

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

13<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Week one of five already completed of what is a very short half term. You will no doubt have heard that I had extra assemblies yesterday to not only remind our youngsters of how lucky they are to be part of Woodlands, but also to make it clear of our expectations. I was at pains to say that I am proud of our young people but sadly with a couple of windy and rainy lunchtimes some have been behaving in a way not fitting of our youngsters during those times. Those youngsters have been dealt with and I remain honoured and proud to serve our Woodlands community.

Wednesday saw us welcome the Head Teacher of The Davenant School who headed up a review of History and Geography, always good to have the perspective of a respected colleague with a different set of eyes. As ever always strengths and areas to improve.

Next week will see us welcome the Executive Head Teacher of the Zenith Trust who will be conducting a review of Modern Foreign Languages. Throughout the academic year we will have all faculties reviewed just to make sure that we are moving in the right direction and ensuring we are doing the very best by our youngsters.

### Year 8

Over this term, our Year 8 youngsters will begin the exciting process of selecting their Options for pre-GCSE and GCSE study. They will be thoroughly supported through this process by staff, including a range of Options Assemblies and Taster Lessons. We will be inviting parents and carers and our Year 8 youngsters into school on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm for our Year 8 Parent and Carer Options Information Evening**, where we will talk through this process with you and answer any questions you may have.

### Year 9

Last week we officially welcomed Miss Clarke as our new Head of Year 9. She brings experience and a real energy to the role. We are grateful to Mrs Arthurton for guiding the year group and she will now be Assistant Head of Year 9, a really good duo.

### Year 11

On 30<sup>th</sup> January, we are excited to welcome Elevate Education into school to work with the whole year group. The focus will be on developing effective study habits and will be followed up with further sessions and resources for our youngsters. In addition to the resources there are also a series of free webinars for parents and carers, designed to guide you towards effective ways of supporting revision. A letter was sent out earlier this week with details of these sessions but here is the link again in case you need it: [Click here to register for free](#)

All Year 11 pupils, parents and carers will be invited to attend our second **Preparing for Success event of the academic year on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00pm**. Parents and carers of Year 11 youngsters will receive a letter on Monday in relation to this event with more information about what it involves and how to reserve a place.

Further dates for your diary are that **the last day Year 11 will be expected to be in school will be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Leavers' Assembly will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and Results Day is Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August.**

A great deal of work to be done before then but always good to have some advanced notice and I hope this helps with any forward planning.

### Mr Amran – Pastoral Care

From Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February we will be conducting a 1 month trial of a new communications platform called EduLink One with Year 7 parents and pupils. EduLink One provides an integrated school information platform which draws together a range of existing school systems, allowing you to access all this information in one place.

In addition to the convenience of having all your school systems in the one place, we will also be focusing the following key features during this trial:

- Messaging
- Updates/letters
- Reviewing your son/daughter personal and account information

The other opportunities we can investigate within EduLink during this trial are:

- Clubs/fixtures
- Pupil/Parent notice boards
- Family consultation evening bookings

More information will be shared over this half term in preparation to the launch.

### Mr Riste – Safeguarding

Bar 'n' Bus are a charity who have worked closely with us for the past couple of years. They provide professional Youth Workers to support and mentor some of our pupils. Bar 'n' Bus specialise in working with young people in the community and are currently offering a FREE eight week Self Defence course for girls. Please see attached flyer for details. The course starts next week and spaces are limited, so booking as soon as possible is advisable.

### Mrs Handford – DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) time

Well done to all pupils who remembered a book for DEAR time this week. I heard some very positive feedback from staff about how purposeful the atmosphere was during their reading time. Next week's DEAR time is Wednesday, period 5. Please encourage your child to remember their reading book as this will ensure they make the most of the opportunity.

### Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

### Mrs Robertson – Post 16

The Department for Work and Pensions as well as Connexions have returned this week to interview and support our Year 11 cohort. If there are any Year 11 pupils who are still unsure of what they want to do next year or have yet to apply please ask them to come to see me so we can offer the right support.

Should you require any further help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on  
[kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

### **Mrs Robertson – Work Experience**

The Department for Work and Pensions are working with some of our Year 10 pupils who are struggling to secure placements. Please remain active in searching for placements as the deadline will be upon us soon.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email on  
[kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

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

It is so pleasing to see an increase in the number of pupils participating in Extra-Curricular Clubs and taking on Pupil Leadership Roles. This half term sees the start of some of our new pupil leaders; House Captains, Digital Leaders and new APT Dance Captains.

All pupils who participated in clubs and held a leadership role during the last half term have now received their ePraise salary.

Well done to all the pupils involved.

More trips and visits are starting to become available to pupils; you can use the link below to see our current provision. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need to enquire about financial assistance with trips and visits.

[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**

- Samuel Year 7
- Katie Year 8
- Ryley Year 8
- Jesse Year 8

#### **Resilience**

- Helena Year 7
- Lacea-Mai Year 7
- Amber Year 7
- Darcy Year 7
- Adam Year 7

#### **Opportunity**

- Olayemi Year 8
- Logan Year 8
- Jana Year 8
- Adi Year 8

- Rizwana Year 8
- Harvey Year 10

#### Excellence

- Kendall Year 7
- Marko Year 7
- Millie Year 7
- Paige Year 10

Well done all and keep it up!

#### Mrs Robertson – The House System at Woodlands

I encourage pupils to continue to work hard this half term to collect their ePraise points and support their houses.

In Years 7 – 9 there are still some vacancies for House and Deputy House Captain. If pupils would like to apply, please encourage them to email me with reasons why they would be suitable for the position.

#### 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:

#### [Parental Communication Calendar Term 2A](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email on [has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk) should you have any queries or concerns.

#### Mrs Heseltine – Assemblies

Thank you to Mr Wright for starting off our first full week of face-to-face assemblies with all year groups.

Next week Years 9 and 11 will be swapping their assembly days, Year 9 will take place on Monday, and 11's on Friday. The theme for next week is Cultural Capital and will be delivered by myself and Mrs Robertson to pupils.

#### [Assembly Schedule 2022.23](#)

#### Dates for your diary

Key events:

- Holocaust Memorial Day - 27<sup>th</sup> January (Holocaust Assemblies week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> January)
- Safer Internet Day - 7<sup>th</sup> February
- National Apprenticeship week - 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February



## Moving forward

I came across this a couple of times over the Christmas break and I wanted to share as it really spoke to me.

A man in South Africa was playing with a group of children. He told them that he had a game to play and that he had hidden a basket of fruit under a tree for them to find.

*'Whoever finds the basket of fruit can keep it all to themselves'* – he said.

He explains that what the children did next changed him forever. Instead of running off one by one, they held each other's hands and ran off together to find the fruit. When they found it, they shared it. He asked them why they did that and they told him, *'Ubuntu'*.

When he asked them to explain they said *'How can one of us be happy if all the others are sad?'*

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright  
**Head Teacher**