



# WOODRUSH STAR

Issue 42 Winter 2021

Inspire  
Achieve  
Celebrate







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Welcome to the Winter edition of The Woodrush Star!

After six years as Headteacher, sadly, this will be my final editorial of 'The Star' but I am delighted to share with you some of the wonderful events and achievements Woodrush has experienced over this last term, following an exceptionally challenging and unprecedented year.

National relaxing of government restrictions, meant that students could experience some normality and they have taken every opportunity we have offered to try new clubs, attend school trips and engage in a tapestry of enrichment events. Since September alone, we have had trips to Kew Gardens, Kenilworth Castle, the Apprenticeships Fair, two theatre trips to watch Matilda and the School of Rock, and a visit to the Hive Library in Worcester.

Our various enrichment clubs such as our Chess, Coding and Art have all run alongside School Productions, Book club and our Science club which has seen students apply investigative skills through rat dissection, forensic, electricity, crystal garden experiments. Following a blanket loss of interschool sporting competitions over the past year, it has been great for Woodrush sports teams to return to winning ways with success being enjoyed in cross country, football and basketball.

Behind the scenes, our unsung heroes in administration, operations and finance have continued to ensure our school building remained open, responsive, safe and well maintained to enable learning and school life to continue and thrive. It has been especially pleasing to complete our necessary heating replacement project. A thank you to all our behind the scenes staff who have kept the school open for business so that learning can happen.

I would like to congratulate our Sixth Formers for their leadership and enterprise which meant we raised £700 through cake sales and hosting a Macmillan coffee morning in September. We also raised £878.90 for Children in Need 2021 through our non-uniform day – so thank you to all who contributed to this important national fundraising effort to support children who are less fortunate and facing difficulties. I have been delighted with how positively our students have engaged in our Anti-Bullying awareness week and contributed to Aspire discussions about bullying. The campaign has rallied a team of Anti-Bullying Student Ambassadors, reinforced our whole school policy, and crucially reminded students about the importance of kindness and respect for all.

Within the community, our flagship adoption of Wythall Train Station funded by West Midlands Trains goes from strength to strength. This National Rail adoption scheme has developed from students maintaining flower beds and installing planters to, this term, Year 9 and 10 artists creating nostalgic mural artwork which will be mounted at the station. Both the Wythall Local Parish Council and the West Midlands Railway and London North Western Railway annual conference have praised the efforts of our students. A special thank must be given to Mr Reece and Mrs Martin for their time and commitment in facilitating this fantastic project.

Part of the ongoing success of Woodrush is that we continue to be a popular choice with prospective Year 7 students and their families and carers. Uptake at this year's Open Evening in September was no exception, as we welcomed well over 1000 guests! Visitors were wowed by the activities taking place, commented on the enthusiasm of our staff and praised the friendliness, confidence and pride shown by our 150 students guides and demonstrators.

Christmas is a time of gifting and gratitude for what we have but it is also important for us to remember those less fortunate or facing adversity and crisis in our communities. So ahead of Christmas, as is our Woodrush tradition, we will continue to encourage students to take part in our annual Food Bank drive which will make a small but important difference to local families facing relative poverty this festive season. Thank you to parents, carers and students for your on-going support with our charity work.

Taking stock of all the content of this edition, I cannot thank the staff at Woodrush enough for the way in which they have continued to support our young people and how they have been determined to make sure that our students continue to have enjoyable and enriching experiences. I know that this is only the tip of the iceberg however as, every day in every lesson, students and staff are continuing to achieve wonderful things at Woodrush.

Finally, it has been a privilege to lead such a vibrant school with such enthusiastic and engaging young people, supported and challenged by caring, dedicated staff. Headship in any school is a roller-coaster existence and over 21 years teaching at Woodrush, I have been proud to have worked with many students and staff who have gone on to achieve great things and are a huge credit to the school.

I hope you enjoy this fantastic edition of The Star and celebrate the wonderful achievements which take place in our school.

I wish you and your families a restful and safe Christmas and New Year.

Merry Christmas from all of us at Woodrush!



@woodrushhigh



Woodrushstar  
@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

The English team are delighted with the progress made by students since September. They have been

showing they can do more with the knowledge that they have. It's been fabulous to welcome our new Year 7 and hear their presentations on 'identity' telling us about who they are. It was lovely having a chance to hear them using their voices and building their confidence with oracy in lessons.

We have celebrated National Poetry Day with a session in the library. Students in Y9 and Y10 have had the fabulous opportunity to join creative writing sessions online with published authors via the National Teen Book Club, from home, over Teams.

# The National Teen Book Club



We have also won over 100 diverse books for our library via the Penguin Lit In Colour competition. We will be encouraging students to engage with these through library competitions over the Spring term.



## PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Across the programme, young people grow together, becoming published authors through weekly skill building topics that take you through the five stages of building a book. Every week, young people will hear from eminent authors and inspiring figures from the literary world.

### Week 1

#### Research

10th November 2021,  
3.30pm - 4.30pm



#### Tom Palmer

Award-winning  
children's Author

### Week 2

#### Structure

17th November 2021,  
3.30pm - 4.30pm



#### Candice Carty Williams

Award-winning  
Author

### Week 3

#### Drafting

24th November 2021,  
3.30pm - 4.30pm



#### Eve Ainsworth

Award-winning  
children's Author

### Week 4

#### Illustrating

1st December 2021,  
3.30pm - 4.30pm



#### Kate Grove

Art Director and  
Illustrator

### Week 5

#### Q+A

8th December 2021,  
3.30pm - 4.30pm



#### Sue Cheung

Award-winning  
Author

## Water Stories

Students in Year 7 have had the opportunity to enter the National Literacy Trust's Water Stories Competition in response to the threat of climate change. We're proud to share this example of a fantastic stories from Lauren K and Lucas D:



Lucas D

## WATER'S RISING

You have heard it all before, but this time it was worse. 10 times worse. My story began in Britain, where I was born. My mother and father were not the wealthiest, but we had enough. However, it all went downhill when the water started to consume our land...

It was a cloudy day (the natural British weather) on a Wednesday. Trees gently swaying in the wind. My father was at work and my mother was cooking me some homemade fish and chips. I was doing my homework as my mother called my name.

"Phillip!" yelled my mother. "Food is ready!"

I replied "Coming!"

I threw my pen on the floor and I ran out my room, straight into the kitchen. My house was an apartment, exceedingly small but it felt like home. As I approached the kitchen the television was on and a troubled look was on my mother's face.

"What's wrong, mother?" I asked. She looked shocked and pale.

Shaking, she replied "...Look at the television, Phillip."

I turned my head to see the news, with footage of increasing water heights. We were warned to move to higher grounds within 4 days. It has been 3 days since then.

My father had earned enough money to buy enough food to survive the flooding. He came back from his job and the business shut down due to flooding and repairs, so he got his final paycheck early. He came rushing home as he heard the terrible news, but also incredibly happy he got paid. We went to the nearest shop and bought everything there was left of that shop. After getting ourselves some supplies, my dad's phone buzzed and the latest news announcement was being announced. A man in a tattered suit said "Good evening, citizens. It is unfortunate that I must bring you terrible news. The flooding is getting worse and everyone MUST be up onto higher grounds within 8 hours otherwise... well, you know." and then the announcement cut off.

With only 2 hours left to get everyone and everything to the highest point of the island. People started to call boats to get them to mainland, but of course there was not enough room for everyone, so a few families had to stay behind before more ships arrived. I was one of them.

With the island slowly shrinking we all had to make our final resources count.

We managed to get to higher ground and we were all worried for our lives. But for some reason the water stopped climbing higher and instead slightly went down it was really something to witness but little did we know what was about to unfold.

The water was not getting lower because it had ended, no, NO. That was far from reality. As I turned around, a huge tsunami was reaching out to grab me and my family. They never warned us about this. Scared and shocked, I ran towards my parents one last time. I hugged them goodbye and they hugged me goodbye too. I did not think this would be the last time I would ever see them again... In an instant, memories hit me like the tsunami. Memories of me and my parents flooded into my mind. Irony, isn't it? I savored those last memories as reality came to me. But it was too late for me and my parents.

So that was it. That was the end of me. I was washed away just like my story.



## Lauren K

It was a cold, brisk morning when the trauma started! Megan and Casey were walking to school to see everyone crowding the shop bringing out gallons of bottled, clean water. This was very strange, usually people are not fussed about this type of water, but today was different! Megan suggested, "My mom said this morning that the water out of the tap is not safe anymore. She said it's like polluted or something?" Casey shrugged her shoulders and responded, "That seems crazy, but what if it's true?" They both strolled down the hill in silence. They were confused but decided not to worry, besides the council can sort it out anyway! Well that's what they thought ...

Later that day the conversation came up in school. Casey had said she heard all the teachers talking about it in school, it was one of the main subjects for a chat all day. Maybe it was worse than they suspected! Apparently, it's so rare to have clean water that some people can't even drink because of this tragic experience! On the way home, Casey and Megan saw that there were a lot of council people crowding the water treatment centre: they looked panicked and stressed.

This was the source of the problem they thought! It had to be, there were so many people there crowding it to see what was going on that they both could barely see. A man came out of the crowd: Casey and Megan asked him some questions about it like 'what's going on' and 'is everything ok?' He sighed and replied with, "unfortunately some sort of polluted gas leaked into the water and trying to sort the problem out, we accidentally broke the filters!" Looking at each other in concern, the two girls were extremely worried. "Uhm, what about getting new ones from the mainland?" Questioned Casey. "Due to the lockdown, we can't so if we can't fix it by the end of the week, we may have to evacuate everyone because of the low supply of water!" the stressed man almost whispered. Megan ruined the tension and panic in the air by saying "I'm going to go home my mom will be worrying..."

Scared, freaked, tense - she sprinted home to talk to her mom about it. Meanwhile, Casey was trying to sort out the problem by researching things that make water clean, like heating it, but then she realized the council don't have a big enough heater to heat all the water up! This made her more concerned that her home town would have to be evacuated.

As the sun rose the next morning, Megan noticed a vast number of boats at the dock, she was awfully confused. Her family all grew up in this house - just like her! - It was near the sea, she loved it! As a little kid she went fishing. Had this all come to an end? Memories flooding back to her mind, she had to find out what was going on!

Later that day, an announcement was made, it was about leaving this small island and going to the mainland. Neither Casey or Megan enjoyed this idea, but they knew it was for the best.

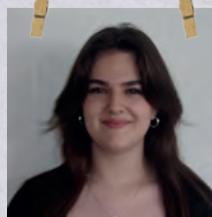
# A Fantastic Start for Sixth Form

It has been a pleasure to welcome all our students into Year 12, especially those who have joined us from other schools. We have been impressed by the way all our students have approached the new school year, working hard on their new courses and looking very smart in the new dress code. Year 13 helped Year 12 feel at home from the start and we have all enjoyed some excellent team building sessions.



A new Sixth Form committee has been set up and we are look forward to another fantastic year of fun fund raising events!

## Our new Sixth Form Committee!



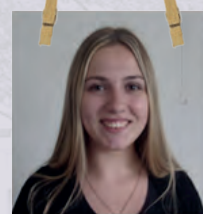
Scarlett T  
Head Student



Eden W  
Head Student



Jamie R  
Deputy Head  
Student



Emily B  
Deputy Head  
Student

## Year 11 why not apply for Woodrush Sixth Form

Deciding what to do after year 11 can be a really difficult decision, but if you are considering A Levels why not continue into Woodrush Sixth Form. We have a supportive, dedicated team of subject teachers and support staff to help you reach your career aspirations. You will have the use of excellent facilities such as a common room, study areas, the library, gym and coffee shop. There are extracurricular opportunities too, a variety of trips, fund raising and social events. For those joining us in September 2022 you may want to sign up for New York.

For more information, please email us at [WSFEnquiries@woodrush.org](mailto:WSFEnquiries@woodrush.org) or take a look at our website using the QR code, alternatively, speak to the Sixth Form Team about what we can offer you.





# Macmillan 2021



## Woodrush Sixth Form 'bakers extraordinaire'!

On Friday September 24th Woodrush Sixth Form once again joined in with the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' event for Macmillan Cancer Support. After a year's absence due to the pandemic Woodrush sixth formers and staff were back baking again. This time we had the biggest number of bakes ever, literally hundreds of cakes to sell. A first for us this year was including the sale of cakes as part of the school's Open Evening on Thursday 23rd September. We still had countless cakes to sell on Friday though and staff and students donated generously and enjoyed some amazing sweet treats at break and lunch-time. Everything from tiered sponge cakes to tray bakes, muffins and more were baked and sold.



The event raised a record amount for us – over £700 and lots of fun was had by our sixth formers in the process. We are always delighted to be able to support Macmillan and have been running the event in school now for over thirty years. We're already looking forward to being able to contribute again in 2022!

Mr. Cooper



## Feliz Navidad

Popular Christmas Traditions “El Gordo” Christmas lottery. The Christmas time festivities kick-start in Spain on 22nd December with the world’s biggest lottery. The first prize is popularly known as “El Gordo”. Participation is massive! It has a peculiarity where the winning numbers are sung by children in an unmistakable chant.



## The 12 grapes of luck

This tradition promises luck and an original way to see in the New Year. It consists of eating 12 grapes as the clock strikes 12 on New Year’s Eve. The idea is to eat one grape for each chime to welcome in the New Year.



## Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar

The Wise Men, known as Gaspar, Balthazar and Melchior are the ones who traditionally bring Spanish children their presents on the 6th January. Children send letters to the three kings, telling them what gifts they would like and special kings’ post boxes are set up in cities across the country. On the night of 5 January, children put out empty shoes, not stockings, to be filled with gifts from the kings.



## Find the Spanish festive words in the wordsearch

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

Pavo (turkey)  
 Papa Noel (Father Christmas)  
 Regalos (presents)  
 Trineo (sledge)  
 Campana (bell)  
 Nieve (snow)  
 Copo de nieve (snowflake)  
 Villancico (carol)  
 Petirrojo (robin)  
 Elfo (elf)  
 Bola (bauble)





# Festive Baking

## Polvorones

Polvorones are traditional Spanish Christmas biscuits flavoured with almonds and crumbly in texture.

During the Spanish Inquisition, officials declared that polvorones were to be made with pork fat as a way to detect if there were Muslims or Jews hiding in the regions of Southern Spain. When asked to eat the pork-full biscuits, they had to decline because of their faith and were then taken to face trial. Today, polvorones recipes often replace the pork fat with butter

Polvorón' comes from 'polvo', Spanish for dust. Put a whole polvorón in your mouth and then try to say 'Pamplona' very loud and everything will make sense!

Ingredients (makes about 50 small biscuits)

- 500g plain flour
- 250g of unsalted butter at room temperature
- 150g of icing sugar
- 125g ground almonds
- pinch salt
- teaspoon cinnamon (optional but very Christmassy)
- Baking parchment



## Method

- Preheat the oven to 180 degrees Celsius
- Sprinkle the flour and ground almonds on a clean and dry baking sheet and toast it in the oven for about four or five minutes
- Remove from the oven and put it into a large mixing bowl
- Turn the oven temperature up to about 220 degrees Celsius
- Add all the other ingredients into the bowl
- Mix and then knead until you have a smooth dough
- Roll out to about 3cm thick and use your favourite cookie cutters to cut out shapes.
- Lay them on the baking parchment on a baking sheet
- Bake for about 5 minutes before placing them on a rack to cool
- You may need to bake them in batches, but at only five minutes' cooking time, that won't matter.
- Once cool, transfer the biscuits to a plate, sprinkle with a little more icing sugar and enjoy!



## Mandarin

'Congratulations to Leila W (year 8), Ayla G (year 9), and Charlotte V (Year 10) who achieved the highest grades in the MEP Hurdle Test at the end of last year! Thank you to all of the students on the Mandarin Excellence Programme, for all your hard work throughout the difficult year! You have been absolutely amazing!'



## Spanish

### Guinness World Record – Roscón de Reyes

Roscón de Reyes (kings cake) is a sweet bread eaten on the 6th January which celebrates Epiphany when the Three Kings came to visit the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. The Roscón is decorated with candied fruit to give the appearance of a jewelled crown. A bit like the tradition in the UK of hiding a coin in the Christmas pudding, it is customary to hide either a porcelain figure of one of the Three Kings, or the baby Jesus. Whoever finds it is 'King for the Day' and wears the crown which is normally included with shop-sold cakes.



In Tizimín, Mexico, bakers cooked a 9,874 feet long Roscón de Reyes which set the new world record for the longest line of breads.

More than two tonnes of flour, 10,000 eggs, 350kg of margarine, 16 litres of vanilla, 18 litres of orange blossom water, 25kg of yeast, 150kg of butter and 700kg of sugar went into the very long loaf. In keeping with tradition they also placed 19,000 plastic dolls and another 20 more of clay.

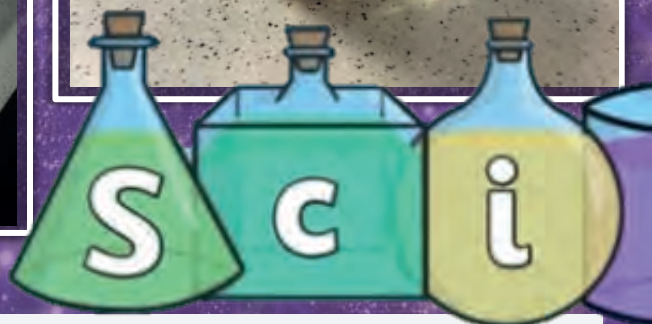
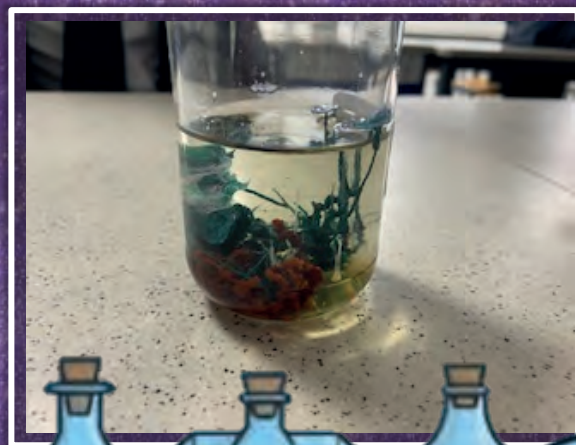


# Kew Gardens

This week we had the pleasure of taking our year 13 biologists to Kew Gardens, London alongside the year 9 creative arts students. Kew Gardens features as a case study in A level where they look at conservation of plants, biodiversity and seed banks. The trip enabled us to see first-hand how it is carried out and how they create a variety of environments to be able to conserve plants from all around the world. Our student's particularly enjoyed visiting the hot houses, the carnivorous plants section, the tree top walk and the Hive.







### Year 7 Science Club

Science club started in October for our budding young scientists. Students have been able to cover lots of exciting topics and enjoyed lots of fun practical work. We kicked off science club making crystal gardens with Miss Jones. Students were given the brief - 'You are an ancient Roman science-artist living in the town of Herculaneum. Whilst walking by the docks, you notice that there are salt crystals growing on the hull of a few of the boats. Not only this, but the crystals vary in size and on a particularly dirty boat, there are crystals of different colours.

Like all good science-artists, you decide to investigate further...' Students had to mix together silicate solution and add crystals of their chosen metal salts. When then left the metal salts seem to act like seeds and grow long shoots creating their beautiful gardens made out of crystals.

Mr Ellis then showed the students how to dissect a rat and taught the students the anatomy of mammals.

Some students thought this was a bit disgusting!!

Mr Roche taught the students all about static electricity and used a Van Der Graaf generator to make the students hair stand on end and even give a few a shock!!

I introduced the students to the world of forensic science and how we can use science to solve crimes. A murder had been committed and students needed to identify who had committed the crime. They used different techniques to collect fingerprint and footprints and work out that the murderer was Mr Deare!

Mr Hess made glass with students and Mr Roche finished off the rotation by making rockets and setting them off on the school field, unfortunately he was a little too enthusiastic and the rocket ended up on the science department roof. A big thank you to our site staff for saving the day and recovering the rocket. We look forward to welcoming our next rotation of scientists and hopefully inspiring them to be the scientists of the future.

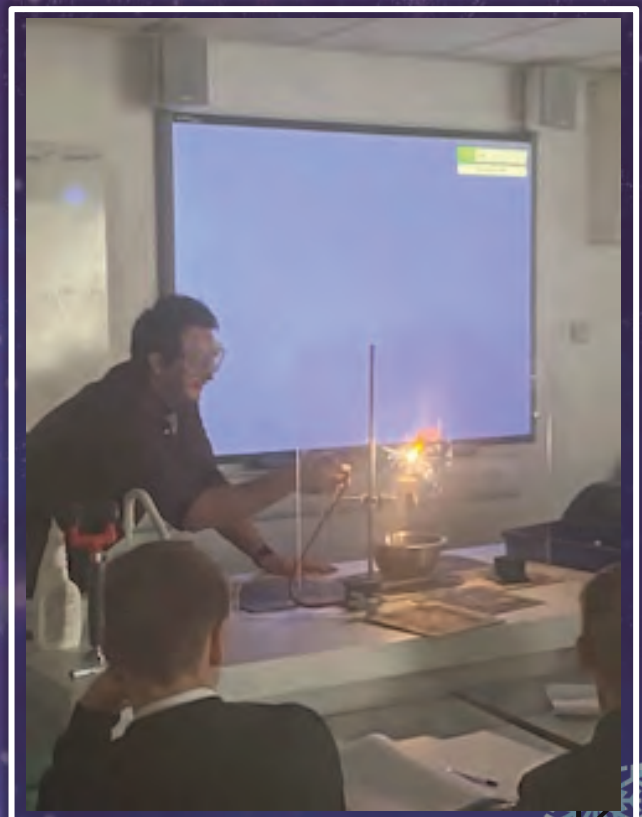
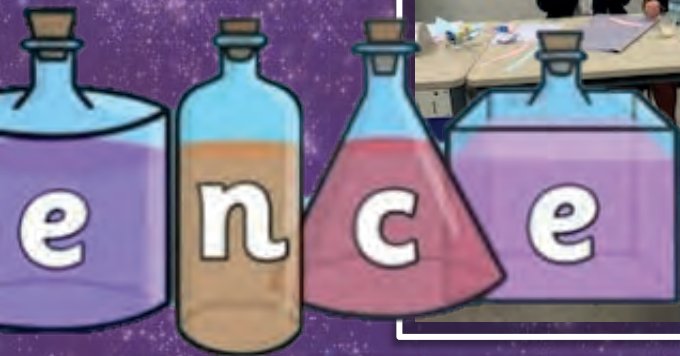


## Practical work in science

After a very difficult few years, with covid restrictions limiting the amount of practical work in science, we are overjoyed to return to our normal practices using practical work to enhance our curriculum and engage and inspire our students.

Not only does practical work improve understanding of theory through practical experience, teach the principles of scientific inquiry and teach specific practical skills such as measurement and observation, that may be useful in future study or employment but it is proven to develop higher level skills and attributes such as communication, teamwork and perseverance. Practical skills contribute to 15% of assessment in science GCSEs and students completing A levels science have to pass a practical skills unit to achieve their qualification.

We look forward to doing more exciting practical work with our students in the future!





# KS3 Art Club

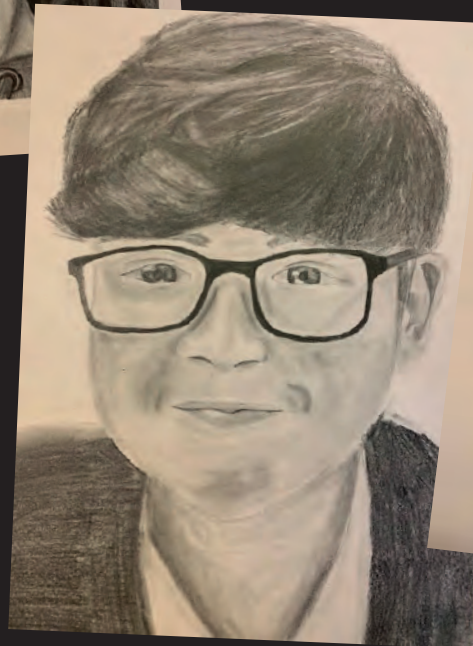


KS3 Art club - Students have been busy this term, creating mini models of food and have now just started their BIG Art project.

They have learnt card sculpting techniques and you will see some of their work around school VERY soon!

After Christmas, we will be starting to get excited for our School Production, where Art Club will create props and staging for the performance.





# Spotlight – Yr11 Art Portrait Unit





## Wythall Train Station

On Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th October a small group of Year 9 and 10 GCSE Art students had the fantastic opportunity to take part in creating some large scale, Art Murals.

Ryan A, Elijah C, Keeley H, Olivia N, Milly D, Elsie F and Dylana R worked both all day and afterschool on many occasions to get them completed to such an amazing high standard, we are really proud of the outcomes!

