



WOODBIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER: AUTUMN TERM



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INCLUSION

KINDNESS

EXCELLENCE

RESPECT



HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

Yet again we reach the end of term at Woodbridge exhausted yet happy. It's a lovely feeling to know that the main reason you are tired is because you have just thrown yourself into lots of exciting stuff, and that is exactly what our brilliant students have done this term. It has been a privilege to talk to them about all the clubs they are involved in, from sports to music, from drama to Aspire Higher, from chess to debating. The list goes on and on! In the pages that follow you will be able to read for yourselves some fantastic articles about Black History Month, International Men's Day, SpeakOut, and see how our students have been involved in all sorts of things from winning Sir Iain Duncan Smith's debating competition, to the outstanding Christmas Concert, to our superb production of Romeo and Juliet! One of our former students even made his first team debut for Arsenal in the Champions' League last week! It has been a proud term for me as a Headteacher.

This term I have been meeting our year 7 students in small groups to talk to them about the start to their school career at Woodbridge. It has been lovely to hear their views of the school and their advice on how I can improve it! Invariably, they have huge praise for their form tutors and their teachers, and talk about how they feel they belong to the school because it is encouraging and feels welcoming. They also often talk about feeling totally confident that the school would deal with any problems that might arise, and about who their trusted adult is. Their sense of being well embedded and at home at Woodbridge comes across so clearly. In a world where there are so many challenges, spending time with them just gives me such huge hope for the future. Total superstars, every one!

As we finally approach the holidays, tired from being so busy, but happy from being part of such a wonderful school, we all need a rest. A wise student once reminded me that I could easily sort out a computer that was running slowly and erratically with a restart... "Just switch it off and on again, sir..." he said, looking mischievous. The advice holds true for us right now. A break, away from the hustle and bustle, will make us raring to go again.



Whether your break will be with family and friends more widely, or a quiet one at home, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let us hope that 2026 will bring a better, more peaceful world, and if not that, then security and comfort for loved ones in our Woodbridge community and beyond. Have a great holiday!

Mr S Hogan





BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Standing Firm in Pride and Power: A Reflection of Black History Month

*By Ms K McNamee-Obi
DEI Coordinator*

Black History Month is always a moment of both celebration and reflection. This year's theme, Standing Firm in Pride and Power, has felt particularly resonant in our school community. It captures the heart of what so many of us teach, model, and work toward every day: creating spaces where students can stand tall in who they are, grounded in heritage, confident in identity, and empowered by their own stories.

Returning this term and stepping back into this work has reminded me of the deep importance of belonging; not as an abstract idea, but as a lived experience that shapes how students learn, lead, and see themselves in the world.

The theme Standing Firm in Pride and Power challenged me to think about what strength really looks like, not the absence of pressure, but the transformation that pressure creates.

Diamonds don't form despite pressure; they form because of it.
And so do we.

For many Black communities, history tells a story of endurance, creativity, and brilliance forged in challenging conditions. Yet the beauty is not in the hardship itself, but in the shine that emerges from it; the culture, music, literature, leadership, joy, and unshakeable sense of identity.

This understanding, woven with the wisdom of African and Caribbean sayings, inspired and shaped my poem Pressure Makes Diamonds; a reflection on resilience, heritage, and the quiet power that lies within knowing exactly who you are. Sharing it with students we felt deeply connected to the theme: reminding them that their strength is not only something they have to earn; it is also something they inherit.

Black History Month came alive through our assemblies, creative workshops, and the incredible student-led initiatives that allowed students to explore identity, culture, creativity, and history on their own terms.

From our workshops on music, arts and culture, to student poetry, discussions, and leadership moments, I witnessed students stand in their own pride and power with confidence, reflection, and an eagerness to learn.

As the DEI Coordinator, my role is not simply to celebrate diversity but to help cultivate a school culture where every student feels able to bring their whole identity into the room.

That commitment has continued beyond Black History Month. In the later part of this term, we also hosted our Belonging Conference for Boys; a powerful day where young men explored identity, leadership, emotional expression and community.

The conversations were honest, reflective and deeply needed. Students left feeling seen, supported and connected, reminding us of the importance of creating spaces where they can challenge stereotypes and understand themselves more fully.

“If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.”
African proverb

Standing firm in pride and power is a collective act. It requires community. It requires intention. It requires us to model curiosity, humility, respect, and courage every day, not just in October.

Closing Reflections

Standing Firm in Power and Pride is not confined to four weeks; it is woven into the fabric of who we are as a community and what we aspire to become. As we move forward, I hold close the words of another saying:

“The tallest tree in the forest was once just a seed.” African proverb

The seeds we plant today through celebration, through conversation, through creativity will grow into the confidence, leadership, and brilliance of our students tomorrow.



BHM workshops

And as for Pressure Makes Diamonds, I hope it serves as a reminder to all that your shine is already within you, shaped by history, strengthened by community, and illuminated when you stand firm in your own pride and power.

Interested in joining the DEI committee and making a difference?
Email Ms McNamee-Obi

Pressure Makes Diamonds

By Ms K McNamee-Obi

*They say pressure makes diamonds,
but before the shine, there is strain.
Before the brilliance, there is struggle,
before the beauty, there is pain.*

*The coal does not ask to be pressed,
yet under the weight it transforms.
And what was once ordinary,
common, and rough
becomes something precious,
reborn.*

*They say pressure makes diamonds.
Coal under strain;
beauty is in the struggle,
And yes, strength in the pain.*

*For resilience
Isn't born in comfort.
It grows, where the battles are faced.
And often, what looks like an ending
is only the beginning, of a climb,
we're called to embrace.*

*They say pressure makes diamonds.
That the darker the tunnel,
the brighter the shine.
That setbacks are setups,
by powerful design.*

*And what doesn't break you,
makes you stronger,
At least so they say
Cliche,
I know.
But even so...*

*Remember, fire is used to purify gold,
the heat makes it stronger,
more precious,
more bold.*

*It's refined in the furnace,
yet never destroyed,
shaped with a purpose,
restored and employed.*

And so too...you!

They say pressure makes diamonds

And as we say in Jamaica:

"Likkle but talawah"

We small, but we rise.

Power's not measured by stature or size.

Our roots run deep, our courage untold,

we carry the stories of warriors brave,bold.

They say pressure makes diamonds.

So, when life gets heavy,

And it sometimes will

don't stumble, don't fall,

cause the pressure's a promise

there is strength in us all.

They say pressure makes diamonds

And I believe that all things, yes!

All things work together for our good.

Even the pressure?

Yes!

Even the fire?

Yes!

*Even the trials we never asked for
aren't sent to end us.*

In fact,

they are the making of us.

And the vessels that tried to destroy us;

were the same vessels used to shape us.

Because pressure makes diamonds

So form your weapons,

And I tell you

NONE shall prosper!

Cause we are turning coal into diamonds

And fire into gold

standing firm.

Standing proud.

Unshaken. Bold.

They say pressure makes diamonds

So with power, with pride,

our voices we will raise.

Singing resilient forever

As we shine through the blaze.

They say pressure makes diamonds

So let us stand firm together

Yes!

Stand firm in pride and power.

ROMEO & JULIET

Ms Farr, Head Of Drama

The Woodbridge High School Drama Department's recent staging of *Romeo & Juliet*, performed on 27–28 November, drew attention not only for bringing Shakespeare's timeless tragedy to life—but for the way it boldly addressed modern pressures facing teens: social media harassment, the trauma of suicidal thoughts, misogyny, and the overwhelming presence of mobile phones.

As a teacher and lover of drama, I thought it was really crucial that we address some of the trickier themes in the play such as self-harm and suicide, but through the lens of young people in a 25/26 society. We are seeing an increasing number of our students suffer with their mental health as a result of covid, altercations in online WhatsApp groups or because they have faced hatred because of their gender or sexuality. We wanted to create the circumstances of how this tragedy could occur today through the eyes of the young people we see in front of us.

As always, our students did us immensely proud! The production was only shortened by 45 minutes from the original 2-hour adaptation. Students as young as 13, took on major roles like Friar Lawrence and Mercutio, whilst our year 12/13 students led the company with professionalism and excellence as always.

We are so very proud of our students and look forward to seeing you at the musical!





INTERNATIONAL MENS DAY November 19

***By Mr A Kelly
Head Of Year 7***

This term we ran a workshop in Wynndale Hall for all 147 boys in Year 7 which was aimed to challenge negative male stereotypes and promote positive role models.

Through interactive discussions and activities, the session encouraged participants to critically examine harmful societal expectations often placed on men—such as the idea that boys must always be tough, unemotional, or aggressive. The boys explored examples of positive male role models, such as those who embrace vulnerability, practice kindness, and value emotional intelligence. They were encouraged to see that being a "real man" doesn't mean fitting into rigid moulds but rather being authentic, compassionate, and respectful.

The goal was to foster self-awareness and empowerment, helping the boys redefine masculinity in ways that support both their personal growth and healthier relationships with others.

Rowan, Year 7

"In the assembly, we learnt about positive role models and negative stereotypes. We learnt that some stereotypes like men having to be strong and muscular can have a bad effect on mental health. Whereas positive ones can have a good affect on mental health."

Hasan, Year 7

"In this workshop, we learnt all about male stereotypes, mental health and positive role models. We also spoke about how males can show emotion. In my opinion, I think we should do this again as we all worked well together in a group and learnt a lot."

Karam, Year 7

"We learnt that men's mental health matters just as much as everyone else's and that stereotypes are bad. I liked how planned and organised it was, I think this workshop is a great idea!"



A number of entries thoughtfully explored the harmful stereotypes Muslims often face, challenging the assumptions people make based on appearance, media portrayals, or lack of understanding. Students engaged with ideas around how narratives can be distorted and how important it is to question and challenge those narratives.

Some poems reflected on the hijab — not just as a piece of clothing, but as a symbol of faith, strength, and identity. Students wrote about how it is often misunderstood, and how the media sometimes creates negative portrayals that do not reflect reality. Several students tackled the theme of media bias head-on, examining how Muslim identities are too often misrepresented. Their poetry called for fairer, more accurate representation and for society to look beyond headlines. A beautiful common thread across many entries was the call for respect, empathy, and unity. Students used language that promoted inclusion and challenged others to be more open-minded and compassionate.



Writing my poem made me realise how many Muslim role models there are. It inspired me to look deeper into our history.
- Cosmin, Year 9



Participating in the sessions made me realise how many people experience Islamophobia and it affects their mental health.
-Ruby, Year 10



IAM workshops

Students also took part in thought-provoking debating sessions, making pledges on tackling islamophobia and dressing their doors with achievements of Muslims, past and present. Through these activities, students demonstrated empathy, awareness, and an inspiring commitment to change. As a community, we will continue this work beyond November - ensuring every student feels valued, included, and represented.



Winners of Dress the Door
- 8N



Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

By Mr Faisal, English Department

This term, our Year 10 students took part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out Workshops, delivered by the Speaker's Trust Foundation. We were delighted to welcome Jeanette Percival and Precious Babatunde, whose enthusiasm and expertise inspired students to develop their communication skills and create powerful speeches.

Strong speaking and listening skills are vital for success in education, careers, and everyday life. Over the two days, selected students prepared and presented speeches on thought-provoking topics such as the impact of social media on mental health, the influence of AI on the human brain, and the journey of adoption. They focused on three key elements: content, delivery, and structure.

By the end of the workshops, students reported feeling far more confident in public speaking. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are excited to continue offering this valuable opportunity. Congratulations to the three students who will now compete in the assembly final for a chance to progress to the regional stage—watch this space!



PREFECTS

By Miss E Jamieson, Prefect Lead

Our new Year 10 prefects have now been elected, and we are delighted to welcome them into their roles. They made an exceptional impression at our recent Open Evening, earning many compliments from visitors for their maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism. The team is eager to begin their duties after the Christmas break, as our Year 11 prefects step back to focus on their revision and exam preparation.



Prefects

We look forward to seeing the Year 10 prefects rise to the challenge and continue the excellent work within our school community.



By Ms L Griffiths, Careers Lead

Woodbridge Career Pathways Fair

On 2nd December we welcomed a wide selection of post 16 and post 18 providers to Woodbridge, who offered advice and guidance about the wide range of practical and academic routes beyond both Year 11 and Year 13. Students were able to collect prospectuses and information about apprenticeship options, and discuss their plans with professionals from a range of Universities including SOAS, Bath and Leicester, post 16 colleges including Big Creative Education, Leyton Sixth Form College and Waltham Forest College, and apprenticeship providers including the Dorchester Hotel.

Green Careers Week

During Green Careers Week this students were able to reflect on what it means for a job to be considered sustainable or have a low impact on the environment, and how such jobs are developing over time with new opportunities being created year on year.

Parents and carers were also invited to share resources with their young people, and discuss future career plans with the view of protecting the environment and natural world for future generations.

Woodbridge staff supported the Green Careers Week theme by wearing green outfits to school, with departments competing with each other to see who could show the greatest support!

Thanks to everyone - colleagues, parents, carers and students - for getting involved and promoting our understanding of the Green careers of the future!

It was wonderful to see our young people so engaged and involved in serious planning regarding the different routes and destinations available for their futures, as well as reflecting on ideas that had been shared with them during assemblies the week before.

We were so grateful to the providers for giving up their time, and in some cases travelling some distance across the country to support our young people and to share their wealth of knowledge.





