

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

27th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

A somewhat thoughtful week with the History department leading assemblies on Holocaust Memorial Day which is today. In my opinion the world's worst crime and something all need to know about. I am somewhat biased as a historian but if we fail to understand the past then we are destined to repeat it. On a personal note, when I was at school I just could not believe that the holocaust actually happened until my teacher Mrs Jones took our class through it in a great deal of detail. Events like this inspired me at a young age to want to be a history teacher, to ensure that all know how our world is being shaped.

That is the power of education and what our role is here. Not just to teach to pass exams, although they are helpful in unlocking the next stage of the educational journey, it is about sparking an interesting and fostering a lifelong love of learning. Which are trying to improve the life chances of our youngsters every day, and assemblies are just one part of that.

Industrial Action

I will be writing to you this afternoon with our plans for this coming Wednesday 1st February.

Year 8 Options

Thank you to all who attended the Year 8 Options Evening yesterday. Really good numbers and questions. There are a great number of subjects to choose from which does make it hard, but also hopefully makes all realise what a fantastic offer that we have for our youngsters.

Mrs Turner – Head of Year 8

Miss Colston has returned from maternity as Mrs Turner, no relation to our head of music, just in case you were wondering. She will be taking over from Mrs Wykes after the February half-term. Mrs Wykes will then be Head of Year 7 and Pastoral Manager.

Mr White – PE Changing Rooms

I just want to take this opportunity to encourage all parents and carers to remind their children to use the valuables boxes that are provided in PE. We have lots of pupils using the changing rooms for lessons, clubs, and fixtures and with this amount of traffic going through it is important that things are stored safely. The box is stored securely and pupils will be able to collect their valuables at the end of the lesson.

Mrs Handford – DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time

Well done to Years 7, 8 and 9 for an excellent DEAR time this week, next week's DEAR time is Thursday period 2. Please remember to encourage your child to bring in their reading book and if you need any reading recommendations, please take a look on our website under Literacy and Oracy where there are some suitable suggestions.

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Mrs Robertson – Post 16

Thank you to Year 11 pupils who have completed the Post-16 survey this week. If pupils have not done so yet please ensure this is done before Tuesday. This information is vital for us to be able to support pupils in their next steps.

Connexions interviews will continue next week and they are now speaking to Year 11 pupils who were seen in Year 10.

Connexions will also be attending the Year 10 Family Consultation Evening to speak with pupils and parents who are starting to think about what Post-16 options are available to them when they leave in 2024.

Should you require any help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Robertson – Work Experience

Well done to those of you in Year 10 who have managed to secure your work placement for July. For those that haven't we will be sending a Forms survey to parents next week and asking them to complete this so we can assess who might need support in finding work experience.

Gill Close from the Department for Work and Pensions will be attending the Year 10 Family Consultation Evening next Thursday (9th). She has helped several of our pupils find placements, if you wish to speak with her she will be available in the Atrium.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Heseltine – Enrichment Opportunities: Extra-Curricular Activities and Pupil Leadership Roles

Well done to Maria and Harry who have successfully been appointed as Attendance Ambassadors, and Lily who has taken up the role of Dance Captain. I'm sure all three pupils will have a great impact within their Pupil Leadership Roles.

[Enrichment Opportunities Page \(Clubs, Pupil Leadership Roles, Trips/Visits links\)](#)

Mrs Robertson – ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out

The pupils receiving the most AROE ePraise points this last week are:

Aspiration

- Freddie Year 7
- Sofia Year 8
- Harry Year 7
- Rio Year 8
- Archie Year 8



WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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- Charlie Year 7
- Luca Year 7
- Patricia Year 7
- Harry Year 7
- Katie Year 8
- Abigail Year 8
- Rieli Year 8
- Riley Year 8

Resilience

- Bethany Year 9
- Gracie Year 8
- Sienna Year 8
- Maddison Rose Year 8
- Ronnie Year 8
- Jack Year 8
- Angel-Louise Year 8
- Jude Year 8
- Cenett Year 7

Opportunity

- Evie Year 7
- Bailey Year 10
- Evina Year 10
- Roxanne Year 10
- Lillie Year 10
- Demi Year 10
- Summer Year 10

Excellence

- Tyler Year 7
- Quinn Year 9
- Haidyn Year 7
- Henley Year 8
- Chiamaka Year 8

Well done all and keep it up!

Mrs Robertson – The House System at Woodlands

House and Deputy House Captains for Years 7, 8 and 9 will be announced in assemblies next week.

Miss Ash – AROE Curriculum Lessons

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE lesson Parental Communication Calendar for current half term to familiarise yourselves with the topics due to be covered:

[Parental Communication Calendar Term 2A](#)

Next Half Term 2B is fast approaching, here is a link to the upcoming topics - [Parental Communication Calendar Term 2B](#)



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Year 7 – Money management and Citizenship - This unit will cover saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices.

Year 8 – Identity and Relationships - This unit will cover gender identity, sexual orientation, consent, 'sexting' and an introduction to contraception.

Year 9 – Health and Wellbeing - This unit will cover diet, exercise, lifestyle balance, healthy choices and first aid.

Year 10 – Healthy Relationships - This unit will cover relationships and sex expectations, myths, pleasure and challenges, including the impact of media and pornography.

Year 11 – Health and Wellbeing - This unit will cover responsible health choices, and safety in independent contexts.

All information regarding how we deliver Relationships, Sex and health in AROE lessons can be found here: [RSHE Policy](#)

[RSE Parental Right to withdraw form](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email on has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk should you have any queries/concerns.

Mrs Heseltine – assemblies

This week Year 11 pupils had a motivating assembly delivered by Miss Jordan and Mr Roberts.

Years 7-10 had a moving and poignant and thought-provoking assembly centring around the Holocaust and national Remembrance Day, led by Miss Fryer and Mrs Pinsent.

Next week the Options assemblies start for Year 8, alongside this there will be a PPE preparation assembly for Year 11 and Mrs Robertson will be delivering assemblies to all other year groups ahead of National Apprenticeship Week and will also be talking to them about ePraise and the House System.

[What is National Apprenticeship Week?](#)

[Assembly Schedule 2022.23](#)

Year 11 Preparation for Success Event 9th February.

Further to the letter sent out last week, we are holding an event for all parents and carers of Year 11 pupils to support with GCSE success. Please complete the linked MSForms survey to confirm if you intend, or not, to attend the Preparation for Success Event on 9th February, this is needed to support in providing seating and refreshments. Thank you to all who have completed this so far.

[Microsoft Forms: Year 11 Preparing for Success Event - Attendance Indicator/Seat Reservation](#)

Moving forward

I shared with staff this week some research I came across on empathy. It is important in any relationship to show empathy. Brene Brown, an expert in empathy has shared four important steps to take when it comes to sharing empathy that I wanted to share:

1. Perspective taking, or putting yourself in someone else's shoes
2. Staying out of judgement and listening
3. Recognising emotion in another person that you have maybe felt before
4. Communicating that you can recognise that emotion

Empathy fuels connection, sympathy drives disconnection.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher