



WOODRUSHSTAR

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



Ofsted Outstanding 2013 | 2014



PG 11
TIME TO
REFLECT



PG 14
JUMPING
FOR
CHARITY



PG 27
SPOTLIGHT
ON STAFF



Dear Parents and Carers

The autumn term as always seems to have flown by with so much having been achieved and experienced by our students since they all returned from the summer holidays in September. We started the term celebrating excellent examinations results from all our students who sat tests in the summer and we came back to enjoy the enhanced facilities we had after another summer refurbishment programme.

Our students have continued to make excellent progress this term towards their targets and again participated and enjoyed a huge range of additional activities, all of which help them develop the skills and qualities they need ultimately to be successful in an ever competitive employment market. There are too many experiences and successes to single out one but our visit from Ofsted this term to conduct a whole school inspection and our outstanding result in that inspection is a reflection of the quality and work that all our students do day in day out. Not only that but of course it's a reflection on the support you provide us as parents and carers and of course on the hard work and commitment of all our staff.

We hope you enjoy reading our second 'Woodrush Star' of the academic year and reading about some of our activities. Can I remind you all that school opens as normal for all students on Tuesday 7th January for the first day of the spring term although a reminder that both year 11 and year 13 students are returning to take mock examinations in preparation for final tests later in the year. From us at Woodrush we wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Mr C King Headteacher



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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 cost of school trips. By claiming 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



White Ribbon Campaign

I was fortunate to be invited to attend the annual 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence launch at Worcester University. This is a global initiative dedicated to ending gender-based violence and it runs from November 25th to December 10th with many towns and cities organising special events to help highlight the campaign. The initiative has been running since 1991 and in this time it has seen over 5,167 organisations in 187 countries participate. The whole point of the campaign is to raise awareness about domestic violence, to support and strengthen local work around violence against women, to develop and share knowledge and strategies and most of all demonstrating solidarity around the world. The launch was led and organised by Ruth Jones who is a lecturer at the university and has recently been named as a 'Women Inspiring Europe' for her work in the field of domestic abuse.

On entry we were handed a white ribbon to wear which is the campaigns visual symbol of commitment to end domestic abuse. It was introduced by men in Canada in 1991 after the massacre of 14 women in Montreal by one man; it was worn by men to urge other men to speak out against violence against women. One of the guest speakers Martin Lakeman from the Worcestershire Forum Against Domestic and Sexual Violence announced that there has been an app launched called 'Respect Not Fear'. It has been designed for young people and they can find what constitutes both healthy and unhealthy relationships, where they can access help and support and information on how to prevent domestic abuse. The app is available for the iphone, ipod touch and ipad or you can access on the website. The hope is that those experiencing unhealthy relationships will feel they are able to come forward and ask for help.

As most of you know I have campaigned for many years in the fight to end domestic abuse and through PSHE I am helping to teach students how to have a healthy relationship and that both parties deserve to be respected equally no matter what gender they are. If you feel you have been affected or are currently experiencing domestic abuse there is no need to suffer in silence and there are plenty of ways to seek support. You can visit the Women's Aid website and use their Hideout section which has been specially designed for young people.

Remember domestic abuse can be incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between adults regardless of gender of sexually and it is counted as domestic abuse - whether it is psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional.

Mrs Peters



A meeting with Prince Edward

I am a Lance Corporal (L/Cpl) for the army cadets and 6 of us were chosen to join the TA to meet Prince Edward. He came to Birmingham to meet the wounded soldiers that have been out in Afghanistan. He then came to visit and meet with us for a quiet lunch and to see what we did at the unit. My role was to open the car door with a salute and to greet the Prince. We found him very friendly and easy to talk to.

We were also invited to go to the Arboretum in Staffordshire for a memorial on the Sunday in the presence of the Duke of Kent.

Luke H, 11C1



Welcome!

We would like to welcome another Woodrush baby, this time to one of our male members of staff. Mr Moss became a proud father to Erin Una Moss, who was born on October 24th weighing 6lb 4oz. Mr Moss says "She has blue eyes and cute as a button and loves cuddles from her Dad."

Many congratulations from us all at Woodrush High School



Learning to research – a skill for life

On Monday 21st October our Sixth Form EPQ students (those taking the Extended Project Qualification as part of their course programme at Woodrush) were invited over to the HIVE library in Worcester for a 'research skills' morning. Arriving at the recently opened new Library (a joint venture between Worcester City Council and the University of Worcester) our sixthformers were shown to one of the Library's ICT suites, our base for the morning. Natasha Skeen, Community Liaison Librarian at The Hive, tutored us on the key elements of successful academic research, including how to use searches of books, journals and periodicals, how to recognise bias in publications and, crucially, how to use an approved system of referencing for completed academic writing.

The morning's visit was very successful. On returning the students found time to visit our own Library where Mrs. Robertson, our Librarian who'd accompanied the visit to Worcester, was able to explain how the research techniques discussed in the morning could be applied to information searches in school or in other libraries such as the newly opened Public Library in Birmingham. Hopefully, our EPQ students can now make great progress with their research and we look forward to reading some thought-provoking writing in the summer term. Their choices of titles and their research plans already look fascinating!



November 13

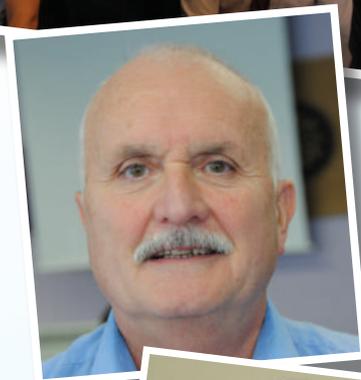
The 'Mo', slang for moustache, and November come together each year for Movember. Each Movember, the organisation challenges men to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache, and Woodrush staff stepped up to challenge again this year.

The moustache is their ribbon; much like the pink ribbon which represents breast cancer support. The 'tashes' are the men's more personal way in which they raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer. Mr Thewlis tells The Woodrush Star, "Much like the commitment to run or walk for charity, our commitment is to grow a moustache for 30 days." The idea for Movember was sparked in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia. The plan was simple – to bring the moustache back as a bit of a joke (no offense intended if you wear a moustache with pride throughout the year, as I'm sure it suits you), and support men's health. Inspired by the women around them and all they had done for breast cancer, the Mo Bros set themselves on a course to create a global men's health movement. The Movember moustache has grown year on year since then, expanding to the US, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, The Netherlands, Finland and the UK. In 2009, global participation of Movember grew to over one million donors, raising £26 Million! Now in 2013, there are official Movember campaigns in 21 countries and in 2012 over £92 million was raised

The funds raised through Movember's UK campaign benefit the The Prostate Cancer Charity (TPCC), the UK's leading prostate cancer charity.

The fantastically stubbly effort by participants Mr Moss, Mr Mitchell, Mr Castle, Mr Virdee, Mr Day, Mr T Baker, Mr Thewlis (amazing effort this year), Mr Ellis, Mr Rogers, Mr Paget, Mr Seadon, Mr Hodgetts & outside influence from Mr Bishop (Mrs Bishop's husband) have managed to raise £302 to date, with £110 of that being collected on the playground in 1p and 2p coins.

Well done to you all for raising awareness and funds for a fantastic cause.



LANCHESTER REWARD DAY OUT!!



Our reward day has been a long time coming. We were the first House Champions back in 2005/06, however this accolade had alluded us up until 2012/13 when we finally became champions again.

Lanchester Lions were more determined than ever to gain the title again. Students and staff worked as a fantastic team throughout the year winning so many competitions, that the final house points showed a massive 150 point lead ahead of rivals Brindley and 200 points ahead of Cadbury.

Drayton Manor Park was our reward. Mr Mitchell and I were very proud to take everyone that helped us win out for the day. The weather at times was absolutely dreadful but at no point did it dampen our spirits. The park was relatively empty; therefore all students experienced the thrill of the rides over and over again. My budding 'David Bailey' aka Mr Mitchell was our photographer for the day, Lanchester staff also enjoyed the rides. I was noticeably impressed with the bravery of Mrs Hatton, Mrs Morton and Miss Duncan by their choice of riding on the scariest of rides like Maelstrom, G-Force etc. However I must confess that Mr Cannon and I did not display the same amount of bravery, Ben 10 nearly finished us off.

The sun did shine for us towards the end of the day; it was a great end to a great day. Students behaved impeccably throughout and we are all looking forward to hopefully doing it all over again next year.



GO LANCHESTER!!!!

The building work progresses

The Coppice has attracted a great deal of funding from the government over the last year or so (nearly two million pounds) for refurbishment and building projects. We have had a brand new roof, new drainage, new boilers, a brand new classroom constructed within the school as well as a brand new standalone state of the art infant block and hall with its own playground being built (to be finished April 2014). Just as being next door neighbours to Woodrush enables the best transition possible for our children, this new block will enable our younger children to integrate better into school when they

start, and so should be a fantastic addition.

We have been active in managing pedestrian and vehicular traffic that has been affected by our build work, and have had some very good feedback regarding our pro-activeness here. We are lucky that we have so many people on our governing body who are well connected within the community, being either local councillors or people with strong connections with the council (Mark Bullivant, Jill Dyer, Geoff Denaro, Pat Harrison, Max Field). This has certainly made a difference, and resulted in some of the traffic control changes immediate to the school which has made a difference to the safety of families walking to school.



Most recently we have explored the possibility of access to Forest Way from the main school playground, to create a second permanent access point at the back of the school, which would assist the flow of things, and certainly help whilst all of this build work is going on.



Children in Need 15th November

On Friday 15th November the students of Woodrush High School had a non-uniform day in order to raise money for this year's Children in Need Appeal. Some of our students came dressed in yellow and some students wore fancy dress. Several Year 7s were sponsored to be tied together for the day, cakes were sold at lunchtime and in the afternoon the Sixth Form put on a Fashion show for Year 7.

Our Charity Committee also sold Pudsey Bear wrist Bands and Pudsey Bear key rings during the week. Our final total for Children in Need this year was £1400 so a big thank you to all the students that took part.

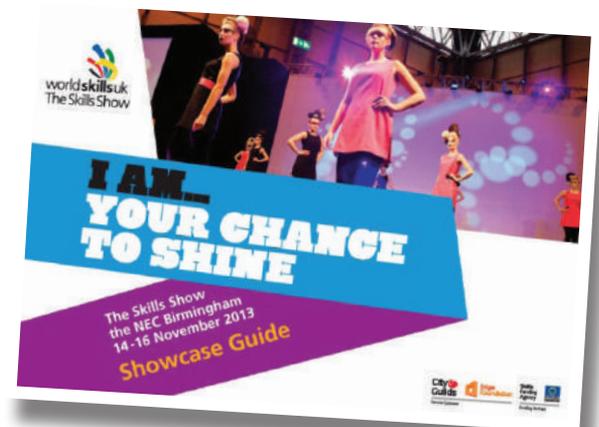
Mrs Hatton



The Skills Show 2013- Woodrush students look to the future!

On Thursday 14th November a group of Woodrush Year 11 and Year 13 students visited the UK's biggest Skills Show at the NEC, near Solihull. With an opportunity to be part of Britain's largest skills and careers event, The Skills Show was an amazing showcase of apprenticeship and vocational opportunities that will have inspired our students to look at potential careers for the future - such as being patisserie chefs, fashion designers, web developers or building engineers. The Skills Show highlighted all sorts of exciting opportunities in further education, skills and apprenticeships. There was lots going on at the show and plenty for all of us to get involved with - for example a visit to the interactive 'Have a Go's' section, which offered visitors the chance to try a 'bite-size' taster of a new skill, trade or profession. Students also spent time speaking to colleges, universities and learning providers from across the UK, about the different entry routes into a host of career sectors!

We came away brimming with ideas about different possibilities for future careers, training and apprenticeships and also thoughts about the routes that students might want to consider after their A levels or BTEC courses. Plenty of opportunities to think about in the months ahead!





The Diana Award Anti Bullying Ambassador Programme

In October I took two year 10 students, Chloe and Grace, to Coventry for an anti-bullying training day. We were joined by quite a few other young people from secondary schools as well as some primary schools from across the region. During the day we were able to network with other passionate young people, exchange ideas and share good practice and to receive top tips on how to stop bullying. The aim of the day was to make sure we left as trained Ambassadors with an action plan to prevent bullying in our school and to enable us to ensure all students feel safe and happy at Woodrush.

The event gave us a greater understanding of the issues of bullying; facts, effects, definition and importance. This was achieved through hands on activities, exploration of scenarios we may come across as ambassadors and watching video clips which really brought alive what it means to be bullied in school.

Following on from our training day we have come up with some ideas we are going to implement in school;

- **To train other students in school so we have a few more ambassadors in the team**
- **Hold a drop in service on Tuesday and Thursdays at the Youth Centre**
- **Complete some workshops with primary schools**
- **Get students involved in designing posters and signs to help put an end to bullying**

If you are interested in finding out more on how you can help out then visit Chloe or Grace at the drop ins at the **Youth Centre**.

If we all stand together we can beat the bullies.

Websites for support: The Hideout, This is Abuse, NSPCC and Barnardo's.

Mrs Peters



Students Health and Wellbeing

Every Wednesday lunch time we offer our students the opportunity to visit our School Health Nurse between 1.15 until 1.45 in the Orangery for drop in sessions.

The students can discuss a range of topics with her including:

- General concerns about their health**
- Discuss any fears they are worried about in school and outside of school**
- Advice about bullying**
- Drugs/alcohol advice**
- Strategies to help quit smoking**
- Support and advice regarding stress and anxiety**
- Provide personalised interventions**
- Sign posting to other agencies that can offer support**

The School Health Nurse provides an essential link between school, home and community that promotes the safeguarding and wellbeing of our student.

If you would like to speak with our School Nurse or arrange an appointment to see her to discuss your child then please contact Mrs Peters who can arrange that for you on 01564 823777 Ex 7302 or email at jpeters@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk





WOODRUSH

James, who has just started his Gold, has a special story to tell..



A Piece of DofE History

Thursday 10th October was an incredible day to say the least. It was a day 55 years in the making, as my Granddad, Tony Mullins was the first person to ever achieve the Golden Duke of Edinburgh Award and was part of the first group of people to go down to Buckingham Palace and collect the award in 1958. Then fast forward 25 years, and my mum, Karen Watson, made it the first Father-Daughter combination in 1983, which was an incredible feat, and now, another 30 years on, the pressure is on for me to achieve my Gold Award as well and be part of the first family to achieve the Award over three generations. We arrived at St. James' Palace, where

the award ceremonies now take place, to be greeted by award organisers and Palace tour guides who took us through some of the rooms in the Palace.

The tour was followed by photos and the signing of the certificate which praises the Duke on helping the Award reach its 500th Presentation. The photos consisted of people holding boards which had the decade in which they achieved their award written on them. My Granddad was the 1950s, the very start of the award, with people from every decade up to now, including my Mum who was the 1980s, and I held a board saying "The Future". Representing the 2000s was double gold medal

winning Paralympic champion Hannah Cockroft MBE, who was an incredible person to talk to. The day ended with us meeting with Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh himself. He was in great spirits and while in conversation with him after our photos, he joked that year on year, the award costs more money to run and that this year alone cost £8 million, which goes to show that it takes the help from dedicated volunteers, including Miss Houston and Miss Rigley, to keep the award running year after year. If it was not for people like them, we would not have such an award scheme as incredible as this.
James, 6th Form

DofE News

Volunteering Physical Skills Expedition Residential

DofE participants are now all enrolled with the Award and have all made a start on completing their Volunteering, Skills and Physical activities in addition to starting their expedition training in preparation for the summer.

Bronze:

This year Woodrush currently has 43 pupils working towards the Bronze award. They have started their expedition training, looking at the importance of the Country Code and various safety aspects required for them to be able to go out on expedition later in the year. Most of the Bronze's are now starting their other sections after researching what is required for each activity and finding suitable places to accommodate them.

Gold:

This year, for the first time, Woodrush has two groups taking on the ultimate challenge of the Gold award. Twelve pupils have decided to take on the challenge after successfully completing what was a very tough Silver award last year. In preparation for their expeditions they have been evaluating their food and kit from Silver and have been looking at slightly more technical map reading skills. At Gold they also have to complete a week long residential project which

they are all looking at sorting out for one of their half term holidays – what a great commitment they are making!

So far this year pupils have been completing a variety of activities for each section of the award including;

Volunteering: Helping at scouts and guide groups, coaching a variety of sports, helping at primary school clubs, volunteering at charity shops, assisting in local libraries, getting involved with animal welfare and working with youngsters with learning difficulties.

Skills: Learning musical instruments, cooking, photography, creative writing, bee-keeping, knitting, go-karting, crocheting, acting and driving.

Physical: Football, netball, dance, gymnastics, badminton, horse riding, pilates, swimming, rugby, tennis and martial arts.



Woodrush Youth and Community were invited to take part in the County wide event 'Take over Day' organised by Maggie Atkinson (Children's Commissioner for England).

The aim of the day was to enhance young people's understanding of working within the NHS and to gain the skills and knowledge required to make decisions at a management level. The day began with professionals providing information about the NHS and their roles. This then lead onto a mock emergency planning event to understand the course of action taken for a motorway crash fire and the development of this situation.

The day concluded us feeding back our ideas and thoughts to Senior Management on how the NHS services can be more 'Young People friendly. For apprenticeship opportunities with the NHS visit the main website.

Heidi

Youth Management Chair Person



Youth Management Team and Youth Committee Weekend Away!

Previously the Management Team and Youth Committee (20 young people) went away for the weekend to Top Barn Activity Centre. The aim was to improve our team work to ensure we were productive in planning, assisting in the running of the Youth and Community Centre on an evening and being able to work together in thinking of new ideas for the young people. Some activities we had the opportunity to participate in included, rifle shooting, zip wire, wind surfing, kayaking and raft

building as well as the mud slide and a camp fire! The weekend away was fun and challenging for all who attended and also a great reward for all the hard work the members regularly put in. "The young people really matured over this weekend and gained a better understanding of communication, leadership and problem solving. They are now planning a weekend away for members of the Youth Centre" Kay Parker – Centre Manager.

Youth speaks:

Every year local rotary clubs host the prestigious Ribi Youth Speaks competitions for local schools. Each school is given the opportunity to enter two teams consisting of 3 participants, the first an intermediate group and the second a senior team. Each group are invited to propose a speech on a prevalent issue in society; introduced by a chairperson, given by a spokesperson and are then addressed by the giver of a vote of thanks.

Due to the amount of competitors for the senior trials the intermediates (Toby, Joe and Nathan) speech has been postponed, but we look forward to attending their event after Christmas. So, after deciding on a topic of stereotypes and the title 'the meaning of wife' myself, Nicola and Ollie set to work perfecting our speeches and rehearsing. As the day approached the performance came together and even impressed the English department who were astounded by Ollie's eloquent points. On the night of the 18th November we



Youth Board

Recently Woodrush Youth and Community were asked to be involved in the NHS Youth Board to enhance the decisions and voices that young people have within this important organisation. We have now had 3 meetings as part of this and at our last meeting we discussed the roles of the Board, future planning ideas and agenda topics. It was decided that we would be part of the development of a new NHS website designed for young people and will cover a range of health issues that young people face in today's society.

The group also decided that a member of Woodrush Youth and Community is going to chair the next meeting. In addition we have been invited to be part of a Mental Health subgroup to give us a wider insight into the roles of the NHS. If you are interested in joining the NHS Youth Board email youthcommunity@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk or call the Youth Centre on 01564 820098.

Farm update:

As the winter fast approaches the community farm team are planning even more exciting community projects as well as taking care of all of the animals, including our new rescue rabbit who's tricks include sit, lie down and roll over!

After Christmas our new farm club will welcome some rather eager year 7s and hope to help teach them about animal care, enterprise and community. We are also looking forward to some new arrivals to our animal family and inviting some local primary schools to come and help us with some art projects.





Family Cooking Together

Year 7s Show mums and dads how to cook Woodrush style!
 On Thursday 7th November a group of around 40 year 7 students and parents descended upon the cookery department for a couple of hours of culinary magic at Woodrush.
 The youth centres 'National treasure' (at least in our community anyway!) and leader Kay Parker took the demo stage and instructed the teams, consisting of the parent and their child, to make a delicious sausage plait followed by creative cupcakes.
 Amongst the excitement of parents being on their kids patch, the young people worked with their parents to chop, mix, roll and bake to perfection.
 The members of the Woodrush youth committee (a big thank you to Chloe, Heidi, Ryan, the rest of the team) and other staff members were on hand to wash up, clean down, make drinks and chat with families while they worked in a fun and relaxed environment.
 Great feedback was given to the team by the parents and children alike. Thank you to all who came and all who helped on the night. Photos of the fun evening should be available on the website to browse soon. We hope to do a Christmas Special in a few weeks so please enquire if you would like to come to another one soon.

sparker@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



**KEEP CALM
AND
ENHANCE YOUR**

EMPLOYABILITY

- Week 1** Making the most out of YOU!
- Week 2** The Application Process
- Week 3** The Interview
- Week 4** Sustainability & the Workplace

What do I really want to do as a career?

How can I stand out from the crowd?

Woodrush Youth and Community Centre
 Thursday Evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm
 Contact Sue Bromwich-Lee at sbromwich@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Woodrush High School Secures £113,670 of funding towards the refurbishment of their Artificial Grass Pitch.

The £187,340 project has been funded through a £93,670 contribution from Sport England as part of their Olympic Legacy Inspired Facility Fund, a £20,000 contribution from The National Hockey Foundation and £73,670 from Woodrush High School.
 The 18 year old pitch which offers over 950 young people and approximately 49 community groups and clubs the opportunity to play sport was in desperate need of a refurbishment as it was becoming uneconomical to run and was at high risk of closure due to the poor conditions.
 As an Academy School offering the only Sports Centre within the local catchment area Woodrush Sport Centre is an essential service provider to not only

existing sports participants but also to those attempting to engage back into or start up a new sport. "We not only value our wider community links but consider them essential to our wider School provision." Mr C King (Headteacher)
 This project delivered by Nottsports and S&C Slatters was also supported by Sports Partnership Herefordshire & Worcestershire, Birmingham Sport and Physical Activity Partnership, Bromsgrove/Redditch District Sports Partnership and many club and user groups at Woodrush.

Miss Parker
 Director of Youth and Community Provision



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

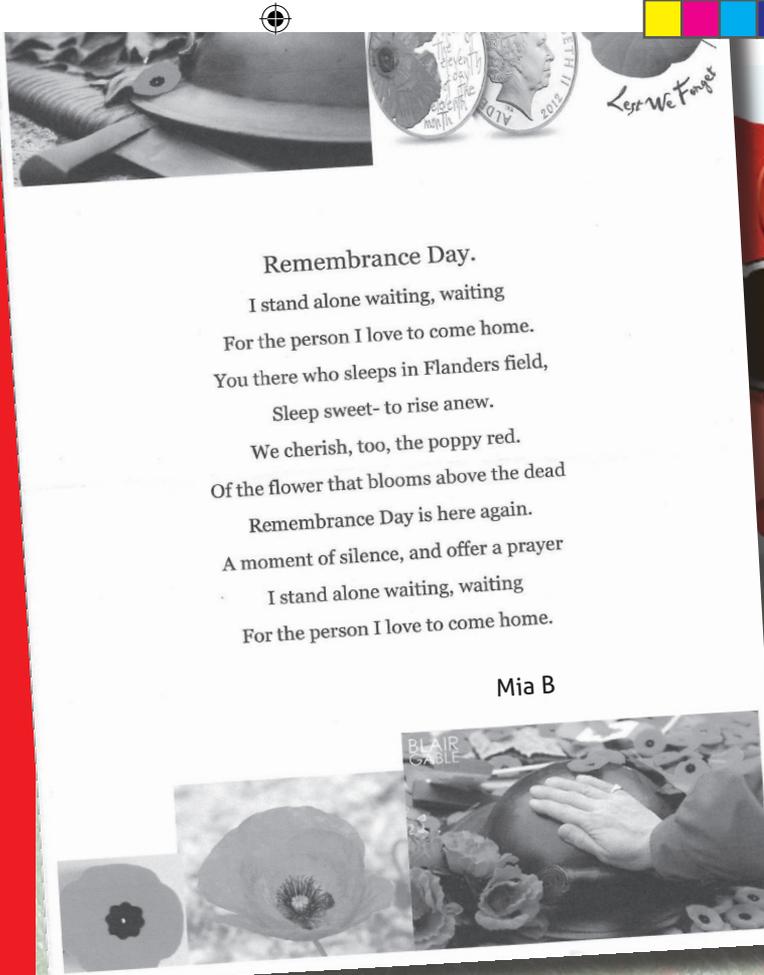
On the bitter cold morning of Sunday 10th November Woodrush students and members of the Woodrush Youth and Community centres committee and management team gathered at the Wythall Royal British legion to represent and pay their respects at the Remembrance Day march.

The morning began with a service conducted by Reverend Richard Burley. Winners of a poetry competition - Mia (winner), Sam (second place) and James (third place) - were presented with medals and a plaque for the school before Mia's moving Remembrance Day poem was read out. "It was quite emotional," remarked some of the students present.

Members of the youth committee and management team (Heidi, Ollie, Chloe, Lauren, Becky and ex-student Ryan) then marched alongside other community organisations within the local area. The march took place from the British Legion, along a small section of the Alcester Road and came to an end at the cenotaph where a crowd was gathered to watch the laying of the wreath (brilliantly done by Ryan who was our representative), two minutes silence and the singing of hymns. There was a great turnout to watch the procession and follow it back to the legion accompanied by a traditional marching band. Woodrush students, as usual, were a credit to the school and made a great impression to the members of the community that attended.



Back row from left : Counsellor Mark Bullivant, Martin Ward, Norman Langley
Front row from left: Sam, James, Mia



Remembrance Day.
I stand alone waiting, waiting
For the person I love to come home.
You there who sleeps in Flanders field,
Sleep sweet- to rise anew.
We cherish, too, the poppy red.
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
Remembrance Day is here again.
A moment of silence, and offer a prayer
I stand alone waiting, waiting
For the person I love to come home.

Mia B

Remembrance Day Poem by Sam C

Soldiers dying, falling to the floor,
Families mourning more and more,
Soldiers dying in the field,
Fighting on, they shall not yield.

Poor conditions in the trenches,
Sitting on old and tatty benches,
Soldiers dying in the field,
Fighting on, they shall not yield.

Machine gun fire Tat Tat Tat,
Soldiers retreating Back Back Back,
Soldiers dying in the field,
Fighting on, they shall not yield.

Thanks to them we are free,
To live our lives happily,
Soldiers were dying, but they did not yield.

War Ceremony by James F

Gunfire, blitz, horrid bombs and gas,
the deathly sound of splintering glass.
Endlessly hiding from enemy danger,
part of an army, no-one's stranger.
Lock and loading, ordering troops
Firing together, forming groups
Your stronghold, your courage, not unpraised
We thank you truly, our hearts raised.

For we all know you served us well,
Our hearts sink as a lot of you fell.
You protected the great nation we love,
Even though the clouds brought
darkness from above
Engulfing everything, words of terror
Defending for us, strong as ever
Will you leave us? The answer is never.





Our first term in the Sixth Form

Some of our new Year 12 students share their views.

Jack

Studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

Louise

Studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Spanish.

Lauren

Studying Biology, Chemistry, English Language and Literature and Spanish.

Matthew

Studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics.

Why have you decided to continue your post-16 studies at Woodrush Sixth Form?

I know the teachers, the school is familiar to me and I knew that I would get great support.

It's a nice tight knit community. My friends are also here and it's really supportive.

Teachers know my strengths and weaknesses and know how to get the best out of me. I also know that the Sixth Form here is good and improving all the time.

From studying my GCSEs, I know that the Science department here is really good and this played a big part in my decision to stay on in the Sixth Form.

How have you settled in the Sixth Form?

Well. Everyone is friendly and the Year 13's have been really welcoming. There are also lots of extra-curricular activities and trips which have helped me feel more settled and comfortable here.

It took a little while but the support and guidance here has made me feel settled and I feel the Sixth Form is now getting the best out of me.

Good. The teachers have been really helpful. The facilities are great and everyone is nice.

Really well. I already knew the teachers, so this has helped. Lots of my friends are here as well and I was made to feel very welcome.

Would you recommend the Sixth Form for the current Year 11s?

Yes I would.

It's more personal. The teachers really care. To be honest, I didn't consider anywhere else. I knew in Year 11 that I wanted to come here.

Yes.

Out of all the Sixth Forms I went to look at this one seemed the friendliest and offered me all the courses I wanted to study.

Yes definitely.

Everyone's supportive and, as mentioned, I am convinced the Sixth Form will get the best out of me.

Yes.

It's a good learning environment, teachers are friendly and you get lots of support.

If you are in Year 11 and are considering Woodrush Sixth Form for further study next September, please submit an application form to Student Services or directly to Mr Sullivan. Application forms are available from Student Services or from the Sixth Form area of the school website.

The Sixth Form Fashion Show

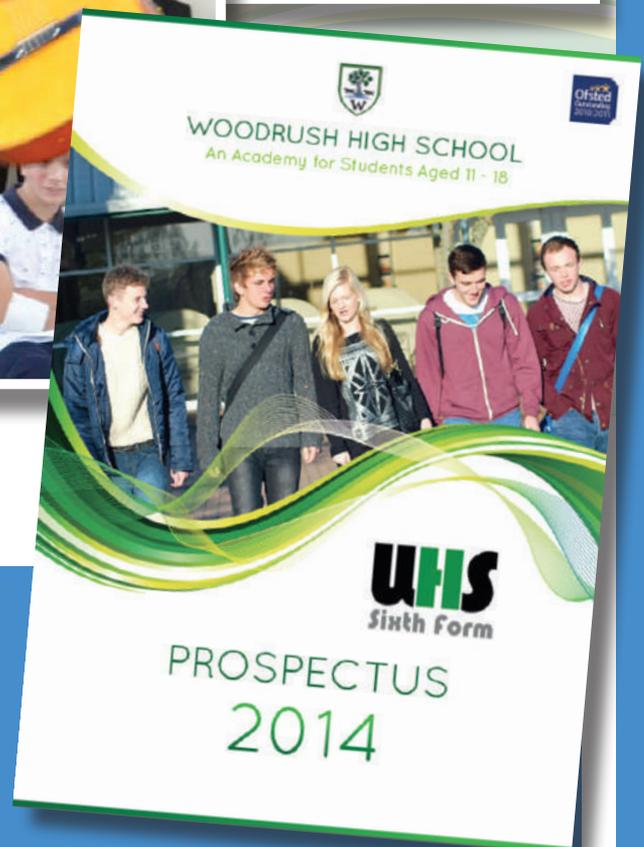
You'll all be happy to know that, through our fashion show on Friday 15th November, we raised £123.20 for 'Children In Need'! This will help children in a range of situations across the UK. For example, only £50 is needed to buy sensory equipment for a disabled child, and just £30 to buy bedding for children from poorer families. 'Children In Need' funds a large variety of charities and organisations; this funding can help to provide counselling sessions, to financially support youth clubs, and to prevent homelessness.

This was the first time that the Sixth Form has ever hosted a fundraising fashion show and hopefully it won't be the last. It's safe to say that everyone involved had an incredible time. Particular highlights included Dan's Mark Cavendish impression and Josh and Alex's questionable dancing.

A huge thanks goes to everyone who got involved - models, organisers, and photographers - and to everyone who attended, as it was their money that will be going to this very worthwhile cause. This was a great team effort that symbolised the communal and friendly atmosphere that is always created by charity days such as 'Children In Need'.

By Nicola

Head Girl for Woodrush Sixth Form



New Sixth Form Prospectus

Please take the time to look at our new Sixth Form Prospectus for students planning to continue their studies with us in September 2014.

Inside you will find comprehensive information about all of the subjects on offer in the Sixth Form and details about what life in the Sixth Form entails. You can read the Prospectus online via the Sixth Form section of the school website or you can request a copy from school.

Apply now for a place in

UHS

Sixth Form

'Achievement is rising in the sixth form, with a further rise in attainment in 2013' (Ofsted, Nov 2013)

Teaching in the sixth form is outstanding, providing high level of challenge' (Ofsted, Nov 2013)

Application forms are available from the school website or from Student Services

Skydive for Charity

After two cancelled days due to poor weather conditions, I was finally able to tick off something on her 'Bucket List' as well as start to collect the sponsorship money she had been raising for Wolverhampton Hospital's Maternity Unit.

The Unit is desperately trying to raise money for an infuser which costs £10,000. The Infuser gives staff the capacity to infuse fluids of any kind, such as saline or blood, very quickly (in a matter of minutes) and at body temperature. This reduces the physiological insult to the mother's body; preventing the release of damaging inflammatory metabolites into the circulation. In addition, it protects the heart and brain from the worst effects of under-perfusion which would certainly help to save the lives of both mother and baby.

On the day that I finally got to jump, the weather couldn't have been more perfect, and because the day had been cancelled twice, I was more than ready to hop into the plane, fly to 10,000ft and jump out; particularly as I was raising money for such a worthwhile cause and had personally paid £290 for the privilege!

On reaching 10,000ft, the plane's door opened and I was practically hanging out; hoping that my instructor has strapped me firmly, and correctly, to them. Within seconds I was out of the plane and freefalling at a speed of about 130 miles per hour. Exhilarating: this is the only word I can think of in an attempt to describe the feelings I had whilst spinning in the air amongst the clouds.

After 30 seconds, the parachute opened (thankfully) and I was allowed to perform some gliding techniques which were fun but started to make me feel a bit sick! Thankfully, I wasn't sick mid-air and landed softly, all within 5 minutes of jumping out of the plane. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who sponsored me, as well as all the students who spurred me on. I am still counting up the sponsorship money raised from school, friends and New Cross Hospital, but I am to believe that the figure stands at just under £3000!

Miss Denyer



Year 13 Love through the Ages Conference

Year 13 students showed their dedication to their A2 English Literature course by arriving at New Street Station for 7am (arguably the earliest they have been up for something school related for a while!) and headed down to London to attend seminars by chief examiners and leading literary figures such as Carol Ann Duffy.

Students found the seminars both engaging and inspiring; particularly with the talks by a leading Shakespearean director who encouraged students to see the play 'Romeo and Juliet' in a different light, and to argue that Shakespeare presented his female characters as powerful figures as opposed to victims.

Afterwards, students walked to Covent Garden (thanks to Bryony's phone map) and got into the Christmas spirit walking around the festive shops and stalls. After working up an appetite, everyone sat down for a meal at Bella Italia before returning back home to Birmingham.

A thoroughly enjoyable and enriching day!

Miss Denyer



AQA Conference Trip

Achieving the C Grade
17th March 2014

For those of you in Year 10 and 11 who have not yet sat your GCSE English/English Language exam, the English Department would like to offer you the chance to attend a conference held by chief examiners who will deliver talks on how to achieve that all important C grade and above.

On the day there will be guest speakers such as authors and influential teachers who will guide you through each part of the Foundation and Higher exam papers on how to answer them and which skills will be most effective.

Whilst the predominant focus is on the C grade, this is an excellent opportunity for those of you in Year 10 to familiarise yourselves with the expectations of the exam, particularly as you will be sitting a mock exam in July. And for those of you in Year 11, this will serve as an excellent confidence booster to refine your skills and ask the examiners any questions you have about any part of the exam you feel you need greater assurance on.

You can find out further details on the English Department's Frog page, or speak to Miss Denyer for further details. To secure your place, please pay for this trip by logging on to Parent Pay.

The Eggsperiment

To accompany our study of the novel 'Boys Don't Cry' by Malorie Blackman this term, a selection of students in Year 9 took part in an experiment designed to introduce them to the responsibilities of being a parent/guardian.

Each student was given one egg (representing an infant) to take care of for one week.

The rules of the experiment were:

The eggs must be kept clean and secure at all times.
The eggs will be monitored throughout the week during English lessons.
Students may be asked questions regarding the care of their egg at any point during an English lesson.
No egg may be left unattended at any time, night or day. If students must be out of sight of their egg, even for a short time, a responsible babysitter must be arranged and evidenced by the student.
Students must complete their 'Egg Book'. Daily entries/reflections required.
Completion of the experiment is monitored by staff, parents/guardians and other students – they will check on the welfare of the eggs and the keeping of the above rules.

Students received advance notice of the 'due date' of their egg. In preparation for this date, they brought a suitable container to school in which to safely

transport their egg. An egg crèche was also available for students to use during the school day.

Every student in Miss Packwood's and Mrs Heggs' class took part in the experiment. There were a range of different experiences – one student said:

"The Eggsperiment was a frustrating but fun thing to do. It showed you what it is like to have something to look after 24/7. Although the egg wasn't a real baby, it was still a challenge and it limited you to what you could do. You didn't have to change the egg's nappy, feed it or bath it, however, you still had to keep it clean (which wasn't very hard as it was in a box). On the other hand, some people might think it would be easy to carry an egg around in a box for a week, but take my word for it; it's not as easy as it seems! Firstly, it is very fragile and easy to break. Also, it is hard to make sure you don't forget it and make sure you bring it to every lesson. Overall, I think the Eggsperiment was a challenge in many different ways but a funny and enjoyable thing to do."
Charlotte 9B1

Students in Years 7 and 8 can look forward to taking part in this eggcellent, rewarding Eggsperiment in the future!

Miss Packwood and Mrs Heggs

English News:

Poetry Live Trip

Wednesday 29th January 2014

£26.00

For Year 11 students who are studying English Literature, this trip is not to be missed! Hear from the poets whose poems you will be studying and gain their perspectives and influences to help broaden and enhance your understanding. To secure your place, please pay for this trip by logging on to Parent Pay.

Below you will find out further information about the day:

- It is a chance to see and hear performances from a brilliant collection of poets.
- Each event includes Simon Armitage.

He is one of Britain's best poets, with a superb ear for language. His poems cover the entire breadth of the specification: from Character and Voice to Relationships, from Place to Conflict. He will touch on the poems of Shelley and Ted Hughes.

•Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Clarke will give an exhilarating joint reading. This a rare chance to see the Poet Laureate and the National Poet for Wales on stage together.

•Carol Ann Duffy is one of the most read, studied and loved of today's poets and such an inspired choice for the role of Poet Laureate. Her poems are sharp, funny and contemporary, and also full of a literary past, whether from mythology, or Shakespeare. Characters like Medusa and the immediacy of relationships come alive in her poems.

•Gillian Clarke will respond to student questions and discuss how poems connect to and influence other poems. Of course, she will also read and talk



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about her own poems and the work of other poets, including her favourites, W.B. Yeats and William Blake.

•John Agard gives one of the most exciting performances in contemporary poetry, not only in the way he delivers his poems, but also in how he talks about them, combining historical awareness, cultural insight and extraordinary humour.

•Imtiaz Dharker, Grace Nichols, Dalit Nagra, Jackie Kay and Andrew Forster will also read their work from the specification and discuss literary heritage poems in comparison with their own.

•Equally important, there will be two examiner sessions from either Tony Childs or Peter Buckroyd, who will give students invaluable guidance and advice about the new unseen examinations.

You can find out further details on the English Department's Frog page, or speak to Miss Scotney for further details.

All Aboard for the Reading Journey

Every student in year 7 has been invited on a year-long journey of discovery. Throughout December, intrepid travellers have been to the school library to plan their itinerary. When the journey ends in July, they will have read a wide variety of material. The Reading Journey, which is a house competition designed to encourage reading for pleasure across the school, challenges students to read at least four, and up to sixteen, items in different formats and genres. The journey takes four main routes: the Data Trip, the Scenic Route, the Metropolis Highway, and Out of this World. Each route has a choice of four destinations: Students may visit Odd Fact Ocean and Information Island, where many interesting facts and figures are waiting to be explored. Horror Hike and Fantasy Flight are the places to head to discover scary and fantastic stories. At each destination students are free to read their own choice of books, magazines and websites; these can be from home or from the school or a public library. Look on the library pages of FROG, where reviews can be read and posted, for some ideas on which books to read at each destination. Most importantly, The Reading Journey is fun; travellers should pick the books they think they will enjoy!



Any questions? Reading Journey Advisors are on hand in the library every break and lunchtime. Here are a just a few of their recommendations.



Magnificent Manga!!

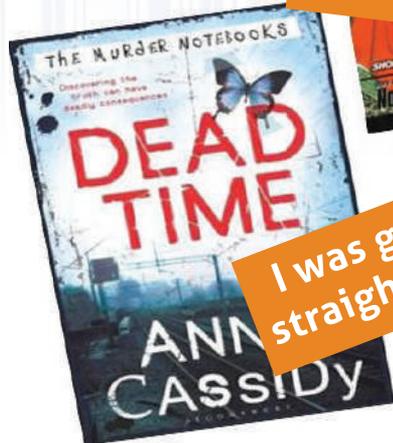


Great articles every month!



Puzzle Club!

Calling all year 7's! Do you like the library? Do you like puzzles and games? Then the library puzzle club is for you! Even if you find yourself bored or with nothing to do, come along! With a range of new and interesting puzzles like the mysterious Forbidden Island, combined with all the old but fun classics like chess and draughts, the puzzle club is fun for everyone! The club will begin on a weekly basis after Christmas, the 10th January, from 2:50 until 3:50, directly after school. We have already had some test runs on Thursdays in the library, involving other students in the library club and they've been a great success, everything is primed and ready to go!



I was gripped straight away!!!



Hilarious!

Year 7, book your place on The Reading Journey

Competition
Lots of house points to be won!



Where will your journey take you?

To take part all you have to do is get reading, and remember to fill in your Reading Journey Logbook!





Ofsted
 Outstanding
 2013 | 2014



As you will know all schools are inspected by Ofsted and last month we were delighted to welcome Ofsted to our school to conduct a whole school inspection. Four inspectors spent two days in school observing lessons, talking to students and staff and taking into account a range of information. We were of course delighted to receive the top outstanding grades in all areas they assessed (teaching, behaviour, achievement and leadership).



"Students told inspectors that behaviour in lessons is typically of a high standard and that their learning is rarely disrupted."



There is consistency in the high quality of teaching, with much that is outstanding. Teachers plan very well to ensure that students learn actively and tasks are varied and exciting.



Only a small percentage of schools are judged to be outstanding and as you may know over the last few years the bar has been, quite rightly, raised by Ofsted in terms of what they expect from all schools in terms of outcomes from students. The judgements regarding the conduct of our students, the quality of teaching they receive, the way the school is lead at all levels and importantly our students achievement could not have been better and clearly a reflection on all our students, your support of us and what we do as parents and carers and of course our staff. Last time we had a full school inspection in 2010, under

www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

the old criteria, 27 of the 30 judgements were outstanding so we are delighted now under a far harder criteria to again receive this judgement in all possible areas. This now means that our last three inspections have been judged outstanding and we have included here some of the quotes from our inspection report for you to see. The report can be viewed either on the Ofsted web site or through our own.

Congratulations again to all our community for this outstanding achievement.

"All students in 2013 went on to higher or further education or employment. During the inspection, students were observed performing at a high level and making rapid progress in many subjects as a result of the good and outstanding teaching and the individual guidance and support provided."



"Students' behaviour is outstanding in lessons and around the school. They show great enthusiasm for learning. They are polite and courteous and relationships are warm and supportive. They say that they always feel safe and greatly appreciate the support that adults provide."



Ofsted
Outstanding
2013 | 2014

Congratulations to our students, staff, parents and carers for all their hard work towards a third successive Ofsted outstanding inspection.

Go to:
www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk
 to view the report



Art Illustration Club

I have been running an Art illustration Club for Years 7 & 8 on a Tuesday after school. They are a lovely group of girls working on a project with the theme Alice in Wonderland. They have shown great independent working skills and creativity to produce some character illustrations based on the most recent version of the film by Tim Burton.

They have also come up with lots of exciting ideas for group collaborative pieces of work and have started to put together a large collaged scene of the Mad Hatters' Tea Party. I am very impressed with the talent they have shown so far and I can't wait to see what else they can do!

Reported by Miss Loomes



MAC Theatre

Following the workshop at the MAC theatre students returned to school with tips and ideas from the workshop leaders and an appraisal from another school. Lesson and homework time over the two months were given to the students to prepare our abridged version of The Winter's Tale and rehearsals after school began to experiment with characterisation and blocking. The play set up the challenge of creating the majesty of Apollo, staging an angry bear and choreographing the chaos of a sheep shearing festival! With all this in mind we headed off to our technical rehearsal at the MAC and performed Shakespeare's pastoral romance...with a surprise narrator!

Good to see so many parents supporting their child's work and hear positive feedback- here's what the cast thought:

'Our Shakespeare schools Festival experience was amazing. Having professional workshops and performing in front of 300 people is an opportunity that doesn't come that often' (Joshua)

'...the workshop was good as we got to interact with the other schools...' (Charlotte)

'I am very grateful that I had the opportunities to take part in a play at the MAC and to hear the sound of the audience' (Jay)

Mr Hall - Teacher Director for SSF

Following a Music Theatre unit of work being studied by Year 11 in Drama, our Year 10 and 11 GCSE Music and Drama students were treated to a workshop linked to RENT, the Musical. The musical deals with a number of social issues, including the problems surrounding HIV in the 1980's.

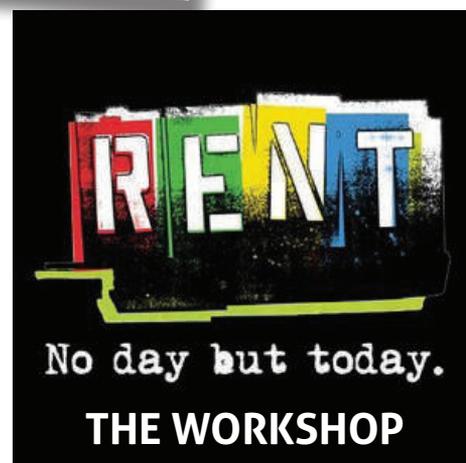
As Tuesday was World Aids Day, the first part of the workshop day was spent exploring a range of social, moral and cultural aspects of this issue. The second part of the workshop day was led by 2 members of the RENT cast, who gave their time free of charge to help our GCSE students. They performed scenes and songs for students to watch and then students learnt 2 songs from the show and also learnt some choreography. Students said about the day

"It was a fabulous experience and I really enjoyed talking to the cast members".

