

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

8th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to all our Year 7 parents and carers who attended last night's Consultation Evening. What with all going on in the world it can be easy to forget sometimes that we are a place of learning and teaching is a hard profession. I am not easy to work for and I make no apologies for that as my youngsters only get one chance at education. That is why I was so pleased to listen in on the many conversations about what you can do to support teaching and learning.

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.

The week beginning Monday 11th March – Year 11 Feedback on PPEs week following all receiving their grades on Monday March 11th during assembly.

Tuesday 12th March – Selected Year 10 youngsters participating in the Maths Feast competition at the King John School.

Friday 15th March all day – Year 11 Hair and Beauty GCSE Practical exam.

Thursday 21st March 3.30pm – 6.00pm – One Plan Meetings (Invitation only).

Friday 22nd March all day – Year 11 Hair and Beauty GCSE Practical exam.

Monday 25th March all day – Year 9 vaccinations, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and meningitis.

Monday 25th March all day – Selected Year 7 youngsters participating in the Maths of Games Enrichment Day at the university of Essex in Colchester.

Wednesday 27th March 4.00pm - 7.00pm – Year 11 Consultation Evening.

Thursday 28th March 12.30pm finish – Last day of term.

Monday 14th April 8.40am – Start of summer term.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

Well done to all year groups involved in our World Book Day celebrations this week! Celebrating a love of books and reading is always something I enjoy, of course and it was so lovely to see so many pupils being enthusiastic about the day.

To celebrate this year, we had the amazing help of our local WH Smith stores who helped secure enough books for us to give a free World Book Day book to all pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 and these were given out yesterday. It was truly lovely to see so many pupils walking around school with a book in their hands. I still have lots of WBD tokens left so if any pupils would like one to either swap it for another free WBD book or to get £1.00 off a book of their choice in a local book store, please ask them to see me.

We also did a form activity of The Masked Reader where pupils had to guess the member of staff reading the extract from the book and which book the extract came from. This was very much enjoyed by pupils!



There will also be a chance to sit and read today in the Opportunities Hub with some cake at lunch time, to embrace the true meaning of WBD - a love of reading!

DEAR time will take place on Friday, period 1 next week. If any pupil needs to borrow a book, please ask them to see me.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to share a little piece of information I read earlier this week. If you read for just 6 minutes a day, it is proven to have a positive effect on mental wellbeing. If your child isn't particularly interested in reading, why not see if they can take on my little challenge and find 6 minutes a day to read - books, blogs, newspapers, magazines, anything which interests them!

Mr Riste - Safeguarding

Essex County Council have asked us to share some courses that may be of interest to you. ACL Family Learning (funded by Essex County Council) have a number of online courses running in March and April which may be of benefit to parents/carers/grandparents. These sessions are run individually so families can sign up to as many, or as few, as they like. Sessions include:

Raising Girls

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=DOL2C41Y23&NAME=FL+Raising+Girls&ID1=9000&ID2=287166&ID3=1>

First Aid Workshop

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=DOL4C45Y23&NAME=FL+First+Aid+Workshop&ID1=9000&ID2=287252&ID3=1>

Managing Big Emotions

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=DOL4C42Y23&NAME=FL+Managing+Big+Emotions&ID1=9000&ID2=287168&ID3=1>

Mindfulness and relaxation

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=DOL1C70Y23&NAME=FL+Mindfulness+%26+Relaxation&ID1=9000&ID2=286456&ID3=1>

Anxiety Coping Techniques for Teens

<https://courses.aclessex.com/CourseDetailsView.asp?CODE=DOL1C71Y23&NAME=FL+Anxiety+Coping+Techniques+For+Teens&ID1=9000&ID2=286457&ID3=1>

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

This week has seen the majority of Year 11 pupils confirming with us their Post-16 destinations. There are some pupils still to be seen and this will happen with Directions or myself before Easter.

A reminder to all that it is important to have a second choice (a college) in case the required grades are not achieved.



For pupils who wish to apply for an Apprenticeship they should be actively looking for these now as more are becoming available daily. These pupils must also have applied to a college in case they are unsuccessful in finding an apprenticeship.

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 the deadline is now 2 weeks away for Year 10 to find work placements, the deadline is **FRIDAY 22nd MARCH**. Mr Bridgeman and I will be working with some pupils over the next few weeks to support them in this process, but it is important that if pupils have yet to find a placement, they do so with urgency now.

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

Careers across the Curriculum – Mrs Robertson

Careers Across the Curriculum

WHY STUDY... HISTORY
Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

JOBS

- Academic Librarian
- Archaeologist
- Archivist
- Heritage Manager
- Film Producer
- Journalist
- Teacher
- Barrister
- Politician's Assistant
- Social Media Manager

SKILLS

- Research
- Problem Solving
- Analytical Thinking
- Decision Making
- Communication
- Teamwork

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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

Well done to all of our Year 10 pupils who took part in the Prefect interviews on Tuesday, the standard was exceptionally high across the board. Pupils will be informed in writing on Friday 15th March if they have been successful or not in securing a place. On Friday 15th March more information about the Head Girl/Boy application process will also be shared and opened up to all Prefects.

Interviews can be a nerve-wracking experience but preparation is key and it was clear that our candidates were well prepared. For many it would have been the first time that they have taken part in an interview, and hopefully all of the pupils seen can take away some positives and personal growth from the experience.



On Friday 19th April we will be hosting a Prefect Celebration morning for pupils and their families, more information on this will follow in next week's weekly letter.

[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

Rj	Year 10
Samuel	Year 9
Robyn	Year 7
Elizabeth	Year 8

Resilience

Lilly	Year 9
Harvey	Year 7
Theo	Year 8
Lily	Year 7
Oliver	Year 8
Reece	Year 7
Tahseen	Year 9
Darshatha Sree	Year 9
Kaiden	Year 8
Sara	Year 8
Luke	Year 8
Zak	Year 8

Opportunity

Emilia	Year 7
Adam	Year 8
Poppy	Year 7
Sophie	Year 7
Oscar	Year 8

Excellence

Ryan	Year 7
Gabriel	Year 7
Harry	Year 10
Lexie	Year 10

Well done all and keep it up!

The House System at Woodlands – Mrs Robertson

For World Book Day this week pupils participated during tutor time in the Masked Reader. The winning houses will be awarded ePraise points all leading towards the totals which will be announced for the term in the end of term celebration assemblies.

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs Ash

Please familiarise yourself with the topics being delivered this half term. If you have a query, do get in touch.

[\(SPR 2B\) AROE PARENT COMMS CALENDAR 2023.24 -2.pdf](#)

Year 7 - Financial Decision Making and Self-reflection (Living in the Wider World)

This unit will cover saving, borrowing, budgeting and making financial choices. Reflect on how we learn and study skills to achieve success.

Year 8 - Identity and Relationships (Relationships) This unit will cover consent, 'sexting' and an introduction to contraception.

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

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

Year 11 - Independence (Health and Wellbeing) This unit will cover responsible healthy choices, and safety in independent contexts.

All information regarding how we deliver Relationships, Sex and health in AROE lessons can be found here: [AROE Curriculum & 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.

Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Miss White and Mrs Wykes delivered inspirational assemblies to Years 7-10 this week based around Women's History Month and International Women's Day. March is an exceptionally busy month for celebrations and awareness opportunities, next week it is STEM week and Mr Williams leads on the assemblies for Years 7-10 on this.

Year 11's assembly next week has been replaced by their PPE results event where pupils will find out for the first time the grades that they obtained for the last round of their PPEs, we wish all pupils the best of luck.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

Friday 19th April 9.30am-10.50am - Year 10 Prefect Celebration Morning

Moving forward

This afternoon sees us welcome Vic Goddard, Executive Head of Passmores Learning Community in Harlow. I have visited Passmores on a few occasions to share ideas and generally see what can be done collectively to improve the life chances of young people. I will be taking Vic on a little tour and then we will be looking at ways to make the teaching profession more attractive and ways to retain the best staff. There isn't enough flexible working in education, for obvious reasons, but I am trying to explore innovative ways to change that.

Not too sure what this looks like yet and nothing immediate will happen, education just needs to become a more attractive prospect where great people stay and develop, I feel I need to be doing something about it. The more I can do to attract and keep the very best available here, the better it will be for all our youngsters.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher