



WOODBRIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER: SUMMER TERM



Inside This Issue:

Letter From Headteacher
Talent Show
LGBTQ+ Event
Summer Concert
Peer Mentors
Diversity Conference
Bake-Off
Sports
and more.....

INCLUSION

KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Well we did it again! Another year at Woodbridge is over and another Summer Term newsletter lands in your inbox to mark the occasion. Just having a look through the pages, I am just blown away by how much has been going on over the last term at our amazing school – and I was there for much of it, so I should remember really! From the amazing Woodbridge's Got Talent Competition, to our LGBTQ+ Pride Conference, the Summer Concert and Sports Awards, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Conference, the Year 8 Speaking Competition, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, through to fundraising events for numerous charities, Year 9 enterprise competition and Year 10 Careers Day, and some amazing individual achievements, with so much celebration of our diversity thrown in... It's a another cracking read, I promise!

For me, what shines out of the pages that follow is the fact that staff have given so much of their time to create these superb experiences for your children. Nothing that happens here happens by accident, or because I make people do things – it is down to the countless hours that staff give each week, and the endless physical and emotional energy that they put in to creating opportunities for young people. They do this because it matters – it is their way to contribute to our school and our society. Our staff are loyal and committed, hard working and dedicated. I think the world of them and I know you will want to join me in thanking them for everything they do for Woodbridge as we reach the holidays.

Of course the staff at Woodbridge are superb... but we are nothing without the students! The fact that they have thrown themselves into so many different activities this term is just one example of how amazing they are. The other side of that coin is the way that they push themselves so hard in their academic work. When I visit other schools, I talk to lots of students, and I am never swayed from my view that Woodbridge kids are the best kids there are and they always make me happy to come home! They make me proud every day – proud of their behaviour, their excellent achievement, their diversity, their respect, their inclusion, and of course their kindness. They are total superstars!



But for now, we need a holiday! Those 2,000 teenagers are superstars, no doubt, but they could do with some time with their families, I think... We will be recharging our batteries for a few weeks, if that's okay. 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 2025-26. Have a great break!

Mr S Hogan



Woodbridge Bee Club

Summer News

By Luna W and Chloe J, Year 7

On our first day at Bee Club we had no idea what to do, but when we first went out we were mind-blown. The beauty of the bees was the best thing and always made us eager to finish lessons on a Tuesday. After a few weeks of bee club we were learning more and more. We got more technical and started opening up the hive ourselves. Then we started swarming the bees.

When it came round to spring/summer time, we started noticing queen cells. Queen cells hang down and are larger than the others. We immediately knew that the bees were going to swarm soon. Swarming is when half the flying/worker bees go with the queen and leave the colony to find some other place to nest. This can disturb neighbours since we live in a suburban area. In order to prevent them from swarming and going out, we take some of the frames out and take it inside a fresh new box. This mimicked the act of swarming. Next, we choose a healthy queen and destroy the other queen cells to stop competition for her. We need to check the hive frequently as the worker bees could convert any new larva into a queen. Once this is complete, they will stop swarming and we just have to check for any diseases and whether they have enough food.

After getting a lot of experience in Bee Club, we were ready to take our exam and we had prepared a lot for it. At first we sat down and the examiner (who is really nice) asked us some questions about the bees, such as how everything worked in the hive and the parts of the hive. It barely felt like an exam. We had to make an artwork piece to show the examiner. I made a poster of what you would find inside the hive. We walked over to the hives and got our bee gear on. We searched the hive and went through the precautions of staying safe in the hive. We worked really hard to pass the exam and we did! We received badges and certificates.





Summer is the perfect time for honey extractions. We take the frames and shake the bees off so we only have the frame left. Then we take the frames inside and, using a honey fork, we gently scrape the wax off the top. After scraping both sides off, we place it into the extractor. We put in 3 frames at a time. We close the lid and turn a crank which spins them around. This causes the honey to fly off and stick to the sides.

Eventually the honey will drip down the side and collect at the bottom. This extractor has a tap connected so once we have all the honey, we turn the tap and it pours into a bucket with a filter on the top. This allows any bits to be removed from the honey itself. We then weigh and pour the honey into individual jars.

That's how honey extraction is done. Afterwards, we tasted the honey and it was delicious!



SPARK AWARD

We were delighted to be awarded the Spark Award at the first Future Leaders awards at the iconic BT Tower!



Future Leaders: "Massive shout-out to Woodbridge High School, winners of our Spark Award! Their support lit the flame that grew into Future Leaders UK. Without them, our journey might never have begun. Thank you Woodbridge High, for embracing new ideas and driving change."

Future Leaders is an award winning leadership programme founded by Faheem Khan, a previous Deputy Headteacher at Woodbridge. The programme empowers young people to realise their full potential, helping them to lead positive change and increase their access to leading universities and competitive careers.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



DofE Silver Expedition

By Mr A Allen, DofE Lead

As we come to the end of the school year, our Bronze group has completed their expedition, and many are also close to finishing the skills, physical, and volunteering sections. These awards will be ready to present towards the end of the autumn term next year. The Bronze group has worked hard this year to complete the award and showed great resilience during their expedition. They were an excellent reflection of Woodbridge, demonstrating strong teamwork and care for the wider environment.

The Silver groups are nearing their assessed expedition, having completed their practice event a couple of weeks ago. It was a challenging experience with long days of walking, cooking, camping, and doing their best to stay positive in the heat. They have also put significant effort into the skills, physical, and volunteering sections, making a real impact in the community. Their progress is logged on a digital system, and it's a real pleasure to read about their self-motivation and commitment through their records and the comments from coaches, group leaders, and volunteer contacts.

Our Silver assessed weekend is imminent. We've planned our routes, and although there's a small clash with Sports Day, I'm confident—based on the practice weekend—that this group will manage the long day well. Alongside the physical effort of walking with a 14kg pack, they've become adept at managing their water and calorie intake, with some impressive evening cooking. We'll be reminding them of Mr. Edwards' mantra on the trail: "Low mood—eat food"—the perfect excuse to enjoy some sugary snacks!

We are now approaching our Gold practice week: five days and four nights of trekking, carrying our own food and shelter, with no shops or internet! Our group this year is small but full of character, and I expect some interesting reflections on each day's hike as the week progresses. Again, these students are mostly new to each other and will need to find ways to communicate and compromise to complete the week successfully. Our assessed expedition is scheduled for the first week of September due to calendar clashes, but I believe it will be a fantastic start to Year 13 for them.

Year 8's will soon be able to apply for DofE. We will expect some planning in advance regarding the skills, physical and volunteering section. Look out for a Firefly task with more details.

The real value of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award is that students must find ways to work in a variety of environments, often with new people—sometimes not those they would have chosen themselves. These experiences truly help prepare them for a successful life.

A thank you is also necessary here. The Duke of Edinburgh award is run by us internally to manage cost, and this requires support from staff. We are hugely thankful to every member of staff that has been involved this year - without you, it would not be possible.

Stepping Up For GOSH



A group of sixth formers are getting their walking shoes on to raise money for GOSH, by taking part in the London Ultra Challenge 25 Kilometre Walk!

By Aman S, Year 12

We are an enthusiastic group of Year 12 students who want to raise £1375 for Great Ormond Street Hospital by completing a 25 kilometre walk on 23rd August 2025. The route begins in Woolwich, goes up the Thames, reaches around the bustling Canary Wharf, then loops the whole way back around.

The walk won't be easy, but neither are the experiences of children in NHS care every year dealing with life-threatening illnesses. As a vital part of the NHS since 1852, Great Ormond Street Hospital has been providing children's hospitals with life-saving medical equipment, toys and games to bring wards together, and parental support for the extremely intense times. That's why your donations are so important - every single pound makes a difference to a child in hospice.

GOSH is an especially meaningful charity for us to support, with members of our walking group having periods in paediatric hospitals and seeing



Sixth Formers taking the Ultra Challenge Walk.



Just-giving QR code

first hand the powerful, positive contributions that NHS paediatric departments, such as GOSH, can make to a child's time in hospital.

GOSH believes that childhood shouldn't be lost to illness, so please sponsor our walk and share to friends & family which can be done at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/sunday-walkers-1> -The Sunday Walkers



Easter Reflections

Year 10 Visit St Paul's Cathedral

By Mrs R Begum, Religious Education

As part of our Easter celebrations, I had the privilege of taking our Year 10 GCSE Religious Education class, along with members of our Multi Faith Committee, on a very special trip to St Paul's Cathedral in London.

This visit was particularly meaningful to me, as it brought back vivid memories of my own school trip to the cathedral many years ago. It felt incredibly special to return as a teacher and share that experience with my students. It really was a full-circle moment, made even more memorable by the Easter season.

Students had the chance to deepen their understanding of Christianity by learning about the religious significance and historical background of this iconic landmark. We also

spent time reflecting at some of the remarkable memorials inside, including tributes to World War Two heroes and Florence Nightingale.

We were fortunate to have beautiful weather on the day, which made exploring the cathedral all the more enjoyable. A highlight for many of us was the climb to the top of the dome. Though it was certainly a challenge, the views from the top were absolutely breathtaking and well worth the effort.

The students conducted themselves with such respect and curiosity throughout the day. The St Paul's team commented that our students were among the best school groups they had ever hosted! That was such a proud moment.

By Madison Mae M, Year 10

It was a wonderful experience giving us the opportunity to learn many things.

We discovered that although it is a Protestant church, it has features commonly found in Catholic churches, such as stained glass windows. Also, the different coloured robes that priests wear had meanings such as purple is worn to represent the coming of Easter.

My friends and I also had the chance to light a

candle together and we lay down on the floor to take some photos of the intricate designs on the ceiling. Towards the end of our visit, we spent time climbing to the very top of the Cathedral. Although quite scary, we found it thrilling and exciting too!

One extra thing I remember learning is that at the top of the metre-tall door at the front of the building — which only royalty can enter — a Bible actually fits perfectly. Thank you for the enjoyable experience!

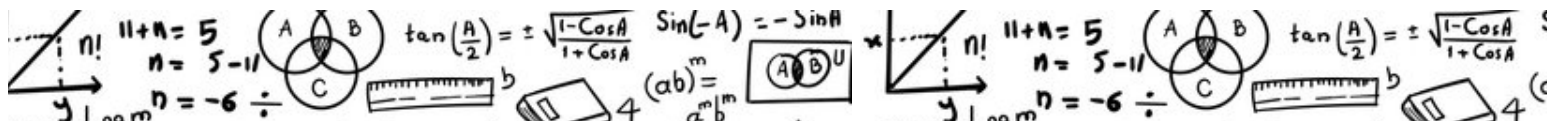
By Erin G, Year 10

At St Paul's Cathedral we had a very fun experience. We took part in many fun activities, including lighting candles, and everywhere we went we learned something new about Christianity. We also got to climb to the top of the dome. It was only 528 steps but it felt like way more. It was so cool going to the top of the dome as we could see all of St Paul's from the inside and even some English landmarks from the outside. I am so glad that as part of the Multi Faith Committee I got this amazing opportunity.



Students lighting candles and reflecting

It was truly a wonderful day filled with learning, reflection, and a real sense of connection. I am so proud of how brilliantly our students represented the school, and I hope this trip leaves a lasting impression on them, just as it did for me all those years ago.



UK Maths Trust

By Mr H Miller
Maths Department

One hundred and twenty eight year 7 and year 8 mathematicians represented the school to participate in the UK Mathematics Trust's Junior Mathematical Challenge. This is a tough set of problems designed for the country's most gifted mathematicians.

WHS scored particularly highly this year, with over ninety students placing in the top 50% of participants, and ten students attaining a 'gold' certificate. In particular, we congratulate Zaima Z, Zac M, Rishi E, Tsz Ho W and Mikaeel S who qualified for the Junior Kangaroo follow-up competition. Well done to all who took part!



Junior Kangaroo Qualifiers
with Mr Miller and Mr Hogan

WOODBIDGE PRIDE RETURNS IN *full colour!*

By Mr B Eva-Griffiths
Associate Assistant Headteacher

After a vibrant week celebrating identity, inclusion, and unity, Woodbridge High School proudly brought back its much-loved Pride Event to close out Diversity Week 2025—and what a return it was!

Led with passion and purpose by Mr Eva-Griffiths and Ms Holland, this year's Pride celebration was a kaleidoscope of creativity, education, and empowerment. The day kicked off with a powerful keynote from Mr Eva-Griffiths, who shared a moving history of Pride alongside his personal journey—setting the tone for a day rooted in authenticity and courage.

The energy soared as the Ambassadors Theatre Group's Conor Hunt—from the first theatre company to represent at London Pride—brought a burst of theatrical flair. Students got hands-on designing their own Pride-themed costumes and tote bags, blending art with activism in the most fabulous way.



*Pride
Conference*



Workshops throughout the day offered something for every curious mind and open heart. MHST Redbridge led a thoughtful session on mental wellbeing, while Ms McNamee-Obi guided students through a powerful workshop on allyship and discovering your personal “essence”—a session that left many inspired and introspective.

A special shoutout goes to Redbridge Rainbow, who promoted their first-ever borough-wide Pride event, which took place on 12th July—a milestone moment for our wider community. And just when we thought the day couldn't get any more dazzling, RuPaul's Drag Race Season 6 star Dita Garbo lit up the stage with a show-stopping performance. But Dita didn't just slay the runway—she stayed for a heartfelt panel discussion alongside Ms Martin (Wanstead High School), Ms Zaman (Ilford County High), Ms Holland, and Ms McNamee-Obi, sharing wisdom, wit, and lived experiences with our students.

With over 100 pupils from 10 different schools in attendance, this year's Pride event didn't just celebrate diversity—it embodied it. Woodbridge has once again solidified its place as a beacon of inclusivity, creativity, and pride in Redbridge and beyond.

Here's to love, learning, and living our truth—loud and proud.

WOODBIDGE PRIDE RETURNS IN *full colour!*

By Ms K McNamee-Obi

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Co-ordinator

Outside of the labels, roles, and social markers we often use to define ourselves — who are you, really?

This was one of the questions I posed during our recent LGBTQ+ youth conference, where I had the honour of leading a workshop and contributing to a panel on belonging and allyship.

I described my own essence using three elements that ground me:

- 💧 Water – adaptable, flowing, essential
- 🌳 Tree – rooted, resilient, unwavering
- 💡 Light – illuminating, warm, purposeful

I asked students to reflect on who they are at the core — and through that, created a space where human connection, authenticity, and care could take root. Because beyond identity, at our core, we are human beings with a deep desire to connect, to be seen, and to leave spaces better than we found them.

That's what belonging is about. And allyship? That's how we help others find it.

I spoke about how allyship isn't passive — it's an active, sometimes uncomfortable choice to stand up, speak out, and show up. It can be scary. That's why we talked about bravery — not as loud, performative acts, but quiet, consistent courage.

For me, it also connects deeply with my belief in the principle of tikkun olam — a call to “repair the world”. To build community. To be each other's keeper. To look out for one another — especially the most vulnerable.



Pride Conference

I closed with a few Jamaican proverbs that beautifully ties it all together. And the one that resonates with me the most is:

👏 “One han’ cyaa clap.”

Because belonging and allyship are never solo acts — they require us to move together, with compassion and intention.

So proud that I was a part of a space where young people could reflect, share, and leave feeling just a little more seen and supported.



Women In Aviation



Woodbridge Students and Staff of the Women In Aviation Project

By Ms E Griffiths, Careers

During March, April and May, a group of Year 9 students took part in the Women in Aviation project, which is a Careers aspiration programme run in partnership with London City Airport. We started off with 30 young women who were interested in learning more about STEM careers and we spent a morning at London City Airport learning about the wide range of careers within the Aviation industry, and the aim of the airport to work towards net zero in the next decade.

Our task was then to go away and to work in groups to prepare a presentation of ideas which the airport could adopt in working towards their sustainability aims.

After several weeks of working, mainly in their own time, the students came together for the Woodbridge final where our winning entry was chosen, and on May 11th we set out for an exciting day on the Sunborne Yacht in Docklands where we were to present our project in competition against 9 other schools.

This year we didn't win, but the students were amazing, presenting with confidence and clarity, doing themselves and Woodbridge more than proud!

Congratulations to Anjali, Rheya, Aria, Asiya, Mishaal, Naila and Lina for all their hard work. I hope that they are as proud of their achievements as I am.

What Our Students had To Say:

The aviation program was a really interesting experience. Honestly, I didn't, before this opportunity, think that I could have made the things that we were tasked to do. I had no idea about net-zero and I didn't know ways to make anything, let alone an airport, more sustainable. But through this project I have gained the confidence to not only carry out research but also be able to present the information in front of others. I'm grateful for this opportunity as it proved that I could do things that I didn't know I could, even when outside of my comfort zone.

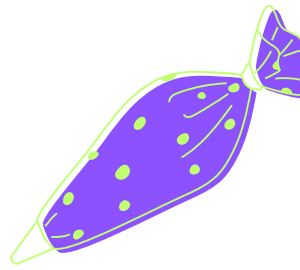
I have really enjoyed this experience so far. It has opened my mind to so many new ways of helping the environment.

The process has been a really different experience but in a good way because we don't have competitive group projects in school or doing research about a topic from scratch so it's been really amazing and interesting!

This experience has been truly amazing. It has made me realise that there are so many ways to make aviation, as well as your daily life, more sustainable and kinder to the environment.

Overall I have really enjoyed this programme greatly as I have been able to work with some of my dear friends as well as those I didn't know so well. We have learnt so much about London City Airport from our research, a topic that we had never really considered before.

THE GREAT WHS BAKE OFF



By Ms E Burch, Wellbeing

On Wednesday 14 May, over 30 staff came together to present their finest baking prowess in aid of Mental Health Awareness Week in the annual Great Woodbridge Bake Off.

It is no small feat to head home after a busy day at school and fire up the oven to bake, but there were some phenomenal bakes! From cookies to towering multi-layered Victoria sponge cakes, to key lime pie and cupcakes, there was something for everyone.

This event always creates a wonderful buzz around the school grounds, with students excitedly turning up to support their teachers, and certainly some pre-lunchtime campaigning taking place on the part of some participants! It was a wonderful example of what Team Woodbridge do so well – coming together as a community to eat a lot of cake and raise money for a wonderful charity.

In total we raised £201.60 for The Mental Health Foundation. Congratulations to the winners of the Bake off: 1st place Ms Sanderson with her confetti cake, joint 2nd place Ms Boaten Rolfe (Lemon Drizzle Cake) and Ms Fisher (Rice Crispie Cake) and joint 3rd place Mr Miller (Free Speed Flapjacks) and Ms Burch ("Hello Panda" Cake).

A big thank you to the Wellbeing Team and the BET Team for running the event. We are already looking forward to next year, by which point we may be hungry again!



BET and Wellbeing Staff



Winning bake by Miss Sanderson!

Geography Department



By Ms K Gray, Head of Geography

It has been a busy and exciting year for the Woodbridge Geography Department, with students venturing out on a range of field trips to bring classroom learning to life.

In March, our Year 11 students went on two valuable data collection trips to help prepare for their geography exam. Their first stop was Epping Forest, where they investigated changes in river characteristics. They then swapped rural for urban, heading to London Kings Cross to explore urban regeneration in action.

Our Year 12 A Level geographers have been equally busy, taking part in several fieldwork investigations to support their studies and prepare for their Non-Examined Assessment. Highlights included a day trip to Stratford to examine the impacts of the Olympic regeneration project and a weekend residential to Flatford Mill in beautiful Constable Country. During their time there, they also carried out coastal data collection at Walton-on-the-Naze, comparing coastal management strategies and studying the wave-cut platform.

To round off the year, we returned to Kings Cross with Year 10 for more urban fieldwork and gave our Year 12s a final chance to gather important data so they can start writing up their investigation.

We hope our students found these trips insightful and that they gained valuable fieldwork skills, as well as the chance to see real-world examples of the theories discussed in class. A huge thank you goes to all the staff who supported these trips and made them possible!



Year 12 Geographers

Refugee Week

Supporting Refugees at Woodbridge

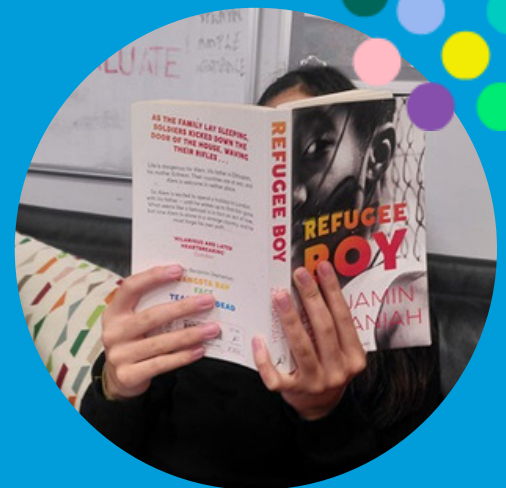
By Mr S Shaw, Head of Sociology

The theme of Refugee Week this June was "Our Community as a Superpower." This message is reflected throughout the year at Woodbridge. We are proud of the way our school community supports student asylum seekers and refugees, while raising awareness of the global challenges faced by displaced people.

This year, we've welcomed students seeking asylum from Syria, Sudan, and Dubai. It has been heart-warming to see how they've been embraced by their peers and how quickly they have become part of school life.

On the same theme, a group of Year 7 HAP students have been reading *Refugee Boy* by the late, great Benjamin Zephaniah. The novel tells the powerful story of a child fleeing civil war in the Horn of Africa and his struggle to rebuild his life in East London.

During the year, a dedicated group of Year 12 volunteers held cake sales to raise funds for the refugee support charity Care4Calais. Their impressive baking efforts raised over £400 — a fantastic achievement for a vital cause.



HAP students reading *Refugee Boy*



Year 12 students raised over £400 for Care4Calais!

Science Department

By Mr S Peethamparam, Science Department

Chocolate Extravaganza

On Thursday 3rd July, Woodbridge High School welcomed a professional chocolatier to deliver an exciting and delicious workshop for our Year 10 science students.

Organised as a fun, extra-curricular event by the science department, the session introduced students to the fascinating chemistry behind

chocolate-making — covering topics like crystallisation, melting points, and the structure of cocoa butter. Students then had the chance to get hands-on by creating their own chocolate treats, blending science with creativity (and plenty of taste-testing). It was a memorable experience that brought science to life in the sweetest way possible.



Chocolate Workshop

London Zoo Trip

We recently organised an enriching educational trip to London Zoo for Year 8 science students, which took place over two days—Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd July.

Brimming with curiosity and enthusiasm, the students explored exhibits ranging from the lush tropical rainforest habitat to the fascinating marine worlds. They observed animal behaviours and learned about conservation efforts, all while trying not to melt in the extremely hot weather—some claimed they were hotter than the reptiles in the enclosures!



Students visit London Zoo

The visit deepened their understanding of biology and ecosystems, and sparked plenty of laughter (and a lot of ice cream).



CAREERS

Year 10 Careers Day - A Resounding Success!

By Ms L Griffiths & Mrs D Miah
Careers Team

All Year 10 students took part in a wonderful day of varied careers-related activities, supported by the fabulous Year 10 tutor team! The day included a Communication and Active Listening workshop, a Unifrog careers exploration session, virtual work experience using the Springpod platform, and fascinating presentations on a variety of career pathways, including publishing, the creative industries, fashion, law, social media, and finance.

The highlight for many was a one-to-one interview with an external professional, following the completion of a CV in Life Studies lessons.

Students looked fantastic in professional dress for the day, and everyone received compliments on their competence and mature behaviour throughout.

None of this would have been possible without the support of around 35 dedicated and truly incredible parents, governors, and friends of the school, who generously gave up their time to take part in the day and share their expertise with the students. We are so grateful to them all and cannot thank them enough!



*By Mrs W Graham
Professional Volunteer*



The recent Year 10 Careers Day was a well-organised and well-attended event that provided an excellent opportunity for students to experience realistic mock interviews. Each student applied for one of four designated roles and came thoroughly prepared, dressed professionally and equipped with a tailored CV, their school progress report, and recent mock GCSE results.

The level of engagement was impressive. Students conducted themselves with confidence, positivity, and maturity, showing genuine enthusiasm and a willingness to receive constructive feedback to support their future development.

It was a rewarding and valuable day for both students and interviewers, and a strong reflection of the hard work and ambition of the Year 10 cohort.

ASPIRE HIGHER!

By Miss E Watton, Aspire Higher Lead

Students at Aspire Higher have had a busy term of masterclasses and extra lessons. This term, students have attended masterclasses on topics such as "Careers in Law" with Ms Burch, "Time Travel and the Multiverse" with Ms Wardle and "Fitness Testing and Coaching" with Mr Hawkins. During their Aspire lessons, students have also been learning more about robotics and other STEM topics. Year 7 have been studying Benjamin Zephaniah's book "Refugee Boy" and preparing presentations about how we can support refugees in the community.

Our year 9 Brilliant Club students completed their programme in May, by writing university-style essays about mental health and psychology. The students attended a graduation ceremony to celebrate their achievements at Royal Holloway University! They enjoyed a tour of the beautiful



Brilliant Club

campus, met current university students and learned about different pathways for the future.

If you would like more information about Aspire Higher or the Brilliant Club, please speak to Miss Watton.

all of us

building belonging together

By Ms K McNamee-Obi

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Co-ordinator

What a powerful day of courageous conversations, connection, and community. This wasn't about ticking a box, because if there is one thing I dislike, it's ticking boxes for the sake of ticking boxes...because why? When we can do something that's more meaningful and has a greater impact. Today's conversations were about shifting the experience of school, not just for some, but for all.

Our student-led DEI Conference, "All of Us: Building Belonging Together", brought students from across year groups, staff, and governors into a shared space to explore what it really means to belong. Through rotating roundtable discussions, we tackled big topics — race, faith, gender identity, and allyship — with openness, respect, and a whole heap of heart.

From honest reflections to bold questions, our young people reminded us: belonging isn't just about being present — it's about being seen, heard, and valued. I couldn't be prouder of our DEI student committee members, who led their peers with such grace, authenticity, and care.

There's a Jamaican proverb that says:

"One, one coco full basket." If you know, you know; but for those who don't know, it is a reminder that small, consistent efforts - when brought together — lead to big change. I witnessed that today: a collective step forward. This was more than a conference, dare I say it was a movement.

As I reminded students about the importance of these conversations, I remembered something both my grandmothers would say that still rings true today. It's this Jamaican adage (yes! I'm Jamaican) that says:

"Di same stick weh bruk di wild goat bruk di tame one." In other words, what harms one, harms all.



Building Together Conference

So essentially when one student feels excluded, it can impact the entire community. And if you've ever felt excluded or invisible, you know — this matters.

The space that was created today was for truth. For stories. For change. And trust me, we're just getting started.

If you would like to join the DEI committee, please contact Ms McNamee-Obi

History Department

*By Ms A Latino
Head Of History*

This term our Year 10 historians and KS3 German students went on a joint trip to Berlin. Students had a four-day intensive tour of Berlin with our own guide!

Students explored the Reichstag, Hitler's bunker, Sachsenhausen concentration camp, Wannsee house, the Olympic Stadium, the Stasi prison, the spy museum, the DDR museum, East Side Gallery and more! Students were able to see the history that they have studied in real-life and the German students got to practise speaking, including trying to teach Ms Latino how to speak very limited German!

The students were exemplary and thoroughly engaged with the tour with no complaints about the amount of walking!

Year 10 historians have also attended a Whitechapel walking tour that focused on the socio-economic conditions that made policing the inner city difficult. This was to enrich their knowledge for their local study on Whitechapel in the 19th century.

The department has carried out the Historians Collection in memory of Moyra Wheelan. Students from Years 7-10 were selected by their teacher for demonstrating a positive attitude to their learning and an enthusiasm for the subject. Mr Bhullar led the prize giving and spoke about the importance of reading. Students were awarded with a book that they picked, along with a certificate. Heartfelt thanks to the Wheelan family who donated and presented the students with the books. Well done to all students involved!



Berlin Trip



Whitechapel Tour



Historians Award



By Ms R Glover, Deputy Head of Wellbeing

This year, the Wellbeing Team have piloted a new Peer Mentoring Programme to add an additional layer of support for our younger students. We selectively recruited ten Year 12 students and provided them with training from Redbridge Mental Health Team. We then asked the Year Coordinators and Form Tutors for Year 7 and Year 8 to refer any students who they believed would benefit from having an older role model and a listening ear each week.

Peer mentees and peer mentors were carefully matched and began to have weekly meetings in February. They would meet every week in school time for 30 minutes over 6 weeks and spend time talking about their week, doing mindful activities, completing wellbeing worksheets or playing games.

One peer mentee came to their first session with a goal of wanting to be more organised and to reduce their screen time. Their mentor took the time to listen, understand and encourage these goals by setting realistic targets. The next session the mentee came back and said that his parents had noticed a difference in his organisation and that his screen time had been reduced by 22%!

in addition to the positive feedback we have heard from mentees, the peer mentors have also developed skills such as active listening, conversation skills, the ability to support someone to problem-solve and to advocate on someone else's behalf. Some of the peer mentors went above and beyond in their role and created bespoke games and activities based on the needs of their mentees.

Our hope for this programme is that it can provide a form of early intervention wellbeing support, which may prevent further issues from developing as these students grow older. It has had a fantastic first year and we believe it will go from strength to strength in the next few years.

If a student feels they would like support, they can contact the Wellbeing Team by attending Chillout Club on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtime, or by emailing hereforyou@woodbridgehigh.co.uk.

By Miss J Sanderson & By Miss E Jamieson BET Leaders

We're thrilled to share the incredible highlights from our recent House charity events! Your energy, enthusiasm, and generosity have made this term unforgettable. Here's a look at what we've achieved together:

Woodbridge's Got Talent

Our annual Woodbridge's Got Talent show lit up the stage once again, and this year, it was so dazzling, it nearly became Woodbridge X Factor!

From powerful vocals to captivating performances, our students truly shone. The atmosphere was electric as each act brought something unique and heartfelt to the stage. A huge thank you to our fabulous judges—Mr Hogan, Mr Eva-Griffiths, Ms Burch, and Ivona—for their thoughtful feedback, encouragement, and infectious enthusiasm throughout the evening.

A special congratulations goes to our incredible winners, Zara and Alba, whose performance left the audience speechless. Their beautiful singing, paired with moving sign language, was not only inspiring but deeply emotional. They reminded us all of the power of music and inclusivity. Let's not forget our brilliant presenters Filip and Jake, who kept the show flowing with charm and confidence. Their energy and humour made the night even more enjoyable for everyone in the audience. Thank you to everyone for helping us to make this event such a success. Your courage, creativity, and community spirit are what make Woodbridge High School so special.

Diversity Week

Diversity Week was a vibrant celebration of individuality, inclusion, and unity. Highlights included:

- A crafts fair celebrating every individual, with creative displays and activities that reflected the unique identities within our school community
- Rainbow bench painting, symbolising inclusion and pride
- Daily activities and assemblies promoting awareness and respect

Thank you to everyone who helped make this week so meaningful!



WGT



Diversity Week



Miss Jamieson and Miss Sanderson with our prefects

Prefects

We are thrilled to celebrate the incredible start our Year 10 Prefects have made this term! Their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to the school community have been nothing short of inspiring.

Standing Out in Style - Our prefects have truly made their mark—especially now that they're sporting their bright pink high-vis jackets during break and lunch duties! Not only do they look fantastic, but they're also easier to spot when offering support to their peers and helping maintain a safe and welcoming environment around the school.

Leading by Example - From assisting at the Year 7 Induction Day and Evening, to being a friendly face at the Rainbow Bench, our prefects have

shown maturity and kindness in every role they've taken on. Their presence has helped new students feel at home and supported from day one.

Making a Difference - Whether it's volunteering for litter picking, helping with teacher-led tasks, or simply being a reliable helping hand, our prefects have gone above and beyond to keep Woodbridge High running smoothly. Their dedication to keeping our school clean, inclusive, and organised is deeply appreciated.

To all our Year 10 Prefects—thank you for your hard work, positivity, and leadership. You've set a brilliant example for others to follow, and we can't wait to see what you'll achieve next. Keep shining bright, pink high-vis and all!

Fundraising Update

Thanks to your incredible efforts, our house charities have raised a total of £3,213.92 so far! Every penny goes towards making a difference in our community and beyond. Your house's individual total will be announced during house assemblies in December—stay tuned to see how your team did!

Let's keep the momentum going and continue to support one another with kindness, creativity, and purpose.

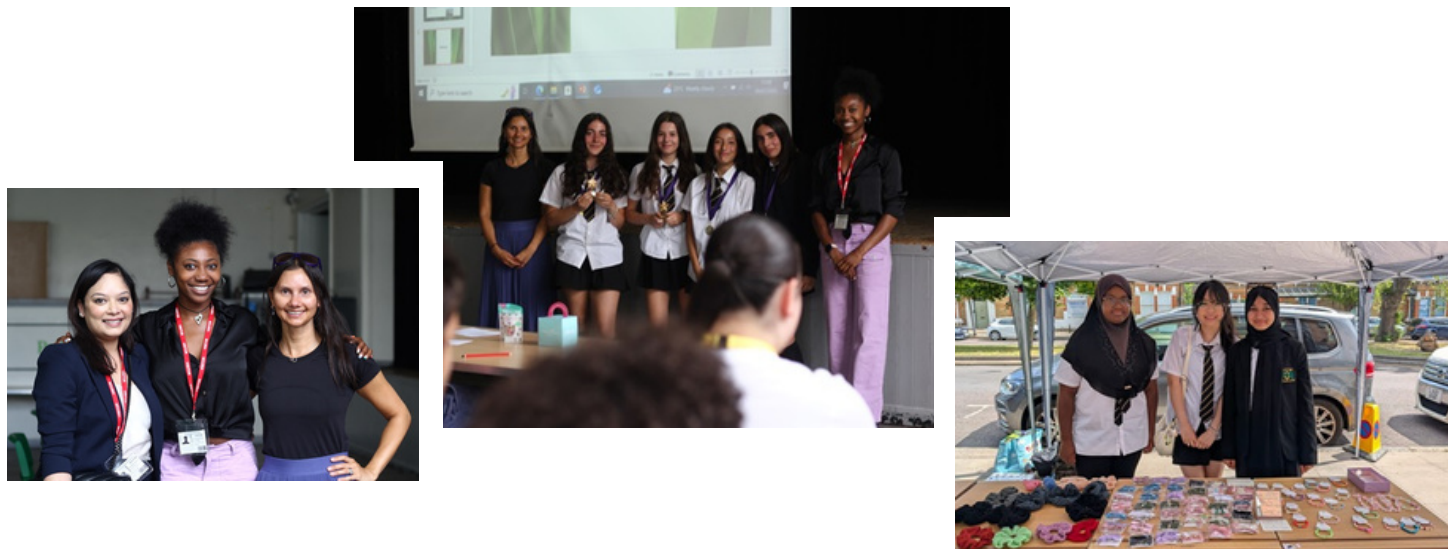
Whether you performed, painted, donated, or cheered from the sidelines, you made a difference.

Business & Economics *Department*

By Ms C Jaeggi

Head of Business & Economics

Year 9 Entrepreneurs Impress at South Woodford Market and Enterprise Fair



The weeks following the May half term saw our enterprising Year 9 Business students step into the world of entrepreneurship by launching and running their own businesses. From sourcing stock and designing packaging, to advertising, selling, and—perhaps most enjoyably—counting profits, students got hands-on experience of what it takes to be a business owner.

This year's lunchtime markets in the RPT were buzzing with a fantastic range of student-run stalls offering everything from bubble tea, ice cream sundaes, homemade cookies and lemonade, to mocktails, handmade hair clips, bracelets, and phone charms.

In addition to our school-based trading, students were given the opportunity to take their businesses to the wider community by running stalls at South Woodford Market on Sunday 16th June. Once again, the market organisers were blown away by the enthusiasm, professionalism, and creativity of our young entrepreneurs—and generously offered them the chance to return whenever they'd like.

Reflecting on the experience, Pui shared:

"The South Woodford Market was really successful. We got to meet people in the real world and have conversations with them about our products. It was a bit of a challenge at first because we were competing with food stalls during lunchtime, but we gained more customers later on. As our first time running a business, we all thought it was quite successful. We're really glad we had the chance to do this."

The project concluded with our Enterprise Fair on Tuesday 9th July, where each team presented their business journey to a panel of distinguished judges: Mr Hogan, Ms Brock-Carey, Joel A (Entrepreneur of the Year 2024), Ms Hamlin (co-founder of the Enterprise Fair at Ms Jaeggi's previous school), and our very special guest judge, Elle McIntosh.

Elle, co-founder of Twipes—the world's first fully flushable and biodegradable wet wipe company—was once herself a student of Ms Jaeggi's Enterprise programme. Now a successful entrepreneur, Elle offered inspiring words about

the importance of self-belief and asking for help. She also shared exciting updates about Twipes' recent expansion into the American market.

This year's Enterprise Fair winners were:

Overall Winner

Top Score and Most Investable Business:

Sugar Rush: Sofia, Camila, Luna, Juliette

Honourable Mention

Overall Points Runner-Up:

Boba Iced Tea: Theodora, Kyra, Latrell

Honourable Mention

Most Investable Business:

LemonBerry Treats: Jasmin, Riah, Willow, Fatima

Honourable Mention

Most Creative Business Idea:

Pui & Areej

Judges scored each business across five categories: creativity, marketing, operations, finance, and salespersonship. For the 'Most Investable' category, judges imagined they had £100,000 to invest.

The Business & Economics Department would like to thank all the staff and students who supported our budding entrepreneurs—whether by buying products, giving advice, or cheering them on. A special thanks goes to the Drama department for the generous use of the RPT, and to the South Woodford Market organisers, who have supported Woodbridge Enterprise students for five consecutive years.

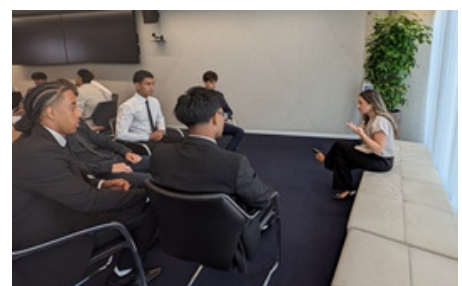
Although this project is absolutely exhausting to run, it remains one of the true highlights of the school year for me. To the incredible students I've worked with over the past seven years: your drive, creativity, and hustle have been extraordinary.

I hope the students at my new school will match your energy—and I'll certainly be watching Dragon's Den and The Apprentice in case I spot any familiar faces in the years to come.

Year 12 Economics Students Gain Valuable Experience at MAN Group Insight Day

On Thursday 10th July, our Year 12 Economics students had the exciting opportunity to attend an Insight Day at MAN Group plc, located in the heart of the City. As the world's largest publicly traded hedge fund, MAN Group offered students an invaluable look into the world of high finance.

The day provided a range of engaging activities: students explored the history and structure of the company, participated in a speed networking session with professionals from across the organisation, toured the impressive office building, and received expert advice on how to build a diversified investment portfolio. They also learned about early careers opportunities within the company, culminating in a competitive Trading Game, where they were challenged to invest an imaginary £100,000 and see who could generate the highest returns.



**Alara (MAN employee)
speaks to students**



Students with MAN staff

A highlight of the day was a visit from Alara Demoura, a former Woodbridge student who now works at MAN Group as part of their client relations apprenticeship programme. Alara previously attended the Insight Day in 2023 and shared how that experience helped her prepare for the rigorous interview process. Her story served as a source of inspiration for many of our current students.

The impact of the day was clear. Christian shared: "Hi Miss Jaeggi, I'm writing to thank you and your husband Ed for the opportunity to experience a day inside MAN Group. It was really insightful and provided a lot of clarity about what I want to do next in my education. I was really impressed by the culture and values at MAN Group—they reflected a very positive workplace, and I could definitely see myself working there in the future."

Tristan echoed this sentiment:

"Hello Miss, I just wanted to say I deeply appreciated the opportunity you gave us today—it truly felt like a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and I really enjoyed it. Thank you once again."

We are incredibly proud of our students for making the most of this opportunity and are deeply grateful to MAN Group for their generosity and insight. This marks the seventh year that Woodbridge students have attended Insight Days at MAN Group, and this year felt like a true full-circle moment. Having Alara—herself a former Woodbridge MAN Group Insight Day attendee—return to speak to our current cohort powerfully demonstrated the lasting impact these opportunities can have. Her presence made it clear to our students that with ambition and determination, they too could be on a similar path in just a few years' time.

exploring DEMOCRACY

Our students have been exploring how the Houses of Parliament work!

Year 12 Debating students were given a tour of the Palace of Westminster. Our local MP Iain Duncan Smith also met with students and showed them round the House of Commons, sharing stories about some of the odd rules and customs and their origins.

On another visit to our school, Iain Duncan Smith spoke to students about democracy and working in parliament. This was followed by a Q&A session where students were able to ask questions about local issues which mattered to them.



Y12 in Parliament

These experiences have given our students a valuable insight into the workings of UK democracy and the role of elected representatives.

Summer Concert

By Ms J Holland, Head Of Music

Our summer concert this year was a wonderful showcase of the hard work, dedication and endless TALENT of our students here at Woodbridge. Choir, Barbershop and Guitar & Ukulele all sang their hearts out, and a particular highlight for us was seeing so many family, friends and staff members mouthing along to Abba's 'Mamma Mia!'. Maybe a sing-a-long for the audience is needed for next summer?



A particular shout out goes to all the rock bands, all of which are self-run, creating an energetic "Battle of the Bands"-esque part of the programme. One of our bands, Nebula, will be playing at the South Woodford Festival at 2pm on Sunday 20th July so if you are around, please go and support them! Our fantastic orchestra closed the concert, with a four-part collection of pieces consisting of tricky time signatures and toe-tapping Scottish Dances.

Time and time again, we are so proud and honoured as a department to have so many pupils spend their afterschool hours in rehearsals. Our Year 11s and 13s who, had completed their GCSE and A Level exams earlier this term, also came back for their final performance which says it all about how much they love being a part of their clubs!

As we take a short summer intermission, we can't help but look forward to the next academic year and what magic and joy our incredible students will bring for our Christmas Concert. Thank you to Steven for his continued championing of the arts, and to the parents/carers who encourage and support their children to get involved in our musical extra-curricular programme. See you in September!



VITESH'S VOICE!

By Vitesh S, Year 10

WOODBIDGE'S GOT TALENT

"Oh what a night to remember!" This year's talent show was unforgettable for me. I loved performing Jersey Boy's hit musical number. Without any dancers or flashy rituals I showcased my vocals and theatrical story-telling, bringing the Jersey Boys back to life. I studied Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, bringing energy and emotion to every note.

Judge's reactions:

Mr Hogan: "Well done for transforming a classical song into a theatrical journey."

Ivona M (previous winner): "You captured both the energy and the emotion of the song."

Ms Burch: "Theatrical brilliance!"

Mr Eva-Griffiths: "I have enthusiasm in your performance."

And as for me, it was "Oh what a night" and "Oh what a performance".



SUMMER CONCERT

A musical moment to remember!

This year's summer concert was an unforgettable experience for me. I took part in the school choir and sang 'Edelweiss' and 'Pink Pony Club'.

I really enjoyed it as I like performing and singing. As Mr Hogan previously mentioned, "A school without Drama and Music isn't a school at all." Even Mr Prosner took part in the summer concert, performing in the choir and barbershop. There was also an orchestra which I was very pleased about. This summer concert was a show to remember!





Speak Out contestants with Mr Riley and Mr Hogan

By Mr A Riley

Speak Out Organiser, English Department

Congratulations to all of those involved in the Year 8 Speak Out competition! From the moment Ms Colman and I were judging the semi-finalists I knew that it was going to be fiercely competitive. It was extremely difficult to narrow it down to eight finalists, but those who took to the lectern and centre stage in Wynndale Hall proved that they had earned the right to be there. I was repeatedly blown away by the sheer confidence, determination, and passion that the finalists had whilst delivering to the year group, staff members, and guests from Churchfields.

I would like to give special commendations to the winner, Frederick Walker, for his fantastic speech on LGBTQIA+ discrimination, and to the runner up, Mollie King, for her innovative speech on 'Dancing is a sport - not an art'.

I would also like to thank the English department, the judges, the music department and our Year 10 performers (Maahi, Georgia, and Frank), the guests from Churchfields, and the whole of Year 8 for being a part of the competition - it would not work without you!

<insert> <stellar_success> <here>

Congratulations to Year 8 student Adam, who has produced outstanding work for the Mission Space Lab competitions! Mission Space Lab gives young people the exciting opportunity to run scientific experiments aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

Adam and his team developed a Python programme to calculate the speed of the ISS. Their project successfully completed the European Space Agency's challenge, and their code was deployed on the ISS.

Adam also contributed to an AI model for Environment Bot, which was shortlisted for the national Coolest Projects UK 2025 competition.



Adam at Space Lab

Adam's creativity, technical skill, and teamwork are truly commendable!



ARIA LORD REPRESENTS KARATE ENGLAND AT *WUKF World Karate Championships*



We are thrilled to share that Year 9 student Aria Lord represented Karate England at the 13th WUKF World Karate Championships, held in Malmö, Sweden, from 9th to 13th July 2025. Competing at this elite level, Aria delivered outstanding performances in both her individual and team events, placing 5th in each. In the Open Individual category, out of 55 girls, she reached the quarter finals, only losing to the eventual gold medallist. Her team also progressed to the quarter finals, where they too were narrowly defeated by the team that went on to take gold.

“Standing on the mat wearing the Karate

England badge was one of the proudest moments of my life,” Aria says. “Even though I didn’t medal, I gave it everything and learned so much from the experience. Being 5th in the world is still pretty special.”

Aria’s karate journey is impressive, having started at the age of 8. In 2024, she became the WUKF u13 British Open Champion and later that year went on to win a silver medal at the WUKF European Karate Championships in a nail-biting final that was decided by a golden point in extra time. “It showed me I could compete with the best in Europe and gave me the belief I needed to keep pushing,” Aria reflects.



Aria (left) winning silver for England!

Now competing in the u15 category, Aria has continued to impress. Earlier this year she won a silver at the Karate England International Open Championships, a bronze and silver at the WUKF British Open Championships, and followed this with a gold and two silvers at the British Academy of Shotokan Karate International, even though this is different to her usual karate style.

“I love karate because it challenges me every day,” Aria says. “It’s not just about fighting; it’s about pushing myself, learning from every mistake, and never giving up. Sometimes I lose, and sometimes I win, but I always learn.”

Aria trains at her local dojo with the United Karate Association (UKA), a club that has been supporting young karatekas for over 40 years. She trains alongside several current and former world champions within the UKA network. “My club is like a second family,” Aria explains. “The Senseis really believe in you and help you believe in yourself. That’s what keeps me going, even when it gets tough.” “Training with world-class teammates pushes me to a higher level every session,” she adds. “My Senseis helped me prepare not just technically, but mentally, and that made all the difference in Malmö.”

Her commitment to karate continues to shape her beyond the dojo. "Karate has made me more confident, not just in sports but in school and everyday life. When I face something difficult now, I remember how I've overcome challenges on the mat."

Reflecting on her experience at the World Championships, Aria remains grounded but inspired. "I'm so proud to have represented Karate England on the world stage," she says. "Even without medals, I've grown so much and I know this is just the beginning. I hope I've made everyone who supports me proud."

Q&A *with Aria*

Q: What first drew you to karate?

"I don't remember, I was 8. I guess I wanted to try something different and challenging, and karate felt like a way to get stronger and learn something new."

Q: What's the best thing karate has taught you?

"To never give up, even when things get tough. It's about believing in yourself, no matter what."

Q: How did it feel to compete at the World Championships?

"It was a huge honour, and a bit nerve-wracking. But I gave it my all, and I'm really proud of how I performed."

Q: What advice would you give to someone thinking about starting karate?

"Just start. You don't have to be perfect or fit, karate helps you build those things over time. And it's fun, too."

Where do you train?

"My UKA dojo is right next to Woodbridge High School, so it's easy to get to after lessons. They're always welcoming new beginners, and the first lesson is free, so anyone interested should definitely give it a try."

If you've ever thought about trying karate, Aria's advice is simple: "Just give it a go. You don't have to be perfect or strong when you start, you learn all of that along the way. Karate teaches you discipline, respect, and most of all, belief in yourself."

We congratulate Aria on her exceptional achievements and dedication at the World Championships and look forward to seeing what she will accomplish next.



Year 11 Leavers 2025

Good luck to all of the Year 11 students on results day. I know that all of your hard work will have paid off and you will be set for a successful life ahead.

I will always look back at this year with so many fond memories - the conversations with you during lunch time, watching drama performances, shows, seeing your amazing art work, popping in to lessons where you worked incredibly hard, an amazing celebration morning in May and a fabulous prom night in June!

I'm very hopeful to see lots of you back at Woodbridge Sixth Form, but for now, have the best summer of your life!

- Ms Payne, Year 11 Co-ordinator



Year 13 Leavers 2025

Our Year 13s worked incredibly hard during study leave, putting in serious effort for their final exams and coursework deadlines. This was the moment they had been building towards after two years of dedication and impressive resilience – and we couldn't be prouder of what they've achieved.

They are more than ready for this next chapter and all the exciting opportunities ahead, and we wish them the absolute best of luck! We can't wait to see them on results day, Thursday 14th August, where we're confident they will have brilliant things to celebrate. In the meantime, the Year 13s came together one final time at their Prom on Monday 7th July – a perfect way to mark the end of their Woodbridge journey.

- Ms Gold, Year 13 Co-ordinator



SIXTH FORM

Super Curricular Highlights

By Mrs L Khudeza, Sixth Form Super-Curricular Co-ordinator

Woodbridge Sixth Form prides itself on having a huge super curricular programme and presence within the school. This year, all students in the Sixth Form have contributed in one way or another to the Sixth Form and whole school community. This is just a little snippet of our highlights this term 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 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 Edge subject (LORIC, Debating, DofE, MOOCS, Maths Studies, EPQ or Sports Leaders) and here we want to share and celebrate the achievements and highlights of some of the students on this programme.

LORIC

In LORIC, students aim to demonstrate transferable skills through the planning and delivery of fundraising projects. This year, students in four classes raised a staggering £1,183 for charities such as British Heart Foundation, Centrepont, War Child and Great Ormond St Hospital.

Debating

The Debating students this year have been phenomenal! The students fought tooth and nail and battled through the semi-finals and then this Easter during the final part of the in-school competition. The finalists included Mrs Iyengar's class and Mr Portnoi's who debated the motion 'The NHS should be privatised'. With such talented students on both the opposition and the proposition who articulated their points so well it was almost impossible to decide on a winning team. Mr Portnoi's class (proposition), who by a small margin took away the victory, are the Debating Champions 2024-2025. The trophy is sitting proudly in his office!

The winning team this year will be entered into the oldest and most prestigious nationwide debating championships - English Speaking Union (Schools Mace). A huge congratulations to everyone involved!



War Child Team



GOSH Team



Debating Winners

This year Debating students also attended the houses of Parliament where they were given a tour of the Palace of Westminster. Iain Duncan Smith also met with students and showed them round the House of Commons itself, sharing stories about some of the odd rules and customs and where they originate from.



Debating Competition

Enrichment and Volunteering

As part of the Year 12 Enrichment programme, all students were expected to participate in either internal (in school) 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.

Here are just a few of the many positive comments we received about our students.

'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. Year 9 - He has actively participated in a reading and listening intervention, taking a leadership role and overseeing the intervention. Additionally, he diligently reports back on students' progress and abilities. He has also documented these sessions'

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

'Both Anna and Oliver worked patiently with individual students to support them with their core learning. They were both very polite, always punctual and happy to tackle any tasks that we gave them. Oliver has asked to continue coming into The Bridge AP next term, as well, which is fantastic'



Care4Calais Team

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 £441!

This means the total fundraising by our sixth formers was a mind-blowing £1,624!



Head Students

Student Leadership

The aim of our Student Leadership within the sixth form was to provide students with a position of leadership and responsibility to enable them to shape the sixth form experience for their cohort, be the voice of the sixth form and contribute to the sixth form and whole school community. This year we had three Head students (Rouida, Eyaan and Magdalena) and a group of Student Ambassadors.

These Ambassadors acted as a support network for the sixth form, helping out as tour guides and supporting on open evenings, high flyers events and during interview panels. Student Ambassadors additionally worked as Peer Mentors for students in the lower school, were part of the whole school DEI committee and contributed to House council meetings.



Student Ambassadors

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

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

By Mrs W Smith

Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

Attendance Highlights & How We Can Improve Together

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful term and academic year, I would like to share some important updates and reflections on student attendance; this is a priority factor in academic success and wellbeing.

Attendance Highlights

- Overall Attendance Rate: 95.1%, a strong showing!
- Most Improved Classes: 8L and 10L – up by 1% since last year!
- Top Attending Year Group: Year 7 with 96.3%, fantastic effort!
- 373 students with outstanding attendance – an amazing achievement!

Whilst the link between school attendance and attainment is clear, school is not just about exam results. It's about all the other important moments in school that help shape our young people's lives and prepare them for the wider world. Building positive relationships with friends and staff, taking part in extracurricular activities and trips, developing important personal skills and character, and finding a sense of



belonging within the school community. All of these experiences play a vital role in developing well-rounded young people.

School attendance is therefore extremely important, not just because the law requires it but because our children need and deserve it.

Let's Keep Improving

While we're proud of our progress, we know we can do even better. Here's how we can work together:

For Students:

- Be on time and ready to learn every day
- Stay organised with planners or apps
- Reach out if you're struggling—we're here to help

For Parents & Carers:

- Establish consistent routines at home – consistency reduces stress and anxiety
- Prepare the night before – pack bags, lay out uniforms and set alarms
- Schedule appointments outside of school hours where possible
- Stay informed – keep abreast of all school news/information
- Keep us informed about any challenges—we'll support you

What the School Is Doing:

- Offering daily support through our Pastoral and Family Support Team
- Sharing regular updates via newsletters
- Offering Wellbeing support

Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority. Every day in school counts—and together, we're continuing to build a culture of commitment and success. Please reach out to the team when you need support and advice. We are here for you.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break with your family and friends. Keep safe and keep well!

WOODBIDGE Sports

By Mr D Mahoney, Head of PE

Club la Santa

During the May half term, the PE department took 86 students to Club la Santa in Lanzarote, a world beating sports complex, where students got to experience a range of different activities they may never have experienced before. Our students took part in sports such as: road cycling, paddle boarding, bouldering, kayaking, padel, pickleball and many more. It was a remarkable trip, one that we would love to run again in future years. Thanks to all staff that attended to make this trip happen!



Sports Day

On 4th July, our annual Sports Day took place, watching a range of different athletics events. There were so many fantastic performances on such a lovely sunny day. Lots of fun was had by all! The winners this year were Purple House who were presented with their shield by Mr Clifton. Who will be our winners next year?



Sports Awards

On 8th July, Woodbridge hosted its annual Sports Awards evening to celebrate all of the amazing achievements and dedication of our students this year. This included individual sports awards, PE class achievements, district winners and our historic main awards. Thank you to all those who attended. We look forward to hopefully celebrating lots of achievements next year!



District Athletics

Woodbridge attended the annual District Athletics competitions, competing against all the other schools in Redbridge. Our students put on a dominant display against the other 19 schools in attendance. Woodbridge came away with a variety of individual podiums and multiple district winners. Students also earned points for our school for an overall placing. These positions can be seen below out of the 20 schools.

Y7 Boys 3rd	Y9 Boys 3rd
Y7 Girls 2nd	Y9 Girls 2nd
Y8 Boys 7th	Y10 Boys 2nd
Y8 Girls 4th	Y10 Girls 12th



Swimming Gala

Woodbridge participated in the annual district swimming gala. This is a great opportunity for our students to demonstrate the skills they work on in clubs outside of school or throw themselves into something new. The girls dominated the event, winning a majority of the events and all picking up at least 1 gold medal. A great demonstration of their commitment.



Cricket

Our Year 7 and 8 cricket teams excelled this summer term. Their ability to run chase was something special. Over the course of the season, they managed to chase every score set to them. One match even going to a super over which they narrowly lost! As well as this, we had multiple Year 7s play up for the Year 8 side. Their ability combined with Freddie John's leadership ensured the sides were successful.



Essex Athletics

This year, Woodbridge had 14 students asked to represent Redbridge at the prestigious Essex Athletics Championship, the 144th year of the event. Students competed against students from a range of Essex Districts, a brilliant opportunity to put their skills to the test against the very best in the country. Outstanding performances were shown by all. One student, William S, was also selected for the Essex Schools team, after his dominant display in the Hammer Throw with a new PB being set.



LYG Netball

Isla and Divine-Peace, co-captained the Redbridge Netball Team in the London Youth Games. After winning a very close semi-final against Hammersmith & Fulham, Redbridge went on to dominate in the final winning 21-11. The team were co-captained by the two Woodbridge students.



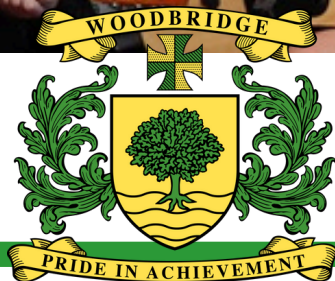
Panathlon

Following our win earlier this year, Woodbridge were asked to represent Redbridge at the Panathlon Regional finals, putting our skills to the test against other schools outside of Redbridge. After a tough days competition, Woodbridge came away with the Bronze medal. As a result we expanded the provision allowing more of our students to participate.



Clubs

We have had great participation in our clubs and we would like this to grow, so please do get yourself along and try them out. Check the school website in September for a list of the latest clubs!



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

Start of Autumn Term:

Year 7 Wednesday 3rd September at 08:35

Years 8 & 9 Thursday 4th September at 08:35

Years 10 & 11 Thursday 4th September at 09:35

Year 12 Friday 5th September at either 09:10 (Group A) or 11:40 (Group B)

Year 13 Thursday 4th September at either 11:30 (Group X) or 13:45 (Group Y)

The Sixth Form Team will contact separately allocating groups



woodbridgehighschool



@woodbridgehigh.uk