

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

28th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

A slightly earlier letter this week yet still so much has been going on. Year 11 enjoyed their trip to Thorpe Park on Sunday, and I am grateful to so many staff giving up their weekend to be with them, just typical of the commitment shown here. Thank you to all who attend last night's Year 11 Consultation Evening. Really important conversations taking place with a clear focus on the final push. I am grateful to all who attended which really shows that we are continuing to work together to give all the very best chance of success.

As we send all off for a well-deserved break over Easter we thought we'd go out on a high with a slightly different feel at break/lunch today. All our youngsters will be made aware during tutor time today:

- Rock Band- Join the Maths department as they dust off their instruments and help them put on a performance. (G15)
- Flashmob- Let yourself be moved by the flashmob fun. (AS)
- A Cultural Showcase- celebrate different cultures from across the world as part of our Year 11 GCSE Citizenship project. (Opportunities Hub)
- Busking- Support APT pupils as they share their talents with the crowds. (Courtyard)
- Penalty Shoot Out- Take on Mr Bridge and show off your striker skills. (4G pitch)
- Volleyball- 'Serve' up some fun in the Sports Hall (Sports Hall)

Farewell

A small number of staff will be leaving us today and we wish them all the best for the future. Miss Wray in the cover supervisor team will be leaving us to see what else life has to offer beyond schools, she hasn't been too well, and I know she will be stronger for having spent time with us. Mr Western in science moves on to join a school near Southend so he can pursue the teaching of A-Level, he has only been with us since September but has left his mark. Miss Westoby leaves us in the kitchen to gain more hours and experience different things. Again, not been here long but has made a difference. Miss Macdonald leaves us as Assistant Head of Year 11 to explore other opportunities outside of education. She has been a great servant to the school and has made an incredible difference to many lives, she will be missed.

Welcome

Welcome back to Mr Ncube who rejoins us in science replacing Mr Western who brings with him a great deal of experience and knowledge of our youngsters, we are pleased to have him back. Looking forward we have already secured a new Spanish and French teacher and added again to the science faculty with another member of staff for September. All those leaving have been replaced throughout this term I am happy to share.

Timings for today - Thursday March 28th

8.40am-9.00am - Tutor
9.00am-10.00am - Period 1
10.00am-11.00am - Period 2
11.00am-11.30am - Break/Lunch



WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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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

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.

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

Sunday 7th April – Thursday 11th April – Year 7-9 Netball Tour to Paris.

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

Wednesday 17th April – Primary School Show Matinee Performance.

Thursday 18th April – Evening Performance of the School Show (6.30pm-8.30pm).

Friday 19th April – Year 11 Hairs and Beauty practical exam, Prefect Celebration (9.30am-10.50am), Primary School Show Matinee Performance, and Evening Performance of the School Show (6.30pm-8.30pm).

Monday 22nd April – Friday 3rd May – Year 10 PPEs.

Thursday 25th April – Year 9 Consultation Evening (4.00pm-7.00pm).

Wednesday 1st May and Thursday 2nd May – Year 8 HPV Vaccinations.

Friday 3rd May – GCSE Art exam.

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday Monday (School closed for one day).

Monday 13th May – Start of GCSEs.

Mr Riste – Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

We have been made aware the app **Telegram** is being used to share harmful and inappropriate content online. Telegram is a secure messaging and audio calling cloud-based app that allows you to send messages, photos, videos and files of any type to your contacts free. You can also create groups for up to 200,000 people or channels for broadcasting to unlimited contacts or audiences. Telegram is designed so that the content you share is private, secure and encrypted, allowing you to have 'secret chats' and for the messages you send or receive to 'self-destruct' so they can no longer be seen by the sender or the recipient.

The risks of being able to join groups of 200,000 people where the content shared is not regulated poses safeguarding risks for young people and contributes to the 16+ age minimum. Due to this it is recommended that children do not have access to this app.

Logo:



Wellbeing

I also wanted to share the reminder from Kooth that they provide mental health support throughout school holidays:

Mr Manners and Mr Heavy – Sports update

The Under 14 Netball team visited Loughborough University for their National Shield final's day, losing by just a single point. The girls ended up finishing 4th placed but managed to experience and represent the school amicably at one of our chosen houses. They continue grasping experiences by booking their place into the Essex Plate final, taking place on Tuesday 16th April.

The Under 13 Boys and Senior Boys Football team were crowned District Champions at Billericay Town FC on Monday 25th March beating Beauchamp and Bromfords. The Under 12 Boys and Under 14 Boys have booked their places at the final, taking place on Tuesday 16th April at Billericay Town FC.

Our Under 14 Boys and Under 13 Boys Rugby Sevens team went to the amazing Rosslyn Park Sevens Competition last week. The Under 14 boys finished runners up in their group, narrowly losing out to St. Peter's York, a private school with a long historical rugby background. They lost out after leading the

game with 2 minutes to go. The Under 13 Boys managed to top their group on Friday, beating many prestigious grammar and private schools en route to topping their group.

Over Easter many of our Netball Girls will be heading over for their Disneyland Tour in Paris. We hope they create many memories they will cherish with their closest friends. Thanks to Miss Hutton, Miss Jones and Miss Paci for organising. Have fun girls!

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

Thank you and well done to those pupils who have successfully gained a placement for July's work experience. I appreciate for some it has proved difficult to find a placement and for this reason I have extended the deadline to enable pupils to use the holidays to secure one. The extended deadline for these pupils is Friday 19th April.

I must remind all pupils, parents and carers that we cannot accept or authorise a placement if there are no insurance details provided and no point of contact. As stated at the Work Experience evening in September and in previous correspondence, it is essential that we have this information to ensure that pupils are safe in the workplace.

During the week of work experience, staff will contact employers to check on the welfare of pupils, enquire how they are getting on and speak to the pupil as well.

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

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

I have been extremely proud of the amount of our youngsters who have joined clubs in this half term, Year 7 in particular have impressed me with their commitment to Extra-Curricular Activities. After half term we have two new clubs starting, Aspirations are offering an invite only Chess Club ran by Mr Nixon, and Mrs Handford is launching 'Starbooks' for Years 7-11. Our updated clubs list will be available upon pupils return to school.

Today we are interviewing some of our new Year 10 Prefects for the coveted position of Head Boy and Girl, we wish all of our candidates the best of luck. The successful applicants will be announced on Friday 19th April during the Prefect Celebration morning.

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

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs Ash

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE lesson Parental Communication Calendar for next half term to familiarise yourselves 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 and 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.

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 should you have any queries/concerns.

Wishing you and your families a Wonderful Easter break.

Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Thank you to Mrs Tugwell for delivering an inspirational Easter assembly to our year groups this week. In a slight change to our usual schedule, Mr Wright will deliver assemblies to Years 7-10 when pupils return to school on Monday 15th April.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

Friday 19th April: Prefect Celebration Morning, please ensure that you have completed the MSForms reply slip by the end of the school day today, and we look forward to seeing you at 9.30am.

Moving forward

May I take this opportunity to thank you once again for all your support for what has been another impressive term, short and intense, but impressive. With so much going on I am always impressed by what our staff offer our youngsters here as they continue to go above and beyond on a daily basis.

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright
Head Teacher