

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

10th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope you have all had time to read our Ofsted report that was shared with you all on Wednesday, it is also available on the website. There are just too many amazing things to quote and may I take this opportunity once again to thank you all. You cannot just turn it on for two days, Ofsted saw us doing what we do every day, our best. Our youngsters were fantastic as always and staff were their usual wonderful selves, and you all supported by completing the questionnaires, so you all had a chance to put your views across.

Still incredibly proud as we continue to push forward with Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity and Excellence.

Satchel One app

Thank you to all who have already downloaded the Satchel One app. As you know all communication about sanctions, and much more are on there. Without the app I am afraid you will be missing out on important information on when sanctions are set, what for and when they will be held. Given the nights are drawing in it is even more important that you know where your youngsters are, and this will help greatly.

We try our best to be as upfront, open and honest as possible, although you won't always agree, we are trying to ensure that you know what is going on. Thank you again for all your support.

Year 11 feedback on PPEs

This year we will be giving feedback on the PPEs for Year 11 from Wednesday 29th November to Friday 8th December. Each paper will be gone through in class so all we know how they have done in each question with clear ways forward. There is no point having an assessment if you don't know where you can improve and what you are doing really well at.

This will then help to inform lesson planning, home learning and individual revision timetables and tasks.

Literacy – Mrs Handford

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week, DEAR time next week is on Tuesday, period 3. If any pupil wants to borrow a book from the Opportunities Hub, they should see me in M11 and I will assist them.

Next week, one pupil from each year group who had a reading book with them every DEAR time last half term will be selected in a draw to win a £10.00 book voucher. I will let you know who the lucky winners are next week!

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson



Directions will resume meetings with Year 11 next week, now the PPEs have finished. These will take place on Tuesday and will be in small groups.

The Head of 6th Form at Appleton will deliver an assembly to Year 11 pupils on Friday 24th November. This will be followed by group sessions where pupils will have the opportunity to discuss studying at Appleton and studying A-Levels.

Pupils should be in the process of applying to 6th Forms and Colleges, I have shared a list of deadlines with pupils this week. It is essential that if wanting to apply, they meet the deadlines as 6th Forms and Grammar Schools will not take late applications. College applications are open much later.

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

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

A reminder that Year 10 pupils must be active in finding placements. I have asked that tutors dedicate time during tutor time to support pupils in finding appropriate placements to contact. I have also provided pupils with a template email should they wish to use it. This can be found on Satchel One.

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

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

This week I met with all Year 10 pupils to launch the Prefect Application Process. This is an exciting opportunity for our Year 10 pupils, with Prefect, Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl being the most coveted Pupil Leadership Roles we have on offer. We hold these positions in high esteem and expect pupils who apply to be the best role models of the core values of the school.

We've taken a slightly different approach this year, we really want to support our youngsters in preparing them for Post-16 and life in the real world, therefore we have set up the application process for Prefect and Head pupils to reflect a real-life process.

Pupils are expected to use our school website to download and print an application form for the position as well as the job description, making sure that through their application they make it clear how they meet the criteria for the role.

This year pupils will need to have 2 references as part of their application, this must not be a family member, but can be a member of staff, or an adult outside of school that they work with through a club e.g. Cadets leader.

Just like in the real world, not all applicants will be invited to interview. The selection process will not just be based on the strength of their application but also take into consideration all aspects of their school life, both in and out of the classroom.

Pupils have until the 5th February to hand their application form to me, late applications will not be accepted. Pupils will be informed after the February half term if they have been successful for an interview, and all interviews will take place on the 5th March.



After the Prefects are selected, the application for Head Boy/Girl will open to the Prefects, and the final announcement of Head Boy/Girl will be held on the 19th April in our Prefect Celebration morning, which parents and carers are invited to.

Samiyah and Demi, our current Head Girl and Boy gave lots of good advice to our pupils about the process, explaining that the application window is long, so draft and redraft your application! Demi also spoke about practising the STAR method for the interview and how this helped him answer questions more successfully. This can be found linked at the bottom of our Pupil Leadership Role webpage.

This is a prestigious opportunity for our Year 10 pupils and is something that will make them stand out against their peers when it comes to Post-16, University, and job applications in the future.

Please use the link below for more information.

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

ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson

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

Aspiration

Sara Year 8
Harry Year 8
Maya Year 8
Ida Year 8
Freddie Year 8

Resilience

Rio Year 8
George Year 10
Oreoluwa Year 9
Angel Year 10
Nicole Year 9
Albie Year 10
Austin Year 8
Barbora Year 9

Opportunity

Chloe Year 10
Finley Year 7
Tommy Year 7
Alex Year 7

Excellence

Adam Year 8
Ethan Year 7
Shannon Year 7
Julius Year 10

Well done all and keep it up!

The House System at Woodlands – Mrs Robertson

A final reminder to Year 7 pupils that should they want to develop their pupil leadership skills, there are still some House and Deputy House Captain vacancies and they should use the Pupil Leadership Role webpage for more information: [House Captain Job Description](#)

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash

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 after half term:

[\(AUT 1B\) AROE PARENT COMMS CALENDAR 2023.24.pptx](#)

Year 7 – **Building Relationships (relationships)** - This unit will cover self-worth, romance and friendships (including online) and relationship boundaries.

Year 8 – **Community and Careers (Living in the Wider World)** - This unit will cover equality of opportunity in careers and life choices, and different types and patterns of work.

Year 9 – **Employability Skills (Living in the Wider World)** - This unit will cover employability and online presence.

Year 10 – **Mental Health (Health and Wellbeing)** - This unit will cover mental health and ill health, stigma, safeguarding health, including during periods of transition or change.

Year 11 – **Building for the Future (Health and Wellbeing)** - This unit covers self-efficacy, stress management, and future opportunities.

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

[RSE Parental Right to withdraw form](#)

Please contact me via email on has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk should you have any queries/concerns.

Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Thank you to Miss Hope and her Citizenship class for delivering interactive and informative assemblies on Parliament week to Years 7-9. Year 10 had their assembly based on the Prefect Application Process.

Next week our assemblies centre around Antibullying week, and Year 10 have their Revision assembly with Miss Jordan, which will now be on Tuesday. On Wednesday Year 11 have an additional assembly delivered by Aim, which will be talking to pupils about the Apprenticeship route and the careers open to them.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

- Year 7 Preparing for Success Event – 16th November from 5.00pm to 6.00pm. If you have not done so already, please complete the MSForms link to reserve a seat, or let us know you can't come, and we can save a free learning resource pack for your child. Deadline for responding is the end of the day today: <https://forms.office.com/e/cPw9CrSGz>



- RSHE Policy Review (parents/carers/staff) - December 7th from 5.00pm to 5.30pm (more information to follow).

Moving forward

As a historian I find Remembrance Sunday and all the build-up incredibly moving and hugely important. If we fail to remember the past, then we are destined to repeat all the wrongs. Just because World War One was over one hundred years ago makes it no less important. We are still seeing the effects today right across the globe. The Israel and Gaza conflict, you could easily argue, would not be happening without the First World War and the redrawing of maps after that and the Second World War.

Today, as we do every year, we will remember those who fought and died for our freedoms in those and other conflicts, many of which are continuing across our planet. These freedoms were hard fought and it important to remember that we have a duty to the next generation to tell and show what happened and the significance of.

We are fortunate enough to live in a country where we have rule of law, far from perfect in many instances I know, but in comparison to other parts of the world we are light years ahead. Our freedoms must be used for good and should be to make the next generation more resilient, humble and mindful not to repeat the mistakes of the past, we all have a duty to move our country forward and we all play our part.

I would ask that if you could find some time over this remembrance weekend to watch the coverage on television and listen to why this all goes on with your youngsters. We had assemblies last week in the build-up but the more discussion and understanding the better.

The below may help:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-remembrance-day-remembrance-sunday/znkxjsg>

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/remembrance/about-remembrance>

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright
Head Teacher