



Our Ref: DWt/LPu

15th March 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to all those who joined us to meet with our Aspirations Faculty for those with additional needs to see how SNAP – Special Needs And Parents could support further. Always important to know what is out there locally and beyond and I have included the link below:

<https://www.snapcharity.org/>

Year 11

Another week has flown by and one which has seen our Year 11s receive their feedback on their PPEs, the last opportunity before the real exams. All have now received their grades and know exactly what to do to improve.

It is now about structure, consistency, hard work and self-discipline. We can only do so much and will continue to provide our Year 11s with every opportunity whilst they are in school, but what happens at home is just as important. All should be revising at the bare minimum now of one and a half hours a night. I have written before about the importance of home learning and the positive impact it has, now is the time to really put a huge effort in, not the time to procrastinate or make excuses. The reality is that there is a good chance that many of our Year 11 youngsters will live until they are 100, so putting in a huge amount of effort in over the next four months will go a long way in determining what the next 80 years could be like.

Year 10

Well done to all in Year 10 who either applied for the position of Prefect, were interviewed, and have been successful, all will find out during tutor this morning. Never easy not being called for interview or being given a role that you really want and have worked hard for. In life, that happens. I have gone for a great many jobs in my time and have received many knock-backs with confusing feedback.

It is about what we do next. Give up? Become resentful? Bury your head in the sand? Or work harder and prove people wrong? Use it as a learning experience? *"Until it's my turn I will keep clapping for others."*

I for one was never chosen to be a prefect. Funny how things turn out.

Minor technical issues

I thought it was also worth mentioning that Compass Trust, which we are part of are changing our MIS (Management Information System). This is the electronic system that we use to record a wide range of data across the school including attendance data, academic data etc. As of May half term, we will be using another provider and we are currently in the transition process of copying our current data to the new system. This is a task performed by the new MIS provider, but we are aware that this has caused some minor issues whereby data we have inputted has been erased. We have,



of course reported this to the MIS provider, but please do bear with us until the transition process is complete.

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

Change to school day timings after Easter

Advanced notice of the change in timings to the school day when we return on Monday 14th 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
12.25-1.05pm – 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 21st March 21st 3.30pm – 6.00pm – One Plan Meetings (Invitation only).

Friday 22nd March all day – Year 11 Hair and Beauty GCSE Practical exam.

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 4.00pm-7.00pm – Year 11 Consultation Evening.

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

Monday 14th April 8.40am – Start of summer term.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

DEAR time will take place today, period 1 and then again next Friday, period 2. After that, DEAR time will take place again after the Easter break.

Pupils have been intrigued by the posters around the school of which books staff are reading and this has allowed for some interesting conversations to take place.

I am currently in the process of arranging a library session for all of Years 7, 8 and 9, which will take place this half term or immediately after the Easter break if necessary. They will visit the reading section of the Opportunities Hub to see the different books we have for them to borrow. I would really like to see pupils reading a wider variety of books, exploring new authors and genres. On that note, if any pupils would like to suggest books we could purchase for the Opportunities Hub, please do ask them to see me or email me and I will see if I can source them.

Mrs Ginbey – Oracy

Well done to all pupils in Years 9 and 10, who have been taking part in the oracy activities each week in tutor time. This week pupils have been discussing the argument over nurses' pay. The debate was focusing on why nurses are paid more in other countries compared to the UK. If your child has discussed this in tutor time, this would be an interesting conversation to continue at home.

Our debate club had some very interesting points surrounding this week's topic which was *"Should the government do more to tackle coastal erosion?"* Both teams came up with well thought out arguments and used evidence to support their motions.

Next week we will be hosting the regional final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge which is the highlight of our oracy calendar. The event will take place on Wednesday 20th March, with over 100 spectators expected to attend. Best of luck to Lacie N and Cory H who are our well-deserved representatives.

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

Year 11 checking/reviews of Post-16 destinations are almost complete. With the results event on Monday pupils must now use these results to drive forward their revision to ensure they achieve the grades needed for the chosen courses in September. Any pupils who are concerned about this should see me as a matter of importance as it is not too late to apply for alternative courses in colleges.

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

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

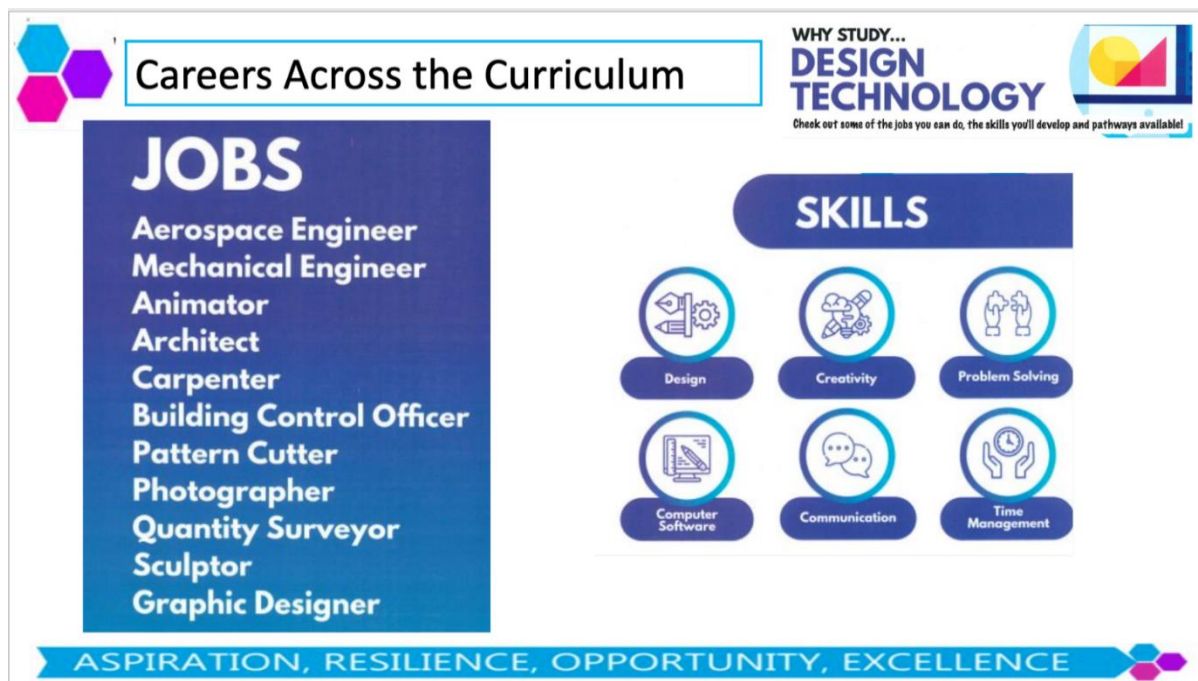
A reminder of next Friday's deadline to have secured placements for July. Mr Bridgeman and I will be offering sessions during tutor time next week for pupils still having not found a placement. Mr Barley will invite pupils based on them requesting support.

DEADLINE – FRIDAY 22nd MARCH

For those who have successfully secured a placement if your insurance runs out beforehand then we will speak to you and ask you to contact the company to update the details.

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... DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

JOBS

- Aerospace Engineer
- Mechanical Engineer
- Animator
- Architect
- Carpenter
- Building Control Officer
- Pattern Cutter
- Photographer
- Quantity Surveyor
- Sculptor
- Graphic Designer

SKILLS

- Design
- Creativity
- Problem Solving
- Computer Software
- Communication
- Time Management

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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

Today the Year 10 pupils who interviewed for the position of Prefect will find out during tutor time if they have been successful in obtaining the role via a personal letter.

This year the field of applicants was exceptionally strong and making decisions between candidates has proved difficult. Decisions have been based on not only their interview but their application, attendance and punctuality, engagement in home learning, attitude to learning, conduct around the school and engagement in Pupil Leadership Roles and clubs.

Pupils who have not been successful are encouraged to apply for other Pupil Leadership Roles and email their interviewer for more detailed feedback.

For those who have been successful, a very well done, it has been an incredibly tough process. Parents/carers will be invited to the Prefect celebration morning on Friday 19th April.

All successful Prefects are now eligible to apply for the position of Head Boy/Girl, the deadline for written applications is Wednesday 20th March to Mrs Heseltine. Pupils will be shortlisted for interviews on Monday 25th March and will be interviewed on Thursday 28th March.

The House System at Woodlands – Mrs Robertson

Next week we will announce the winning Houses for the Spring Term. Pupils in the winning houses will receive a free break on the same day as their End of Term assembly.

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs Ash

Please familiarise yourself with the topics being delivered this half term, should you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

[\(SPR 2B\) 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 Mr Williams for delivering our STEM week assembly to Years 7-10. Next week all pupils will have their celebration assembly led by their Head of Year.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Dates for Diaries

Friday 15th March – Pupils find out if they have been successful in obtaining the role of Prefect and the application process for Head Boy/Girl begins.

Monday 18th March – Pupil invited to a drop-in session with Mr Robertson in M19 at 1.30pm to support in Head Girl/Boy applications.

Wednesday 20th March – 3.00pm is the deadline to hand in applications for Head Boy/Gril to Mrs Heseltine.

Monday 25th March – Pupils shortlisted for interview announced.

Thursday 28th March - Prospective candidates indicated.

Friday 19th April - Prefect Celebration Morning and announcement of Head Girl/Boy.

Mr Manners and Mr Heavey

Lots more opportunities for pupils in the last two weeks. Year 7 boys and girls represented Woodlands in the 'A' final at Lee Valley Athletics. All boys football teams are currently top of all the district leagues, with the Year 8 Boys mathematical champions, with games to play. Year 9 Girls represented Woodlands at Loughborough University on Thursday, a once in a lifetime opportunity, playing at the home of a Super League club and prestigious university.

Woodlands have reached two County Cup Finals for Rugby this week, with the Under 16 Girls against Robert Clack and Under 15 Boys unfortunately falling short in the final. However, the boys are Essex Rugby Sevens Champions after winning their games convincingly and winning the main cup final 42-5 against New Hall School.

Under 14 Boys spent Sunday at QEB 7's a prestigious invite only tournament, playing the likes of Harrow School and Rosslyn Park, the biggest school's tournament in the world takes place in the next week with our U13 and U14 boys attending.

Under 14 Girls were knocked out of the Essex Cup semi-final this week but have managed to reach the last 32 of the country in Basketball after beating Harris Academy, Peckham.

A huge well done to all involved.

Moving forward

As I have written before and no doubt many of you would have seen this in the local press, in case you haven't I have included the link below. We were the third most popular secondary school in Essex last academic year, this year we are second.

We have our faults and as you know are far from perfect, but clearly, we are moving in the right direction. I am proud of all that we do here at our Woodlands and always grateful for the faith our community puts in us. Thank you for all your support:

<https://www.echo-news.co.uk/news/24179205.hardest-secondary-schools-get-essex-2024/>

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher