



WOODBIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER: SUMMER TERM



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PRIDE

DIVERSITY

KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

As we reach the end of the academic year, we reflect on a journey that began back in September. There have, of course, been great triumphs and plenty to celebrate. But we have also faced huge challenges along the way. One thing has shone through throughout all of that – the total resilience of our Woodbridge community. The fact that I know we will come together in difficult times, support each other and stand strong as one community is a source of great personal strength for me. It gives me an impetus to get up in the morning and do each day again. As we break up for the holiday, we should feel proud of our school community. I certainly am.

It's been a busy year with activities. You can see many from the last term featured in these pages. Students have celebrated World Cultural Day together, been on visits both near to home, such as the Science Museum, and further afield such as Berlin. Back at school, students have had opportunities to get involved in Mental Health Awareness Week and Year 10 Careers Day, underlining the importance of things beyond the academic. Extra-curricular activities have been going from strength to strength this term, with the usual sporting victories, but lots of great clubs like the Bee Club that always creates a big buzz...! For the first time this year we held a celebration of extra-curricular clubs, alongside our Art Exhibition and the brilliant Woodbridge's Got Talent competition. I went home that night beaming with pride about what Woodbridge kids can do. They are the best kids in the world.

I'd like to finish today by paying tribute to the staff that make this all happen. Every single day, teachers and support staff turn up at school and spend huge amounts of physical and emotional energy creating the best possible opportunities for your children. They do it not for the great pay, or for the thanks, or even for the holidays, but because it matters. They like doing things which will make a difference to young people and make our society better. They have a commitment to this community, and that is what gives us the resilience that I mentioned earlier. The fact that those who work here feel part of something bigger than themselves.



I know you will join me in thanking our staff as we reach the end of term, in the same way that I send out thanks to you, our parents and carers, for the part you play in making our community what it is. Woodbridge is rooted in this local area, as it absolutely should be. That is down to the faith that you have in us. Thank you.

But now, we all need a holiday! I will be spending some time away from teenagers for a bit, and turning them back over to you to look after. Sorry about that... They are lovely, honestly...! Please do enjoy the time with family and friends over the summer, and we look forward to seeing our students in September, ready and raring to go for 2023-24. Have a great break!

Mr S Hogan



Opportunities

@ WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

By Emaan H, Year 10

It is said "We get only one life and we should make the most of it".

When I first joined Woodbridge High School in year 7, I felt a big difference from my primary school. The transition from being protected in a smaller school to secondary school was both exciting and challenging to start with. However, I took it

upon myself to adjust to the school norm, make new friends and, most of all, avail many opportunities that school provided. For me this was in terms of drama, musicals and languages.

Academics is one area I have focused on in the last few years, as I felt that being academically strong will result in good opportunities to secure high grades and will eventually help me to get a place at a top university. This would make me and my family proud and at the same time I can be a good role model for other students.

In 2022 I was rewarded for academic excellence as I got the Head Teacher's Award for Science and a Gold award for reaching targets.



At the moment, I am both a Prefect and a House Captain. This gives me an opportunity to work closely with my peers and discuss important issues like raising money for charities and developing plans to improve the school facilities, as well as taking feedback from students to bring positive outcomes in school.

On a personal level, I am a good listener and have a passion for raising awareness about the climate crisis. I wrote a poem on the climate crisis, which was appreciated by both my parents and teachers. I enjoy playing tennis and board games with family and the many friends that I have made at Woodbridge.

Recently, I was nominated by my peers and awarded 'The Jack Petchey Achievement Award' for kindness and service to school. I am extremely contented to receive the award, as I had no clue that I had been nominated. My achievements and teachers inspire me to give even more back to my school and wider community.



I believe in motivating younger students and my peers to do better and have an optimistic attitude to life. Hence from my experiences I

would offer the following advice and tips for younger KS3 students:

Anti-Bullying Ambassador

Become an anti-bullying ambassador and stand up against bullying.



Musicals

Get involved with school musicals. The Drama department at Woodbridge is exceptional and produces amazing musicals/plays every year. I attended one and watched a few, these are no less than a west-end production.



House Captain

In year 9, applications for House Captains open. You can get involved and help the school raise funds for charities by running a bake sale, selling movie tickets, volunteering at the Christmas concert etc.



Climate Crisis Committee

Do what makes a real difference. Join the Climate Crisis Committee to play your part in helping Woodbridge become more sustainable. Participate in initiatives like recycling week, litter picking and tree planting etc.



Sports

If you enjoy outdoor games, participate in after school clubs offering a wide variety of options such as Cricket, Hockey, Netball and Football among many others. It will keep you both mentally and physically fit.



Prefect

In year 10, look out for applications for Prefects. As a Prefect, you can help with events such as diversity week, inclusion events and help teachers with display boards etc. You may be in for a treat for your participation, such as trips and more.

I hope you found my tips helpful. Thank you for reading!

The Dickens Museum Trip

Run By The English Department

Collaboratively written by a year 8 class!

After reading 'Oliver Twist' in Additional English, the year 8s took a trip to the Dickens Museum in central London.

The museum is a narrow, creaky town house which Dickens used to live in when he wrote his early novels such as 'Oliver Twist'. The house is kept with Victorian furniture and has oodles of information about Dickens and his life and times. One of the strangest things was that there were no bathrooms at all. Water was only switched on for two hours a day and it must have been pretty stinky. Talking of smells, the guides let us sniff all sorts of things - cinnamon in the kitchen, carbolic soap in the washrooms and charcoal in the fires. One interesting thing was the way they used to keep a hedgehog in the kitchen to eat insects. They called the hedgehog Bill Sykes after the villain in 'Oliver Twist'. We also wrote about our own Victorian characters using ink and quills - these were tricky to write with as the ink spread everywhere. We also dressed up in Victorian costumes and practised ironing and washing - life as a servant would have been awful.

Afterwards, we had a picnic in Coram's Fields park. It was super sunny and we stopped for ice creams on the way home.



Character!

like something



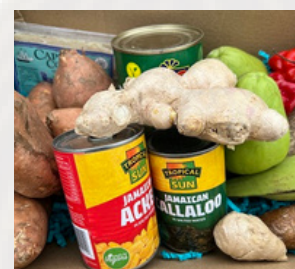
Celebrating World Cultural Day

Held every year on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrates not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

*By Kerry-Ann McNamee-Obi
Diversity Equality and Inclusion Co-ordinator*

The importance of celebrating cultural diversity cannot be overstated. In today's globalized world, it is essential that we learn to appreciate and respect the cultural differences that make our world unique. This is an essential part of creating an inclusive and welcoming learning environment for our staff and students at Woodbridge. World Cultural Day was our opportunity to promote cultural awareness and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school community.

Our cultural stalls created a vibrant and educational environment for staff and students to learn and appreciate different cultures, fostering respect, understanding and inclusivity. The event no doubt promoted students' sense of belonging and community. Students especially were ever so proud to share their knowledge and talk with students and staff alike about the importance of an array of artefacts that were showcased.



“

Culture day was very important not only to me but to others too. I loved talking about my culture and sharing all my knowledge with my peers. But it's not just sharing your background, it's about learning about others also. Culture day is so important to understand about other countries and cultures.

Asli A (year 8 student)



When students feel that their cultural background is valued and respected, they are more likely to feel connected to the school community and to be engaged in their learning. Celebrating cultural diversity can also help to promote empathy and understanding, which are essential skills for success in today's diverse and interconnected world.

At Woodbridge, we are purposeful about promoting our students' understanding to break down cultural barriers, combat prejudice and discrimination and promote social justice and equity by raising awareness about the importance of World Cultural Day, as it provides an opportunity to recognise and address barriers that can prevent individuals from different cultural backgrounds from achieving their full potential.



Business Department NEWS

By Ms C Jaeggi
Head Of Business

Guest speaker - George Jaeggi [author of A White Man's China]

With a career full of entrepreneurial and international business experiences behind him, Year 10 and Year 12 Business students were treated to insightful and inspirational talks by George Jaeggi, author of the newly published "A White Man's China" (which is based on his experiences of setting up manufacturing plants in China).

George was kind enough to come in on Thursday 25th May, during his London holiday, to talk to us about his journey . . . from completing a banking apprenticeship in Switzerland, moving to Canada without knowing how to speak English, working a multitude of

odd jobs (for example working at a Canadian logging camp, as a delivery driver and as a summer camp cook to name a few) before getting his first office job and then eventually working his way up the company before being approached by a German company to help them set up their North American factory, and then subsequent factories in China.

As well as offering some inspiration to our Year 10 GCSE Business students, George's insight proved particularly useful to our Year 12 Vocational Business students who were able to use his experience of setting up businesses in China to help them with their International Business unit, and our Year 12 A Level Business students who will be studying Internationalisation as part of their course.



How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

It's not just drama students that get to go to the theatre . . . on Tuesday 13th June, a group of GCSE Business students headed over to the Southwark Playhouse to watch a production of the Tony Award winning musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

Following the journey of the main character, Finch, who works their way up the corporate ladder from lowly mailroom clerk to board member of the World Wide Wicket Company, this was a great opportunity to gain insight into the "Do's" and the "Do Not's" of the corporate world . . . although I'm not sure if we actually did learn "how to succeed in business without really trying" . . . if anyone knows this, please let us know!

Year 9 Enterprise Project South Woodford Market

The weeks following the May half term saw our Year 9 Business students setting up and running their own business - including buying their stock, packaging, selling, advertising . . . and probably most enjoyable, counting their profits! This year saw a variety of items on offer, including bubble tea, ice lollies and ice cream sundaes, homemade cookies, homemade lemonade and mocktails. Not only were the businesses busy selling their goods during our lunchtime markets outside of Roding, they were also given the opportunity to set up a stall at the South Woodford Market on Sunday 18th June! Nadera from NKY Mocktails said "The South Woodford Market was very fun and it was a great experience. It really helped us learn what it is like to run a business in public."



At the time of writing, the businesses are all preparing for the Enterprise Fair which will be held on Thursday 13th July and will see them presenting their business experience to a panel of judges, including Mr Hogan, Ms Evans, and Elle McIntosh - one of Ms Jaeggli's former students and co-founder of Twipes - the world's first truly flushable and biodegradable wet wipes!

The department would like to thank all the staff and students who supported our budding entrepreneurs by purchasing their wares, and an especially big thank you to the technology department for allowing the businesses to use their facilities.



My Business Enterprise

By Ayaan A, Year 9



I'm really glad to write about my experience of going through the enterprise project, including creating the product and gaining all the skills through to sales.

My father owns a business and I have seen how challenging it can be which is why I chose Business as a subject. I often help him find ways to make his business run successfully. This made me realise my growing interest in a business profession. The Business course will also help me later on in my life when I start up my own business.

I found the enterprise project exciting and challenging. I learnt a wide range of skills, some of which were new to me. I had to communicate with customers and evaluate sales on a day to day basis. My business idea was called Mojito. I came up with this idea by doing deep market research, going to a range of restaurants and exploring their unique drinks. This made me enthusiastic to create my own unique product, making me think whether customers would like my product and how I can create sales.

I started the business and I saw a boost of sales which gave me more confidence with selling products like these and the pricing. I then started selling my mojito drinks at the South Woodford market. I saw a decrease of customer purchases which I then took time to analyse and reflect on the mistakes that I had made.

Once I had fully analysed my mistake I thought of releasing a new mojito flavour. I saw an increase in purchases of the new flavour and I think this was one of the big major reasons my plan had failed previously. I personally was impressed that I came up with this problem and how I responded to it, even though I did not know how to do this before.

However, for me, this business was not just an ordinary business that I had started, but it was a big learning curve for me going through all the experiences to make the sales profitable. This has taught me new strategies of how to run a successful business and to learn from my mistakes.



Careers DAY



Careers DAY

Year 10 had Careers Day which was an event to help students understand different types of skills and get a glimpse of what it would be like in the real world.

By Mrs D Miah

This year our students in year 10 participated in a whole day of careers events. In the build up to the day students were given 3 potential jobs they could apply for and they created a CV. During form time they practised interview skills and prepared for mock interviews conducted by our very talented Woodbridge community (parents, governors and colleagues' families). Thank you so much to everyone that helped make the day a huge success!

On the day each student had a one to one mock interview and will receive individual written feedback in form time. Students also participated in an enterprise challenge, simulating finance activities and role playing difficult conversations.

One session was targeted at developing skills required during group interviews and preparing students for the future world of work.

Our final session of the day was the launch of Unifrog to year 10 students. This is a really great careers platform containing lots of information on career pathways, universities, apprenticeships, help with application writing and lots more. We will be continuing to utilise this platform and will be rolling it out to younger years starting in September.



Feedback FROM GUESTS

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It was truly a pleasure to speak with the students (and teachers and fellow speakers).

I found most of the students to be engaged and were listening intently. A few were inquisitive and asked good questions around what the job is about. It was good to see that the students were pleasantly surprised to learn about the reality of the workplace. The road to a good job is not the same, there are many. As expected, the question of salary came up at every session.

On my own presentation, I was pleased to see the enthusiasm build at the possibility of travel, meeting different people and making products everyone knows about. Also understanding how important education is to put you on a suitable path.

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The careers day I attended to present and Mock Interview at Woodbridge School was an absolute blast!

The energy in the air was electrifying, and it was evident that both the students, teachers and the presenters were genuinely excited about the event. It was clear that this was a well-run operation, especially considering the scale of the event.

The organisers did a remarkable job of engaging the students and ensuring that they had a wide range of career options to explore. The venue was buzzing with activity, with various Presentations and Mock Interviews.

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The presenters were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and incredibly engaging, which made it easy for the students to ask questions and seek guidance.

Overall, it was evident that the careers day was a resounding success. The high levels of engagement, combined with the efficient organisation, created an inspiring and educational experience for all involved. Kudos to the school for pulling off such a big operation with such finesse!

“

Well that was amazing!

We should certainly do that again, the school is really impressive - it felt like a military operation and it needs to be for that scale. The energy from the kids and teachers alike was spot on.

Feedback FROM STUDENTS

What was the most valuable part of the day?

Good advice on interviews for the future

Learning the real life things that you will do in the future when looking for a job

The interviews really helped me to understand how they work and I liked getting feedback on my CV

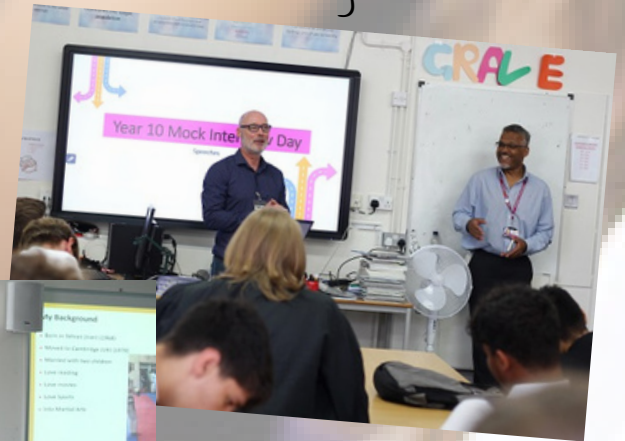
The interview and the team building section

Listening to the speeches

The interview and the problem solving with the group about who is accountable

The talks were really inspirational, gave me a lot to think about!

The sessions opened my eyes up to possibilities I never thought about



ANTI-BULLYING Ambassador

By Floë, Year 9

Hi, I'm Floë and I'm a Y9 Anti-bullying Ambassador. This term, I took part in the school Diversity and Mental Health weeks, because I want to educate people on the effects of bullying. It is important to me because bullying is unfortunately very common, and people should be made aware of how to deal with it effectively.



There are many opportunities to get involved in different events and recently I sold wristbands and delivered an assembly to a year 7 form. I enjoy engaging with others during different activities and I am proud to be able to be part of such a positive movement.

I take part in events like this because of the impact they have,

My role is heavily intertwined with these topics, so it felt essential to get involved in the celebrations. These events are important, as people are often bullied for the things that make them different. Celebrating our diversity ensures that we can prioritise our wellbeing and be proud of those differences!

as they help to create a supportive and welcoming environment throughout the school. This week I had a meeting with a school governor to discuss what I'd been doing this year as an Anti-bullying Ambassador. I hope that sharing what we do at Woodbridge can have a wider effect and even lead to other schools following in our footsteps.



I feel very lucky to have these opportunities and I want Woodbridge to be leading the way on how we tackle bullying and recognise diversity. Looking forward to next year already!

Bee Club

By Ms Rivers

The Bee Club have had a wonderful term that included experiencing honey extraction from our hives.

It is unusual to be able to do this so early but the bees were ahead of schedule following a good Spring and we were able to take part in something we would usually miss due to it happening in the summer holidays.

It was fascinating to see the entire process and such a privilege to have seen the bees through all their stages over the past year.

Our Bee Keepers taught us all how to gently remove the wax covering from the honey

frames - this is called "uncapping". We had to be careful not to damage the comb structure so the frames can be given back to the bees (this will save them time and energy as they will not need to build up the honeycomb before filling it again).

We then placed the honey frames in an extractor and gently spun the frames to release the honey. After that it was time to filter the honey - this was done twice by sieving it through two sieves and then putting the honey in jars. We all got to take some honey home and it was really delicious!



By Zayn S, Year 7

Firstly, we used something called an uncapping tool which we used to remove the wax capping on the frames to reveal all the honey underneath. We had to use the top of the uncapping tool otherwise the tool would get sticky and stuck.

We then put the uncapped frames into an extraction machine which had a handle. We spun the handle and the frames spun inside.

Because of the force of the spin, the honey came out and dripped down to the bottom of the machine.

The machine had a tap so when we had enough honey inside, we opened the tap and the honey went into a bucket with two sieves. The sieves were for removing bits of pollen. After that, we filled our jars from the honey in the bucket and took it home!

Wellbeing

Mental Health Awareness Week 15-19th May 2023

By Ms M Stephenson

This year was undoubtedly the best Mental Health Awareness Week (MHAW) ever hosted at WHS. Mental health as an area for focus has never been more pertinent to our community and we have been loud and proud about how much emphasis we place on psychological wellness at Woodbridge.

The Wellbeing Team led the noise-making, but students could see that mental health is a priority for staff across departments; we had the most phenomenal culinary contributions from staff members across the board towards a bake sale raising money for the Mental Health Foundation mid-way through the week.

Other activities included daily wellbeing videos, an 'Affirmation Station', supersized 'Chillout Club', badge-making, an Instagram competition around the MHAW theme of Anxiety and a Friday treat for staff. Students engaged so positively in these activities...we absolutely smashed it!



Wellbeing Project: IMAGINE-POSITIVE

Taryn Hutchinson joined us last year as a researcher from the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London. She happily returned to Woodbridge High School for a second year to continue delivering her bespoke psychological intervention to some of our sixth form students.



enjoyed completing the programme at school and felt that they developed valuable strategies to help with their mental health, particularly ways to prevent their mood dipping and to feel more positive through using positive mental imagery.

Across four sessions, the programme aimed to enhance well-being and positive emotions using positive future mental imagery. Over the course of the two years, the data collected showed promising early results in reducing symptoms of low mood and increasing positive emotions.

More in-depth feedback from the students who took part in the programme has shown they

Taryn will be going on to complete her doctorate at King's College London and so leaves us this month, however she is hugely grateful to staff who have enabled the delivery of this programme at Woodbridge. There is scope for further phases of this important research continuing at Woodbridge in the future, our 2023-24 sixth form cohort should keep their eyes peeled for the opportunity to take part!

By Mrs R Bemath

Restaurant: 11th May

Some of our Year 12 French students attended a Pret a Parler dinner at Le Marmiton restaurant in Wanstead. We were invited by Bancroft's School and there were also Year 12 students from Forest School present.

The aim of the evening was to speak French in a social setting. Dinner was a 3 course meal (French food of course!) and after every course, students had to get up and move places, so that they had the opportunity to speak to others. Our students did us proud; they participated with enthusiasm and their standard of French was excellent!

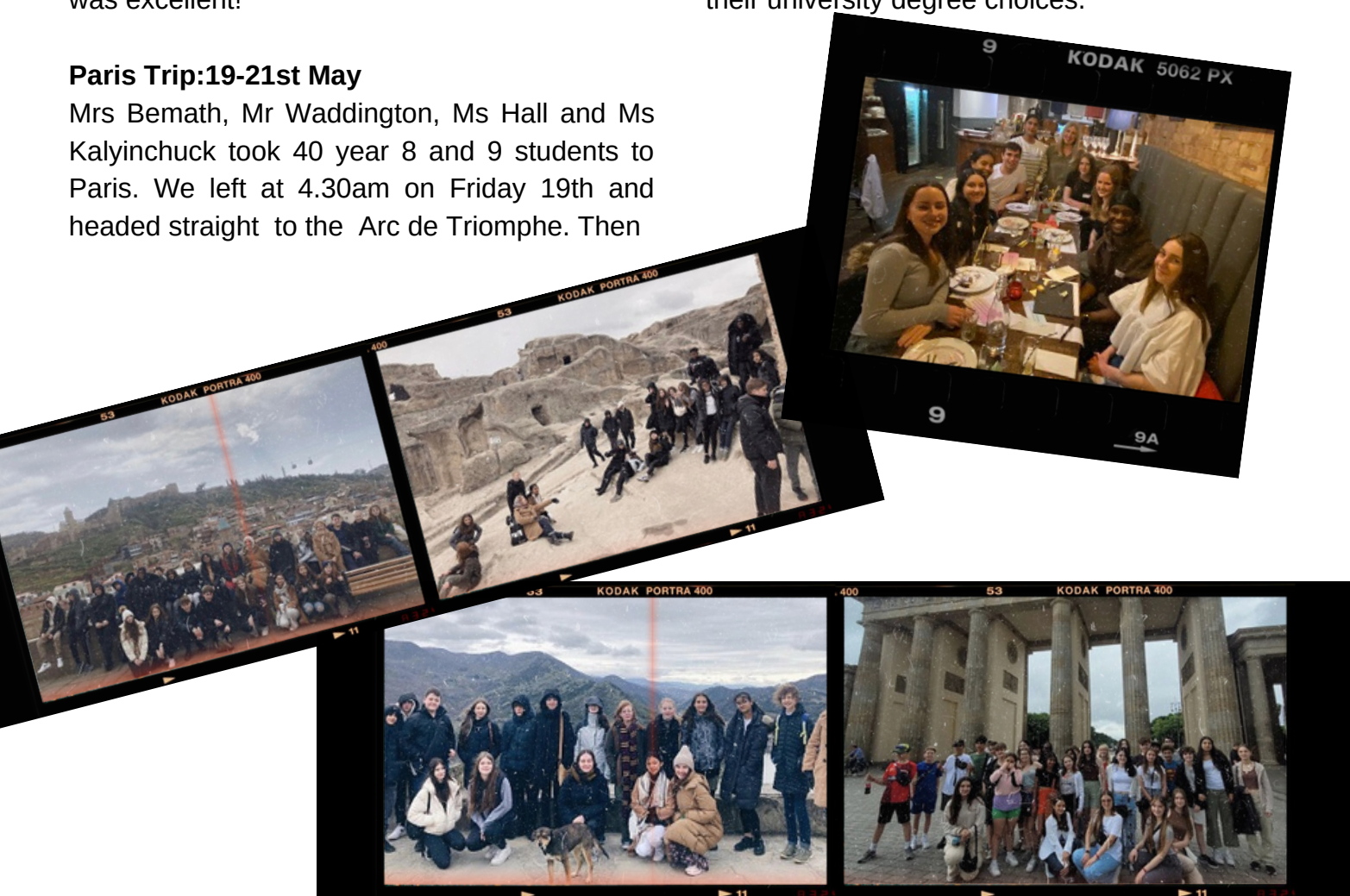
Paris Trip: 19-21st May

Mrs Bemath, Mr Waddington, Ms Hall and Ms Kalyinchuck took 40 year 8 and 9 students to Paris. We left at 4.30am on Friday 19th and headed straight to the Arc de Triomphe. Then

we strolled down the Champs Elysées and took a bateau mouche cruise on the river Seine. On Saturday we visited the Louvre and went up the Eiffel Tower. On Sunday we finished with a tour of the Stade de France.

Lancaster University: 5th June

Year 12 French students had a taster lecture on the topic of 'Francophone celebrations'. The lecture was delivered in French by Cyille Rollet at the University of Lancaster. Students enjoyed the opportunity to experience a university style lecture on their current A Level topic and were inspired to consider including French as part of their university degree choices.



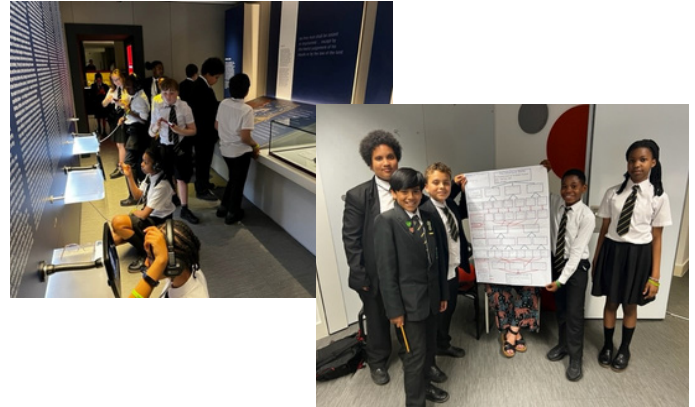
The MFL department also ran trips to Berlin and to Georgia, and are looking forward to running a range of trips again next year!

British Library Visit

By Mr K Coker, School Librarian

A group of year 7 students recently spent the day at the British Library. They visited different rooms in the library and also took part in a workshop on Digital Storytelling. Students had access to a Digital Storytelling exhibition where they were able to explore and interact with a varied range of ground-breaking and thought-provoking digital stories.

Students had a chance to try out some of the tools and techniques that real digital story makers and game designers use to create their work. In groups, they created a storyboard with a steampunk-themed multiple-choice story which transported them from the Reading Room of the British Library to the Great Library of Alexandria. There is now an option for all students to digitise this story back at school.



The feedback we received from the British Library staff was overwhelmingly positive. Students were inquisitive and creative when working on their own and in teams.

More visits to the British Library are planned for next academic year, as well as a variety of workshops.

MFL Paris Trip

By Mahitha D, Year 8

I had so much fun on the Paris trip! We visited France's well-known monuments, such as the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and more. The highlight of the journey to France was definitely the ferry, where my friends and I watched movies and drank hot chocolates together. Additionally, I found visiting the Stade de France especially interesting as I learned more about the stadium and how football training takes place in France.

Ascending the Eiffel Tower was the most memorable moment for me, where I had the chance to experience one of France's many breath-taking views. This trip was a great opportunity for me to improve my French and learn more about France's culture and history.

House Captain Role

By Millie G, Year 10

I absolutely loved being a House Captain! It gives you the opportunity to work with new people and help the school community. You help to set up school events and raise money for charity, and it's great fun!

Other students look up to you and come to you for help, so set a good example! I wish I could be a House Captain again because it was an amazing experience. It really helped with my confidence!



Student Responsibilities

By Miss F O'Callaghan, Prefects Co-ordinator

Our students at WHS who have a responsibility have had a very busy term so far! The prefects have been involved in not only their regular duties, e.g. lunch duty and helping assist departments with sorting out various things for the new academic year, but they have also been helping with the many different events we have had.

Recently, we celebrated diversity week, and the prefects oversaw helping run and set up a range of different stalls. This included; bracelet making, selling LGBTQ+ flags, selling cupcakes and many more! It was great to see so many of them celebrate such an important cause. In addition to this, our prefects have also been helping Ms Moore and Mr Kelly on the Year 6 to Year 7 transition days. This has been a great opportunity for them to help make our new Year 7s feel welcome and tell them all about our Woodbridge values and really showcase our school.



The senior students have also been very busy too. House reps recently met with their YCs to discuss some things around the school that they want to see an improvement on, for example, mixing up the variety of food we have in the canteen. We met with Mr Hogan to see what he thinks about our new ideas.

We are in the process of planning the recruitment process for our new head students in Sixth Form and thinking of ways we can promote our Sixth Form ambassadors. Lots of exciting changes to come in September!

Beyond Excellence FESTIVAL

This term saw the launch of the Beyond Excellence Festival!

The Roding Arts building was transformed into a mini museum that comprised all of our extra curricular clubs who ordinarily wouldn't get the opportunity to showcase their amazing work.

The clubs on show were: Electronics, Bee, Astronomy, Dungeons and Dragons and the Photography Club. A P.E. and Drama showcase were also on show.

SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES...

For the first time in Woodridge history, we are going to be staging a full scale Shakespeare production. Macbeth is a classic story that students study at both KS4 and KS5. As such, we wanted to give students who are interested in potentially pursuing a career in performance, directing or design the opportunity to put on this classic text with a dark contemporary twist! The cast comprises students from year 9 upwards and will preview in November! More information to follow in the Autumn newsletter - make sure you keep your eyes peeled about tickets, otherwise it will be "Double double toil and trouble!"

Year 8 Speech-Makers

Wow!

Their Audience!

By Mrs M Rée, Coordinator for KS3 English

This term the 26th annual public speaking competition for year 8 was held. A diverse range of topics were talked about with great passion and with great authority.

We heard from:

Millie J – Cliques and social groups;
Zakary U – Central Cee (a rapper);
Grace M – Neurodiversity;
Zakaria K – Walter Tull, the first black professional footballer;
Elizaveta K – Climate Change and what we face;
Simon M – the passion of football;
Emilia B – the Immigrant Experience;
Jeremy A – Stereotypes;
Hanna C – our needs!

The judges had a tough time coming to a decision because the standard was so high. They deliberated while we heard Shona C from Year 10 play a piece by Telemann on the piano.

And finally, the hall was hushed and Mr Hogan announced the results – first was Elizaveta K with her passionate speech on climate change! Second place went to Emilia B with her thoughtful and perceptive speech on the Immigrant Experience and third place went to Jeremy A with his enthusiastic speech on Stereotypes.

Well done to ALL of the finalists – it was very brave to talk in front of the whole year group and twenty Year 5 students from Churchfields, not to mention the judges – Ms Amihere, Ms Geary, Mr O'Brien, Mr Reynolds (link governor for English) and Mr Hogan.



Very well done all!

Life In Year 7

By Afrah S, Year 7

Year 7 is amazing. There are so many clubs and activities you can take part in and they are all really fun and interesting, for example choir and cooking club. In year 7 there are new and interesting lessons, such as drama which is about acting, and product design which is about working with materials (for example wood) and learning about the process in which things are made. Another new set of lessons are graphics and product design, where you use software and different materials to create products, and there is food tech, which is where you cook all different foods such as pizza, muffins and chelsea buns and you also get to cook your own choice of starter. There is also life studies, which is the same as PSHCE. You also get to learn two languages and you get to choose between French and Spanish and between German and Russian.

Teachers

The teachers are all really nice and reassuring and are happy to help with any problems you may have. You can go to anyone you trust, for example your class teachers, your form tutor and the wellbeing team. Your class teachers are different for each subject and your form tutor is the teacher you go to in the morning to get registered before lessons start.

Buildings

There are so many buildings in Woodbridge as it is a big school but you do not have to worry about getting lost as the teachers understand that you are new and that you are getting to know the school. In total there are four main buildings: Roding, which is where you do music, drama, art, history and computing; Mallards, which is where you do languages, science and English. In addition, Mallards is one of the oldest buildings. There is also Wynndale, which is where you do maths, life studies, geography, R.E., food tech, graphic products and product design. Another building is the sports hall, which is where you do P.E. There are also different courts such as the netball court and there is a gym which you can go to and you sometimes use it during your P.E. lessons.

As a new year 7, I have found it very exciting and a dream to be in secondary school. It is like a home to me as everyone is so welcoming. Making friends can seem hard, but as Woodbridge has so many pupils there is always someone willing to be friends with you. All you need to do is be confident and remember you can do it. I am sure once you have settled in you will really enjoy it.



BET NEWS

By Ms Gleeson and Ms Payne, BET Co-ordinators

School Diversity Week

This term BET focused on educating and celebrating School Diversity week. We did this by having events running during the week such as ribbon making, tie dying and form activities. Just Like Us is a LGBT+ young people's charity. They work with schools and young people across the UK to ensure LGBT+ young people can thrive. Here at Woodbridge we believe it is incredibly important to celebrate all of our students' differences and educate all of our students to embrace each other's differences.



Food appeal

This year BET organised the first food appeal that would take place before the summer holidays. As everyone is aware the cost of living crisis is having a massive effect on some of our families. Without school providing free school meals to these vulnerable students during the summer, some families may struggle to feed their children. This is why the BET team would really like to help. Thank you to anyone within the Woodbridge community who donated to this cause. We really appreciate your generosity.

Beyond Excellence Evening

This year our BET Extra-curricular lead organised the first ever Beyond Excellence evening. This evening showcased all the extra-curricular activities that the school has to offer. This gave parents and students the opportunity to see what we do for our students at our school. The evening was educational and well presented. It was fantastic to see all the amazing clubs the school has to offer our students. Extra-curricular is so important for students to get involved in. It helps with social interaction and allows them to explore a passion they may not have known they had before. Well done Ms Farr for organising a fantastic evening and thank you to all the teachers that give up their time to enrich our young people.



Environment & Community

By Ms S John

Summer term has been full of events for students, allowing students to participate in a range of activities.

Bee Club was in full swing this term, which had students caring for, learning about and looking after our onsite beehives with the support of Bushwood Bees. Students received the fantastic opportunity of extracting the honey from the beehives!

Now that the weather has brightened up, Gardening Club commenced this term. Our young gardeners have been busy planting and growing a variety of herbs and preparing the allotment for the planting of seasonal winter vegetables next term. Gardening Club takes place on Tuesdays after-school.

This year for earth day we had a visit from the LBR Education and Engagement Team, who spoke to students about environmental events and activities that students can participate in within the local community, such as composting workshops and community litter picks.

For more information on how to get involved please see the LBR main website.



World environment day is an annual event raising awareness of climate change and environmental matters. The theme of this year's environment day on June 5th was 'Plastic pollution'. Students gathered their litter-pickers and went on a community litter pick together to commemorate and show support for the day.

World ocean day: Thank you to all who donated cakes for our bake sale. Events like these are important in helping to raise awareness. Together we raised just over £100, which has been donated to the Sealife Trust and put towards their marine conservation work.

Parent/carers eco survey: [HERE](#)

House News

By Ms Gleeson, House Co-ordinator

House Assembly

After Easter we had our House assemblies which looked back over the year at all of the events we have put in place to raise money for our charities. We reflected on our inspirational people and the charities we work so hard for. It's been a fantastic year for House and the assembly reinforced the positive work that has been done.



Money Raised So Far

Non-Uniform Day

Red House	£113.80
Yellow House	£197.90
Blue House	£196.20
Green House	£ 74.35
Purple House	£173.11

Winners!

Wear A Hat £331.36
Syria Earthquake Appeal £79

Total Per House

Blue House	£675.51
Red House	£570.40
Green House	£512.62
Purple House	£663.98
Yellow House	£653.00

Overall Winners!

Total: £3075.51

Non-Uniform Day

To celebrate the last day of term and to help fundraise further we are having a non-uniform day on Thursday 20th July. Let's see what House will raise the most money this time for their House charity.

The Sixth Form students are also involved in non-uniform day, but they are raising money for Mind, a charity that supports mental health. This is being led by sixth former Tegan H (a former House Captain.) If you would like to be involved in any of Tegan's money raising plans for Mind please contact Ms Gleeson or Ms Gold. <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

School Diversity Week

House provided extra refreshments to help in raising money for Just Like Us during the School Diversity fayre, a charity the Beyond Excellence Team supported during School Diversity Week. The week was full of events and celebration about why it is important to celebrate our diverse school.

House Captain Retirement

This year I have had some wonderful House Captains who have been fantastic, passionate students. But they must retire now and focus on their next adventures in student responsibilities and preparing for GCSEs. So, I just wanted to say thank you House Captains, you have been amazing!

New House Captains

Congratulations to the successful House Captains! These students applied earlier in the term. Their applications were all fantastic and I am looking forward to working with each of them. They have started off with such enthusiasm, helping with wider BET events as well as preparing for Woodbridge's Got Talent, where they sold refreshments, the Woodbridge Community Cook book and Woodbridge Honey and helped out backstage.

Woodbridge's Got Talent

What a night! Our students really did show everyone how talented they all are. The night was filled with dancing, singing, martial arts, musical theatre and much more. The charities also attended and said what a fantastic night they had. The students who took part and helped out should be proud of themselves. A truly fantastic night!



Charities

For more information on our wonderful charities please see their websites below:

Purple House

<https://www.havenhouse.org.uk/>

Yellow House

<https://www.elhap.org.uk/>

Red House

<https://www.honeypot.org.uk/>

Green House

<https://www.lennoxccf.org.uk/>

Blue House

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

Form Inspirational Person

The forms' inspirational people for next year are currently in the process of being decided by the students. Students were sent a google form with a choice of inspirational people they would like to represent their house. They will learn about this person in assemblies next year. The choices have been suggested by all the form tutors, and include inspirational people such as Emma Watson, Lizzo and Harry Styles. But the students get the final decision! So, look out on social media to see the final reveal!

Donations/Cookbook

If you would like to donate please contact rgleeson@woodbridgehigh.co.uk.

If you would like to purchase the Woodbridge Community Cookbook, for only £5, you can do this via cash/cheque (payable to Woodbridge High School) and hand it in to the Finance Office in the Wynndale building, where the cookbooks will be distributed.

Our preferred method of payment is 'online'. All parents have recently received an email detailing how to make payments online. Should you require another copy of this letter and your unique pupil link code, please contact kjandu@woodbridgehigh.co.uk. For those registered, simply go to scopay.com using your registered account and password. You can also pick up a copy at Mallards reception. Please email rgleeson@woodbridgehigh.co.uk to reserve a copy to pick up. The Woodbridge community cookbook is £5.

The Woodbridge
Community Cookbook
is
ONLY £5!



WOODBIDGE *Sports*

By Mrs S Payne

The PE department have had a very busy Summer term which has included two unforgettable residential trips, athletics competitions that students were very successful in, a week-long celebration for National School Sports Week, our annual swimming gala and Year 6 students visiting to participate in Girls' Football and Netball.

The PE department would like to take the opportunity to say a big well done to all of the students who have been involved in extra-curricular activities this term, and a huge thank you to parents who have supported. We are really looking forward to what next academic year brings!

Ski Trip

The PE staff (plus Mr O'Brien, Mr Nagra, Mr Kelly, Miss O'Callaghan and Miss Thompson) met at Woodbridge High School at 3am on Saturday 8th April. 15 staff and 119 students boarded three coaches, filled one plane (apart from 4 very lucky families) and made their way to Les Menuires for a week on the slopes! The week was full of unforgettable experiences for all. It was amazing to see how much progress everyone made whilst learning to ski.



Students were woken up very early each morning to have a two hour ski lesson, then a break for lunch which was followed by another two hour ski lesson. Students then had the opportunity to return to their rooms, shower and have a short rest ready for dinner and evening activities. Mr Clifton and Ms Moore did an excellent job organising the trip which has been in the making for three whole years! Thank you so much for everything you did to make this trip possible.

Orlando Trip

At 6.15am on the first Sunday of half term, 7 members of the PE department plus Miss Thompson met 75 students at Woodbridge High School, ready to begin their journey to Orlando. Five football teams ventured out to play Orlando City Academy teams and had their work cut out! Playing in the burning sun and heat of 30+ degrees was hard work. Each team played two games in total and had the opportunity to receive training from an Orlando City Coach.



Match results:

Game 1

Year 8 boys - Lost 4-2
Year 8/9 boys - Won 2-1
Year 9/10 boys - Lost 6-5
Year 10 boys - Won 5-1
Girls - Lost 2-1

Game 2:

Year 8 boys - Drew 0-0
Year 8/9 boys - Lost 4-0
Year 9/10 boys - Lost 3-1
Year 10 boys - Drew 2-2
Girls - Lost 6-1

When students weren't playing football, they were having lots of fun upside down on rollercoasters in Busch Gardens, being dropped through the floor on an 80ft long water slide, spending money in outlet shopping villages, eating and browsing in Disney Springs, cheering at a baseball game, experiencing Planet Hollywood or enjoying downtime in the hotel pool. Overall, the trip was a huge success. Thank you to Mr Mahoney who made this experience unforgettable for all students and staff involved.



Sponsorship: We were incredibly lucky to receive sponsorships and contributions from a range of companies and individuals. These allowed students to wear with pride their fluorescent orange/red track tops. The companies and individuals that have made this possible are:

StowBrothers: The owners of the estate agents are local brothers and want to support initiatives such as ours at Woodbridge.

SprayWorks: A car body and scratch repair centre based near Limehouse station.

Mr Conradie: A parent of a current student made a very generous contribution.

Toga Hire, Mr & Mrs Breen: A family run tool and equipment hire centre.

We are extremely grateful to them for their contributions. Thank you!

District Athletics

Once a year, all schools from Redbridge take their best athletes to Ashton Athletics track to compete in District Athletics. This is a huge event in the sporting calendar for Woodbridge High School. As always, Woodbridge students did us proud - they behaved perfectly, were polite, tried hard and brought home some medals!

Year 7 & 8

Emmanuel O – Y7 1500m – 2nd

Amani C – Y7 Discus – 3rd

Isla B – Y7 1500m 2nd + HJ 2nd

Aaron G – Y8 2ND 200m

Mason B- Y7 – 3rd Javelin

Lizzie S - Y8 300m 3rd

Y8 Boys 4 x 100 Relay – 3rd

Callum C – Y8 1st 200m – 2nd High Jump

William S – Y8 1st Javelin

Year 9 & 10

Year 9 Boys 200m Silver - Ayman S

Year 9 Boys 800m Silver - Luke B

Year 10 Boys 200m Gold - Ben M

Year 10 Boys 1500m Bronze - Oliver C

Year 10 Boys High Jump Gold - Saimonas R

Year 10 Boys Javelin Gold - Oliver C

Year 10 Girls 800m Silver - Mae L

Year 10 Girls Shot Putt Gold - Nielle B



National School Sports Week

From Monday 19th – Sunday 25th June it was National School Sports Week. During this week, there was a real buzz around the PE department as we celebrated the week. We kicked off the week by raising the awareness of why physical activity is important for children and adults and the many benefits it can have. Students had the opportunity to take part in lunch time activities such as yoga, pilates, just dance, badminton, basketball, dodgeball, bench ball and futsal. Our lunchtime activities saw more than 200 students swap their school shoes for a pair of trainers so that they could take part in physical activity! The highlight has to be seeing our ex-student, Jamie Brooker return to Woodbridge as the now U19's England captain for Futsal and lead some excellent sessions!



Bubble Football - 100 students participated in Bubble Football throughout the week after school and had an excellent time! Students thoroughly enjoyed wearing huge inflatable bubbles and taking the opportunity to charge at their friends (and at times teachers) in the bid to send them flying! All at the same time as playing their favourite sport. It was hot, sweaty and loads of fun!



Golf - Students went to Hainault Golf driving Range to have a go at golf. Some had played before and some had never hit a ball. Everyone had an excellent time. Students got to try something new which is what this week is all about!

Staff v Students Netball - Every year, students ask the same question; "when can we play the teachers"? The teachers came out in force this year to play (and beat) Year 9 and 10 students on the Monday and on the Wednesday to play (and beat) Year 7 and 8 students. Thank you to everyone who was involved. Playing these two Netball games was so much fun for all. The first thing that staff said was how we should do it much more often so watch this space....



London Pulse Netball Trip

20 students were taken to the London Copperbox at Stratford to watch the London Pulse Netball team play the Saracens Mavericks in June. It was a lovely opportunity for some of our Netball team to watch professional sport and enjoy the atmosphere. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all staff and students.



Year 6 Girls Football and Netball

This term, we welcomed Year 6 students who will be joining us next year to the PE department to showcase their skills. On the first day we had 16 young female footballers train with Miss Sanderson and Tottenham (COYS) coaches. On the second day we had 25 netballers who demonstrated some excellent skills during training and games with Miss Jamieson. The PE department are looking forward to the exciting prospect of future teams next year!

Swimming Gala

Mr Gillard took a number of students to the District Swimming Gala where Woodbridge had the opportunity to compete against other schools. There were lots of medals won by the whole squad. We had some competitive swimmers show off all the hard work they put into training at their clubs but also several strong performances from some students debuting in their first ever swimming competition. District champions and gold medal winners included:

Year 9 boys

Liam B – backstroke

Medley relay

Freestyle relay

Year 10 boys

Finn D – fly

Freestyle relay

Year 9 girls

Kaila S



Duke of Edinburgh

Miss Tabb and Miss Sanderson have spent a large majority of their time during this Summer term taking students on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Thank you to these two amazing PE teachers and Beyond Excellence Team members who have made this possible for students.



Gold:

Year 12 students completed their Gold Award in the Brecon Beacons for 4 nights. Students completed lots of walking, map work and learning important survival skills. They arrived in the pouring rain and had to battle putting up their tents in adverse conditions, but there were moments of sunshine.

Silver:

The Silver expedition lasts for 2 nights. A smaller group of 18, who due to covid/ fuel costs/ broken mini buses, were yet to complete their award attended this expedition.

This is our first cohort who have completed Bronze through to Gold which is a fantastic experience. Students behaved exceptionally well and demonstrated excellent skills that they have learnt throughout the years.

Year 10 Bronze:

One hundred students have completed their Bronze award this year! We have witnessed students put all their training into practice and navigate their way from school to Abridge and back in 24 hours. We witnessed some fantastic teamwork, map reading skills and determination and really got to see students thrive outside the classroom. The joy on their

face when they see us at a checkpoint is priceless; if only they felt that way when they see us in school.

Donation Plea

We are in desperate need of the following:

- Sleeping bags (3 seasons)
- Rucksacks (60L plus)
- Waterproof jackets/ trousers
- Walking boots (must go above ankle)
- Hats/ gloves
- Small blankets
- Micro fleeces (not hoodies)
- Roll mats
- Camping cutlery

Please email Ms Tabb if you are able to help.

Year 11 Boys Football Team: Champions

Year 11s won 3-0 vs Trinity in the Redbridge Cup Final and are therefore the Redbridge Champions!

After a very tough start, where the team was not performing to their full capabilities, we got lucky with an own goal to lead 1-0 just before half time. The second half was a much better performance, with some lovely football being played. James C got the ball on the left hand side, and beat his man to then cut the ball back to James W, who tucked it away. We were then awarded a penalty, which Paris B had the honours to take to try to extend our lead. He shot to the keeper's right but it was well saved. The best goal was saved to last. Theo H had the ball on the right side, beating two players with skill and trickery to then smash a low shot into the goal!

This makes it back-to-back wins for Redbridge Cups and a total of 3 trophies in their 5 years at Woodbridge.

Year 7 Boys Football Team: Champions

Year 7s won 2-0 vs King Solomon in the Redbridge Cup Final and are therefore the Redbridge Champions!

Woodbridge dominated the ball early in the game and made the most of it when Alex B played the ball into the box from a free kick and Laith G bravely jumped up higher than the King Solomon goal keeper to win the header and make it 1-0. For the rest of the half Woodbridge continued to play the better football, making some good chances but just failed to capitalise.

In the second half King Solomon had a bit more of the ball, and the defence of Stanley, Alex and Harry did a great job to limit the chances given away. With 10 minutes to go, Jacob picked up the ball in the midfield and quickly played the ball out wide. The ball was played across the box and Laith was there again to smash the ball in from 6 yards out.

A really strong performance that meant the year 7s truly deserved to win their first trophy at Woodbridge.



Year 9 & 10 Girls Football Team: Champions

WHS had a very rocky first 20 minutes of the final with Kingston applying pressure from the

beginning of the match. They were able to break through our defence several times, testing our keeper, but just couldn't manage to get a goal in! Sambani was making excellent runs at their defence as a counter attack!

The girls managed to keep a clean sheet and make it to half time at 0-0.

We started the second half with a lot of attacking and keeping Kingston in their own half. Grace B broke the deadlock with a strike from just outside the box, which rocketed into the top corner of Kingston's goal. Kingston reacted to the goal by adding pressure to Woodbridge's back line and managing to find a way through our defence to equalise (1-1). This didn't deter WHS girls. This gave them the drive to push back and complete the game plan they had. Winning a corner, Rouguy quickly reacted to a deflection, making it 2-1 to WHS. WHS kept applying the pressure to a tiring Kingston, with Mae dominating the midfield to finally find the back of the net, making it 3-1.



However, Kingston kept trying to fight back and apply the pressure throughout the game, but this was no challenge for our defence, with Magda and Amiera working well together to keep their striker out of the goal!





ATTENDANCE MATTERS

By Mrs W Smith

Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

As another school year ends, I am very pleased to report that overall absence has reduced, and attendance continues on an upward trajectory.

All evidence continues to demonstrate that students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school achieve the best GCSE and A Level results. Every day in school counts, days missed add up very quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term will lose 15 hours of learning. Research shows most of the work they miss is never made up, which can lead to gaps in learning/knowledge.

The Department for Education state that improving attendance is a collective responsibility and remains everyone's business. The barriers to accessing education can be wide and complex; we are here to help if you are experiencing problems with your child's attendance.

At Woodbridge, we respect and value home/school partnership. With this in mind, high level communication is standard practice for The Family Support Team. Parent/carers are informed about matters relating to

attendance and all other safeguarding concerns. We know for sure that home/school partnership is the number one factor in securing better outcomes for students. Please seek support, help or advice when needed. We are here for you. Parenting can certainly become challenging at times.

Please be mindful, the law remains clear; all parents have a legal duty to ensure that their child receives an education. Failure to do so can result in court action. We understand that at times this can be challenging and cause stress in the home. We are available to support.

As we look forward to the Autumn term, identifying goals with your child/ren prior to the start of the new school year is a positive action to take. Improving attendance and reducing absence may be one of the goals for your family. Consistent attendance builds resilience and reduces anxiety because students are not missing vital learning or pastoral support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can assist in any way.



*Wishing all of Team Woodbridge and
their families a wonderful
Summer break!*



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