

WOODBIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER: SUMMER TERM



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INCLUSION

KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT

HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Well there it is! Another year at Woodbridge draws to a close with the end of the Summer Term and another newsletter. As I flick through, I am once again astounded by the huge range of items that we have managed to cram in.... from the fabulous students that won the Women in Aviation Award, to our School Diversity Week celebrations, to Woodbridge's Got Talent, the Jack Petchey Speakout Challenge, our Summer Concert, Sports Awards, amazing individual achievements in orienteering and futsal, through to lots about how we celebrate faith and culture, careers events that students have loved, and much more...

...there is even a bit about how the Leadership Team won this year's Redbridge Education Award! It was a huge honour and a privilege to be recognised for what we have achieved at Woodbridge in recent years. I am so proud of all of the school staff for everything that has gone in to making our school what it is today. Nothing that happens here at Woodbridge happens by accident or magic – it is all down to the countless hours that staff give each week, the endless physical and emotional energy that they invest in creating the best possible opportunities for your children. They don't do it for the pay, or for the thanks, or even for the holidays (much as they are needed), but because it matters. They have a strong and loyal commitment to our school and our community, and the impact of that commitment can be seen every day in our students. I know you will want to join me in thanking our wonderful Woodbridge staff as we reach the holidays.

The staff are amazing. But of course, we are nothing without our students. When I look at all the activities they have been involved in all in one place, I am also struck once again by just how engaged they are. As part of my work I often visit other schools and speak to their students. They are all nice places, of course, with lots of lovely kids. But there is something about Woodbridge kids – something in the spark that they bring to any conversation – that always makes me happy to come back here, to come home. I always beam with pride when I see them on stage in a concert, hear them in a speaking competition, or hear about their academic achievements. They are the best kids in the world.

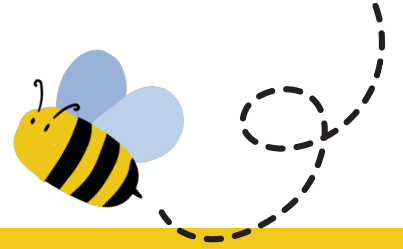


But however great those Woodbridge kids are, it's over to you for a bit if that's okay... We need a little holiday from the 2,000 teenagers that make up Team Woodbridge. Just a chance to recharge the batteries ready for the new year. Please do enjoy time with family and friends over the summer, and we look forward to seeing our students in September, ready and raring to go for 2024-25.

Have a great break!

Mr S Hogan





An eventful year for the Woodbridge Bee Club! Our journey with the bees has seen its fair share of ups and downs, offering both challenges and learning opportunities for all involved.

By Ms Rivers

At our first Bee Club meeting of the year, our Bee Keeper, Salma, brought some sad news: two of our three bee colonies did not make it through the harsh winter. Despite this setback, we remained hopeful and were eager to check on the surviving colony.



In late February, we ventured into the wildlife area for our first inspection. The area was slightly flooded, and we ended up covered in mud, but the sight of our bees buzzing around made it all worthwhile. It was clear that they needed some help to thrive again.

The worker bees created 26 queen cells once the queen bee left. Leaving all these cells could lead to the colony diminishing, so we made the tough decision to select one uncapped queen cell and remove the others. This careful management should ensure the colony's survival and prevent swarming.

To give our bees the best chance of success, we performed a Bailey comb change. This involved gradually replacing old frames with new ones to maintain a healthy environment for the bees. We removed five old frames of stores and added a second brood box with six new foundation frames above the original box. Salma provided syrup as an extra feed to help the bees maintain their strength.

During this process, our club members had the unique opportunity to shake the bees off the frames and inspect the larvae, gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

Currently, we have two thriving bee colonies at Woodbridge, and we are closely monitoring their progress. This year, we proudly joined the Bee Keeping Association, and we're excited about the educational opportunities this will provide. Our goal is for students to earn their first qualification in beekeeping, furthering their understanding and appreciation of these incredible insects.

By Zayn S, Year 8

When we extracted the honey, the first thing we needed to do was to remove the wax capping. We used a special tool for that, and after uncapping 3 frames we put it in a device which uses centrifugal force to take all the honey out of the frames. After that, there was a tap on the bottom of the device, so we opened it and used 2 sieves to filter the honey. After that we jarred it and now it's ready to eat!



Celebrating Culture & Diversity

A REMARKABLE DAY



By Mrs R Begum
Faith and Culture Coordinator

Our day of celebrating culture and diversity at Woodbridge High School has been an outstanding success. As one of the organisers, I am delighted with how beautifully everything unfolded, especially as this was both mine and Ms McNamee-Obi's first time planning such an event.

We commenced the festivities by changing into our traditional attire, instantly lifting everyone's spirits. The room resonated with the joyous sounds of singing and dancing to cultural and traditional music, creating an atmosphere of unity and celebration.

Next, we set up an array of traditional foods for everyone to sample. The food was a tremendous hit, leaving barely anything behind - a true testament to the event's success. This would not have been possible without the generosity of our parents. Your contributions were the key reason our students enjoyed everything so much. Thank you!

The celebration continued with inspiring speeches. Anjali, who is half English and half Indian, shared her experiences, followed by

Mayah, whose background is Portuguese, English, and African. Their heartfelt words on the struggles and joys of mixed heritage filled us all with pride and joy, resonating deeply as we could all relate in some form or another. The authenticity and courage they displayed in sharing their personal stories created a profound connection among us, highlighting the importance of understanding and appreciating the diverse backgrounds that make up our community.



The performances that followed were nothing short of spectacular, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures and backgrounds at Woodbridge High School. South Asian dances mesmerised us with their intricate movements and vibrant clothing, embodying centuries of tradition and storytelling. African dances filled the stage with rhythmic energy and powerful beats, reflecting the deep cultural roots and communal spirit of the continent. Caribbean dances brought a lively, festive atmosphere, celebrating the rich, diverse heritage of the islands through dynamic and colourful performances.



Each performance was not just a display of talent but a celebration of the unique cultures that make up our school community. These dances are special because they carry the essence of their respective traditions, telling stories of resilience, joy, and unity. They remind us of the beauty in our differences and the strength we gain from embracing them.

Our catwalk highlighted the diversity and creativity of our students through their traditional clothing, defining our school community.



Looking ahead, I hope even more people will join us next year, bringing with them an even greater diversity of cultures to celebrate. By recognising and honouring our differences, we build a more inclusive and harmonious community. Let's continue to embrace and showcase the rich cultural heritage that makes our community so unique.

See you next year!



STUDENT'S Say...

“

This year's culture today was amazing. Everyone was so excited and so was I. Ms Begum and Ms McNamee-Obi have done such a great job in organising this and helping us. I would like to do the show and I will if this goes on next year. I would recommend as many people as possible to join culture day and create even more diverse celebrations. I loved how everyone brought in cultural food, including me, and that I got to try foods from different countries. I will recommend doing more of these celebrations for everyone to appreciate each other and celebrate that we all come from different places.

“

It was really fun and I hope it happens again. There were many cultural dances, and people made traditional food, for example some chaat.

“

We did a runway show for culture day as well as a diversity show. We also brought in cultural food. I really enjoyed it because it was diverse and entertaining.

“

Woodbridge culture show was something that I thoroughly enjoyed because I found it particularly interesting to see other cultures and appreciate the music and dance styles that originate from their homeland. The overall execution and the display on stage of everyone's outfits and dances was done extremely well. We danced and ate a variety of cultural foods.

“

It was so much fun! It was really awesome to see everyone's different cultures being represented in such a cool way. There were many different cultures, dances and food. The food was delicious and there were some that I didn't even know existed. I learnt about a lot of unique cultures. I performed a traditional Indian dance to popular Indian songs which was so fun. I hope there are more events like this in the future.

“

I thought the show was amazing! I really loved how we got to perform and express our culture and show everyone where we are from. I also enjoyed that we brought in so many different foods from other countries and that lots of people came to try the amazing food. I loved how we all dressed up together and danced our cultures out. We performed dances and speeches on the stage and put a smile on the audience's faces!

House News

By Ms Gleeson, House Co-ordinator

Woodbridge's Got Talent

Our annual Woodbridge Talent Show was a fantastic celebration of student talent, entirely organised by our dedicated students. Special thanks to our retired House captains for leading the rehearsals. We witnessed incredible performances from our talented students, showcasing their diverse skills and creativity. Congratulations to our winner, Ivona, for her outstanding performance!

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this event. Your enthusiasm and hard work made the show a memorable success. Looking forward to more amazing talent next year!



WGT Contestants

House Captains

We're thrilled to announce our new House captains. This year, we received a record number of applications. Congratulations to the students who made it through the rigorous selection process.

Our new captains have already hit the ground running, actively participating in and organising various events. Keep up the great work, House captains!



New House Captains

Summer Concert

Our House students provided all the refreshments for the Summer Concert. They worked hard to ensure everyone had their purchases ready for the show. Well done to everyone involved in the Summer Concert, especially the students performing...you were amazing!

Woodbridge Community Cookbook

The 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 (Every Life Has A Purpose). 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 or using the online system, 'Scopay'.

We are down to our last two cookbooks, so don't miss out on your last chance to buy one!

Sports Day

House got into the competitive mood on sports day by providing House colour face paint for all the students participating. This fun element brought even more spirit to an already fantastic day. Well done to all of the students who were involved on the day.

Non-Uniform Day

To celebrate the last day of the school year and raise funds, we are having a non-uniform day on Friday 19th July. Let's see which House can raise the most money this time.

Hospitality & CATERING

By Ms S John, Food Technology Teacher

Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students visited New City College's Hospitality & Catering facilities this term.

Year 10 completed a cookery workshop where they received a demonstration by the curriculum head chef and learnt complex skills such as how to "French-cut" and de-bone chicken. This method involved removing the drumstick and thigh bone from the chicken leg, leaving a clean bone for presentation. It was very impressive! Students were challenged on their knowledge of food safety and hygiene, and they learnt all about Hospitality & Catering careers and 16+ progression options available in the borough. Also during our visit, we were shown around the on-site 'Rouge' restaurant, which is a sit-down table service establishment. The restaurant is open to the public and independently run by the college's Hospitality & Catering students.

Well done to all of our current year 10 Hospitality & Catering cohort that took part. Such a memorable and enriching experience for the Food Technology department and our aspiring young chefs here at Woodbridge.





The sun came out for our bake sale in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

Connie, along with other year 8 students, raised an incredible £440 for GOSH! Well done girls on a brilliant, successful fundraiser!

By Connie, Year 8

Thank you everyone for helping by donating to our fundraiser for Great Ormond Street Hospital's new Children's Cancer Centre. The new cancer centre is to help children with cancer and create an environment for families to stay together through treatment.

I have spent a lot of time at GOSH over the last 18 months for my own diagnosis. I know it definitely needs to be made more comfortable when you're spending long days there or staying overnight. This new centre will be such a great help and it makes me happy to start giving back to those that have helped me.



GOSH donation page: <https://www.gosh.org/>

NHS *Careers Fair*

By Mrs Griffiths, Health & Social Care

Our Year 10 & 12 students had an incredible opportunity to explore healthcare careers at Queen's Hospital in Romford. They were inspired by talks from an Obstetrics Junior Doctor and a Learning Disabilities Nurse who shared their career journeys.

Students also interacted with professionals from various allied health professions, tried out medical equipment, and engaged in hands-on activities.

A big thank you to the NHS for hosting such an informative and inspiring event!



SIXTH FORM

Super-Curricular Highlights

By Mrs L Khudeza

Woodbridge High School Sixth Form prides itself on having a huge Super-Curricular programme and presence within the school. This year, the students have all contributed in one way or another to the Sixth Form and the whole school community. This is just a little snippet of our highlights and the fantastic work of our students in making our Sixth Form enriching for themselves as well as others around them!

The Edge Programme

The Super-Curricular programme aims to support students to build crucial transferable life skills to enable them to stand out and have an 'Edge' over others in this ever-competitive world of higher education and employment. All students in Year 12 have a choice of an Edge subject (LORIC, Debating, DofE, MOOCS, Maths Studies, EPQ, Sports Leaders), and here we share and celebrate the achievements and highlights of this programme.



LORIC

In LORIC, students aim to demonstrate transferable skills through planning and delivering fundraising projects. This year, students in four classes raised a staggering £1600 for charities such as MIND, Cancer Research, Redbridge Foodbank and Haven House.

The students in each class presented their LORIC journey to staff and students at the Year 12 Achievement Morning. They presented their donations directly to the charities, who were extremely grateful for all the hard work and efforts of the sixth formers involved.



DEBATING

This year, our debating students have been phenomenal! They battled through the semi-finals and finals of the in-school competition with incredible tenacity.

The final debate, featuring Mr Beckett's and Mr Portnoi's classes, tackled the motion "The NHS should be privatised." Both teams showcased their exceptional talent, making it nearly impossible to choose a winner. Ultimately, Mr. Portnoi's class (opposition) emerged victorious by a small margin, becoming the debating champions of 2023-2024!

The winning team will now compete in the prestigious nationwide English-Speaking Union (Schools' Mace) championships. Huge congratulations to everyone involved!



The Debating students also attended a tour of the Houses of Parliament and a Laws and Debating workshop as part of their Year 12 Debating course. Students watched debates in both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, practiced their debating skills in the Laws and Debating workshop, grilled Wes Streeting and even spotted Ed Miliband!

Enrichment

As part of the sixth form's wider curriculum, our Enrichment programme offered students the opportunity to engage in activities beyond the confines of the examined curriculum. We had a wide variety of guest speakers who provided careers, finance and sexual health education. Our sixth formers were also lucky enough to have BBC Dragon's Den Dragon, British businesswoman and ex-Woodbridge High School student Emma Grede deliver a talk about her career and the journey and lessons that led her to where she is today.

Volunteering

As part of the Year 12 Enrichment programme, all students were expected to participate in either internal or external volunteering. The aim of the programme was for students to be able to gain real-world work experience through volunteering, build skills, increase employability and give back to the school and local community. The feedback from volunteering organisations and departments within the school has been nothing but amazing. Our students went above and beyond and demonstrated that they can and want to make a difference to others around them. We've received many wonderful comments about our students' performances and efforts.

Ashton was an absolute pleasure to have within our refuge setting. He was able to work as part of a team but also independently. He is a very creative person. His care and kindness was apparent throughout his time with us. He is a credit to your school and we wish him all the best for the future, whatever career path he decides to take. He will certainly be an asset to any organisation.

William has been an invaluable asset to my Study Support lessons, especially with my EAL students. He has supported me during my Year 9 and Year 11 classes.

Amber has been a fantastic addition to our team. She is punctual, reliable and conscientious. Amber carries out all tasks given to her efficiently and to a high standard, and she has excellent customer service skills. Amber is very keen to learn new skills and gets on very well with all of the team. We are very happy to have Amber volunteer with us and we hope she will continue to do so!

The students who have overachieved in volunteering have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to serving their school community.

A special mention also to Mr Shaw and students in the sixth form who volunteered to raise money for Care4Calais. I have never seen a group of such motivated and driven students, who independently planned and organised regular fundraising events. A huge well done on raising £400!



This means that the fundraising total of our sixth formers was a mind-blowing £2000!

Student Leadership

The aim of Student Leadership within the Sixth Form is to provide students with leadership and responsibility opportunities. This enables them to shape the Sixth Form experience for their peers, be their voice, and contribute to both the Sixth Form and the entire school community.

This year, we had two Head Students, Gul-E and Charlie, along with a dedicated group of Student Ambassadors. These Ambassadors played a crucial role as a support network for the Sixth

Form, acting as tour guides, assisting during Open Evenings and High Flyers events, and participating in interview panels.

Additionally, the Student Ambassadors worked as Peer Mentors for lower school students, joined the whole school Diversity, Equality and Inclusion committee, and contributed to House Council meetings. Their efforts have significantly enriched our school community.



Student Ambassadors



Head Students

We are so proud of what the students have achieved this year. Their work in these super-curricular areas has increased their presence and visibility around the entire school, ultimately making them aspirational figures for students in the lower school.

REFLECTING ON GLOBAL ISSUES

'Prayer Spaces' Event



By Mrs R Begum

The RE department, with the help of The Church of England and Christian Union, recently hosted a deeply impactful event called 'Prayer Spaces', designed to offer students proactive ways to reflect and pray about pressing issues in the world. This practical and engaging initiative targeted Year 7, 8, and 9 students, encouraging them to actively engage with global concerns such as poverty, family, refugees and personal regrets. The event was conducted in a beautiful and respectful manner, fostering a sense of empathy and awareness among our students.

During the prayer space, various interactive activities were set up to help students process and reflect on these significant issues. One of the most popular activities involved writing a regret on a piece of paper and then dropping it into water. This act symbolised the release of their regrets, and students observed that picking the paper back up would signify holding onto those regrets instead of letting them go. This simple yet profound exercise allowed students to understand the importance of forgiveness and moving forward.

Another engaging station invited students to write down a world problem and attach it to a globe. This activity helped them visualise the widespread nature of global issues and encouraged them to think about their role in addressing these challenges. It was a powerful reminder of the interconnectedness of our world and the impact of individual contributions.

The 'Prayer Spaces' event was a resounding success, providing students with a safe and contemplative environment to explore their thoughts and feelings on significant issues. Opportunities like this are crucial in educational settings as they allow students to engage deeply with the world around them, fostering a greater understanding and appreciation of global and personal issues. These experiences help develop compassionate, thoughtful individuals who are better equipped to navigate the complexities of our world.

Activities

Prayer Tree

Students rolled a dice to decide which category they would pray for (family, friends, or global issues). They then wrote a short prayer/reflection and hung it on the Prayer Tree. This activity allowed students to express their hopes and concerns, creating a visual representation of the community's collective prayers.

Prayer Candles

In many cultures, lighting candles is an important part of prayer, symbolising peace, hope and light in the darkness. Students were invited to reflect on a situation in the world they wanted to pray for, then light a candle to symbolise resistance to the darkness. This serene activity fostered a sense of peace and contemplation, allowing students to connect with global issues on a personal level.

Your Piece of the Puzzle

Students explored profiles of peaceful protestors and decorated a puzzle piece to symbolise themselves on one side, while writing a commitment to peaceful protest on the other. This activity empowered students by showing them that even small actions can contribute to significant change, reinforcing the idea that everyone has a role to play in addressing injustice.



I enjoyed the activity where you wrote a world problem and stuck it onto the globe.



My favourite part was where you wrote things you regret and then put them in a part of water, symbolising that you've washed your regrets away. I really liked that lesson; it felt very practical and meaningful.



The prayer space was an amazing experience overall. It was a nice space, and I was able to get some emotions out.



I thought it was good because the people answered all my questions about Christianity and made me feel more confident and happier.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Christian Union and the Church of England for their invaluable support in making this event possible. Their commitment to providing meaningful opportunities for reflection and growth

has made a lasting impact on our students. We look forward to hosting more such enriching events in the future, continuing our commitment to holistic education and personal development for our students.



Women In Aviation



Winners of 'Women In Aviation'

Woodbridge students won London City Airport's Women in Aviation programme after taking part in a sustainability challenge!

The award, which was presented at the finale event held on Thursday 25th April at the Sunborn London Yacht Hotel in Royal Victoria Dock, is part of the airport's 'Women in Aviation Programme' – a three-month education programme where up to 300 young women from 10 schools across east London participated.

Our students demonstrated innovative ideas on how to make London City Airport more sustainable using alternative fuels and architectural design of the airport's terminal. Plashet School in Newham also showcased some innovative ideas and came runners up.

The students were joined by role models from across the industry who gave career talks, some of whom also sat on the judging panel, awarding the winning group with vouchers and an airport tour.

By Emilia B and Anaaya S

This project was an amazing opportunity to not only discover more of the aviation industry but also to educate ourselves in sustainability. During the first meeting with the inspirational workers at London City Airport we were tasked with the challenge to create ways of making London City Airport Net Zero. This meant creating a method that allows the airport to decrease the same amount of emissions out of the atmosphere that they release.

From then we worked as a group to research and produce an innovative and informative PowerPoint about the given topic. After winning the competition in school we went on to compete in the finale against other schools. Our presentation and model secured our winning position. Overall it was a very advantageous and beneficial experience, that definitely made us consider more STEM positions as females in the workplace.

Ms Griffiths, Teacher

'They worked incredibly hard, did some amazing research, created a wonderful model of the new terminal and presented it in a very professional way! They made me very proud. Congratulations!'



Music CONCERT

By Mrs N Brock-Carey, Head Of Music

On Wednesday 10th July the Music Department were delighted to present our annual Summer Concert. Our students worked so hard this term to prepare for their concert, with rehearsals happening every day after school. We continued with many of our favourite ensembles including Orchestra, Choir, Guitar and Ukulele, Jazz Band and Barbershop, but were particularly excited about our new Samba Band which now has over 30 members - we're going to need a bigger Samba kit! We really enjoyed theming our Summer Concert around 'Space', and were amazed by how many songs and pieces of music we could find that included the word 'Moon' in the

title. A huge well done to all of our musicians who have dedicated themselves to making music this term.

We are always on the lookout for new musicians to join our ensembles, so please do encourage your child to come along to a rehearsal in September. Our ensembles are completely inclusive and open to all. We have some exciting trips coming up in the next academic year to see some fantastic music being performed by very talented performers, starting with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall in September. Please speak to the Music department or check our Firefly page if your child would like to attend.



My opinion on the summer concert

By Vitesh S

I took part in the summer concert by being in the Samba band. I really liked being in the Samba band because I have an interest in music. Another thing I performed is singing "Sweet Caroline" because I really love singing and singing makes me really happy. In my opinion, the summer concert was amazing! It just touched my heart so much!





Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Committee

Highlights

By Ms McNamee-Obi
Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Co-ordinator

HONOURING THE WINDRUSH GENERATION

We delivered a heartfelt and enlightening tribute to the Windrush Generation during a recent year group assembly. A group whose contributions have profoundly shaped Modern Britain and reflected on a pivotal chapter in our shared history. The story of the Windrush Generation is not just about a group of people who travelled across the seas; it's a story of hope, courage, resilience, and an unyielding spirit that continues to inspire us all.

In June 1948, the ship HMT Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury, Essex, carrying passengers from the Caribbean who had answered the call to help rebuild a war-torn Britain. These individuals, hailing from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and other islands, embarked on a journey filled with the promise of opportunity and a better life. They were invited here, to a country in need of their skills and hard work.

Imagine the courage it took to leave behind the familiar warmth of their homelands, to step into the unknown, driven by the hope of building a brighter future. These men and women were pioneers, trailblazers who laid down roots in a new land and, in doing so, enriched it immeasurably.

The Windrush Generation brought with them not just their labour, but their culture, their music, their food, and their traditions. They faced significant

challenges—unfamiliar climates, and sometimes hostile environments. They encountered racism and discrimination, often in places where they were most needed and least appreciated. Despite these obstacles, they persevered. They worked in hospitals, in public transport, in schools and in industries critical to the nation's recovery. They played a crucial role in shaping modern Britain.

Their story is one of resilience. It's about confronting adversity with grace and dignity, about finding strength in community, and about holding onto hope even when the path ahead is uncertain. The Windrush Generation showed us that true strength lies in the ability to adapt, to overcome and to keep moving forward.

We must also acknowledge the injustices they faced, particularly the Windrush Scandal of recent years, where many of these individuals, who had given so much to this country, were wrongfully detained, denied legal rights, and even deported. This was a grave injustice, and it is a reminder of the importance of vigilance in protecting the rights and dignity of all members of our society.

Yet, even in the face of such adversity, the spirit of the Windrush Generation remains unbroken. Their legacy is seen in the vibrant, multicultural society we celebrate today. Their contributions to British culture, from music and food to sports and literature, are woven into the fabric of our national identity.



So, what can we learn from the Windrush Generation? Their story teaches us the power of resilience, the importance of community, and the strength that comes from diversity. It reminds us that our differences, when embraced, make us stronger and richer as a society.

Let their journey inspire us to face our own challenges with the same courage and determination. Let their legacy remind us to build bridges, to foster understanding and to stand up against injustice in all its forms.



As we remember and honour the Windrush Generation, let us also commit to being torchbearers of their legacy—champions of a diverse, inclusive and just society. Let us draw strength from their example and strive to create a world where everyone, regardless of their background, can thrive and contribute to the common good.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISITED BLOOMSBURY INSTITUTE

We recently visited the Bloomsbury Institute, where our students had the fantastic opportunity to explore the dynamic world of podcasting. This trip was not just an educational outing but an inspiring journey into the art of storytelling and digital media.

Our students were warmly welcomed by the Bloomsbury Institute team, who provided a comprehensive introduction to the podcasting process. The day was packed with engaging activities that allowed our students to immerse themselves fully in the experience.

The session began with a workshop on the fundamentals of podcasting. Students learned about the importance of storytelling, how to identify and develop engaging content, and the various formats that podcasts can take. The instructors emphasised the power of a well-told story and how it can captivate and inform an audience.



Podcast Session

Next, students had the chance to get hands-on with professional podcasting equipment. They explored the intricacies of audio recording, including microphone techniques and sound quality optimisation.

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity to meet and learn from industry experts. These professionals shared their personal journeys into podcasting, offering valuable advice and tips on how to create content that stands out. They discussed the challenges they faced and the creative processes they use to produce compelling episodes, providing our students with a realistic and inspiring view of the industry.

Armed with new skills and knowledge, our students were encouraged to consider and outline their own podcast ideas. They worked in small groups to develop themes and plan episodes,

and they even recorded a short segment. This collaborative effort not only honed their technical abilities but also fostered teamwork and creativity.

The excitement and enthusiasm from this visit has set the stage for an exciting new project at our school with the Beyond Excellence Team (BET). We are hoping to launch our own BET podcast series, which will feature a variety of topics relevant to student life, academic tips, and interviews with inspiring guests from our community. This initiative will provide a platform for our students to share their unique voices and perspectives with a broader audience.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: EMBRACING CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS



In a world that often emphasises differences, celebrating diversity becomes a powerful statement of unity and understanding. Recently, our community came together to commemorate diversity awareness through a vibrant event that showcased the rich tapestry of cultures within our midst.

The event, held on 30th April, was a testament to the collective efforts of our community members who eagerly embraced the opportunity to share their cultural heritage. From the colourful array of traditional attire worn during the fashion show to the mesmerising performances of dance and music that echoed through the venue, every aspect of the event resonated with pride and appreciation for cultural diversity.



One of the highlights was undoubtedly the culinary journey offered by our parents and staff. Tables adorned with dishes from around the world invited attendees to savour flavours from distant lands, each bite telling a story of tradition and culinary craftsmanship. From spicy curries to delicate pastries, every dish was a testament to the rich culinary traditions that enrich our community.

Moreover, the event was not just about showcasing external beauty and tastes but also about fostering a deeper understanding. Through heartfelt conversations and shared experiences, attendees gained new insights into the customs, values and histories that shape our diverse community. It was a reminder that beyond our differences lie shared values of inclusivity, respect, and acceptance.

As I reflect on the success of the event, I am reminded of the profound impact of celebrating diversity. It is not merely a one-time event but an ongoing commitment to embracing the uniqueness of every individual and culture. By coming together in such celebrations, we not only honour our differences but also build bridges of empathy and mutual respect.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to making this event a resounding success. Your enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to share your cultural heritage have left an indelible mark on our community. Let us carry forward this spirit of celebration and continue to champion diversity in all its forms.

Together, we are stronger.

WHS Podcast

Look out for the Woodbridge Podcast coming to you in September!

By Mrs N Brock-Carey

On a recent trip to the Bloomsbury Institute in London, our Diversity and Inclusion Committee had the fantastic opportunity to record a podcast episode which (with very little planning) was aired live on their radio station! This has lit a fire amongst the Woodbridge staff and we now have several other podcasts in the pipeline which will be available to stream on our school website from September. Alongside this, the Music Department has launched a 'Compose the Woodbridge Podcast Jingle' competition, so if your child is a budding composer please encourage them to check Firefly for further details.

Our first podcast in September will be hosted by cycling enthusiasts Seth Hunter and Thomas Cullinane, who will be interviewing Mr Archer and Mr Clifton about their upcoming London to Brighton ride. On 15th September, 15 members of Team Woodbridge will be cycling the 55 mile course to raise money for Great Western Air Ambulance in memory of our friend and colleague, Moyra Whelan.



Mr Archer being interviewed



Stay tuned for our podcast!

Please click [HERE](#) for the GoFundMe link

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

ALL DAY, EVERYDAY



By Mrs W Smith
Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

I am sure we all agree that the best place for our young people is to be in school, surrounded by the support of their friends and teachers. This is important for your child's learning, their overall wellbeing and wider development.

As a parent, it can be difficult to know when to send your child into school if they are feeling unwell or mildly anxious. Identifying solutions is a team effort between school, parents and the student. Please reach out to The Family Support Team if you need to.

You may be aware that the Department for Education will be introducing new guidance to support schools with absence. The priority for us at Woodbridge is to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers that your child may be experiencing with school.

A National Framework for Attendance will be introduced in August 2024, which will mean all Local Authorities will adopt the same policy. The new framework outlines actions for schools when a child is regularly absent.

At Woodbridge our aims are to work in partnership with parents to provide direct support to improve your child's attendance. If this isn't effective, please be aware that you may be subject to legal interventions such as a Parenting

Order or Prosecution. As a school, we must adhere to the new framework.

Every second in school counts and days missed add up extremely quickly. Evidence shows that students who attend enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those with high levels of absence.

From August 2024, the fine for unauthorised school absences across the country will be £80 if paid within 21 days, or £160 if not paid.

In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a second fine for the same child within any three-year period, this will be charged at the higher rate of £160.

Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be the next step.

As we have shared in previous newsletters, parenting can certainly become challenging at times. We know for sure that home/school partnership is the number one factor in securing better outcomes for students. This helps us to secure young people's well-being and success through regular attendance.

Please seek support and communicate regularly with us when help or advice and guidance are needed.



By Mrs D Miah, Head of Careers

This term we celebrated our largest careers event for the year - Year 10 Mock Interview Day, where students participated in a number of different events, linking to careers.

Each student had a mock interview with an external professional, for a job that they had applied for during life studies. They also had some careers talks, a session on Unifrog (a universal destinations platform that we use), as well as starting some virtual work experience using the Spring Pod platform. Students are encouraged to finish their work experience programmes at home so that they can get a certificate for use on their CVs! Finally, students participated in an enterprise challenge which was designed to give them the soft skills needed for the world of work. This day was a huge success with extremely positive comments from all our volunteers, who were blown away by the maturity and professionalism of our students. Well done Woodbridge!

Over the past year we have been rolling out Unifrog across every year group and every student should now have a Unifrog log in. It can also be used at home as well as school, both on computers and mobile phones. This is a great careers tool and has all the careers information you could ever ask for. Students can search for post-16 and post-18 options both locally and internationally to see what opportunities are out there. Sixth forms, colleges, universities, further education, higher education and apprenticeships are all on there and each subject can be explored with videos and lots of useful information. We use this platform during careers days and careers life studies lessons but I would really encourage the use of it at home as well.

Once a fortnight, every year group has a form time session focused on careers where they receive age-appropriate careers guidance and information. Throughout the year we also run lots of careers events and trips to support this. This year has been full of lots of different opportunities across the year groups and next year we also have lots of exciting plans to ensure that our students really do receive the best careers education around!



ART *Department*

TWIST Museum

Our Year 7 students had a fantastic trip to The Twist Museum, where they dived into the fascinating world of Op Art! This term, we've been studying optical illusions in art, focusing on the works of Bridget Riley and Sergio O'Deith.

Students engaged with mind-bending infinity boxes, installations playing with light and colour, and anamorphic illusions that tricked us into seeing 3D objects! They even had the chance to see real artwork by Sergio O'Deith - including the iconic red converse that seemed to jump right out of the wall!



Art Exhibition

On Tuesday 2nd July we celebrated the achievements of our year 11 and year 13 students who have just finished their Art GCSE and A levels. It was really lovely to see students again and welcome parents, carers and friends to share in the amazing accomplishments of our students. Lots of compliments were made about the high standard of Art work and students should feel very proud. GCSE work showcased students' individual responses to coursework topics 'Food' and 'First Nations of America', as well as a wide range of topics for the exam project. A Level work showcased individual and personal project themes, as well as responses to the various A level exam topics. The Art work sparked lots of conversation, as it should, and a great time was had by all!

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department

This term the Social Science department held a series of summer lectures. We were delighted to welcome experts in various areas of social science.

Dr. Jake Richards from the London School of Economics explored the history of the Black Atlantic slave trade. He has curated an exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge. The main aim of his lecture was to give a name and identity to the freed slaves who worked anonymously as collectors for scientific research.

Dr. Richards spoke about his archival research to find an egg collected by 'Thomas'. This involved deciphering diaries and checking census records, spending painstaking hours to identify the actual egg.



Dr. Jake Richards



Degrowth London

Degrowth London discussed their belief that the emphasis on constant growth, as advocated by all the main parties, is unsustainable on a planet with finite resources. They argued that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) does not account for happiness and quality of life.

Dr. Roger Green, a lecturer at Goldsmiths University, spoke about his research on migration, which is set to be published in a German sociological magazine. He emphasised how he recorded refugee stories and the challenges of working through interpreters. Dr. Green used the concept of conviviality to measure the extent of the integration and acceptance of refugees into the UK.



Dr. Roger Green



Dr. Sarah Hart

Dr. Sarah Hart discussed how mathematics influences art. She redesigned the school logo into an eye-catching symmetrical design, inspired by the work of M. C. Escher (1898–1972). We were delighted to receive a donation of her latest book, *Once Upon a Prime*, to the school library.



By Jake B, WGT Host

Having previously performed in the show last year, I knew I wanted to be a part of it again. Miss Gleason had suggested that I could host as she knew I loved performing and writing my own scripts, so I got my bro Filip on board with the idea of being host and we started thinking about what we were going to say. The hardest part was coming up with jokes that would be humorous to adults and children, but not be unsuitable for a school talent show.

We had loads of help from Mr Archer and Miss Holland. With a mix of our funny characters and amazing jokes we got through the show. Filip and I were both nervous as this would be our first test of our script with a live audience, because of some script shuffling in rehearsals, but nevertheless it went amazingly. Our entrance and opening jokes made the audience crack up and we allowed the show to flow between the acts. But the true magic was all the performers and their amazing talents.

The Dickens Museum Trip *Run By The English Department*

This term year 8 students read *Oliver Twist* in Additional English. Following this they took a trip down to the Dickens' Museum in central London.



By Aarav P, Year 8

The Dickens Museum is located in central London and is a really great and interesting museum. It tells you all about Dickens and all the books he wrote and fascinating facts about him, even showing us the desk where he wrote the famous line "Please sir. May I have some more?"

They even tell you about the Victorian times, where they wrote books with a quill. A quill is basically a feather from a goose but at the end of the feather it's sharp. We used the quills and ended up with ink on our hands. They also decorate the rooms just like how it looked in Dickens' time. We learnt that they had this thing before the modern toilets called a commode and it's basically a seat, but if you open the trap door there is a little pot installed underneath the seat where you can pee and poop in there - and where does their waste go, you may be asking?

Well, it's quite disgusting! The night soil man comes and collects the poop and puts it in some kind of pit in the garden. Yeah, like I said - disgusting!

Anyway, another fact about the house is that they had cockroaches and other pests, but that wasn't a problem because they had a hedgehog which scared off pests or ate them (they had a prop one and it scared me somehow!).

Oh yeah and before I forget, the museum had 4 floors and the top one was a nursery for children that slept there and they had lots of fun, but there was a twist. There was one bottle that killed babies, it was called The Baby Killer. It was called that because it was very hard to clean and that caused bacteria to build up and kill babies because babies were not exposed to bacteria before, so it caused the baby to be sensitive and made them very ill.

Afterwards we went to Coram Fields for a picnic and to play in the rain.

British Sprint orienteering Championships 2024

By Luke B

After coming 2nd in the British Sprints last year in Northern Ireland, I was aiming to retain a podium place in this year's event. Going up against the best in the country is always a fun experience, but beating them in a major event is something I hadn't quite managed so far.

I started training for the event back at Christmas, giving me 6 months to bring my fitness up to a competitive level. The dark, wet and cold nights, track training at Ashton's, seem a long time ago now! After the competitive forest races in April had ended, I began my technical training for sprint orienteering.

Sprint orienteering is a much faster paced discipline of the sport, which often involves navigating short, technical courses (about 3km) around university campuses and old towns. This year, the area was Warwick University. On the day, I felt about as physically prepared as I could be, but in a sprint race, even a few seconds of mistakes can be the end of your race, so I knew I couldn't afford to make any navigational mistakes or hesitations.

My plan in the qualifying race was to take it easy, and leave energy for the final, however after almost missing a checkpoint (due to a lack of focus), I had to push harder to qualify for the final. Eventually, I qualified in a comfortable 6th position, meaning that in the final, the 5 competitors above me would be starting at minute intervals behind me.



Luke B

This pressure meant I had to focus more than ever. I spent 5 extra minutes warming up, to get myself into a calm state and ready to race. When I started, I felt comfortable with my speed and was taking the right route to every checkpoint. With about 800m of the course remaining, I had the run through the spectator arena, where the atmosphere of everyone cheering spurred me

on to pick up the pace and focus for the last section of my course.

When I finished, I knew I had a good time, but had to wait 5 minutes for the last runners to come into the finish. After the last one had, my winning time of 9:18 was confirmed and I had a 58 second lead, which was very surprising over such a short course. The next 7 places were separated by just 30 seconds.

I was very happy to get my first ever gold medal in a British championship event, and was a great way to end the competitive season. Looking ahead, I will enjoy a national training camp in the Czech Republic to improve my skills over the summer, before the forest season begins again in the autumn.



London Youth Games BMX TRIUMPH

The London Youth Games is an annual multi-sport event in which young people from across all 33 London Boroughs compete against each other in over 30 different sports.

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible achievements of our students at the London Youth Games.

Joe has been a dedicated rider with his BMX club for several years. This year, he represented Redbridge at the London Youth Games and clinched gold in his category for the second consecutive year! Joe also coaches our younger members and those with special educational needs.

Louis has also been riding with the same BMX club for a few years and won gold in his category at the London Youth Games for the second year in a row. Louis also dominated the Travers Series Mountain Bike competition, winning in a nail-biting finish by just 0.1 seconds. His victory secured him the overall trophy for the 6-race series.

Gabriel has been a key figure in the BMX club, contributing significantly as a coach and assistant team manager. On the day of the London Youth Games, Gabriel played a pivotal role in organising the team and supporting our younger riders, including those with special educational needs. Gabriel's dedication to ensuring the smooth running of the team and providing guidance to our members has been invaluable.



The combined efforts of Joe, Louis, Gabriel and the entire team resulted in their best-ever performance at the London Youth Games, securing 5th place overall. This achievement is a testament to the hard work, determination, and teamwork of all the BMX club members.

We are incredibly proud of Joe, Louis, Gabriel for these outstanding achievements.

Futsal Success

We are proud to highlight the impressive achievements of Oliver, who currently plays for the National League team of Braintree Futsal Club. In 2023, Oliver represented the club in an international tournament in Salou, Spain, where he helped secure victories against formidable teams from Brazil and Spain.

This summer, Oliver took on a new challenge, competing against some of the best futsal teams in Europe for the U16 age group in Madeira. The tournament featured elite clubs such as Benfica and Sporting Lisbon from Portugal, as well as other well-known teams.

Oliver's dedication and skill in futsal are truly commendable, and we look forward to seeing more of his outstanding performances on the international stage.



Oliver G



I wanted to play futsal as it's a very technical and skilful game that some of the world's best footballers, like Messi and Neymar, have played. I would encourage others to consider it as it definitely improves my football game and has helped me further with my pathway at Colchester United Academy. Women's futsal is massive and growing just as much as the men's game."



By Ms J Sanderson

The summer term is always a busy term for the students and staff that are involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Both Bronze and Gold have completed all their training and successfully passed their expeditions. Well done to all the students involved! Make sure to continue to work towards completing the other sections of the award!

The students who are involved in the Silver award have also been working hard and we wish them luck as they will soon be completing their assessed expedition.

Many congratulations to all involved who have been working throughout this year to pass their

awards! 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.



DofE Practice

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

Maria G won the Redbridge Regional Final of Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge recently and was entered into the Grand Final.

On Monday 8th July 2024, The Grand Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge took place. The competition, sponsored by the Jack Petchey Foundation and run by the Speakers Trust, works with schools and colleges across London and Essex to promote communication skills through expert led workshops and coaching.

Over 33,000 young people took part in the initial programme and Maria Gromlyuk was part of the final 15 selected at the semi-finals that spoke at the Cambridge Theatre in front of an incredible panel of judges, including award-winning author Jamila Gavin and Martin Forde.

Maria's insightful speech 'Life is like a piano' was about white piano keys representing happiness and black keys showing sadness, but as you go through life's journey, remembering that the black keys also create music.

It takes courage to speak out in front of others and we as a school are extremely proud of Maria's accomplishment. Although Maria was not victorious in the Grand Final, we

are very proud of our Regional Finalist for having the courage to perform her speech twice on a main stage. Impressive work!



Speak Out
Grand Final



Maria G

Animation Award

By Aaqib C

It was really fun to make an animation as part of the Technology department's competition. Although I thought it would be hard and exhausting, it actually brought more satisfaction than I would have thought and led me into the world of animating. I thought online drawing was a long way away but here I am!

The animation was inspired by two games that I really love. To show my affection for them, I made my animation by trying to link the two worlds together. It was supposed to be a silly project but ended up turning out better than I would ever think! This competition has allowed me to start a new hobby and I'm really happy that I considered trying out animating.



Aaqib with Ms Rivers

Year 8 Speech-Makers Their Audience!

By Mrs M Rée, English Department



On Wednesday 10th July, the 27th annual public speaking competition for year 8 was held. The standard of speeches was exceptionally high. Congratulations are due to each and every finalist.

We heard from:

Mayah D, Teenage thoughts
Rosie K, Live, laugh, love
Dylan W, One law for the rich
Anjali B, Invisible superheroes
Mariam Q, The other side of disability
Jake B, Messaging and human communication
Juliette L, Kindness and its importance
Zion-Rio R, Racism
Lola B, Two last names

This diverse range of topics were talked about with great passion and with great authority.

The judges, Mr O'Brien (Year 8 Coordinator), Mr Williams (Governor) and Mr Bhullar (Associate Head Teacher), had a very tough time making a decision. Mr Bhullar reflected on this in his announcement.

While they deliberated we heard Floe B sing a song, accompanying herself on the piano. Students from Churchfields Primary School joined the audience of Year 8 students and their teachers. The whole event was expertly hosted by Filip D who deserves a special mention!

Finally, the hall was hushed and Mr Bhullar announced the results – first was Mayah D with a very personal and passionate speech on what it means to be a teenager. Joint runners up were Zion-Rio R with his exceptional speech on Racism and Lola B with her very personal and articulate speech on having two last names.

A huge WELL DONE! to ALL of the finalists – it takes courage to talk in front of the whole year group and twenty Year 5 students from Churchfields, not to mention the judges!



Winner, Maya



Mr Bhullar with Zion-Rio, Maya and Lola



REDBRIDGE EDUCATION AWARDS

In May, the Redbridge Education Awards 2024 took place, offering a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary staff who work in education. This event highlighted the dedication and achievements of educators who make a significant impact in our community.

We were thrilled to announce that our Leadership Team was nominated and won the prestigious School Leadership Award in the Secondary School category!

Huge congratulations to Mr Hogan, Mr Bhullar, and Mr Clifton for this remarkable achievement. We are incredibly proud of our Leadership Team and delighted that they have been recognised for their outstanding work.

The School Leadership Award honours an individual or team who enables and motivates their organisation to provide excellent education and support to students. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our Leadership Team in fostering a positive and effective educational environment.



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support given to the school and to our Leadership Team!

My Business Enterprise Experience

By Joel A

My name is Joel, and I am thrilled to share the story of my business enterprise, a venture that has been both challenging and immensely rewarding. It all started with a simple idea and a lot of determination. My goal was to create a business that not only generated revenue but also stood out for its innovation and impact. When I embarked on this journey, I didn't know exactly what to expect. But luckily, I had a group of amazing friends that stood by my side for the entire journey. We were a team of motivated individuals (Jeremy, Kevin, Aun and Anik), each bringing unique skills and perspectives to the table. Our primary focus was to identify a good market, understand our potential customers, and deliver a product or service that would meet their needs.

After countless sessions discussing different ideas, strategic planning and hard work, we finally came up with the wonderful idea of selling sweet cones, ice cream cones, and baked goods to launch our business. However we needed to promote our business to attract our customers, so we took videos of our produce and posted them on our Snapchat stories. This supplied us with more customers, and we made a lot of money. By the end of our financial cycle, we had made a total revenue of £590.77. This figure was a testament to our dedication and the quality of our offerings. More importantly, we managed our expenses efficiently, which resulted in a profit of £430. This profit was a clear indicator that our business model was not only viable but also profitable. It was a proud moment for all of us, knowing that our efforts had paid off.



Joel, winner

Our success story didn't end with the financial milestones. We were allowed to present our business journey in front of our headteacher and many other students and teachers. This presentation was a significant event for us, as it was a chance to showcase our hard work, our strategies and the results we had achieved.

I prepared a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation that highlighted every aspect of our business, from inception to the financial results. We included data, charts and testimonials to make our presentation compelling and informative. The goal was to not only present our success but also to inspire others with our journey. The presentation was a huge success. The audience was impressed by our achievements, and the feedback was incredibly positive.



Winning Group - Sugar Rush

However, the most memorable moment for me was receiving the special award of Entrepreneur of the Year! This award was a personal triumph, a recognition of the hard work, leadership and innovative thinking that I had put into this venture.

Looking back, this journey has taught me invaluable lessons about entrepreneurship, teamwork and perseverance. It has been a rollercoaster ride filled with challenges and triumphs, but every moment has been worth it. Winning the Entrepreneur of the Year award was the cherry on top, but the real reward has been the experience and knowledge gained along the way.

I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished as a team. Our story is proof that with the right mindset and determination, success is achievable.



Selling At The Enterprise Fair

I hope our journey inspires others to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and to never give up, no matter how tough the challenges may seem.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, and here's to many more successes in the future!

THE HISTORIANS *Collection Award*

We are proud and delighted to present this year's Historians Collection Awards. This award, founded by the late beloved Ms Moyra Whelan, recognises students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and achievement in the field of history.

The award ceremony was a memorable occasion, highlighted by the presence of the Whelan family. It was an honour to have them personally present the awards to our students. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to the Whelan family for their generous donation, which enabled us to purchase a selection of books for the awardees.



Year 10 awardees



The Whelan family with the History Department

Science ALUMINI

By Ms F Mohammed, Science Department



Students in Science were really excited when some of our former students came to visit us this half term.

Years 7-12 met Kylie (Xian-Qi) Huang who is studying Biomedical Sciences at The University of Essex in Colchester. Kylie studied A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths and said 'I really enjoyed talking with the teachers and meeting all the students. I love sharing the tips and advice I learned during my time at Woodbridge. Additionally, it was a delight to reconnect with my former teachers!'

Years 7-12 also met Sarah Misraoui who took the time to inspire Year 10 Historians and young scientists alike. Sarah studied 5 A levels, including Biology, Chemistry and History and enjoyed speaking to our students. She also enjoyed meeting students who were genuinely interested in History and Science.

Science also welcomed Haider Chaudhury (Leicester - Medicine), Hassan Malik (Barts - Medicine), Beshar Deri (QMUL - Dentistry) and Dima Alobaidi (UCL - Medicine) who delivered fantastic, well-attended talks on Medicine and Dentistry. The students' questions were really insightful and these ex-students felt very nostalgic on their return to Woodbridge.

Our last visitor was Emma Zinkin, a 3rd year student from Oxford University who is studying Physics. Fielding questions from 60 or so Year 10s and 12s, Emma discussed her journey with Science from GCSE, A levels and now her immense love of Physics (and Maths). She loved engaging our students and looks forward to returning to Woodbridge in the future.

Thank you to all who supported the successful visits!



School Diversity Week is the UK-wide celebration of LGBT+ equality in primary and secondary schools.

We were delighted to hold a number of events to celebrate diversity and inclusion during the week. By fostering an inclusive environment in our school that celebrates differences, we strengthen the fabric of our society and move closer to the ideals of equality and justice.

Here are some of the highlights:

During School Diversity week a Diversity Ambassador from Just Like Us came to speak to students about her own personal journey, the obstacles she faced and how she overcame them.

We also had a visit from the author of 'Supporting Trans People Of Colour', Sabah Choudrey. Sabah is an award winner, trans youth practitioner, writer, and TEDx and keynote speaker on gender, race and faith, with a background in psychotherapy.

A 'Dress The Door' competition was held where students decorated their doors to celebrate diversity.

By Mr B Eva

We have been working with ATG (Ambassadors Theatre Group) as part of their partner school's programme. When we first instructed them, we had planned for Pride to be one of the events we wanted pupils to have a workshop with. Conor leads the Pride network for ATG, so it seemed to fit in with both the school's ethos and our working relationship with ATG.

Pupils firstly explored the history of Pride and why it's important, bringing specific data about the mistreatment of people within the LGBTQ+ community.

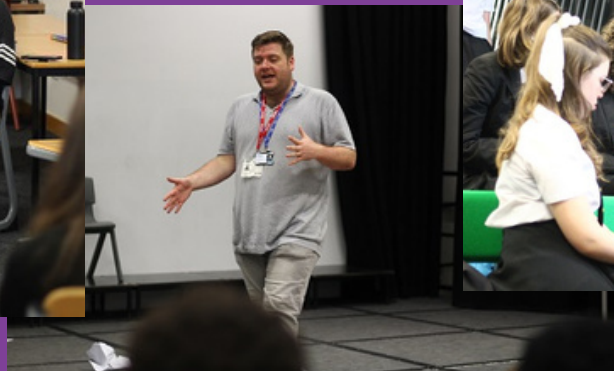
They then explored why allyship is important and the information already learned in the first part of the session supported this.

And finally, they created an equality manifesto which had 10 statements to ensure that we continue the fight for equality for all people, especially those within the LGBTQ+ community.

Alongside this they are hoping to work with us while we continue to create another Pride event next year.



Author Visit



ATG Workshop



WOODBIDGE *Sports*

The PE department have had yet another busy term, finishing off an extremely eventful academic year. There has been lots of celebrate all year and some very exciting events.

The PE staff have offered an incredible 44 extra-curricular clubs this year and have played a grand total of 137 fixtures against other schools!

Football

Woodbridge had a very successful summer term for football. We have three very large trophies to show off. How amazing our footballers are!

Y9 Boys Football Team are now the 2023/2024 Redbridge Champions. All schools in Redbridge are put in to 4 groups. They then progress on to a quarter final, semi-final and then final stage. Year 9 Boys faced Oaks Park in the final and won 6-0! Overall in the season the Year 9 team scored a huge amount of 20 goals and conceded 7. A huge congratulations to these students.



Year 9 Football Team

Y10 Boys Football Team are also the 2023/2024 Redbridge Champions. This is a title that they have won three years in a row, something that has never been seen at Woodbridge before! This team of amazing superstars have gone 3 years playing matches against Redbridge schools and have never lost a game, absolutely incredible! Overall in the season the Year 10 team scored a huge amount of 25 goals and conceded 5. They faced King Solomon in the final and won 5-0!

Y10 Boys Football Team are also the Essex Champions. They played 6 games against a range of schools across Essex. There were a total of 26 goals scored and only 5 conceded in these games. The sixth game was the final against Great Baddow High School that was played at Aveley stadium, which they won 2-1. This is an amazing success and they should all be proud of their achievements this year, well done!



Year 10 Football Team

Spain Sports Tour

Mr Gillard organised an amazing Spanish Sports Tour. 80 football and netball students travelled to Salou for 5 nights to participate in training sessions in state of the art facilities, play 5 fixtures against local Spanish competition and compete in tournaments against other touring schools.

The other fun activities included trips to Port Adventura Theme Park, Caribe Aquatic Park, the local beach and Salou town centre. We are already looking forward to running our next one!



Spain Sports Tour

Athletics

Each year, all the schools in Redbridge meet at Ashton's Athletics track on two separate days and schools nominate students to represent them in a range of events from sprinting, middle distance, jumping and throwing. Each school is awarded points for placing in each event. Woodbridge High School are really proud to announce that we are:

District athletics winners for Year 10 Boys

District athletics winners for Year 9 Boys

District athletics Runners up for Year 8 Boys

District athletics Runners up for Year 8 Girls

Overall, Woodbridge came away with 12 Gold medals, 13 Silver medals and 7 Bronze medals!



District Athletics

Panathlon Team

Students who represent the Panathlon team have participated in a bowling event and a multi sports event this summer term. In the multi sports Borough event, students achieved 2nd place

which qualified them for the East London Regional finals! Regional Finals were held at Harrow Lodge Leisure Centre in June, where they competed against other local winners. The students came 5th overall and should be very proud of their achievements.

Swimming

Woodbridge entered the district swimming gala, where we took Year 8 and 9 students to compete against other schools. The Woodbridge team consisted of seasoned swimmers who swim for clubs outside of school and other up and coming swimming stars who do not currently represent clubs. Overall, Woodbridge came away with 8 Gold medals, 2 Silver medals and 13 Bronze medals!



Woodbridge Swimmers

Sports Day

At the beginning of July, Woodbridge hosted the annual Sports Day. 285 students met at school in the morning and then travelled down to Ashton's Athletics track to represent their School House in a range of activities. Students had the opportunity to run, jump and throw to gain points for their house. Students were exceptionally behaved throughout and a lot of fun was had by all!

5th place: Red

4th place: Purple

3rd place: Green

2nd place: Blue

1st place: Yellow

Sports Awards

The last big event of the year was when we invite a number of successful sports students and their families to celebrate their achievements. It is a wonderful event to reflect on the exceptional year we have had and all the achievements. Students won prizes such as Sports Personality of the Year, Team of the Year and individual sport awards.



Sports Awards

Staying up to date!

To keep up to date with all of the events, fixtures and PE department news, make sure to follow our socials.

Instagram: @pewoodbridge

X: @WoodbridgePE

Enrich a Life. Foster for Redbridge.

Do you remember jumping over the waves at the beach in the summer? Or the dance show you were in when you were 6?

If you would like to create fun and lasting memories for children who may have never had these experiences, please email hello@localcommunityfostering.co.uk, call us on 020 8496 3437 or join us on our next virtual information session on 6 August 2024 6pm to 7pm.

Visit <https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringschools> to book a place.





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

Best of luck to all students receiving their public results!



woodbridgehighschool



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