YOUTH WITHOUT LIMITS

By Mr Allen, DofE Co-ordinator

This year, 130 students applied for the Bronze Award, with 63 being successful. A further 62 students applied for the Silver Award, meaning we have a full cohort ready to begin their Silver journey. Our Gold Group comprises 38 students —our largest ever year!

Award completions are ongoing, and we anticipate that many students will be ready to collect their certificates in January and February.



This will provide a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the achievements of those who have:

- Volunteered their time to help others
- Developed new skills
- Maintained high levels of physical activity over an extended period
- Cared for themselves and others during their expeditions

Many of our current Gold Group will complete their awards soon, making them eligible to collect their certificates at Buckingham Palace in May 2026.

At Woodbridge High School, we value the opportunities that the Duke of Edinburgh programme offers. It empowers students to be self-guided, explore the world, and engage with their community - whether by finding volunteering opportunities, asking assessors for reports, or supporting one another during expeditions.

We look forward to another fantastic year delivering the Duke of Edinburgh Award!



Arkwright

Engineering Scholarships

By Gabriel H
Year 12 Student

I'm excited to share that I've been awarded an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship, sponsored by an infrastructure company. The Arkwright Scholarship is a really prestigious engineering award, given to students who are interested in engineering and want to pursue it as a career.

Being awarded this opportunity means a lot to me, as it gives me the freedom to build more inventive projects, without worrying about cost if (and when) something goes wrong. This allows me to access better equipment and resources, and experiment with designs and projects.

Another great benefit is the mentoring. I'll be given a mentor, who will be an engineer working in industry, who can give advice on applying to university or apprenticeships, and help me understand what engineering careers really look like. Also, I'll connect with other scholars across the UK, allowing me to talk to other students who are passionate about engineering, and hopefully work together on projects.

The scholarship is also extremely useful in the long term, as it provides networking opportunities and industry contacts, giving me knowledge and experience to begin an engineering career. The scholarship would look great on a university application, helping me stand out, and more likely to be successful.

If you're in Year 11 and have a strong interest in engineering or technology, I'd absolutely encourage you to apply. The application includes an initial form, an aptitude test and an interview, which sounds intensive, but is a great way to show your interest in engineering. My project for



the application didn't actually work, but the process of researching, designing, testing & problem solving is really what engineering is about. Even if you don't get in, the knowledge of the process is useful, as it is similar to high-level university applications.

The scholarship is about more than money — it's about career opportunities, mentoring, and being part of a wider community. If you're curious about how things work, enjoy making or designing projects, and want to take your passion further, then it's definitely worth applying. You never know where it might lead!





DEBATE

@WESTMINSTER

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



We are thrilled to announce that our Year 12 students have achieved an outstanding victory in the prestigious Ian Duncan Smith Debating Competition 2025!

Earlier this term, our talented debaters travelled to Westminster, where they joined students from schools across the country for a day of rigorous intellectual challenge and spirited discussion. The event provided a unique opportunity for our students to engage in high-level debates on current affairs, policy issues, and ethical dilemmas—right in the heart of British democracy.



Throughout the competition, our team demonstrated exceptional critical thinking, eloquence, and teamwork. Their ability to construct compelling arguments and respond confidently under pressure impressed both the judges and their peers. After several intense rounds, our students emerged as champions of the 2025 competition, a testament to their dedication and skill.

This achievement reflects not only their hard work but also the support of our staff and the vibrant culture of debate within our school. We are incredibly proud of their success and look forward to seeing them continue to shine in future academic and leadership endeavours.

Congratulations to our Year 12 debating team—you have made us all proud!



By Mr B Dooley, Deputy SENCO

Over the last year, The Inclusion Team have been bringing groups of students on riding courses at Wanstead Community Riding Stables. The staff have been really supportive of our students and have helped them develop new skills and grow in confidence. Students have embraced this opportunity with open arms (literally, as many horses are the recipients of hugs from our students!)

Unfortunately, some of our students have been unable to attend these sessions as the Riding School doesn't have a big enough horse to

support them. Please see the details below for a fundraiser being run to raise the funds to buy a bigger horse.

Community Horse Power are raising money for a special horse that will open horse riding to more people in our East London Communities, helping transform lives.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/community-horse-power>



Village Vouchers

Village Vouchers is a compact booklet filled with over 100 discount vouchers for 50-plus shops, salons, pubs, cafés, restaurants and other businesses across Wanstead and South Woodford – all valid until 30 June 2026.

Priced at only £5, using just one or two of the many vouchers will save you more than the cost of the booklet.

Payments can be made in cash at the Finance Office or online at scopay.com.



MFL Department

By Ms R Tann
Head of German

German students from year 7 to year 10 spent three days in Cologne from 11th-14th December.

We have been running this trip in the German department for over a decade now and the students thoroughly enjoy the Christmas markets - taking the opportunity to speak German at the stalls when buying food and souvenirs for their families and friends.

We visited the stunning Cologne cathedral, and also had a boat ride along the Rhine, where students got the chance to meet the German St. Nikolaus! Some even sang a song and were gifted with chocolate. The last day of our trip was spent at the fantastic amusement park - Phantasialand!

Students enjoyed the rides and the winter themed decorations throughout the park.

Until next time, Cologne!



YEAR 10 *UPDATE*

a fantastic start to the year!

By Miss R Gleeson, Head of Year 10

As Head of Year 10, I am delighted to share how impressed I am with the fantastic start our students have made this term. Their maturity, positive attitude to learning, and commitment to school life have truly stood out.

Leadership in Action

A huge well done to our Prefects, School Council representatives, and Bullying Ambassadors who have stepped up to take on important leadership roles. Your dedication to supporting your peers and representing Year 10 so positively is commendable.

House Spirit

Year 10 has shown incredible enthusiasm in supporting House activities this term. Your participation and energy have helped make these events a success and demonstrated the strong sense of community within our year group.

Celebrating Creativity

Congratulations to all students who were involved in our recent production of Romeo and Juliet. Whether performing on stage or working behind the scenes, your talent and teamwork brought the play to life and made it a memorable event for the whole school community.

I am extremely proud of the way Year 10 has embraced every opportunity so far. Keep up the fantastic work, and let's continue to make this year one to remember!

Vitesh's Voice

By Vitesh S, Year 11

As a member of the Christmas Concert, I took part in Barbershop. We sang 'Candlelight Carol' and 'Come Go With Me.' It was really easy to sing, I really loved that. I even rehearsed a lot for it.

My most favourite part was 'The Finale.' I played the part of Pitbull (Mr 305), who was also Santa Claus. During the concert we all spread festive cheer.

Merry Christmas Everybody! - Song by Slade



Barbershop

House News

*By Miss J Sanderson
House Co-ordinator*

Our newly appointed House Captains have embraced their expanded responsibilities this term, starting with their very first event in aid of Children in Need. The Sports Hall was transformed into a vibrant carnival, where students enjoyed traditional games such as coconut shy, hook-a-duck, and many more fun activities, all while raising an impressive total of £140.00.

Last year we raised:

Red House - Honeypot: £1171.66

Yellow House - ELHAP: £1130.29

Green House - Lennox Children's Cancer Fund: £1175.15

Blue House - Clowns in the Sky: £1163.57

Purple House - Haven House: £1093.20



To round off the term, we hosted our much-loved Christmas Fayre, where students came together to enjoy the festive spirit and contribute to our house charities, reinforcing the sense of community and generosity that defines our school.

House Events

ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

By Mrs W Smith

Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

Dear Parents and Guardians

Firstly, I would like to start by thanking you for your support. As you are aware, regular school attendance is one of the critical factors in your child's success. When students attend, they build consistent learning habits, stay engaged with their peers, and develop the essential and advanced skills they need for future success. Learning builds daily, each lesson connects to the next. Missing even a day can make it harder for your child to keep up and this can be a trigger to anxiety. Being in school helps young people form friendships, develop the ability to compromise and learn the importance of teamwork.

How You Can Help

- Use the absence line/online e-form for each and every day of absence
- Arrange appointments outside of school hours whenever possible
- Ensure your child attends every day, even with minor ailments
- Family engagement – communicate with us – we are here for you

Areas Of Concern This Term

- Odd days of absence
- Term time leave requests
- Patterns of absence – certain days each week/bi weekly

What We Are Doing

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



Statistics

A UK Department for Education report (2025) confirms that higher attendance correlates with better academic outcomes at both Key Stages.

Thank You

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.

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



By Miss J Holland, Head of Music

Another Christmas Concert extravaganza saw well over a hundred students perform to an extremely packed RPT audience last Wednesday. We kicked off with our five(!) rock bands which have become an ever growing popular (and mainly self-run) extracurricular activity this year. Pupils across all year groups performed nostalgic classics like Blur's Parklife to the headbanging 'No One Knows' by Queens Of The Stone Age (we saw lots of parents enjoying this one!) and it's a very exciting prospect to see so many bands blossom!

Dispersing the rock and roll was our wonderful guitar and ukulele club, whose soothing renditions of Goo Goo Dolls 'Iris' and the energetic 'Santa Baby' were fantastic and jolly. Following the interval, our school choir beautifully sang 'That's Christmas To Me' by the five-part acapella group Pentatonix and a solo from our one and only Mr Prosser before launching into Kelly Clarkson's 'Underneath The Tree'. Not to be outdone, Barbershop gave us the most beautiful rendition of John Rutter's 'Candlelight Carol', a 50's throwback of Doo Wop Kings, and The Dell Vikings' 'Come and Go With Me'.

Then, we welcomed back Jazz Band after a small hiatus with a new outfit of several Year 10s plus some new faces in Year 8! They performed a swing style 'Santa Claus Is Coming To Town' and an old-time favourite 'On The Sunny Side Of The Street'. Finally, to round off the evening, our orchestra played us Dvořák's 'Symphony No. 9' (more fondly known by the students as the Hovis bread song now...), and a Christmas piece by the late Peter Martin. And, of course, it wouldn't be a Woodbridge Christmas concert if we didn't have all of our students who had participated in the concert on stage with us to sing Slade's Merry Christmas Everybody with the audience!

We always get to this time of year where myself and the team collapse in a little heap after putting on a show like this. And every year, we look back on the hours and hours that our students put in, after their long days of school, and learning, and tests, to think "Wow, what absolute magic". Our students are one of a kind, and they make the extra hours we do after school worth every moment.

We are also grateful for family, friends and staff who come to support us. You can see it on our students' faces when they recognise familiar faces in the crowd, and it's what fuels them to perform and beam with joy.

We hope you all have a fabulous holiday and find some time to rest. We certainly will, with our families and friends, and we look forward to seeing you in March for the school production of High School Musical!



SIXTH FORM

STUDENT LEADERSHIP



Student Ambassadors

By Mrs L Khudeza

Sixth Form Super-Curricular Co-ordinator

This term, we proudly appointed our new Sixth Form Student Ambassadors and Head Students, who play a vital role in shaping our student leadership team. Their contributions have already made an impact, with Ambassadors providing invaluable support during the recent Sixth Form Open Evening.

Meanwhile, our Head Students are leading exciting projects focused on enhancing academic achievement, promoting wellbeing, and strengthening our sense of community within the Sixth Form. We look forward to seeing their initiatives flourish throughout the year.



Head Students & Committee Heads



Lucie SL, Head Student

Every student deserves the chance to discover and pursue their passions, regardless of their background or circumstances. This role has given me the incredible opportunity to bring new super-curricular programmes to our school, creating pathways for students to explore their interests and ambitions, even when barriers stand in their way. What I love most is connecting with our school community and ensuring every single student feels welcomed and valued. Knowing I can make a lasting impact in a school that has always supported me makes it even sweeter.

Zakariya S, Head Student

Having the honour of being a Head Student allows me to be a role model to the younger years both in and out of school. It's a valuable platform that can be used to listen to their concerns and try to implement change across the school to create a safe school environment for everyone. Being a Head Student has also helped me develop communication and teamwork skills that will definitely help me in the future. I am immensely proud to represent the school in this way.



Jessiona M, Head Student

Being a Head Student gives me the amazing opportunity to be able to represent my school community with pride and purpose whilst also being able to actively implement ideas for our sixth form. This role actively allows me to support my peers, and to contribute to the school's environment in a way that everyone feels seen and represented. I see it as a responsibility to listen, to lead by example, and to help create a place where everyone feels valued and encouraged to do their best.



Ava JB, Committee Head

I am very grateful for this role because it means that I have the opportunity to implement change in the school. I want to have an impact at this school and being in this role makes this possible for me. I am going to use the opportunity to help my fellow students with achieving their goals and aiming high.





Ben H, Committee Head

As the deputy head student in charge of the community student ambassador committee, I feel like I am truly giving back to the school community, which has treated me so well in the past and which I am striving to further improve to make Woodbridge High School an even tighter knit, supportive and welcoming community to be a part of. We're currently in the process of developing our ideas but they should be improving our community in the near future.

Maria G, Committee Head

Since the beginning of Year 12, we have successfully created six academic groups, bringing together like-minded individuals, passionate about deepening their knowledge in a specific subject area, through academic discussions. It has been exciting to oversee the development of these student-led groups - to facilitate vital super curricular engagement and cultivate an environment of intellectual curiosity - which I hope will only continue flourishing further.



THE OLD VIC

We are very excited to be selected as a part of The Old Vic Schools Club where we work with The Old Vic to provide four workshops and four shows for free!

Exciting workshops focusing on off-stage roles and experiencing live theatre in a fantastic venue. We're very lucky to be a part of this fantastic course and are delighted to be able provide this opportunity to our students in Early Option through to A-level Drama!



Old Vic Workshop

VOLUNTEERING FAIR

Our Year 12 students recently had an incredible opportunity to connect with a number of organisations at our Volunteering Fair, aimed at helping them secure meaningful volunteering positions for the new year.

This event was a fantastic way for students to explore opportunities that will not only enrich their personal development but also make a positive impact in the community.



Volunteer Fair

By Ms Watton, Aspire Higher Lead

Students have been enjoying the Aspire Higher programme again this year. We have a new cohort of year 7 students who have been learning about aspirational pathways for the future, as well as attending subject masterclasses run by different members of staff. Some of our masterclasses this term have included Travel Writing with Mr McNaughtan, Philosophy and Film with Mr Burrows, Media Studies with Ms Tagoe, and Astronomy with Ms Wardle. Our year 8 students have been practising their debating skills while our year 9 students have been learning about political ideologies.

A selected group of students in year 8 have been working with the education charity The Brilliant Club to develop their academic skills for the future. They have been working on a project called 'Migration and



Belonging in Modern Britain' and they have enjoyed exploring the history of the Windrush generation.

To find out more about opportunities to join the Aspire Higher programme, speak to Ms Watton!

An Evening With *Othello*

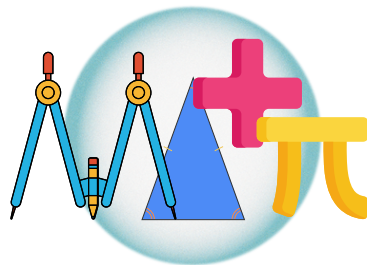
By Ms P Colman, English Department

Ms Brown and I had the pleasure of taking a group of A-Level Literature students to see Shakespeare's 'Othello' on 18th November in an evening performance. This was a much anticipated theatre production which starred David Harewood as Othello, and Toby Jones as Iago.



The evening was entirely enjoyable, as many of the students have studied the play in class and our drama students are about to study the play. The students all showed themselves to be immersed in both the presentation of stagecraft as well as the academic language. We, teachers and students alike, universally felt that we had gained new perspective, despite our disapproval of the re-interpretation of the relationship between Desdemona and Othello.

The students were completely wonderful, and we hope to arrange another theatre trip soon!



By Mr H Miller, Maths Department

This term has been a busy one in the WHS Maths department! As students have settled into their new classes, it's been the sixth form's turn to represent the school in the national UKMT challenges. Big congratulations to:

Judy W and Isobel S for representing the school in the inaugural Mathematical Competition for Girls.
Ekin T and Maria K for representing the school in the Mathematical Olympiad for Girls.

Over fifty sixth formers represented WHS in the Senior Mathematical Challenge.
Congratulations to Alex T, Cole W, Danny G and Sam C for advancing to the Senior Kangaroo - the follow-on round to the SMC.

In KS3, students were curiously learning how maths applies to encrypting messages as part of the Aspire Higher programme. It's another way of showing how maths has its applications everywhere - think about it next time you send a WhatsApp message.



Sixth formers getting awarded their Senior Mathematical Challenge certificates

With the 6-7 virus sweeping across the anglosphere, it's only right for some 6-7-related facts and puzzles:

I know that $6+7-6+7=14$, and $6 \times 7 + 6 + 7 + 6 + 7 + 6 - 7 = 67$. Can you find another combination of the four operations, along with only the numbers 6, 7, to make:

- 41?
- 8?
- 61?

67 is a prime number, so it only has two factors (neither of them are 6 or 7, sadly...).

Can you find three prime numbers that add to 67?

Can you find four prime numbers that add to 67?

Is it possible to find five prime numbers that add to 67?

Is it possible to find two prime numbers that add to 67?

Convert the fraction $67/99$ to a decimal.

What do you notice?

WOODBIDGE *Sites*

Christmas Appeal

This festive season, we held a special appeal to support those in need. Thank you for joining us in making a difference through our:

- House Charity Gift Appeal
- BET Food Appeal
- Help the Homeless – Share the Warmth Appeal

Thank you also to our PE department for sorting and delivering the donations. Together, we've helped make someone's Christmas a little more special.



Redbridge Youth Academic Achievement Awards

We are incredibly proud of our students who were selected to receive the Youth Academic Achievement Awards at Ilford Town Hall! Huge congratulations to our inspiring GCSE and A-Level students for their outstanding work and dedication!



Churchfields Primary School Visit

We had a great visit to Churchfields, speaking with parents about the dangers of social media and sharing our commitment to a smartphone-free childhood.



Pitch Perfect

Massive congratulations to Eden for earning a place in the prestigious National Choir! This is an outstanding achievement - entry to the choir is by audition only and is highly competitive. The National Youth Choir helps members develop exceptional choral talent, providing unique opportunities to perform in amazing venues like the Royal Albert Hall.



Big Thumbs Up For Our Newly Refurbished Gym floor!

We have been making great use of our gym thanks to our amazing community, parents, and staff who helped fundraise! There's still more to be done, but we're thrilled to have the gym back in action! These ongoing improvements are making a real difference to the learning environment and our indoor PE facilities.



Former Student Makes Champions League Debut!



We are thrilled to share that former student Marli Salmon made his first-team debut in the UEFA Champions League for Arsenal!

This is an incredible achievement, and we couldn't be prouder. Huge congratulations to Marli, and we wish him every success in his football career and beyond.

WOODBIDGE *Sports*

By Mr D Mahoney, Head of PE

Football

As always, the Football season has started off extremely busy. Woodbridge have faced some strong opposition in the Essex and National cups. Our girls U14 team and Y10 and Y11 boys remain in the Essex Cup. Our girls continue to battle at Frentford in the Redbridge setup and all boys have advanced to the Redbridge cup knockout rounds after being undefeated in every year group.



Netball

Netball has had an amazing start this year, with many fixtures within the borough, as well as U14 and U16 teams submitted for the Essex league. Not only have we had an amazing start with the number of students coming to the club but also in the results!



Rugby

Rugby has moved on massively this year with many fixtures and festivals being attended. Y8 and Y9 girls attended an Essex Cup rugby tournament, with many of the girls playing contact rugby for the first time. Our Y7 girls also attended Woodford Rugby club to play T1 rugby, many playing rugby for the first time. Our Y8 and Y9 boys attended the Essex rugby tournament, with the boys showcasing their fantastic skills. Our Y7 boys also played a friendly tournament against Trinity, showing an excellent display of determination and resilience.



Basketball

Year 7 have made a good start to their Woodbridge basketball careers, showing great enthusiasm and commitment to morning and after school club. They have competed well in their opening fixtures against some local schools and we are looking forward to more in the new year.



Indoor Cricket

A great experience for our 'all girls cricket competition' at Brampton Manor School. We had the chance to learn a lot about playing and umpiring indoor cricket, and made some new friends! We can't wait to kick off cricket club in the summer!



WOODBIDGE Sports

Cross Country

Ms Moore organised the borough Cross Country event at Fairlop Waters again this year. Woodbridge fielded very strong teams, with our teams placing very highly amongst the 11 schools that entered from Redbridge. Full results below. A special shout out to Rosie B in Y7 and Oliver C in Y13 who won their age group races.

Y7 Boys: 2nd Place	Y10/11 Boys: 3rd Place
Y7 Girls: 1st Place	Y10/11 Girls: 3rd Place
Y8/9 Boys: 1st Place	Sixth Form Boys: 1st Place
Y8/9 Girls: 3rd Place	Sixth Form Girls: 3rd Place



Badminton

Both the KS3 and KS4 badminton students gave really good accounts of themselves in this year's district tournaments, with the KS4 team coming a respectable 3rd place in the borough and the KS3 narrowly missing out on first place in the final. Special mention goes to Jensen K, who not only displayed an elite skillset but also was a great leader off the court by coaching his team mates through some tough match ups. Well done to all!



Panathlon

Our Panathlon team were outstanding at the Redbridge bowling event, with lots of the Woodbridge values being shown in a competitive environment. Our Panathlon team will also compete in the January annual borough competition. Will we be able to retain our title? Shout out to our amazing Y12 students who also supported the Panathlon swimming event for those students with hearing impairments. You were amazing!



Interform

Sixth form students lead a successful interform for year 7 students as part of their coursework. Over 60 students attended, with great competition and respect between all forms. It was great to see so many enthusiastic students that wished to take part!



Clubs

Our clubs have been well attended this term, which is great to see. We also now have a fantastic trampolining club that is run by a company that organises the London youth games. Come and get involved! Check out our club timetable on the website [HERE](#).



*Wishing all of Team Woodbridge and
their families a wonderful
Christmas break and a
Happy New Year!*

Start of Spring Term:

Monday 5th January at 08:35, this will be week 2 timetable.

School Closure Dates

Early school closure dates have been emailed to parents/carers.



woodbridgehighschool



@woodbridgehigh.uk