These murals are for the Wythall Train Station, in collaboration with the humanities department. This project is part of the National Rail Station Adoption scheme, which is a community rail movement, maintaining the upkeep of rail stations.

The murals will be mounted on the inside walls of the platform shelters, and are inspired by old photographs portraying the history of the area. Students really enjoyed participating in the project and particularly enjoyed working in groups on a large scale, something that they would not usually be able to do.

We can't wait to see the Artwork in situ – watch this space!

Mrs Martin





## Wythall Train Station

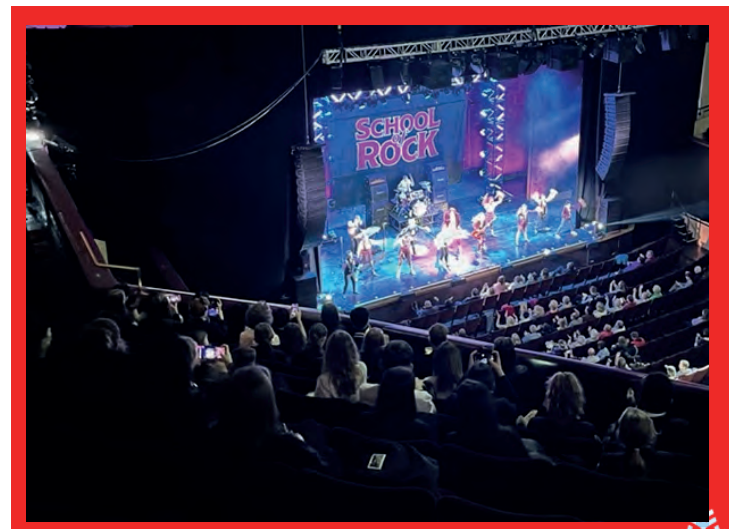
'Woodrush students have been continuing their work down at Wythall Train station this term. Some students have been tidying up summer planting and replacing with winter colour and planting of spring bulbs. Other students have been creating large artworks of local historical sites which will go on public display at the station very soon. The local images include an original photograph of the station when it was first built in 1908 and another image of local young men signing up for World War I outside the Packhorse pub.'



## SCHOOL OF ROCK THE MUSICAL

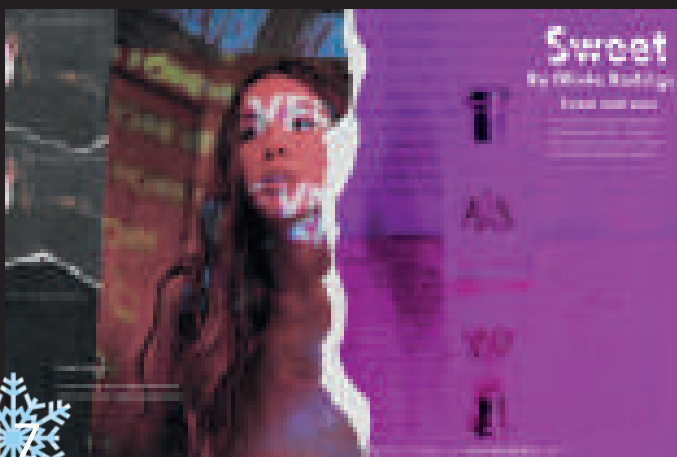
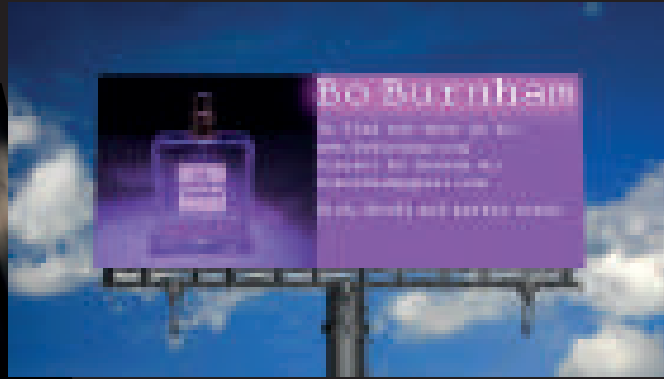
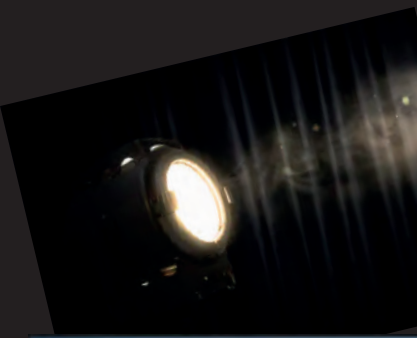
### School of Rock Theatre Trip

On Wednesday 17th November the cast of our school show School of Rock went to watch the live theatre version at Nottingham Theatre Royal. Overly enthusiastic guitarist Dewey Finn gets thrown out of his bar band and finds himself in desperate need of work. Posing as a substitute music teacher at an elite private elementary school, he exposes his students to the hard rock gods he idolizes and emulates -- much to the consternation of the uptight principal. As he gets his privileged and precocious charges in touch with their inner rock 'n' roll animals, he imagines redemption at a local Battle of the Bands. It was an exceptional performance with incredibly talented kids playing the main roles. The performance really helped our cast to see how the show can be put together in a professional setting. We cannot wait to now put our own version of the show on at Woodrush and welcome you to come and watch in the summer 2022!





# PHOTOGRAPHY



Spotlight - Year 11  
Photography Perfume  
- Still Life





# Year 10 Photography



Here's the  
WINNING PHOTO:

OVER THE SIX WEEKS HOLIDAYS I WON A PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION CREATED BY THE ACORNS CHARITY. THE THEME WAS SUMMER SPLASH SO WHILST ON HOLIDAY IN SCOTLAND I CAPTURED THIS SEA EAGLE DIVING INTO THE WATER. AFTER ENTERING I THOUGHT NOTHING OF IT UNTIL A WEEK LATER WHEN I GOT A CERTIFICATE IN THE POST SAYING THAT I HAD WON! I GOT A 1ST ROSETTE AND £10 GIFT VOUCHER.

PIC-COLLAG



This year we have welcomed our greatest number of Initial Teacher Trainees into the Woodrush Training Consortium yet, 10 of which have completed their first placement here at Woodrush. We have trainees from both Warwick and Worcester Universities, some have come straight from completing their university degrees and some are making complete career changes. The trainees have spent the term under the careful guidance and support of their Subject Mentors and departments, developing their knowledge and skills in the classroom, and have attended weekly training sessions on the wider school and classroom pedagogy. They are well on their way to becoming competent practioners. Well done to the ITTs for all their hard work and commitment to placement 1, I wish them a restful Christmas break, have a great placement 2 and I look forward to their return in the Spring.

Kerry Scotney  
WTC ITT Professional Mentor



**This is the start of their journey;  
could it also be the beginning of yours?**



# **Unlock their potential.**

**Do you want to make a difference to a young person's life? Do you want hands on training in a school and to be part of an enthusiastic and supportive team?**

**With school led training you will learn from colleagues and put your new skills into practice from day one. Join us and make a difference!**

## **Train to teach with Woodrush Training Consortium!**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**



**University  
of Worcester**



# Woodrush Training Consortium

Woodrush Training Consortium has been training teachers since September 2014 with a wealth of experience in supporting teachers in their early career. Woodrush TC work with Primary and Secondary partner schools to provide high quality training, as part of the governments plan to give schools a central role in raising standards with a self-improving school led system.

To deliver our teacher training we currently work in partnership with 3 different universities: Birmingham, Warwick and Worcester. We also work with over 25 partner schools across Birmingham, Worcester, Solihull and Dudley to offer a wide range of different options and pathways to suit trainee's needs.





After social distancing and being confined to year group bubbles for so long, it has been fantastic to see students back in the library, both after school and at break and lunchtime. When book club was relaunched in November, students were challenged to create a festive winter window to entice borrowers into the library. This has proved popular with year 7 students who have enjoyed getting creative with paper and paint. They also been reading newly published books and writing book reviews to encourage local year 6 and Woodrush students to try something new.

Advent Calendar

With the help of some enthusiastic book club members, a special Advent calendar has been on display in the library, with a digital version on the screens around school. Each day during December a window was opened to reveal the cover of a popular book. Each of the books has been awarded a four-star rating on Accelerated Reader by six or more students and is available to loan from the library. The last three books to be revealed received the highest rating from the greatest number of students over the last twelve months.

- 1) Crater Lake by Jennifer Killick – a school trip like no other. A scary read full of suspense, action and humour.
- 2) Once by Morris Gleitzman – the first book in the ever-popular series about a Jewish boy staying one step ahead of the Nazis in his search for his parents.
- 3) Seven Ghost by Chris Priestly – Jake is invited on a tour of a stately home and hears the stories of the ghosts that haunt it.





Books make great gifts. Here are six books students from year 7 to sixth form would like to find under the Christmas tree.



### October, October by Katya Balen

October and her dad live in the woods, they are wild, they know the trees and the lake as if they are friends. The year that October finds a baby owl, the year her father falls out of a tree, the year her mother returns, the year she turns eleven changes everything.

### The Encyclopedia of Unbelievable Facts

With whimsical illustrations and jam packed with facts, from science and nature to history and culture. This is the ideal book for trivia lovers.



### Empress & Aniya by Candice Carty-Williams

A heart-warming, moving and life affirming identity swapping story which highlights the ups and downs of teenage life and the importance of real friendship.

### Silence is not an Option by Stuart Lawrence

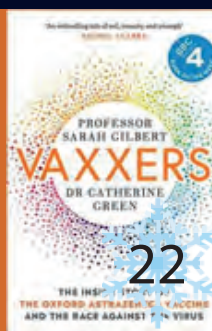
An empowering and inspirational book, written by the brother of Stephen Lawrence, showing how being the best person you can be can have a positive impact on the world.



The Haunting Season: Ghostly Tales for Long Winter Nights  
Christmas is traditionally the time to curl up with a good ghost story. This book contains eight written by contemporary bestselling authors.

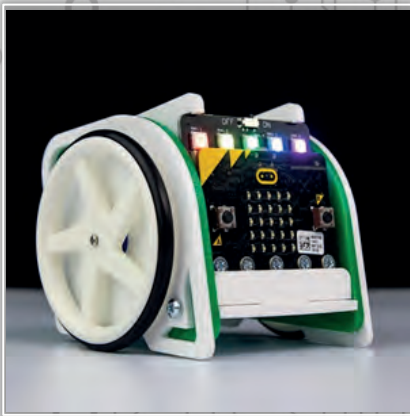
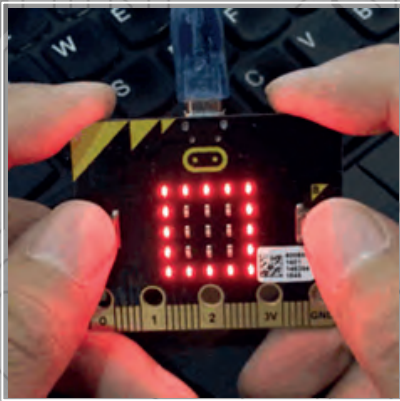
### Vaxxers by Sarah Gilbert and Catherine Green

Separating the facts from the fiction, this is the story of the race to produce a vaccine in the middle of a pandemic.





## Business and Computing



This year has been the start of something that the students have been asking for for years. We have finally been able to offer students the opportunity to develop a love for coding, robotics and app development.

Coding Club has been offered to Year 8 – Year 10 students, whether they are taking GCSE Computer Science or not. This has been a fantastic way for students to share in their passion for Computing. Recently in coding club students have been developing code using Block Editor for the BBC Microbit, or the more developed coders looking for more of challenge have been using Python to get their Microbit to perform a number of different activities, such as: display the students name on the LED strip, play rock, paper, scissors after completing the shake command on the Microbit.

