

Issue 25
Winter 2014



WOODRUSH STAR

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Merry Christmas from Woodrush



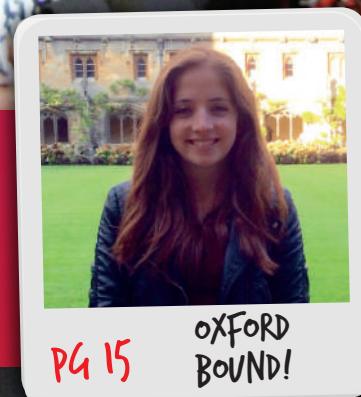
PG 4

TEACHING
SCHOOLS



PG 6

TIME TO ASPIRE



PG 15

OXFORD
BOUND!



Dear Parents and Carers

Dear Parents & Carers

Can I take this opportunity in our first Woodrush Star of the year to welcome all our new readers, both new students and parents. As always, the autumn term has flown by and it doesn't seem that long ago that we had just started back from the summer holidays. As I said then, we were delighted with some excellent academic results in the summer and are pleased to hear back from many of our students that left us in the summer to start university courses across the country, including Oxford. Many came back to see us at our upper school awards evening last week and we were really pleased to hear about them settling so well into their degree courses.

This term we gained the centre of excellence status from the inclusion quality mark, gained national teaching school status and saw planning permission granted for our new community hub block on which work is starting now. In addition to this, our students have continued to make great progress this term towards their targets, in particular those

students in Year 11 who are preparing for mock examinations in January, and all our Year 7 students who started with us and have settled in so well.

Well done to all our students this term for taking part and raising money for some excellent causes including, the Poppy Appeal, Macmillan, 'Movember' and Children in Need to name a few. Students have also taken part in a huge number of extracurricular activities and visits and all have experienced our two Aspire days so far with the themes of 'remembrance' and 'futures'. We hope you enjoy reading this edition about our students' work and successes and as always this edition and previous editions can be seen on our web site.

The spring term starts on Monday 5th January and we look forward to seeing all of our students back then to continue their excellent work. From us all at Woodrush we wish you a safe and enjoyable Christmas break.

Mr C King, Headteacher



Contents

News	3
Teaching Schools	4 - 5
Aspire	6 - 8
Remembrance	9
News	10 - 11
Sixth Form	12 - 15
Science	16 - 17
Y & C	18 - 19
Library	22
Maths	23 - 25

Charities	26
News	27
Humanities	28 - 30
A2L	31
English	32 - 35
DT & Art	36 - 37
ICT	38
News	39
P.E	40 - 43



SUPPORTING PROSTATE CANCER & MALE MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES

MOVEMBER

Knowledge is Power • Moustache is King



Quotes

Do you know the author and book of each of these quotes?

1. "Promise me you'll remember, you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think."
2. "A person's a person, no matter how small."
3. "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
4. "How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?"
5. "If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."
6. "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go."
7. "How much good inside a day? Depends how good you live 'em. How much love inside a friend? Depends how much you give 'em."
8. "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

The Movember Foundation challenges men to grow moustaches during Movember (formerly known as November), to spark conversation and raise vital funds for its men's health programs. To date, 4 million moustaches have been grown worldwide.

This year many of our staff took up this challenge to grow their moustaches with various degrees of success. The money raised will go to work saving and improving the lives of men affected by prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health problems.

Where's Mr McDowell?



Mr McDowell is up to his Irish tricks again and is hiding within the pages of the Star. How many can you spot? Find every Mr McDowell and post your number onto Frog to enter the competition, the 1st observant pupil to find and count every Mr McDowell wins a box of chocolates; and there's merits available for all correct answers. Get searching - and remember to read some of the articles along the way.



Woodrush awarded National Teaching Schools Status



We were delighted to hear in the summer holidays that Woodrush has been awarded National Teaching School Status by the National College of Teaching and Leadership and Department of Education. With only 500 schools across the country having been designated since 2011, which is slightly less than 1% of all schools, we were delighted to have gained this status. Only outstanding schools are designated as teaching schools. As a school that recognizes clearly



the importance of high quality staff, and the direct link this has to what our students receive each day in their lessons, we have always placed a great emphasis on our staffs professional development and the training we do to improve what we offer, whether that's in the classroom or in other areas of our work. Like many schools, we have also been actively involved in training new teachers for many years. We have done this because it's good for our staff to use their skills and to help improve new teachers, it gives us more adults to work with our students

in our school and on a practical note we often appoint the very best new entrants to our permanent staff, should we have vacancies, before other schools have a chance to recruit them. As a teaching school we are asked to play a bigger role in our region and local area to support more people into teaching. In particular, we have now developed even stronger links with local universities, such as Birmingham. Teaching schools also take a leading role in the research and development of learning and practice in schools and, whilst we have always done this,



the significant additional funding that we gain as a result of our designation will further support this work over the coming years.

We are delighted with our designation and the opportunity to take a larger role in the further development of teaching in our local area.



Teaching schools have an outstanding rating from Ofsted and have a history of working with other schools to help train teachers and support them throughout their careers. Teaching schools can form groups called teaching school alliances.

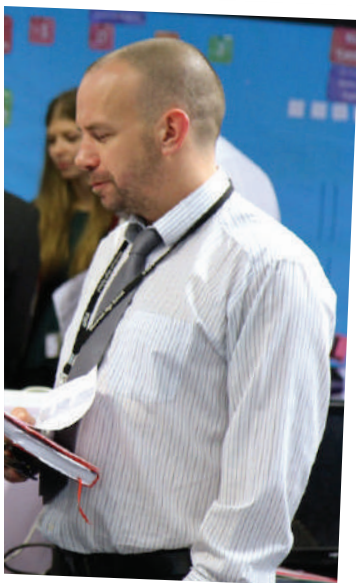
The alliances are made up of:

- The leading teaching school
- The schools it supports
- Their partners, such as universities.

The role of teaching schools is to work with others to provide high-quality training and development and support in their local area.

Teaching schools lead in 6 areas:

1. School-led initial teacher training
2. Continuing professional development
3. Supporting other schools
4. Identifying and developing leadership potential
5. Recruiting and managing specialist leaders of education
6. Research and development



Aspire Programme

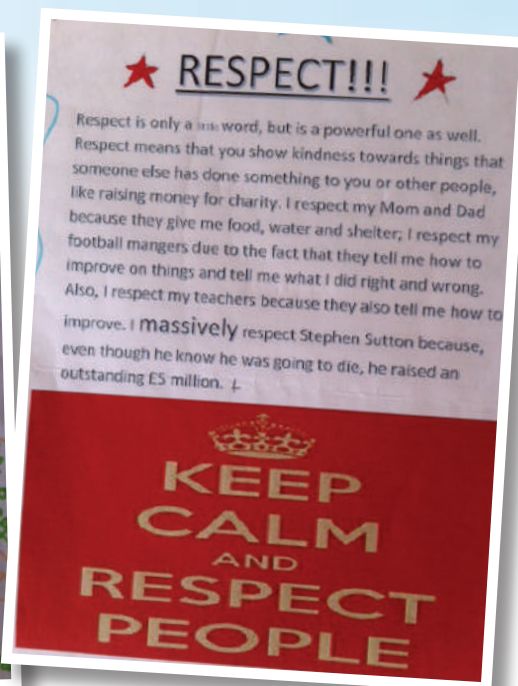
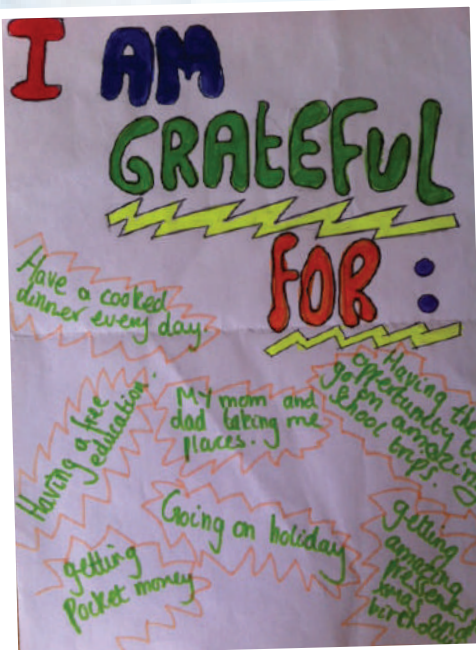
Achievement, Self-Awareness, Purpose, Involvement, Relationships, Emotional Intelligence

The first letter of each word on the tree spells ASPIRE because our goal is for students to aim high during their time at Woodrush and aspire to be the best they can.

Each of these Aspire branches acts as a half termly overarching theme and focuses on a specific set of Values; Civic, Moral or Performance Values. Within the overarching theme, each week there is a Theme for the Week, linked to a value or virtue, and a quote for reflection. Two weekly tutor periods are allocated ASPIRE sessions where students explore the themes and are given an activity to do that they act upon, reflect and feed back on in the next session.

This tutor based work follows this Approach to Learning Virtue :

1. Identify an issue for virtue (moral, civic, performance).
2. Deepen knowledge and understanding of that issue.
3. Application of value or virtue to the issue.
4. Habit forming : Practice the virtue.
5. Evaluation : Have I changed for the better?



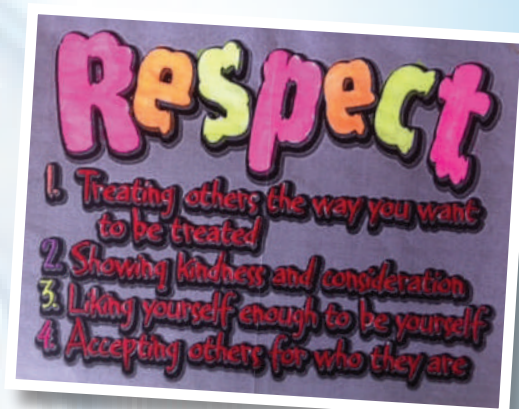
Character Education – an overview

Mrs Sheppard, Assistant Headteacher

As a school, one of our main aims is to ensure that our students develop into happy and successful young people, well prepared to meet the challenges of adult life. We always aim to improve the life skills and qualities that we are equipping our students with before sending them out into the big wide world, this includes developing their character. This year I am working specifically on developing a Character Education programme at Woodrush. Whilst a young person's character develops through a whole range of experiences during their time in education, 'character' can, and should be 'taught' as well as 'caught', and not just be expected or relied upon. One of the organisations I have recently made links with is the Jubilee Centre. Their in-depth research into Character Education provided the basis for our original discussion and SIP planning. As a research body, central to the work of Birmingham

University and School, the Jubilee Centre have worked on a Programme of Study to teach Character. My own personal research has also included the work of Martin Seligman, author of 'Flourish', whose theories have always been the basis for our Youth and Community ethos and vision, for achieving a flourishing life. His theories provided the basis for our Aspire tree, at the centre of this work. I have also been looking into the work of Carol Dweck and her 'Growth Mindset' principles.

There have already been a number of key developments relating to Character Education this year, with the introduction of our Aspire Programme, consisting of weekly tutor based sessions and timetabled Aspire days.



Aspire Day 1 World War I commemoration

In addition to the Aspire work in tutor time, we have 6 'Aspire days' over the year which will address various aspects of PSHE, Citizenship and Character Education, under the Aspire themes.

Our first Aspire day took place in September and was planned to recognise the national commemoration of the first world war. Our aims for the



day included commemorating the war in a meaningful way, in a day that was both reflective and thought provoking, while teaching students about the virtues Self Discipline, Humility, Respect, Courage, Gratitude, Honesty and Justice.

The day consisted of a range of experiences for staff and students that included a drama performance 'Meaning in the Mud', a commemoration service at church followed by classroom reflection, and documentary and character work in tutor groups.



World War I Centenary 1914 - 2014 World War I Week

During the World War One focus week in September, students and staff took part in a variety of lessons and activities in their Humanities lessons. Year 10 students learnt about Commonwealth soldiers during the war, linked to their British Depth Study. Year 9 students learnt about a famous professional footballer, Walter Tull, who lost his life fighting in the First World War. Even A-Level Politics students learnt about the impact of the war on America.

Year 8 students, who have been studying World War One in more depth, took a walking tour down to the local Wythall war memorial on the Alcester Road. They had already researched different war memorials before the lesson, so during their visit they were able to look at the memorial in depth; in particular the names of those who lost their lives. They also drew pictures and took photos. Back in class they used this information to design their own war memorials, some of which are on display in H3.

We were extremely impressed with how Humanities students conducted themselves during this week.

Miss Graham.

World War I in Science

World War One played a key part in year 7, 8 and 9 science lessons during the war themed week in September. Pupils spent one of their lessons learning how to code break and managed to break a variety of different codes. In their other lesson they learnt about trench warfare through a soldier's diary entries, how soldiers treated injuries in the field before medical help arrived, and attempting to treat a variety of different injuries they suddenly succumbed to.



World War I Committee

Some of our Sixth Form students have formed a committee to help plan and coordinate centenary and remembrance activities for this year and looking ahead to the next 3 years. Through their committee they hope to also raise awareness of the centenary and provide information to help students understand the First World War.

As part of this they have already planned and delivered assemblies, helped out with trips, and are researching the possibility of building a war memorial on the Woodrush site. Throughout the course of the year they will be taking photos and footage to put together to show at our commemorative evening in the Spring. They are looking for students from all years to help with the preparations for this and to take part on the evening itself. If you would like to join the WWI Committee please let your Humanities teachers know!

Check out the 6th Form pages for more information about their centenary events and trips!

Guess the member of staff!



WOODRUSH SIXTH FORMERS DEBATE LESSONS LEARNT FROM WW1

Fifteen Woodrush Sixthformers took part in a lively conference at Worcester Cathedral on Armistice Day, 11th November. The conference was titled 'LEST WE FORGET - the lessons of the past. Are they wasted on us today?' A prestigious panel addressed the audience before our students attended the 11am remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial outside the

Cathedral building. A new approach at this year's conference was to have a live interactive debate using the technology the students are most familiar with – mobile phones. As the panel answered questions at the end of the morning the students were able to text their comments and further questions which could be picked up by the panel making it a lively discourse. Sue Adeney, the Education Officer, said "The breadth and depth of understanding and enquiry was hugely impressive at this event on war, historically and in the contemporary context. The students were a credit to their schools."

Mr. Cooper



CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

1. The month Christmas falls in (8)
5. This starts on December 1st (6)
8. If your house has one, this is Santa's way into your house (7)
11. This is where the first scene of 'Love Actually' is set (8)
12. Traditional meat served for Christmas dinner (6)
13. Who said 'One can never have enough socks. Another Christmas has come and gone and I didn't get a single pair.'?
16. This department store famously had the advert about 'The Bear and the Hare' (4,5)
18. This brand famously plays 'Holidays are Coming' in it's Christmas advert (4,4)
20. A small decoration, especially a brightly coloured sphere, hung from a tree (6)

Down

2. Accidentally stand under this and you may get more than you bargained for (9)
3. You're likely to find some of these under the tree (8)
4. This film, starring Bruce Willis, begins on Christmas Eve (3,4)
6. One of Santa's reindeer (6)
7. This song went flying into the charts after the animated festive film was released in 2013 (3,2,2)
8. You pull this at Christmas dinner (7)
9. French for 'Merry Christmas' (6,4)
10. Will _____ stars in this festive film about a man raised as an elf (7)
14. If you wanted to go to meet Santa, this is where you would go (7)
15. And there won't be snow in _____ this Christmas time (6)
17. Who said 'Bah, humbug'? (7)
19. Kevin was left behind when his family flew here (6)







Remember

Poppy Appeal 2014

Woodrush were asked to sell poppies again by The British Legion in the week leading up to Remembrance Day on 11th November. Last year students raised £256.75 and with the work we have been doing in school to commemorate the centenary of the

First World War we are hoping to have raised more money this year. Students had the choice of buying a poppy or a wrist band to wear. There were also some enamel badges on sale this year, which proved very popular with our students.

Our day of remembrance was marked with a final flurry of poppy selling and a two minute silence marked by a bugle player at the end of an extended period 2.

Mr Branton

I am the Learning Co-ordinator for Lanchester House. I have worked in a variety of support staff roles in education over the last 6 years, ranging from Teaching Assistant to Educational Visits Co-ordinator. I have recently



moved to the West Midlands from Hull in East Yorkshire and, apart from the inordinate amount of rain down here, I'm really enjoying it! I love watching Hull City A.F.C whenever I can and I'm quite possibly one of the worst full-backs ever to have graced a football pitch. I'm a bit of a sci-fi geek and I have particular fondness for Star Wars and Doctor Who. I have completed the 26 mile Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge on 3 occasions; my best time being 8 hours and 14 minutes. I'm really looking forward to working at Woodrush. The few weeks I've spent here have already shown me not only is Woodrush a great environment for pupils, but it's a great environment for staff too.







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Guess the member of staff!



Do you know the author and book of each of these quotes?

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9. It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye.

WOODRUSH YOUTH, SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Festive Fun Days

HOLIDAY PRICES

Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December

Time	Price
8.30AM—3.00PM Whole Day	£15.00
2 Activities include a Break and Lunch	£10.00
1 Activity	£4.00

PICK & MIX OPTION
 Can't stop all day?
 Book on for 1 or more activity.
 Also available for under 8s!
 £4.00 per Activity

Breakfast Included

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



Miss Ford

I've always been passionate about sport, I played various sports throughout school, university and beyond.

I've always worked in sport, as a coach (in the UK, America and Fiji), within sport development (in the UK and Australia), and as a teacher. I completed my PGCE at Sandwell Academy. Supporting pupils to achieve their potential and to succeed both in and out of school gives such job satisfaction, there is no better job! I play netball and am about to start training for a triathlon next year! I also love to bake and I am a keen traveller!



Miss Kent

I became an MFL teacher because it is the only way I got to combine two of my favourite things in the world; working with and helping young people, and sharing my knowledge and passion for languages and different cultures. I think

it's really important that students learn languages, because it opens up their eyes to a better understanding of the world around them (plus it's scientifically proven that learning a language makes your brain bigger!). Before I came into teaching I studied History and Hispanic Studies at Birmingham, followed by a Master's degree in Translation from the University of Leeds. From there I went to live in Santiago de Compostela, Spain for five years, working as a teacher and translator. Returning to the UK, I did my PGCE at Warwick and taught at a school in Coventry before joining the Woodrush team this year.

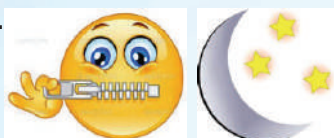
I love travelling, spending my gap year on the Rotary Youth Exchange to Argentina, and just a few years ago I spent six months volunteering in Ecuador. I have also been on trips to New Zealand and the USA, and most recently spent my summer holidays in Colombia! In addition to globe-trotting, I like to read, watch films and go to gigs.

Dingbats



1. Nigmassht
2. Smfrankell
3. Know it No
4. Mind Matter
5. 25th December 2013
6. i✓i
7. Mail Male

8.



9. Night Night Night Night
Night Night Night Night
Night Night Night Night
10. **X-MAS**

Mr Deb

I have been teaching, in and around the West Midlands area, Business and ICT for over 10 years. In my journey in teaching I have held various posts including Head of Year, Head of Department and Head of Faculty. Since a young age I have had a passion for teaching and coming from quite a big family my parents have always valued the importance of education. This value has ultimately brought me into education. I have always had a philosophy of raising the bar, whilst closing the gap, and that every child is entitled to a first class education regardless of their socio-economic background.

I am so pleased to have joined an excellent team of colleagues and students here at Woodrush High School and can honestly see why OFSTED have been continuously grading the academy as

outstanding. I have had such an interesting first term at Woodrush and I am truly looking forward to the next phase in my educational career.



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Join BRAND NEW Woodrush Badminton Club
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Wythall
B47 5JW



BRINDLEY HOUSE CHAMPIONS 2014 REWARDS TRIP

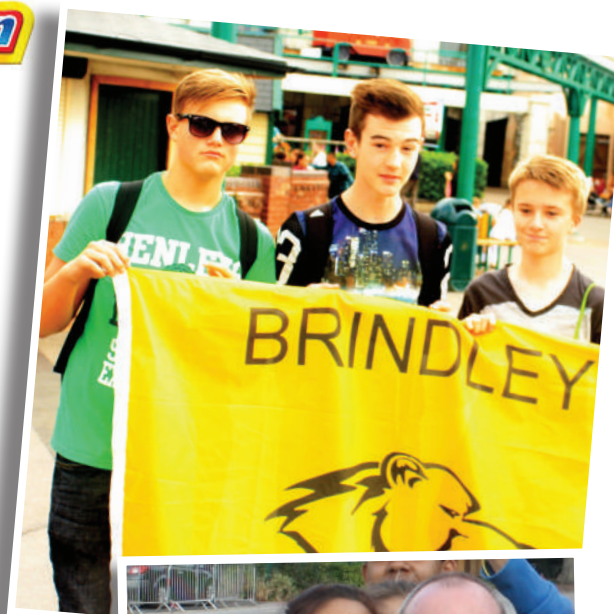
The blood, sweat and tears from September 2013 to July 2014 led to the 2014 rewards trip for all the staff and pupils of Brindley house. The vast majority of Brindley house enjoyed the sunshine, rides and banter at Drayton Manor.

A big thank you, and apologies, goes to all the staff who helped Brindley become champions, but were unable to attend due to work commitments.

Miss Price, and many staff, were youthfully enjoying the camaraderie that has always been the Brindley way, whilst screaming on the rides.

Mr T was with his trusty camera capturing the birthday girl, pupils enjoying themselves, and many action shots of the 'three amigos'.

The only blip was the late arrival of the last coach but the Year 10's behaved themselves impeccably and everyone got home safely on Mr T's birthday.



Sixth Form success – our best ever set of Sixth Form results

Our 2013/2014 cohort of students deserve huge congratulations for achieving our best ever set of Sixth Form results. 100% of all students passed their A-level and BTEC subjects with over half of the students achieving A*-B grades. This has resulted in a record number of students securing places at university. In fact, every single student obtained a place on their desired course at their desired university. This also included a huge number of students gaining places at Russell Group universities (the top 24 universities in the country). Competition for places at these universities comes from all four corners of the globe. We are therefore incredibly proud that over a quarter of our recent Sixth Form graduates are now studying at prestigious universities like Oxford, Warwick, Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield. Our recent success now places us as one of the highest performing school based Sixth Forms in Worcestershire. We are really proud of these students' successes and it is already great to have received so much correspondence from them informing us of how well they are doing at university, on higher apprenticeships, in employment, the armed services or on a structured 'gap year'. We are already looking forward to celebrating the successes of our current students next year.

Some of last year's Sixth Form students are currently studying the following:

Medical Sciences at the University of Leeds
Biochemistry at the University of Nottingham
English at the University of Nottingham
Chemistry and Molecular Physics at the University of Nottingham
History at the University of Nottingham
Finance, Accounting and Management at the University of Nottingham
Hispanic Studies at the University of Nottingham
Politics at the University of Warwick
English and French at the University of Warwick
English Literature at the University of Warwick
Physics at the University of Sheffield
Philosophy and Spanish at the University of Oxford



(from left to right): **Cheryl** (English Literature: A*, Psychology: A, Biology: B), **Megan** (English Language and Literature: A*, History: A, French: B, Fashion and Textiles: B, Extended Project Qualification: A*), **Nicola** (English Literature: A*, Politics: A, Spanish: A, History: B, Extended Project Qualification: A*), **Jay** (Politics: A*, Business Studies: A*, History: A, English Language and Literature: B), **Joshua** (English Literature: A*, Film Studies: A*, Sociology: C).



Suzie (Maths: A*, Physics: A, Further Maths: A, Chemistry: A, Biology: B), **Danny** (Maths: A*, Chemistry: A, Physics: B).



Woodrush Sixth Form raises money for Macmillan Cancer Care Trust

Woodrush Sixth Form raises money for Macmillan Cancer Care Trust. On September 25th, Woodrush Sixth Form hosted its annual fundraising coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Care Trust. Macmillan Cancer Care Trust is a charitable organisation that provides support and information for anyone suffering from cancer. On the day itself, staff met in the Sixth Form centre at break time to buy cakes, hot drinks and savoury snacks that were prepared and made by both staff and students. A range of delicious cakes and savoury snacks were also enjoyed by lower school students at lunchtime as Sixth Form students attempted to sell as many of these mouth-watering treats as possible. Despite just missing out on last year's total of £487, our students still managed to raise an impressive £481 for this very worthwhile cause. On behalf of the Sixth Form, we would like to thank all of the staff and students who contributed towards the day itself.



Our first term in the Sixth Form

Some of our new Year 12 students share their views.

Callum

Studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics

Jess

Studying PE, French, Sociology and Biology

Alex

Studying Biology, Chemistry, Maths and Physics

Jordan

Studying Chemistry, Biology, PE and Business Studies

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

My sister came here two years ago and recommended it. Initially she went to another college but returned here after a year and said it was much better. It's also a nice environment here and teachers know my strengths and weaknesses.

It came highly recommended by friends of mine that have come here. They told me they really enjoyed it. I also came here because most of my friends decided to carry on their studies here.

I just know it is the best place to get the grades I need. It is also familiar to me.

I know the teaching is really good. I feel comfortable here. There are also smaller class sizes which means you get more individual attention during lessons.

How have you settled in the Sixth Form?

Really well. I've actually made friends with students I did not really know in Year 11. It's very sociable and I already have a close group of friends.

I was nervous at first but now it is fine. The Year 13s have made us all feel really welcome.

I've settled in well. It's a nice environment to be in and the atmosphere here is very friendly. I am socialising with new people and there is a good working environment here.

Well... lots of support from teachers and friends has helped.

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

Yes. It's warm and friendly compared to other places I looked at. You definitely get a more personal learning experience.

Yes. It offers a wide range of subjects and opportunities. If any students are thinking of studying elsewhere because they want a change from being at Woodrush, I can definitely say that being in the Sixth Form feels completely different to being in the lower school.

Yes I would because of how different it is. It's familiar surroundings but the whole atmosphere is different.

Yes. The teachers help you settle in and support you, but also push you to get the best out of yourself.

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.



Introducing the new Sixth Form Head Boy and Head Girl

The votes have been cast and it gives me great pleasure to announce that George and Amy have been voted as the new Head Boy and Head Girl for the Sixth Form for this academic year. After a fiercely fought election campaign, which included videoed manifesto speeches, George and Amy received the most votes and were voted in as Head Boy and Head Girl. The announcement itself was made by last year's Head Boy (Ollie), Head Girl (Nicola), Deputy Head Boy (Jay) and Deputy Head Girl (Lois). Jordan and Heather will support George and Amy as this year's Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl. Congratulations should also go to all of the students that campaigned for the roles of Head Boy and Head Girl. Without exception, these students all did really well and should be applauded for all their efforts. George and Amy will play a pivotal role this year in representing the Sixth Form and the school as a whole. They will also chair Sixth Form committee meetings. This year's committee is our largest to date with sixteen students in the main committee and several other students also working in the charity, social and sports sub-committees. The role of the committee is incredibly important to the Sixth Form. They decide on many of the initiatives that the Sixth Form follow, including decisions made about Sixth



Form charitable concerns, social events, facilities and other developments. It is very important that our Sixth Form students feel a sense of ownership regarding the future of their Sixth Form. We look forward to Amy and George spearheading the committee meetings, developing new ideas and effectively representing student voice for all our Sixth Form students.

The committee have already met on a number of occasions and are starting to put together some really exciting ideas for the year ahead. Look out for news of these exciting initiatives in subsequent editions of the Woodrush Star.

Picture: (from left to right) Heather, George, Amy and Jordan

Sixth Form teambuilding day

Recently, a group of Year 12 and Year 13 Sixth Form students enjoyed an adrenalin fuelled day of paintballing. The organisers (Delta Force) provided our students with a range of thrilling scenarios, which included games entitled: Tomb Raider, A Bridge Too Far and Viet Cong Village. Castles, buses, pyramids, bridges and trenches adorned the 64 acres of woodland setting and provided temporary cover from the hundreds of paint ball projectiles that whizzed through the air over the course of the day. Mr Sullivan, Mrs Ashman and Mrs Bullivant tried their best to compete, but they were no competition for the youthful enthusiasm, agility and fearlessness of the students. Special congratulations go to George for landing the first hit on our Head of Sixth Form, Mr Sullivan. Also, special recognition has to go to Dan, Heather and Megan (pictured below), whom the organisers deemed to be the most effective combatants on the day. However, all of our students should be congratulated as everyone participated enthusiastically.

All of the students had a fantastic time and finished the day feeling happily exhausted. Another positive to take away from the day is that our new Year 12 students were given an opportunity to get to know our Year 13 students better; albeit in the forum of all out paintball war!

Picture (from left to right): Dan, Megan and Heather





Oxford Bound:

An interview with recent Sixth Form graduate Nicola

Nicola completed her A level studies with us this summer. Below is an interview with Nicola that details her experiences in the Sixth Form and her first few weeks studying at the University of Oxford.

When did you finish your studies in Woodrush Sixth Form and what grades did you achieve?

I finished in July 2014. I got an 'A*' in English Literature, an 'A' in Spanish, an 'A' in Politics and a 'B' in History. I also did an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) in my final year, which I got an A* in. I would definitely recommend this, especially to those who find an interest in something other than the subjects that they are studying. For example, I did a philosophy essay for my EPQ.

What are you currently studying?

Philosophy and Spanish. I've always loved Spanish and I have some experience of studying Philosophy for my EPQ, so it's really exciting to have a mix.

How did Woodrush Sixth Form help you achieve the grades you needed to be now studying at one of the world's leading universities?

I genuinely cannot exaggerate how much Woodrush Sixth Form helped me to get my grades. In terms of teaching, I don't think I could have asked for more. The teachers are always there for you. They treat you more like adults and your relationship with them becomes stronger than it was in lower school. I was constantly emailing them with questions and exam responses, and they never hesitated in helping me out. There's a lot of emotional support there too,

which you'll need when it comes to A levels. As long as you're committed to being the best you can be, the teachers at Woodrush will always support and push you towards realising your full potential.

Woodrush gave us all endless opportunities to improve our skills and knowledge in our subjects both inside and outside of the classroom. Just to give a few examples, there were debating competitions, a public-speaking competition, student mentoring and trips to the theatre to watch plays that we were studying.

Would you recommend Woodrush Sixth Form to the current Year 11 students?

YES!!! WITHOUT A DOUBT! I am so glad I decided in Year 11 to apply for Woodrush Sixth Form. It is one of the best decisions I have ever made. Woodrush Sixth Form gets the best out of you. The teachers know your strengths and weaknesses, and, because they've known you for years, they really care about seeing you achieve the best possible grades and supporting you in your chosen destination for when you leave the Sixth Form. If there's one thing I would say to the current Year 11s, it would be that you cannot afford to underestimate how much competition there is for university and higher apprenticeship places nowadays. Woodrush Sixth Form is the best place for you if you want to make sure that your university, apprenticeship or employment applications stand out, not just in terms of grades, but also in terms of all the other experiences that you can talk about during your time in the Sixth Form.

What about the social side of life in Woodrush Sixth Form?

There is a range of social events that take place in Woodrush Sixth Form. The Sixth Form prom at the end of the year

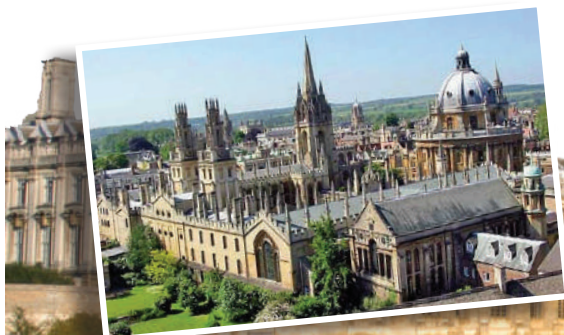
was amazing and other social events like the Sixth Form sleepover are experiences I will never forget. There are also a number of social events that the students organise themselves. In the Sixth Form you become more like a family, which is exactly what you need when exam stress comes around! Everybody supports each other. You also form new friendships with students that perhaps you did not know so well lower down the school. The friendships I have developed during my time in the Sixth Form will definitely be lifelong friendships.

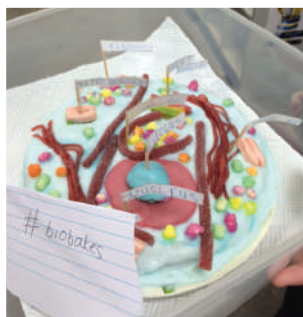
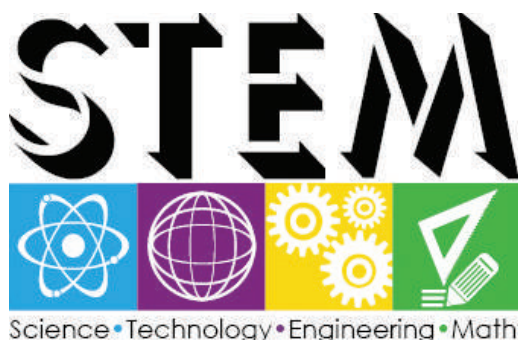
What is it like at the University of Oxford and how have you settled into university life?

It's just SO amazing that it's actually quite difficult to put into words! I'm settling in really well - there are lots of societies, lots of hilarious traditions, and, yes, lots of work. And, despite popular opinion, Oxford is nowhere near as elitist or out of date as some might think. I already feel like I belong here and I am over the moon that I get to continue my studies here.

Do you miss Woodrush Sixth Form?

All the time! It was home for the past two years, and I can't quite believe that I've actually left. I'm really jealous of the new Year 12s - you guys have got an amazing two years ahead of you!

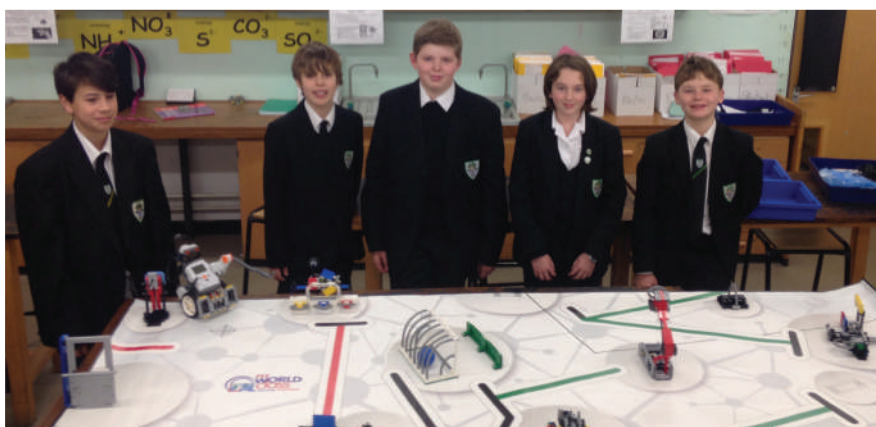
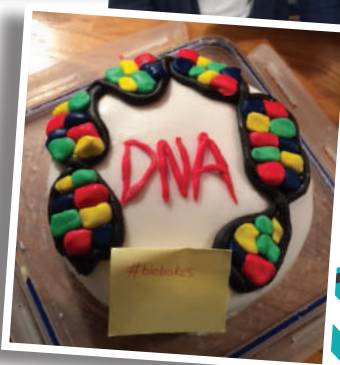




Bio Week

In National Biology week the Science department hosted a Biology Quiz for 6th form students. Although there was only 1 mark in it - congratulations go to Emily, Amy, Millie and Holly for getting the top score. Students and teachers also celebrated the week with biological inspired baking which caught the eye of many thousands of followers of the physiology society who kept re-tweeting our pictures with the #biobakes.

The department ran an interhouse competition for the best "ode to physiology" where students had to write a poem or rap to explain how something in the body worked...sorry Mr. T, you didn't win this time.



Robotics Club

2014-2015 looks like an exciting year for Lego Robotics club at Woodrush. Firstly we welcomed back our experienced builders and programmers from last year, but also said hello to a new wave of enthusiastic year 7's! Students have been sent back to the drawing board this year, to design and build a new Lego robot to attempt new challenges at the 2015 First Lego League competition, held at Birmingham University. The challenge this year, named 'First Class', and sees students produce and program robots to help in the field of education, offering their views on how best to educate future generations.

Teamwork has always been key throughout First Lego League, and our students have shown good participation, becoming experts in different fields. Designers, builders, programmers and problem solvers all have their part to play and over the coming weeks we hope to produce a working solution to many of the challenges that have been set, as a team.

In addition to this, a Spanish school has shown interest in collaborating with us this year, to work on a joint project. After Christmas we will be in communication to share programming ideas as well as learn about each others cultures. This is something we are very excited about!

If you are interested in joining us at Lego Robotics club, please see Mr Roberts in S8 or just turn up on the day, 2:50-3:50 every Friday after school!



Farm Club

Farm club would like to introduce our two newest recruits, 2 beautiful baby pygmy goats. The boys are just 4 months old and are settling in really well. They are getting used to being walked around school on their leads and enjoy getting into mischief.



Science Club

Science club, which began this year, has proved to be a huge success amongst our Key Stage 3 pupils. Leading up to October half term it was run by 3 of our science teachers, Miss Hempson, Mr McDowell and Mr Virdee who each took a session on a 3 week rotation, although you could always see them popping their heads into the other sessions – it got quite competitive!

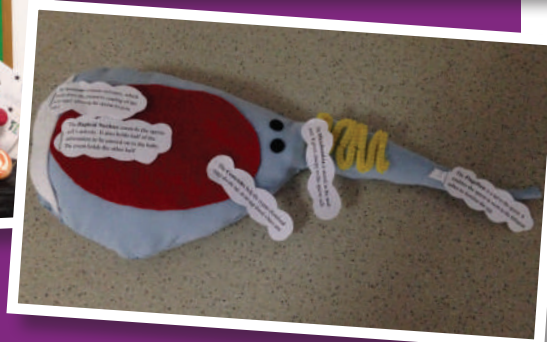
There have been a variety of activities including 'elephant's toothpaste', determining whether the number of Mentos added to a bottle of coke makes the geyser formed higher, heart and lung dissections, filling balloons with hydrogen and fire writing.

Since October half term the Sixth Form students took over, preparing and giving sessions to the pupils, with Miss Hollingworth present to offer help and guidance. The Sixth Form pupils work in planning and delivering sessions, like making 'volcanoes', is leading to a CREST Award, whilst the sessions they are delivering to the pupils allows our Key Stage 3 pupils to achieve a CREST Award too.



Homework Projects:

There have been some very impressive homework projects in science. Pupils in KS3 are given an extended period of time to complete these projects rather than short pieces of work each week – so it's something they can really get their teeth into and extend their learning.



Tweet!

One of our very own Woodrush Art students made it viral in October, when our local MP Sajid Javid, who is also Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, came to visit the school. Upon seeing a painting created by last years A Level Student Jack Metcalf, he tweeted the image. Jack Metcalf is now studying an Art Foundation course at Bourneville college and is doing fantastic. Watch this space!!!

Sajid Javid MP @sajidjavid · 30 mins
During @Woodrushhigh visit, saw this fab painting by recent pupil Jack Metcalf.
Talented young man



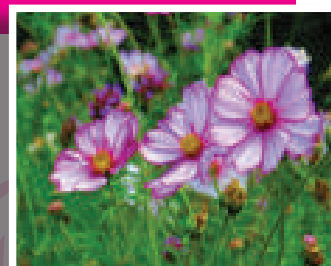
Dudmaston Estate Trip

On Friday 24th October, the KS3 Art club went to visit Dudmaston Estate to view a life size brown paper sculpture of one of the trenches from 'The Battle of the Somme'. The trenches were very detailed and Miss Graham, who also joined us on the trip, informed us that they were incredibly accurate. It really put into perspective how terrible the conditions were. It was a brilliant day and gave us all lots of inspiration for our own artwork.

Written by Lucy C

KEW GARDENS – Year 9 Art & Photography

Colour was in abundance at Kew Gardens in September when Year 9 Art and Photography pupils visited for inspiration for the starting point for their GCSE projects. Students had a brief to record the colour wheel in photographs, then focus on one colour and collect a range of tones of that colour. There was so much colour, texture and pattern to be found that the students were spoilt for choice! This work is now being used in art to inform all of their lessons on natural forms as well as to create the colour wheel in photography. This was the second year of visiting this amazing botanical garden site in London and all the pupils got so much from it once again.



Poppies

Some KS3 Art students created poppies based on 'Bloodswept Lands and Sea of Red'. They used mixed media to create 3D poppies that were displayed on the walls of the courts, on Tuesday 11th November while the 'The Last Post' was played on a Bugle to honour those that fought and died in World War 1.

Day	Activity	Who	Where	Staff
Monday	Photography Workshop	KS3	ART 3 – 4PM	Mr Fewell
	Photoshop	KS4	ART 3 – 4PM	Mrs Lee
	Dance club	KS3	HALL 3-4pm	Mrs Bridgen
	BTEC Music	Year 13 Musicians	MU1 3 – 4PM	Miss Dyer / Student led
Tuesday	G&T Artists	KS3	ART 3- 4PM	Mrs Martin
	Art Club Animation	All Years	ART 3 – 4PM	Mr Fewell
	Dance Enrichment	KS4 Dancers	Gym 3 -4PM	Mrs Bridgen
	Woodrush Voices	All Years	MU1 3 – 4PM	Miss Dyer
	Orchestra	All Years	MU2 3 – 4PM	Mrs Sheppard
Wednesday	Music Tech	Year 9 GCSE Music	Photography Suite	Miss Dyer
	GCSE Music tutorials	Year 11 Music	MU2 3 – 4 PM	Mrs Sheppard
	GCSE Dance	Year 11 Dance	Gym 4:30 - 6PM	Miss Thomas
Thursday	Drama Enrichment (Drop in session)	GCSE	Youth Centre 3-4PM	Mrs Bridgen
	Pop Band	All Years	MU1 3 - 4PM	Miss Dyer
	GCSE Music tutorials	Year 11 Music	MU2 3 – 4 PM	Mrs Sheppard
Friday	Mixed Media	KS4	Art 3 – 4PM	Mrs Jukes
	Woodrush Force	KS3	Gym 3 – 4PM	Miss Thomas



Jennifer Collier

On the 16th October, the Year 10 Art GCSE students went to Stafford for the day to work with the artist Jennifer Collier.

Jennifer Collier is a contemporary artist who creates 3D everyday items using recycled materials. We went into a converted barn where we made our very own products to use as part of our GCSE coursework. We gained a lot of knowledge from Jennifer and used it to make our items more professional, like hers. Even though we only had a short time at the barn, we all felt inspired and we thoroughly enjoyed the day trip.

Harry and Dan Year 10



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 6 years +

22nd—23rd December

Time	Monday	Tuesday
8.30am - 9.30am (Ice Breakers)	Breakfast Base	Breakfast Base
9.30am - 11.00am (Activity 1)	Santa Sports Day	Santa Sports Day / Christmas Crafts Workshop
11.20am - 12.50pm (Activity 2)	Christmas Crafts Workshop	Christmas Party
1.30pm - 3.00 pm (Activity 3)	Christmas Movie & Popcorn	

What's the Christmas song?



1. Make the yule-tide gay; Next year our troubles will be miles away.
2. Sleigh bells ring; are you list'nin'? In the lane, snow is glist'nin'.
3. A force from above; Cleaning my soul; Flame on burn desire; Love with tongues of fire.
4. You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen.
5. Giddy-up jingle horse, pick up your feet; Jingle around the clock; Mix and a-mingle in the jinglin' beat.
6. A very Merry Xmas; And a happy New Year; Let's hope it's a good one; Without any fear.
7. He's making a list; And checking it twice; Gonna find out who's naughty and nice.
8. Bells on bob tails ring; Making spirits bright; What fun it is to laugh and sing; A sleighing song tonight.
9. The greatest gift they'll get this year is life; Oh, where nothing ever grows, no rain or rivers flow.
10. With logs on the fire and gifts on the tree; A time to rejoice in the good that we see.
11. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care; And take us to heaven to live with thee there.
12. Oh, I won't ask for much this Christmas; I won't even ask for snow; And I'm just gonna keep on waiting; Underneath the mistletoe.
13. Round yon virgin, mother and child; Holy infant, tender and mild.
14. This year; To save me from tears; I'll give it to someone special.
15. Where the tree tops glisten; And the children listen; To hear sleigh bells in the snow.
16. When the snowman brings the snow; Well he might just like to know.
17. What did your daddy do; When he saw your mamma kissing Santa?
18. Oh, don't leave me alone like this; Don't you say it's the final kiss.
19. At the Christmas party hop; Mistletoe hung up where you can see; Every couple tries to stop.
20. Come and trim my Christmas tree; with some decorations bought at Tiffany's.



Woodrush supports Birmingham Bikeathon

On Sunday 21st September 2014, Woodrush Sports Centre held a refreshment stop point for the riders of the 26 mile route to support the first ever Birmingham Bikeathon. This was in aid of raising money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research is a leading UK charity dedicated to improving the lives of patients with all types of blood cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Woodrush Youth and Community Committee and Management Team were excellent hosts to the riders, ensuring that all riders were fully hydrated and fed, achieved by providing a range of light snacks and refreshments.

Woodrush Youth, Sport and Community Centre were quoted by Birmingham Bikeathon as "a good place to catch up with loved ones stopping off for a snack/drink and well-earned rest". As a centre we were very proud to be part of this event and look forward to being part of more charity events in the future. We were also very proud of the young people who are part of the Youth and Community Team for taking their time on a Sunday to volunteer and support such a great cause.

It was fantastic to see so many riders out to help make a difference to the lives of blood cancer patients. More than 1,500 riders took part in the Birmingham Bikeathon and came through the gates of Woodrush Sports Centre. The day was a great success, raising over £200,000 towards the charity.

For more pictures and information please visit the Sport Centre Facebook Page or Website.

ALL THAT JAZZ

What a fabulous night! Usually it is the senior citizens trying to encourage the young people to dance but it was quite the reverse with both of us joining and encouraging them to join us on the dance floor. When it was first suggested that we host a Jazz Night, as none of us really knew what Jazz was about, we did not feel that excited about it. It wasn't until Barbara, one of the senior citizens, danced around the Youth Centre with her umbrella that we realised Jazz music was good fun!

On Saturday 11th October 2014, we hosted a Jazz Evening with JB Jazz and Blues Band as the main act. In preparation for the event we decorated the hall, laid tables for the hot supper and prepared golden bowler hats and umbrellas (which we hand decorated for a special ladies umbrella dance)! Over 120 people attended our Jazz Night, including local and District Councillors. We want to thank Barbara for kindly paying for the Jazz band to support our evening which resulted in raising a successful total of over £1000. Those who attended the evening have now offered additional donations. All money raised will go towards purchasing two defibrillators within Wythall, one based at the new Community Hub and the other at Wythall Park. We would like to say a special thanks to Cllr. June Griffiths who has granted £1,500 towards this good cause in Wythall.

There were comments made from everyone leaving 'When is the next one?' so watch this space for future events!





Youth Management Team – School Speakers Award

On Wednesday 1st October MP Sajid Javid (Secretary of State for Culture Media and Sport and Minister for Equalities) presented our Speaker's School Council Award. The award was awarded to our young people on our Youth Management Team in recognition of their outstanding commitment and contribution in helping save the local youth provision for Woodrush and Wythall, following financial cuts to Worcestershire Youth Service. The young people have assisted the staff at Woodrush in developing a new programme for young people and are crucial in ensuring that young people have a voice within the school and local community.

Sajid Javid spent over an hour with the team questioning their work and was extremely impressed, so much so, he



said he wanted to take their work back to David Cameron as an example of excellent practice.

Sajid Javid said "It was a privilege to present the School Council Award to the students on the Youth Management Team. Their dedication in building up a new youth programme for Wythall is very impressive. It is absolutely right that we congratulate them on being such an asset to our community and voice for our young people." The Youth Management Team wasn't the only thing the MP was impressed by, when he saw an art piece on Mr King's office wall by ex-student Jack Metcalf, he asked if he could Tweet this to show his fellow MPs! The art department were delighted!

Remembrance Day March



On Sunday 9th November, the Youth Committee/Management Team and other members of Woodrush High School took part in Wythall's annual Remembrance Day March. We did this to pay respects for fallen community members and commemorate past and present conflicts. Due to our increased presence in the community we have been very honoured to be asked to present our own poppy wreath for the past two years. The day began with a very apt and modern service from Rich our local vicar, this was a great opportunity for the whole community to experience the new St Marys church. The service included poetry by local residents, hymns and an appearance from our local scouts groups. The march started from the church and all the major community organisations followed the Wythall Marching Band to the cenotaph where they were greeted by nearly 1000 residents which included some on motorbikes, scooters and horses - this could only have happened in Wythall! After a hymn from the community choir, and readings from members of the armed forces past and present, Chloe (our Chairperson) and George (our Head boy) laid the wreath as representatives from both the School and Youth Centre. Everyone agreed that it was a very successful event and felt very honoured to be part of such a strong and united community.



Can you work out what Christmas food the ingredients would make?

1. suet; bramley apples, candied peel; sultanas; raisins; currants; demerara sugar; mixed spice; orange zest and juice; brandy; plain flour; golden caster sugar; ground almonds; unsalted butter; egg; milk.
2. active baking yeast; milk; eggs; caster sugar; salt; unsalted butter; bread flour; currants; sultanas; glace cherries; citrus peel; marzipan; icing sugar; cinnamon; flaked almonds.
3. shredded suet; self-raising flour; white breadcrumbs; mixed spice; grated nutmeg; ground cinnamon; soft dark brown sugar; sultanas; raisins; currants; mixed candied peel; chopped almonds; cooking apple; grated orange zest; grated lemon zest; rum; barley wine; stout.
4. light muscovado sugar; orange juice; cranberries.
5. raisins; glace cherries; currants; sultanas; sherry; orange zest; butter; light muscovado sugar; eggs; black treacle; chopped almonds; self-raising flour; plain flour; mixed spice; royal icing.
6. plain flour; bicarbonate of soda; ground ginger; ground cinnamon; butter; light soft brown sugar; egg; golden syrup.
7. chipolata sausages, streaky bacon.
8. onion; vegetable oil; sage; white breadcrumbs; salt; pepper; egg.
9. eggs; caste sugar; self-raising flour; cocoa powder; chocolate; double cream; apricot jam; icing sugar.
10. sponge; amaretti biscuits; sweet sherry; cognac; raspberry jam; blackberries; raspberries; flaked almonds; custard; brandy; lemon juice; caster sugar; double cream; grated nutmeg.



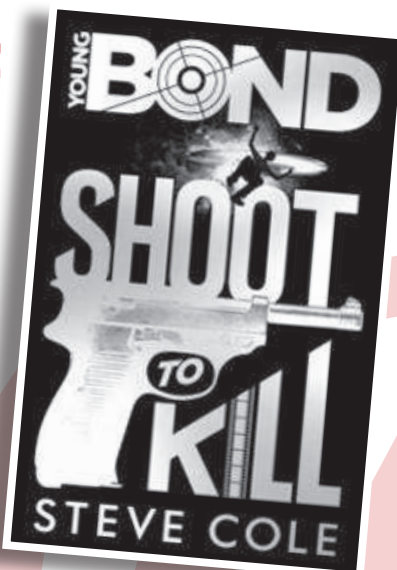


Bond with Books! Shoot to Kill By Steve Cole

Shoot to Kill is the latest book in the Young James Bond series. The opening chapter is set in Los Angeles in America. It tells the story of Mac, a cameraman who works for a gang of criminals taking films to use for blackmail. Mac is in trouble because a very sensitive film has gone missing!

In the next chapter we discover that James Bond is starting at a new school where one of the other students has been given some violent movie clips. James will soon be visiting America. Will he be able to sort out the baddies and solve the mystery of the missing film? Read this exciting, tense and thrilling book to find out!

Bradley, Harrison and Jake



Year 7, Shaken and Stirred!

The first activity in our Bond with Books project was meeting the author. Everybody has a signed copy of his brand new book which we are reading when we meet in the library once a week. We also use this time to get to know each other as a group, work on our literacy skills and plan future activities. Before Christmas we are getting ready for a Cooking Together evening. We can ask one of our parents to come along and bake a tasty festive treat with us.

The project will end with a James Bond evening which we are going to plan. Our families will be invited.

We are really looking forward to the party, the cooking and all the fun stuff that will be happening.

By Dan, Jordan and Tyler

Licensed to Thrill!

One wet and windy day in November a lively group of Year 7 students went to The Hive in Worcester to meet the author, Steve Cole, and hear him talk about his latest book Shoot to Kill. When we arrived at library we sat with students from lots of other schools. Firstly Steve Cole showed us some everyday objects which turned out to be special gadgets; our favourite one was the flask which was also a pair of binoculars.

Next he told us about how he wrote the book. He read us part of the story and answered lots of our questions. Finally we were each given a book of our own which Steve Cole signed for us.

By Anastasia and Harry

"Steve Cole is awesome. I really enjoyed this amazing trip." Anastasia

"He may be famous one day. That will make my book special." Jake

Mr Watson

I am originally from the great state of Alaska, which is in America and not Canada (Canada is not a real country), but I have lived in Britain for 7 years. Before moving to Britain I lived in California, where I was going to become a cop. In California, I managed a retail firearms dealership and shooting range; I was a certified handgun safety instructor. Prior to 'The Golden State', I spent 3 years in Japan teaching English.

When I came to Britain, despite having a BA and an MA, I was from outside the EU and finding employment was very difficult. I found a job as a maths Teaching Assistant, then a teacher abruptly retired and I was asked to step in, I was told I should get fully qualified and here I am today.

I have had a variety of jobs outside of teaching such as a fisherman, postman, hotel manager, cook in a Mexican restaurant and working in a prison. My main hobby is basketball and I play in the West Midlands Basketball League. I also like to play baseball when my wife lets me; I played with a North England All-Star team this summer against the GB national team and hopefully will get to play more next year. Of course, I also enjoy spending time with my young children.



**Guess the
member of
staff!**



Anagrams

rearrange the letters to
produce names of:

People born on Christmas day

- a.) Winters As a Coin
- b.) Neon Axle Inn
- c.) I Odd
- d.) Embryo Graph Hut
- e.) Aorta is Cloak

People linked to Christmas

- a.) Chains Also Tin
- b.) Casual Ants
- c.) Sir Such Jest
- d.) Ivy Arm Ring
- e.) Gherkin Set





Numeracy concerns?

Meet 'Super Numan'!

Do you worry what up to date methods are used for multiplication?
Do you worry about how you help your child with Numeracy homework?

Find 'Super Numan' in the Numeracy section of the parents menu, on our school website. Ask him any questions and get some support.

NUMERACY



Magical Maths

Some of our Year 7 students had a chance to work with some 'Maths-Magicians' in October. They performed number tricks, zapped each other with number wands, played bingo and generally had lots of fun with maths.



I Q
M B
S O D M
L P A C
B E Z E N X
L I U R B Y
D M W J K R E T G V B R Y P E G X S U S
U X K H T A B Y H W R J L M R H E G O C
E R O X T T O R E E U L I P S I K U
L V V S J E M L G R O S K I P A
D Z O A J H Q N Q H T E T H
N T Z P J I I G F L W U
X H A L A A S G B I E B R J
S T O C K I N G E Q T P K I
E L D S N O W M A N W O T E N F
E U E N A O K U Z E E Y G O
Z R M Y S F B U P C J L X H
O T Y C O Z F E Q J
S E L J G M K N
E F T R

TREE
SLEIGH
RUDOLPH
CANDLE
HOLLY
MISTLETOE
JINGLE
GINGERBREAD
TURKEY
STOCKING
MERRY
SNOWMAN
WREATH
STAR





BLETCHLEY PARK

National Codes Centre

Year 8 and 9 students visited Bletchley Park this term. Once Britain's best kept secret, today Bletchley Park is a heritage site and vibrant tourist attraction. We explored some of the iconic WWII codebreaking huts and blocks and were astonished by the achievements of the Codebreakers whose work is said to have helped shorten the war by two years. We were also able to do some decoding ourselves and use a real Enigma machine!



The day we met veteran Betty Webb to learn how Mathematicians helped decode German messages during World War Two.

On Monday 6th October we interviewed, Betty, a World War II code breaker who came in to tell us about what she did at Bletchley Park. When Betty was 18 years old she had basic training in the ATS. She was asked to choose what she wanted to focus

on between driver, gunner or cook. Women were not valued as highly in the workplace back then and were said to be incapable of doing a man's job.

Alissa D

Betty was able to speak fluent German and was therefore asked to go to London for an interview. She did well and was told to go to Bletchley Park where she would be based. She had no idea at this time what her job would

involve. When she arrived at Bletchley, Betty had to go to an office where she had to sign a contract at gun point, saying that she would not talk about her work for 30 years.

Becky S

Betty used to read de-coded messages in German and then organise them into order of importance ready to be used. About 10,000 people worked in secrecy at Bletchley. Betty was never able to tell her family about her secret job as her parents died before the 30 years secrecy was over.

Kajol G

My Story

Verse 1

I'm 18 years old and I'm still deciding who to be
I'm a woman so I can't join the army
My choices are limited to gunner, driver or cook
Who'd have thought one day I'd be pickin' up a codebook
I was still learning German at age 14
So I wrote that down and they seemed keen
The people in charge told me to take a trip
Not by bus, plane or even by ship
Pre-chorus

I'm a woman in World War 2
There's not a lot I'm allowed to do
I'm proving society wrong
In a place that I know I belong
Chorus

I'm a code breaker
Sworn to secrecy
By the game maker
Whoever they may be

Verse 2

I'm sitting on a train to Bletchley Park
I met this girl, but this was just the start
She told me about her Belgium escape
And how England opened up a brand new gate
After a journey hours long we finally arrived
Were now at a place where women can thrive
I've got a bigger and brighter future ahead
And the person on the train...were now sharing a bed

Verse 3

It's the first morning and I'm walking into an office
This is where we're gonna make the promise

The man with the gun is standing there
I guess its to show and not to scare
Right now is where we make the commitment
To keep the secret we'd go the distance
From now on I can only send letters to my family
They think I'm training to be a secretary

Verse 4

A few years have gone by;
it's the end of the war
I still can't talk about what I saw
About 30 years now, down the line
I can tell my story, cus that's what I signed
But some people close to me have sadly passed
Now they'll never know of the secrets I've had
But hope they're still watching on proudly
And I hope they'll some of see themselves inside me
Last chorus
I'm a woman after World War 2
There is so much more that I can do
I've proved society wrong
I've found a new place where I belong
I'm a code breaker
That was sworn to secrecy
My name is Betty
And this is my story

Written by Mya F
Inspired by Betty Webb





Making Numeracy an integral part of our school!

We want every child to feel positive about Numeracy here at Woodrush, no matter their ability. The first thing we want to work on is Attitudes.

In the UK it is common to hear someone say 'I can't do maths'. Parents often freely admit they 'can't do maths' to their children, friends to their peers, it's even in the films and TV shows that we watch. If children hear 'I can't do maths' from parents, teachers and friends they begin to believe that maths isn't important. We want to change this culture and here at Woodrush we know that our parents will support us in this cultural change.

In school we will be celebrating numeracy success with certificates, student becoming Numeracy Ambassadors, a cross curricular Numeracy Week in school and lots of fun with numbers!

MATHS OPENS DOORS!

We won the war because of you!

At Bletchley Park in World War Two
Arrived a train, it went choo choo
And off got Betty aged eighteen
To be one of few women as part of a team

'Twas super-secret for thirty years
And I'm sure that Betty still sheds a tear
Because her parents never knew
We won the war because of you

She cracked the codes the enemies sent
Shoeboxes not files, the messages bent
But she was able to work them out
And showed the men without a doubt

That women actually can be smart
And in society deserve a part
Dear female code-breakers, Betty too
We won the war because of you!

By Samantha V



Farm Trip

Woodrush maths department took the majority of year 7 to Lower Drayton Farm in October. We had a trailer tour of the farm, pulled around by Farmer Ray in his tractor. We saw lots of different crops in the fields, looking at the plants both above ground and below, and even got to taste some of them. Farmer Ray told us some surprising facts about the crops, such as the roots can grow more than 2m below the ground! On the tour we saw and fed the llamas (including the cute baby one), and saw semi-aggressive rheas, and lots of cows. We then got a bit muddy on a bug hunt through the woods, and tried to find as many different species as possible. There were lots of earwigs, spiders and worms! The winning team found over 50 bugs! Finally we got lost in the 8ft maize maze, which was fun; it was like that maze in Harry Potter – without the monsters. A great time was had by all, and it led nicely into the farm project we completed in maths lessons, where we designed a farm to make as much profit as possible. This was a fun trip that would be good for all of the new year 7's next October.



Senior Maths Challenge

This year Woodrush entered pupils for the UK Senior Maths Challenge again.

The Senior Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying mathematics in the UK. It involves answering 25 multiple choice questions and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. This is a definite step up from the Junior and Intermediate Challenges that we offer to years 7 – 10, in that the questions are much more taxing and take longer to complete. The Challenge successfully went ahead on Thursday 6th November. 30 pupils from years 11, 12 and 13 were entered and although the results weren't quite as good as last year, 2 pupils, Joanna (year 12) and Amy (year 13) achieved high enough results to receive Silver certificates, whilst Bronze certificates were awarded to Vicki (year 13), Rob (year 12) and Nathan (year 11).

Well done to everyone who took part.
Mrs Courts



Children in Need

Friday 14th November was another great fundraising day for our students at Woodrush. The theme for Children in Need this year was Super Heroes and many staff and students came dressed for the occasion. The Maths department displayed their super number powers and Super Numan made several appearances during the day. The Teenage Mutant Turtle, Donatello, made an appearance in Miss Thomas's science lessons and Cat Woman made an appearance in Ms Goswami's lessons in Technology. The Sixth Form also dressed up and there were some incredible outfits. Wrist bands and Pudsey bears were sold throughout the day and the Sixth Form sold cakes.

At the end of the day we raised a massive £1222.94.



Save the Children – Christmas Jumper day.

On Friday 19th December students helped to raise money for Save the Children by wearing Christmas jumpers. This will be the 3rd year running that Save the Children have held this day and the money the students raised will go to helping save people's lives. For every £2 raised, potentially lifesaving antibiotics could be bought to treat three babies with infections. Save the Children have raised over £1.6million so far and this year the Government have said they will match every pound raised. Hopefully Save the Children will get an extra special Christmas gift this year to help those children in need in other countries.

FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN TAKE PART!



Ex-Woodrush Pupils (now aged 50!) Cycle London-Paris

It all started when a core group of lads, who still live local to Woodrush, completed a 100km bike sportive in the Cotswolds. Word slowly spread amongst former friends and the idea was hatched to celebrate our 50th birthdays by doing something special – a bike ride from London-Paris. The final numbers were 11 (plus a cousin).

Training started in January 2014 - a 50 mile ride out to Stratford where we encountered hailstorms, flash flooding, fallen trees blocking the road, and lightening – lessons were learned. As the year progressed, training became more rigorous. As some of us no longer live in the Midlands, we also arranged training weekends in places like the New Forest; Wales and The South Downs. I must mention Dynamic Rides Bike shop in Hockley Heath, where on various Saturday mornings, many of us joined their rides as part of our ongoing training.

It was finally time in early September and the ride left Waterloo in London and took 3 consecutive days,

approximately 85 miles/day; thankfully all of us completed the distance. It has been the most amazing journey to be with old friends from school. We have had tough times, many laughs, but most of all, heart-warming support amongst us all. We have great memories from Woodrush High School, who would have thought that we would still be such good friends today...

Some of us completed the ride to raise money for charity. These were Welsh Air Ambulance; Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Specialist Cancer Ward 19; The Samaritans, Children with Cancer UK; Help Harry Help Others; British Heart Foundation; and Acorns Children's Hospice

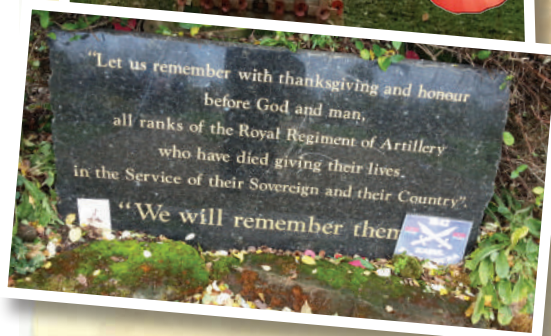
Ex-Woodrush Pupils: Ian Barber; Carol Bloor (Orme); Paul Crowther; Mike Fisher; Steve Gotham; Mark Holdsworth; Julie Kenwright (Field); Jez Smith; Dave Steele; Martin Turrell; Ian Walter. We all left Woodrush in 1982 after 'A' Levels, Carol left in 1980

Harewood House, Grand Depart, Tour De France and Film Premiere

On Friday 4th July we were privileged to have the opportunity to travel to Harewood House, Leeds to be part of two special occasions. Firstly, on the Saturday morning, the Grand Départ of the Tour de France was happening. We had special passes to get into the hospitality part of the event and so were able to stand on the start line ready for the big event! Thousands of people had come to watch the race start and the atmosphere was amazing. When all the cyclists came we saw lots of well-known names including Mark Cavendish and Chris Froome. We were also lucky enough to see Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Cambridge, Kate and Prince Harry. It was amazing to see them so close, although there were snipers on the roof of Harewood House! The second event was for our mum, as she is a Producer for a Birmingham production company (Blue Hippo Media) and her new documentary "Bicycle" was having its World Public Premiere at Harewood House. It was an amazing evening and over 1000 people came to watch the documentary. What was really cool was that the screening was powered by people on Bicycles! We had a really great weekend and enjoyed it!

Harry and Louix G www.bicyclethefilm.com





Trip to the National Memorial Arboretum

On Tuesday 21st October a group of year 8 and 9 students were lucky enough to attend a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. We woke up to weather reports of gale force winds, due to the impact of hurricane Gonzalo, so everyone was a little concerned that the visit would be a wash out. With sensible footwear and rain macs in tow, we embarked on the journey.

Fortunately for us, the weather seemed to brighten up on the way there, so spirits were high. They were bolstered even more by the news that a special memorial was opening that day for the land girls of WWII, so everyone was extremely excited to get a glimpse.

When we arrived we were able to go and look around the first collection of memorials. These were dedicated to those who fought during the Pacific campaigns of WWII, many students were not aware of this aspect of WWII, so it was fascinating to learn a little about it.

We then set off on our tours in two respective groups, both analysing war memorials related to WWI. We got to look at all sorts of memorials, some dedicated to the post service, some to the artillery, others to individual Battalions, and perhaps the most poignant was the 'Shot at Dawn' memorial. This was designed with an individual post to represent each of the 306 British and Commonwealth troops who were shot for desertion and cowardice during WWI. It truly is a sight to behold. Students had time to walk around, taking in the memorial and looking carefully at the names and ages of each of the soldiers. Shocked gasps could be heard as students realised: 'Miss, they were only a bit older than us!' From Worcestershire to Canada the names and ages of many different men will remain ingrained in our minds for a long time. A very humbling, and sobering moment. Especially when you take into account that these men and, in many cases boys, were underage and suffering shell shock.

With sombre, yet inquisitive minds we all went back to the work rooms to do an activity about remembrance and the importance of the poppy. We were asked to think about why the poppy is so important, students came up with remarkable answers such as "pain, hope, death and life". We then got to make our own poppies and think about why it is important that we all buy a poppy every year. Again wonderful answers were given for example "To remember and respect all those who have, and continue to give their lives in service". We then all went outside, to another memorial, where a select few students were picked to read a poem of remembrance. All those who were asked read with heartfelt emotion and it was a very special moment. After the poems were read, and a minute's silence was held, a couple of students laid remembrance stones which were kindly decorated by Mrs Hatton.

It was a fantastic way to understand a little more about the World Wars and how and why people commemorate those brave souls who were involved. We will remember them.

Reported by Mrs Kaur





R.E Trip

Following on from the exchange programme with Yardley's school last year, 10 students from KS4 went to join 10 students from Yardley's school at the faithful neighbourhood centre in Sparkhill. A meet and greet, and a hot cup of tea (of course), was our first stop before we began our faith trail walking around Sparkhill and the Sparkbrook area, luckily with the sun out. This walk helped our students to understand different cultures and socio-economic groups. We stopped off at 4 different places of worship, starting with a Hindu Mandir where we watched some of the Aarti prayer. Then we moved on to a Islamic Mosque, followed by a visit to a Christian Church, where we had a talk by Reverend John Firth. Finally, ending our day, we arrived at the Sikh Gurdwara where we had a tour and a free hot meal (as part of the langar custom) of curry and chappati and chips!!!

Reported by Mrs Kaur

Want to know? Use a GIS

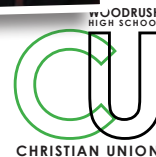
On Thursday November 20th six of our Year 12 geographers visited King Edwards VI Five Ways School in Bartley Green, Birmingham, to take part in a Geographical Association run day about Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The students had a chance to use some of the latest software to analyse patterns connected to crime data, the choices for store locations that some of our leading retailers make and the patterns of accidental roadkill of native British mammals such as badger and red deer. Experts in their fields advised on careers relating to this technology and all of us left the event fascinated by the many applications of computer stored data information that there are in Geography.

Mr. Cooper

A GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE?

Year 13 Geographers listened to a fascinating talk on Monday 17th November on 'Shale Gas in the UK'. Organised through the Geographical Association, the lecture was held at King Edwards VI Five Ways School. The lecture was given by an eminent expert in the field, Michael Bradshaw, Professor of Global Energy at Warwick Business School, University of Warwick. Michael discussed the reasons for the move to exploit shale gas reserves in the UK and debated both the arguments in favour and those against. He was full of insightful comments, whilst at the same time providing a very balanced overview as to the needs for the UK to maximise its energy security and therefore consider shale gas extraction but at the same time being mindful of the potential risks from utilising this natural resource. All of us came away from his lecture very much better informed and in a position to add our own views to this debate!

Mr. Cooper



FRIDAY LUNCH TIME
1:15 - 1:45
H2 WITH MR TAYLOR

PLAY GAMES
ASK QUESTIONS
EXPLORE ANSWERS



Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13



Year 11 and 12 trip to the Carding Mill Valley

In October, year 11 and 12 Geography students went on a fieldwork trip to the Carding Mill Valley to investigate how a river changes as it moves downstream. Students worked in groups to collect data at thirteen different sites along the river. They collected data such as depth, width, and gradient. They also used dog biscuits and a stop watch to measure the speed of the river! The year 11s are currently using the data to write their controlled assessment, whilst year 12 will use it to answer fieldwork questions in their geographical skills exam at the end of the academic year. Unfortunately, we weren't blessed with glorious sunshine on the day but everyone worked together to get all the data down despite soggy paper and pens that wouldn't write in the rain! Well done everyone.

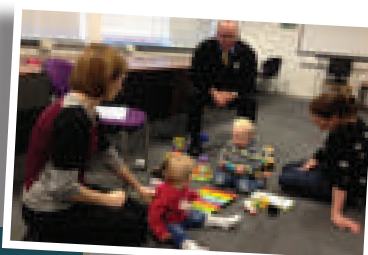


A 'Strange Situation' for Woodrush Psychologists

Earlier this term psychology students had the opportunity to participate in their own attachment experiment. Based on the work of Mary Ainsworth, students recreated the 'strange situation'.

Students decided to use the conference room for their observation and the delightful participants for the study were Mr Moss' little girl, Erin and Miss Williams' little boy George. Each infant was first observed with their mother and then observed with a stranger (Mr Thewlis). Students needed to see if each infant played more happily with their mother than with the stranger.

It was found that both infants had secure attachments, though students did note how difficult it was to properly classify the child based on simple criteria. Every student appreciated the chance to conduct actual research into a topic they had recently studied.



Music

Teachers can too

Miss Dyer and Mrs Sheppard, along with 6th form musician Paris W, were recently successful in passing an audition to join the City of Birmingham Choir. With over 100 members, the choir rehearses in the city centre once a week and regularly performs at Symphony Hall. The choir sing a wide variety of music and are currently rehearsing for a number of concerts over the Christmas period.



Mr Hammond

I'm an NQT and completed my training in Walsall and Nechells. I love teaching History because there are so many inspiring tales in the past which we can learn from. As Bob Marley once said, "If you don't know your History, then you won't know where you're coming from".

I came into teaching because I want to inspire the historians of tomorrow. Before I became a teacher I worked as a tailor and as a shoe salesman for 5 years.

Outside of school I am a big supporter of Birmingham City, and also follow Glasgow Rangers north of the border. I am a keen reader, and I love drama too.



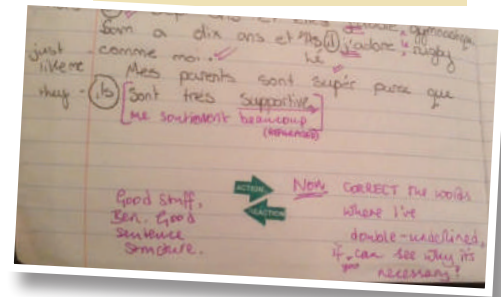
Mr Taylor

I have only been at Woodrush for a term, however both staff and pupils have made me feel truly welcome and at home. I am thoroughly looking forward to working in such an "outstanding" P.E. department and I am really excited to raise both students' enjoyment, and progress, in the subject. Before entering teaching I have had over 5 years of experience in the Fitness and Health industry as a Personal Trainer. I have always had a passion for all physical activity and sport and I am keen to share this with all pupils at Woodrush. I enjoy all sports; in particular I have a keen interest in Basketball, Cricket and Rugby. Therefore, I am particularly keen to build successful Basketball and Rugby clubs, teams and local club opportunities throughout Key stage 3 and 4.



Year 13 Lunchtime Concerts

Year 13 music students took to the stage this half term performing a 20 minute set each, over 5 lunchtimes. Gemma H performed on the electric guitar, acoustic guitar and vocals to perform a varied and impressive set; she played pieces from the heavy metal genre in contrast with Lana Del Ray chart hits. Jared B wowed us on the guitar with his take on two classic Oasis tracks, along with playing 1980's power ballad Chance by Big Country. Paris W performed an impressive vocal set captivating her audience by performing classical pieces and folk pieces alike. Harry E stood out as a natural performer playing Muse, Biffy Clyro and Pendulum hits in a 20 minute set on the electric guitar. To finish off the five sessions, Matthew M performed a range of pieces from the Baroque period right the way through to contemporary 20th century Jazz on the flute, all with the help of an excellent accompanist on the piano. An audience of all ages came to watch, allowing students to learn more about different instruments and genres of music.



Action / reaction stamper

In July 2014, as part of our on-going quality assurance in school a whole school assessment work scrutiny was completed where we looked at a number of students' work from all their subject areas.

On writing a document about our findings I began to think about what had made those subject areas 'stand out' as clearly evidencing learning over time. I also started to think about the success of the 'what do you think?' stamper, which had originally been launched in 2009. This stamper had worked well in encouraging a dialogue between teachers and students, and had been adapted by many teachers to create an effective dialogue.

However, we realised that the stamper was not always encouraging an effective 'reply' from students and could be developed to support student progress through a 'follow up' of an 'action.' I then worked to find a solution to this via a new AFL stamper, finding examples of words and symbols online which could work. I asked staff and students to vote for their favourite on FROG. This resulted in our 'action/ reaction' stamper, which has been launched in September 2014 and is currently being used by staff and students in school. The idea is that it another 'open' tool to encourage reflection (reaction) but significantly, action, which is for the teacher (or indeed the student (or peer) to take steps to progress.

The concept of us evidencing a student's 'learning Journey' over the time they are with us at Woodrush, also came from the work scrutiny and will see each department 'evidencing' learning 'over time' in different ways, suited to their department. E.g. PE will use iPads to film performance, whereas Science and English use assessment books. The power in this principle will be as the evidence of learning builds over time and this will be able to be shared with parents/ carers and students, to show just what great support our students gain and how their learning develops whilst they are with us at Woodrush.

Attitude to Learning (A2L)

In September we launched new A2L statements which will guide how successful students' attitudes are to learning. Students' behaviour/attitude to learn are key indicators in determining their ability to make progress.

The new statements are also supported by our new Character Education and our focus to encourage students to show greater independence in their learning and understand the role they play in determining their success in school.

Replacing PSC, the statements also move away from any potential misunderstanding of what 'satisfactory' might mean, as there are now 4 statements. 1 and 2 are deemed as 'positive' and show a student is working well, whereas 3 and 4, show (in classwork, I.S, a report card, their annual report) that there is a concern about how a student's attitude to their learning is unacceptable. Both these gradings demonstrate a lack of consistency in learning, which will certainly affect their future outcomes. The new A2L statements were launched to staff and students earlier this term and information for parents/carers will be sent out with student reports. Please contact myself or the Learning Head of House team, if you need further clarification.

E. Lawson

Mr James

I teach English (including Language and Literature at A-level) and I'm definitely a self-confessed terminology geek! I love looking at ordinary things we might take for granted in a piece of literature, a newspaper or a conversation, and trying to explain why it is there and how it all fits together (a bit like using evidence at a crime scene!).

Before Woodrush, I worked in a Sixth Form College with students aged 16-19. This was one of my first real experiences of working with young people and it certainly made me realise that it was what I wanted to do. I have also lived at a school for 4 weeks (possibly a nightmare for most people), working with children from countries all over the world. Whilst I was studying, I spent a few months designing Cadbury's chocolate wrappers, which was very interesting.

Outside school I 'enjoy' going to watch Birmingham City FC, although we've been rubbish for the last few years. I play football when possible and I used to play the drums in a few bands.

I was mistaken for Ray Quinn on holiday (poor Ray) and almost signed an autograph for an American family...





National Poetry Day Celebrations (English and the library)

Demise by Polina S

As the dreadful wind blew in my eyes,
With all its force and eerie might,
I took my bayonet from my coat,
And placed it on the road.

I could not leave my motherland,
And fight with weapons in my hand,
I couldn't predict what the future
would hold,
"You will be fine," was what I was told.
I picked up my weapon and breathed
in the air;
Does the frontline seem like a villain's
lair?
I couldn't predict what the future would
hold,

"You will be fine," was
what I was told.

We marched through
mounts,
We swam through
lakes,
We finally reached the
billowy place,
Where silhouettes
rose at a very swift
pace.

I shouted in horror:
"Oh, why mother,
why?
Why have I listened to you? I'll now say
goodbye ..."
I glanced at the horizon: a bullet
showed up,
And the sound that it made was a quiet
thump ...



Woodrush's Senior Youth Speaks Team Tackles 'The Age Old Problem

Is age just a number? That was the question Chloe W, Year 11, Jamie M-W, Year 10, and I posed to the audience of this year's Youth Speaks competition at the Holiday Inn in Solihull. We decided to pose this relevant question to the Rotary Club because, due to my experiences at a care home, we didn't want our elderly generation to be lost and forgotten in the form of high care

home fees, new NHS guidelines and the stereotypes.

After all, we were celebrating their achievements only a few weeks ago on Remembrance Day.

Youth Speaks is a competition aimed at helping to improve young people's public

speaking skills and it has certainly helped us! Our team prepared hard, working every lunch time with Mrs Heggs, who helped us to craft and perform our speeches to the best of our abilities. On the day, our nerves were high as we were the last team to perform our speech and the other teams, all very good, had discussed issues such as gender inequality, the treatment of whales and capital punishment.

Jamie, the Chairman, completed an excellent speech which captivated the audience with his humour, particularly on the subject of the excellent buffet

(which he later had three platefuls of) and the recent arrival of the farm animals outside Mrs Heggs' classroom. He certainly had the audience in stitches. Next, I performed my six minute speech which focused more on the shocking aspects of the treatment of the elderly such as the fact that many old people have to sell their house to afford care homes fees. I also

had to answer a question posed by a member of the Rotary Club, namely whether it was up to the government to help the aged, or the family themselves. Lastly, Chloe executed her vote of thanks to me as the speaker (fortunately she was



very flattering!) and she was awarded with a large round of applause from all of the Rotary Club and audience because of her excellent oratory skills and ability to keep the audience fascinated.

After a nervous wait (or in Jamie's case, a food-filled wait), we finally got the results. Woodrush had come second by one point to the grammar school King Edward's Handsworth! We definitely all enjoyed ourselves; it was a fantastic experience with a fabulous team and thank you to Mrs Heggs for her great help and support.

Remember, remember the 5th of November ...

Thank you to all Key Stage 3 English students who entered the Bonfire Descriptive Writing House Competition. Congratulations to the following winners:

First – Shae C and Sam C (8C2)

Second – Adam T and Michael Walters (7L1)

Third – Hayden P and Joel F (7E2)

Fourth – Brandon H and Ryan H(7B1)

The winning description:

It was the 5th November when I was lit. A myriad of people gathered around me. The odour of my burning wood lingers. The dazzling, glaring, florescent, gaudy, vibrant blitz of colours; red, white and blue combine. They hurtle into the moonlit sky. I see people water-tight around me: playing, eating, talking. They are warming themselves in my heat, basking in my glow. Suddenly, I am disconcerted by the feeling of wood, food and scraps being hurled and tossed to fuel me. I hiss and spit in retaliation. As it gets deeper in the night, my crowds disperse. The explosions of crystals fade and fall; my flame gets gradually dimmer. I feel subdued. Now, only my ashes remain.

By Shae and Sam



Trip to the Story Museum in Oxford

With an early start at 7:45 AM, we departed on our trip to Oxford. After about an hour and a half in the bus we arrived in Oxford and took a short walk to the Story Museum.

The exhibition was inspiring; it was a selection of famous authors' favourite stories. In some rooms of the museum you could walk straight into a scene from some of the most famous classic stories, like the Narnia room which was full of glittery white snow, trees and the famous lamppost where Lucy met Mr Tumnus. Everything at the Story Museum was completely interactive, so you could sit on the white witch's



sleigh while listening to an extract of the story. In other rooms you could sit down on soft comfy cushions and just relax while listening to the authors read their favourite stories.

My favourite room in the museum was the throne room. In this room you could dress up as anything from red riding hood to a crab. Next, after you have chosen your outfit, you choose what

you want to be announced as (it can be as silly as you like). For example: welcoming the beautiful potato of the underworld. You then sit on the throne and it (the actual throne) announces you.

Following our adventure in the museum we had a writing master class, where we learnt how different authors get their ideas and how they make up characters and settings. We then had a go writing our own stories in the style of different authors.

After a brief break for lunch, we set off on our boat trip around Oxford. It was brilliant: full of stunning views and beautiful wildlife. It's the best way to see Oxford! It was a very relaxing way to end our trip, with some great opportunities to take amazing pictures. All in all, we had a great day out in Oxford.

Vlada H 9C1



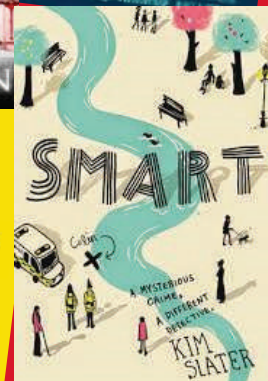
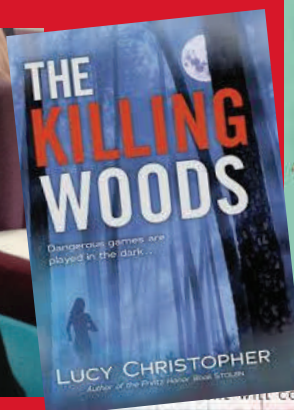
Making a Date to Read

Speed dating has been taking place in school libraries up and down the county! Not ones to miss out, sixty of our year 8 students came along to the two sessions in the Woodrush library last month. In a bid to find their perfect read from 30 of the latest teenage fiction titles, each student was given a minute per book to assess their compatibility. Having considered the looks, style and personality for each, the young people then selected the six books which best suited them.

The top six books of 2014 as selected by Woodrush "speed daters" are:

Say Her Name by James Dawson
Thirteen by Tom Hoyle
Smart by Kim Slater
The Killing Woods by Lucy Christopher
The Bubble Wrap Boy by Phil Earle
Night Runner by Tim Bowler

The votes from all participating schools will be collated to decide the shortlist for this year's Worcestershire Teen Book Award. Early next year we will be reading all six and voting for the overall winner.





DRAKES CROSS DAILY WORLD WAR WOODRUSH!

On Monday 29th September, a very eventful day took place at Woodrush High School. The occasion (which was spread out over the course of the day) interested all ages, as it was themed around the era of World War One. As we all know, this year, we remember (more than ever) one hundred years since the start of the 'Great War'. A theatre production, documentary and church service were all included in the well thought out programme.

To avoid any confusion, the school split into groups to do the activities (i.e. year 7 and 8 were together). The first activity was the theatre production 'Meaning in the Mud'. All of year 7 and 8 gathered in the hall and once everyone was comfortably seated, it began. Firstly, the two actors performed a poem, written shortly before the end of the war. It told us how the sound of the guns could drive soldiers insane or at least give them a terrible case of 'shell shock' (where soldiers are driven out of their minds by their memories of war). The actors then re-enacted some scenes from famous war plays and we certainly learned a lot!

After a short break, year 7 and 8 proceeded to their respective form rooms. When the documentary, an episode from 'The Great War Diaries', started playing, you could have heard a pin drop. Everyone was mesmerised. The programme used real people's diaries from the war and acted out what they thought it would have been like. I thought it was fascinating to see the view of the war from different country's perspectives.

Lunch was over and we made our way over to the final instalment of the day: the service. The service was being held in the newly-constructed St Mary's Church. There were readings from both students and the vicar, poems, a hymn and some folk from The Royal British Legion talking about poppies and their November remembrance service.

Overall, the service and rest of the day was successful. Teachers even decided to theme some of their lessons around World War One in the week following Monday. I hope any Woodrush readers enjoyed the day as much as I did!

Written by Jack M



WWI Aspire Day

The teachers of Woodrush involved WW1 in their lessons following the WWI ASPIRE day. In P.E., there was an obstacle course where pupils were split into two groups and were timed completing the race. Pupils had to climb under and over a series of obstacles, balance on a balancing beam and swing onto a bench with a rope.

"I missed the start of the lesson and I actually thought that the teacher was in the army!" were the thoughts of one year 7 student.

Pupils also had to march around the playground and act as if they were in the military. They learnt that this was what the soldiers had to do to see if they were ready for war and that they had to do some strange punishments when they were out of time with the rest of the troop.

In science, pupils practiced bandaging

on each other and were shown images of people affected by things like mustard gas. As well as that they learnt about trench foot (a terrible condition you could get if your foot was wet for a long period of time) and shell shock (a condition when after the war you could still hear the terrible sounds of screaming, gun shots and bombs). It was shocking but fascinating at the same time.

Pupils listened to prayers and songs by singers such as Jessie J and the winners of 'Britain's Got Talent' in R.E. They had to make up their own prayer from the point of view of a soldier, a loved one of a soldier, or somebody thanking the soldiers who fought in WW1.

"I am glad Woodrush did ASPIRE week because it was really fun, different and exciting. I hope Woodrush does it again next year!" many pupils thought. Overall, the pupils found it a very fun week and made them understand more about WW1

By Lucy R. and Holly S.



World War One Boots.

Shiny and new, my owner and I felt proud,
Today is the day we march to France,
As we start to march away, the voices of loved ones fade away,
We have walked for miles and miles, I'm getting hot and rather tight,
The reality of war starts to bite,
We've arrived at our new home, it's full of cold water I'm not alone,
The rats and lice start to bite which does not feel nice.
Today is the start of a new day, my laces are tight and have started to fray,
My leather is still wet and cold inside, I can feel a hole in my side,
The water is coming in thick and fast, I so do hope that I can last,
My soles have broken we have no glue, I feel so blue this will just not do.

By Sophie S

I'm a military button...



Gleaming and shining, proud as can be,
Everyone was marching, happy to see,
Their friends and their family cheering them on all the way,
And I am here now and happy to say, I'm a military button that's been to war,
And now I am a keepsake inside a draw.
I'm hoping one time someone will find,
To sew me on the jacket that was left behind.
Also one day someone will know,
To put me on that jacket, and then on for show,
With a little polish and a rub of the hand,
I hope to be back in a military band.



By Charlie B



The Woodrush Literacy Leaders

In June 2014, a group of dedicated students started preparation for the Literacy Leader Award. This is a qualification that allows them to develop and enhance their literacy and leadership skills. They can plan, prepare and assist literacy activities, as well as leading different events across the curriculum. The literacy leaders work hard outside of school developing resources and meet every Friday in order to share and expand their ideas. The Woodrush Literacy Leaders are: Louisa W, Jamie M-W, Kirsty B, Rosella L, Shivani G, Hannah A, Holly R, Beth S, Lauren T-S, Sian D, Grace G, Chloe W and Amy G.

Mr Cook

As a former pupil, I'm returning for my second spell at Woodrush. Even with the thought of working with some scary former teachers, the opportunity to work at such an excellent and welcoming school was too good to pass up, so I'll be teaching English, Media Studies and Film Studies and becoming part of a great department.



I've worked in shops, travelled, worked abroad and written film reviews for websites, before finally completing my teacher training. Working with the kids ensures that no two days will ever be the same (for better or worse) and there's no better feeling than seeing a pupil succeed in something that they have struggled with.

The great thing about English and Media is that they're subjects where I can learn from the pupils as well as them learning from me: every lesson can throw up something new and unexpected. Plus, in what other subject could you get away with watching Batman?!

Away from school, I enjoy a variety of hobbies and interests: watching and playing football; going to the gym; visiting the cinema, museums, galleries and – when I can afford to – travelling.

ATTENDANCE 2014-15

Woodrush achieved a whole school attendance from September 2013 to July 2014 – 95.6%

Woodrush High School aims to ensure excellent attendance and punctuality for all students and to eliminate all but the most necessary and legitimate absences and/or episodes of lateness in individual students.

Students are continually praised for their good attendance and as a school we are keen to reward them. Here are some of our attendance rewards:

Students with 100% attendance from September to July will be rewarded with a trip out for FREE.

Year 11 students who achieve 100% attendance from September to Easter term break will receive a FREE Year 11 prom ticket. "50 Year 11 students received a £25 prom ticket last academic year."

Students who continue to achieve 100% attendance will have the privilege of 'Non-Uniform day Friday' every term!

Reminder for parents, times of the school day

8.35 AM	Warning bell for registration
8.40 AM	Registration for all
8.55 AM	Period 1
9.55 AM	Period 2
10.55 AM	BREAK
11.15 AM	Period 3
12.15 AM	Period 4
1.15 PM	LUNCH
1.45 PM	Warning bell for PM registration
1.50 PM	Period 5 (including PM registration)
2.50 PM	End of School
3.50 PM	Library closes

IF FOR ANY REASON YOUR CHILD IS LATE TO SCHOOL PLEASE SEE THAT THEY ALWAYS SIGN IN AT STUDENT SERVICES.

Same day 30 minute detentions for lateness continues without a valid reason and note from parent/carers.

WHAT WE ASK FROM PARENTS:

Contact the school (tel no: 01564 823777 ext 7107 Mrs Davies – Attendance & Education Support Worker) preferably before 9.30 am on the first day of any absence.

Send a note in on the first day of your son's/daughter's return to explain the reason for absence.

Whenever possible make all medical appointments after 2.50pm.

Please do not plan family holidays during term time. Please double check that we have the correct contact numbers (home, work and mobile numbers are all useful).

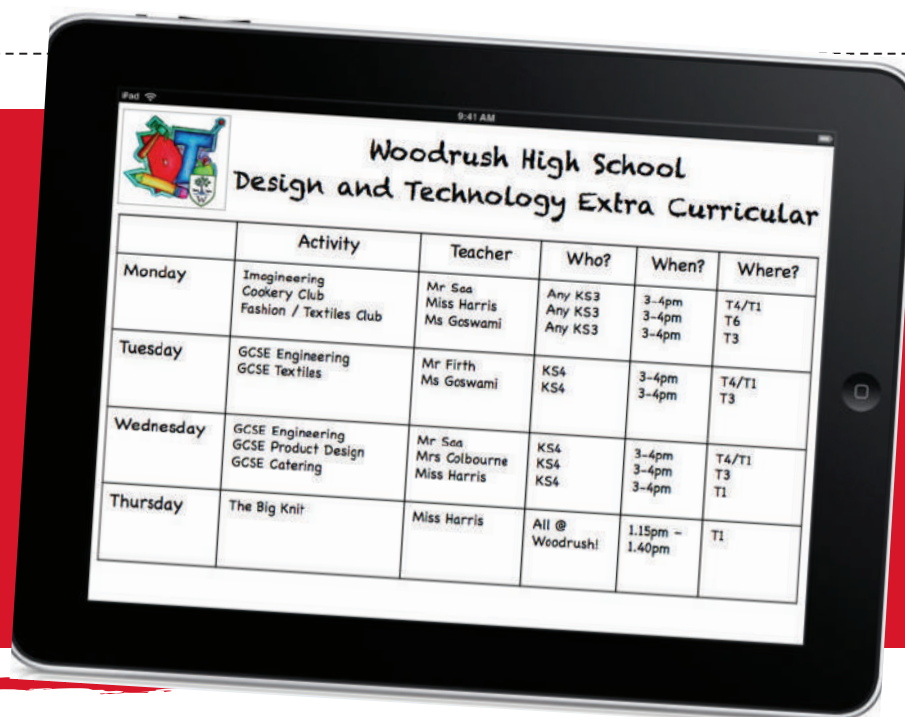
This year our target is 96%



DT Extra Curricular Clubs

This year the Extra Curricular clubs running in DT are more exciting than ever! We have something for everyone and something happening every day! So if you love being hands on and creative or you just love Design and Technology come along and give an after-school club a try!

Make sure you keep a look out for the new clubs that will be added in the new year...



	Activity	Teacher	Who?	When?	Where?
Monday	Imgeengineering Cookery Club Fashion / Textiles Club	Mr Sea Miss Harris Ms Goswami	Any KS3 Any KS3 Any KS3	3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm	T4/T1 T6 T3
Tuesday	GCSE Engineering GCSE Textiles	Mr Firth Ms Goswami	KS4 KS4	3-4pm 3-4pm	T4/T1 T3
Wednesday	GCSE Engineering GCSE Product Design GCSE Catering	Mr Sea Mrs Colbourne Miss Harris	KS4 KS4 KS4	3-4pm 3-4pm 3-4pm	T4/T1 T3 T1
Thursday	The Big Knit	Miss Harris	All @ Woodrush!	1.15pm - 1.40pm	T1

Visit from a Professional Chef

GCSE Catering students were treated this term to a special visit from professional chef, Graham Wheeler.

Graham, who trained to be a chef in the Royal Air Force and once worked for the famous chef Gordon Ramsey, came in to have a discussion with the year 10 and 11 students about the wonderful life and roles within the food and catering industry. As well as enlightening the students with his wealth of knowledge, Graham demonstrated invaluable skills such as making a béchamel sauce using the roux method and how to make successful Chocolate Eclairs using a Bain-Marie and homemade choux pastry.



We very much enjoyed having Graham working with us in the catering kitchens and would very much like to thank him for giving up his timeWe look forward to him visiting again soon!

"It's been a pleasure to help out and hopefully in the New Year I will be able to come back and do it all over again!! I would like to wish all the students the very best of luck with forthcoming exams and I hope that my visit turns out to be beneficial. I

have spent over 15 years within the catering and hospitality industry and its a career that has seen me work all around the country, if I have inspired just one student to seek a career within this industry then I will look back on my time at Woodrush with very fond memories!"

The Bake Off

GCSE Catering students were treated this term to a special visit from The Woodrush Bake Off.

This term the Woodrush High School KS3 Catering Club students took part in a Great British style 'Bake Off', providing some excellent culinary delights to be judged by Miss Harris and Ms Choudhury.

The bakes presented in the catering kitchens were fantastic and showed pure skills and creativity.

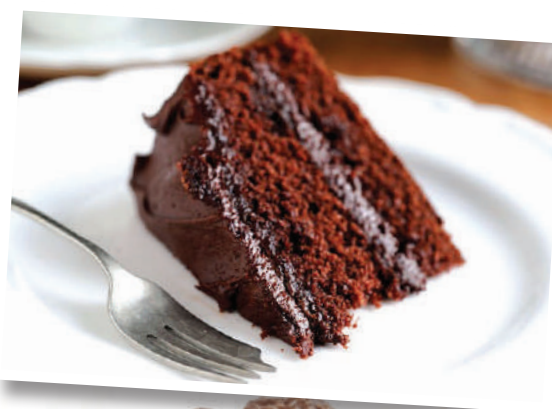
Dishes included unusual cake ingredients such as courgette and beetroot, however the outcomes were so overwhelmingly delicious that it was impossible to select a definite winner!

An overall favourite was chosen and that came from the 'Star Baker' herself Poppy W from 7E1.

Merits have been awarded and special prizes will be handed out in the Christmas celebration assemblies.

If you think you would like to get involved with Catering Club please come along, the sessions take place every Monday evening 2.50pm-3.50pm with Miss Harris...

Ready! Set! Bake!





The Woodrush Big Knit

This term the Woodrush High School DT department have upped the ante for 'The Innocent Big Knit' campaign. Last year, 6 of our talented A-level Textiles students clubbed together and knitted 10 adorable little hats. THIS YEAR a huge number of students and staff from across the whole school have picked up their knitting needles, selected a fancy yarn, and began clicking away designing and constructing these beautiful little beanies. These will be whisked off to the Innocent smoothie HQ, where they will be fitted to the perfect smoothie bottle.

In 2003 The Innocent Drinks company set up 'The Big Knit', a campaign built to raise money and support those in need during the winter months! All knitted hats donated to the worthy cause are sold throughout the UK on the tops of Innocent Smoothie bottles and for each one sold a donation of 25p is given to Age UK. The number of staff and students involved in the campaign has been overwhelming and we currently have 200+ hats, and that number is rising every day! Keep an eye out for our Woodrush hats in your local supermarkets and Tweet @WoodrushDnT if you spot one!!



Why study Design Technology?

"It's not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works" – Steve Jobs, 2003

Everything around us from the food we eat and the clothes we wear to the buildings we live in has been produced by design and technological activities.

The study of Design Technology (DT) is a highly exciting and relevant subject that enables students to make sense of, and understand, the technologies enjoyed by our society today.

DT aims to give students the skills to thrive, adapt and participate creatively in technologies which are still evolving while also highlighting the environmental responsibilities associated with design.

It has been a fun packed term in DESIGN, where all students at all key stages have been challenged, tackling design problems with successful design solutions. Many thanks for the support from parents and carers in supporting the Design Technology with your contributions, allowing students to engage in and experience new technological techniques and processes. We are looking forward to a very creative and innovative year ahead!

Ms S Goswami - Head of DT

DT WWI Exhibition

Year 9 caterers from food technology and textiles got together to put on a lovely spread for the WW1 commemorations.

High tea was served by our year 9 catering and textiles pupils (and staff) who were wearing 'Downton Abbey' style war time costumes. Home baked goods were displayed and offered for sampling, using ingredients only available during the war. A curiosity table was set up using Miss Lochrane's own collection of war memorabilia.

The DT competition table had many pupils and staff guessing what some odd looking items might have been. These were correctly guessed to be a tape measure and a bullet fashioned into a letter opener. Congratulations to both the Elliot and Cadbury houses who tied as winners. Miss Harris and her year 9's had been busy hanging up the laundry! Authentic looking war time skirts and blouses had been stitched together to make a colourful back drop of 'make do and mend'. Perhaps the first war time whisperings of the now trendy 'up cycling'!

Malcolm Parker serenaded us by winding up his marvellous gramophone and wireless. The scene was completed with the warbling of 'oh what a lovely war', Union Jack bunting, sponge fingers and a lovely cup of British tea! Thank you all who managed to pop down to the sandwich hall to see the hard work created by year 9 catering and textile pupils.

Mrs Parker – Food technology.





Malvern

In October, Woodrush students attended Malvern Festival of Innovation. Here they witnessed new technologies and discovered fascinating ideas to help us process the world around us. There were many activities for our students which ranged from programming using Raspberry Pis to code breaking with GCHQ. As we walked into the exhibition centre we were welcomed with a 3D printer printing a whistle. Students attended sessions which outlined the issues of cyber security and how to implement effective strategies to minimise cyber techniques which go further than traditional firewalls and encryption.



Favourite part of the trip?

"Seeing the marshmallow explode was my favourite part of the trip!"

"Making a balloon kebab and playing the snake game"

How did you find the trip?

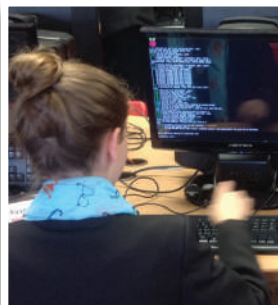
"Informative, mind-blowing and interesting"

"Amazing, interesting and cool"

"Amazing, inspirational and life-changing"

Raspberry Pi Club

This half term saw the beginning of Raspberry Pi Club at lunch time on Wednesdays. Enthusiastic students explored the fascinating features of the small pocket-sized computers and discovered the endless possibilities of what can be done using the Pis. The first session consisted of finding out how to connect the Pis to the computers. This presented many challenges as students had to learn the different cables and connections required to work the Pis. The following sessions saw the students creating a Scratch game using the Raspberry Pis and connecting a Pi to a television. Through these sessions our students' sense of discovery and innovation has definitely been uncovered. Ask your ICT/ Computer Science teacher for more details about Raspberry Pi Club.



Robots Master Class

A handful of fortunate students were invited to attend a master class at Birmingham University on programming robots. They overcame challenges and worked fabulously as part of a team in order to achieve the objective of programming their robot around an obstacle course. Our students were incredibly energetic and impressed the staff at university with their perseverance, independent thinking skills and resilience. Well done!



Smart Phone Apps Master Class

A selected group of lucky Woodrush students attended a master class on how to program smartphones and create games requiring a variety of responses and reactions. They used state of the art smartphones in a fantastically equipped computer lab at the University of Birmingham to explore the process behind designing an app. There were many problems that arose to which students demonstrated their excellent skills in self-correction, tenacity and reflection in order to achieve their end goals. What a fabulous day and how brilliant our students are!





Miss Dyer:

I teach Music and Drama. I studied Music and Drama at university and loved the opportunity to perform. I play the flute and sing; I have loved performing in musical theatre productions and I have also sang as a soloist, and as part of a choir.

Before I came to Woodrush I was a teacher of Music, Drama and a Head of House at Fairfax School in Sutton Coldfield, I moved to Woodrush to become Head of Music. Before I became a teacher I worked for the NHS for 3 years in human resources. Before that I wanted to work in media so I worked as a 'roadie' for Jack FM in Oxford. I also worked backstage at the local theatre in the costume and wardrobe department, working with companies such as The Welsh National Opera and Birmingham Royal Ballet.

I became a teacher because I was a part-time flute teacher and loved it, but the hours were unreliable so I decided to become a classroom teacher instead. Something you probably didn't know about me is that I used to be a clown! When I was younger I trained as a clown and delivered clown workshops to kids.



Mr Saa

I gained my degree in engineering at Wolverhampton University and loved it so much that I continued with my studies the following year at the University of Glasgow, achieving a Masters in Structural Engineering and Mechanics.

Prior to teaching, I worked for two years in a finance authorisation company in Glasgow but left to make the move into teaching I had always wanted to make. I am extremely passionate about engineering and I wish to be able to share my particular passion for 3D CAD design engineering to explore the world of robotics using coding in electronics with the pupils.



Performing Arts



WWI Workshop:

Woodrush's GCSE dancers all participated in a World War One performing workshop which was held by a professional dancer from a performing arts school. All the dancers worked to perfect their WWI dance from 9.15 - 2.50 which was an amazing experience. This remembrance dance was later performed in front of an audience at Stourbridge Town Hall.

By Holly M

WWI Dance Review:

On Tuesday 11th November, year 9 GCSE dance students performed a motif (a short piece of dance) to the year 5 and 6 pupils from Coppice Primary School and Coppice Choir, alongside year 9 GCSE music and drama students. The dance was performed to commemorate the fallen soldiers of World War One.

The dancers were dressed as poppies because they grew on the battlefield, Flanders field, where the soldiers fought. The dance was very successful and the year 9 dancers deserve a massive well done.

By Reneece M



Dracula Review:

GCSE Dance went to see a performance of Dracula at the Birmingham Hippodrome. It had a haunted theme and throughout the performance there was a lot of blood and screams! The story was told through movement alone, without words (apart from when one of the characters burst into song halfway through...), we all thought this spoilt the performance a little.

The performance used a variety of techniques carrying the style of ballet/contemporary dance throughout. Some parts were scary and this was very effective, the dancers were well synchronised (apart from the man who started singing!).

Overall, it was an amazing experience and a great night out. Now we can't wait until the next one!



MATCH REPORTS Badminton

Basketball-general

Mr Taylor and Miss Ford have introduced a new extra-curricular Basketball club this term and it's been a great success! There has been a superb turn out from the year 9 boys and year 11 boys alongside a consistent year 8 girls team who now love to lay-up! The girls' year 10 team is growing each week, keep it up!

Basketball Girls' Years 9/10

The team won their first game 30–22 against Arrowvale! Amazing result ladies! The fantastic squad included the following girls; Lucy F, Kirsty B, Jazz L, Mya F, Sophie J, Steph C and Alex P.



Year 9, 1st match report-Basketball

In the teams first league fixture, they made a flying start with early baskets from Harry G and Will B giving Woodrush an early 8-0 lead in the first quarter. However, a strong Bromsgrove side fought back in the second quarter to take a narrow 6 point lead into half time. After the break Woodrush continued to pressure the ball and defensively worked well but found baskets hard to come by, slipping to an 11 point deficit, with the final score finishing 41-22 in favour of Bromsgrove School.

A fantastic performance from the team as a first basketball game, with a man of the match performance from *Cameron H.*

During this term the girls and boys badminton teams have taken part in district league matches in preparation for the School Games qualifiers later on this year. Our teams have continued to play well and have won all their matches to date.



District Cross Country

It was touch and go whether the District Cross Country Championships would go ahead following a very rainy morning although all competitors were happy to trek through the mud and all Woodrush students did fantastically! Chris M and Leah S were undoubtedly the stars of the day achieving 3rd place in their age groups respectively. Amber D, Ria J, Emma D, Elliot R, Morgan T, Ben F and Harry S all finished in the top 10. Robbie B, Becky and Ross N finished in the top 20 for their age group. All competitors finishing in the top 20 have qualified to represent the Redditch district in the county finals. Owen P represented key stage 5 and achieved a superb grade for his GCSE cross country. The year 9 team were also crowned the district team champions! A huge well done to all who competed!

Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics

At the beginning of November a very excited year 8 girls team took part in the District Sports Hall Athletics competition at Arrowvale Academy. 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 placings. The girls were 3rd with less than 20 points between the top three teams. The athletes worked well together, motivating each other to go that extra mile and were a real credit to themselves and the school.

Football

U12 Football Team

This team have had a successful start at Woodrush. They reached the quarter finals of the 9 a side Worcestershire Schools County Cup, were runners up in the Redditch and District 7 a side competition and won the Redditch District 5 a side tournament. They will therefore be representing Redditch District in the Midlands finals in 2015.

U13 Football Team

This team played in the right spirit and showed excellent attitude and team spirit this year. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the 11 a side Worcestershire County Cup competition in the first round when they faced a very strong Hanley Castle High School Team. In the Redditch District 11 side and 7 aside competitions the team managed to reach the semi finals.

U14 Football Team

This year group were a pleasure to take this year and reached the quarter finals of the 11 a side Worcestershire County Cup competition. They narrowly lost out, in a very entertaining end, to last match against North Bromsgrove in extra time.

U15 Football Team

This team are undefeated in the the Redditch and Bromsgrove District football league and will resume their matches after Christmas. This side has showed excellent character and reached the quarter finals of the Worcestershire County Cup narrowly losing out to TGA Worcester.

U16 Football Team

This side have been a pleasure to teach and coach and have developed into an excellent team over the last five years. The highlight was winning the Worcestershire County Cup last year. This achievement unfortunately could not be replicated this season as they were knocked out in the quarter final of the County Cup by Stourport High School in a game which was dominated by Woodrush. Such is football!! The U16 team will resume their Redditch and Bromsgrove District League matches after the Christmas break.

Mr Maidment

**Georgina
N-S**

**Lauren
T-S**



Hockey Girls become the Redditch District U16 Champions!

What a brilliant result! The girls won both matches against St. Augustine's and Arrow Vale. Lucy H scored 6 goals over the two matches and Lauren T-S scored 1. This couldn't have been achieved without the help of Emma D, Beth, and Georgina W all playing well together in midfield, setting up some good opportunities for the attack. Rachel K and Ria J defended well against the other teams, with Hannah G saving some tricky shots. Well done to all girls that took part and for winning their gold medals!

Lauren T.S

Hockey

On Tuesday 25th November, Emma, Alissa, Becky, Georgia, Lucy, Ria, Beth, Georgina and Hannah played against Arrow Vale in the district competition. We made a very good start when a brilliant goal from Lucy, very early on, gave us the lead. However, we let an unfortunate goal slip past us levelling the score at 1-1. After the half time team talk we started the second half with renewed effort and enthusiasm and thanks to a goal by Emma the team was on a roll. Things just got better with Lucy hitting the back of the net a second time putting Woodrush into the lead. 3 - 1 was the score when the final whistle went. The girl's hockey team has brought home a well-deserved gold medal.

Well done girls keep it up!

TWITTER



@woodrushsport

Do you want up to date PE news? Follow us for match reports, GCSE and A level hints and tips!

Trampolining

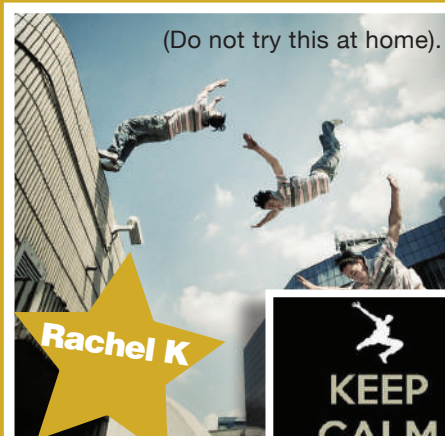
In October a team of year 8, 9 and 10 trampolinists took part in a district competition held at Arrowvale Academy. The performers were very nervous but were put at ease by the judges who explained the format, and by the other competitors who were very encouraging and supportive of each other. The competition was divided into levels and we had performers in the intermediate and elite sections. The girls did very well with Georgina and Morgan being placed first and second respectively in the elite competition. Overall the team were placed fourth.



Great start to the season for Woodrush Netball Teams

Woodrush Netball has been as successful as always this year with over 40 students attending netball club on a Monday night and Year 8, 9 and 10 netball teams playing in weekly fixtures for the District league. All teams have played extremely well and have showed excellent team work, dedication and commitment this half term. Year 10 and Year 9 netball team are currently in third place in the District league. We look forward to seeing the final results at Easter once they have played all the teams again! Year 8 have worked really well finished in joint 3rd place in the District league. I am looking forward to seeing them training hard now preparing for any friendly fixtures this year. It has been fantastic to see so many Year 7 join netball club and they really enjoyed playing their first fixture against Hall Green School preparing them for the District Tournament.

If you are interested in joining netball please come along Monday night 3pm till 4pm or ask Mrs Brown for any details.



Rachel K

Parkour

Key stage 3 students at Woodrush have had the chance recently to experience a new and innovative method of teaching movement within their P.E. lessons. Parkour is a fresh and fast growing concept that is sweeping a number of European countries at present. It is based upon free and contemporary movements that are used to scale and avoid objects in a free flowing and aesthetically pleasing way. Students have been given the opportunity to experience the basic principles, techniques and concepts within Parkour. This has enabled students to gain a further understanding of key movement concepts such as balance, core stability and fluidity of motion. We hope to expand this growing aspect of the curriculum out further and engage all students at Woodrush in this innovative and fresh approach to movement in P.E.

Mr Taylor

Let's get creative with A level!

In A2 exercise physiology lessons pupils have been creating muscle structures with sweets! They produced inventive designs to help them remember each element! The lucky pupils also took the sweets home as a reward for their achievements!





Ellie R

Have we got news for you... welcoming the Sports Committee and Sports Journalism team for 2014/15!

Following a gruelling application and interview process we have selected the following pupils;

SPORTS COMMITTEE

Ambassadors;

Lauren T-S, Rachel K, Nicole C, Zoe C

Members;

Year 8 – Hayden R, Amayah S, Emily M, Hannah G, Georgina W

Year 9 – Emma D, Will B

Year 10 – Elouise C

These pupils will act as the student voice, discussing with the PE department what they enjoy about PE and how to improve provisions for all. Look out for new sports events coming your way!

The ambassadors will lead the committee, providing leadership and expertise to other members of committee.

Sports Journalists

Leaders;

Adam S, Elouise C

Journalists;

Maddy B, Louisa W, Emily M,
Shanice G, Holly R, Heather B, Leanne H

Chris M

Joe H

Reece P

Sports Stars Progress 1

Cross Country
Chris M, Leah S

Football
Joe H, Reece P, Tom A, Lewis G

Trampoline
Georgina N-S, Ellie R

Hockey
Lauren T-S, Lucy H, Beth T

Zoe C Interview

Zoe C has recently been selected for the England women's under 17s training camp next month. She has also been selected for the reserves for Aston Villa and she regularly competes for her county. What an inspiration!

Zoe C interview:

What is your greatest sporting achievement?

"Being made captain for the Aston Villa u17's."
What team do you currently play for?

"Aston Villa u17's but when I was younger I played for Birmingham City for a bit, I also represent Worcestershire county u16's."

Who is your role model?

"Arsenal striker and England international Kelly Smith."

How did you get into your sport?

"It started off with me kicking the ball around with my granddad in the back garden and from there I loved playing football."

How does competing make you feel?

"When I'm competing I feel relaxed and calm, I just love competing regularly."

Where do you see yourself in 5 to 10 years?

"Hopefully I see myself playing for the Aston Villa women's team regularly and representing my country on a regular basis, even being in the 24 woman squad would make me happy."

If a genie granted you one wish what would it be?

"I don't need a wish, I work for everything I deserve in life and my career."

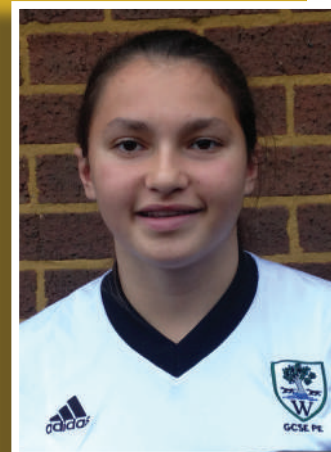
What does it take to become an athlete at your standard?

"It takes commitment, dedication, passion and hard work."

Finally how has Woodrush supported you to achieve your goals?

"They have shown me constant encouragement to pursue my sport and also give me that extra bit of motivation"

Interview by Adam S



Lewis G

Gabriel H-B



Strictly Dance Judges in PE

Tom A

Throughout Dance this term to emphasise assessment in PE, we have been encouraging all students to become 'Strictly' judges, so they are able to assess both their own performances and others in line with the PE assessment levels. Students have used a range of judging tools to assess and improve their performances in dance.

Action-reaction whiteboards, were used by all pupils in KS3 to assess practise performances. Students would highlight the area of assessment in the Action section (technical ability, accurate replication, performance skills) and judge in the Reaction section, stating the level of achievement and what the students need to do next time to achieve a higher level.

Mini teachers were chosen in some lessons, to encourage the high ability dance students. These students were able to practise their dance coaching skills and become the 'professional' who help assist other students 'celebrities' to achieve their target level. The mini teachers learnt how to break down a routine into manageable teaching sections to mentor their peers in training.



Challenge and support cards were offered to all students throughout the term, to assist with their level of development. Challenge cards included tasks of choreography, where students creatively explored changing the order of the movements, formations and levels of the set dance. Support cards included one to one extra teacher support to ensure all students achieved their target level in Dance.

At the end of term, students completed their final assessment in a set up similar to the live shows of Strictly through creating our own student and teacher-judge panels. Students performed in small groups their set dances in front of the student-teacher judge panel, and marks were recorded in their Dance Assessment Booklets. From the

student-teacher feedback, students produced their own personal targets which they will then aim to achieve in the follow up term of Dance.

Students have responded very positively to the new assessment methods used in dance-PE, and I am very impressed with the level of dance in KS3 so far – well done and keep dancing!

Miss Allen

Leah S



Woodrush Sports Programme Spring Term 2.1 2015



Day	Activity	who	Where	Staff
Monday 	Netball Mixed Trampoline Boys Rugby	All years All years KS3	Sports hall/ courts Gym Field	Mrs Brown Miss Price Mr Taylor
Tuesday 	Badminton Gymnastics	All Years All years	Sports hall Gym	Mr Maidment Mrs Brown
Wednesday 	Mixed Hockey Girls Basketball Boxercise	All years All years All years	Astro Sports hall Gym	Miss Price Miss Ford PE staff
Thursday 	Girls Football Boys Basketball Dance Cricket	All Years All Years All Years All Years	Astro Gym Hall Sports hall	Mr Thewlis Mr Taylor Miss Allen Worcestershire County
Friday				

Beth T



WOODRUSH YOUTH, SPORTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

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- ASTRO Full Pitch Junior
- ASTRO 3rd Pitch Adult
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 - Gymnasium Full
 - School Hall
- Grass Pitch Adult
- Grass Pitch Junior
- Changing Rooms
- Badminton Court
- Tennis Court Adult
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 - Classroom
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For more information or to book, contact

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DECEMBER

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