"It was great to learn how we can put our musical skills into practice in the context of being in an actual show".

"I had a brilliant day – I learned a lot, and I can't stop singing the RENT songs".

Our very own Mr Hall has recently been performing in RENT the musical, playing the role of Benjamin. On Thursday 5th December, a coach of staff and students enjoyed a trip to see the show at The Old Joint Stock Theatre in Birmingham.





hairspray

Hairspray – the plot

It's 1962 and teenagers Tracy Turnblad and her friend Penny Pingleton are obsessed with the Corny Collins Show. Every day after school, they run home to watch the show and drool over the hot Link Larkin, much to Tracy's mother Edna's dismay. After one of the stars of the show leaves, Corny Collins holds auditions to see who will be the next person on the Corny Collins show. With all of the help of her new friend Seaweed, Tracy makes it on the show, angering the evil dance queen Amber Von Tussle and her mother Velma. Tracy then decides that it's not fair that the black kids can only dance on the Corny Collins Show once a month, and with the help of Seaweed, Link, Penny, Motormouth Maybelle, her father and Edna, she's going to integrate the show.....without denting her 'do!



Hairspray at Woodrush The Story so Far

People often don't realise just how many months go into the preparation of a full scale production, but discussions and plans for the next Woodrush school musical started back in June last year, when we were deciding which show would be our next project. For the first time, we gave all Woodrush students and staff a say in helping to choose and 'Hairspray' wiped the floor with the other choices on offer.

Over a week of after-school auditions in October, we auditioned approx. 100 people, and enjoyed seeing some of the great talent that Woodrush has to offer.

Weekly rehearsals are well underway with Dancers learning routines choreographed by Miss Thomas, Jodie and Millie. The whole cast are currently learning the big show numbers 'You Can't Stop the Beat' and 'Good Morning Baltimore', and soloists are having individual vocal coaching to help prepare for their roles.

From January, things will be moving up a gear as we start to piece the music, dance and acting together, which is when it starts to get really exciting, slowly seeing the show take shape.

As well as the huge commitment of everyone's time and energy, staging a production has a financial cost. If you know of anyone who is willing to donate items that could be used as props or scenery, material for costumes, make-up and hair things (including hairspray, make up applicators etc.), then please put them in touch with us!

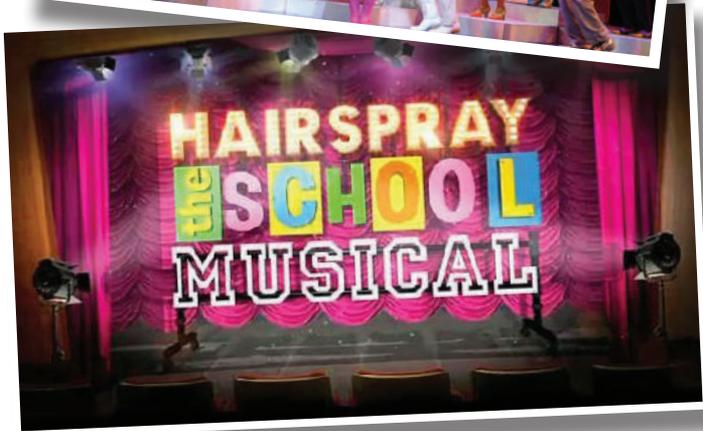
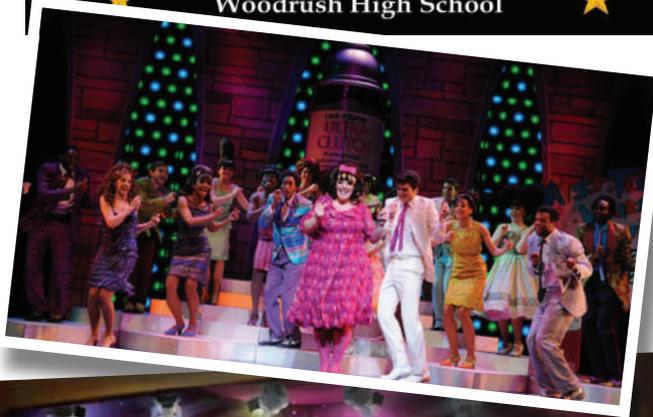
Many thanks,

Mr Hall, Director

Mrs Sheppard, Musical director

Miss Thomas, Choreographer

Mrs Bullivant / Mrs Cassidy, Producers



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Year 11 Geographers Visit the Jurassic Coast



"Geography Club is amazing! Key Stage 3 students should definitely come along - we do such fun things, like the other week we did orienteering. I like Geography Club because we do map reading, eat biscuits, have apple juice and chill."

On Monday 7th of October, 23 keen GCSE Geographers set off on their visit to the world renowned Jurassic Coastline to collect data for their GCSE Controlled Assessment.

Students are studying coastlines as part of the Geography GCSE course, and were looking to find information to help them answer their controlled assessment question of "Is the Coastline along Purbeck distinctive?"

To answer this question we travelled to Lulworth, Swanage and Portland to find out what this coastline is like.

After 3 hours in the minibus, our first stop was Lulworth Cove. Lulworth Cove was formed approximately 10,000 years ago by the awesome powers of a river and the sea. It continues to evolve behind a narrow stone entrance as the softer rocks behind are eroded. The cove formed a great backdrop, as students completed tourist questionnaires, to find out why people come to visit Lulworth, and also to look at how such magnificent geographical landforms are formed.

The afternoon was spent a little further along the coast at Durdle Door. Durdle Door is a world famous geological wonder, with its massive rock arch, set

right on the Jurassic Coast between Swanage and Weymouth, just along the coast path from Lulworth Cove. It is one of the largest landforms of its kind and really shows how distinctive this part of the British Coastline is. After finishing sketches and learning about its formation, it was time to get to the youth hostel for the night.



After an evening meal the rest of the evening was spent playing pool and even a little bit of chess! Although no one could beat Mr. Monk or Mr. Thewlis at pool, many went to bed that evening dreaming that they had! After Cavan spent the evening telling bedtime stories to his roommates, everyone enjoyed a good rest, ready early in the morning to look at the town of Swanage. After a big breakfast we made our way down into Swanage to conduct the second part of our data collection.



Swanage is renowned as a picturesque holiday town but our task for the morning was to see if Swanage was suffering from a process called Longshore Drift. Longshore Drift is a process where beach material is moved along a stretch of coastline, leaving it open to attack from the waves. Students took measurements of sand heights against groynes, which are built to prevent this process. This way we could prove if the process was actually occurring. Others in the morning interviewed both local people and tourists and identified where people had come from to visit Swanage.

After a quick lunch we moved further up the coast to Portland to see the famous Old Harry Stack. With a quick walk along the cliff top we reached one of the most famous coastal landforms in the UK. Without going too close to the edge we identified how these landforms form and made quick sketches and took photos to help us with our work.

The evening was then spent (mostly asleep) on our way back to Wythall. With the obligatory stop at a famous fast food establishment, we made it back to school tired, but full of knowledge to help us with our assessments for the rest of the term.

Need to know? – use a GIS!

At the end of November our Year 12 Geographers took part in a fantastic day organised by the Geographical Association. The theme was Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and their application to every-day life. I think it fair to say that neither the students attending, nor the staff, quite realised just how widely such Systems are in use in 2013 society.

We heard from a GIS Consultant with Geospatial Mapping and Analysis who talked us through the use of GIS in civil engineering projects in places as diverse as the Olympic Park, London, and the United Arab Emirates. We also saw GIS in action through the mapping of links between quality of life factors and public health, delivered by a leading practitioner in Public Health Medicine at Birmingham Children's Hospital. This was followed by us being able to try some GIS data mapping ourselves, when we had the chance to investigate the social phenomenon of 'tweeting' and map their links to various high profile events such as Premiership football matches. Our day finished with an opportunity to see GIS being used



in crime management, with a fascinating talk from a Geospatial Intelligence Officer with West Midlands Police.

Seeing GIS in action also opened the eyes of our sixthformers to various careers that they might not have considered. The realisation that they can actually progress to take a degree in Geographic Information Science or Surveying and Mapping

Science also gave our students food for thought. Even more so when they found out that typical salaries in the first five years after graduating are second only to those in Medicine and that employment from such courses is nearly always 100%!

Mr. Cooper



Broadway Interfaith Exchange Programme

Over the last 3 weeks a selection of Woodrush pupils from all year groups have been taking part in an exchange programme with a group of pupils from Broadway High School in Aston. The aim of the programme is a chance for pupils from distinctly diverse cultural and religious backgrounds to get to know one another and explore each other's beliefs and outlooks on life.

The programme started with the group of Broadway pupils coming over to Woodrush and taking part in a human bingo activity. We then went around Wythall celebrating the area and showing the students from Broadway different sites and capturing these moments by taking pictures. We saw a lot of shy and apprehensive students, talking, laughing and socialising together, highlighting the success of the day.

Of to Broadway High School in Aston.... where we took part in a faith walk visiting 4 different places of worship around the area and therefore celebrating the diverse culture and faiths of the area, and celebrating community cohesion. We visited a Hindu Mandir, Sikh Gurdwara, Muslim Mosque and a Christian Church.

Once we got back to the school and had our lunch pupils then got back into the friendship groups they developed on their visit to Woodrush and put together a presentation show casing what they have learnt during the exchange programme.

Well done and thank you to all the pupils and staff from both Broadway High School and Woodrush High School that took part.

Thank you to Jenni Creasy from the Feast charity as she helped to link the schools and organise the exchange programme.



Year 9 Health and Social Care Games

The year 9 Health and Social Care class have been learning about different life stages. The past couple of weeks the class has learnt about infancy. It has been an enjoyable topic as we got to make our own games for children aged 3 to 4 years. The task was to make a game to increase a child's intellect. Over all everybody enjoyed the lessons and achieved good levels.

By Lydia 9C1



Whitemoor Lakes 2013

Woodrush High School
and St Marys Church

From the 24th – 26th October a group of KS3 students went to Whitemoor Lakes for a 3 day residential, in order to further explore Christianity and ideas around community cohesion, spirituality and team work.



On arrival we had lunch and kick started some of the activities that we all would be taking part in. Some of these activities included the Power Challenge and Team Work Challenge - who ever thought it would be so hard to balance a slide out – very amusing to watch the different strategies that different groups thought of.

Later there was a high ropes challenge – a huge well done to Louis who managed to get to the top of the tower. With the zip wire and abseiling – a great effort was shown by Victoria and Toby, Joe, Charlie and Kyle who did all sorts of tricks! The archery and fencing was a lot harder than it looks, well maybe not for everyone. Quote of the day from Mr Wendzina "Oh come on, it's not that hard, all you have to do is hit the board!"

And last but not least maybe everyone most feared but possibly the most fun – canoeing.



An excellent effort was shown by group 2 with Mr Wendzina and Miss Kaur. After all the splashing and jumping into the lake, can't quite remember who won (may have been the boys).

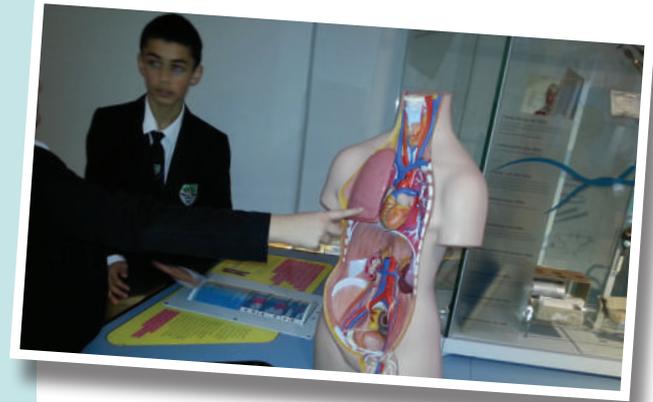


During our visit we also took part in some Youth Alpha sessions, exploring the idea of the trinity and looking within ourselves at who we are and what makes us the people we are. Part of this was a rock, paper, and scissors human chain challenge – after a good game it was between Kyle and Keisha and the winner at the end was Keisha destroying Kyle's paper with her scissors.

All in all this was an excellent residential with good activities, inspiring youth alpha challenge, amazing teachers and St Marys youth workers and outstanding Woodrush pupils.

A massive Thank you to St Marys Church - Dean Taylor, Ria Taylor, Simon and Sophie, Mr Wendzina and Miss Brookes and our rising star young leader – Jo in Year 11.

Reported by Miss Kaur



Visit to The Infirmary At Worcester University

On Tuesday 26th November a group of students from Year 9, 10 and 13 Health and Social Care groups went on a visit to The Infirmary in Worcester. The Infirmary is part of the University



of Worcester City Campus and is on the site of the former Worcester Royal Infirmary hospital in Castle Street, Worcester. The Infirmary is an interactive exhibition combining history, science, art and technology to explore the medical stories of one of England's oldest infirmaries.

The Infirmary houses the medical collection of George Marshall who worked at the hospital and who had a real interest in all things medical and includes original archives including oral histories, photographs and documents.

Our students were given a tour of the old hospital and then spent some time in the Infirmary museum. Here they had the opportunity to dress up, read about disease and illness, understand how the hospital worked and use the interactive displays. The students also took part in some classroom activities where they discussed disease and handled medical artefacts.

Reported by Mrs Hatton

We had a great day finding out information about old cures for diseases and how the nurses worked. We all enjoyed the day and learnt loads of information useful for the future.

Georgia 9L1

Worcester Cathedral - GCSE Conference

In order to enrich our understanding of Christianity and engage in interfaith dialogue, the KS4 Philosophy and Ethics pupils recently visited Worcester Cathedral.

We started our day with a hearty breakfast and then made our way to Worcester. On arrival we met some students from another school who were also taking part in the day. Our lovely tour guides showed us around the Cathedral and explained the different



ceremonies that take place from birth to death.

In the afternoon we took part in a Holy Communion service and then ended the day with a question and answer session with representatives from different faiths.

I would like to take the opportunity to say a massive well done to the outstanding pupils that came on the trip and thank you to Mr Paget who also came along.

Miss Kaur.



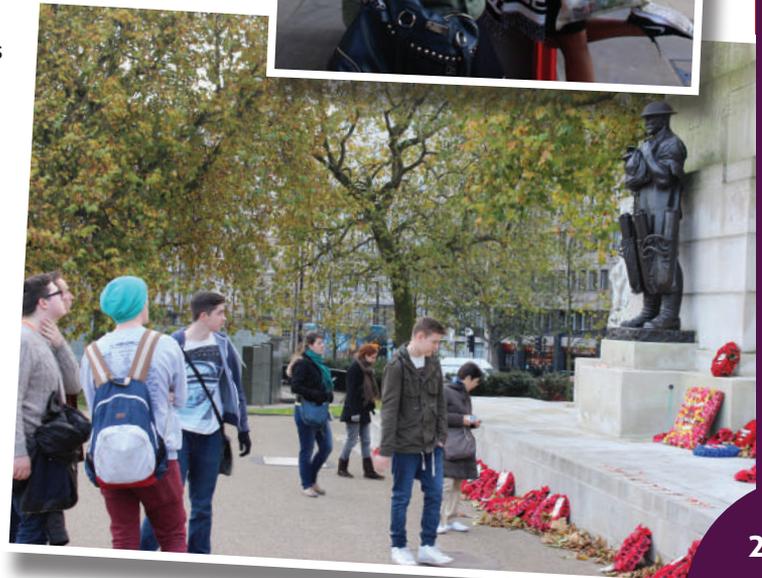
Year 12 trip to Parliament

On 26th November a group of Year 12 historians and politicians travelled to London to visit the Houses of Parliament. It was a fantastic trip and a great experience for everyone. When we arrived at parliament, we split into two groups and had a tour around all the different sections and learnt a lot about the history of politics and parliament itself. We were lucky enough to be able to go into the House of Lords whilst they were debating about poverty; it was very intriguing to watch and hear all the different viewpoints surrounding such an important topic. We even saw Alan Sugar! We were also able to enter the House of Commons and witness a vote taking place. It was very interesting to see how it works and see all the different people that help to make it run smoothly.

The tour ended in Westminster Hall, a place where famous people such as Barack Obama have addressed the country. It is the oldest part of parliament and also the coldest! After the tour we were lucky enough to experience a workshop and learn about all the different ways of voting and how

they affect the outcome. The group was split into 3 parties, each coming up with their own policies and explaining their reasons for them, attempting to persuade the others in order to gain votes. It was very hands on and very enjoyable as well as interesting and I think I learnt something new! On the whole, with a stop off at the Natural History Museum and MacDonald's, as well as visiting parliament, it was an extremely fun trip and I would advise any future students not to let this opportunity pass!!

Becky Year 12.





SLT DESERT ISLAND DISCS



Castaway on a desert island, the 8 members of your Senior Leadership Team have each chosen eight pieces of music, one book and one luxury item to take with them.

Login to FROG to register your entries and see if you can match them up...

Mr King, Mr Baker, Ms Rancins, Mr Monk, Mrs Lawson, Miss Taylor, Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Rossiter, can you guess which..

Music

- 1 Never Forget - Take That
- 2 Angels - Robbie Williams
- 3 Lovely Day - Bill Withers
- 4 Money Money Money –ABBA
- 5 Home - Michael Buble
- 6 Girls on film - Duran Duran
- 7 Red Red wine - UB40
8. Tears of clown - Smokey Robinson and the Miracles

Book

How to play the drums

Luxury Item

A drum kit

Music

1. Just Haven't Met You Yet (Michael Buble)
2. One Day Like This (Elbow)
3. Paparazzi (The Baseballs)
4. When You're Looking Like That (Westlife)
5. Valerie (Amy Winehouse)
6. Don't stop me now (Queen)
7. Never Forget (Take That)
8. Just the Way You Are (Version of the Bruno Mars song recorded by my niece and her friends on her 9th birthday)

Book

The biggest encyclopedia I could find!

Luxury Item

Piano

Music

1. At Last (Etta James)
2. Paint it Black (Rolling Stones)
3. Do They Know It's Christmas? (Band Aid)
4. Here Comes the Sun (The Beatles)
5. One Day Like This (Elbow)
6. An American in Paris (George Gerswin)
7. Clair Du Lune (Debussy)
8. Hello There (Caged Baby)

Book

'The Mayor of Casterbridge'
Thomas Hardy

Luxury Item

1 A fishing rod

Music

1. Take On Me (A-HA)
2. Dancing Queen (Abba)
3. Adagio for Strings (Barber)
4. Fragile (Sting)
5. Bring Him Home (from Les Miserables)
6. And so it goes (Billy Joel)
7. My Young Man (Kate Rusby)
8. Viva La Vida (Coldplay)

Book

Blank notebook

Luxury Item

Acoustic guitar

Music

1. Dark side of the Moon (Pink Floyd)
2. Born to run (Bruce Springsteen)
3. Hurricane (Bob Dylan)
4. Fanfare for the Common Man (Aaron Copeland)
5. Soundtrack to the film Last of the Mohicans (Trevor Jones)
7. Beautiful Vision (Van Morrison)
8. Waterfront (Simple Minds)

Book

Catch 22 (Joseph Heller)

Luxury Item

Coffee maker

Music

1. There goes the fear (The Doves)
2. There's no other way (Blur)
3. Beautiful Ones (Suede)
4. High and Dry (Radiohead)
5. There is a light that never goes out (The Smiths)
6. Leaders of the Free World (Elbow)
7. Unfinished Sympathy (Massive Attack)
8. I am the Resurrection (Stone Roses)

Book

Frankenstein – Mary Shelly

Luxury Item

Picture of my family

Music

1. Everybody's Talkin (Harry Nilsson)
2. Believe (Lenny Kravitz)
3. Wuthering Heights (Kate Bush)
4. Life On Mars (David Bowie)
5. Cavatina (Raine & City of Prague Orchestra)
6. Viva La Vida (Coldplay)
7. Free as a bird (Beatles)
8. Uninvited (Freemasons)

Book

Essential Bushcraft (Ray Mears)

Luxury Item

A bed

Music

1. Don't stop me now (Queen)
2. We are young (Fun)
3. Voulez vous (Abba)
4. The Phantom of the Opera
5. Talking to the moon (Bruno Mars)
6. Surfin USA (Beach Boys)
7. Mr Blue Sky (ELO)
8. Starman (David Bowie)

Book

Survival Guide

Luxury Item

Surf Board

My name is Mrs Robinson and I have been at Woodrush for almost 4 years. My role is PA to Mr King/Officer Manager/Clerk to the Governors.

I have 8 years' experience of working in a school environment and previous to this worked in customer service for 18 years. I live in Alvechurch with my husband and son. My favourite things to do are reading, walking with my springer spaniel 'Riley' and holidaying!

We have recently recruited 4 new members of staff in the office team and along with our oldest serving members of the team provide outstanding support to the rest of the staff.



Miss Cotterill - Reception

Hi, I am one of the new clerical assistants in the Woodrush main office. I graduated from University in July, and have since worked within a primary school and charity. I have really enjoyed my first couple of weeks here at Woodrush and look forward to the months ahead.

In my personal time I enjoy spending time with my fiancé, family and friends and love eating out! I am really looking forward to my time at Woodrush and love being part of such a lovely administration team.

Mrs Aston - Reception

I joined Woodrush in September as a Part Time Clerical Assistant, returning to work after having some time off after my daughter was born in 2012. I am really enjoying my time at the school and all of the students and staff are really friendly. They have made me feel like part of the team really quickly!

I have two small children who keep me constantly entertained and I really love family time with my kids and husband. I have a real passion for food, eating out and cooking. In my spare time I really enjoy hosting dinner parties and cooking for my family and friends as much as I can.

Mrs Beddoes - Reception

I am in my 7th year working in Reception at Woodrush. I started with my eldest child who left 2 years ago and now have twins here in year 8. I am looking forward to working with a new team in the office and getting to know everyone.

I have recently gone part time and am enjoying getting back to the gym and shopping!!

Mrs Sharp - Administration

I am in my 8th year at Woodrush working as a teaching assistant and have just joined the administration team. I am looking forward to new challenges and getting to know my new team. I have one daughter who is currently in year 12 studying for her A levels. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

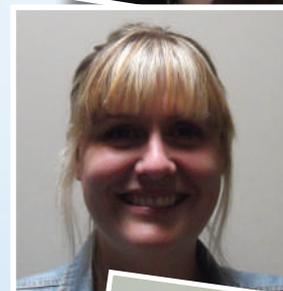
Miss Tomkins - Student Information Officer

Hi, I am the new Student Information Officer at Woodrush. Before joining the school I worked at National Express for 11 years and am finding the challenge of my new role really enjoyable. I am now in my 5th week at Woodrush and am finding both the staff and students very welcoming.

Outside of work I enjoy spending my spare time with my 5 year daughter and family. We spend our time going swimming, bowling and enjoying film nights.

Mrs Locke - Student Services

I am now in my 6th Year at Woodrush. I covered reception and have recently moved to student services, where I also cover first aid duties



STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

TOP NOTCH

Woodrush Staff Sewing Bee gets into action as members of staff take to the cutting table.

A great turn out as the busy bee's demonstrate their design talents through an array of creative skills and techniques. The two sessions held so far have been focused on accurate marking, cutting and tacking skills, leading up to mastering the sewing machine as well as those who have also been challenged to use the computer aided design machine. Staff have embraced this challenge with great enthusiasm and look forward to sharing their success!



FOND FAREWELL

We would like to wish Mr Seadon and Mr Paget all the very best as they move on. A special word of thanks from all in DT appreciating all your support and expertise. You will be missed.

Ms Goswami



DT Christmas Fair

Year 9 Fashionists take their design and making skills to great heights as they prepare for the DT Christmas Fair. The Fashion/Textiles GCSE group are to hold a fair in Design Technology to share their achievements with the "handmade" project which developed their hand stitching skills. The monies raised towards purchasing their products will be donated towards their chosen charity. Great effort from all those who have taken part!

New to team Maths



I am coming from Fairfax School in Sutton Coldfield and although I am a Maths teacher my degree is in Metallurgy. I have four sons but only the youngest now lives at home, but all live in the Midlands area. I was born in Durham, brought up in Berkshire, then moved to Birmingham to University and have lived here ever since, which is over half my life.

I enjoy cycling, Killer Sudokus, Ken-Kens and going to church

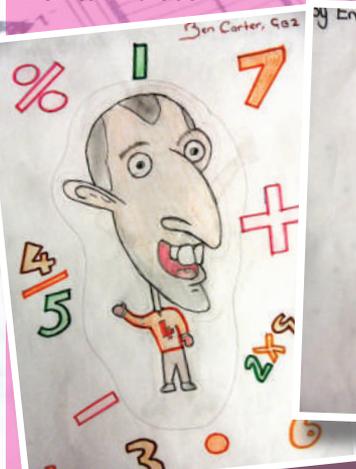
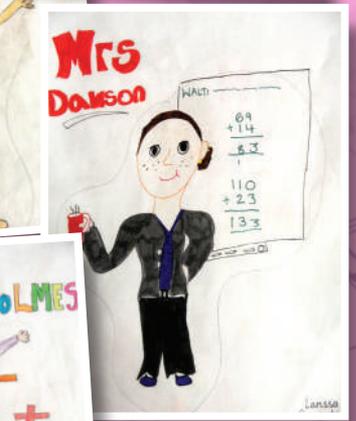
Dr Gadd

Cartoon Characters Competition

During October the Maths department ran a house competition in which students were asked to draw a cartoon character of one of the Maths teachers. The department particularly liked the entries that involved numbers and Mathematical diagrams.

There were many entries and all pictures were judged by Mr King. Can you guess who is who in these winning images for each teacher in the department?

Pop up to the Maths Department to see the pictures on display on the wall to find out!



New In Maths!

Exciting new changes coming to your Maths lessons after Christmas!! Do you get bored doing Maths homework? Would you like to be more creative? Well now's your chance.

The department are launching 'Takeaway Homework' where you get to choose your own style of Maths homework. You can design a poster, create a song or movie or even teach your parent! The Maths department are so excited about this new concept which will launch in the spring term. So get those creative hats on and let's see what you come up with. Any questions, just ask your Maths teacher.

Mrs Bullivant

Restaurante Woodrush

Takeaway Maths Homework Menu

Starters

- 2-4-1.** Summarise a lesson first in 2 paragraphs of text. Then reduce this to 4 sentences. Finally, one word.
- Adult Supervision.** Explain a lesson to an adult in your home. Ask them to write a 2 sentence summary of the lesson in your book.
- Questions.** Create a series of 10 questions to test the teachers knowledge of a lesson.
- Keywords.** Pick 3-5 keywords from a lesson and write their definitions. Turn into a missing word paragraph for a friend.

Mains

- Poster.** Create a poster summarising a whole lesson/topic. Make it eye catching, bright and colourful and factual.
- Lyrical.** Create a poem or change the lyrics of a popular song to include the key facts from a lesson.
- Facts.** Create a factsheet of a lesson, but including additional facts that you have researched yourself.
- Moviestar.** Create a cartoon strip/movie about a lesson, but include additional facts that you have researched yourself.

Desserts

- Life Changing.** After a lesson, identify all misconceptions associated with the topic?
- Prior Links.** How does a lesson link to a previous lesson? Don't choose a lesson that doesn't have obvious links.
- Inter-Maths.** How does the knowledge you have gained in a lesson relate to another subject (write about/give examples)

Have fun creating Your Maths homework!

Year 10 Maths puzzle day

On Monday 18th November all year 10 pupils experienced a maths lesson with a difference. There wasn't a text book, pen or calculator in sight. Instead pupils spent an hour solving practical puzzles. How many penguins can you balance on an iceberg - related to solving equations; completing a circle in a square puzzle focussed on sequencing; filling a hexagon base with trapezium blocks looked at logic and magnetic tetrahedrons were used to make other 3D shapes. All the pupils and the staff involved really enjoyed the activities, so much so that one pupil tried to sneak in for a second session in the afternoon instead of going to science - sorry Mr Haskill. Hopefully we will be able to arrange a similar activity next year.

Learn from your mistakes!

It's an old saying but one that The Maths Department are currently celebrating. As Maths teachers we particularly find that students are scared to give answers in case it's not right for fear of looking silly. The problem is that we do indeed often learn how to master a skill or task from making mistakes along the way. I love it when a student gives me an incorrect



answer because it is an opportunity for us to share this with the rest of the class and identify what has been done wrong. These mistakes are often what we call 'common misconceptions' and several students will be making this same error. So in getting it wrong you are helping everybody! I often use mini-whiteboards in my lessons where students have to hold up their answer to show me at the front. This works really well because I can pick out common mistakes to write on the board and discuss with the whole class, without naming the student. When a student gets an answer wrong we cheer!! Even better is if you can identify any misconceptions that may occur yourself. Maybe you can see that someone might add when they should multiply.

The message that we want our students to know is that 'mistakes' are great, please make more of them. Put your hand up to tell us a misconception rather than just the right answer.

Mrs Bullivant (forever a 'mistake maker'!)



Year 7 Maths trip to Lower Drayton Farm

In October the Maths department took around 100 pupils to visit the farm to start a new project called 'Who can make the most profit?' Students learnt how a farmer calculates what seed he needs for his hectares of land, how many strawberry plants can be put in per square metre and how many animals are expected per year from a herd of cows. They also learnt how a farmer chooses to make maximum profit through not only crops and animals but other activities such as school visits, dog training and paintballing. Most importantly everyone had a fun day out going on a tractor ride, completing the maize maze and having a go on the zip wire (even the teachers had a go too!) Students are now designing their own farms ready for display on the corridors. The first couple of finished projects look amazing already.





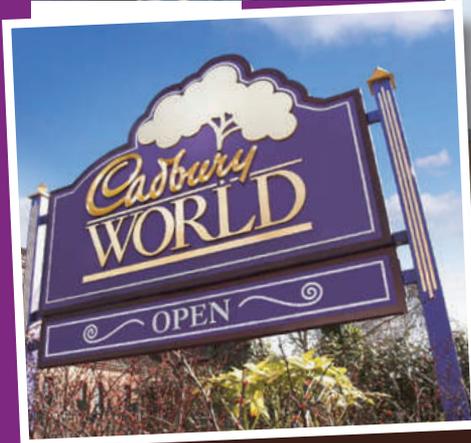
Year 10 and 11 hit Cadbury World



"Inspiring Science"

15 Year 12 students attended a series of morning workshops focussing on Science careers and higher education. Representatives from engineering firms, University departments and various other companies talked to our students about what they could do with their Science qualifications after A-levels. Thanks to Mrs. Bishop for being our driver.

Reported by Mr Raistrick



DID YOU KNOW?

Cadbury WORLD

- Kraft bought Cadbury for £11.9 billion
- Cadbury is owned by Mondelez which comprises of the global snacking and food brands of the former Kraft. Their rivals are Nestle and Mars.
- When George Cadbury, son of John Cadbury, built the village of Bournville, he planted a fruit tree in every garden as he never wanted his workers to go hungry.
- Cadbury own the rights to that specific colour purple that everybody knows and loves
- The Gorilla campaign was the most successful campaign
- They changed the shape of the chocolate to cut costs

Before half term, Year 10 and 11 Business Students headed to Cadbury to identify exactly why Cadbury is so successful. We feel that Cadbury's clearly have a developed product portfolio (which include brands like Cadbury, Trident, Halls and many more!) and successful marketing strategies. We learnt lots and had fabulous time learning about the history of Chocolate.

"We loved the free chocolate" (Lucy H)

"It was amazing to see how many advertising campaigns Cadbury have done over the year. I will always remember the Gorilla and Twitching eyebrows" (Tom W)

"Freddos are so expensive now – it's due to rising gas and electricity costs" (Alex F)

"I didn't realise just how big Cadbury is – they are inspirational and awe inspiring" (Amy P)

"It was good to identify all the extension strategies that Cadbury have developed to prolong the product life cycle" (Tay B)

"I am now sure Cadbury World is a Cash Cow in the Boston Matrix" (Nick D)

I am sure I say this for all, a thoroughly enjoyable but educational trip.

Written by Anisha and the rest of Year 11 Business (AKA Business Club)

@LanguagesatWHS - Ponderings about life & languages, plus news from the MFL department at Woodrush

If you follow one departmental Twitter account, let it be this one (we would say that, I know!) ... but it's all good fun; a mix of links to interesting news articles about anything from the shortage of UK linguists to Robin Thicke's recent promotional tour of France, or on other days simple ponderings about life in French or Spanish, in easy language which we guarantee you'll be able to work out for yourself... #JDI



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Linguists Reward Trip

In July, a group of 14 students from Year 9 & 10, who had all been Linguists of the Month, went on a rewards trip to Pizza Express. The morning started off with a quiz on different ingredients of pizza, which was something we were all good at! Then we put on our aprons and hats and were ready to make our own pizzas. We attempted to stretch out the dough into a small circle but some of us struggled and so the chef had to help us. We then added tomato sauce and cheese, baked the pizzas and then waited to be judged. The manager found it hard to choose a winner but eventually he chose Jordan. It was a great morning and pizzas were very tasty!

By Jess



What's on at the Artrix Cinema, Bromsgrove?

Marius (12a)

The first film in Marcel Pagnol's trilogy set in Marseille. Marius, the son of a bar owner, fights his attraction to Fanny, the daughter of a seafood vendor, because marrying her would mean the end to his dream of going to sea. When Marius's efforts to get a job on a ship are unsuccessful, he at last turns to Fanny, and they are happy for a while. Another job on a ship then becomes available. Will Fanny hold Marius, or is his lure of the sea stronger?

Friday 10th January 2:30 & Monday 13th January 7:30.

Fanny (PG)

This is the second part of Marcel Pagnol's trilogy that started with Marius. Fanny discovers that she is pregnant, which is a shameful position in their community. In a bid to secure the future of her and her unborn child, does she agree with her mother and father's advice to marry a more prosperous salesman in the harbour who is 30 years older than Fanny or does she await the return of Marius?

Friday 17th January 2:30 & Tuesday 21st January 7:30

Year 8 Netball Report

The year 8's had their third match on the Wednesday 2nd October. We arrived safely and in one piece thankful with Miss Price driving us. When we got there, we warmed up then got straight into the match.

We had a great start as Ridgeway had first centre pass and we got to choose which way we wanted to shoot. Due to our amazing defence from Alice, Mia and Mya, we got the ball back up to our shooting half where Ellie and Emma were making some sharp passes to get it even further up the court. Then they passed it onto Lucy and Jazz to shoot the goals. Finally, it was half time and we were winning 4-3. With some quick encouraging words from Mrs Brown, we got back onto the court really as ever with a substitution, Jess. There were fantastic snatches from every single one of us with some amazing netball skills. Overall, we all played really well and we should all be proud of ourselves. It was a very tight game however, it was a tough game and unfortunately we lost 8-10.

District netball champions, County here we come!!!!

Our Year 9 netball has had a phenomenal start to netball season this year. They have won every match played so far this year leaving them top of the District league. All the team have trained really hard every Monday and this has paid off with the team playing to an exceptionally high standard of netball. The team will now continue training hard so that they can become District Champions for the third year running and represent the District at County level.

A massive congratulations to all players, Woodrush are proud of you.

Year 9 netball squad: Sophie J (Captain), Hannah M (Vice Captain) , Abby J, Holly R, Ellie H, Sam S, Destiny S, Yasmin A, Abby C, Kirsty B.



District Cross Country

This year's competition seen over 30 competitors from Woodrush take part on a dry and bright day against other schools within the district.

Our Year 7 girls put in a strong performance with Leah S the undoubted star of the day as she recorded a comfortable win in her age group to secure a medal. Ria J, Lucy H and Hannah G also placed well to round off a good display for the girls. Brandon M also managed to grab himself a medal for the Year 7 boys as a sprint finish seen him place in the top 6.

The Year 8 girls were present as ever whilst Lucy F lead the pack and was unlucky to only just miss out on a medal. The boys from Year 8 have a habit of finishing races together and this competition was no different as they all crossed the line in succession meaning all Morgan T, Chris M and Ross N all secured top 10 finishes.

Alex P and Sophie J ran a good race with both in the top 10 for their age group, with Sophie in the top 6. The Year 9 boys were in a tough race but Taine H did well enough to earn 8th place in his age group. Jess J was the stand out runner from our Key Stage 4 competitors as she ran a great race to finish 3rd to add another medal to her collection!

Huge well done to all those who took part!

WOODRUSH YOUTH, SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Festive Football Fun

Kick off the Christmas Festive Fun with Woodrush Sports Centre's Festival Football Fun

Children aged 8 years +

Tuesday 24th December

Time	Tuesday
10.00am - 12.00pm (Activity 1)	Festive Football Fun

ONLY £8.00

Santa Soccer Skills

Penalty Santa Shoot -Out

Christmas Knock Out

Medals, Certificates & Christmas Treats

Woodrush Sports Centre
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T. 01564 820 099
E. lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Gymnastics Bronze!

On 19th October Kathryn competed in the National Club Team Championships for rhythmic gymnastics against teams from all over Britain. Kathryn contributed to the overall result by competing in both the hoop duet and the trio event, where the gymnasts performed using 3 ribbons. She was also part of the team of four gymnasts who won the bronze medal in the senior club championships, only just losing out on the silver medal position with both



WOODRUSH YOUTH, SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Festive Fun Days

Woodrush Holiday Programme is back providing 2 Christmas Activity Days full of Festive Fun, to keep all entertained over Christmas!

Children aged 8 years +

Monday 23rd December

Time	Monday
8.30am - 9.30am (Ice Breakers)	Breakfast Base - includes toast & juice
9.30am - 11.00am (Activity 1)	Christmas Crafts Workshop
11.20am - 12.50pm (Activity 2)	Christmas Cooking Workshops
1.30pm - 3.00 pm (Activity 3)	Santa's Sports Day and Christmas Countdown Party

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

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Tuesday 24th December

Time	Tuesday
10.00am - 12.00pm (Activity 1)	Festive Football Fun

Monday - LATE PICK UP

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Sports Hall
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8pm-10pm

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Any enquiries contact Chris :
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Woodrush Sports Centre
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Wythall
B47 5JW

Karate King at Woodrush

Harrison has been training and competing in various Karate Championships of all styles for the past 6 years or so. During this time he has graded to his current rank of 1st Dan Grade (one above a black belt). He has recently competed in the Traditional Karate Federation National Championships at Crystal Palace, after winning his qualifying in Bradford. Harrison competes in the 15 to 19 year Male black belt and above division in Kumite (Sparring). Harrison came first – and has now been invited for trials for the GB squad to compete across Europe and next year's World Championships in Japan (although selection is virtually guaranteed for the winner, dependent on raised funds).

Harrison also qualified for the GKR National Championship Finals – which took place at the end of November in Sheffield, despite suffering from severe flu, was placed 4th in Kata (set routine) and 2nd in Kumite. Harrison has furthermore qualified for the National All Styles Championship Finals – which are due to take place in Birmingham at the time of going to press, in early December. He qualified for winning all 3 divisions (kata, Points Sparring and continuous sparring) again in Bradford this year. Harrison will be seeking sponsorship for the TKF Tournaments, especially Japan and will be working with the Team on various fund raising days. If anybody would be interested in helping Harrison with his sponsorship or would like to be involved with any fundraising ideas then please see Harrison or Mrs Brown.



Year 7 Girls Football

Woodrush year 7 girls exited the qualifying rounds with an unbeaten record. The girls feared no one, no team and no moustaches. Movember the 20th was the date, Arrowvale the destination and fate the unknown quantity.

As previously the game that mattered featured Ridgeway, who had scored a draw against us in the qualifiers. Woodrush took the lead and kept it until just after half time. The impetus was now with Ridgeway and they were the deserved winners at the end of a thrilling, skilful and entertaining game. Well done sisters on your first venture into competitive football at the highest level.

Written by Mo Bro Thewlis and Mr Paxton (proud coaches).



District Badminton Champions

They did it with style and panache. The KS4 boys and girls badminton teams are District Champions for a third year in a row.

Four schools entered this competition, with a total of 11 teams playing – 5 boys and 6 girls teams. Both competitions were played as a round robin competition. Woodrush did not drop a single game in either the boys or the girl's competition and were outright winners. They will now represent Redditch at the level 3 County Round as part of the School Games in February. Congratulations to both teams who played very competitive badminton, supported and encouraged each other as well as taking on officiating roles.



Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics

Just after half term a team of girls and boys arrived at Arrow Vale School to compete in the District Athletics competition. This is an indoor competition where teams comprise of 5- 8 athletes who take part in a variety of track and field events. As always it was a fiercely fought competition where every single point counted and made a big difference to the final placing's. The boys finished 5th with 20 points separating the top 5. The girls were runners up being piped to the post by St. Bedes with just 8 more points. The athletes worked well together, motivating each other to go that extra mile and were a real credit to themselves and the school.

KS3 and KS4 Trampolining Competitions

A team from Woodrush competed against Arrow Vale in the District level of the competition which was judged by Redditch trampoline Club Coach Sally Turner and Kelsey Croft. Each performer had to select a level to compete at from beginner to elite and there were at least 3 in each category. After a general warm up the rules of the competition were explained and then each performer had a "one-touch" warm up. The intermediate performers then did their compulsory routines, followed by the elite and finally the beginners, before they all had to go on again to do a voluntary routine. This was quite a daunting experience for some but good practice for the next round. Plenty of practice was scheduled and the team of 9 from Woodrush journeyed to Worcester for the county round of the competition. We had performers in the intermediate and elite sections of the competition. Lots of people were watching which meant a very nervous experience for some. The team worked well together encouraging and motivating each other. Georgina N won the elite individual competition and the elite team were placed 3rd. It was a pleasure to accompany a great team of performers.



Gr-8 Start for Year 7 Football

The Year 7 Football Team started their Woodrush careers with an emphatic 8-0 victory over Aston Fields which sees them through to the next round of the County Cup.

Woodrush dominated the game from start to finish as Aston Fields barely entered our half, with Ewan B making a few saves to earn his first clean sheet. We kept the ball well but were kept waiting for our first goal, but boy was it worth the wait! Kyle E, playing a holding role in midfield, let fly with a rocket from all of 35 yards which was straight in the top corner. This goal opened the flood gates as our midfield kept creating chances with Charlie S and Louix G getting on the ball and starting the attacks. Jackson J and Brandon M were looking dangerous on the wings and their trickery enabled them to get crosses into the box. Kyle E managed to bag another whilst Ben E also grabbed a brace. Louix G got on the scoresheet as



well as Charlie S before Tyrese CF crept in at the back post to score minutes after coming on. Brandon M rounded off the scoring with a mazy solo dribble. The attacking prowess of the team shouldn't take all the credit however, as Ellis R and co at the back looked solid and sure in defence. With performances and hard

work like today, Year 7 can be hopeful of a good cup run this year. Well done lads!

Goalscorers: Kyle E (2), Ben E(2), Louix G, Brandon M, Tyrese CF, Charlie S

Man of the Match: Kyle E

Semi Final Victory for Y7

The Year 7 football team booked their place in the County Cup Final with a superb 4-3 victory over Nunnery Wood in the semi.

The lads got off to a great start and scored in the first minute with Ben E

being in the right place at the right time to tap the ball in from close range after good work from Jackson J on the right hand side. Woodrush were however pegged back almost immediately after Nunnery Wood equalised with a long range effort.

Woodrush looked great going forward with captain Charles S leading by example and attacking with real intent and venom.

Brandon M was causing the Nunnery defence problems with his direct running and had a couple of chances to put us ahead. Charles S eventually gave us a 2-1 lead with a cool finish before Nunnery again equalised with a retaken penalty after Louis D had saved the initial effort.

There was real belief in the side and we went on to dominate the game with Sonny S marshalling the midfield and Ben P putting in a great performance on his school debut at left back. Nunnery looked threatening on the counter

attack but Kyle E made sure they didn't get many chances with excellent last ditch defending. Ben E and Brandon deserved their goals before Nunnery pulled it back to 4-3 but the side had the confidence to see the game out.

To add to the 5-a-side regional finals, the County Cup final awaits and with another team performance like that, the lads have every chance of winning it.

Goal scorers: Ben E (2), Charles S, Brandon M

Man of the Match: Kyle E



District Tournament win!

Huge well done to the Y7 5-a-side team who won the Redditch District tournament last week with a convincing display, scoring no less than 4 goals in every game! The team will now go on to represent Redditch in the West Midlands tournament.

Player of the tournament: Kyle E

WOODRUSH YOUTH, SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Festive Fun Days

HOLIDAY PRICES

Monday 23rd December		Tuesday 24th December	
Time	Price	Time	Price
8.30AM—3.00PM	£15.00	10.00AM—12.00PM	£8.00
8.30AM—5.15PM	£18.00		
3.15PM—5.15PM	£4.00		

Breakfast Included on Monday

PICK & MIX OPTION

Can't stop all day?

Book on for 1 or more activity.
Also available for under 8s!
£4.00 per Activity

Woodrush Sports Centre

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

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



LOOK OUT FOR FESTIVE ACTIVITIES RUNNING OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

WEEKLY LATE NIGHT FESTIVE
DROP 'N' SHOP ACTIVITIES FOR
CHILDREN BETWEEN 5.30PM-8.30PM,
TO GIVE PARENTS TIME TO GET THE
LAST MINUTE GIFTS.

FESTIVE FOOTBALL FUN

CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND
COOKING WORKSHOPS

SANTA'S SPORTS DAYS



NEW! ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH NOW OPEN

- NEW 1/3 Split Sections
- NEW Team Shelters
- NEW 7 aside goals

- to book or reserve a slot please contact
Woodrush Sports Centre
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Prices are as follows:

FACILITY Full AGP

Adult: £ 87.00
Junior: £ 69.00

1/3 AGP

Adult: £ 29.00
Junior: £ 23.00

*invoiced 10 week block bookings
qualify for a 10% discount



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



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