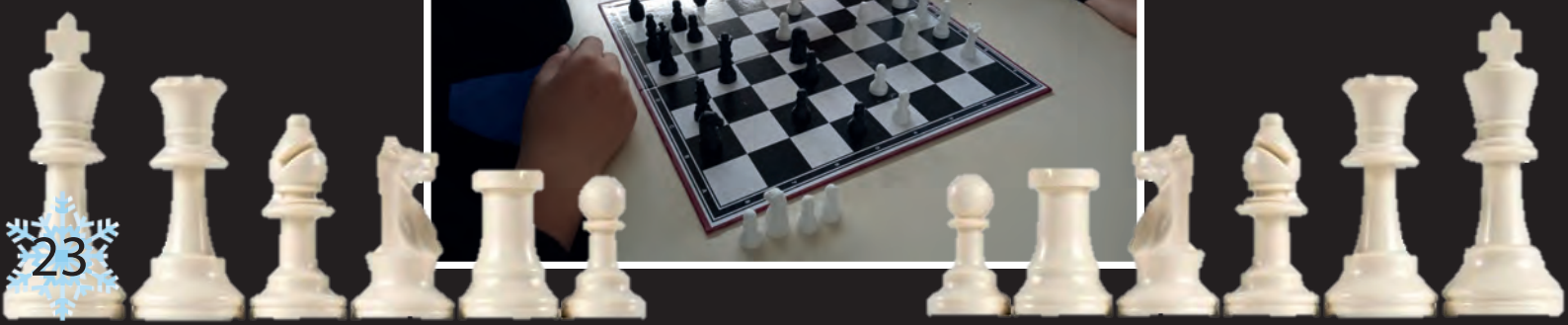
To further engage students, Woodrush have recently purchased Move Mini Kitronik Kits, these kits allow for students to piece together a robot that houses their Microbits, students loved the chance to get involved with the engineering side of robot creation, using their own hands to build their very own robot.

## Chess Club

Chess club started as a lunchtime activity for a select few students at the beginning of this term and has since grown to become a weekly after school club. As a result of participants exceeding 30 students, we have now ordered even more chess boards and are welcoming new participants every week. At the end of the year there will be a competition for students to earn blazer flashes and Woodrush University stamps for participation.

We are looking for new chess recruits from Years 7 and Year 10 in the new year. Make sure you come along Tuesday lunchtime and after school. Beginners and experienced players are welcome!

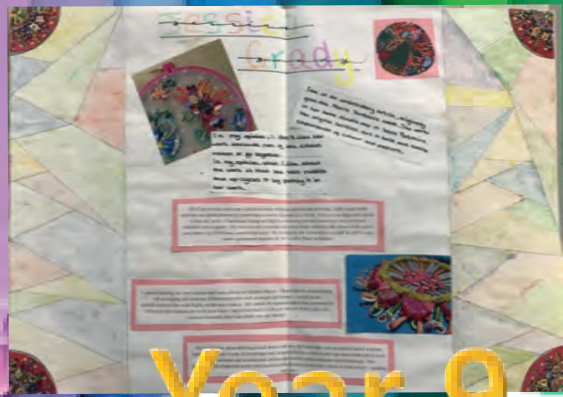
Zac Year 9 "I have enjoyed chess club and play a lot at home. I really like teaching the younger students how to play".





Textiles

Year 7



Year 9



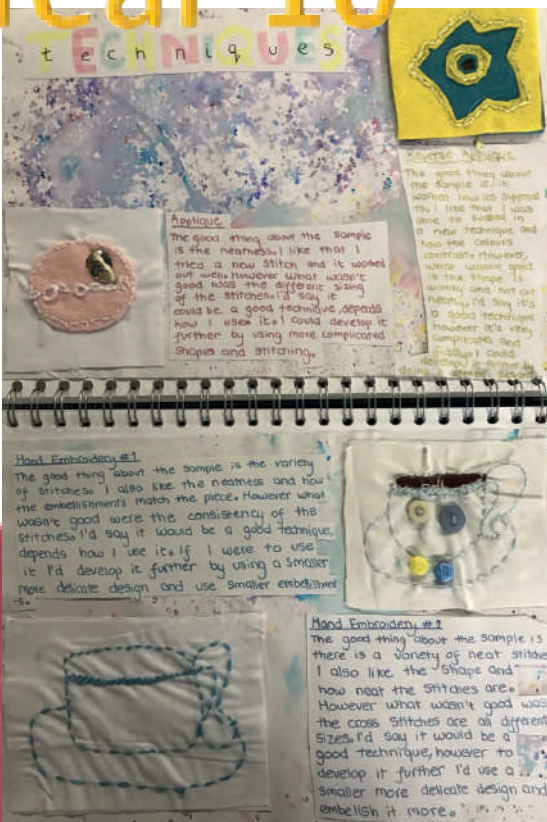
Textiles



Year 10



Year 8





# Netball



Lily B (Cap), Mllie T (Vice Cap, Gabby C, Emily C, Liv N, Daisy H-S, Ruby W, Frankie W



Lily C (Cap), Eve F (Vice Cap), Sophie F, Megan C, Rebecca C, Skye D-B, Ciara M, Katie E

# Football

Well done to the Y7 9 a side team which took part in the Redditch District football tournament. The team won 2, lost 1 and qualified for the finals!

Well done to the Year 9 football team for a fantastic performance in a 2-2 draw against St Augustines. A massive well done to Ethan A who scored both goals.







## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 7 Individual

	Name	Gender	Year	Reg	Time
1 <sup>st</sup>	W, Evie	Female	Year 7	7C1	7.42
2 <sup>nd</sup>	B, Renai	Female	Year 7	7C1	7.5
3 <sup>rd</sup>	N, Emily	Female	Year 7	7L1	7.5
4 <sup>th</sup>	H, Naomi	Female	Year 7	7C1	7.52
5 <sup>th</sup>	M, Matilda	Female	Year 7	7L1	7.56

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 7 Individual

	Name	Gender	Year	Reg	Time
1 <sup>st</sup>	G, Lucas	Male	Year 7	7C1	5.5
2 <sup>nd</sup>	W, Nathan	Male	Year 7	7B2	5.55
3 <sup>rd</sup>	N, Daniel	Male	Year 7	7C1	6.24
4 <sup>th</sup>	G, Jamie	Male	Year 7	7C1	6.27
5 <sup>th</sup>	F, Samuel	Male	Year 7	7E1	6.3

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 8 Individual

	Name	Gender	House	Reg	Time
1 <sup>st</sup>	K, Elsie	Female	Brindley	8B2	6.55
2 <sup>nd</sup>	F, Dorothy	Female	Cadbury	8C1	6.57
3 <sup>rd</sup>	L, Eva	Female	Lanchester	8L2	7.09
4 <sup>th</sup>	S, Frances	Female	Lanchester	8L2	7.21
5 <sup>th</sup> =	S, Amelie	Female	Cadbury	8C2	7.21
5 <sup>th</sup> =	S, Sophie	Female	Lanchester	8L2	7.21

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 8 Individual

	Name	Gender	House	Reg	Time
1 <sup>st</sup>	F, Finlay	Male	Eliot	8E2	5.4
2 <sup>nd</sup>	P, Billy	Male	Eliot	8E2	5.51
3 <sup>rd</sup>	H, Joseph	Male	Cadbury	8C2	6.01
4 <sup>th</sup>	S-S, Dylan	Male	Cadbury	8C1	6.03
5 <sup>th</sup>	N, Harvey	Male	Lanchester	8L2	6.07

# Interhouse Cross Country

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 7 Girls Team

Lanchester	Cadbury	Brindley	Eliot
N, Emily	W, Evie	C, Dolce-Ann	R, Evie
M, Matilda	B, Renai	Y, Poppy	F, Isabella
N, Keeva	H, Naomi	S, Nevaeh	E, Olivia
H, Rachel	R, Georgia	K, Emma	W, Lexi
K, Shannon-Paige	E, Millie	A, Eva	V, Jasmeet
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 7 Boys Team

Brindley	Cadbury	Lanchester	Eliot
W, Nathan	G, Lucas	Q, Callum	F, Samuel
P, Zachary	N, Daniel	H, Daniel	H, George
W, Oliver	G, Jamie	C, Joseph	F, Samuel
H, Noah	P, George	H, Evan	P, Arjun
A, Noah	G, Jacob	T-R, Riley	S, Jude
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 8 Girls Team

Cadbury	Lanchester	Brindley	Eliot
F, Dorothy	L, Eva	K, Elsie	W, Aimee
S, Amelie	S, Frances	R, Tayja	B, Emily
D, Roisin	S, Sophie	W, Gracie	C, Freya
W, Olivia	F, Lydia	T, Isobel	M, Naomi
H, Shayne	D, Florence	O'D-R, Nicole	K-H, Scarlett
1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>

## Woodrush interhouse cross country

### Year 8 Boys

Eliot	Cadbury	Lanchester	Brindley
F, Finlay	H, Joseph	N, Harvey	F, Frank
P, Billy	S-S, Dylan	W, Brandon	K, Corley
A, Ethan	J, Thomas	S, Leo	R, Max
H, Louie	B, Jamie	F, Jack	X, Han
D, Harvey	D, Mikey	P, Owen	H, Hayden
1 <sup>st</sup> =	1 <sup>st</sup> =	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>



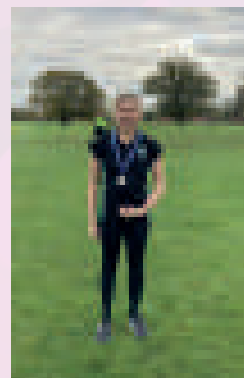


## **Year 9 Girls Redditch District Cross Country Championships**

Congratulations to the following Y9 girls Cross Country Team for winning the Redditch District Championships. The team consisted of:

Ayla G (2nd)  
Lily S (4th)  
Emily D (6th)  
Abi C (9th)  
Katie E (11th)

Special mention to Ayla G for coming second!!



## **Year 7 Boys Redditch District Cross Country Championships**

Congratulations to the Y7 boys Cross Country Team for winning the Redditch District Championships. The team consisted of:



Lucas G (1st)  
Nathan W (4th)  
Callum Q (10th)  
Daniel N  
Samuel F  
Lewis F  
Zachary P  
Jamie G

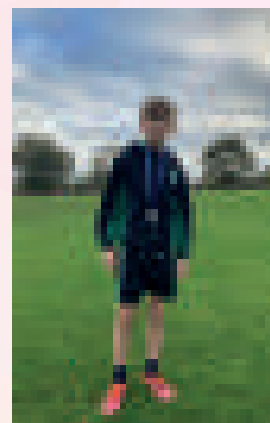
Special mention to Lucas G for winning the race and to Nathan W (4th) and Callum Q (10th) for finishing in the top 10!

## **Year 8 Boys Redditch District Cross Country Championships**

Congratulations to the following Year 8 boys Cross Country Team for coming 2nd in the Redditch District Championships. The team consisted of:

Finlay F (2nd)  
Joseph H (5th)  
Billy P (7th)  
Dylan S-S (9th)  
Ethan A

Great team effort!  
Special mention to Finlay F for coming second!!



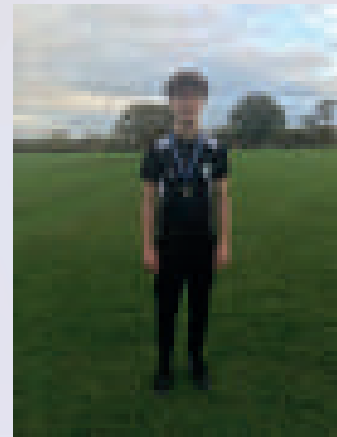


## Year 10 & 11 Boys Redditch District Cross Country Championships

Congratulations to the following Y10 & 11 boys Cross Country Team for coming 2nd in the Redditch District Championships. The team consisted of:

Flynn P (3rd)  
Anthony H (5th)  
Harry G (8th)  
Billy C (9th)  
Tom P (11th)  
Tom S-P (13th)

Great team effort!  
Special mention to Flynn P for coming third!



## Year 8 Football

Congratulations to the Y8 Boys Football Team for winning the Redditch District 9 A Side tournament.  
The team consisted of:



Jacob M, Billy P, Joseph H  
Finlay F, Reece G-O  
Thomas J, Jamie B  
Benjamin M, Max R, Leo S  
Mikey D, Owen P

## Rugby

PE shout out to Holly H awarded player of the day at the Wildcats regional touch rugby tournament







**WE'RE SERVING COSTA COFFEE**

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Eat In Take Out Relax

**Opening Times:**  
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Please note opening hours may alter during Christmas and New Year

**Children**  
**Christmas Treats**  
**Soft Play**  
**Christmas Lunch Box**



# Woodrush Community Hub

**Gym | Café | Facility Hire | Library**

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



**Have your Christmas Cake and Eat It !**

**RUSH ACTIVE GYM CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES**


Friday 24th Dec - 9:00am-3:00pm  
Saturday 25th Dec - Closed  
Sunday 26th Dec - Closed  
Monday 27th Dec - 9:00am-6:00pm  
Tuesday 28th Dec - 9:00am-6:00pm  
Wednesday 29th Dec - 9:00am-6:00pm  
Thursday 30th Dec - 9:00am-6:00pm  
Friday 31st Dec - 9:00am-3:00pm  
Wednesday 1st Jan – Closed

**SIGN UP for 12 days between 1st - 18th December for ONLY £15.00**

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