

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

19th April 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

The warmest of welcomes back to you all, Saturday being our one warm day of British Summer Time so far! Huge amounts have been going on over the Easter break as well as our first week back. Well done to all those Year 11s who took part in the holiday programme. What I saw being delivered and the engagement, as well as commitment from our youngsters and staff was second to none. Consistent hard work always pays off.

This week has seen our youngsters perform incredibly well at our school production of High School Musical. Our local primaries schools thoroughly enjoyed themselves and closing night is tonight. There may still be a few tickets available on the door.

Today sees us announce who our next Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies are. A really tough process and Mrs Heseltine and I had a real job on our hands making those decisions. We are grateful to staff for their input, and I am especially grateful to Mrs Heseltine for collating all details so we could make an informed choice, not just based on one interview. We have a prefect celebration event for our new prefects this morning where the announcement will be shared with our guests and then the whole school over our tannoy. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Year 11 prefects along with Demi, Samiyah, Daniel and Isobel our current leadership group. They now need time to concentrate on the final run in for their GCSEs.

Year 11

My first job of the week was to remind our Year 11 once again of our four key values of Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity and Excellence. Our values should now mean more than ever as they need to draw upon their time and experiences with us in their final run in for their GCSEs and throughout their fast-approaching exams. It is now over to them, and I know they will make the most of their time they have left with us. You reap what you sow.

Year 11 will remain in normal lessons whenever they do not have an exam up until Friday 14th June which will be their final full day in school. The Leavers' Assembly will take place on Friday 21st June. Further information regarding this event will be sent out in due course.

Year 10

PPEs begin next week, and all received an assembly from Miss Jordan on how the process will work and what the point of PPEs are. Essentially to work out how much each individual in Year 10 knows, what they need to know, and what to do about it moving forward. That defines any assessment really, but these are even more important as the grades given to colleges and sixth forms will be using the outcome of these PPEs to offer provisional places.

All received their individual PPE timetable this week, as they would have in the real thing come this time next year. It is about getting into good habits and starting as we mean to go on.



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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.

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

Wednesday 1st May 1st 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.

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

Directions have met with the final few pupils this week for review meetings. It is pleasing to see that all have applied for Post-16 destinations and are now in the final stages of preparation for their exams to ensure they secure the grades needed for their places in September.

For those that have expressed that they are keen to apply for an Apprenticeship, Directions will meet with them again next week to work on CVs.

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

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

Thank you to those who have met the initial deadline and for those who secured a placement over the holidays. I must stress the importance for the remaining pupils without places to continue to actively search for places over the next 2 weeks. A reminder that all must have a placement for the 1st – 5th July.

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

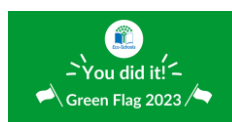
Enrichment Opportunities: Extra-Curricular Activities and Pupil Leadership Roles - Mrs Heseltine

Today we are looking forward to celebrating with our new Year 10 Prefects and their parents and carers; during the event pupils will be presented with their Prefect ties, and the successful candidates for the positions of Head Boy and Girl as well as their deputies will be announced.

I will talk more about these pupils next week, but I would like to thank our current Year 11 Prefects, along with Demi, Samiyah, Daniel and Isobel (current head pupils) for all of their hard work over this last year.

Please make sure you have checked out our clubs list for new additions and any changes for half term 5:

[HT5 Clubs Timetable](#)



[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

Charlie	Year 10
Diamond	Year 10
Bonnie	Year 10
Cory	Year 10
Zara	Year 10
Lacie	Year 10
Charlie	Year 10
Beatrice	Year 10
Christine	Year 10
Shaun	Year 10
Hayden	Year 10

Resilience

Hannah-Louise	Year 11
Lilia	Year 8
Charlie	Year 10
Quinn	Year 9
Emma	Year 7
Amelia	Year 10
Dylan	Year 9
Millie-Rose	Year 7
Bethany	Year 10
Jj	Year 7

Opportunity

Harvey	Year 7
Sara	Year 8
Samiyah	Year 11
Hannah	Year 11
Freddie	Year 8
Demi	Year 11
Rachel	Year 7
Tommy	Year 7
Tayla	Year 7
Luther	Year 10
Frankie	Year 8



WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

Woodlands School, Woodlands Approach,
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Excellence

Mantas	Year 7
Emily	Year 8
Fawwaz	Year 9
Miley	Year 9
Andreia	Year 9
Ryan	Year 7
Sophia	Year 9
Lilah	Year 9
Harvey	Year 7
Lucy	Year 7
Ellie-May	Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs 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.

Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Mr Wright led on all assemblies this week wishing pupils a warm welcome back and preparing them for the Summer Term that lies ahead.



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Next week Years 11's assembly will be led by Mrs Jordan, Year 10 will not have an assembly due to their PPE's taking place, and Mrs Fry and her Sustainability Club members lead on Years 7-9 under the theme of Earth Month.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Moving forward

I have been explaining to staff this week that times are hard financially in education for all schools at present at this has not escaped us. All who work in our sector are faced with daily challenges of offering the same standard of education on less money with less resources. It is hard for everyone, and I had hoped that education would be high on the political agenda but sadly potholes are at number one and education is at number seventeen in what the public would like sorting according to one survey.

We will continue to do our very best by our youngsters but please bear with us if we have to make some decisions not to run or pursue some things we had previously been able to do. All of us, in whatever role we have, are having to cut our coats according to our cloth. Our coat will just be a little tighter given the external factors.

But, as ever, I remain positive for the future of Woodlands as we seek to go from strength to strength, and to coin another phrase, it is not about the size of the dog in the fight, but the fight in the dog.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher