

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

1st March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you for a really positive first week back, fantastic to see everyone return to us raring to go. Today, as many of you know is National Offer Day for secondary schools. In the early hours of the morning an email would have come through from Essex County Council letting all know which secondary school their youngster would be attending in September. I was in exactly the same position this morning as waiting to see which school my youngest had secured a place at, a stressful time.

I feel sure that many of you would have seen the article on the Echo website that was published last week about Woodlands being the third most popular secondary school in Essex with regards to admission numbers, 'The hardest secondary schools to get into Essex', <https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/24126017.hardest-secondary-schools-get-essex/>
The only school in to top 3 not to be a church school. We are proud of that, and I have shared before, 1,100 applying for 300 places in Year 7. Clearly, we are doing something right.

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 4th March – Year 9 assessments.

Monday 4th March – Year 10 trip to the Professional Beauty College in London.

Thursday 7th March – GCSE P.E Rock Climbing assessment at Thriftwood.

Thursday 7th March 4.00pm-7.00pm – Year 7 Consultation Evening.

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 Maths Feast competition at the King John School.

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

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

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

Mrs Handford – Literacy

Please see the Newsletter accompanying this correspondence.

Mrs Ginbey – Oracy

Well done to all pupils in Years 9 and 10 who have been taking part in the oracy activities each week in form time. This week pupils have been discussing the unexploded World War Two bomb which was found in Plymouth last week. The debate was focusing on whether residents affected by the evacuation should receive some form of compensation. If your child has discussed this in form time, this would be an interesting conversation to continue with at home.

Our Debate Club had some very interesting points surrounding this week's topic which was *"Returning service men/women should not have to pay for accommodation."* The team supporting this motion won the overall debate, although the opposition made some very persuading arguments. Keep up the great work Debate Club.

We are very much looking forward to hosting the regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge which will be held on Wednesday 20th March in the evening. I'm sure you will join us in wishing our two finalists Cory H and Lacie N the very best of luck for the final. Sarah S will be our reserve for the event.

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

All pupils in Year 11 will be asked before Easter to confirm their Post-16 applications. This will take place either with Directions, their tutor or myself. Pupils must ensure they have applied for a second-choice placement. Those applying to 6th Forms or Grammar schools must also have a college application completed.

Any pupils who are wishing to apply for an apprenticeship must be actively looking for these now.

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

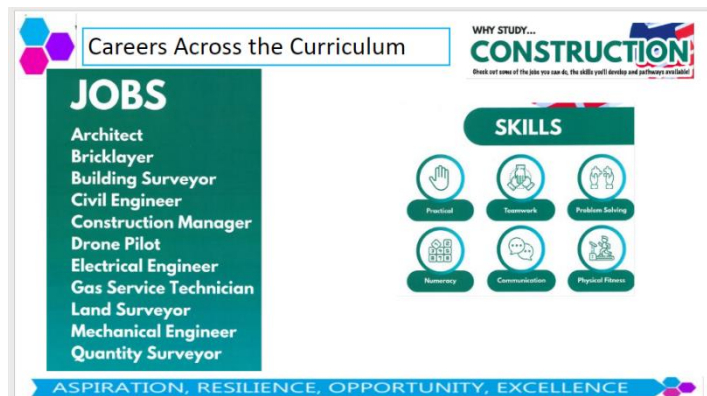
Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

If pupils have secured their placements but have yet to return forms, please do so as soon as possible so these can be checked.

Those pupils who are still searching for work experience – the deadline is fast approaching it is **Friday 22nd March**.

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

JOBS

- Architect
- Bricklayer
- Building Surveyor
- Civil Engineer
- Construction Manager
- Drone Pilot
- Electrical Engineer
- Gas Service Technician
- Land Surveyor
- Mechanical Engineer
- Quantity Surveyor

SKILLS

- Practical
- Teamwork
- Problem Solving
- Planning
- Communication
- Physical Fitness

WHY STUDY... **CONSTRUCTION**
Develop some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE



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

This week saw the launch of three new clubs: Romanian, Pond and Biology club. Should pupils want to take part in these exciting new opportunities, more information about which teacher they need to speak to, the day and the location that the clubs run on, can be found on our Enrichment section of the school website, and is also linked below.

All pupils are advised to check the club timetable for any changes. Pupils have also been issued with the new lunch passes for clubs and Pupil Leadership Roles this week. As a reminder, all pupils wanting to use them must join the pass fast track queue before 1.40pm on the day of the club/meeting.

This week Year 10 pupils who have applied for the position of Prefect found out if they had been successful or not in gaining an interview for the position. As previously written about and shared with pupils, the process mirrors the real world and provides an additional opportunity to experience an application process.

The field of applicants was incredibly high and I'm sure you will join me in wishing the successful candidates' good luck at their interviews next week.

[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
Samiyah	Year 11
Demi	Year 11
Olayemi	Year 9
Ida	Year 8
Freddie	Year 8

Resilience

Ellie	Year 10
Jack	Year 10
Joe	Year 10
Niall	Year 10
Archie	Year 10
Surya	Year 10
Emma	Year 10

Opportunity

Hannah	Year 11
Rachel	Year 7
Finley	Year 7



Alex Year 7

Charlie Year 7

Ema Year 7

Kye Year 7

Excellence

Luther Year 10

Christine Year 10

Vinny Year 10

Charlie Year 10

Athena Year 7

Tayla Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons - Miss Ash

Please familiarise yourself with the topics being delivered this half term, if you have a query, please 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

Well done to members of Mrs Fry's Sustainability Club and her Sustainability Ambassadors on delivering our Fair-Trade Fortnight assembly this week. All pupils who took part did a marvellous job, it's never easy to stand up in front of others, but harder still when they are your peers or pupils from

older year groups. This however did not phase Mrs Fry's pupils; they rose to the challenge admirably. Thank you also to Mr Powell for stepping in to support these pupils on Thursday.

Next week Miss White and Mrs Wykes deliver assemblies around the themes of International Women's Day and Women's History Month. This year International Women's Day is on Friday 8th March and the theme is 'Inspire Inclusion'. IWD celebrates women's achievement, raise awareness about discrimination and encourages all to take action to drive gender parity.

March itself if Women's History Month, women historically have been sidelined, marginalised, discriminated against and overlooked both in their daily lives, in the historical record and for their contributions across society. Women's History Month is a way to highlight these historical failings and reevaluate how the past has been presented, to encourage the stories of women into a mainstream presentation and popular narrative.

There are so many influential Women through History that have shaped the world in which we live, trail blazed, knocked down barriers and fought for what they believed in. Who is your favourite female from history?

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

<https://www.history.org.uk/historian/news/4271/womens-history-month-2024>

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Sports Update – Mr Manners and Mr Heavy

There has been a lot of success over the last two weeks, with exciting opportunities ahead. Our U14 Netball Squad have their National Final confirmed at Loughborough University on Thursday 14th March. We wish them the very best of luck!

We also have a number of County Semi-finals in the next week or so, including our U13 and U14 Girls Basketball Teams playing their Semi-Finals against Shenfield and our U15 Boys Rugby team playing Southend for a place in their respective County Cup Finals.

The Year 9 Boys Football team won convincingly against Forest School to book their place into the Semi-Final of the Essex Cup. Our Year 8 and 10 Boys also have opportunities to reach the last 4 in the next fortnight.

Year 7's continue to grasp Opportunities given to them, with many of them representing the school during half-term and Dartford Grammar's Invitational Tournament, representing the school against the best schools in the Southeast. Year 7 Boys and Girls also have reached the Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Final.

Lastly, we have an exciting week of Rugby Sevens ahead with many teams on the lookout to reach the latter stages.

Well done to all involved!

Moving forward

This week and last saw Miss White, Deputy Head Teacher – Development and Mrs Manning our New To the Profession (NTP) lead represent Woodlands at three recruitment fayres, one in Southend and the other two in Colchester. You will know from my previous letters that we are always looking to recruit the best available and have many parents who work at our school in a variety of roles as well as many who came here as youngsters.

As you know, there is a recruitment crisis in education, we do have a number of vacancies on our website much like any other school, but the number is low by comparison. If you have a degree and are interested in a change of career where day in day out you change lives, then do contact us and we will be happy to meet and talk you through our training routes and our plans for the future. Who wouldn't want to work at the third most popular school in Essex?

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher