



WOODBRIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER: SPRING TERM



Inside This Issue:

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World Book Day
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Sports

and more.....

INCLUSION

KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Every time I get to the end of a term, tired and just a little frazzled, I look back in wonder about everything that we have packed in! This term has been no different, as you will see from the newsletter. No wonder those staff working in schools need the holidays so much! As a Headteacher, I often say to students that those who are busy are likely to be successful. Getting involved in anything and everything is a big indicator for me that a young person will be able to navigate life's challenges, whatever they may be. The students you see featured in these pages are those who have put themselves forward for every opportunity there is. They are leading fulfilled and happy school lives. I feel certain that we will see how that will pay off in just a few years' time!

At the Achievement Evenings this week, I have spoken to our students about how they are the future of our society. They are the messages we will send to a future that us adults will never see. It is our duty and our privilege to equip them well to lead our society to a much better place. Tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today, as Malcolm X famously said, and today's children will need the passport of their education – in its widest sense – to get them there.

And so this term we have done our best to keep the students busy, to educate them in the wonders of the world and provide them with every chance to succeed and grow as people and future leaders. Students have been getting involved in World Book Day celebrations, winning prestigious local and national competitions in sports such as orienteering and cycling, as well as being crowned Jack Petchey Speak Out champion! They have celebrated the diversity of our school through faith and culture activities, getting involved in British Science Week, and listening to acclaimed speakers from so many walks of life. Woodbridge wouldn't be Woodbridge without the work to raise money for our House Charities, as well as for Care4Calais with whom we have a long-standing relationship. Sports clubs have thrived as always, and staff have taken trips abroad to France, Germany, Spain and Uzbekistan (for Russian) in just the last few weeks. And who could forget our jaw-dropping production of Billy Elliot just last week – literally the hottest ticket in Woodford, if not the West End! All of this, and so much more, as you will see in the pages that follow.



So yes – a busy one! Just writing this reminds me how much I love this school, how full of pride we should be about everything that our students do every day. Any Headteacher can write some waffle about how great their school is. It's part of the job. But I challenge them to come to our school and not see how great our students are. Ofsted did, of course, but more importantly, so have all the thousands of parents who want to send their children here. It is our students who achieved that --- with their energy, enthusiasm and drive to be successful. They are superstars, every one.

It just remains for me to wish everyone in our community best wishes for the holidays. Whether you are celebrating Easter, Eid, Vaisakhi or Passover in the coming weeks, or simply spending important time with family and friends, I send the very best to all of you. Team Woodbridge is the best team there is. Have a good holiday, all.

Mr S Hogan



Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

MEET REGIONAL WINNER, MARIA G

Maria G of Woodbridge High School, recently emerged as the winner at the Redbridge Regional Final of Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge.

By Ms R Prasher
English Department

Maria, in Year 10, recently emerged as the winner at the Redbridge Regional Final of Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge. This event, the largest public speaking programme in England, is managed and delivered by Speakers Trust, the UK's leading public speaking charity. It is supported and funded by the Jack Petchey Foundation.

The aim of the Speak Out Challenge is to amplify the voices of young people. It does this by building confidence, developing skills, and creating platforms for young people to share their stories and ideas. This empowers not only the individuals themselves but also their peers. The programme champions effective, positive communication for use in education, employability and social change. The Speak Out Challenge provides free communication skills training to Year 10 students in every state school in London and Essex. Through its workshops, it empowers over 30,000 young people each year.

Maria's winning speech was titled "Life is like a piano". The key message of the speech was that life, like a piano, requires both good and bad experiences to create a meaningful and rich melody. Maria urged the audience to value and learn from their negative experiences as they define and enhance the positive ones. She exuded confidence as she delivered her speech and despite being the last one to ascend the stage, she placed first as the winner of the competition!

Maria expressed gratitude for the experience, saying, "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to voice everything that's left unsaid in society. It was a chance to speak passionately about important subjects." This victory is a testament to Maria's communication skills and the effectiveness of the Speak Out Challenge in nurturing young talent.

She now moves into the next round of the competition and we are excited to see what she can do.



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By Mrs D Miah
Careers Coordinator

Over the past term we have celebrated a number of career events in order to help educate our students in the different pathways and opportunities available to them.

CAREER EXPLORATION EVENT

At the end of January, Year 9 took part in a Career Exploration Event where they had the opportunity to speak to a range of professionals from all different backgrounds and career pathways to help them understand how subjects link to different careers. Each professional had an interactive task to immerse students in that particular career and give them a chance to practise and develop different employment skills.



Career Exploration Day



Acting Workshop

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Most recently, as a school we joined in with National Careers Week. Throughout the week students had subject specific lessons in each different department which linked that particular subject to future careers.

The idea was to give our students maximum exposure to the widest range of different careers so that they are well informed to make future decisions. Each year group had a careers assembly in which we shared an overview of our careers provision and what opportunities were available to different year groups.

As part of enhancing careers education we have increased the number of trips that we offer. During careers week we went to Snaresbrook Crown Court where we had a question and answer session with a judge, followed by a morning observing different cases being held in court. We also ran a trip for Year 9 girls to London City Airport, which focused specifically on getting women into Aviation.



Court Visit

Throughout careers week we put on a number of careers workshops which ranged from developing interview skills, CV writing and acting for screen to careers talks with external professionals, which was greatly enjoyed by students.

Finally, in order to support students with their ongoing career exploration we have rolled out Unifrog across all year groups. Unifrog is a universal destinations platform and has a wealth of information on all education pathways and local institutes, a huge careers library and psychometric testing to help students narrow down options for them. Please encourage students to log on to Unifrog and explore!



NCW - Publisher Visit

*Many thanks for your ongoing support
with all things careers related.*



Team Woodbridge are on a mission to raise £10,000 for Great Western Air Ambulance in memory of Moyra Whelan, a Woodbridge legend.

On September 15th 2024, thirteen members of Woodbridge staff will be undertaking the London to Brighton cycle in memory of our beloved colleague, teacher and friend. The London to Brighton Cycle Ride is an iconic 55 mile cycle ride starting from Clapham Common to Brighton.

For more information please go to the JustGiving link [HERE](#).

Check out our Music Instagram page for updates!

On average an air ambulance can reach someone in urgent need within 15 minutes. Anyone, anywhere in the UK can become a patient at any time, and your funds will help.




JustGiving®



Woodbridge Drama and Music

BILLY ELLIOT



Woodbridge Drama and Music put on a spectacular, tear-jerking production of Billy Elliot!

By Juliette L (played Billy Elliot)

I absolutely loved performing in Billy Elliot this year. I was so lucky to have the opportunity to be in a show as amazing as this one was.

I think what made it so good was not only the actors and actresses, but the incredible Drama and Music teachers. They helped me and everyone else make this the show that it was, while making it such a fun and wonderful experience.

After the last performance, I felt so sad that it was over, however I was just as proud and happy that I had done it. To anyone who has never been in a Woodbridge production, you should definitely consider taking part in it next year and all the other years to come!

BILLY ELLIOT



BILLY ELLIOT





*By Ms R Prasher
English Department*

On the week beginning the 4th of March, we participated in a variety of World Book Day themed activities like dress the door, a story roll competition and the teachers even dressed up as their favourite book characters on the 7th of March!

World Book Day celebrates the love of reading and ties perfectly with the school's aim for promoting literacy.

It was great to see not only the teachers dressed up (Mr Hogan as Willy Wonka, Ms Oliver as The Woman in Black and even, the whole of Business department presenting us with The Great Gatsby characters) but also the students guessing who everyone was. Some students even wrote down what books the characters were from in efforts to read them later.

It was another successful celebration of World Book Day and I can't wait to see what next year brings!

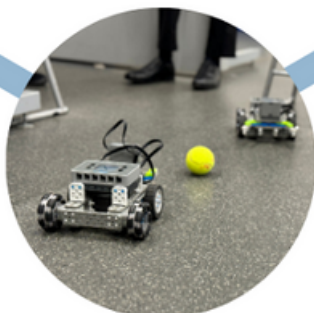
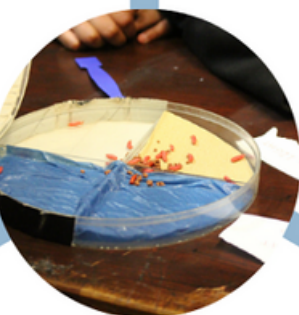


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



**This year it took place between
8 - 17 March 2024!**

**British Science Week is a ten-
day celebration of science,
technology, engineering and
maths.**



***By Mr M Williams
Head of Science***

The theme for British Science Week this year was 'Smashing Stereotypes'. As well as all the lunchtime activities, students in Y7 and Y8 were introduced to a collection of stories over the week from individuals that challenge long-standing stereotypes. The aim was to encourage more young people from all backgrounds to see themselves as Scientists.

Sessions during British Science Week!

- Explosive Kitchen Science with Ms Tapper
- Microscopes and Maggots with Ms Sajeev
- Explosive Chemistry with Mr Esop
- Robotics with Mr Peethamparam

Emma Grede

From Woodbridge High School to one of America's Richest Self-Made Women, according to Forbes.



Business & Economics Students with Emma Grede

By Ms C Jaeggi
Head Of Business & Economics

Year 12 and Year 13 Business & Economics students were very excited to welcome ex-WHS student and serial global entrepreneur Emma Grede back to the school on Thursday 8th February.

Emma, who was born and raised in the UK (originally from Plaistow and then attended WHS until age 16) is now based in LA, and was back here in London to appear on BBC One's Dragon's Den as a guest "Dragon".

Emma's career involves significant involvement in some of the globe's most successful lifestyle and fashion brands including Skims, Good American and Safely, and she has recently been named as one of America's Richest Self-Made Women and America's Richest Self-Made Women Under 40 by Forbes.

We are so grateful that she made the time to stop by to share her personal journey as well as some of these inspirational business and entrepreneurial tips . . . some of our students share their biggest takeaways from her talk.

“

“There were days when I wanted to give up, but my work experience, determination and persistence didn't allow me to.” Everyone has good and bad days, days when you feel on top of the world and when you want to give up, which resonates with me as well. During her talk, Emma made it clear that everyone who wants to become successful has to go through bad days, even weeks and this resonates with me as when I want to achieve something not easily achievable, I do have to be psychologically strong.

Adriana, Year 13 Vocational Business student



“*“If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” Learn as much as you can about what you want to do so that you can become skilled in that profession. Only invest if you have disposable money that you want to risk, if you understand the market of what you are investing in or if the person you are investing in is passionate and has an inspirational story.*

Gabrielius
Year 12 Business & Economics student



“*She really gave good tips to us students doing business for GCSE. Her quotes gave us motivation to work harder and pursue our goal in life, to become a great, smart, wonderful woman like her when we grow up. I also listened to her advice that you can create or start a business on your own independently. The biggest advice given by Emma during her talk was to always remind yourself that kindness comes back to you one day if you carry on being the person you are.*

Elanur, Year 9 Business student



“*The best advice I can give to you is to be kind. Be kind to everyone. It always comes back to you.*

“*Hands down the best part of my week in London was visiting my high school 26 years after I left!!! Going back, walking those halls and seeing my old classrooms and teachers was S0000000 emotional. Being an undiagnosed dyslexic at the time, I didn't have the easiest time in school but I realized something I never knew last week, which was how much the spirit of Woodbridge High School had a hugely positive effect on me. The school motto was and still is "Pride In Achievement". It was sewn into the badge on our uniforms but they taught me that could be any level of achievement, so long as I was putting the work in.*

A common theme in Emma's talk was the very clear message that being kind will pay off in the future . . . how perfect that this is still one of our Woodbridge values.

Extra-Curricular **ACTIVITIES**

By Mrs S Payne

Extra-curricular activities are an integral part of the life of students at Woodbridge High School. We have a whole host of clubs that run before school, at lunch time and after school. A small example of our clubs are; Athletics, Bee Club, Cooking Club, Dungeons and Dragons Club, First Aid workshops, Football, Music and Drama clubs, plus many more!

At Woodbridge, we would like every single student to be involved in an extra-curricular activity. There are many benefits to being involved in activities outside of the classroom, such as;

- Meeting new friends
- Learning new skills
- Well-being benefits
- Feeling part of a community

The Beyond Excellence Team (BET) would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Woodbridge community who generously donated money towards our extra-curricular activities at school earlier this year. In total, we raised just over £4000!

Many schools are struggling with a lack of funding from the Government and are unable to run extra-curricular clubs and activities for students. A high number of schools are beginning to charge students for participating in these types of activities. Woodbridge takes pride that ALL clubs are free of charge and all students are welcome to attend. The funds that we raised has enabled us to ensure that high quality activities outside of the classroom continue for this academic year and staff have been able to purchase additional equipment to make extra curricular activities even more amazing.



The equipment and resources purchased in the 2023/2024 academic year:

- Library - £400 for Author Visits
- Health and Social Care - £225 for First Aid Awareness Course (Key Stage 3 and 5)
- PE - £225 for First Aid Awareness Course (Key Stage 5)
- PE - £220 for Football club
- PE - £405 for Basketball club
- PE - £500 for Penathlon club
- Music - £500 for a brand new PA system
- Bee club - £60 for resources
- Dungeons and Dragons - £150 for Gameplay mat and miniatures / paint supplies
- Art - £40 for a Tie Dye kit
- Maths - £100 for games and puzzles
- Science - £425.99 for a Robotics Project

Once again, a huge thank you for your support from the Beyond Excellence Team and Woodbridge High School!

Faith & Culture

Celebrating Our Term's Cultural Highlights



*By Mrs R Begum
Faith and Culture Coordinator*

Faith & Culture Committee Running Lent And Ramadan Assemblies

As we reflect on the past term, it's nice to see the journey, embracing diversity at every turn. Let's take a look back at some of the standout moments that have made this term memorable.

Synagogue Trip to St. John's Wood

Our visit to St. John's Wood Synagogue was not only fascinating but also incredibly informative. Exploring the historic building, chatting with members of the congregation and the tour guide, and admiring the beautiful architecture provided us with a deeper understanding of Jewish culture and community.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day, we took a moment to honour the lives lost during the Holocaust. Through respectful ceremonies and personal reflections, we paid tribute to history's lessons and renewed our commitment to tolerance and understanding.

Coming together for a candlelit evening was a simple yet powerful gesture of unity. As we lit candles and shared stories in class, we found strength in our connections and a sense of hope for the future.

One particularly poignant moment during Holocaust Memorial Day events was the opportunity to speak with a Holocaust survivor. Hearing first-hand accounts of their experiences reminded us of the importance of bearing witness to history and the enduring need for compassion and understanding.

Lantern Making for Chinese New Year

Our Faith and Culture Committee organised a fun lantern-making event for Chinese New Year. Crafting lanterns and exchanging money (chocolate coins!) and messages of friendship allowed us to appreciate the beauty of cultural diversity in a hands-on way.



Chinese New Year Celebrations

Assembly on Lent and Ramadan

Members from our Committee courageously presented an assembly to Year 10 and 11 on Lent and Ramadan, discussing their cultural and spiritual significance. Through informative conversations, we explored the importance of these observances, fostering understanding and respect among our peers in a thoughtful exchange.

Upcoming St. Paul's Cathedral Trip

Looking ahead, we're excited for our trip to St. Paul's Cathedral. Open to members of the Committee and the Religious Studies GCSE class, it promises to be another enlightening experience where we can explore different aspects of cultural heritage and spirituality.

Festival of Faiths

In a celebration of diversity and unity, we will organise and host 'Festival of Faiths', inviting members from all religious societies and humanist groups to come together for a day of reflection and connection.

This event will provide a platform for sharing traditions, exchanging ideas and fostering mutual respect among different faith communities. Through interactive workshops, cultural performances and open dialogue sessions, everyone involved will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of various religious and spiritual practices while celebrating the common values that unite us all.



These moments have brought us closer together, expanding our understanding and strengthening our bonds as a school community. Let's keep moving forward with open hearts, embracing our differences and cherishing the beauty they bring to our lives. As we look ahead, we're excited for what the future holds, knowing that it's filled with opportunities to learn, grow and celebrate together.

MFL Department

Limoges Trip

By Ms S Hall, MFL Department

In January Ms Hall and Mrs Bemath took a group of Year 13 French students to Limoges. On arrival in France, the trip began with a visit to the local supermarket. Having prepared their shopping list, the students bought all the ingredients needed for an evening feast. We settled into the accommodation, a traditional French farmhouse, and went to the local village for a coffee, before returning to the gite to settle in for the stay.

The next day, the students walked to the local bakery to collect pastries for breakfast before heading to the market in the local town of St Junien. They tried local cheeses and bought souvenirs before going to their first lesson at the Little Language School, where teacher Louisa gave a fascinating lesson on the history of La Résistance in France and the local area.

After lunch, we headed to the city of Limoges to visit the Resistance museum, explore the city and do some shopping. The evening was spent at a very fun Resistance-themed escape room and delicious dinner in a nearby restaurant.

The second day started again with pastries and coffee, followed by another excellent lesson from Louisa. This time students learnt about the Massacre at Oradour-sur-Glane, a nearby village. The lesson provided a fantastic basis for the visit in the afternoon to the memorial site and visitors' centre. It was a very moving and thought-provoking experience.

On the final day we were lucky enough to be invited to spend the day in a local Sixth Form college, where the students took part in lessons, met the French students and had a traditional French school dinner! After a final coffee and final walk around the town, we set off for the airport. It was a real pleasure to take such well-behaved and enthusiastic students to France!



*Y13 French Students in
Limoges*

MFL Department

british Film Institute

By Mrs S Turner, MFL Department

A group of Year 10 students attended a study day at the British Film Institute.

Conducted mainly in German, the interactive study day included short films to explore the themes of identity and culture, introduced students to new vocabulary and provided them with opportunities to practice their listening, speaking and writing skills.

Not only is the topic 'media' part of the GCSE curriculum, but the study day also gave students the opportunity to experience what it might be like to take their German language studies beyond their GCSEs, as MFL students do study a film as part of the A-Level syllabus.



Year 10 students at BFI



By Miss J Mitchell

This term we have seen the students partaking in the Duke of Edinburgh Award in all three levels begin their training for their expeditions, which will soon be upon us. We have a large number of students involved this year, which is amazing. The students continue to prepare for their expeditions in the following term.



Mr Hogan awarding students DofE certificates

We have had even more students who were working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze or Silver award last year complete this and gain the full award – many congratulations to all involved! The hard work that the students have put in to the award has now been rewarded by having a morning of celebration, where they were presented with their awards by Mr Hogan.

A big congratulations to Olivia who received her Gold Award at the palace.



Olivia at the palace

House News

By Ms Gleeson, House Co-ordinator

House Charity Assemblies

Before the February half term our House charities delivered inspiring assemblies, aimed at giving students an understanding of the importance of their charitable work and donations. The charities gave an insight into how they help young people they are trying to support and their families.

Non-Uniform Day

The House captains got off to a great start with their first treat shop. These take place alternating lunchtimes every fortnight on a Friday

PTA Quiz Night

House captains were busy at the PTA Quiz Night selling all sorts of goodies to our quizzers. We raised £230 from this night. Thank you to all who came and supported this event.



PTA Quiz Night With Our Quiz Master Pank!

Billy Elliot

House provided all the refreshments for the Billy Elliot performance which took place in the RPT. Snacks and drinks were provided. Thank you to all who came to the show and supported our House charities and our talented students in the show.

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 GCSE's. So, I just wanted to say thank you House captains, you have been amazing.



House Captains

Woodbridge Community Cookbook

This cookbook was created to bring our community together to help raise money for our five House charities; Haven House, Lennox, Boxing4life, Clowns in the Sky and ELHAP. All the profit made will be equally distributed between the five Houses. You can still purchase the Woodbridge Community Cookbook by either bringing in £5 cash to the Finance Office in Wynndale or using the online system, 'Scopay'.

Funds Raised

Christmas Event:

Green House	£273.66
Blue House	£239.18
Red House	£214.50
Purple House	£254.50
Yellow House	£246.46
TOTAL	£1,228.30

February Event:

Green House	£218.61
Blue House	£217.85
Red House	£165.10
Purple House	£191.55
Yellow House	£205.19
TOTAL	£998.30

Coming soon...

Woodbridge's Got Talent

Sports Day House Face Paint

Pie The Teacher



FIRST AID TRAINING

By Ms L Griffiths

Health & Social Care

On 14th March, the Year 9 Early Option students and Year 12 Levels 2 and 3 Health and Social Care students took part in practical First Aid training sessions provided by Sam from 'First Aid Schools'. The sessions were designed to support the Health and Social Care curriculum, but also to give the young people confidence in using practical skills should they come across a first aid emergency in their every day lives.

The sessions covered how to recognise a first aid emergency, how to call for help, and how to carry out procedures to deal with choking, severe bleeding, unconsciousness, fainting and also how to give CPR and use a defibrillator.

The students had a really great time in the sessions. They had fun but also learned life saving skills.

Sam has been a regular visitor to Woodbridge over the last few years. He has been able to devise and adapt sessions to meet the requirements of many groups of students, and we look forward to working with him again very soon.



Education Through the Lens of Intersectionality

By Ms K McNamee-Obi

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Co-ordinator

In a world of diverse identities, experiences and inequalities, the concept of intersectionality has emerged as a crucial framework for understanding the complexities of social dynamics. The term, coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, highlights the interconnected nature of social constructs such as race, gender, class, sexuality, ability, and more, and how they intersect to shape individuals' experiences and opportunities within society.

This half term, A sip of EqualiTea focused attention on the book "Natives: Race and Class in the Ruins of Empire" by Akala. Exploring the book through the lens of intersectionality provided a profound understanding of how the social constructs do shape individuals' experiences and opportunities within society, highlighting how these intersecting identities contribute to systemic inequalities and shape individuals' lived experiences.



From a teaching perspective, recognising that the nature of identity is fluid and multifaceted challenges this simplistic narrative we sometimes hold on identity and belonging, especially in the classroom. Therefore, understanding how race and class intersect with other social identities such as gender, nationality, ability and education, is crucial because otherwise we run the risk of compounding the disadvantages experienced by certain groups.

With this in mind, student members of the Diversity, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) committee, led the year 7-11 group assemblies on Intersectionality to help educate and raise awareness on its importance. Education through the lens of intersectionality offers a nuanced understanding of how various social identities intersect and shape individuals' experiences within educational settings as well as in the wider community. This perspective recognises that students do not exist in isolation but are influenced by intersecting factors such as race, gender, class, sexuality, ability, and more. By examining education through an intersectional lens, we can better address the diverse needs of students, challenge systemic inequalities, and promote inclusivity in educational settings.

The assemblies were aimed at helping each year group understand the many benefits of recognising and understanding intersectionality, including promoting more inclusivity, helping us to move beyond simplistic categorisations and embrace the multifaceted nature of human identity. Thus, allowing inclusivity to become a guiding principle, ensuring that our practices and social structures account for the diverse experiences and needs of all individuals within our school community. Without such recognition, marginalised groups risk being overlooked or underserved, perpetuating inequalities.



For us as educators, intersectionality helps to inform our pedagogical approaches and teaching practices, providing opportunities to adopt culturally responsive teaching strategies that recognise and value the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our students. It provides opportunities for us to incorporate diverse perspectives into classroom discussions, using inclusive language, and provides opportunities for students to critically engage with social justice issues. By embracing intersectionality in teaching, we can create a more inclusive and empowering learning environment that emboldens students to explore their identities and perspectives.

Education through the lens of intersectionality therefore offers a holistic understanding of the complex interactions between various social identities within educational settings. By acknowledging the intersecting factors that shape students' experiences, as teachers we can better address the diverse needs of all students, challenge inequalities and further promote inclusivity in our school. Through adopting culturally responsive teaching practices, education can become a transformative tool for fostering equity, justice, and empowerment for all students.

CARE 4 CALAIS

By Mr S Shaw

Every Friday this term a small group of year 12 volunteers have been running a pop-up coffee/hot-chocolate and cake shop for the refugee organisation Care4Calais. They have also been selling badges and t-shirts with the 'Migration is not a crime' logo and featuring everyone's favourite bear and refugee, Paddington!

All the money raised will continue to support refugees and asylum seekers in our area and in northern France.

If anyone has any donations or wants to better our high standard of baking please contact Mr Shaw [sshaw@woodbridgehigh.co.uk].



Sixth Form students running the Care4Calais pop-up shop

Donations link: <https://care4calais.org/get-involved/collect-donate/>



Congratulations Millie!

Congratulations to Millie who has been offered a place on the US Sutton Trust summer programme. She is one of the 150 students nationally selected for the programme!

This is a double celebration as she has also been offered a place at the University of Oxford summer school programme!

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

By Mrs W Smith

Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW – EVERY SINGLE DAY MATTERS

I know you will feel the same: every second in school counts, and days missed add up extremely quickly. For example, a child in Year 10 who is absent for three days over a half term will miss 15 lessons in total. Research tells us that students who attend for at least 96% are more likely to learn, and more likely to perform better in exams and formal assessments.

Home/School Partnership is a critical ingredient for turning absence into attendance. Please reach out to us, we can provide support. The Family Support Team offer strategic help, advice and sometimes, just a listening ear. We are here for you.

We continue to promote the importance of great attendance throughout the school year, ensuring that parents are notified and kept informed when absence becomes concerning.

Please note, reporting absence is a parent's responsibility, not just on the first day but every day of absence. We have noticed a significant improvement in the reporting of absence. Many of you have been using the e-form on our website to report absences, thank you very much.

At Woodbridge, family support and Education Welfare will always remain high on the agenda. Young people often feel more connected and reassured when they see home and school work together. A shared approach ensures that support does not begin or end at the school gates.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Family Support Team if we can be of any assistance to you.

Student EXAM GUIDE 2024

Whether it's your first time or tenth time, sitting exams can be an anxious time, but a great way to cope is to plan and prepare in advance. See our tips below!

Understand the rules...

- Always follow the instructions issued by your school & the invigilators
- Read the JCQ candidate information for written examinations guide as this will help you prepare for the day
- If you have any questions about the exam process, speak to your teacher or exams officer

Understand your timetable...

- Check times and location for each exam - they can change
- Keep your timetable somewhere safe and take a screenshot

Create a revision schedule...

- Use your timetable as a guide
- Be realistic & plan in breaks
- Use online planners to help you

Start revising....

- Find a revision style that suits you
 - Mind maps
 - Flash cards
 - Quizzes
 - Past papers
- Find a quiet space, free from distractions
- Look after yourself – it's ok to ask for help
- Reward yourself for your hard work with something you enjoy!

Useful Links:

[JCQ Information for candidates](#)
[Childline preparing for exams](#)
[BBC Bitesize](#)
[Studywise](#)

Before the exam starts...

- Pack everything you need the night before and get a good night's rest
- Have breakfast – at home or at school
- Check your travel route – lateness adds to stress
- Call the exams officer if you are going to be absent or late

Remember the rules....

- Watches, mobile phones, ipods & earphones must not be taken in to the exam room
- No revision notes are allowed
- You may use a calculator unless you are told otherwise
- Only take the equipment you need and place in a clear pencil case
- You must only write in black ink

During the exam...

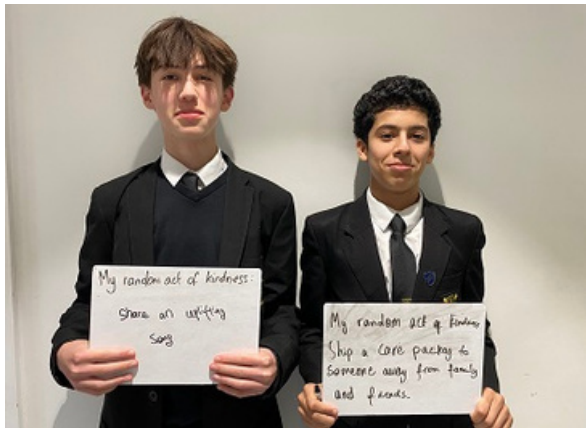
- Listen carefully to all instructions
- You must not talk or communicate with other students once you are in the exam room
- If you have a question, need the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand
- Check your exam paper is the one you are expecting & carefully fill in your details on the front page
- Take time to read the instructions before you begin
- Read each question carefully before answering
- Use the allocated marks as a rough guide on how much time to spend on each answer
- If you can't answer a question, move on and come back to it later
- Allow time to check your answers

You've Got This!

WOODBIDGE *Bites*

Random Acts Of Kindness

Kindness is our core value and so we were delighted to celebrate Random Acts Of Kindness Week by encouraging students to commit to three random acts of kindness.



International Women's Day

Leading up to International Women's Day students attended assemblies on what this day means and its significance. When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.



Masterclass

Our governors have been busy running fantastic masterclasses. Ms Burns ran one on 'How to run a business' and Ms Hallam on 'The Importance Of Film.'

Redbridge Youth MP

Lucie in year 10 ran for Youth MP for Redbridge. We are incredibly proud of Lucie, who worked hard to run a fantastic campaign.



Knife Crime Assembly

Speakers from London Ambulance and Metropolitan Police spoke to our students about knife crime and how important it is to be an upstander in the community.

Drama Workshops

Drama students have attended some fantastic workshops by organisations this term, from beatboxing to character building.



Brilliant Club

Graduates from Brilliant Club took a tour of SOAS University, where they attended workshops and received their certificates.



WOODBIDGE *Bites*

Cooking Workshop

Students attended a cooking workshop, teaching quick, easy, low budget meals preparation. Some great basic tips and knowledge were shared, as students get ready for university life.



PTA Quiz Night

Pank hosted another sell-out Quiz Night! Thanks go to all those who helped to run and support the event!



Visit From Japan

We were delighted to welcome university professors from Japan who came to spend time looking at how Mental Health education in the UK compares to their provision in Japan. This was part of a UCL study.



TfL Talk On Harassment

The London Transport Museum, working alongside TfL, spoke to our students about their initiative Project Guardian. The project aims to combat and increase reporting of sexual harassment on public transport.

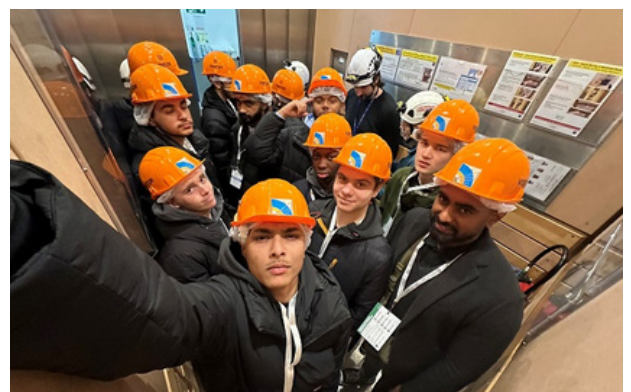
Houses Of Parliament Visit

Year 12 students attended a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a Laws and Debating workshop as part of their Year 12 Debating course.



CERN Trip

A-Level Physicists had a big bang trip to CERN in Geneva. It was an amazing experience to be given a tour of the Hadron Collider and speak to engineers.



Southern orienteering Championships

GCSE PE student, Luke, won the Southern Orienteering Championships! He is now the M16 Southern Champion!

By Luke B

Orienteering is an outdoor sport that involves running whilst navigating to different points (called controls) in a forest using nothing but a map or compass. You don't receive the map until you start your course so doing well relies on you being able to make quick and accurate decisions. Also, unlike a normal race, runners start 1 minute apart to prevent following, as the sport is about navigating on your own.

I started orienteering when I was 6, doing a few local events in Epping Forest and Essex. In 2021, I was invited into the South East Junior Squad and started doing more high level competitions across the country.

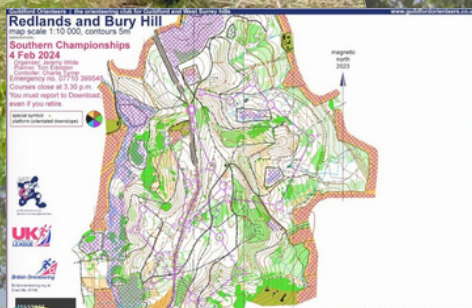
After a successful year in 2023, finishing 2nd in the British Sprint Championships and a 2nd place in the Southern Championships, I was selected for the Great Britain Talent Squad, which consists of intense training camps. The camps plan to develop us into athletes who, in the future, could compete at the World Championships.

The first competitive race of 2024 was the Southern Championships and after last year, I was hoping to do better and win. The race was held in Redlands, near Dorking (also nearby to Box Hill) so I was expecting some tough hills during the race. I carried out my usual pre race routine before heading off to the start.

Whilst it was a very tough race physically, I kept navigational mistakes to a minimum and after a long, nervous wait for the other competitors to finish, it was confirmed that I was Southern Champion. I was very happy about the achievement and it was an ideal way to start the competitive season. However, now my focus and training turns to the upcoming British Championships in a few months, near Whitby in the North East of England.

Orienteering is an amazing sport and an unknown one to a lot of people. I personally enjoy it because it gives a purpose to running and you get to explore many parts of the country (and Europe) that you usually wouldn't get to visit.

Orienteering Club is on Fridays, come along and see what its all about!



British Track Championships

Henry Hobbs

Sixth form, A-level student Henry Hobbs has won a Bronze medal at the British Track Championships!

Henry Hobbs sealed bronze in the men's kilometre time trial, clocking a PB of 1:02.574, and finishing just four tenths of a second off gold!

Henry has recently found out that he has been selected to join the junior academy of the GB programme! It has been a balancing act for Henry as he is studying A Levels in Maths, Further Maths and PE whilst training hard.

"It's obviously very hard," he said of the balancing act, "but I find my way around it. My brother has done the same, so it's clearly possible. The coaches at GB are helping me out a lot and are very considerate with training."



I was hoping to just enjoy it. To come away with a medal, and be on the podium, feels amazing. It's a shock. It's more than what I expected.

Good luck Henry!

British Ice-Skating Championships

Kaile Mahesh



Sixth form student Kaile Mahesh skated her way into the British Championships!



Talented Kaile attended the British Championships with Lee Valley Skating Club.

She skated with Team Phoenix Gold coming second in their category with a personal best score of 37 and brought home the silver medal.

Kaile then went on to skate with Team Aura, winning gold, making them British Champions in their category!

She recently took part in a competition in Sheffield and will be going to Belgium later on in the year to compete.

Good luck Kaile!

WOODBIDGE Sports

Basketball - Sixth Form

Our sixth form basketball team beat Ilford County by Xhemal taking us into a 3 point lead with 6 seconds left on the clock!



Basketball - Year 10

Our year 10 basketball team came away with a victory against Wanstead, winning 57-36! Standouts from Hasan and Malachi for scoring 17 and 16 points respectively.



Basketball - Year 9

Time for our Year 9 team to get the victory! Great play against Forest Academy to get a 33-23 win!



Football - Sixth Form

The sixth form team won their Redbridge Cup quarter final against Valentines with a 6-0 win! Goals from Lewis, Taylan, Matt and Jonathan take us on to the semi-final!

Football - Essex Captain

Congratulations to GCSE student Mae who is representing the county as Essex Captain!



Netball - Year 8

A big well done to our year 8 netball team for a smashing win against Woodford County with a 18-8 win!



Netball - Year 7

A 7-6 win for our superstar year 7 team against Woodford County!

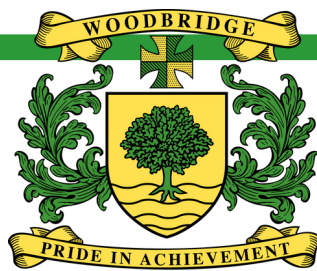


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*Wishing all of Team Woodbridge and
their families a wonderful
Easter break!*



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