

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

This week has seen our Year 10 GCSE youngsters complete their Case Study at Southend-on-Sea. Real practical skills and seeing geography in action really brings the subject to life. Miss O'Neill as Head of Geography led the team ably and I know it was incredibly positive.

Miss Fry took some Year 8 and 9 youngsters to work with Lee Chapel School to share our great work on sustainability.

We welcomed back last year's Year 11s as they came in to collect their GCSE certificates. Great to see so many of them and hear what they are up to now. The overwhelming majority said they wish they were still with us.

This week also saw us conduct whole school work sampling. This is where we all sit down and look at the quality of marking, what we call feedback, our youngsters are getting. Feedback really is key, it shows our youngsters that we care about them and what they are producing. It is a clear way to help them move forward with areas they haven't quite grasped and congratulate them when they really do get it and then challenge them, so they keep progressing.

Our Talking Learning events, where youngsters share the work in their books and speak with such pride and confidence, shows the value of feedback, it is transformative. Yes, providing feedback is hard and time consuming, which is why we have a clear policy and where different forms of feedback can be used. When our youngsters sit down, read and respond to our comments, and then improve as a result, we know that feedback is essential.

### **Mrs Handford – Literacy**

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week; I was able to walk about to see how things were going and the atmosphere was lovely. DEAR time next week is on Tuesday, period 5. However, all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 should have a reading book with them at all times as it is part of their daily essential equipment.

Yesterday I received a lovely email from a parent who is reading the book I recommended in my last literacy newsletter. It was such a pleasure to get that email; I am always happy to recommend books for children and parents and happy to correspond via email.

### **Cultural Capital:**

**Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital**

**Post 16 – Mrs Robertson**



We welcome Kirsty Sweeney Head of 6<sup>th</sup> Form at Appleton today, she will be delivering an assembly to Year 11 about studying Post-16 at Appleton and then meet with pupils afterwards. Another opportunity for many to explore the options available to them.

There are some **6<sup>th</sup> Form application deadlines** approaching and if pupils are interested in applying, they must meet these.

**King John 6<sup>th</sup> Form** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Mayflower 6<sup>th</sup> Form** – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

**Appleton 6<sup>th</sup> Form** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Anglo European 6<sup>th</sup> Form** – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December

**Sweyne Park 6<sup>th</sup> Form** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Pupils who are applying to SEC and USP must do so sooner rather than later, although applications stay open for much of the year, courses do fill up quickly. This will avoid disappointment if places aren't available.

With the PPE results being given to pupils on Wednesday, pupils can use these in their applications.

A reminder that pupils must be prepared for their Directions Careers meetings. They must prepare answers to the questions and have watched the video in advance of their meetings, these are sent along with the letter to parents prior to the meeting.

Should you require any further help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on [kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

### **Work Experience – Mrs Robertson**

Another reminder that Year 10 pupils who have yet to secure a placement for work experience in July must be actively seeking one. All completed forms are to be returned to the admin office.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email on [kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

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

Keep up to date with all of the trips, visits, clubs, and Pupil Leadership roles here clicking the link below:

[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**

Jack Year 10

Charlie Year 9

Bethany-Ann Year 9



## Resilience

Nathan	Year 7
Gabrilina	Year 10
Darius	Year 7
Charis	Year 7

## Opportunity

Poppy	Year 9
Emilia	Year 7
Matthew	Year 10
Layla	Year 7

## Excellence

Onyekachukwu	Year 11
Liam	Year 7
Hannah	Year 9
Harvey	Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

## The House System at Woodlands – Mrs Robertson

Thank you to those pupils in Year 7 who have applied to be House or Deputy house Captain. Winners 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 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](#)



An invitation has been sent home to all parent/carers regarding our upcoming RSE and HE policy review on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 5.00pm to 5.30pm. If you would like to attend, please complete the MS forms link in the letter.

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

### Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Thank you to Mr Amran and Miss Jordan for delivering assemblies this week. Miss Jordan presented on PPE preparation to Year 10 and Mr Amran delivered assemblies on international Mens' Day.

In a slight change to the schedule next week; Year 10 and 11 will swap assembly dates in order to facilitate the Year 11 PPE Results Event. Years 7-10 will have an assembly on Knife Crime, led by Mr Riste, as opposed to 'Consent'

### [Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

### Dates for Diaries

- Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November – drop a Christmas decoration to reception. These will be used to decorate our new tree and we want each bauble to have meaning to a pupil or staff member.
- Decorations can be as Kitsch or as Traditional as they want. You do not need to buy a decoration, you can make, recycle, or upcycle.

### Moving forward

Following on from our very successful Preparation for Success evening last week for Year 7 I think it only fair to share a few tips for you as parents and carers to continue to play your hugely important part in their education:

- **Flipped learning:** if you know what they learn in the upcoming term, which is all available on our website, encourage them to research online.
- **Recall:** ask them about what they have been learning. Be specific about subjects! *'So, tell me what The Tempest is about.'*
- **Regular reflection:** ask them what they are finding is going well and what they could improve on. Again, be specific where you can! *'I know you've been learning about data handling in Computer Science. How are you finding it? Have you found anything particularly difficult? Why do you think that is?'*
- **Marginal gains:** ensure they know about good habits for learning.
  - Turn up with the correct equipment.
  - Carry water with you.
  - Get enough sleep (no screen time before)
  - Eat a good breakfast.
  - Stay well ahead with home learning deadlines (check Satchel One)
  - Check your timetable and pack your bag the night before.
  - E-mail teachers for help and support if needed.
  - Asking questions in class and trying to contribute to discussions.



# WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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*'While subject knowledge is a major barrier for many parents during their child's secondary years, the evidence suggests this is by no means a pre-requisite for engagement – **all that is needed is a genuine interest in their child's education, experiences and aspirations, and the provision of ongoing support and encouragement.**'*  
(OECD, 2012; EEF, 2018)

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright  
Head Teacher

