

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

26th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Lovely to see so many of you at our Year 9 Consultation Evening last night, slightly different set up due to the Year 10 PPEs taking place but still the same positive and clear conversations taking place.

Huge congratulations to our new Head Boy Cory H, Head Girl Bonnie B, Deputy Head Boy Shaun R and Deputy Head Girl Christine P. Thoroughly deserved after a lengthy and thorough process. They spent some time together last Friday with our current leadership group to see what the roles entail. Really positive on Friday and thank you again to all those families who attended the event.

Well done to all in Year 10 who have completed their first week of PPEs. As I have said many times, they are opportunities to see what you know, what you don't and where and how to improve.

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

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.

Assistant Heads of Year

There have been a couple of changes and just so all are aware:

Assistant Head of Year 7 and 8 is Mrs Arthurton (no change), Miss Pearce is our new Assistant Head of Year 9, Miss Amato moves to Assistant Head of Year 10 and Mr Bridgeman is Assistant Head of Year 11. All Head of Year remain the same.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

DEAR time is today, period 4 for all Year 7, 8 and 9 classes. Please encourage your child to bring their own reading book in, as they will enjoy the session far more if they are reading a book they are interested in.

I was just reading some research from The National Literacy Trust about reading and I quote:
'Just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2023. This is the lowest level since we first asked the question in 2005.'

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Naturally I find this statistic very sad and worrying; the love of reading is declining. I do wonder if it is, in part, due to the increased use and presence of mobile phones and social media. At Woodlands, we are committed to encouraging a lifelong love of reading and to beating those statistics.

How can you help? Encourage your child to read daily, please. Instil a love of reading in them so they grow up to be a reader for life.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Riste – Safeguarding

The NSPCC have updated their guidance and offered tips to help children stay safe on social media that I thought it would be worth sharing:

Location settings

It can be helpful to remind children that they shouldn't share location information on their posts, public forums and chats, videos or with people they don't know. Consider reviewing the location settings on their favourite app or game and talk to them about what they're sharing online.

It might be appropriate for your child to share their location with a trusted adult or friend. For example, if they're travelling home alone or arranging to meet a group of friends outside school, then it can be a good way to help keep them safe.

Remember that if children share their location publicly, it could be seen by someone they don't know. This can increase the risk of cyberbullying, stalking or unwanted contact (from friends or others) or becoming a target.

Safety and privacy settings

Exploring the safety and privacy settings on apps will help you decide which are right for your child to use. Each app has slightly different ways to set up an account, but most have the option to set an account to private, not allow friend requests, hide the user's location. Do take time to explain these settings to your child and the reasons for having them in place.

Mr Manners and Mr Heavy – Sports update

A clean sweep for Boys Football in the District cup competitions. All District cups come back to Woodlands for the first time. Well done to our Year 7 and 9's for beating Mayflower 3-2 in both of their games at Billericay Town FC. This adds to the earlier success of our Year 8 and senior sides who won the district competition just before Easter. Our Year 9's bowed out of the Essex Cup semi-final after dominating against the current National Cup holders. The boys just couldn't capitalise on the pressure and against the run of play conceded late on. Our Year 8's are preparing for their Essex Cup Final next week taking place at Aveley FC.

All years reached the District Netball finals, with varied success. Our Year 8 and 9 sides were victorious in their finals, with our Year 7 and seniors narrowly lost in their finals. A huge congratulations to all those involved.

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Finally, more county success this year as our Year 9 Netball side won the County Plate against FitzWimarc School, adding to their National Shield Final appearance. The girls have been nothing short of magnificent this year and deserve all the recognition they have got.

We now make a sharp turn to Athletics, where we aim to compete with the very best in the country.

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

There are a few pupils who have not applied for a second choice for September. Regardless of the 1st choice applications pupils have made, it is essential that they have a second choice in case they do not meet the entry requirements on results day.

For pupils who have not applied for second choices, please do so over the weekend and inform me of choices next week.

Directions will finalise meetings with Year 11 next week before the exams begin the following week.

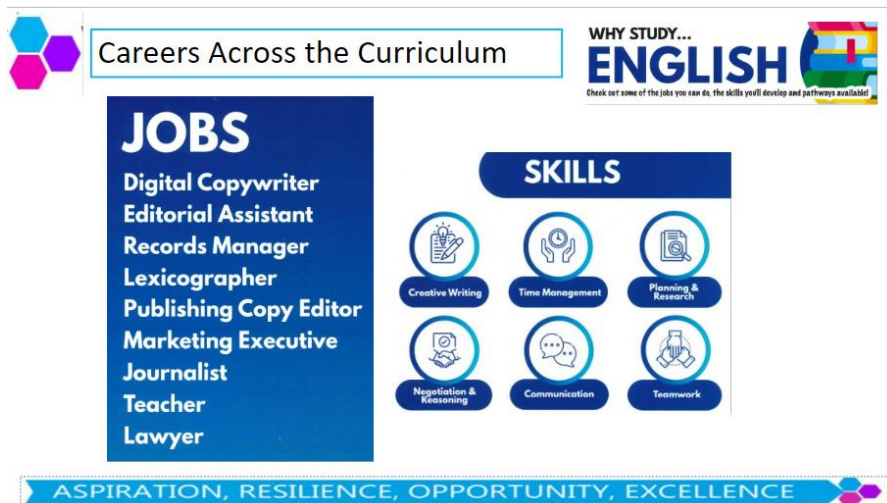
Should you require any help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

There are some pupils who are still to find placements for the work experience in July. Please continue to look for placements. Mr Barley and I will meet with these pupils next week to see what support we can offer.

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

WHY STUDY... ENGLISH
Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

JOBS

- Digital Copywriter
- Editorial Assistant
- Records Manager
- Lexicographer
- Publishing Copy Editor
- Marketing Executive
- Journalist
- Teacher
- Lawyer

SKILLS

- Creative Writing
- Time Management
- Planning & Research
- Negotiation & Reasoning
- Communication
- Teamwork

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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

Last Friday we invited into school the parents and carers of all of new Year 10 Prefects to celebrate our pupils being successful in obtaining the role. We also announced the names of the Head Boy and Girl, as well as their deputies. It was a wonderful to see so many parents and carers being able to attend and show their support.

Every one of our new Prefects are ready to take on their new role once their PPE's have been sat, and I am looking forward to working with the Head Boy and Girl to start implementing some of their plans for the school.

It has been a tough and lengthy process to find our new Prefects and Head pupils, everyone who put themselves forward should be extremely proud of their selves. In the words of a very wise, and highly thought of, Prefect *'Hard work beats talent, talent will only get you so far'*.

Prefects of 2024-25:

Tallulah, Diamond, Finely B, Summer, Bonnie, Ronnie, Charlie B, Lucy F, Jayden G, Cory, Jesscia H, Lindsay, Praise, Zara, Luther, Bethany N, Lacie, Beatrice, Cerys, Charlie O, Raegan, Gracie, Christine, Lexie, Mustafa, Holly R, Luca, Shaun R, Morgan, Sarah S, Haydan, Emma S, Holly S and Joab.

Deputy Head Boy: Shaun R

Deputy Head Girl: Christine

Head Boy: Cory

Head Girl: Bonnie

[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

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Chloe | Year 10 |
| Layla | Year 8 |
| Cerise | Year 7 |
| Keira-Jane | Year 7 |
| Poppy | Year 7 |
| Mia | Year 7 |
| Alex | Year 7 |

Resilience

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Lauriana | Year 9 |
| Ardi | Year 10 |
| George | Year 10 |
| Megan | Year 8 |
| Dylan | Year 8 |

Opportunity

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Joshua | Year 7 |
| Yusra | Year 7 |
| Emma | Year 7 |
| Charlie | Year 10 |
| Amelia | Year 10 |
| Dylan | Year 9 |
| Bethany | Year 10 |

Excellence

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Jimmy | Year 9 |
| Amelia | Year 8 |
| Elliott | Year 10 |
| Brandon | Year 9 |
| Chase | Year 10 |
| Alfie | Year 10 |

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE Parental Communication Calendar for this half term.
We ask parents to familiarise themselves 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.

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Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Thank you to Mrs Fry and her Sustainability Club members for the insightful assembly they led on Earth Month this week to Years 7-9.

Next week Mrs Jordan leads on Year 11's last face to face assembly, Year 10 are PPE's and will not have an assembly, and Mr Roberts leads with Years 7-9 on the theme of 'Morality'.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Moving forward

This afternoon sees us welcome our MP Stephen Metcalfe who I will be discussing the future of Basildon with a particular focus on furthering the town's aspirations. With us having so many youngsters we have such a key role in this. We will be having a tour of the school and I am really looking forward to showing off what we are trying to do here at our Woodlands.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher