



# WOODRUSH STAR

SCHOOL NEWS · MATHEMATICS · ENGLISH · SCIENCE · SPORT · ART · HUMANITIES & MORE

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## Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy term for Woodrush High School. At this time of the year my mind is drawn back to all of the events, initiatives and successes that we have experienced, not just in the past term, but also over the course of the entire academic year.

Central to all of our successes are our students. This academic year has seen a large number of our students enjoy success in initiatives such as the PiXL Edge award, the Crest Award and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. In addition to this, lots of our students have been involved in charity events and we are extremely proud of all the students that recently helped to raise £5000 for Cancer Research through the £1 charity challenge and the Mind, Body and Spirit Triathlon that both staff and students participated in. A number of our students have also experienced success in a whole range of extra-curricular activities. A recent highlight was the school's 'The Lion King' production; the dedication and commitment shown by the students and staff involved in this production was incredible. The hours they spent outside of school rehearsing, preparing the set design and readying costumes is really admirable. If you managed to catch one of the three performances of our The Lion King production, I am sure you would agree that all their efforts paid off. It is also really pleasing to hear that so many of our students have participated in an array of sporting events, at school level and also at district and county level. Again, we are very proud of everything that these students have achieved and we look forward to seeing them build on these successes in the future.

This year has also seen a number of successes for Woodrush High School in a broader sense. Some of these highlights include our school's acquisition of the Inclusion Quality Mark, the ICT Mark, the Democracy Award and the NQT (Newly Qualified Teacher) Quality Mark. We also experienced a very positive HMI OFSTED thematic survey on Enterprise and Employability. Added to this, our Teaching School continues to grow and I would like to say well done and good luck to our TSA school direct trainees who completed their teacher training with Woodrush Teaching School Alliance. More recently, we also welcomed Sajid Javid MP to the official opening of the Woodrush School and Community Hub. The Hub is now providing much needed facilities for us as a school, as well as for the local community. We very much look forward to seeing the Community Hub forging closer links between our school, the local community and our stakeholders.

This past term has seen our Year 11 and Sixth Form students sitting some crucial examinations. A huge thank you must be extended to all of our staff for their efforts in supporting these students through their examinations. I would also like to congratulate the students on their hard work and we look forward to hearing about their success when they receive their results in the summer. Following these results, we also hope that many of our Year 11 students will be joining us in the Sixth Form in September. We also wish all our Year 13 Sixth Form students every success with their university, apprenticeship and employment opportunities. Both our Year 11 and Year 13 students have recently attended their own proms as a means of celebrating the time they have spent with us. We hope that those years are filled with positive memories and we wish them every success for the future.

I would like to finally wish all you, our students, parents and carers, a great summer. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 5th September.

N. Rancins  
Headteacher



Currently we have 40 Year 10 students taking part in the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The award is made up of four different sections; volunteering, skill, physical and expedition.



## The Bronze Award

Volunteering

Skills

Physical

Expedition

Two sections for 3 months and one section for 6 months

2 days, 1 night

Below are some of the activities that have been chosen for each part of the award by students this year.

**Volunteering** – coaching sports clubs, working in charity shops, working at an animal rescue centre, helping at youth club and stewarding at Park Run

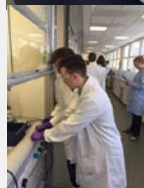
**Skills** – science investigation, fishing, coaching, playing the guitar, photography, drawing

**Physical** – zumba, rugby, hockey, kickboxing, Tae Kwon Do, football, athletics, tennis, badminton, gymnastics

**Expedition** – In May they successfully completed the expedition training and practise expedition in the Bewdley area where they had to walk for hours during the day carrying all their equipment before setting up camp and cooking their own dinner. The second day consisted of more walking and map reading. All the staff accompanying them agreed that they were one of the best groups we had ever taken out. The qualifying expedition is taking place this half term and we wish them luck as they undertake the challenge!



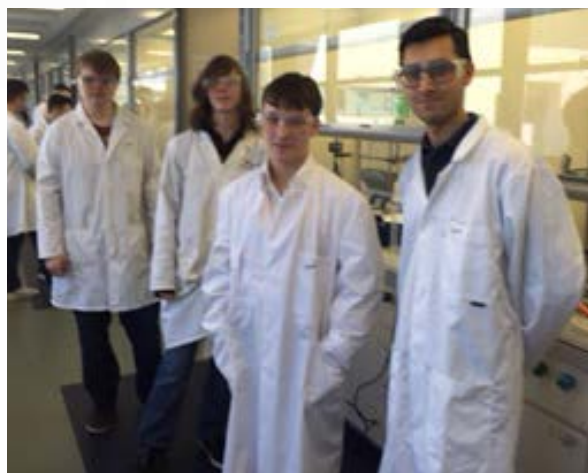




## Warwick University Trip

In March, 17 year 12 Level 3 BTEC and A-level chemists attended a thoroughly enjoyable and insightful day at the Warwick University chemistry labs. Whilst there, each pupil synthesised a compound called benzoic acid which is widely used in industry to help preserve food. Pupils were then given the opportunity to trial several different specialised scientific techniques used to test the purity of their products.

This trip provided valuable insight into life as a chemistry student in higher education and hopefully inspired some of our pupils to pursue this academic pathway. The support staff at Warwick University were extremely impressed with the techniques demonstrated by our pupils on the day and complemented our students on their knowledge and understanding of chemistry.



## KS3

This term 3 year 8 pupils Abbi C, Yegor L and Anastasia K from the Key Stage 3 science club have successfully completed a Crest challenge entitled 'Squeaky clean' whereby they researched and tested the effectiveness of a variety of popular cleaning products to see which products was most cost effective.

All 3 pupils worked extremely well through the entire investigative process and concluded the process with an impressive video recorded presentation of their findings. Their efforts have been formally recognised through the awarding of a Bronze Crest award each. Well done Abbi, Yegor and Anastasia!



# CREST Awards

## KS4

Year 10 students this year completed a Bronze Crest Award during KS4 science club. During this project they completed a full scientific investigation looking into the effectiveness of domestic households cleaners. Their objective was to find out if leading brands promotions were as true as it is stated compared to traditional no frills bands. The students had to complete research in the first instance and then they had to plan their investigation while evaluating all risks carefully. After this they analysed their findings and then made appropriate conclusions regarding these results. After they presented their findings in groups to their peers, they were finally awarded a Crest Award. Well done to all who participated they showed good team work skills and interpersonal skills.





Another year another British Science Week, and as usual the science department were ready to celebrate the best subject that can be studied.

All pupils in KS3 celebrated the week with a special lesson where they all investigated how colour effects how quickly ice cubes melt and the science behind why differences did occur. Some groups even found patterns beyond the darker colours melting faster than the lighter colours and found the colours at the ultraviolet end of the visible spectrum melted faster than the colours at the infrared end.

There were also 2 trips out to the Big Bang Fair with all of KS3 given the opportunity to attend, and most did. Both days were big successes with all the pupils enjoying the event, finding out a lot about the different roles of science in the products they use and identifying the variety of careers that science can lead to. There were also many shows that pupils could attend such as the 'Gastronaut' show where lots of different experiments with food were shown. Pupils had a great day and it was a real eye opener for many of what a career in science can offer.



## *Year 12 Biology Fieldtrip*

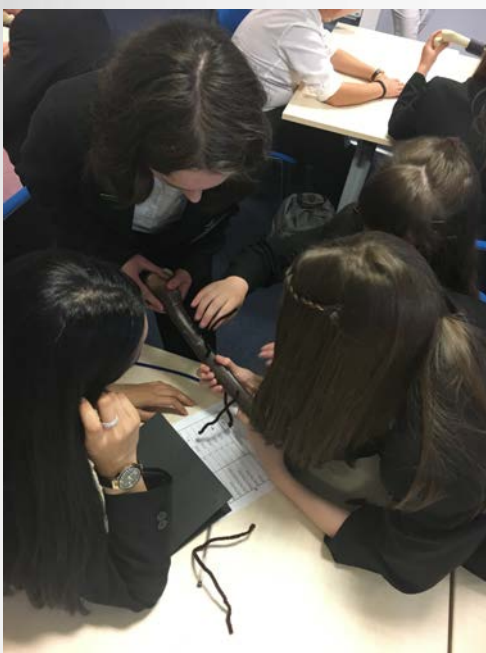
One sunny March weekend the year 12 biologists, along with Miss Hempson and Mr Ellis, completed the compulsory fieldwork element of their A-level course at Preston Montford in Shropshire.

After arriving about lunchtime on the Friday, and once the biologists had checked into their rooms and made their beds (or at least tried to make their beds), they quickly got to work looking at the nature around Preston Montford ready to decide on their hypotheses for later in their practical endorsement. Pupils had certainly worked up an appetite with several pupils (and Mr Ellis) not only going up for seconds but also for thirds at dinner. It was a good job too as their workday was not over and after dinner pupils had a chance to look around the farm and to investigate how the farmers worked with nature to have as little as possible impact on the natural ecosystems and wildlife. The biologists were then given some free time and they either socialised in their rooms or in the common room, before heading to bed for a good night's sleep.

On Saturday it was time to head up the Stiperstones which is a National Nature Reserve and a Site of Special Scientific Interest to investigate how the heather affects the biodiversity of the area. Heather is an endangered species and the Stiperstones contain 75% of all the heather in the world. The biologists did lots of different tests to ascertain what factors were impacting the biodiversity and used lots of equipment that is not available at school such as soil pH testers, whirling hygrometers and point quadrats. It was then time to go back to Preston Montford and have a cake break, which to (almost) everyone's delight matched up to the England and Wales Six Nations game, we all got to watch the first 20 minutes before heading in to do some analysis on the data collected in the Stiperstones and another break allowed us to see another 15 minutes of the second half before some statistical analysis of the heather data, which continued into the evening. After the last taught session of the day, pupils and teachers gathered in the common room to celebrate Fin's birthday with lots of sweets, chocolate, and cake and some games.

Sunday soon came around and with another full English breakfast for fuel pupils were ready to set about completing their practical endorsement for their A-level. Pupils used the skills they had learnt over the Friday and the Saturday and performed very well collecting some really interesting data and all pupils passed. Well done year 12!





## Discovery Day

On Wednesday 22nd June 10 year 10 triple science students were lucky enough to attend the 'Discovery Day' of physics and engineering at the University of Birmingham.

The day began with an interesting introductory talk where the pupils were introduced to a range of different degrees available that suited their personalities and skills and these were linked to the variety of jobs these degrees lead to.

Pupils were then split into 2 groups and attended a workshop in the morning and another in the afternoon. Both groups attended the workshop on radio waves, they learnt about the different



things that the pupils at the university studied and were shown some of the different things that the students built. Following this they learnt a little bit more about radio waves and then used their new found knowledge to go and find transmitters hidden around the building using a receiver. The pupils were put into teams and given the challenge to find them all. The competition was on and Miss Hempson was very proud that both the Woodrush girls teams beat the boys from the other schools - demonstrating this is not just a subject for boys as it is stereotyped, a particular congratulations needs to be given to Shannon and Esther who found all the transmitters - something that hasn't been done before!

While the girls were annihilating the boys, the other group attended the magnets workshop where they built a pair of speakers, this group then attended the radio waves workshop in the afternoon while Miss Hempson's group attended a workshop called A&E engineering where they were given the task to fix a femur bone that had been broken. Pupils were given a range of materials they could use, and a budget, pupils then had to design a way to hold the bone together while it repaired itself that would stay within budget and withhold a 2kg weight. Yet again the girls performed exceedingly and passed all the criteria.



Overall it was a brilliant day and was very informative about the different degrees at university and the careers they can lead to. The pupils came away with some new ambitions and aspirations, ready to work hard to get there. We've definitely got some future engineers on our hands and who knows maybe they will be the ones who find a solution for generating electricity without fossil fuels or will be building the next 'Shard'!

The students behaved impeccably and were a real credit to the school!  
Well done guys!



# The Biology Challenge 2016



It was a year ago I last wrote an article on the biology challenge, I can't believe that's correct even though all the evidence points to it being the truth.

Back then they were my budding year 9 triple scientists - and they have bloomed into year 10 with lots more awards from the challenge.

Well done to:  
Bronze - Lucy D  
Bronze - Keeley C  
Bronze - Leah H  
Bronze - Brant G  
Bronze - Vlada H  
Bronze - Shannon T-P  
Silver - Stephen B  
Silver - Chris J

In just another year they will have all left having sat their GCSEs, the current year 9 triple who didn't quite meet the requirements for certificates this year certainly have been set a high bar! There's no reason they can't surpass it though - keep up your hard work guys!



In the science department we are building strong links with SAIC (Shanghai Automotive) based at the old Rover site in Longbridge to build awareness of careers in engineering. SAIC have a team of nine STEM ambassadors that have visited Woodrush twice so far to work with our students. They attended our year 10 careers fair, bringing with them virtual reality 3D headsets to enthuse students. On the 14th June they visited our year 12 physics students and delivered a "Routes to employment" workshop. This included information about apprenticeships, internships, work experience and covered careers in all aspects of engineering.

We look forward to future events including a careers session for students in KS3 and our year 12 physicists visiting the plant for a tour and an opportunity to visit all of the different departments and experience all of the different career possibilities.



## Goodbye Mr Raistrick

I can't believe I have been working at Woodrush for 7 years (8 if you count my PGCE). Time has really flown by and I am so proud to have been a part of Woodrush, particularly having the opportunity to work with such fantastic students over the years. The group I first taught in Year 7 have just left year 13 so it's nice that I started and am leaving with them! I am going to really miss my wonderful department, "Team Science" - I just don't think there is another group of people out there quite like them. I'm looking forward to my new job as Assistant Head at a school much closer to home (an hour commute each way is taking its toll - I used to have a full head of hair!?), but I will always remember where I trained as a teacher and got my first job with great happiness. Have a wonderful summer and best wishes for the future.

Mr. Raistrick





## Year 9 Project Presentation Evening

Since September, top-set Year 9 English students have been working hard towards the AQA Project Qualification. This gives us the chance to research and write an in depth report on a topic of our choice.

As part of the qualification, we had to present our findings to our teachers, family and friends in an interesting way. To do this we held a Presentation Evening. All pupils brought in books, artwork and memorabilia to show off what their project is all about.

We found that creating and organising our own table was fun and great chance to show off our creativity. We met lots of new people and were able to explain our topic and some of our findings. At first it was hard talking to people about our work but as the night progressed we were all able to answer lots of questions with ease.

There was a great interest shown by those attending and

riveting conversations with all the students. Their hard work and dedication to their subject was clear from the fantastic presentations and the extensive knowledge they showed. All teachers and parents spectating were impressed by the maturity, confidence and effort shown by everyone participating. It was a big success from the Year 9 English group!

By Vicky and Lucy C.

*"I just had to write and tell you how impressed we were with the Year 9 presentations yesterday. It was obvious how much work the students had put into their projects and the array of subjects they tackled was so interesting. I spoke to every student and they all spoke confidently and in depth about their chosen subjects - a real credit to themselves, your department and Woodrush - well done to all!"*



*Can I just express my admiration for all your year 9 students at the PQ presentation today. We had a delightful evening, the diversity of the subjects presented were amazing and any initial nerves from the students soon disappeared as they enthralled us with their knowledge of their topic and their obvious enthusiasm to share this information with us. It was fabulous to see so many polite, confident and happy students. I wish all the students all the very best with their assessments.*





*Well done to Tori K in Year 11 who achieved an A grade in her Descriptive Writing Piece:*

### **Life of Pi**

Powerful thunder controlled the dim night sky, blinking and spiralling like a firework each time I inhaled. Cautiously, I removed my head from in between my brittle knees and gazed into the vicious, unbeatable waves which seemed determined to defeat me. As I glanced down on the tides, bullets of rain pelted down onto the plummeting wavelets creating microscopic ocean craters. The angry waves crashed into my vessel; I eyed the gloomy sky. The falling water pellets obscured my view as the cogent winds continued to attack Richard Parker and I. Snarling with anger, my companion displayed his pearly white teeth. Was I, a slim vegetarian boy, going to be his next meal?

Looking away from Richard Parker, I closed my eyes into a squint. In the mirage, I saw a silhouette of a beautiful, grand cruise ship voyaging peacefully across the sapphire salt water. Instinctively, I grabbed my miniature whistle and blew it as loud as my deflated lungs would allow. I tried to get their attention: they didn't hear me. The aggressive thunder cracked above me, my rain saturated clothing pressed against me. The dismembered wreckage, which was keeping me alive, was slowly deteriorating beneath me. Negotiating the surrounding debris, I noticed a scene below. Graceful fish danced beneath me with their shiny scales generating a sea of colour. The wide range of metallic colours reflected onto the substantial waves. Fish entered the scene at all angles, making it impossible for me to admire

each single beautiful creature. Never had I seen anything this remarkable; I smiled. Thankfully, the tempest calmed and I could now increasingly see into the clearing distance. Richard Parker slept peacefully at the bow of our wooden boat. He frequently lifted his patterned tail and dipped his heavy paws into the supreme waves whilst his weak body draped over the flailing boat. A while later, when he woke, Richard Parker lifted his head up steadily, performing an elephantine yawn to then pounce



© 20th Century Fox

upon our collapsing vessel. The boisterous sea continued to smack up against us. The sultry sun plummeted down onto my dark, rough skin as sweat ran down my face; dripping off my jaw.

Wiping my perspiration, my company immediately lifted his paws and edged towards me. His jade eyes shone back at me; his jet black pupils concentrated. His furry ears twitched occasionally and his whiskers fluttered in the wind. He continued to growl displaying his discomfort. I was petrified. Gradually the gale picked up again, like the Atlantic Ocean was slowly constricting me. The impetuous storm above was rumbling like a Californian

earthquake and the dense sky was illuminated when lightning struck. Still nobody was in sight; nobody who could help me. Suddenly, the winds scooped me up and threw me against the side of our raft - I jerked overboard.

Fighting for air, I struggled up to the surface. Crying for my last breath, I shot up from the ocean like a bullet firing from a rifle. I wrapped my coarse fingers over the edge of the boat, attempting to pull myself up.

I failed.

Eventually, after several efforts, I managed to launch myself over the edge and landed onto the damp wood. Laying still, my wet, tangled curls covered my face as water drained from my once white linen trousers. I coughed, found my breath and realised that I was lucky that it was not my last. I lay still on my back whilst many thoughts spun round in my head. Once my thoughts had departed, I felt the sea gently moving our vessel, I watched the sun set on the horizon before closing my eyes to fall into a tranquil sleep.

Victoria K

## YOUTH OF TODAY.

### Youth of Today Poetry Competition

Students were encouraged to write a poem about what it means to be a young person in today's society for a competition launched by the University of Birmingham. Well done to Maci G (8B1) for winning the competition. Here is a copy of the winning poem:

### The Youth of Today

The youth of today  
Have a difficult time  
Exams are in great numbers  
And it's really not fine  
They are under so much pressure  
It really needs to get better  
But it will only get worse  
With the GCSE curse  
No longer will there be coursework  
And help along the way  
Instead it's just more work, work, work

And all down to the exam on the day  
So what do the youth do to combat this stress  
They go on the internet and get in a mess  
With Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat and Twitter  
The kids are all indoors  
Not outside getting fitter  
The adults are so much stricter  
With the kids not free to go out  
So it is any wonder  
We don't know what the youth are about

### English in the Outdoors

This half-term, two classes of year 7 students have taken part in 'English in Action'. The students were put in small groups and were given a diagram of

how to put up a tent from which they had to create instructions. They had to make them good – these were all they would have when it came to putting up their tent!

It turns out pitching a three man tent is more of a challenge than they originally thought! Despite the difficulty, every group had successfully pitched a tent by the end of the lesson. At this point, the students went back to their instructions and had another go. After putting up the tents themselves, they had realised no detail is too small. The students produced some fantastic pieces of writing and had fun! Well done to all the year 7s who took part!

"The camping lesson was brilliant. It was my first time putting up a tent. I really enjoyed it."  
Heleema 7B4





## YOUNG BOND

When the author Steve Cole came to Woodrush to promote his latest Young James Bond novel, *Heads You Die*, he met our book club members over an informal lunch. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to speak to him about his experiences in the publishing business. Steve began his career as an editor of the Noddy magazine; he gave a very amusing account of dealing with Enid Blyton's family in a politically correct age. As a fan of Ian Fleming's famous secret agent, he was delighted when he was approached to write the Young James Bond books. He enjoys making references to the original books in his novels and putting the teenage Bond into situations that shape the man he will become. In this latest book, set in the 1930s, he explored ways in which James would be able to get a taste for deep sea diving which is how he meets Domino in *Thunderball*. In the afternoon Steve gave a talk to our Year 7 students and Year 6 pupils from our feeder school. He kept them entertained describing some of the gadgets that may have been available to a young spy at the time and explaining the research entailed in writing a book.

"He had a lot of energy and kept us entertained." Liliane

"He is talented, funny and generally a really nice guy. The bit I liked best was the part where he showed us the secret agent technology." Jake, Coppice

"We got to see where his inspiration came from and learn about his books." Isabelle



## The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards



### Essie's Blog!

When March comes around the anticipation grows for the start of the Carnegie shadowing! This year we got very excited about the announcement of the new 2016 shortlist. We all rushed to book club to see what the best books were and what they were all about. Eventually we each decided on a book and started reading them before rushing back to lessons.

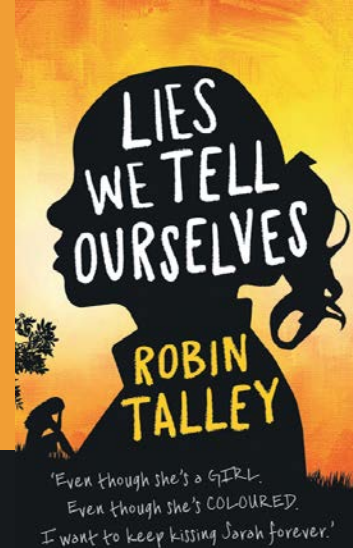
By the weekend four people had already finished their books and were writing reviews.

Over the weeks at book club we discussed what parts of the books we liked and what parts we disliked. We all had slightly differing views and it was nice to hear others' opinions on the books you have read.

We chose to film a video about the book *One* by Sarah Crossan to be entered for the book trailer competition. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to the year 11s and we really didn't want to say goodbye. We have hatched a plan to keep them but don't tell them yet!!!

You can read more of our reviews and check out our top 3 titles on the reading barometer, which we agreed after huge discussions, on our group home page. <http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/grouphomepages/index.php?GroupID=10635>.

Essie, Book Club Blogger

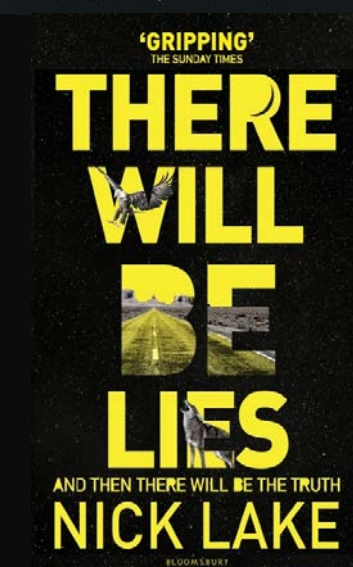


Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley

This book was amazing. It is set in 1950s America, and follows the story of an African American girl who is one of the first to integrate into an all-white school. Faced with discrimination and violence, she has to learn to stand up for herself. As soon as I read the blurb I decided that this was the book that I wanted to read. It gripped me the whole way through and I loved every second. It really made me think about what it would have been like to live in this time period. Modern readers however can still relate to Sarah and what she goes through; considering the amount of changes that have taken place, there are still some people who get disregarded in society. I liked this book as it really helped me to understand the horrible racism and the attitudes towards homosexuality in America at this time.

This book is a great book to give you an understanding about segregation, civil rights and how people used to live and deal with all of this. Any good readers can access this book easily, even with a very basic understanding of America and the 1950s, but some of the themes in the book are quite mature and can be upsetting.

Reviewed by Esther

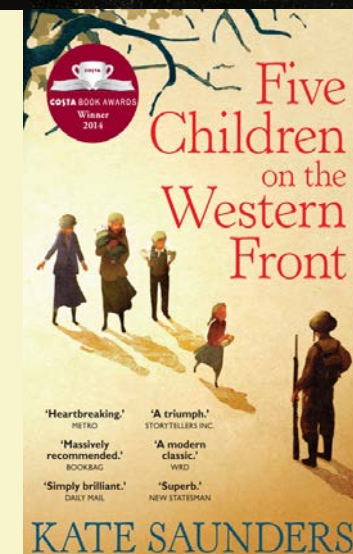


There Will Be Lies by Nick Lake

There Will Be Lies by Nick Lake is a complex but exciting book which confuses till the end. When Shelby is run over by a car, her life is turned upside down and completely changed. She and her Mom go on the run and she thinks she is going insane until she discovers the Dreamworld. Will she ever be the same again?

I recommend this book to people who like a story which excites along the way. This book always finishes every chapter on a cliff-hanger, forcing you to want to read more. There are many unexpected plot twists and, with the idea of two worlds alongside each other, the book is extremely interesting and emotionally powerful. It is a brilliant book and I recommend it to all accomplished readers.

Reviewed by Oliver

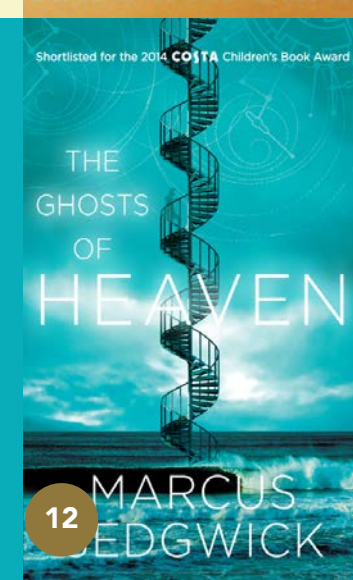


Five Children on the Western Front by Kate Saunders

Five Children on the Western Front is about the Psammead (a sand-fairy) who comes to revisit the family from E. Nesbit's original book, Five Children and It. The older children have now grown up and their life is about to be torn apart by World War I.

I thought that this book was really good, well-written and thought out. It may not be better than E. Nesbit's original; but then nothing is ever better than the original, is it? Five Children on the Western Front is enticing and extremely exciting. I really liked the way it incorporated the myths and magic of the Psammead mixed in with a very real and scary historical event that happened not that long ago. It was interesting to see the children from the original book grown up, and the author did succeed in retaining the characters and their personalities. In some parts, you may have to have read the original to fully understand the book.

Reviewed by Rachel



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Reviewed by Rachel





### The Lie Tree by Francis Hardinge

The Lie Tree is a very interesting, well-written book set in the Victorian era when women didn't have equal rights to men. Faith, a young girl aged 15, travels with her family to a new place beyond the sea. Faith's curiosity always gets the better of her and after hearing a secret conversation between her Uncle Miles and her father she wants to know more. This craving for knowledge sends her on a wild adventure meeting a variety of characters, making you think what a single lie can do to a whole community and the shape their lives. The author writes in the third person from the perspective of Faith which, although it takes a while to get into the book, allows for the reader to see her every move whilst only knowing her thoughts. I really enjoyed this book, and the ending makes you want to find out more about Faith's future!

Reviewed by Shannon



### Fire colour One by Jenny Valentine

This book is about a Iris, who sees her father for the first time she can remember, and gets to know him, as he is dying. Parts of the book are well-written, such as the descriptions of the times Iris feels the need to light fires. This book gives you an insight into the mind of a teenage arsonist! When I started reading this book I had such high expectations of it, however from about 10 or so pages in the story starts to become unrealistic and a bit monotonous at times. Although others in book club have said they were satisfied with the twist at the end of the book, I personally was just glad to have finished it!

Reviewed by Jacob



### The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness

This is a book about the ordinary people, the people just like you and me. After all, not everyone is destined to save the world!

This book was enjoyable and really interesting. Even though it isn't really a genre that I would normally read, I was hooked right from the start. It's unique, funny and gives you an insight to how different people think and how everyone has their own issues in life and how they overcome them. I found it interesting and different to other books which I've read and would definitely recommend you read it. It's great.

Reviewed by Will

*Their bond is unbreakable*



### One by Sarah Crossan

One is a story about the lives of two twins who are conjoined called Tippi and Grace. They have been home-schooled all their lives but their parents cannot afford it anymore so they are sent to a regular high school.

This thrilling story written in poems had me hooked from start to finish. Although it's a quick read, I think it's a brilliant book to read all in one go, and to send the emotions running. One is beautifully written and had me crying at the end because it was so powerful. Absolutely loved it!

Reviewed by Sam





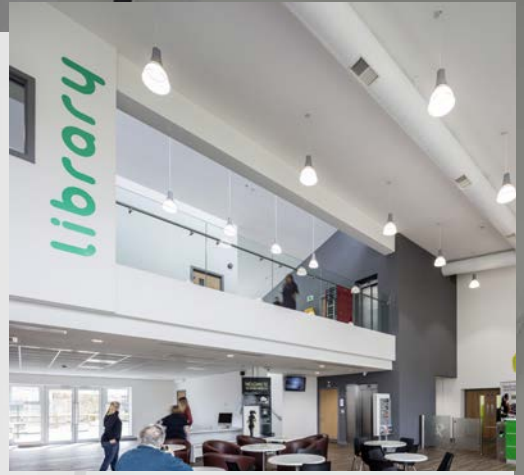
## The Library Opening

On Saturday 30th of April the library in the Hub opened to the public for the very first time. The public library is now integrated with the school library which means that students can go there whenever they need to. We now have access to a wider range of books that will appeal to more people, who will then have a more enjoyable reading journey.

On the day there were a lot of things to do for all ages. Members of the public were keen to explore the new space and look for interesting books to read. There were lots of games for the children to play and balloons and book marks for them to take home. It was a busy day with lots of people looking around the new building, trying out the gym and café. Here are some of the things other students like about the new library

- Helps the community
- Helps the school
- Love the clean, colourful furniture
- Great range of books
- Good opportunities
- Great for hanging out and meet new friends
- Use the internet
- Use the facilities
- DVDs
- Love the children's section

By Esther and Laura



## A Journey through the Library

The day started as normal. I sat in my bedroom reading, about 5 minutes after opening the book and stepping into pure paradise I stepped out and finished the book; 286 pages of heaven. The journey had ended.

Although it is somewhat satisfying to finish a book, I was also in the dilemma of needing a new one; which is even more exciting.

I walked down to the library. Even though I must have been in there hundreds of times I still get overwhelmingly excited at the thought of all these books, and there is something simply thrilling about opening a new book.

I entered the library and wandered into the children's section. Thoughts and memories of my childhood were all I could think about.

I walked a bit further into the children's section. I could see the books of J.K Rowling and Patrick Ness. More fond memories came back to me, and just then it occurred to me how much choice there actually was. I thought "I'll never have time to read all of these". What a depressing thought that was.

Nevertheless, I looked at the shelves. The three I liked the look of the most were about a famous dog, an Olympic runner and one about a picture that could talk.

So I checked the most captivating book out. I walked home feeling very content with my new book.

When I walked through the door my mom said "Did you have a nice journey home?"

I said "Yeah". Then I realised the journey was only just starting...

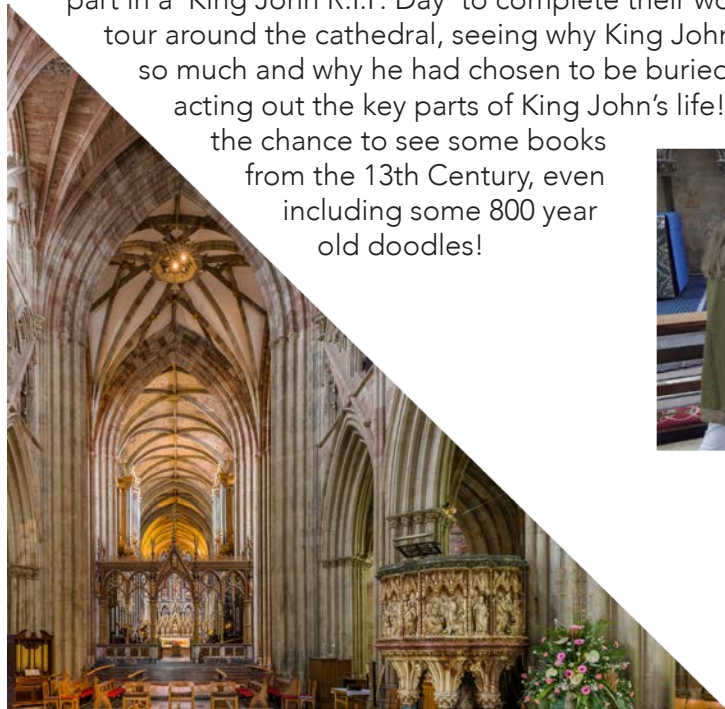
By Jacob



# Humanities

## King John Trip to Worcester Cathedral

Some Year 7 and 8 pupils have been taking part in a programme of skills based intervention and extra-curricular opportunities in humanities over the last few months. The aim was to help gifted and talented historians and geographers develop and improve in a range of humanities skills that directly link to their Key Stage 3 assessments. Students took a trip to Worcester Cathedral to take part in a 'King John R.I.P. Day' to complete their work. There was a tour around the cathedral, seeing why King John had loved it so much and why he had chosen to be buried there, as well as acting out the key parts of King John's life! Students even got the chance to see some books from the 13th Century, even including some 800 year old doodles!



## Goodbye Mrs Hatton

Woodrush High School has been a big part of my life for a very long time, not just because I have been a teacher here for the last 25 years, but also, because I was once a pupil here too.

I began teaching at the school in January 1991 and I cannot believe how quickly the time has passed. During this time I was given the opportunity to become a 'Head of Year' and a 'Student Development Coordinator for Key Stage 3 and 4', both of which I really enjoyed doing and I am now sad to be handing over to other people. There have been hundreds of students that I have taught over the years and I am going to miss my health and social care groups, even though some of the students have driven me mad with their incessant chatting – you know who you are! In particular though, there will always be a special place in my heart for my 'Year group of 2005'.

I have been fortunate to work with some brilliant and hard-working teaching staff and they have always been willing to support me, especially for activity days, and I am going to miss their company and humour, especially at lunchtimes but there are some I will particularly miss and you know who you are too!

I am looking forward to doing the things I want to do and not being governed by a bell, or meeting deadlines, but I also think it will take me a while to adjust. I will have time to paint; spend time with my grandson and family; visit my friends; go out for lunch; get up late; and go on holiday in term time! I leave with many happy memories of my time at Woodrush and I wish you all a fabulous summer break and I will think of you all on your first day back.... when I am aboard the Hogwarts Express!!

Mrs Hatton





# THE LION KING

Woodrush students performed Disney's The Lion King JR. on Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th of June and what a show it was! Students worked incredibly hard to put the show together, rehearsing for 4 hours a week from January to June. Students rehearsed new songs, dialogue and choreography each week and showed skill and enthusiasm throughout. Chloe, a student studying stage make-up at university kindly came into school to paint faces in order to create our pride land animals and Kay Parker along with helpers from the Youth Team made all the incredible costumes for our cast. Our BTEC Art students from the sixth form created all the masks for our main characters and produced all the wonderful head pieces which allowed our cast to come alive! Faye Parker and her team organised back stage to ensure the show ran like clock-work and UK Events provided the lighting and sound to add the finishing touches to our show. A huge thank you to everyone who took part, helped out each evening or bought tickets to come and see the show. It was an excellent performance and the students taking part should be extremely proud of their achievements, well done!

## CAST

Rafiki – Carmen  
Mufasa – Mark  
Sarabi – Charlotte  
Zazu – Rosie  
Scar – Joshua  
Young Simba – Scarlett  
Simba – Aanya  
Lionesses – Carys, Rachel, Sophie  
Young Nala – Freya  
Nala – Alexa  
Sarafina – Mia  
Banzai – Pete  
Shenzi – Shanice  
Ed – Jacob  
Timon – Joe  
Pumbaa – Keyra

## PRIDELAND ANIMALS

Hyenas - Eleanor, Molly, Shola  
Evie, Elle, Ellie, Leah, Samantha, Giulia,  
Mollie, Abbie-Lou, Chloe, Nithusia, Isabella  
Lionesses - Carys, Rachel, Sophie

## DANCERS

Emma, Ellie, Holly, Tilly





From different corners of the continent, endless animals of all different sizes come together to see one animal. Simba.

Now the sky is hidden by a blanket of clouds, creating different shades of purple. The crowd below are all eager to see Simba, their future king, held over their heads. The animals pound their feet, creating a drumming sound, which echoes across the whole of Africa. A vast dust cloud is formed by the zebras, making it look like mist covering the ground.

Rafiki picks up Simba, gradually making his way to the edge of Pride Rock. The animals below all gazing up to Rafiki, waiting for him to reveal their future king. With all his power, Rafiki holds Simba over his head as high as possible. Elephants roar and monkeys go wild. Every single animal bounces around with excitement. A moment's pause and then all the animals bow down to Simba. A ray of light smashes through the clouds, shining its light on to Simba.

By Natasha G







# YEAR 11 PROM

On the 12th May around 7 in the evening year 11 headed to the Lake at Barston in Solihull dressed up and excited for the evening!

On arriving with my friends we were greeted by girls dressed up in beautiful, extravagant dresses and boys suited and booted. I have never seen such a smart looking bunch! Impressive cars continuously rolled in delivering more students for a night they would never forget! Everyone was very excited to spend such a special evening, at such a beautiful location, with the friends we have grown up with for the past 5 years.

A lot of thought had gone into decorating and organising the room and it all looked spectacular (thank you students and teachers!!). To begin with, many spent time having photos with peers and teachers so they could remember this special night, we all then progressed to have food and many took advantage of the AMAZING sweet table that was on display! After full bellies everyone gradually took to the dance floor where the DJ played a range of music to suit everyone's taste! Even the teachers had a go at throwing some shapes...

When it reached around 11:30PM and the end was nearing, many found themselves emotional at the realisation our last school year is nearly over and we will probably never be in the same room with all these people again. The DJ finished with 'See You Again' by Wiz Khalifa, everyone circled around the dance floor and we illuminated our phones with flash lights which too danced in the air like little stars. After wishing us well the night came to an end. A beautiful end to such an amazing night. It was the perfect way to say goodbye to our little year 11 family!

Prom is certainly a night we will never forget!







"Prom was one of the best experiences of our lives. Finally the whole year group could come together and enjoy the night. Seeing everyone arrive and looking so lovely, was so good. The venue was so beautiful with the lake behind and the warm evening made it special as we were able to sit outside if we wanted to. The DJ played some great music and loads of people danced until it was time to go home."

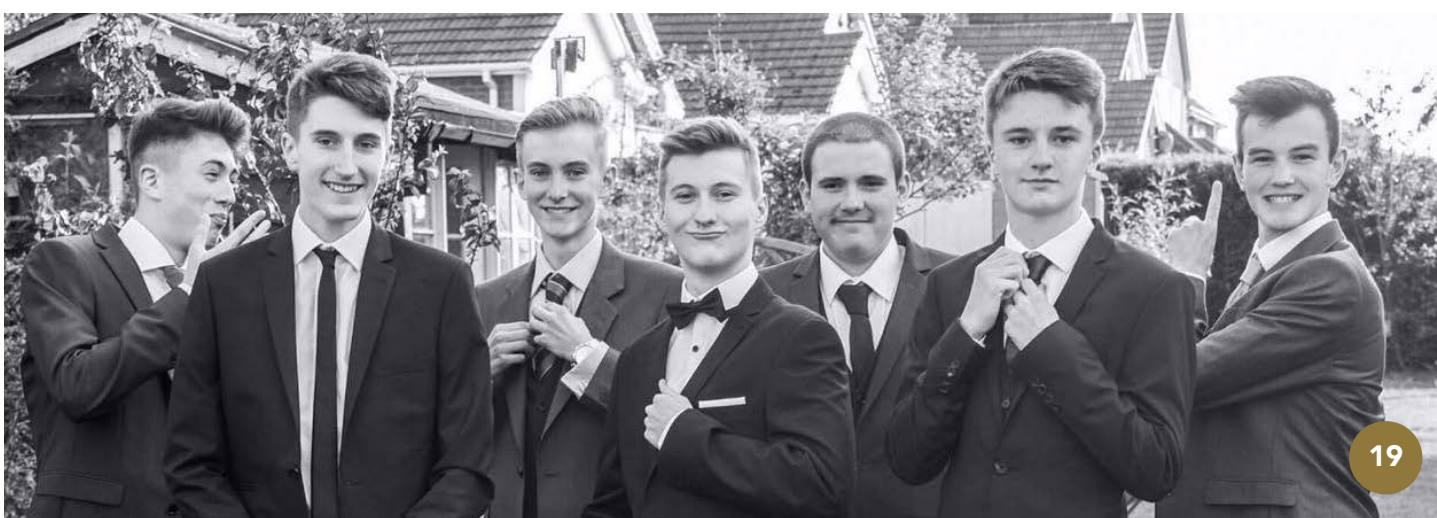
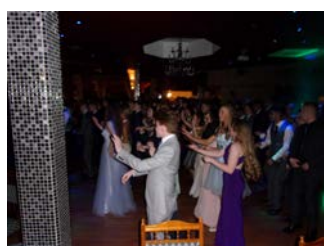
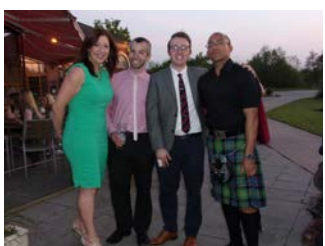
"Prom was a wonderful night. The food and music was amazing. The place was beautiful and it was lovely to see everyone dressed up. I will remember it for a long time."

"Our Year 11 Prom took place on Thursday 12th May at The Lake at Barston, West Midlands Golf Club. The evening was sunny and warm and it was lovely to see our students dressed in their finery for their special night. Very few students arrived by unusual transport this year, there was a police

car and an escort of scooters, but most arrived in style with Limousines, Bentleys, Hummers, Jaguars and sports cars. Students were able to have their photographs taken professionally and the photographer was kept busy all night. As a special treat this year there was a sweet table provided for the students to enjoy during the evening. As it was a warm evening students were able to sit outside and look out over the lake but many students stayed on the dance floor enjoying the music. Our Prom King this year was Tom A and our Prom Queen was Charlotte F-R, who took to the floor to begin the second half of the evening. All too soon the Prom came to an end and students left, some going onto other parties, some going home to bed!

It was a fabulous evening and one I will always treasure as it was my last school Prom."

Mrs Hatton





## Discovering Democracy Award

In May, Miss Taylor was invited to the Houses of Parliament to receive the Discovering Democracy Award on behalf of the school. The award is achieved by schools that have been encouraging students to have their say in society both within school and in the wider community. Events like our mock elections, ASPIRE lessons that focus on government and democracy, the work of the School Council as well as the community action based projects of the Youth Committee all helped the school to be one of only 19 in the country to have achieved the award so far. Gaining this award, which is sponsored by the cabinet office, is a great achievement for the school and we will remain committed to giving students opportunities for students to understand and become involved in the democratic process. Who knows, maybe somewhere is school right now is a future Prime Minister!



## Year 10 Careers Day



In May, Year 10 had an ASPIRE Day which was focused on life after Woodrush. During the day they had the opportunity to investigate the options open to them when they finish their GCSEs and look in more detail at what is offered by colleges, apprenticeship and traineeships. In the afternoon, we held a Careers Fair where year 10 students had the chance to speak to leading companies and employers as well as, universities, local colleges and the National Apprenticeship Service. It was a fantastic day and we are really grateful to everyone who gave up their time to come and speak to the students.

## Year 8 Futures Day

This has been an important term for Year 8 as they have been making decisions about their KS4 pathways. The day before the Pathways Parents' Evening Year 8 had a whole ASPIRE day which focused on the big decisions ahead of them. During the day they had chance to explore what they needed to study and why, as well how different subjects linked with further study and careers. They also had the time to reflect on who they were and the style of courses most suited to their learning style. It was fantastic to see year 8 taking the day so seriously and thinking really hard about the right ways to make their decision. Well done year 8 – I am sure that you are going to be really successful in your KS4 courses!

Pathway 1 - GCSE Core Pathway					
<b>Subjects you must study</b>	<b>You will Study the Core Curriculum of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths</li> <li>English &amp; English Literature</li> <li>Science (Or Science Triple Award)</li> <li>PE</li> <li>ICT</li> </ul>				
<b>Subjects you must choose</b>	<b>Students will study one Modern Foreign Language:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French or Spanish</li> </ul> <b>and choose one Humanities Subject:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geography or History</li> </ul>				
<b>Subject Preference Choices</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Subject A</th><th>Subject B</th></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art GCSE</li> <li>Business Studies GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Food and Nutrition GCSE</li> <li>Performing Arts BTEC (Dance Emphasis)</li> <li>PE GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</li> </ul> </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft Design VCE</li> <li>Drama GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Music GCSE</li> <li>Photography GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Sociology GCSE</li> <li>Sport BTEC</li> <li>Textiles GCSE</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	Subject A	Subject B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art GCSE</li> <li>Business Studies GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Food and Nutrition GCSE</li> <li>Performing Arts BTEC (Dance Emphasis)</li> <li>PE GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft Design VCE</li> <li>Drama GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Music GCSE</li> <li>Photography GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Sociology GCSE</li> <li>Sport BTEC</li> <li>Textiles GCSE</li> </ul>
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Pathway 2 - GCSE & Vocational Learning					
<b>Subjects you must study</b>	<b>You will Study the Core Curriculum of:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maths</li> <li>English &amp; English Literature</li> <li>Science (Or Science Triple Award)</li> <li>PE</li> <li>ICT</li> </ul> <b>Instead of following a Modern Foreign Language:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retail Business Level 1/2 Award</li> </ul>				
<b>Subjects you must choose</b>	<b>Students will study one Humanities Subject:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History or Geography</li> </ul>				
<b>Subject Preference Choices</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <th>Subject A</th><th>Subject B</th></tr> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art GCSE</li> <li>Business Studies GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Food and Nutrition GCSE</li> <li>Performing Arts Btec (Dance Emphasis)</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> </ul> </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft Design VCE</li> <li>Drama GCSE</li> <li>Music GCSE</li> <li>Photography GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Sociology GCSE</li> <li>Sport Btec</li> <li>Textiles</li> </ul> </td></tr> </table>	Subject A	Subject B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art GCSE</li> <li>Business Studies GCSE</li> <li>Film GCSE</li> <li>Food and Nutrition GCSE</li> <li>Performing Arts Btec (Dance Emphasis)</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Craft Design VCE</li> <li>Drama GCSE</li> <li>Music GCSE</li> <li>Photography GCSE</li> <li>Product Design GCSE</li> <li>Sociology GCSE</li> <li>Sport Btec</li> <li>Textiles</li> </ul>
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<small>Btec – Qualifications that offer an engaging introduction to life and work in a vocational sector.  VCE – Vocational Certificates – Vocational programs supporting an introduction to life and work in those vocational sectors</small>					





## Woodrush Mind, Body and Spirit Triathlon

In the last issue of the Star I told you about the School Council choosing Cancer Research as our chosen charity for the year. Last term year 7 took part in a £1 charity challenge and I am delighted to tell you that they managed to raise an incredible £3500! This term it was a chance for the rest of the school to get involved and we took part in something that we have called 'The Mind, Body and Spirit Triathlon'. The premise was

simple, there are three very different challenges that students could get involved in, either as groups or individuals.



**Mind** – a memory test where student had to remember all 50 US states, the first 50 elements of the Periodic table and all the football teams in the premiership and championship (huge congratulations to Rachel in 7E2 who actually managed to remember all 144 items on the list!)



**Body** – completing either a 2K or 5K run



**Spirit** – giving up something they care about for a week (e.g. their phone or social media)

In aid of



On a wet week in June the events took place with over two thirds of students taking part as well as many staff. As always we are really proud of the way that our students go above and beyond to support charity events and I look forward to telling you the final figure next year!



## EU Referendum – Woodrush has it's say!

On the 23rd of June, while the rest of the country were voting in the referendum about where or not Britain should remain part of the EU Woodrush held its own mock referendum of the same issue. In form time students looked at the arguments for and against and on Thursday all

students had the opportunity to vote. The votes were counted and Woodrush voted to Remain with 51% of the vote!



# Woodrush & The Big Read - Book Bench

As part of the 'Big Read 2016' students, staff and the general public have been voting on the designs for our 'Book Bench', which is due to go on display as part of the 'Book Bench Book Trail' in Birmingham from July 2016. The 'Big Read' aims to promote literacy and promote a love of reading through art. Alongside the 'Book Trail', the 'Big Read' will be complemented by a programme of activities around the displays to spark everybody's interest in reading and writing, such as; poetry slams, story-telling sessions, creative writing workshops and comic book illustration.

The English faculty, creative arts faculty and the library have been working together to narrow down the final designs after receiving numerous entries from Year 7 and Year 8 pupils – this proved very difficult as the standard of entries was exceptionally high.

With a range successful designs chosen, it was then down to Rebecca S 10L1 to combine these images into 6 final possible designs for the BookBench. These were then voted on by pupils, staff and the general public in the Hub, and the winning designs given to the production team.

After a successful round of applications, the art department then recruited a number of talented artists to the production team, who have worked alongside Year 12 and 13 BTEC art students to begin applying the chosen images. The production team have spent the last week drawing out and painting the bench, before its collection ready for display in its new, and as yet unknown, exhibition space.

We would like to thank all of the students who entered the design competition, the standard of entries was high and we were amazed with the variety of genres of books being read!

We would particularly like to thank the production team who have worked so hard to make our designs a reality – a huge thank you for your time, dedication and skill!

## Book Bench Production Team

Alicia W (Year 12) SF4  
Sophie S (Year 12) SF5  
Athanasios P (Year 13) SF3  
Rita T (Year 13) SF3  
Poppy W 8E2  
Rachel P 8E2  
Rosie B 8B1  
Polina S 8E1  
Eleanor H 8L1  
Shola L 8L1  
Daniel P 8C1  
Libbi-Mai H 7E1



# CREATIVITY



## The BTEC Solo Performance Concert

In July, Year 12 BTEC Music students hosted an evening of instrumental and vocal music. Musicians ranging from a pianist, guitarist and drummer to popular vocalists showcased their talents to an audience in the hall. As part of their BTEC course, students in Year 12 have each had to perform a 20 minute solo set to an audience, and as a result have developed their instrumental skills and confidence. In addition to these students, we had a number of other students from younger years also performing on stage which was a real treat. Thanks to all those who took part, an enjoyable and entertaining evening.



# Year 11 Drama Exam

On the 11th May our Year 11 drama students completed their final performance exam. Students were given a stimulus of WW1 and a play script taken from 'Oh What a Lovely War'. From this students created their own WW1 inspired performance pieces and performed them to a visiting examiner who graded their work. The pieces created were superb with some emotional and moving accounts of WW1 being showcased. The props, set and lighting choices brought the pieces to life and the examiners comments were extremely positive, well done!



## From Woodrush to Africa - Arts Award: Bronze



Reece S 7B1 and Yegor L 8E1 both completed the Skills Share challenge for their bronze level Arts Award this term.

To complete their Arts Award Bronze challenge, Yegor and Reece had to devise a workshop session where they would teach and share their artistic skills with Year 6 students from the Coppice. Reece came up with the initial idea for the workshop and Yegor devised the activities, and both students worked together to produce the teaching resources, PowerPoints and example materials.

As part of transition, 16 Year 6 students came into Woodrush and spent the day working with Reece and Yegor as they learnt about traditional and contemporary African artwork: skills taught included how to analyse a piece of artwork and identifying common features and patterns. Alongside this, Yegor and Reece also demonstrated a range of construction techniques, from working in 2D low relief to using collage materials and paint.



At the end of the workshop, each Coppice student received a certificate of recognition for their hard work and participation, and wrote a lovely note to say thank you for the opportunity to take part. Both boys really enjoyed their experience of teaching and Yegor commented that one of the hardest aspects was knowing what to say to the Year 6 students.

Arts Award Bronze is open to students in all years and is student led, so whether you are an illustrator, writer, animator, dancer, performer or games designer – the opportunity for you to learn new skills and share your experience is open to you. Speak to the Art Department for more information.

In February and April 58 pupils from years 7-10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate and Junior Mathematical Challenges. Between them they gained 3 Gold, 12 Silver and 11 Bronze certificates. Well done to Daniel T, Chris J, Alex B, Stephen B, Thomas B, Samantha V, Jack D, Will B and Matthew P in year 10, Hannah G and Sam C in year 9, Michael W, Rafaela M, Oliver H, Matthew H-P, Abby D, Jack M, Morgan H, Adam T and Robbie B in year 8, Katie F, Tom S, Alex C and Keira F in year 7, and an extra special well done to Alex W in year 9 not only achieved a Gold certificate but also qualified for the next round of the Intermediate Challenge.

## Goodbye Dr Gadd

I am so glad I made the move to teach at Woodrush just over two and a half years ago. I have been privileged to teach in a great department and with outstanding colleagues, and to teach great students. Woodrush has got to be one of the friendliest schools on the planet, I have appreciated working with all teaching and non-teaching staff. There is so much I will miss about Woodrush, but the journey by car is not one of them and so my move to a closer school is something to look forward to. Thank you again – I will take so much more than a mug with my name on in from Woodrush. God bless.

Dr Gadd



# WOODRUSH STAR

## Advertise with us

Distributed to over 1100 Woodrush students and their families, local primary schools and businesses in the local community.

Size	Normal Cost	First Advert Discount
1/8 A4	£25	£20
1/4 A4	£45	£36
1/2 A4	£80	£64
A4	£120	£96

For more information contact

C Hempson at [woodrushstar@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:woodrushstar@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk)





## Woodrush Teaching School Alliance

### NQT News

In May, Woodrush High School was awarded the prestigious NQT quality mark for our induction programme.

Congratulations to Sam Bullivant, the NQT Induction Tutor and ITT Lead for all of her fantastic work devising and supporting this programme. We also operate as an appropriate body for Newly Qualified Teachers and so if this is something you would like more information on, please contact the Teaching School.



### Initial Teacher Training - School Direct

This year the Alliance has co-ordinated School Direct training for Primary and Secondary places. You can read about our trainees' experiences here.

#### Charlotte - Primary

*"I have really enjoyed taking part in the School Direct course with Woodrush Teaching School as I feel it has prepared me for my career a lot more than a university based PGCE. I have spent a lot more time in school and feel like I am a member of the staff rather than a student teacher."*



*"Due to this, the children respond to me a lot better and I feel more comfortable in the teaching environment. I have received a large amount of support from my school especially during stressful times which has kept me on track and helped my progression as a teacher. One of the benefits of Woodrush Teaching School is that I have been able to gain advice from a wide range of teachers with varied experiences which has really helped my teaching."*

#### Becci - Secondary

*"Woodrush's Schools Direct Programme has given me the best start to teaching I could have hoped for. The structure of the course is designed to put trainees in the classroom from day one but not without very strong support from their regular class teacher. I took on my classes at a rate that I was comfortable with, taking on parts of lessons and gradually building up. The whole process was personally tailored to what I was ready for unlike other programmes that might be more didactic in their set up. When I have struggled I have had extra support; when I haven't felt challenged, I have been given more responsibility or targets to work towards."*



*The support I've had from the whole department has been incredible. Each teacher whose class I have taught has spent time working through the curriculum, lesson plans and lesson reflections with me. They have always been on hand to answer any questions and give support when needed as well as stepping back in lessons to give me the opportunity to develop my independence as a teacher. The teachers I work with and my subject mentor provide me with constructive feedback for each lesson and give practical advice on how to make the suggested improvements."*

*Having training each week rather than in one block provides the opportunity to learn about a particular topic and put it into practice over the week. Being in school, the training is very practical and applied. The sessions are varied to suit different learning styles and different topics. I have enjoyed the range of talks, presentations, discussions, tasks, observations and interviews. I particularly enjoyed a session on literacy in school in which I had the opportunity to work with a non-English specialist to advise her on how to bring literacy into her classroom. This gave us the opportunity to put into practice the theory we had learnt in the morning and I got the chance to actually experience the role of a literacy co-ordinator."*

*To anyone looking to begin their teaching training, I would recommend Woodrush Teaching School Alliance without any hesitation."*

We will be recruiting trainees for 2017-2018 in both Primary and Secondary programmes with The University of Worcester and The University of Birmingham. We are always looking for more schools to work in partnership with us to host trainees for their placements. Please do contact the Teaching School for further information about this. always looking for more schools to work in partnership with us to host trainees for their placements. Please do contact the Teaching School for further information about this.



## Scratch Club

Scratch Club started in the spring term with a strong turnout. Students took part in challenges and created exciting games which were engaging and entertaining. Well done to the following students for taking part and winning various game design contests: Alex C, Oliver H, Alex W, Luke D, and David B.



## Coding Club

Following on from the success of Scratch Club, Woodrush combined forces with Coppice students to take part in Coding Club. They began learning HTML basics and investigating what makes up a webpage. The following session they explored programming with BBC's Micro:Bits. Some students even managed to incorporate code which utilised the accelerometer feature on the mini computers. The students worked fantastically and showed real resilience and initiative. They truly are an asset to their schools. I would like to say a big thank you to Coppice students for joining us and Woodrush Coding Ambassadors for your assistance.

Coding Ambassadors: Alex C 7C1, Oliver H 8E2, Luke D 8L1 and David B 8B1.

Miss Choudhury

## Enterprise

This year the business studies students and the wider school community experienced some exciting, challenging and rewarding opportunities. We started the first term with the Tycoons in school challenge. For this competition some of our budding entrepreneurs successfully pitched for hundreds of pounds from Dragons' Den millionaire, Peter Jones to start their own businesses. The students got their first enterprise opportunities after their application for thousands of pounds for business start-up loan from the Peter Jones Foundation Business Tycoon in Schools initiative was accepted. They traded a range of products including; personalised mugs, mason jars, gift hampers and golf merchandise in time for Christmas and were very successful.

During the spring term the Year 9 business studies students took part in the Tenner Challenge. They had to pitch their business ideas 'Dragons Den' style to the unforgiving sixth formers for their share of money to take part in the Young Enterprise Tenner Challenge. The challenge took place from 22nd February – 18th March 2016. Along with setting up and running their business the students had the opportunity to take part in weekly national competitions. The initiative was aimed at enabling students to develop additional skills and personal qualities to enhance their academic achievement and prepare them for further education or the world of work. Even though they found the tasks challenging and often time consuming they worked extremely hard and yielded some excellent results.

## Work Experience

During the year our sixth form students went to Barclays bank for one week's work experience. They performed extremely well. We have received very positive feedback from the bank managers who are happy to host more of our students in the future. In fact they were so pleased that one of our students has been offered a job. The students' feedback also stated how impressed they were with their placements and felt the placements have helped them to

be more prepared as they progress to university. Later in the term our current sixth formers will also attend a range of work experience placements. These have been selected to give our students access to the advice, support and opportunities they need to get ready for the world of work and life beyond Woodrush. They aim to improve the employment prospects of students through educational resources, workshops and work experience but it will also support future UCAS applications in the same manner.

Work experience is an important part of our curriculum and is seen as a crucial component of the school's ASPIRE Programme. It is primarily an opportunity to find out about the practical reality and discipline of going to work but also to develop invaluable wider life skills and an understanding of the demanding and independent nature of 'real life'.





## Taking Creative Risks in Product Design

It has been a great term to see the culmination of all the hard work of the Year 11 GCSE coming together for their controlled assessment coursework projects. The detailed design work and final outcomes are extremely innovative and demonstrate great flair and the creativity of the young designers.

Here are just a few examples of the practical work. We are extremely proud of the pupils efforts!



Work by; 1.Luke B, 2. Leah M, 3. Vinnie B 4.Harry D  
5.Bethany S 6.Aman S. 7.Jack M 8.Michael W



# Design Technology

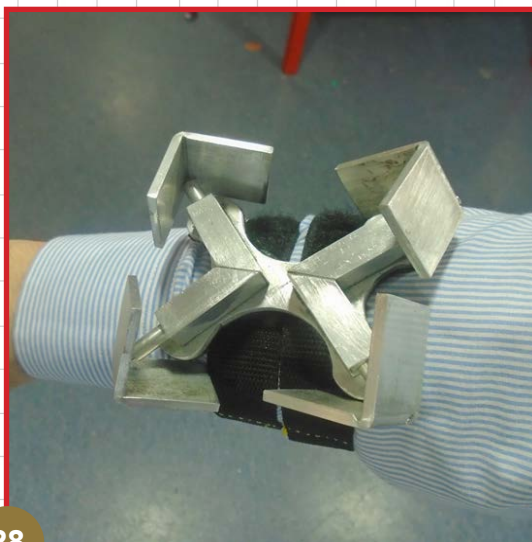
## Precision and quality in the engineering classes

With the importance of completing their Controlled Assessment work before the end of the summer term our current Year 10 Product Design and Engineering pupils are working tirelessly to emulate those from this year's GCSE pupils in year 11. Keep up the great start made!



## Year 12 Product Design—Pushing the Boundaries

The Product Designers in Year 12 were given the challenge of creating an innovative and functional product which was designed to be ergonomically efficient as possible. The devices should hold a smart piece of technology such as a mobile phone or GPS system. Mark B, Callum P and Callum D all produced outstanding final pieces of work (which fully met the design briefs and are shown below).





## A world of opportunities with Product Design and Engineering



Such is the importance, the diversity of this subject and potential career opportunities of this branch of design and technology many of the pupils currently studying the subject at Key Stage 3 and GCSE have asked about the potential of carrying on the study for Year 12/13 and beyond to university with many expressing interest of becoming engineers, designers and even teachers of the subject!

The creative sector is such an important sector to UK prosperity that it is estimated in 2015 it contributed approximately £8.8million an hour to the country's economy and accounted for 1.7 million jobs in 2013, 5.6% of UK jobs. This includes careers such as architects, product designers. It is estimated with a resurgence in the engineering sector that engineering businesses have the potential to contribute an extra £27 billion to the UK economy every year in the future - a massive area for growth.

Many of the successful designers of this age, Jonathan Ive (designer of the Apple range of products), James Dyson (designer of the Dyson Products), Zaha Hadid (world famous architect) have a passion for the subject which was developed at school so it is great to see and hear that so many of our pupils share this same drive, determination and love for the subject!



Year 8 pupils Mark Jand Faye S creating a bridge structure in their product design lesson



### Product Design and Engineering visit to Jaguar/LandRover plant at Solihull

The pupils had a fantastic experience as they went on a visit to the Jaguar/LandRover manufacturing plant at Solihull. The visit was very insightful with the pupils gaining so much information from the morning and a lot of the pupils are enthused to go forward to apply for apprenticeships/degree courses in engineering and design after their A Levels now!





## Athletics

This year students have had the opportunity to participate in athletics club on most Wednesdays and have been well attended.



### Athletics Events

11th May 2016 Redditch District Trials at the Abbey Stadium.

The following students were selected for the Redditch District Athletics Trials

Y7 Cameron C, Oliver D, Sam F, Megan M and Alisha G

Y8 Hayden P, Jacob S, Jacob A, Lewis E, Holly T and Amber D-D

Y9 Elliott R, Lewis M, Lucy H

Y10 Morgan G, Morgan T, Chris M, Ben F, Will B, Lucy F and Emma D

Congratulations to Woodrush's 1st place medallists!!

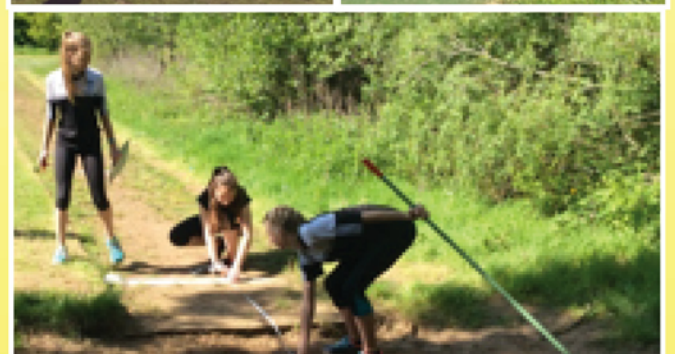
Boys: Jacob A (300m), Elliott R (Long Jump), Lewis M (300m) and Will B (Triple Jump & 200m)

### 24th May Redditch District Y7&8 and Y9 Super six competitions:

Unfortunately, this was a rescheduled competition and Woodrush were not able to send full teams. Despite this those who competed performed admirably. The Y7 & 8 Woodrush team finished in 5th position and the Y9 team finished in 3rd position.

## 16th May Coppice and Meadow Green Primary school trials at Woodrush High School.

Woodrush hosted the Coppice and Meadow Green athletics trials for the Redditch District athletics competition. The trials were well attended by both primary schools and officiated by Woodrush students. the Y9 team finished in 3rd position.



## Year 8 Rounders team crowned district champions!

On Wednesday 25th May the year 8 rounders team competed in the district league tournament held at Woodrush. The team consisting of the following players; Katie A (captain), Brooke M, Abby D, Amy C, Hannah L, Katie Arm, Abby C, Becky E, Evie W and Holly T were excellent ambassadors for the school, winning gold through defeat of Church Hill in the final match 4 ½ - 2 ½.

The team demonstrated sportsmanship, determination and resilience, winning two matches and losing one in the group stages to progress onto the semi-final with Church Hill;



## Gymnastics Success

Milano Team National Final 11th March 2016

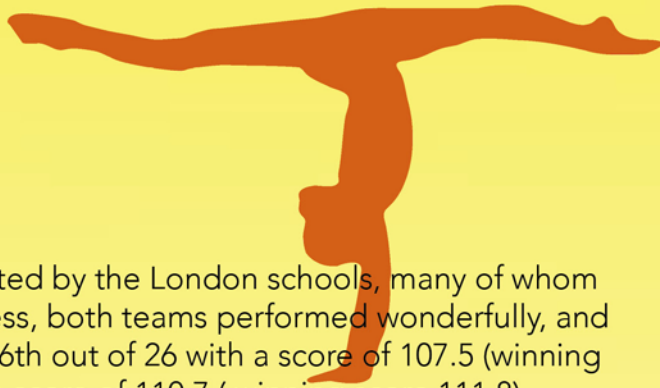
Girls Team:- Alice H, Jazz L, Chloe W

Mixed Team:- Amber D-D, Holly T, Ben L

An amazing day, but as always the national final is dominated by the London schools, many of whom have huge budgets and ex Olympian coaches. Nevertheless, both teams performed wonderfully, and we were immensely proud of them. The girls team came 16th out of 26 with a score of 107.5 (winning score 112.6) and the mixed team came 4th out of 17 with a score of 110.7 (winning score 111.8)

The Woodrush pupils also represented Wythall Gym in the George Finney Floor & Vault competition on the 13th March 2016, with fantastic results. In the advanced 15 and under category the girls team took the gold medal; Jazz L, Chloe W, Laura C. In the advanced 15 and under individual category:- Holly T took the silver. In the advanced 16 and over individual category:- Alice H took the silver

Wythall Gym also won the George Finney trophy for the highest overall score of the day. Another fantastic performance all round.



## Archery

With the Woodrush Olympic Carnival taking place in June, it is apt to acknowledge some Olympic related success of our Woodrush students. In 2013 Jack M, inspired by the 2012 Olympics took up archery at Redhill Archers. Finding a real passion for the sport and continuing to dedicate himself on a weekly basis Jack practiced and competed on a regular basis, performing well in competitions. From Jack's dedication and strong competitive performance he was able to land himself a Worcester Archery Association County Trial on April 10th 2016. Attending this trial and performing to an extremely high standard not only meant Jack was selected to be part of the County squad, but also has recently taken part in his first county match against Gloucestershire on May 8th 2016 (photo below). Well Done Jack a fantastic achievement and we hope your success continues.



Team vs Woodrush	Score	Result
Church Hill	2 ½ - 2	W
Ridgeway	2 ½ - 3	L
Walkwood	6 - 1	W

They then went on to win their semi-final;

Team vs Woodrush	Score	Result
St Bedes	5 ½ - 3	W

And then the final!

Player of the tournament goes to captain Katie A for her one handed catches and rounders

scored alongside her first debut as a team captain. Special mentions must go out to our year 7 players Amy C and Hannah L who have not played with the year 8 team before. They worked extremely hard to add to the team dynamics and they are now valued members of the year 8 squad.

Thank you to all student volunteers who ran the tournament including Emma D, Becky S, Jazz L, Alice L, Darcy S, Hannah G and Sydney B. It couldn't have run without you!

Will the year 7 team follow in their footsteps for the up and coming district tournament?!





# Woodrush Community Hub

Gym | Café | Library | Conferencing | Youth



Woodrush Community Hub, Sport & Leisure Centre is the perfect place to meet up, have fun, spend time with family.

## RUSH ACTIVE GYM

Membership includes; Les Mills classes in the studio, and full use of the stunning new Technogym kit – each member gets a personal 6 week programme, and our Personal Trainers can take you to the next level with training packages designed just for you.

Challenge your friends, get fit and hit your health goals – all within our stunning new building.



**LES MILLS**  
FOR A FITTER PLANET

**TECHNOGYM**

New space. New gym. New you.



## Café

Eat In Take Out Relax

Unwind and relax in our onsite Hub Café and Library – also perfect for spending time with family and friends!



Your local Café  
All welcome

Opening Times:

Monday – Thursday 8:00am – 7:00pm  
Friday 8:00am – 5:30pm  
Saturday 9:00am – 5:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am – 12:00pm

Café Events & Activities

Soft Play  
Childrens Activities  
Baby & Toddler Groups

Check the website for details!



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We often use pictures, names and videos of 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 students' 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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