

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Very well done to all our Year 11s who this week completed papers in English Literature, Sports Studies, French, Business Studies, Film Studies, History, Psychology, Computer Science, Maths, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, Chemistry and Geography. Not all at the same time of course and not all take every subject here, but still, you can see how intense the GCSE calendar is. As I have been walking the school I have been impressed by the focus and how the lessons have been set up to maximise that revision time.

I have been no less impressed by what is being offered right across the school in all year groups. I am still showing many guests around our school and have no issue at all going into any classroom and our youngsters have been great at talking to our guests explaining what they are learning and what they have been working on.

You may or may not know that classes are visited every hour to gauge lessons and to check learning is purposeful. It is always good to check the climate on these walks. Formal lesson observations take place every six weeks where staff are given feedback on what is going well as well as areas to improve. This is developmental, improving staff leads to improving youngsters and an improving school. We never stand still and are always looking to do better. On our walks it is clear that our young people are incredibly proud of Woodlands and take every opportunity to show off about what we are trying to do here.

#### Dates for your diary:

A reminder that as well as below the school calendar is on our website and you can follow us on X, Facebook and Instagram.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Year 10 geography field trip to Stratford.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May** – Year 10 geography field trip to Stratford.

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – Half term and Year 11 holiday programme.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Start of last half term.

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 9 assessments.

#### Dominic Riste - Safeguarding

As part of Mental Health Awareness week all pupils in year groups 7-10 took part in workshops delivered by 'Mind of the Student', in which they learnt about mental health and what coping strategies they could use to overcome any difficulties or barriers that they face now or in the future. The sessions aimed to equip the pupils with the knowledge, confidence and skills to address their mental health needs in proactive and accessible ways. The pupils took an active role in the sessions, and we hope that this opportunity forms part of the lifelong skills and knowledge that they develop here.

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Prior to this the assembly theme aligned with the national theme of 'Move More' highlighting the benefits of regular exercise, with a representative from the wellbeing ambassadors delivering practical tips and advice. The assembly also featured several of our pupils who have consistently represented the school in sports with resilience and dedication, sharing why they do sport and how they find it beneficial for their mental health.

Next, the wellbeing ambassadors have the task of delivering presentations linked to the key themes of kindness, anxiety, nature and body image before they progress to attempting to gain a qualification in understanding mental health.

### **Mrs Handford – Literacy**

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week; I did a walkabout, and it was lovely to see so many pupils enjoying some reading time with such a calm atmosphere. DEAR time next week is on Monday 20<sup>th</sup>, period 2 for Years 7, 8 and 9. Please remind your child that having a book with them is part of their daily essential equipment.

Next week, Years 7 and 8 will be visiting the Opportunities Hub in their English lessons, so that they can borrow a book if they wish to, they can of course bring these books home. I would just ask that all pupils who borrow a book treat it with respect and return it in the excellent condition it was borrowed in please.

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

#### **Post 16 – Mrs Robertson**

In tutor time next week, Year 10 will be asked to provide me with their early Post-16 plans. A simple tick sheet that will enable me to plan the Directions meetings. These will begin after half term for Year 10.

Should you require any help, please contact me via email on [kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

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

A reminder of the FINAL deadline – all remaining self-placement forms must be with the admin office by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Any forms handed in after this date will not be accepted.

If pupils are contacted via Miss Lovell requesting updated insurance information, it is essential that this is provided. Pupils need to return to the employer and request this information before passing onto Miss Lovell. Without this, placements will not be authorised to go ahead.

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**

Next week pupils will be awarded their ePraise salary for their commitment to clubs and Pupil Leadership Roles. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of our youngsters who have put themselves forward to join these enrichment opportunities and develop their Cultural Capital.

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The clubs list will be updated next week to reflect the new clubs we have starting after half term.  
[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

Yusra Year 7  
Oliver Year 7  
Bessie Year 7  
Jayden Year 7  
Gabriel Year 7

#### Resilience

Harvey Year 7  
Savannah Year 7  
Adam Year 8  
Mandy Jillianne Year 10  
Harrison Year 8  
Kaiden Year 8  
Jj Year 7  
Tommy Year 7  
Danny Year 8

#### Opportunity

Joshua Year 7  
Lily Year 7  
Reece Year 7  
Albe Year 7  
Yusuf Year 7  
Atlanta Year 7  
Keira-Jane Year 7  
Troy Year 7  
Tommy Year 7

#### Excellence

Kevin Year 7  
Amir Year 9  
Daniel Year 9  
Eghon Year 9  
Ruby Year 8  
Tommy Year 7  
Mason Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

### **AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash**

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE Parental Communication Calendar for this half term.  
We ask parents to familiarise themselves with the topics due to be covered:

#### **Year 7 - Health and Puberty (Health and Wellbeing)**

This unit will cover healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM.

#### **Year 8 - Emotional Wellbeing (Health and Wellbeing)**

This unit will cover mental health & emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies.

#### **Year 9 - Intimate Relationships (Relationships)**

This unit will cover relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs and attitudes to pornography.

#### **Year 10 - Exploring Influences (Health and Wellbeing)**

This unit will cover the influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media.

#### **Year 11 - Families (Relationships)**

This unit will cover the different types of families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships.

As the final half term (3B) fast approaches, our final topics for the year are as follows:

#### **Year 7 - Developing Skills and Aspirations (Living in the Wider World)**

This unit will cover careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations.

#### **Year 8 - Digital Literacy (Living in the Wider World)**

This unit will cover online safety, digital literacy, media reliability and gambling hooks.

#### **Year 9 - Setting Goals (Living in the Wider World)**

This unit will cover learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the Post-16 process.

#### **Year 10 - Addressing Extremism and Radicalisation (Relationships)**

This unit will cover communities, cohesion and challenging extremism.

All information regarding AROE is available on the school website: [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](mailto:has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk) should you have any queries/concerns.

### **Breakfast Club – Miss Brohan**

Breakfast Club continues to be on in TE4 from 7.30am to 8.30am. Breakfast is available along with activities such as games and mindful colouring.

### **Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine**

Thank you to Miss O'Neill for her enlightening assembly about Citizenship, it was pleasing to hear about so many of our youngsters who consistently act as a good citizen and volunteer their time to

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support others. Ahead of National Volunteer week Miss O'Neill suggested a range of ways that pupils would be a good citizen and support their local community. The assembly also followed on nicely from Mr Riste's presentation in relation to Mental Health, volunteering has many health benefits associated to it, particularly in relation to supporting and boosting mental wellbeing. How can you get involved in National Volunteer week? Visit the following website for ideas:  
<https://volunteersweek.org/>

In a slight change to the assembly themes next week Year 7 and 8 will have an assembly centred around the new Home Learning provision that will be starting after the half term; this will be led by Miss White. Year 10 will have an assembly in relation to getting Post-16 ready and preparation for their 1:1 careers interview with our careers service, Directions. Year 9 will have their normal scheduled theme led by Miss Jordan.

### [Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

#### **Moving forward**

It is important to note and I think well worth sharing that despite there being recruitment crisis in education at present, we are still having many wanting to join us. When I ask why this is each person says that it is a focus on excellence and that they have spoken to a parent or carer, former or current pupil, current staff member of someone who used to work here. And all have been full of praise for what we are trying to do here.

As I have written a great many times, we are not perfect here and we will get the occasional thing wrong. But hearing the feedback only fills me with yet more pride. Thank you for all you are doing to contribute and for being so positive about what we are trying to achieve here at Woodlands.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright  
**Head Teacher**