

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

18th November 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

There was some positive news yesterday with the Autumn Statement and we await exactly how that will look going forward. There has been a tendency over recent years to give with one hand and take with another, so we will see. As I explained to our MP Stephen Metcalfe on Friday I completely understand that many sectors in society are struggling and are in dire need of financial support, but you don't sacrifice the opportunities and life chances of the children, what we do now is going to have a huge impact going forward. He listened and I was grateful for his time.

We will continue to work hard for all of you and our youngsters to ensure that they have the best we can provide with the resources that we have. I am grateful, as ever, for your continued support.

Football World Cup

For clarification, having given this much discussion, we will be showing England's first match on Monday 21st November 1.00pm kick-off. There will be some who have no interest in this so staff who are teaching will have this on in the background periods 4 and 5 or could potentially move things around for Year 11 so can get on with PPE preparations. We will not be showing this on our big screen at lunchtime as we use the Performance Hall as a seating area for lunch. Having had a look there doesn't appear to be any other kick-off times during the school day. I have not explored the later rounds for obvious reasons!

Mr Riste – Safeguarding

There is a new initiative it might be useful to draw your attention to: The Sleep Charity have launched a National Sleep Helpline, run by a team of specialists to offer practical strategies and advice. They highlight the importance of sleep for young people's mental health, physical development and wellbeing as well as generally being able to focus and thrive in their day-to-day activities. The better rested and recovered our young people are the easier it is for them to concentrate and achieve their potential in school.

Mrs Handford – DEAR time

A reminder to Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils that we have DEAR time on Tuesday, period 5. Please can all parents remind their children to bring in a reading book. To make the most of the time, pupils will gain far more if they are reading a book they enjoy.

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Year 7 Preparation for Success Event

Thank you to all parents and carers that were able to attend the first of our Preparation for Success Events of the year last night; it was a pleasure to meet with so many of you. A short presentation from the evening will be emailed out to all parents of Year 7, this includes information on the curriculum within Key Stage 3, how assessments and reports work, the Woodlands recommended model to support revision practice and how to carry out two of the suggested techniques, the importance of literacy, and how as a parent/carer you can provide support. You will also receive an

electronic version of the subject booklet contained in the free Learning Support Pack that pupils took away with them; this will give you access to the hyperlinks included.

Last night would not have been possible without the support of some of our Year 9 and 10 pupils who helped with the preparation of the event, and at the evening itself. These pupils truly reflect the finest qualities we look for in role models for our school:

Year 9: Praise, Tallulah, Josh, Rose, Connor, Louise, Finlay, Josie, Dasha.

Year 10: Annalise, Hallie, Laila, Nathan, Lacey, Ryan, Gracie, Megan, Samyiah, Mila, D'Andre, Summer, Olivia, Ella, Chelsea, Holly.

Mrs Robertson – Post 16

The re-arranged Bromfords' Open Evening is on Tuesday 22nd. 5.30pm to 8.pm. I encourage pupils' interest in 6th Form to attend.

A reminder to all looking to apply to 6th Forms and Grammar schools that the deadlines for applications are fast approaching. Please pass any references to me or Miss Willmot. If there are any concerns about predicted grades, please see me to discuss.

Please do not hesitate to contact should you need any further help my email address is kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Mrs Robertson – Work Experience

The Department for Work and Pensions have been with us again this week supporting some Year 10 pupils in finding work placements.

Please continue to pursue these as early as possible and ensure completed self-placement forms are returned to the admin office.

Should you have any queries please contact Kelly Robertson via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

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

This week a number of our pupils who hold a Pupil Leadership Role received a badge that signifies this which is to be worn on the lapels of their blazer with pride. Within the next few weeks all pupils who hold a role will receive a badge to signify this.

It is pleasing to see how many of our pupils have signed up to an Extra-Curricular Club so far this academic year. EPraise points are in the process of being awarded to all pupils who have participated consistently.

It's never too late to apply for a Pupil Leadership Role, or join an Extra-Curricular Club. More information on these, and the Trips and Visits we offer can be found using the link below:

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

Mrs Robertson – ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out:

The pupils receiving the most AROE ePraise points this last week are:

Aspiration

- Kai Year 8
- Leland Year 9
- Grace Year 8
- Leah Year 9

Resilience

- Roshan Year 10
- Nellie-Rose Year 9
- Emma Year 9
- Jack Year 9

Opportunity

- Angel Year 10
- Natalia Year 8
- Lucie Year 8
- Ayla Year 8

Excellence

- Katie Year 8
- Lewis Year 7
- Emma Year 9
- Kiera Year 9

Well done all and keep it up!

Mrs Robertson – The House System at Woodlands

Thank you to the PE department who have held an inter-house competitions this week. Results will be announced shortly and ePraise points awarded to the winning house.

With the end of the term in site I urge all pupils in Years 7 – 10 to continue to work hard to be awarded ePraise points. The final week of term will be House week and winning Houses will be awarded for their efforts this term.

Miss Ash – AROE Curriculum Lessons

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE lesson Parental Communication Calendar for the next half term to familiarise yourselves with the topics due to be covered:

[AROE Curriculum Autumn Term 1B \(Parental Communication Calendar\)](#)

Please contact Miss Ash via email on has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk should you have any queries/concerns.



Mrs Heseltine – Assemblies

This week pupils in Years 7-10 attended a thought-provoking Anti-Bullying assembly led by Mr Druce in line with National Anti-Bullying week based on the theme of 'Reach Out'. All of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have received an updated badge this week for their blazer.

Next week's assemblies for Years 7-10 are being led by Mr Amran, our theme is International Men's Day; this aims to raise the awareness of, and destigmatise wellbeing problems in males, including mental health.

[Assembly Schedule 2022.23](#)

Moving forward

We have had a number of guests visit our school recently as I am always keen to get an external perspective on how we are doing to see how we can keep improving our provision. I am always impressed with how our young people conduct themselves and all involved should be incredibly proud.

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright
Head Teacher