

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

22nd March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

We had the pleasure on Wednesday evening of hosting the regional Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge final here and well done to Lacey and Corey who represented our school, they were absolutely superb. Lacey came second in the Central Essex area out of the fifteen finalists that competed which is a huge achievement, both did incredibly well, and my hat goes off to Miss Ginbey for organising the very prestigious event and huge thanks to the great many staff who stayed until very late to support.

Thank you to all who attended the One Plan meetings last night, a great turnout and key to all moving forward together with the right information and implemented in the right way. As I have said a great many times, we are all different and all see the world through different eyes, so adjustments need to be made. We won't always get this right and we always come at this from a good place.

**A reminder of the timings of the school day on the last day before we break up for Easter –
Thursday 28th March**

Following on from feedback on the usual 30-minute lessons on the last day of term we have changed the timings for the final day of each term:

8.40am-9.00am -Tutor
9.00am-10.00am - Period 1
10.00am-11.00am - Period 2
11.00am-11.30am - Break/Lunch
11.30am-12.30pm - Period 3
12.30pm end of school day

Reminder of the change to school day timings after Easter

Further notice of the change in timings to the school day when we return on Monday 15th April at 8.40am. This happens at this time of year due to the GCSE exams so there is no noise going into the exam hall due to lunch going on:

8.40am-9.00am – Tutor or assembly
9.00am-10.00am – Period 1
10.05am-11.05am – Period 2
11.05am-11.25am – Break
11.25am-12.25pm – Period 3
12.25pm-1.05pm – Lunch
1.05pm-2.05pm – Period 4
2.10pm-3.10pm – Period 5



WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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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.

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

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

Monday 15th April 8.40am – Start of summer term.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time today. This is our last session for the half term. Our timetable for DEAR for next half term will be:

Friday 19th April - Period 3

Friday 26th April - Period 4

Friday 3rd May - Period 5

Monday 13th May - Period 1

Monday 20th May - Period 2

The Easter holidays are a great time to find some new books to read ahead of DEAR time next half term; take the opportunity to go to the library, find a book second-hand, do a book swap with a friend!

In the spirit of World Poetry Day yesterday below is a poem by our very own Sree, recommended by our resident poet Mrs Tugwell:

Lost

I found a lost part of my life in the sea.
The sea waves reminds me of his memories.
The enthusiastic waves, that touch me.
Reminds me of his smile and laughter.
Each drop of water, felt like him.
Each time by footprints were lost in the waves.
It reminded me of being lost in his talks.
The sand, the tides, bring his blessings.
I saw him in the sea.

Sree

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital





Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

Directions will continue to see pupils next week as will I to ensure that pupils have provided us with Post-16 destination data and that they have had the advice needed to support their next steps.

Shortly after the Easter break Directions will start meeting with Year 10 pupils on a 1-1 basis to offer initial Post-16 destination advice. With Year 10 PPEs shortly after Easter it is worth noting that for some applications they make in the next academic year, they will be providing predicted grades which will come from these PPEs. It is therefore important that they work hard to show what they can achieve as this will give pupils many more Post-16 opportunities. Revision is key.

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 today is the official deadline for having found a work placement for July. I appreciate that not all pupils have been successful yet and urge parents to support their child in finding a placement over the holiday. A reminder that all pupils in Year 10 are expected to be on placement from the 1st – 5th July.

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

- Community Development Worker
- Health Promotion Specialist
- Health Service Manager
- Nurse
- Counsellor
- Occupational Therapist
- Physician Associate
- Social Worker
- Youth Worker
- Play Therapist

WHY STUDY... HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Check out 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

Well done to all of our Year 10 Prefects who have put themselves forward for the positions of Head Boy and Girl, and their deputies. Mr Wright and I are still reading through applications and it's clear how much time and effort our pupils have put into these. On Monday 25th pupils will find out if they have been shortlisted for an interview which will take place on Thursday 28th March.

Next week parents and carers of all Year 10 Perfects will receive an invitation to our celebration morning on Friday 19th April at 9.30am.

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

ePraise and the House system – Mrs Robertson

This week the Heads of Years have celebrated the year group achievements in their end of term assemblies. This included announcing the following pupils as having the highest ePraise points for the term.

Winning Houses were also announced and pupils in these winning Houses have received their free break treat. The winning Houses are below.

Congratulations to all.

Year 11

1. Samiyah - 311
2. Hannah - 310
3. Demi - 291

House Winners - Durham 1739

Year 10

1. Luther - 217
2. George - 209
3. Tallulah - 206

House Winners - St Andrews 2655

Year 9

1. Olayemi - 258
2. Chloe - 240
3. Sree - 230

House Winners - Durham 2904

Year 8

1. Sara - 364
2. Freddie - 340
3. Frankie - 246

House Winners - Durham 3045

Year 7

1. Harvey - 495
2. Max - 339
3. Yusra - 293

House Winners - Oxford 5445

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs Ash

Emails have been sent home this week regarding the upcoming topics for Term 3A, please familiarise yourself with the Parental Communication Calendar for more details.

The CURRENT topics are outlined below.

[\(SPR 2B\) 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 all of our winners in the term awards assemblies this week! So many wonderful achievements to celebrate.

Next week Mrs Tugwell leads on assemblies for the theme of Easter.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

Thursday 28th March: Head Boy and Girl interviews

Friday 19th April: Year 10 Prefect Celebration morning

Moving forward

As I have written before there is a recruitment crisis in teaching across the country at present. You will no doubt have heard the news this week that the government has once again missed its target for recruitment of secondary school trainee teachers by 50%, even worse than last year, and that many P.E teachers are having to retrain as maths teachers given that the government only reached 63% of its target for new maths trainee teachers.

The sad fact is that good people are leaving our profession or not wanting to enter it in the first place. The job has become much harder and the hours worked are longer, add to that the fact that 65% of graduates are now able to work entirely or partly at home in other industries, teaching is less attractive.

We do have vacancies and much of my time is spent tracking down the best available to ensure we have great people in front of our youngsters. So I would ask this, the next time your youngster comes home and moans that the lesson was not exciting, or they were asked to complete a challenging piece of work, or asked for quiet so all can get on and learn and we can teach, our core business, please do take time to remind them that all staff at Woodlands have chosen a profession that has never been tougher, is a lifelong commitment, a vocation and not just a job, and that all have chosen to work at Woodlands for them.

Now I know the overwhelming majority of our young people could not be prouder to come to our school, but we can all have bad days. We are all stronger together and we must keep on the path we have chosen. After all, we are the second most popular school in Essex!

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher