and find lots of money and a mystery to solve.

He continued to tell us about his new book, The Boy with 2Heads. This is about a boy who literally grows a second head which blurts out his innermost thoughts and shows a different side to his personality. I'm sure there will be many students who will want to read the book after his intriguing introduction.

After Andy had personally signed lots of his books for eager students,



Book Club invited him to brunch in the library. He was especially delighted with a cake decorated with the front cover of The Boy with 2Heads! The students particularly enjoyed this informal time with him, not least because they had "a yummy brunch". They enjoyed asking him questions about his books and were impressed that "he had lots of stories and inspirational experiences to tell". All in all it was a morning to remember.

Oxford University Competition

On the 26th June, six Year 12 students attended a tutorial led by Hannah Robertson, an Oxford University undergraduate and previous Woodrush student, in preparation to submit an academic essay for an Oxford University competition.

Christopher B, Jay C, Josh H, Nicola P, Leanne C and Megan T all participated in the tutorial and immersed themselves in the theme of 'ambition', the competition theme, through perceptive and mature discussion. Students also considered suitable texts which they feel would enable them to answer their essay questions effectively, and explored which aspects of these would be most successful.

Not only did students gain confidence in how to approach answering the question, but they also experienced a taster of what a tutorial at Oxford University would be like, as

well as gaining an understanding and appreciation for Oxford University life and their expectations. Megan T said: "I found the visit incredibly useful - Hannah helped us to analyse the meaning of 'ambition' and, interpret the questions that we have been set." Whilst Leanne C commented that "the fact that Hannah came from Woodrush inspired me to aim high."

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank Hannah for running the tutorial; it has been a real privilege for our students and has certainly provided them with an advantage in the competition!

Good luck to you all!
Miss Denyer



**Jesan-Jude's (8C1) interpretation
of what it means to be British, written
in the style of a recipe.**

'The British'

GRAB a small island,
Chop the island into 8 or 9 cities,
Throw in some everlasting rain,
To give cities a bit of moisture,
But don't forget to throw in,
a bit of sun so we don't drown in the
rain.

Now for the toppings, put in people
Of different shapes, sizes and religions,
Cultures, nationalities and back-
grounds:

English, African, Asian, Chinese
Small, tall, plump, thin
Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians.
This is what gives this British dish its
amazing taste.

Next put in free range soldiers
And secret-service agents so
The people on the island are protected
When the heat of the oven is turned
up.

Don't forget the MPs, the government
And the Queen; But make sure
The Queen has some friends so our
country has an alliance in
times of need.

Now stir it up and
Put it in the oven
And soon, just very soon
It will become
Great Britain.



Poetry Competition Winners!

A massive congratulations to James in 8C1 and Olivia in 9C1 for crafting winning poems in The University of Birmingham's annual poetry competition. Students were instructed to write about a poem that was inspired by the theme 'The Sky's the Limit' and were encouraged to respond to this in any form, style or focus they wished. Both students crafted imaginative and sophisticated poems which have been published in the University's Poetry Anthology!

Well done to you both - the English Department are very proud of you!

'The Sky's the Limit'

We are all plagued by an illness
A demon that plays on the soul.
It can kill us then birth
us and kill us again
Or trap us like rats in a hole.

It makes your heart race
It slows your brain's pace
It makes your palms
sweat something fierce.
Your insides will burn
But there's so much to earn
When the arrow of Cupid shall pierce.

Inhibitions need not be a worry
But they stalk you and make your
blood boil.
You believe you can fly,
you can touch the sky,
A gift or a curse is this turmoil?

I say it's a gift
But I'm hardly the fifth
Who's felt the soft touch of the dove?
For nothing can dim it
The sky is the limit
The invincible feeling of love.

Written by James T 8C1

'Sky's the Limit'

'Sky's the limit'. Whose words are they?
We conquer and succeed
each and every day.
Don't dwell on your faults,
look to the sky,
Open your minds and
you'll continue to fly.
They say "Winners never quit,
quitters never win"
Stare the scripters in the face
with a devious grin.

Question this saying,
Have you really quit playing?
This thing we call 'life' is one big game,
Full of flaws,
mistakes and endless pain.
But stop and think,
go back to the start,
Take a breath, step forward,
now follow your heart.

Shout "Sky's not the limit",
they'll call you a liar,
Just carry on smiling,
you will go higher.

Written by Olivia D 9C1

2013 Dux Award Trip to Warwick University

EVERY year the Department for Education holds an award for academic success in Year 9, the award is aimed at giving students a realistic idea of life in a top university, as well as other educational activities to further develop their learning. It is left to the school to select these top two students and apply for a visit to the university...

After we were asked to take part in the award Miss Denyer arranged for us to visit Warwick University on the 11th June. As the day approached we were able to choose the lectures we wanted to participate in; we both selected



creative writing, languages and history. We arrived at the university at 10am eager to start our day that was based on how subjects relate to the real world and made our way to the new maths department (after getting slightly lost).

First we received a welcome speech from the vice-chairperson of the university and then a very comical lecture on chemistry from Dr Nick Baker. Then we had a long break to get refreshments and speak to the other students which was followed by an interesting lecture on creative writing and the racism surrounding Native Americans in western films. After this we had a delicious lunch and a tour around the campus. We arrived back at the maths department to receive our final two lectures; firstly we had a brilliant talk on the French revolution and then a thought provoking debate on whether the Parthenon marbles should be returned to Athens.

We both found the visit really interesting and thoroughly enjoyed it as it made us seriously consider our options for the future and how a degree can shape this.

Written by Chloe 9C2

Spoz Visit

On Wednesday 26th June, local poet, Spoz visited Woodrush to run a poetry slam with a group of Year 7 students. Students spent the day working on a number of poetry related tasks which culminated in a performance to decide who would represent Woodrush at the Worcestershire poetry slam finals. The winning team, known as 'Rock and Repetition', were selected and will now represent Woodrush at the finals taking place on the evening of 10th July at The Artrix, Bromsgrove. We wish them every success and hope they bring the trophy home!

We would also like to say a big thank you to Spoz for such an enjoyable day.

Miss Ludford.



World Book Day 2013

On the 7th March 2013 Woodrush embarked on its largest World Book Day with the hall transformed into the magnificence of a University Challenge arena of the book world. In the weeks running up to the event there was much

all do every day, so it was nice that a day dedicated to it was widely recognised with a massive fun event that allowed many to increase their knowledge and rediscover their love of books.

The day kicked off with a packed audience of students in the school hall all excited for the morning ahead, a stage full of circular tables with students ready and prepared to win house points for their house and team. Mr King opened the event expressing his appreciation of books and the importance of them in the educational environment and then the game commenced! The audience were surprised when they discovered the first round involved them; envelopes placed under their chairs would mean they would have to answer the question to win a chocolate and house points. Three very surprised year 7s were called up to answer a question without any help (not even from the audience). After the excitement of students chanting their friends' names to try and get the question correct round 1 kicked off with the quick fire 'childhood favourites'. Questions in this round were based upon classic picture books such as 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and the patchwork elephant 'Elmer', which many sixth formers in particular, struggled to remember! As the game went on it got harder and harder with rounds for 'books & authors', 'myths and legends', 'poetry and poets' including a question about my personal poetry queen Carol Ann Duffy, who is the current Poet Laureate, and the game changing 'books into films' round where Queen Adele's hit 'Skyfall' was used as a question. The quiz rounds were also broken down with audience participating rounds, where in one round in particular was a year 7 boy chanting "The Hobbit, The Hobbit, The Hobbit, The Hobbit" in response to a question showing the competitive nature of students on a day that

sometimes goes unnoticed. In addition there was the 'mascot chant game' with roars from the Lanchester Lions winning the game for the loudest house.

Up until the last round Lanchester were in the lead with 39 points, however one incorrect answer meant that their lead was lost and Cadbury then went on to win the game by two points with sixth former Katie B leading C2 to victory. When asked about her teams' success she said how she was "very proud" of her team who she also added "worked very well together and had a great range of knowledge". 2500 merit points were added to Cadbury's points total. Second place was Lanchester who gained 1200 merits and runners up Brindley who received 750 merits. The winning team also each received a £5 book voucher each as a reward for their incredible knowledge. Many students praised the morning with some expressing how it was a good way of getting involved with books and how the audience rounds were fun and challenging. The game in general impressed the year 7s as it gave them the opportunity to play along and interact with the teams. All in all, the biggest quiz in Woodrush



preparation from the English department promoting the event in lessons, from the librarian Mrs Robertson and English teacher Miss Packwood designing the quiz including all its questions and rounds; the art department who designed a collection of giant sized books and other fantastic three dimensional pieces of artwork such as a lamp post from C.S. Lewis' Narnia, a life-size Where's Wally and a broomstick from JK Rowling's renowned series of novels, Harry Potter; the 6th form who helped the preparations providing team captains, mascots and even score trackers and last but not least a group of specially selected students from each form and school year with a passion of reading that would represent their house either Lanchester, Brindley or Cadbury to gain a huge amount of house points. It's incredible that a day such as World Book Day has taken place for many years, but this year so many people were involved demonstrating the importance of books and reading no matter what subject people prefer. Reading is something we



history was a great morning spent learning and appreciating the world of literature.

Written by Jay C



Follow Woodrush History Team on Twitter for useful updates, exam tips, homework help and much more.
@woodrushhistory

A Day to Remember

EARLIER this year, two Sixth Formers and I were lucky enough to gain places on Lessons from Auschwitz, a national project run by the Holocaust Education Trust.

The project would be in 4 parts: an orientation seminar, a trip to Poland, a follow-up seminar, and a group project.

On 17th April, Katie, Nicola and I made our way across town to attend our orientation seminar in the centre of Birmingham. Despite getting lost (due to Katie's dodgy navigation skills) we arrived at the venue on time, with a sense of anticipation – we had no idea what the seminar would entail. As well as being briefed about our trip to Poland the following week, we had the opportunity to hear from and meet a Holocaust survivor – Kitty Hart. Kitty talked to us in great depth about her horrendous experiences during the Holocaust – in particular about how she survived the largest death camp of all; Auschwitz-Birkenau. Although her story was a sad one, much greater was her message of courage and defiance and ultimately survival. We were so inspired by her story that we bought copies

of her book and Kitty signed them in person for us. I left that seminar feeling truly humbled.

The following week, Nicola, Katie and I joined over 100 other students and teachers from the West Midlands, on a memorable day trip to Poland – the next part of our project. We all met at 5am at Birmingham International Airport to fly out to Krakow in Poland, where we would board a coach to the town of Oswiecim to start our guided tour.

In Oswiecim we were joined by the Rabi from the Central London Synagogue (the founder of the project), who showed us around a restored synagogue which had been taken over by the Nazis in World War II. The town itself no longer has any Jewish residents.

We then travelled a short distance to Auschwitz 1 – the original concentration camp – Polish army barracks that had been transformed by the SS and the Gestapo in 1940. Here we saw the true horrors of the Holocaust; piles of suitcases, shoes and human hair from the victims who were sent to the gas chambers. We walked

"WE came to a gate with a motto above it in iron lettering, silhouetted against the sky: ARBEIT MACHT FREI – 'Work Brings Freedom'. Men who must have been in a different part of the train were taken through the gate, along with some of the women. It was impossible to make out which women were chosen or why. The rest of us were formed into fives and went staggering on, picking our way with

the help of the erratic glare from three layers of illuminated, electrified fencing...The railway line petered out. We kept going until we were halted at another gate and a guardhouse. This was in fact the entrance to Auschwitz II or Birkenau, though at the times we knew nothing of the names or the significance of this bewildering place."

Excerpt from Kitty's book 'Return to Auschwitz.'

After visiting two Auschwitz concentration camps and meeting a Holocaust survivor (Kitty Hart-Moxon), Miss Graham, Katie and I will be doing a feedback project with Coppice Primary School. We will share our experience with Coppice students, who will then contribute to our exhibition with art pieces and poems about the Holocaust; we hope to hold the exhibition at Woodrush, so everyone feel free to come!

Without sounding melodramatic, our visit to Auschwitz was truly life-changing. While connecting us to individual

victims of the Holocaust, it also made it clear how many people actually suffered and died. We hope that our exhibition will convey this to people, especially to the



through the famous 'Arbeit macht frei' gates and wondered around in total silence...

Our final destination was another short coach ride to Auschwitz-Birkenau and no one could have prepared us for the sheer scale of this camp. Our tour guide was extremely knowledgeable and showed us, amongst other things, the ruins of the infamous gas chambers used by the Nazis to killed over 1 million people (mainly Jewish). At sunset we all took part in a memorial service, led by the Rabi; we said prayers and reflected upon what we had learnt and seen that day.

Since that day I have felt the need to tell as many people who ask (and some who don't) about our experiences. Maybe so that we never forget that it happened or can try to prevent it happening again...

Miss Graham.



primary school pupils, as it is essential that the next generation grows up without any prejudice or racism.

Genocides and mass murders are still happening today across the world. The next generation could make the step away from this violence; although our exhibition will clearly not reach an entire generation, it will reach a number of people, and that's all it takes to make the world that little bit better!

Written by Nicola – Sixth Form

Christian Union, working with St Mary's Church.



WITHIN Christian Union pupils explore a range of Christian views and also consider their own outlook in life. Pupils have had the opportunity to watch contemporary poetry and consider both the message and meaning of them. There is also game playing that includes sweets, doughnuts and jalapenos!

For those who are interested in attending, KS3 Christian Union is Friday lunchtime in H2, and KS4 Wednesday lunchtime in H2.



This year Dean Taylor has taken over Christian Union. He has worked closely with pupils across the school as part of their religious study of Christianity. He also joined

pupils and staff on the residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes.

A huge THANK YOU to Dean, Simon and St Mary's Church for taking the Christian Union sessions and for all their hard work with trips and RE lessons.



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The evening will include a light meal

Website: www.hclc.co email: deborah@hclc

Philosophy and Ethics – First Year done!

This year was the first year we introduced Philosophy and Ethics GCSE. The group have worked really hard setting the standard for the next lot of GCSE groups to come through. Pupils

have been doing extra sessions on Thursdays after school during in which we cover certain ethical debates in a lot more depth and eat some lovely cakes – courtesy of the baking group!



Spirited Arts 2013

AS PART of the extracurricular programme in RE, a group of pupils have been working on the national 'Spirited Arts' project. This has involved pupils creatively interpreting one of four topics using art and media. This has included work from Megan, Steph, Sophie and Abbie making a wooden shed (with the help of Mr Paget) interpreting the topic 'Window to the soul'. Ben, Fraser and Emma who chose to interpret the topic 'Open Minded' by making a model head out of ModRock. Not forgetting Rosella's digital entry, as part of which she has filmed Mr King and Ms Rancins interpreting the topic 'God, what if?'

Well done to all the pupils who have taken the time to complete their entries, and also thank you to everyone that has supported us during this project.

Miss Kaur



Jack the Ripper Trip

The Jack the Ripper trip was an exciting memorable experience.

The day started off with us having to get to school at 6:50 which many of us were not pleased with, however once we set off on the coach everyone was smiling and all hyper eating sweets at 7 in the morning. The coach journey was about three hours long and most of us were really tired but too excited to sleep.

First we went to the National Archives Museum where we learnt lots of new interesting facts. We entered the conference room and here we researched the policing methods used to catch Jack. We also saw some outstanding documents like the 'Dear Boss' letter. Mr Cannon said "It was the most exciting thing in his life" to witness the letter.

After two hours at the museum we had a 20 minute lunch break in the park and the set off on a 40 minute journey to visit White Chapel for a tour of where the murders took place. Our tour guide was dressed up and spoke like a typical 1800's local bringing the story to life and creating a visual image in our minds. Our tour included walking around the streets of White Chapel and we saw where the victims were killed, however the sites are mainly car parks



now.

The whole tour lasted an hour and half until we set back home on the long journey. We all

had an amazing day after all and really enjoyed it and the teachers were all especially fantastic.

Written by Bethany 8B1

Woodrush meets St Mary's

fears with the encouragement of their friends during some of these activities. A special mention to Luke and myself for hitting the bullseye during archery! Ria also deserves special mention for being the most consistent player, hitting the number 5 on all shots!

It was then off to lunch and the next Youth Alpha session of Balloon Carnage which was great fun, despite Mr Taylor's team winning! We then did the next lot of activities, which was canoeing for two of the groups. It was very interesting to watch Mr Cannon, Ria, Jo, Sophie and Year 7s play the canoeing version of football – although I'm not quite sure who won! After we all got warmed up and checked the football scores (Mr Cannon would like to point out that WBA won 2-1!), it was time for dinner of chicken and rice, with strawberry cheesecake for dessert.

As the weekend was coming to an end we had our last 'Youth Alpha session' and not to mention our own Woodrush meets St Mary's awards evening – including the award for the Best Onesie (Charlie) and the award for the Dynamic Duo (Laura and Emily) and a huge congratulations to Heather who won an iPod shuffle. Pupils then took part in an extreme team session which involved wrapping a pupil on their team up as a Mummy. The night ended with some indoor football – some fantastic goals by Luke, Keisha, Melissa, and Emma. It should also be pointed out that the girls won overall, a great effort!

Last day dawned and it was

freezing cold and snowing, although the students were not put off doing some more abseiling, zip wire and canoeing. They cheered each other on while trying to keep warm. Mr Cannon showed us all how to go upside down without holding onto the rope on a zip wire – and was compared to 'Spider Man' while the Year 7s watched. A massive well done to you all, especially Mr Taylor's groups for getting in those canoes in VERY cold water. A lovely weekend ended with a Sunday lunch, lots of pictures and our very own version of the Harlem Shake!!!

A huge thank you to Dean, Ria and Sophie from St Mary's Church and Mr Cannon for all their hard work and commitment to the weekend and also to the Woodrush students. Thank you to our young leaders for their outstanding efforts and hard work too.

Andy ('overcoming to the lock in') – you make fantastic tea and coffee and showed your bravery for the choice of words when making them! Oh and I am sorry for locking you in the room!

Jo ('most likely to become a teacher') – you kept the pupils on their toes at all times, ensuring they were all on their best behaviour. Well done.

Sophie (Secret Security) – reporting back on the pupils! One of the highlights of the weekend, her thoughts on the person who created the Harlem Shake!

Rob ('tech wiz') – I can't believe you didn't let me win at table tennis!

Lastly and most importantly thank you and well done to all the Year 7s for their positive approach to all they did and for making the weekend a pleasure for all.

Reported by Miss Kaur



On the 8th March youth workers from St Mary's Church, 32 Year 7s, along with some young leaders from Years 9, 10 and 11, and Woodrush teachers Mr Cannon and myself (Miss Kaur) set off to Whitemoor Lakes, Tamworth for the weekend.

On arrival Year 7 very quickly got their luggage into the lounge in order to make it in time for some fish and chips for dinner and the first of 3 Youth Alpha sessions; sessions that were expertly delivered by members of St. Mary's Church. Once settled into rooms, after a few games of table tennis and pool, it was off to bed ready for the very busy day ahead.

Saturday morning beckoned and after a very nice cooked breakfast it was time for archery, canoeing, abseiling and zip wiring. Well done to all the Year 7s that conquered many

Medieval Shield Competition

Earlier this year the Humanities Team ran a Medieval shield competition. The rules were that the shield had to represent your House Team and it had to follow the guidelines of Medieval heraldry. We were inundated with entries, so many in fact that we thought we would select the best to go up in form rooms next year. The winners for each house were:

**Brindley: Ellie-Kay 7B2, Cadbury: Kaide 7C2
Lanchester: Abbie 7L1**

Each of these 3 won 50 merits for their house.

Mr Baker was asked to select the overall winner and he chose Kaide's excellent shield for Cadbury!

Kaide wins an extra 25 merits for his house. Well done to all who took part - look out for examples of Year 7 shields around school in September.

Miss Graham and the Humanities Team.



Monday 17th to 21st June was National Geography Awareness Week. To mark the week, the Geography department invited an ambassador from the Royal Geographical Society to come in to talk to some of our year 7 and 8 students and get them thinking about how Geography is all around them.

Year 7 looked at the variety of countries that their school uniform were made in and also looked at the issue of fair trade. Year 8 looked at holidays and the impact these had on the environment in terms of carbon emissions.

In addition to a FROG capital cities quiz open to all years, year 7 got stuck in to their own "Creative Geography Quiz." In addition to the conventional "name that place" and physical Geography questions, the teams also had to design a building to survive an earthquake using a bag of Maltesers and some chocolate fingers and round one involved constructing a world map using a packet of crisps! There were some fantastic map creations and some excellent buildings that survived the shake test. Well done to Lanchester for gaining the most points overall and a special mention to Miss Rigley and Miss Houston for their second place finish!

Year 7 trip to the OPAL Weather Roadshow

A small group of Year 7 students were invited to attend a workshop at the OPAL Weather Roadshow that

was being hosted by King Edwards Five Ways school in Bartley Green. The roadshow truck had a range of weather equipment for students to get their hands on. They had great fun trying to imitate Carol Kirkwood using the green screen technology on board to present their very own weather forecast. They also got to see clouds being made in a bottle, create their own tornadoes and play with a range of equipment to measure the temperature and wind speed. Thanks to Miss Price for coming along in support.



Wythall Community News:

Wythall Library is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The history students are putting together a display to help commemorate this event. Do you have any memories or photographs of Wythall from circa.1973?

If so we would love to hear from you so we can share your memorabilia.

Please contact Miss Graham at Woodrush School.

Year 7 Geography trip to Middleton Lakes

Just after half term year 7 travelled over to Middleton Lakes RSPB reserve near Bodymoor Heath to practice their Geography fieldwork skills. Each group carried out two stream surveys and using various bits of equipment, we measured elements such as the speed of the river, its depth and its width. We then tried out some less technical equipment to test the speed with good old fashioned pooh sticks!

After a picnic lunch in the sunshine, we headed out to the lake area. We tested our artistic skills with a spot of field sketching and then moved on to the storm simulation tables. We all had great fun pouring gallons of water on three different surfaces to see how different surfaces might affect how quickly rainwater gets to the river. Needless to say the concrete one was the fastest!



Mr King.... Marathon Man



With its fast and flat route, the Edinburgh Marathon Festival is one of the fastest in the world and a perfect choice for runners chasing a personal best. Edinburgh also acts as a stunning backdrop to this IAAF Bronze label event. This year on 26th May Mr King joined the thousands of enthusiastic runners to compete in this gruelling and mentally challenging event.

Nothing can prepare you for a marathon! You have to DO IT to really know what it's like. Training is

"He crossed the line with a huge smile on his face...what a feeling!"

therefore the key to your success. Mr King started his training way back in January 2013. He followed a strict training plan which involved running long distances, building up his stamina by doing a variety of cardiovascular exercise to maximise his potential. It was sometimes difficult for him to find the motivation to train as it seemed like he was running all of the time. Even in poor weather conditions and later after

a knee injury, Mr King still persevered with his training plan.

As the race approached, Mr King did everything possible to prepare for his big day. He arrived in Edinburgh a day early to give himself time to familiarise himself with the course and ensure that he got a good night's sleep and was well rested.

In the morning he was up bright and early as he had to be in his starting pen an hour before the race started. When he got to where everyone was huddled around, it started to get exciting but the tension was also building. Would he be able to last the distance? Had he prepared himself properly?

And he's off!!!

At 9.50 Mr King's marathon adventure had begun. For the first few miles he felt pretty good and he maintained a steady pace. In these early stages he even managed to 'enjoy' and appreciate the surroundings and picturesque views.

At the 17th mile it became more challenging. The course turns back in on itself and heads slightly inland at this point – away from the breezes, away from the crowds, away from the

water stations. By the time 18 miles came around, the going got tough. Even the prettiness of Gosford House couldn't distract him.

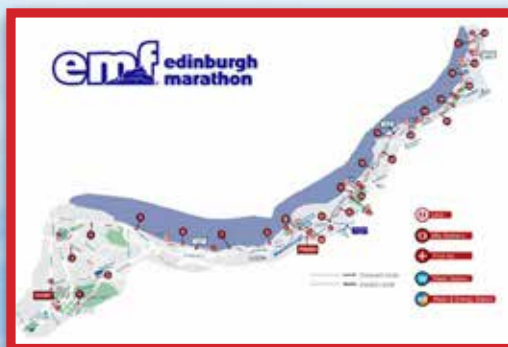
Hitting 19 made him feel better again and he wasn't prepared for the boost

he'd get at mile 21. He'd never run further than 20 miles in training and 21 really felt like a massive accomplishment. The crowds here were unbelievably helpful at this point. The sight of the mile

25 marker was welcome, the crowds were really buzzing at this point and he picked up his pace, finding energy out of nowhere. The final mile seemed to last forever but then the finish line loomed large and he only glanced at the time quickly to see that he was still in the 5 hour-zone – that's all he wanted! He crossed the line with a huge smile on his face... what a feeling!

Well done Mr King!!!!

**Written by:
Ms Rancins and Ms Taylor**



Wythall Police Station – my home.

My family moved to Wythall Police Station just after my first birthday when my father, Roy Harris, was transferred to Wythall from Droitwich.

It was to be my family home for the next 13 years, along with my two brothers and my sister and I have fond memories of my childhood,

growing up surrounded by the Law!

Back in the 1960's it was not unusual for a Police station to be a family home and both sides of the Police Station at Wythall were occupied

by families of the local officers and there were another two families just two houses up from, what was then, Blaynee's Building Yard.

Our house had 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, a living room, a front room

but we only ever lit a fire in the living room. When it was very cold or snowy our bedroom windows would freeze up and you could see your breath when you got out of bed in the morning.

The Police office sat between the two Police houses and it always appeared to be busy. The public came to the office through the big front door and then knocked on a glass window to speak to the officers. The main office was heated by a coal fire and over the fireplace was a large

map of the area. On a shelf above the cupboards there would be a row of Police helmets which belonged to the officers of the station. They would be worn when going out on duty and they had to be kept clean at all times.

There were two big desks in the office and it was here that my dad and the other officers sat and typed out their reports. There were also a set of 'Incident' Books where my dad recorded by hand some of the things he dealt with whilst on duty. There was a big switchboard in the office and the phone was always answered with "Wythall 2310". If a call had to be transferred to another office or house you had to pull out a lead and plug it into another socket before winding a handle to ring through to the person you needed. Very hi tech for the 1960's! The phone was always answered no matter what time of day and it wasn't unusual for my dad to be called out to investigate something in the middle of the night. When my father went out on duty, and if the no other officers were around, he would always transfer the phone into our house so that all calls to the station would be answered and messages taken or other officers called upon to deal with an incident.

Towards the back of the Police Station was an office for the Sergeant and next to that was the Police Cell. It was a very bare and cold room with a big stone bed at one end with a mattress on top. There was a small window high up in the wall and the cell was locked by a big iron door with a pull down grill for the officers to check on any prisoners. I remember my dad threatening to lock us up in the cell if we didn't behave, but he never had to

(which was only used for special occasions) and a kitchen. The kitchen had a pantry where my mum kept the food and I remember there was a big black marble slab shelf that was used to keep things cold because we didn't have a fridge or freezer. My mum had an electric boiler washing machine with a mangle attached and it would take her most of one day to do the washing. There was no central heating. Each room of the house had a fireplace



carry the threat out. Having my dad working in the office next to where we lived was quite good because he was always around for helping with homework or dealing with cuts and grazes.

At the back of the house there was an outside toilet and a coal shed. There was also a big garden to play in and to grow vegetables in. We had a huge apple tree that my brother used to climb and there was also an old well, which was blocked off after my older brother decided to investigate it. My memories of my garden are of long warm summers, skipping, riding bikes, making tents, picnics, eating rhubarb sticks with a bowl of sugar and playing football with my brothers.

In the garden of the Police House next door there was an air raid siren left over from the war. There was also a dog pound for the local strays that were brought in and later collected by the RSPCA.

My brothers and sister and I went to the Silver Street Primary school, later renamed Silver Mead. We would walk to school every day whatever the weather and Mrs Docker, the 'lollipop' lady would cross us over the main road at Drake's Cross. When she couldn't do this my dad would stand in for her and I would often get a ride home on his bike when he had finished, after a visit to the corner shop to buy sweets. It was part of my dad's job to ensure road safety and he would come to Silver Street School to run the Cycling Proficiency Scheme which my brothers and sister passed with flying colours! My dad would often help out with school football matches and he went on several trips to Wembley to watch the schoolboy football finals with the school. When my brother, sister and I moved onto Woodrush Secondary Modern my dad and other officers at the station got involved in community activities at the school like the summer fetes. He would come along and help judge competitions.



The Police Station would also be used as the contact number when school trips were being run and Miss Skinner would ring the station to pass on information regarding return times of trips or to give an update of how the residential was going so that information could be passed to on to parents.

My father became well known to most families in Wythall because he used to patrol the area most days. His first form of transport was his bike then he had a Police Motorbike and finally the station was issued with a blue and white Minivan, or panda car as it became known. This was also a time when everyone knew their neighbours. Although Wythall was a small village in the 1960's it contained all the things a family might need. There was a Post Office with a telephone box; 2 garages; a greengrocer and sweet shop; a butchers shop; 2 schools: Silver Mead School and Meadow Green School; 2 churches: St Mary's and the Baptist Church. Anything we needed was a bus ride away in Kings Heath or Birmingham.

We moved away from Wythall in 1971 when my father was transferred to Redditch Police Station. For me it was a very sad day because I was leaving behind not only my friends but the Police station which had been my home for 13 happy years. Although my family eventually settled in Redditch and I now live there with my own family, Wythall and the Police Station have always been my 'home'.

I came to teach at Woodrush in 1991 and to pass my old house every day has been a bit strange but also a bit reassuring that although it had changed like me it was still a strong part of the community. When I learned the Police Station is to close in September I decided I needed to visit it for one last time. On Sunday 23rd June I took my sister and brother to the Station and PC Mark Hyder gave us a tour. The downstairs of the House is now a mixture of lots of different offices but when we went upstairs it was like returning to our childhood as our bedrooms and bathroom were exactly as we remembered them. Our lovely garden may have been concreted over and Blaynee's yard no longer exists but we were able to share some wonderfully happy times of our family life at Wythall Police Station and how it played an important role in the life of Wythall.

Mrs Hatton

STEM



Science . Technology . Engineering . Maths



This Year Saw The Woodrush Science Department celebrate National Science and Engineering Week with lots of different activities and competitions. The theme was "Invention and Discovery" and Key Stage 3 students were set a project in lessons to design a musical instrument using recyclable materials. There was also a Science inter-house quiz for all students. Well done to Brindley for being overall winners for the week's activities...James Brindley would be proud!



Salters' Festival of Chemistry

On 25th April, the university of Birmingham hosted the Salters' Festival of Chemistry and four year 8 students took part in the day's events alongside 9 other schools from all over the midlands.

The day comprised two tasks which tested the student's ability to work as a team and carry out practical tests in order to solve a chemistry based problem. The first task involved identifying a mysterious powder found at the scene of a murder using different chemical processes, whilst the second task involved further chemical reactions to identify unknown substances plus making slime!

The day was finished off by watching a chemistry magic show which inspired the group – judging by the amount of photos being taken! Although the group didn't win either of the tasks, they really enjoyed the day and the experience of carrying out experiments independently. Well done Louisa, Nick, Hannah and Luke.

Miss Hunter



WOODRUSH ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS VISIT THE BIG BANG!

The 25th June 2013 saw talented and inspiring Engineers and Scientists from Woodrush visit the Big Bang exhibition at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry!

The Big Bang is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK. The whole day is designed and aimed to show young people just how many exciting and rewarding opportunities there are out there for them with the right experience and qualifications.

The Woodrush contribution to the day came in the form of William Boucher and Jessica Britain, who exhibited their awe inspiring Young Engineers prototypes to members of the public, designers and engineers from local schools and the Big Bang Judges!

This fantastically inspiring and thought provoking day was a wonderful opportunity to discover and explore new features that are currently being experimented and developed within Science and Technology!

This experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all and is most definitely not a trip to be missed next year!





Great Bug Hunt

On Thursday 6th June, 60 students from the Coppice Primary School came to Woodrush to take part in the Great Bug Hunt 2013, which is a national competition organised by the Association for Science Education. The aim of the competition is to find out what lives in the school grounds. Students had opportunities to pond dip, analyse soil samples, use quadrats and even use pooters to suck up some bugs! Students completed a booklet on the day and the best booklet has been entered to the competition. Well done to Tom from Coppice who was the winner for the day!

Miss Hollingworth



Stem Club

This year in stem club, our students are entering the first Lego League National Competition. At STEM club, students take of the roll of engineers and scientists to explore the awe-inspiring storms, quakes, waves and more that we call natural disasters. Students are currently forming teams to enter this years' national Lego challenge 'Nature's Fury'. Teams will discover what can be done when intense natural events meet the places people live, work, and play. The teams are currently building, testing, and programing an autonomous robot using LEGO Robotics kits to solve a set of missions in the National Robot Games. Regional Tournaments are to take place between November and December 2013!

As well as the possibility of entering a national competition with our robots, our students have also been eligible to apply for a CREST award. Universities, colleges and employers are looking for people who can problem solve, work hard and work well with other people. A CREST Award says 'I can do this!' CREST Awards are also endorsed by UCAS for use in personal statements. If you would like to become involved in STEM club, please see Mr Roberts in S6 or just turn up on the day! Every Tuesday from 2:50-3:50.



ssociation programme



Facebug competition



Congratulations To Mia, Harry And Maisy For Winning The Woodrush House Competition To Design A Facebook Page For A Microbe Of Their Choice. These Entries Received Certificates From the Microbiology in Schools Advisory Committee for their fantastic efforts. Well done!

Year 10 Science Fair

On the 25th March, Mr Ellis, Mr Virdee and I took forty year 10 students to the Science Fair at Birmingham University. The aim of the day was to give our

students an insight into student life and what it would be like to study science at university. The day involved different lectures

on sports science, IT engineering and geology and also gave the students an opportunity to build robotic cars and then race against each other.



The Biology Big Quiz

On The 22nd March, Ten year 10 students entered the Biology Big Quiz at Birmingham University. The event was held in the Great Hall and was attended by over 25 Birmingham and Worcestershire schools. The event was hosted by two leading biologists at Birmingham University. There were rounds on adaptations, genetics, medicine and even a round in which the students had to make a model of any biological concept. Our teams created excellent models of evolution and of a food web. Unfortunately we did not win but we beat lots of other schools from the area. We even got a guided tour of the university and got to find out lots about student life.

Biology Challenge 2013

Students in year 9 and 10 entered the biological society's annual competition; the biology challenge. Students are set questions online that expect them to apply what they have learnt in science to weird and wonderful scenarios. In year 9 Lanchester were overall winners and in year 10 Cadbury students scored the most points and so put them top..... Good luck to Brindley next year!





Sci-Tech

Year 12 scientists from Woodrush and other local High schools in the area were challenged to 'Be Inspired' as part of this year's annual SciTech conference.

This one day event held at Redditch NEW College was opened by Peter Pawsey, chairman of Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and was supported by 12 local and National companies including Rolls Royce, West Midlands Police Forensics Service, the A & E Department of the Alexandra Hospital and Zytec Automotive.

Students received entertaining talks from two guest speakers, numerous presentations from companies showing how science is used in industry, took part in hands-on workshops and were involved in a live psychology experiment.

The morning started with a presentation by Dr Graeme Jones, a senior lecturer in chemical ecology at Keele University. Graeme has a passion for public science and is mad about molecules and molecular models. He certainly awoke our nasal senses with his 'Sex, Flies and Sticky Tape' talk which had us smelling pheromones produced by moths, bees and even teenage boys!

Seminars included sessions run by staff from Alexandra Hospital A and E department, University of Worcester Sports Science department, West Mercia Police Forensic Science team, Cryogenics with Honeywell-Hymatic, Engineering an electric super car with

Zytek, nuclear submarines with Rolls Royce, chemical manufacturing with TIB chemicals and Fusion Energy with Culham Centre. They provided a greater understanding of how science and technology are used in the everyday world and various careers available to science students.

The second guest speaker was Dr Mark Lewney. Described as a cross between Einstein and Jimi Hendrix, who uses his rock guitar to explain the Big Bang theory, 11 dimensions of the Universe and even touch on String theory. A very loud and entertaining talk. Mr Roberts was in his element whilst I was just about keeping up!

Workshops saw the likes of Sean, Josh and Tom building a hydraulic arm to lift a cup of water

over a wall, Abbie, Heidi, Jess and Page take finger prints and foot prints from a 'crime scene' and Suzie and Danny identify plants through chromatography.

The day was rounded off with a psychometric test to compare how students with different science or arts preferences think.

Once again Sci-Tech has been a thoroughly enjoyable, informative and entertaining day. Woodrush students represented the school well and I was particularly moved to see many of them instinctively helping visually impaired students who were attending for the first time.

I can remember attending a Sci-Tech day when I did my Science A'Levels in Redditchyears ago. Hopefully it will continue for many more years to come.

Mrs Bush



Design Tech Engineering Success!!!

The Woodrush Young Engineers took to the limelight on Thursday 9th May as they showcased their innovative, engineered Prototypes!

Year 7 & 8 students exhibited their creations to parents, staff and the local community to celebrate their success and achievement!

All students taking part worked alongside a professional electrical engineer, Martin Thompson, who has guided and supported them through the technical design and make process, as well as Mr Paget and Miss Harris.

This exciting project enabled students to develop independent learning skills, become an effective team player, develop investigative skills, become confident in project management working towards a Project Award Level 2 and 3!

The students involved have the opportunity to exhibit their work at the Regional BIG BANG Science and Technology Fair at the Ricoh Arena in June sharing their success, efforts and achievements in producing high quality innovative products!

"Entrepreneurs in the making, well done to you all!"

Ms Khatri



For 11 to 12 weeks Jessica, Dan, Aaron and Will (year 7), Stephanie, Shivarnih, Rosella and Jamie (from year 8), took part in an engineering challenge to hopefully gain half a qualification. This challenge consisted of a 1500 word dissertation explaining what you have made is about, an artefact (what you have made), some paper-work on what your product is and how it works, a log on everything you have done week-by-week, a presentation to people explaining about the product (on a presentation night open to the parents of the people, who made the products, and the teachers) and a lot of hard, hard work. Just writing this tires me out, so you can only imagine how hard it was to actually do the challenge! Overall it was amazing and so much fun and I hope a lot of people take this fantastic opportunity when it will hopefully happen in the future again. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Ms Khatri, Mr Thompson, Mr Paget, Miss Colborne, Mr Hodgetts and Miss Harris. THANKYOU!

By Rosella (year 8)



European Union Day for Woodrush High

THURSDAY 9th May
was European Union day
– it was 63 years ago to the day
since the French Minister
Robert Schuman had
announced in a
speech that French
and German
leaders should
put their coal
and steel
industries
together.



The
leaders of
Belgium,
Italy,
Luxembourg and
the Netherlands
were also
convinced about
the idea and so
the European Coal and Steel
Community was set up.

By 1957 these 6 countries were
working so well together that they
decided to share a common market
to make it easier to trade together

and called
themselves
the European
Economic
Community.
This got rid
of all the
border checks
and customs
duties and
allowed the
6 countries to trade with one another
as though they were all one single
country.

In the 1960's other countries saw
how the common market was making
life easier for the people in those
countries – they had more money to
spend, more food to eat, and more
varied things in the shops and so these
other countries asked to join too.
However it was not a simple process
and it wasn't until 1973, after years of
discussion that the UK, Denmark and
Ireland were allowed to join. Greece
joined in 1981, followed by Portugal



and Spain in 1986
and then Austria,
Finland and
Sweden in 1995.

By 1992 the
European Economic
Community had
extend its sharing
across borders
so much and had
become so different
to the original club

that they decided to change its name
to the European Union as we know it
today.

To celebrate European Union day
Mrs Court's year 9 maths group learnt
about the history of the EU and then
looked at the reflection and rotational
symmetry of the EU flag. They then did
calculations using the currency of the
EU, the Euro, and converted amounts
in sterling into Euro's. Mrs Courts
brought some Euro's into school so the
pupils could compare them with English
pounds and pence.

Junior Maths Challenge

THE Junior Maths Challenge successfully went ahead on Thursday 25th April, 29 pupils from year 7 and 8 were entered and this year an amazing 17 pupils achieved high enough results to receive certificates from the University of Leeds an improvement on last year and in fact the most certificates we have ever received for the Junior Challenge. 10 students were awarded a Bronze certificate – they were Carla, Abby, Lewis, Ellie, Peter, Harry and Aman in year 8 and William, Matthew and Chris in year 7. Silver certificates went to the following 4 students: Sophie and Jordan in year 8, and Cameron and Samantha in year 7. Special congratulations go to Christopher in year 7 and



Vinnie and Alanna in year 8 who received Gold certificates. Christopher also then received an individual Best in Year certificate and Alanna received not only Best in Year but Best in School for her score of 93 out of a possible maximum 135.

These results meant that Brindley won the Junior Challenge competition with 140 points, Lanchester came 2nd with 115 points and unfortunately Cadbury year 7 and 8, who clearly need to brush up on their mathematics, as they only achieved 40 points.

Well done to everyone who took part – lets see if we can reach 20 certificates next year.

Fashion Fair 2013 @Woodrush

All year 7 & 8 students with a 'passion for fashion' were invited to attend an exciting and unique day run by Designers, Stylists, Photographers and many more who were ready to inspire, create and explore the subject of Fashion and Textiles!

Our Woodrush fashionists were introduced to professionals from various aspects of the fashion and textiles industry, who visited with their own personal collection of work ready to display, discuss and demonstrate to inspire and excite and allow the students to experience a taste of design at another level!

Stephanie Breeze

A multi-talented designer who has experience in Fashion Design, Illustration, Styling, Fashion Photography and much more, visited Woodrush with her awe inspiring portfolio and final pieces which allowed the students to explore the world of Fashion using their own creativity and adaptation of Steph's fantastic illustration skills.

Bethany Harris

An incredibly distinctive Textiles designer who has experience in Fashion Accessory Design, Interior Design, Buying and Merchandising came to Woodrush to demonstrate to the students just how she creates her

fabulously inspirational prints using only fruits, flowers, vinegar and inks!

Our innovative and extremely talented A-level Textiles students from the Woodrush Sixth Form were also there to lend a helping hand, making the day a complete success and a positive environment for experimentation, creativity and fun!

Fashion Photography and Styling

CAD CAM Key Rings

Fashion Design and Illustration

Sharpie Tie Dyes

Screen Printing

Fabric Dying with Natural Media

Emily B: "The Fashion Fair was really good fun and I want to take part in it again next year!!"

Holly R: "It was really good fun and nice to meet professionals and be creative"

Azlana J: "The fashion fair was really good fun! The CAD CAM was fantastic!"

Charlotte R.F: "The fair was good and really got me thinking about taking Textiles as a GCSE!"

Woodrush Fashionists Visit Bath Fashion Museum

On Thursday 27th June Woodrush Yr 7 & 8 Fashionists made their long anticipated visit to the Bath Fashion Museum to explore and find inspiration for their Fashion Club and GCSE Fashion Textiles projects!

The Museum holds a world-class collection of contemporary and historical dress. The displays include 150 dressed figures to illustrate the changing styles in fashionable clothes from the late 16th century to the present day, chosen from the museum's collection of 30,000 original items.

In 2013 the museum will have been in Bath for 50 years and is one of the world's great museum collections of historic and fashionable dress. Voted as having a collection of outstanding national significance, the Fashion Museum was recently listed as one of the world's Top 10 fashion museums!! A fabulous day enjoyed by all and we are looking forward to getting back

to the Studio and displaying to you all where the inspiration from this collection has taken us! Watch this space.....



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Sports Day Friday 21st June



The sporting events kicked off on Tuesday 18th June with the field events like javelin, shot and long jump taking place during nearly the whole day as there many heats to get through. The day went very smoothly and the students taking part took advantage of the good weather to perform at their best.

Sports day on the Friday was the main event and it was touch and go with the weather at one point but the sun did not let us down. We had an early lunch on the field which consisted of a BBQ, curry and ice creams which was a fabulous treat. Staff and students then made their way down to the track where spectators sat on the bank in house order and the athletes were sectioned off in a participants area where they could limber up for their race.

There were various track events from 100 meters to 400 meters including relay. There was a certificate and a medal for 1st, 2nd and 3rd and all winners were awarded these by Mr King on a podium. It was fantastic to see all students who took part not only give 100% effort but enjoy the whole



Brindley and Lanchester were determined to put an end to their glory. It was an extremely close contest but the winners, once all the points from Tuesday were added to Fridays, was Cadbury again.

The last race of the day was the staff relay which seemed to be the highlight of the day's events as far as the students were concerned. They became very excitable and loud as soon as Mr Baker pulled the trigger on the starting gun. There was never a fighting chance for Brindley or Lanchester as Cadbury had unleashed their secret weapon 'Mr Roadrunner Rogers'. Although Mr Cannon made a very valiant effort on the last leg of the track against Mr Lovell the space was too wide to even make a dent in the gap between them.

Congratulations to the winners Cadbury Cobras!

experience of competing against each other. It was a battle fiercely fought for; Cadbury have always been known to win sports day and

Worcestershire School Games 2013: Athletics

Congratulations to our Y9 Super 6 Athletics Team who won the Redditch competition which meant that Woodrush went on to represent Redditch District in the Worcestershire School Games.

The team consisted of 12 athletes (6 girls and 6 boys) who were Zoe C, Abby J, Rachel K, Megan H, Alex P, Lauren T-S, Kieren F, Lucas N-Y, Ashley M, Owen P, Donovan P and Adam S.

All athletes compete in one field, one track and one relay event. Individual performances were scored using a points table and the winners being the team with the highest cumulative points score.

Woodrush got off to a good start with the girls performing superbly well on the track. Alex and Megan finishing 2nd and 3rd respectively in their 100m heats and Lauren and Zoe finishing 1st and 2nd respectively in their 300m heats. The boys new that they were going to struggle in the field events compared to the track events and it was therefore a bonus when Donovan came second in the shot.

After a break the competition resumed with the boys' track events and girls' field events.

Donovan came second in the 100m, Owen and Lucas both

finished second in their 300m heats and Ashley and Kieren both ran personal bests in the 1500m. The girls continued to perform well in the field events with Lauren and Zoe coming first and second in the javelin.

The last part of the competition was the relay races. Woodrush won both the girls and boys 4x100m races and finished a respectable 4th place in the medley relay Ashley deserves credit for running the last gruelling 400m leg with limited time to recover after the 1500m! After the relay races Woodrush knew that it was going to be a close competition but were narrowly beaten to first place by South Bromsgrove. All the athletes should feel proud of their teams' achievement and should be commended for both their effort and attitude.

Mr Maidment



Worcestershire Schools Golf Competition



On Tuesday 30th April 2013 Tom G, Harry G, Harry D, Sean M, Charlie W, Josh W, Ryan W, Luke O and Aaron P represented Woodrush High School in the Worcestershire Schools Golf Competition at Gaudet Luce Golf Club.

The Team Stableford trophy went to Windsor High school 78 points (best two scores) just beating a Woodrush team which consisted of Tom G, Sean M and Harry D who scored 77 points (best two scores).



The individual stroke play (lowest score) competition was an extremely close event between Woodrush's Tom G and Oli G from Droitwich High School. Both students shot fantastic scores of 72, Tom G birdieing the 18th hole after an outstanding chip to force a three hole playoff. In front of a gathering crowd Tom G birdied the first playoff hole after a superb approach shot. He then played a very good up and down on the second hole to maintain a one shot lead going down the third hole. On the green for two Tom now had victory in his grasp but three putted which meant that both students were one again tied and played a sudden death playoff the equivalent to a penalty shoot-out in football. Both students took the same amount of shots on the first two holes. Tom regained his focus and nerve by making crucial putts. He then held his nerve to sink a 3 ft putt on the third green (6th playoff hole!) to clinch the championship. Tom also won the closest to the pin competition making it a truly memorable day!

All students representing Woodrush were a credit to the school and demonstrated correct sporting etiquette and attitude.

Mr Maidment

BTEC Sport Level 3 and GCSE Physical Education Pupils visit Loughborough University

On Friday 3rd May, 11 pupils from year 10, 11 and 13 took part in 3 sport development workshops at Loughborough University.

The day began with Ben and Tori undertaking a VO2Max treadmill test. These willing volunteers were required to run at 9-10km per hour on an increasing incline, until they were physically exhausted. The results proved our Woodrush GCSE PE pupils to be very efficient at being able to transport and utilise oxygen during exercise. The majority of the group were also given the opportunity to take part in a Wingate Cycle Test. Participants (following a warm up) cycled flat out for 10 seconds, against high resistance as a measure of power in the legs.

Danny's Rugby training proved its worth coming top of the class in this test. In the afternoon pupils tested their power, speed and agility in further fitness testing. Consistent with earlier results Danny scored highest on the jump test which measures power,

beating close rival Ben.

Over a 20m distance Danny and Jordan showed their speed both scoring under 3 seconds. Putting her netball skills into action Sophie came top in the agility test, which was a test the group created themselves whilst in the workshop. The day came to a close with an exercise physiology, psychology, nutrition and biomechanics workshop. The group were tested on the intricate details of Usain Bolt's 100m sprint. Kyla paid close attention noting that whereas Usain Bolt completes his 100m in 41 strides,

closest rival Tyson Gay has to complete 45 strides to finish the race! The group also learned Bolt has slow reaction times off the starting blocks compared to his opposition, however the fastest part of his race between the 60 and 80 meter points enable him draw back valuable time and steal the show.

The group were given a guided tour by a student at Loughborough

University. Woodrush pupils were astonished by the vast array and high quality facilities available at the University.

Overall, an enjoyable day was had. As we left the closing comment from Amy and Jess was "it's not a goodbye, just see you in a few years Loughborough".



County Athletics

A special well done to Lucas N-Y, Kyla P-B, Owen P, Drew R and Lauren T-S who qualified for the County Athletics competition and represented Redditch schools recently at Nunnery Wood Sports Centre.

All athletes gave a good account of themselves and made it through to the finals of their respective events, with some PBs achieved during the competition for Lauren T-S in Javelin and Drew R in Long Jump.

All our track athletes were also selected to participate in relay teams at the end of the day which demonstrates the impact they have had during this competition and puts them up there with the best in Redditch. Well done guys!



Woodrush RFC Mini & Juniors

The past 12 months at Woodrush has once again seen some encouraging growth within, not only the amount of players who are registered with the club but also the amount of qualified coaching staff. Following on from last years extraordinary increase in the amount of players Woodrush can now boast an impressive figure of over 120 young people willing to take part in the sport of Rugby. These 120 players are made up of boys and girls ranging from 3 ½ to 16 and it is a testament to the club that the numbers continue to grow year on year.

Alongside this impressive growth is the equally exciting increase in qualified coaches (22 and climbing) who all share a passion for the sport which is visibly translated upon the field of play in both training sessions and match situations. Woodrush takes this area of player development very seriously ensuring that the coaches are trained to RFU standards and qualifying in their official training courses.

Why choose Rugby and in particular Woodrush as a sport to take up?

The Rugby Football Union implicitly promotes the following five core values in the game:

- Teamwork
- Respect
- Enjoyment
- Discipline
- Sportsmanship

All coaches and staff at Woodrush believe deeply in these core values and actively try to encourage these throughout all aspects of the club that they believe will also serve each player throughout life and not just for Rugby.

Rugby itself encourages children to take up the sport not to just to compete but that: "The enjoyment, safety and education of children in rugby union is vital to the sustainability of the game" <http://www.rfu.com/thegame/childreninrugby>

Woodrush RFC can boast one of the best Micro (3½ to 6 years old) set ups in the region with people actively seeking out the club to bring their children to where the very basics of the game are introduced in the form of games and activities guaranteed to bring the core values of Teamwork and Enjoyment to the fore.

Older player are members of a thriving team scene ranging from Under 7's right through to Under 16's with games taking part right across the South Midlands area. In total Woodrush can boast a very healthy 7 definite age

group based teams. And despite the overly long and cold winter over 100 games were played throughout the course of the season across all teams. Partnering the playing side of the club, Woodrush also has a vibrant social calendar in which Parents, friends and families of the players all take part in fun and creative activities throughout the year such as:

- Summer Camping Night with cricket on the first team pitch at midnight.
- Halloween
- Xmas Party
- Sponsors Day
- Presidents Day
- Mini & Junior End of Season Disco and Awards Days

Woodrush RFC is always looking to grow and expand on it's successes in the past so would welcome children of all ages to attend – especially those who attend Woodrush School – to come along and join in family atmo-

sphere that has been the backbone of the organisation.

Light training continues throughout the summer, on Tuesday and Friday nights, and anybody who would like to try it, you are most welcome. Ask your PE teacher for further details or contact Bob Boden, Mini and Junior Chairman, on 07966 310923.

The new season starts in earnest in October with full training commencing in September. Games take place on Sunday mornings and are always well attended by players and parents alike so please take a moment out of your lives to come down and experience the growing sport that is Rugby Union at Woodrush RFC.


I wish you a very pleasant summer (if we get one!) and please look for further updates in the Autumn Edition of this magazine.


Rich Tomlins
Marketing and Sponsorship
Woodrush RFC
<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/woodrush/>

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Activity Days 2013 22nd & 23rd July



At the time of going to press students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have had the opportunity to take part in activities in school and head out on trips during the two days set aside for Activity Days. The onsite activities for Years 7 and 8 will consist of an end of year disco; the Big Quiz where forms will compete against each other to win prizes and also a film session. The onsite activities for Year 9 and 10 will consist of the Big Quiz; Film Session and some sporting challenges.

For the alternative activities day the students can take part in one of the following:



It will be an early start for students but a fun day at the Britain's most-loved theme park Alton Towers. Students will have the chance to go on the new white-knuckle roller coaster ride "The Smiler", the world's first 14 looping rollercoaster and plunging 30 metre drops, giving them a thrilling experience. There will be other great attractions to experience such as their first in-

verted roller coaster, Nemesis, and the world's first vertical drop roller coaster in the frightening Oblivion. An adrenalin junkies dream!

A popular venue with Woodrush Students is Drayton Manor, where they will have the opportunity to go on favourites such as Storm Force 10; Maelstrom; Apocalypse; Pandemonium; Shockwave and many others. Of course there is the zoo and conservation area to visit with 15 acres of open plan zoo, home to over one hundred animals from all over the world – a fascinating place to explore.



West Midlands Safari Park is a new venue for activity days this year. Students will

be able to see the wild animals in the safari park, which has been landscaped to represent their natural habitat creating a replicated environment (unfortunately not with the weather!) Some of the new wildlife to be viewed includes the rare white Bengal



Tigers, and the new "Realms of the Lions" enclosure which was opened this year to celebrate the park's 40th birthday. Rides that students will experience are: Venom Tower Drop; Black Fly; Twister Coaster; Rhino rollercoaster; Wild River Rafting; Zambezi Water Splash and the Pirate Ship.

Some students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have the opportunity to go on the 2 day trip to London organised courtesy of the English Department. This trip will include a matinee performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and a visit to Madame Tussauds



and some sight-seeing of London itself. Maths and Modern Foreign Languages also offered a 3 day trip for students to Paris. This trip has a Maths and Languages theme to it and will involve a trip to the Science Park and the main sights of Paris, including the Louvre and the Eiffel Tower.

Look out for an update in the next edition of the Woodrush Star to following up with our adventures.



Creative Learning and Teaching Week

Time to take a risk!

At Woodrush, we try to always be creative in our approach to Learning and Teaching, but as we approached the end of the academic year, staff decided they wanted to really push the boundaries. A 'Creativity focus group' of teachers from a range of Faculties have been focusing on Creativity as a particular aspect of Learning and Teaching over the year, and they decided to have a week where all staff made a concerted effort to try new approaches in the classroom. Staff training sessions were devoted to Creativity, as were assemblies, and throughout the week staff shared their thoughts and ideas through a FROG blog, twitter, and discussions in the staffroom.

Faculty feedback

English :

English through Drama with Year 10
Different seating arrangements
Group and collaborative work every lesson
Year 8 – Dressed as superheros and performed their own superhero-themed adverts
Year 9 – self managing to achieve the learning objectives
Year 13 – Eat favourite chocolate bar and use it as method to understand difference between Id, Ego and Super-ego.

Humanities :

Making and playing children's learning games and singing songs
Students give feedback in mime
Classrooms without tables
Meditation
Recreating an election
Recreating the Blitz experience
Role play – civil war news broadcasts
Painting volcanos
Using Playdoh to create land-

form models

6th form – using LEGO to create powerpoint video for revision

PE :

Capture the Flag
Wimbledon-themed tennis competition
Making movable skeletons
Zumba
Multi-sport cricket

Maths :

Open ended investigation – student led focus
Writing newspaper articles / comic strips to present findings
Hunting for shapes in the quad.
Maths through cookery – making cakes
Making a mini-person
Devising and making a new maths boardgame
More groupwork & combining classes
Doing messy stuff !

Creative Arts :

Pavement graffiti with Year 9 art
Using classical music in Art lessons
Music technology lessons for Year 8
Year 7 making their own trumpets for the Fanfares unit in music
Year 10 music group did impromptu performances in hall at lunchtime
Lighting workshop in drama
Teacher as silent observer in Drama
Pupils take the lesson
Drama 'tubs of truth'.

MFL :

Draw what you read / hear
Sentence jenga



Battleships
Dominoes
Rapidough
Running dictation – a leaflet
Market place
Tarsia
Present a research project
Dancing & singing to learn vocab / numbers
Pupils plan and deliver own lesson
Webquest

DT / ICT :

What's in the bag ?
Circle time
Think aloud / roleplay
Random name generator
Spin the bottle – choose your task
Imaginative designer
Roll the dice – evaluations
Thinking dice for Blooms taxonomy
Role play through the Simpsons
Using Nature – getting inspiration from the outdoors
Apple TV
Rap



Desert Island Books

Staff and students have been choosing books that they would recommend to someone stranded alone on a desert island. The books are wrapped up and, without revealing the titles and authors, a message added explaining what makes them good reads. Once a mystery book has been selected the recipient reads and reviews it.





Maths Cake Bake

8b2 maths set took part in a cake project during creative week. We spent the week looking at ratio recipes, and working out where to buy our ingredients looking at better value for money. We then went into the cooking rooms and made some delicious cakes.



Singing at the Palace

On Tuesday night, the school singing group Woodrush Voices, performed at The Palace Theatre in Redditch. The concert was put on by the Worcestershire Music Service and included performances by the Redditch Area Music Centre, St Thomas More RC School, Alvechurch Middle School and Woodrush. Woodrush Voices performed songs from Les Miserables, as well as joining other groups for a song from Joseph and the grand finale, 'Ain't no Mountain High Enough'.

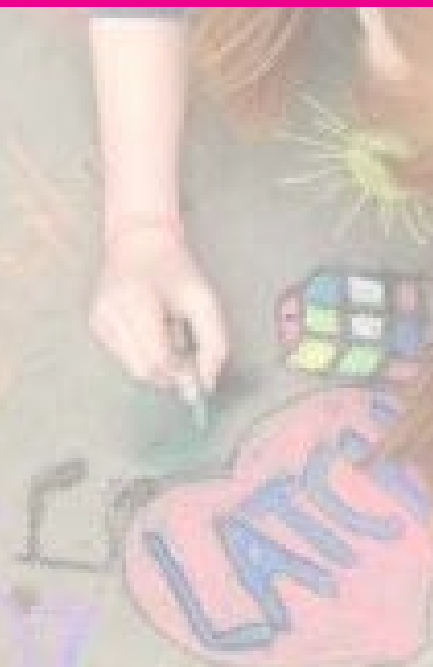
Our group performed their socks off !!! They really did Woodrush proud and loads of the audience commented on their stunning singing and professionalism on stage. A great evening was had by all. Huge congratulations to the performers and thanks to the parents for supporting

Science :

Exhibition & Competitive practicals
Year 10 – Dynamic Equilibrium Chemistry
Planning and performing a TV ad
News report
Learning walk with students
Caption competition
Students choose music to match topic and justify
Tasks around the school
Making mini movies of DNA replication
Science by chance
Mystery practical – make a substance then work out what it is from ingredients and properties
Frog used to feedback students ideas which were then used to plan lesson on controversial image / article / statement
Class do electrical appliances survey around school
No notes
Dance / move to process of mitosis and meiosis

Photography Competition

The Creative Arts Faculty ran a Photography competition over Easter entitled "New Beginnings". The calibre of entries was high, but there was a clear winner. The winner captured 2 striking images which demonstrated a good understanding of the theme and creative composition. Fraser (7L2) was the overall winner, receiving merits and points for Lanchester. Well done Fraser."





World Music Day this year coincided with our sports day but we made sure we were treated to some live music during lunchtime from year 10 musicians.

In assemblies, the focus was on the power of music in creating moods and heightening emotions, music as a healer, and how music can make you smarter. Students were challenged to listen to 10 tracks on FROG, to broaden their musical horizons and vote for the ones they liked most. Thanks to the year 10 music group who also contributed live performances to all the assemblies over the week.

Giselle

Woodrush Force Dance Company and GCSE Dance students enjoyed an afternoon at the Birmingham Hippodrome to watch Birmingham Royal Ballet perform a matinee performance of 'Giselle'. Students were accompanied by Mrs Bridgen, Miss Thomas, Miss Franklin, Miss Allen and Miss Lippert. The ballet is very traditional and tells the story about two young people (Giselle and Loys) who are very much in love. The story explores the topic of people not being truthful to one another through dance and the tragic consequences that face them.

The setting and costumes were amazing and really added to the atmosphere of the dramatic storyline. Birmingham Royal Ballet used a live



orchestra to accompany the choreography which made the performance extra special.

This trip aimed to support the learning of our students and to provide them with the experience of seeing a professional dance company live on stage performing in a ballet.

Mrs Bridgen quoted "the performance was magical and provided a fantastic opportunity to our Dance students. I look forward to arranging more theatre trips for Woodrush students".

Yorkshire Sculpture Park

The Art Department took a group of Year 10, 9 & 8 students to Yorkshire Sculpture Park. This trip was designed to enhance their creativity and learning within their current projects.

The day was split into two sections, starting with an artist lead tour around some



of the exhibits. Students had the opportunity to sketch the sculptures, whilst listening to the concepts and materials used to create these pieces. During the second element of the day, students had the opportunity to unleash their creativity.

They were given a selection of resources to use, along with a title. Then students were asked to create a sculpture of their own based upon this title. There were some amazing results from students who, only a few hours earlier, were asking questions such as, "How is that art?"

"We went to the sculpture park and enjoyed the interesting sculpture, which were displayed around the park. One of my favourites was a sculpture called 'Invasion', huge hay bales made out from the materials used to make roads, placed in the middle of a field. This linked the natural world with the modern world, the invasion of the growing industrial world. Overall, the day was fun and the sculptures and their stories intrigued many of us."

"The best part of the trip was making the sculptures. I liked Sophie Ryder's work the most out of all of the artists because I thought that it was very creative and it was useful for helping my team to make our sculpture."



Drama Club

Drama Club have met regularly all year experimenting with different styles of theatre and getting chance to get to grips with lighting and seeing what costumes we could conjure up. We started off the year by being involved in the GCSE production of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Custard Factory and since then have looked into how to prepare an audition; created polished improvisations; read lots of scripts and most recently looked into Trestle Theatre's unique masks. We meet every week for an hour after school, if you haven't done so already feel free to join us next year!



An Evening to Celebrate our Creative Talent

'Students, Staff, Parents and Governors gathered together on Wednesday 1st May, to celebrate the achievements of the Art and Photography students of 2013. All GCSE, A'Level and Art BTEC students were represented with a beautiful display of their coursework and exam pieces. Students have worked hard for the last two years and it was fantastic night where they could show off their accomplishments. The Creative Arts Faculty served refreshments to visitors and their positive comments about the students work were bountiful. A few



Hockney's and Picasso's in the making! We are very proud of our students and we wish them all the best of luck in the rest of their exams!

Reported by Mrs Martin



Primary News

It has been another busy, fun year at Tidbury Green, with our undoubted highlight being our award of 'Good' by Ofsted in March 2013.

The end of our Summer Term has been dominated by 'My Money Week' and 'Healthy Week'. During My Money Week pupils across the school learnt about different aspects of money; how to earn it, spend it and hopefully save it! Years 5 and 6 completed a Young Entrepreneur Challenge, where they created and sold cup-cakes, raising £60 for our new library in the process. We also had visitors from a whole spectrum of different careers come into school to talk to the children about their careers.

Healthy Week has been a whirlwind of fun, exercise and learning. All pupils have had specific healthy week lessons, where they have learnt about eating healthily, sugar-swaps, exercise and being happy. In addition to this they have had a dodgeball tournament (where they raised money for the British Heart Foundation), skip to be fit lessons, peer massage, exercise classes, golf coaching and a wheels afternoon.

With the introduction of our new curriculum in September it looks like next year will be another busy, but exciting one at Tidbury Green School.



A demanding but fruitful year at The Coppice

THIS year The Coppice has really been under scrutiny by the authorities. We had an Ofsted earlier in the year, and most recently the Local Authority chose us for writing moderation. I am pleased to say that we survived both experiences with flying colours!

The Coppice was chosen as part of a sample group in Worcestershire for Year 6 children's writing to be moderated (moderation took place on Wednesday 5th June). In other words, experts and advisors from the Local Authority descended upon us just to make certain that we are assessing children's writing correctly. They

Hollywood Primary School

In sport, Hollywood Primary school have had one of their most successful years ever! We have achieved first place in many events and taken the runners up spot when not winning. Some notable successes have been winning the City Championships for Year 5/6 Hockey; becoming District champions for Year 5/6 Boys 4-a-side football, Year 5/6 Athletics and Year 5/6 Basketball. We have also won events that the Baverstock Sports Partnership have held. These include victories in: Netball, Hockey, Tri-Golf, Tennis, Cricket and Basketball. All in all, we have been very successful and are proud of our achievements.

One event that we particularly enjoyed was the Year 5/6 City Championship for Hockey. The children competed at the Futsal Arena, Birmingham to try and achieve a record of being the best in Birmingham. Alex reported on the event saying, 'The team started off on a bad foot because of early nerves; however, we began to form a tactic that worked. After a lot of goals we made our way to the finals. In the end we won 1-0 and became Birmingham champions!'

Another favourite event was the

Basketball District Championship. Elliot reported on the event. 'We turned up to this tournament as favourites and lived up to our reputation, powering to the finals. As soon as the tournament kicked off Hollywood were destined to win. When they got to the final the celebrations had already started after 5 minutes. Smashing, their opponents they easily came through as winners!!!'

Mr Ryan, the P.E. coordinator has said 'success has bred success and the children have been fantastic both in success and when defeated. I feel very proud'

As you can see, Hollywood have achieved some great success in Sport and importantly 300 children have represented Hollywood at least once this year which is most of the children in the school. We hope next year will be just as successful.

By Elliot P and Alex B



stayed with us for a long morning, pouring carefully through the children's writing books. These people were very knowledgeable, with a lot of experience moderating writing with many schools. Consequently, we were delighted with their feedback. They were very impressed with the content of the children's books, including the engaging and interesting writing opportunities staff created for them. They were also very encouraging about our judgements regarding the children's work, finding us very thorough and extremely rigorous (almost too rigorous!). It was very reassuring to get our own assessments of the children's writing validated in this way. Accordingly, our thanks go to Mr Mander, Mr Hutt, Mrs McCormack and Mrs Pedersen who have worked so hard to such a high standard with the children in Year 6 Literacy at The Coppice this year.

After Ofsted visited us earlier in the year, this is what they said about us:

"Pupils are rightly proud of their school. Pupils enjoy school, and as a result their attendance is above average. The pupils have a very positive attitude to learning and feel safe. The school is a caring and very happy place."
"All adults care for and take pride in the work of the pupils, and the

school as a whole. This is mirrored in the strongly positive views of both parents and pupils."

"Teaching has improved significantly. It is now typically good and sometimes outstanding, particularly for older pupils."



"Teaching in the Early Years Foundation Stage is outstanding and this is helping to accelerate the progress made by the children"

"The Early Years Foundation Stage provides a strong foundation for the children's start to their school lives."

"Pupils leave Coppice Primary School with attainment that is above average, and all groups of pupils make good progress."

"Good leadership has ensured that the school is improving."





Woodrush Youth, Sports & Community Centre

Woodrush Sports Centre Facilities to hire:

- Flood-lit astro turf pitch
- Sports Hall
- 4 Badminton Courts
- Tennis Courts
- Senior grass football pitch (91m x 59m)
- Junior grass football pitch (82m x 46m)
- School Hall with stage

Woodrush Sports Centre Birthday Parties

- NEW Animal Party
- Football Party
- Multi-sports Party
- Jungle inflatable party
- Fun & Party Games



For more information or to book, contact Woodrush Sports Centre on:
Tel: 01564 820 099
E: lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Due to building work throughout the School we are unable to run the Sport Centre Holiday Club over the summer period. However, look out for leaflets for our October half term holiday club packed full of fun and exciting new activities!!

POWER CIRCUITS

Introductory Price **ONLY £4.00**

Mondays Starts 3rd June 6pm-7pm

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1st Session FREE

THIS HIGH INTENSITY CIRCUIT TRAINING PROGRAM WILL BOOST YOUR METABOLISM AND KEEP YOU BURNING FAT EVEN AFTER YOUR WORKOUT FOR FASTER WEIGHT LOSS RESULTS

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The use of school photos, videos and other digitally held material for publicity purposes. We often use pictures, names and videos for students for publicity purposes. In our weekly Friday newsletter The Woodrush Branch, and our magazine the Woodrush Star, we like to acknowledge and celebrate our student's achievements, resulting in photos and names of students being printed. If you would prefer your child's name/image not to be used for such purposes, please contact the school and the necessary arrangements will be made.

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