

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

May I take this opportunity to thank the overwhelming majority for your support this half term, it has been an incredibly busy one, always is, but more so with GCSE exams in full swing.

Mid-week saw us anoint our new prefects and senior prefects and we will shortly be updating our website once all photographs have been taken and their real duties begin. I am proud of all of them and know they will be first class role models to the rest of the school.

**A reminder that we break up for half term today at 3.00pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May. We will return after an absence of one week on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June, again at the usual time of 8.40am. Also, Year 7 go to lunch at the same time as the rest of the school from that Monday.**

#### **Literacy and Oracy – Mrs Handford**

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week. The DEAR timetable for next half term is as follows:

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June - Period 5  
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June - Period 1  
Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June - Period 2  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Period 3  
Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July - Period 4  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July - Period 5

In addition, we are also doing a two week sponsored read from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for all pupils in Years 7 to 10 and we would like as many pupils involved as possible, being sponsored for the amount of minutes they read for in the 14 days. All sponsorship will then be spent on providing new books for our pupils to enjoy. Please find attached a letter and a sponsorship form. Reading logs will be available after half term. There will also be prizes available and pupils will be informed about this during form time today. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

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

#### **Post 16 – Mrs Robertson**

We are very fortunate to have Louise Fry from Essex County Council working with a few pupils in Year 11 after half term to support them in finding an Apprenticeship. If there is anyone who is also yet to find an apprenticeship please contact me. This meeting will take place around exams, (Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June period 3).

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)

### Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

Having spoken to most pupils without work experience placement this week it is encouraging to see that some have found placements but need to bring back the paperwork. As a matter of urgency now if placements have been secured and paperwork needs to be handed in, please do so.

The absolute final deadline for finding a placement is **Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June**.

Please contact Mrs Heseltine [khe@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:khe@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk) should you have any financial concerns in relation to Work Experience, including if you are in receipt of Free School Meals.

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

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

This week we welcomed parents and carers of our new Prefects into the school for a celebration morning, it was wonderful to share the presentation of the Prefect ties with them. Being a Prefect is more than just wearing a tie, our new Prefects will act as role models and effect change within the school; not a responsibility to be taken lightly, but one that we are sure our pupils are worthy of undertaking. A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way and shows the way.

Thank you to Sophie, Ayakhe, Bella and Sam for welcoming in and handing over to our new Head and Deputies.

Thank you also to the following Year 9 pupils who supported at the event, you represented the school incredibly well and truly reflected our core values:

- Tallulah
- Joshua
- Courtney
- Courtney
- Zara
- Benjamin
- Luther
- Georgea

All pupils who have participated in clubs and undertaken Pupil Leadership Roles will receive their ePraise salary over the next week, well done to each and every one of you. It so pleasing to see the uptake of pupils increasing every half term.

When we arrive back pupils will receive their new lunch passes, within the first week both colour passes will still be valid after this point only the new colour will be accepted. Can I remind pupils that the pass must only be used on the day of their club/meeting.

More information on Pupil Leadership Roles and clubs can be found on our Pupil tab of our school website: [Pupil Leadership Roles](#)

[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

Holly Year 10  
Demi Year 10  
Tallulah Year 9  
Charlie Year 9  
Gemma Year 9  
Kiera Year 9

### Resilience

Elizabeth Year 7  
Kaiden Year 7  
Dean Year 7  
Jj Year 7

### Opportunity

Isabella Year 8  
Hannah Year 8  
Emma Year 8

### Excellence

Freddy Year 7  
Gavin Year 7  
Cooper Year 8  
Jamie Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

## AROE Curriculum Lessons – Mrs Ash

As we move into the final half term for the academic year, please familiarise yourself with the topics being covered in AROE in term 3B.

[\(SUM 3B\) AROE PARENT COMMS CALENDAR 2022.23 FINAL.pdf](#)

Year 11 pupils will continue having AROE lessons until their last day. They will be revisiting the letters they wrote to their future selves and exploring how to budget for living independently.

All information regarding how we deliver Relationships, Sex and health in AROE lessons can be found here: [RSHE Policy](#)

[RSE Parental Right to withdraw form](#)

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/concerns.

## Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

This week's assembly was delivered by Miss Fearon and centred around National Volunteer week, and what an inspiring assembly it was. What will you do to volunteer next week? Remember, it's not always about the big gestures, it's the little things you do that matter the most:

<https://volunteersweek.org/>

When we return back to school, I will be leading assemblies on Cultural Capital.

[Assembly Schedule 2022.23](#)

## Diary Dates – Mrs Heseltine

### **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June (5.00pm to 6.30pm): AROE awards evening**

This is prestigious annual awards evening where nominated pupils will be invited into school with their parents/carers to receive an award from one of our four AROE categories. Invitations are due to go out to our nominated pupils next week.

If you receive an invitation, please note that guest places are limited to two per pupil, and you must complete the electronic reply slip to confirm your attendance to the event.

## Moving forward

Since returning from COVID schools right across the country have seen an increase in complaints and we are no different. These have been made to the respective governing bodies, the local authority as well as Ofsted. I am all for raising concerns where they are genuine and they will always be investigated, we are a school that is hugely reflective and knows we are not perfect. We are not always able to go back to you with the outcome because we are bound by employment law and wouldn't share with you the sanctions another youngster received as we are unable to share information on another person's child, which I feel sure you can all appreciate.

What I would ask is that our complaints policy is followed where needed and to make contact with us first rather than reacting with not all the facts laid out. Where mistakes are made we will look to do better and put measures in place. Where there are false accusations or sweeping assumptions or generalisations are made it can be incredibly damaging to our staff, who all work hard for our young people and go above and beyond daily. If the allegations are malicious against staff then sanctions will be put in place for that youngster to avoid a repeat and to protect my staff.

Make I make myself abundantly clear when I say it is everyone's right to raise legitimate concerns to allow us to look into them properly, through the right channels. What I am not saying is do not raise concerns, just do it in the right way.

Quite a few concerns that are raised to us are to do with social media. As you know there are age restrictions on the use of social media which you as a parent and carer have control of and the overwhelming majority of the issues occur at weekends, after school hours or over the holidays, where the youngsters are not in our care. We will deal with the impact of any comments or misuse out of school hours if it could create an issue in school, but it is a partnership.

What would be of great help is if there are issues youngsters inform a member of staff rather than calling or messaging home first. We are in the fortunate position of having a huge pastoral team who



work non-stop to ensure that barriers are removed to enable learning to take place. By making contact with home first we are unable to deal with in the right way, thereby making it harder to get to the truth and deal with them in a timely manner.

I would dearly love to say that all of our youngsters are perfect and that my staff never make mistakes, but let's be realistic we are all human and sometimes things happen that shouldn't, but we will deal with. We need to do this together and in the right way. We are here to listen but my staff are not here to be spoken to disrespectfully. Our core purpose is to educate, and we are experts in our field and should be treated accordingly.

May I take this opportunity to thank the overwhelming majority of you who support what we are trying to do and who raise concerns in the right way. I apologise if this has come across a little negative but there comes a point where something has to be said. It is my job to recruit and to retain the best staff available, through us working together we will continue to be fully staffed with fantastic people to give all our youngsters the very best chance of success. I think we can all agree on that.

Best wishes,

Mr David Wright  
**Head Teacher**