

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

17th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

I feel sure that you saw on our social media Year 7s remembering those who have fought and died for our freedoms as we paid our respects on Friday as part of the Remembrance activities across the country. So incredibly proud and I could have heard a pin drop all around the school, amazing.

A huge amount went on last week which concluded with a trainee doctor from Medical Mavericks working with some of our Year 7s who have expressed a career in medicine. Practical, engaging and really good fun, made them all think. Thank you to Miss Christmas our Key Stage Three Science Lead for organising.

So much has happened this week as we seek to try to give as many opportunities as possible. Our Citizenship GCSE youngsters went with Miss Hope to The Royal Courts of Justice and got a huge amount from it. Mr Druce took some of our STEM club young people to Proctor and Gamble to see how everything works there. Mrs Williams took those on the Hospitality and Catering course to the University of Essex to look at careers in this area.

Today sees Mr Druce taking some of our Ant-Bullying Ambassadors to work with the Basildon Trust and Miss Brown leads a Creative Arts careers event off site.

When we are talking about opportunities not all come from us. It is always great to see when our youngsters grasp their own opportunities like Athena L in Year 7 who cut her hair short in aid of cancer research. Impressive.

And of course, who could forget our annual Christmas card competition with a deadline of Friday 24th November. first prize £25.00 Amazon voucher, second prize £15.00 Amazon voucher and third a £10.00 Amazon voucher. These are the cards that I will be writing to all staff and other Head Teachers that have worked with us in the past, a small way to show some art off that our youngsters are capable of producing.

Year 7 Preparation for Success Evening

Thank you to all who attended last night, a great turnout and some nuggets of gold were shared. This has already been shared with you all and thank you again for working with us to make each and every youngster then best they can be. We cannot do this alone.

Huge thanks go to Mrs Heseltine and all those who spoke and spent time taking your questions last night as well as all the preparation beforehand.



One thing that really stood out was that only 10-15% of a youngster's waking hours is spent in school. As I have always said, it is very much a partnership.

Representing our school

I remember fondly the times I was able to represent my school in a great many sports. It was always on the proviso that my behaviour was good and that I didn't receive any detentions or higher sanctions. It was simple, it was an honour to put on that school shirt having been selected above others and I took it as that. It is no different here.

If you have a detention on the same night that you have a fixture or another opportunity you have been chosen to represent our school for, you attend the sanction. If not, the sanction will escalate, and it may well result in you not being able to represent us at the next event.

We are a place of learning first, and we will continue to provide opportunities, but you don't just attend school for one subject or to do just do the things that you like to do, life is not like that.

Positive behaviour leads to positive experiences.

Our uniform supplier is changing

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Uniform Wise for their work in supplying us all with uniform the past few years. Our uniform supplier is changing from 1st January 2024, our new supplier is Red Oak School wear. Please see communication below from our new uniform supplier, if you have any questions, please contact us at:

finance@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

From 1st January 2024, Woodlands School have appointed us as their new uniform provider. We are very excited to be working with them and of course with you.

At Red Oak School wear, we offer two methods of purchasing uniform:

Online Ordering

Orders can be placed online at www.redoakroller.co.uk. There you will find Woodlands School listed with a selection of uniform available, as well as a selection of plain uniform items such as trousers, shirts, socks and tights. Currently, our online ordering is for delivery only, but we are working on a 'Collect from store' option which we hope to be available soon. Orders over £45 qualify for free delivery. Details of our delivery timescales and returns/exchange policy can all be found on the website.

Red Oak School Shop



Our school shop is based on Burnt Mills Industrial Estate in Basildon (please see attached flyer for full details including opening hours). Here is where you will receive a more personal service from our experienced School wear Staff who can help with any sizing or product enquiries. We have changing rooms for trying on uniform to ensure the best fit.

However you decide to shop with us, we hope you enjoy the experience and we will be working hard to ensure as smooth a changeover as possible for you.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week. If pupils want to take out books from the Opportunities Hub, please ask them to see me in M11 and I will help them. DEAR time next week will be on Tuesday period 4.

I have selected 3 pupils at random, who all had their reading books for DEAR time last half term to receive a £10.00 book voucher.

The winners are:

Troy M in Year 7

JJ in Year 8

Liam V in Year 9

Your vouchers will be available on Monday.

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Year 7 Preparing for Success Event

Thank you to all parents/carers and pupils who were able to attend last night's Preparing for Success event, it was great to see so many of you there.

Information from the event will be emailed to all parents and carers as a PDF and those pupils who were not able to attend will receive their free Learning Support pack during tutor time next week.

If you were able to attend, please can you take a few minutes to give some feedback on the event using the linked survey: [MSForms Parent/Carer Feedback](#)

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

Directions career meetings have resumed this week with Year 11 and have been positive. It has been encouraging to have had many conversations with Year 11 pupils this week about their next steps.

The AIM Group delivered an assembly to Year 11 on Wednesday about Apprenticeships. This was very informative and gave pupils a clear idea of the process involved in finding Apprenticeships. I will share with pupils the PowerPoint presentation as it has some useful links.

Year 11 must be aware of the upcoming deadlines for applications to 6th Forms and Colleges. Some are as early as the first week in December. Most 6th Form applications will require a reference, these should be given to myself or Miss Willmot who will be happy to complete.

Next week pupils will attend an additional assembly from the Head of 6th Form at Appleton. This will be followed by small group sessions with her.

Message from the Anglo European school:

*There are two remaining morning tours on **Tuesday 29th November and Tuesday 5th December at 9:45am** to view the 6th Form. If you would like to attend to hear from the Headteacher, Mrs Gee, and our Director of Sixth Form, Mr Knights, you can register through this link. Our Sixth Form students will be conducting tours around the school so students will have the opportunity to ask them more about our unique and distinctive Sixth Form.*

With 28 subjects and four different routes on offer, students are guaranteed an exciting blend of options ensuring a broad curriculum, which readies students for the dynamic and globalised world in which we live. Students have the choice to study the International Baccalaureate Diploma, the IB Career-related Programme, A Levels combined with IB courses or four A levels.

Should you require any further 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 must be actively engaged with finding placements for July. There has been lots of talk around this and tutors are supporting pupils with the process. If placements have been secured, please return the forms as soon as possible to the admin office.

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

It's never too late to sign up to one of our 60 clubs or 25 prestigious Pupil Leadership Roles, in formation about these can be found in the link below:



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

We have already started to receive Prefect application forms from Year 10 pupils which is pleasing to see. As a reminder, the deadline for submission to myself is Monday 5th February 2024.

ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson

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

Aspiration

Frankie Year 8

Jayden Year 9

Resilience

Emma Year 10

Yusra Year 7

Nicole Year 9

Oscar Year 8

Opportunity

Gabrilina Year 10

Sebastian Year 8

Jenna Year 11

Titan Year 10

Excellence

Emma Year 10

Yusra Year 7

Nicole Year 9

Oscar Year 8

Well done all and keep it up!

The House System at Woodlands – Mrs Robertson

Thank you to pupils who have applied to become House and Deputy house captains. These will be announced shortly.

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

Breakfast Club – Miss Brohan

Don't forget our free breakfast club is on every morning in TE4 from 7:30am to 8:30am.

As the financial climate changes please check your eligibility for Free School meals:
<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/>

As a school we receive funding for children eligible for free school meals to improve the quality of education, this means that we can often subsidise trips and uniform costs for those who are struggling, but also ensure that we provide ICT facilities to our pupils, additional tuition, more teachers and smaller class sizes.

Assemblies – Mrs Katie Heseltine

This week was 'Anti-Bullying week', Mr Druce led on this, which also included taking our Anti-Bullying ambassadors on a trip. Year 11 also received an additional assembly from AIM in relation to Post-16 apprenticeship routes.

Next week Miss Jordan leads the Year 10 assembly to PPE preparation, and Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 will have an assembly based around International Men's Day led by Mr Amran.

International Men's Day falls on Tuesday 19th November each year and raises awareness of the positive impact men bring to the world, their families and communities as well as men's wellbeing.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

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

Moving forward

I came across this earlier in the week:

'Funding is tight because schools are financing solutions that should be on someone else's budget. Time is tight because schools are staffing solutions that should be on someone else's timesheet. Capacity is tight because everyone else's responsibilities are being foisted onto schools.'

Yet still, with all this going on, we continue to do our very best by each and every young person here. We do face daily challenges in education, and I am always grateful for your support. Despite the negative headlines and external noise, we try to do what is right. First and foremost, we are a place of learning, and we will never lose sight of that.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher