

WOODBRIDGE

PRIDE IN ACHIEVEMENT

Buzzy

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER: SUMMER TERM

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HEADTEACHER'S LETTER

And just like that, another fantastic year at Woodbridge has come to a close! As we send out our Summer Term newsletter, it offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and successful few months. Looking through these pages, I have been reminded once again of the sheer volume of opportunities, achievements and memorable moments that our school community has enjoyed this term.

Despite the Summer heat, and a few cancellations and postponements, there really has been something for everyone. From the excitement of Sports Day, the fun trips and visits including skiing in Tignes and the Dickens Museum, to the wonderful Sports Awards, students have embraced every opportunity to get involved. We have celebrated diversity and inclusion, presented the Historians Collection award, listened to impressive performances in the Year 8 Speaking Competition, followed our Duke of Edinburgh participants on their expeditions, and supported a wide range of charitable fundraising initiatives. Add to that countless individual successes, and you will see why this edition is packed with student stories worth celebrating.

What also stands out to me, however, is the extraordinary commitment of our staff. The experiences and opportunities our students enjoy do not simply appear; they are the result of countless hours of planning, organisation and dedication. Week after week, staff willingly give their time, energy and expertise because they believe in providing the very best for the young people in our care. Their commitment to both the school and wider community is remarkable, and I am immensely grateful for everything they do. As we reach the end of another academic year, I know you will join me in thanking them for their hard work and unwavering support of our students.





Of course, none of this would be possible without the students themselves. Their enthusiasm for school life is one of Woodbridge's greatest strengths. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, or as part of one of the many enrichment opportunities available, our students consistently demonstrate ambition, resilience and a willingness to challenge themselves. Whenever I visit other schools, I am reminded just how fortunate we are. Time and again, Woodbridge students impress me with their character, their achievements, their inclusivity, their respect for others and, above all, their kindness. They are a credit to themselves, their families and our school.

For now, though, it is time for a well-earned break. After a busy and successful year, students and staff alike deserve the opportunity to relax, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. I know I need a break and a darkened room! The teenagers of Woodford are amazing, but you can have them back for a while, if that's okay...

Thank you, as always, for your continued support throughout the year, both of the school and of me personally. We look forward to welcoming all our brilliant students back in September - refreshed, motivated and ready for another exciting year at Woodbridge!

Have a great holiday!

Mr S Hogan





THE ROAD TO RESULTS

By Mr T Bhullar
Associate Headteacher
(Director of Quality of Education)

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our Key Stage 3 students on receiving their end-of-year exam results. I am incredibly proud of the hard work, determination and commitment they have shown in preparing for these assessments. Their efforts throughout the year have truly paid off. For those of you who may not have achieved the results you were hoping for, please remember that this is all part of the learning journey—every challenge is an opportunity to grow, improve and succeed in the future.

September will also be an important time for our current 10 and 12 who begin the final year of their Key Stage 4 and 5 qualifications. It is important to rest and recuperate and be ready to hit the ground running. The final year does go quickly and we will be on hand to support students to achieve the best they can. The summer is also an excellent moment to go back and strengthen learning, especially on areas that students are least comfortable with. This type of retrieval practice is really powerful in helping students maximise their potential.

As Nelson Mandela said, "It always seems impossible until it's done." Well done to each and every one of you for your resilience and dedication.



We were delighted to present the CREST Discovery Awards, awarded by the British Science Association, to our students in recognition of their outstanding effort and engagement. This achievement followed a visit to the London Transport Museum, where students took part in the Inspiring Engineering Competition.

The award recognises the successful completion of a STEM project and helps students develop valuable skills, including communication, problem-solving, teamwork, resilience, and motivation.



COLOUR RUN

*Ms J Sanderson
BET Co-ordinator*

Woodbridge High School came alive with colour, energy and excitement on Friday 19th June as students and staff took part in our very first Colour Run. The event was a fantastic success, bringing our community together in a vibrant celebration filled with laughter, music and, of course, bursts of bright colour at every turn. It was more than just a fun run—it was a meaningful way to celebrate our diversity and everything that makes us unique as a school community.



The Colour Run gave us the opportunity to embrace and honour the many cultures, religions, genders and identities within WHS, including our LGBTQ+ community, highlighting the inclusive spirit we are so proud of. It was a joyful reminder that our differences make us stronger and more connected. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped make the day so special. If you missed out this time, don't worry—keep your eyes open for next year's event!



Every penny goes towards making a difference in our community and beyond. Your House's individual total will be announced during house assemblies next year —stay tuned to see how your House did! Let's continue to support one another with kindness, creativity, and purpose.

“I think that it is really nice to show that everyone is welcome! And I had lots of fun doing it too!

Year 8 Student

By Ms A Latino, Head Of History

The History Department was honoured to present the Historians Collection Award in memory of Moyra Whelan. Students from Years 7 to 10 were selected by their history teachers and awarded a certificate and a history book. The award ceremony was a great success, with students excited to delve into their new books, including Peter Frankopan's *The Silk Roads* and historical fiction such as *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak.

The Historians Collection Award was established by the late Moyra Whelan to encourage our students to read more widely around the topics they

have studied in class. The bespoke selection of historical fiction and non-fiction tells the stories of people from around the world, giving our students the opportunity to learn more about their own identities and about societies vastly different from their own.

The History Department would like to thank the Whelan family for their generosity in ensuring that this wonderful award can continue to benefit our students. Finally, congratulations to all the students who received an award.



I enjoyed that Miss Whelan's family were there. It was nice to be able to show my respect, and I felt appreciated by them. I also liked being awarded a book of my choice.

Year 9 Student



BET NEWS

By Ms E Jamieson
BET Co-ordinator

Mentoring and Thorpe Park Reward Trip

Our mentoring programme continues to go from strength to strength, with students engaging brilliantly with the support provided by our Sixth Form mentors during Super Study sessions.

To celebrate their commitment and progress, students enjoyed a reward trip to Thorpe Park, where they had a fantastic day challenging themselves and facing their fears. Many even braved Hyperia, the UK's tallest, fastest and longest rollercoaster, making memories they won't forget anytime soon!



Woodbridge's Got Talent

Although Woodbridge's Got Talent was unable to go ahead this year due to being postponed during the period of extreme heat, the incredible range of talent on display during auditions was truly inspiring.

Students impressed us with a wide variety of performances, including singing, dancing, guitar, drums, piano and even a comedy act. The confidence, creativity and enthusiasm shown by everyone involved demonstrated just how talented our Woodbridge students are.

While the show may not have happened this year, we are already looking forward to bringing it back next year—because the show must go on!

Environment YES Fest

Three Woodbridge students recently attended the Environment YES Fest at Redbridge Library, a celebration of youth action and sustainability.

The event brought together young people from across the borough to take part in workshops, discussions and activities focused on environmental issues, giving students the opportunity to learn more about protecting our planet and making a positive impact in their communities.

Summer Food Appeal

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Summer Food Appeal. Thanks to the generosity of the Woodbridge community, Ms Jamieson has organised the donations to be distributed to local families. Your donations will make a real difference and are greatly appreciated.

Stepping Into Dickens's World

By Mrs J Oliver, English Department

The annual trip for Year 8 English students to the Dickens Museum in central London took place this month. The sun shone, the tubes worked and we had a smashing time.

The museum is wonderful. It's like stepping back almost two hundred years to when Dickens was a young ambitious writer living in his starter home in London. The house where he lived is kept as it would have been in the 1840s, and, under very eagle-eyed supervision, the children were allowed to pick up and use the objects that Dickens and his family and servants would have used: quills,

skirt raisers (little tongs to lift skirts above the filthy London streets), carbolic soap for laundry.

The students were very engaged and asked loads of questions from the guides. They also created their own characters using quills and ink.

A sunny picnic in the park with a spot of football with Mr Dooley completed the trip. The students were a pleasure to take out; they did Woodbridge proud with their behaviour and attitude.

Fun Facts!

**They cooked the Christmas pudding in the copper
(old-fashioned washing machine)**

**Dickens had a hip bath in his bedroom. Water
was limited as supply was only turned on for 2
hours a day**

**A hedgehog called Bill Sykes was kept in the
kitchen to keep away pests**

They owned a raven called Grip as a pet

**Dickens' father was sent to prison for debt- he
owed the baker £40**



Charity Penalty SHOOT-OUT



By Mr J Spall, Head Of Behaviour Support (BSO) Department

The BSO Team recently organised a Charity Penalty Shoot-Out Competition, bringing World Cup excitement to our school while raising money for Haven House.

The event created a fantastic atmosphere, with students and staff from across the school taking part. There were some impressive penalties, plenty of saves, and lots of memorable moments throughout the day.

A number of brave volunteers took turns in goal throughout the day. Mr Dosanjh (IT Support) proved to be a formidable shot-stopper, pulling off a series of remarkable saves that earned comparisons with former Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Čech. Mr Mohammed also impressed between the posts, channelling his inner David de Gea with several excellent saves of his own. Mr Spall, looking every bit the experienced veteran, made a couple of important stops (mostly to his left-hand side!) and certainly earned top marks for effort. However, the standout goalkeeper was

Nico R in Year 12, whose outstanding saves earned him hero status on the day.

Equally impressive was the behaviour of all students, who helped create a positive, safe and enjoyable event. Particular praise goes to the students who regularly attend the Learning First Zone (LFZ), whose conduct was exemplary throughout.

Thanks to the support of everyone involved, an impressive £98 was raised for Haven House. A special thank you also goes to Mrs Bryan and Miss Balais, whose hard work helped make the event such a success.

Well done to everyone who took part and supported this enjoyable and worthwhile occasion.





ASPIRE HIGHER!

By Miss E Watton, Aspire Higher Lead

It has been a fantastic summer term for our Aspire Higher programme!

Our Year 7 students have been studying Benjamin Zephaniah's Refugee Boy and exploring the important social context of the novel. Meanwhile, our Year 8 and Year 9 students have been working on projects related to careers and aspirations, while developing their academic discussion skills. Students have also attended a range of subject masterclasses to help broaden their learning. This term's masterclasses have included Film Studies and Screenwriting with Ms Tagoe, Science and Lasers with Dr Cooper, and a general knowledge quiz!

Our Year 10 students have submitted their Higher Project Qualifications, which will be marked by the exam board over the summer. This year's cohort have submitted excellent projects on a range of topics including psychology, history, physics, art, wellbeing and mental health, and much more!



By Miss E Watton, Brilliant Club Lead

The Brilliant Club is an education charity that works with high-achieving students in schools across the UK, helping them to learn more about aspirational pathways for the future. This term, some of our Year 9 students took part in a project entitled 'Calm or Chaos? How Culture and Society Shape Psychology and Mental Health'.

The students participated in university-style seminars led by a visiting tutor from Cardiff University and produced excellent assignments that demonstrated their learning on this topic. They then celebrated their achievements at a 'graduation' event held at King's College London.

During the event, students learned more about university life, discussed their ambitions for the future, and received certificates in recognition of their hard work. Seth, Alice and Zaima also delivered an excellent speech reflecting on what they had learned throughout the programme.

To find out more about Aspire Higher, the HPQ, or The Brilliant Club, speak to Miss Watton.



As part of School Diversity Week, an annual UK-wide celebration of LGBT+ equality in primary schools, secondary schools and colleges, we came together to celebrate diversity, inclusion and respect for all.

Our School Diversity Week celebrations came to an end with a fair, where students had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities while raising money for a great cause. We were delighted to raise £150 for Just Like Us, the LGBT+ young people's charity.

The fair featured activities, including charm-making, games, a photo booth and a fantastic bake competition. In addition, students took part in a Dress the Door Competition, putting their creativity and teamwork skills to the test.

It was wonderful to see our school community come together to make a positive difference, having fun and celebrate the diverse community that makes our school so special.



We were excited to have been shortlisted for the TES School Awards Community Engagement Initiative of The Year award!

We have been recognised for our Pride in Action: Empowering Voices, Creating Change initiative, which brought together over 100 pupils from more than 10 different schools. The project connected young people, industry professionals and local charities to empower pupils to create positive change within their school communities and make a lasting impact for LGBTQ+ pupils and allies.

We are incredibly proud of the work we do to ensure our community is diverse, inclusive and welcoming, where all pupils feel they belong. We are delighted that this commitment is being recognised.


**Tes Schools
Awards 2026**
Shortlisted

Community Engagement
Initiative of the Year

#TesAwards





By Mr A Faisal, Literacy Lead

As part of the National Year of Reading, Woodbridge High School has been proud to deliver a range of exciting literacy events through 'Read. Write. Rise.' This initiative reflects our commitment to promoting reading, developing rich vocabulary and encouraging purposeful writing across the curriculum.

A particular highlight this term were our first-ever Creative Writing Workshops, hosted in the library by Mr Faisal and Ms Année. Held on 19th June, the workshops welcomed KS3 students across three sessions. Students explored the theme "The Day the World Glitched", challenging them to consider how ordinary life might change if technology suddenly failed. Through engaging activities, students developed their descriptive writing skills, experimented with narrative voice and demonstrated impressive creativity and imagination.

The workshops were a fantastic success, with students producing thoughtful and engaging pieces of writing while building confidence as young writers. They also formed part of a wider programme of literacy events designed to inspire a love of reading and writing across the school community.

Students enjoyed a visit from acclaimed novelist Stephen Kelman, whose engaging sessions encouraged young people to think deeply about creativity, empathy and the writing process. To mark South Asian Heritage Month, author Sufiya Ahmed spoke to students about her work, heritage and the importance of diverse voices in literature. These events provided students with a unique opportunity to hear directly from published authors, ask questions, and gain a greater appreciation for reading and writing as powerful tools for self-expression and understanding the world around them.

With many more literacy developments planned for the future, this is just the beginning. 'Read. Write. Rise.' continues to guide our vision as we create even more opportunities for students to engage with literacy, unlock their creativity and achieve success across the curriculum.

Watch this space for more exciting literacy events next year!



Bee Club

The buzz continues



By Chloe J, Year 8

This year, we carried out another swarm control, saved a smaller hive that nearly died out, and learned about the diseases that bees can catch and how to respond to them.

Soon, we will do another honey extraction, and some of the students will take their beekeeping exam. I took mine last year, so I cannot retake it this year. However, I can still attend the honey extraction.

Sadly, this year we lost one of the hives and had to replace it with half of another hive as it was preparing to swarm. The queen I named Queen Lilith is doing much better, as she belonged to the hive that nearly died out.

I still really enjoy Bee Club and have learned new things that I did not learn last year, such as the diseases we need to look out for in our hives.

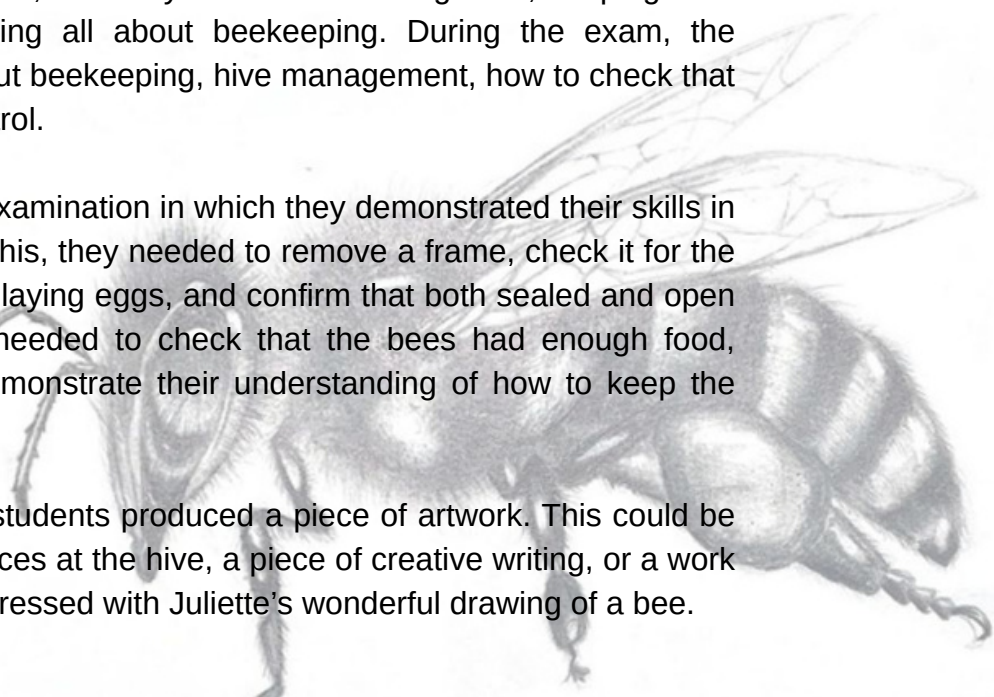
By Ms Rivers

Head of Design and Technology and Bee Club Leader

Four members of our Bee Club took the exam for their Junior Beekeeping Certificate. It was a very exciting time for them, and they had been working hard, keeping their diaries for six weeks and learning all about beekeeping. During the exam, the students answered questions about beekeeping, hive management, how to check that hives are healthy, and swarm control.

They also completed a practical examination in which they demonstrated their skills in removing frames from hives. For this, they needed to remove a frame, check it for the queen, ensure that she had been laying eggs, and confirm that both sealed and open brood were present. They also needed to check that the bees had enough food, identify signs of disease, and demonstrate their understanding of how to keep the colony healthy.

In the final part of the exam, the students produced a piece of artwork. This could be a photo montage of their experiences at the hive, a piece of creative writing, or a work of art. The examiner was very impressed with Juliette's wonderful drawing of a bee.



Twin Trekkers Shine At Haven House Sparkle Walk

Four sets of Woodbridge twins stepped up for Haven House, taking part in the annual 10km Sparkle Walk and raising over £4,000. They joined more than 300 walkers to raise vital funds for the local children's hospice.

The twins joined forces with five other children from the local area, forming the 'Twin Trekkers'. They were delighted to be given the honour of officially opening the event by cutting the starting ribbon.

Twin Trekker Millie said, "Our mum and our twin friends' mums—who have all known each other since we were babies—have done the walk before and said it was an amazing experience, so we decided to join this year. Although we didn't finish first, like the boys had hoped (because of the slow mums!), I felt proud knowing we completed the walk, which was probably 11km because we went the wrong way a couple of times! It was an incredible experience, and I'm excited to do it again next year with our twin friends."

Her twin, Chloe said, "It felt like a great community event, with everyone wearing purple T-shirts, sparkly tutus, and glitter tattoos. Towards the end of the walk, we decided to sprint to the finish line, where we were given medals. We hope the money will make a big difference. Hopefully, next year we'll raise even more!"

Haven House Chief Executive Justin Derbyshire praised the group's contribution: "The Twin Trekkers brought so much energy, enthusiasm, and joy to this year's Sparkle Walk. It was wonderful to see young people come together in support of their local children's hospice and achieve something so remarkable."



We are incredibly proud of our students' commitment in supporting Haven House. The Twin Trekkers came together in such a positive and inspiring way which truly reflects the spirit of the school community. Haven House is one of our House charities, and it means a great deal to us to support the vital work they do for children and families.

Donation link: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/twintrekkers>

TIGNES

By Mr S O'Brien, Head Of Year 8



Students enjoyed an unforgettable week on this year's ski trip to Tignes, spending six days in ski school and making excellent progress on the slopes. From complete beginners to more experienced skiers, everyone showed significant improvement throughout the week, gaining confidence and developing new skills.

The trip offered much more than skiing. Students demonstrated resilience by challenging themselves, persevering through difficult conditions and stepping outside their comfort zones. Being away from home also helped them grow in independence as they managed their equipment, organised themselves each day, and supported one another.

Evenings were filled with exciting après-ski activities, including a quiz night, crêpes and hot chocolate, and the highlight for many students—snow tubing. Sliding down the hill in giant inflatable tubes with hard plastic bottoms provided plenty of fun, laughter, and memorable moments.

Throughout the week, students made new friends, strengthened existing friendships, and created lasting memories together. Their enthusiasm, positive attitude, and willingness to embrace new experiences made the trip a tremendous success.

We are incredibly proud of all that our students achieved, both on and off the mountain. After such a fantastic week in Tignes, we are already looking forward to returning next year for another adventure on the slopes!





Food Technology

By Ms S John, Food Technology Lead

We are delighted to share another busy and exciting term in Food Technology, during which students have been developing practical skills, creativity, and a deeper understanding of food safety, healthy eating, and the food industry.

Practical Lessons: Fresh Homemade Pasta

Our kitchen classrooms have been full of energy as Year 10 students rolled up their sleeves to make fresh homemade pasta from scratch. From mixing and kneading dough to rolling and shaping it, pupils demonstrated excellent resilience and attention to detail.

Students explored different pasta shapes and sauces, learning how ingredients, texture, and cooking techniques affect the final dish. These hands-on sessions not only built confidence but also helped students understand the importance of presentation and flavour balance — key skills for any aspiring chef.

Independent Assessment Cooks

A highlight of each term has always been our assessment practicals, where students are given the opportunity to plan and prepare their own main course and dessert.

This "own-choice" challenge encourages students to:

- Select dishes that showcase a variety of skills.
- Demonstrate a range of cooking techniques.
- Work independently and manage their time effectively.
- Present their dishes to a high standard.

We were incredibly impressed by the variety of dishes produced, from globally inspired main courses to beautifully presented desserts. Students showed creativity, resilience, and pride in their work. Well done to everyone involved.

Looking Ahead

We are extremely proud of the enthusiasm and dedication our students have shown this term. We look forward to another exciting year in September, filled with new recipes, challenges, and opportunities for our students to continue shining.

By Mr S Shaw, Head Of Sociology

The Sociology Department was delighted to welcome a range of guest speakers as part of the Woodbridge 2026 Summer Lecture Series, giving students the opportunity to engage with academics, researchers, campaigners and professionals from a variety of fields.

CO-AGE PROJECT, QMUL & KCL

Students participated in a CO-Age workshop led by researchers from Queen Mary University of London and King's College London, exploring healthy ageing and wellbeing.

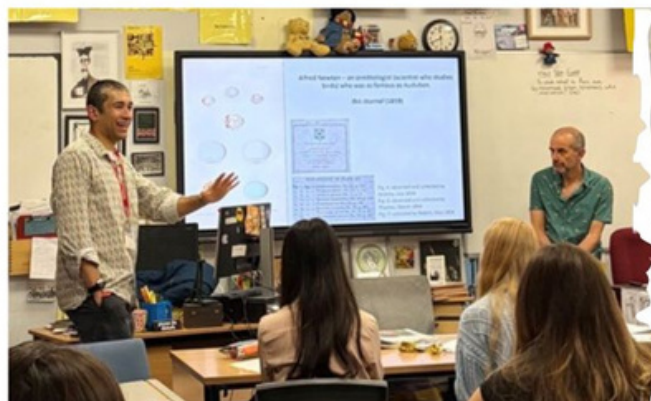
Researchers "The students who participated were insightful, thoughtful, and highly engaged throughout the workshop. They demonstrated a genuine curiosity about both the research process and the topic of healthy ageing and asking thoughtful questions. We were particularly impressed by the maturity and depth of the students' contributions. Their willingness to share their views and engage critically with the research topics made a valuable contribution to the workshop and the wider CO-Age project."

DR JON BERRY, UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE

Dr Jon Berry (University of Hertfordshire) delivered a fascinating talk on the case of Oswald Augustus Grey, the last Black man to be executed in Britain, encouraging students to consider issues of justice, race and capital punishment.

DR JAKE SUBRYAN RICHARDS, LSE

From the London School of Economics, Dr Jake Subryan Richards discussed his research for the Fitzwilliam Museum on Britain's colonial past, while Dr Roger Green (Goldsmiths, University of London) explored the role of sociology in understanding and creating social change.



Dr Jake Subryan Richards

NAOMI OPPENHEIM, INQUEST

Naomi Oppenheim led a workshop on the organisation's work supporting families affected by deaths in police and state custody, highlighting the importance of advocacy and accountability.

DR ADAM ELLIOTT-COOPER, QMUL

Woodbridge alumnus Dr Adam Elliott-Cooper returned to discuss nationalism and British identity, examining Britain's history, culture and ideas of belonging.



Dr Adam Elliott-Cooper

DAISY SNOOKS, POLITICS

Students also heard from Daisy Snooks, Head of Communications for James Asser MP, who provided an insight into careers in politics, parliamentary work and Westminster work experience opportunities.

IMOGEN MARESCH, PSYCHOLOGY

Finally, Imogen Maresch delivered an engaging workshop for Psychology students on positive psychology, resilience and her research into the use of play to support wellbeing.



Imogen Maresch

The lecture series provided students with an excellent opportunity to broaden their knowledge, explore contemporary social issues and learn from experts working across academia, politics, research and advocacy.

MANY VOICES

by Kerry-Ann McNamee-Obi

Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Coordinator

There is an African philosophy known as Ubuntu, often expressed through the simple phrase:

“I am because we are.”

At its heart is a powerful truth: our lives are connected. None of us exists in isolation. We learn from one another, grow through one another, and flourish because of one another. As another proverb reminds us, one hand cannot clap.

This year’s Diversity Week theme, Many Voices, invites us to reflect on what kind of community we want to be. Not simply a place where people share the same space, but a place where people truly belong.

Often, when we hear conversations about inequality, discrimination, exclusion, or prejudice, it can be tempting to see these as issues that affect “other people.” The challenges faced by women. The experiences of people with disabilities. The barriers encountered by minority ethnic communities. The realities of the LGBTQ+ community.

But perhaps the more important question is not, “Who does this affect?”

Perhaps the question is, “What does it say about us if it affects anyone at all?”

Because every time a person feels unseen, unheard, unsafe, or excluded, something is diminished in the community as a whole.

And the truth is, inequality wears many faces.

We do not even need to look very far to see how quickly fear can become division, and division can become hostility. Recent events remind us that when people are reduced to labels rather than seen as human beings, suspicion can replace understanding, and neighbors can become strangers. The consequences are felt not in headlines or statistics, but in the lives of ordinary people who simply want to live, work, raise families, and belong.

Statistics can tell us what is happening, but they cannot tell us how it feels.



They cannot measure the loneliness of exclusion, the pain of being judged before being known, or the exhaustion of constantly having to prove that you belong.

Numbers reveal patterns, but stories reveal people. And behind every story is a human being seeking the same things we all seek... dignity, respect, safety, opportunity, and belonging.

This is why Many Voices matters.

We do not need to share the same background, culture, beliefs, identity, or life experience to care about one another. The challenge for all of us is not simply to celebrate diversity for a week, but to build a culture where people feel respected every day...EVERY DAY!

A culture where differences are not feared but understood.

A culture where compassion is stronger than prejudice.

A culture where justice is not reserved for some but pursued for all.

Because one hand cannot clap.

Because none of us thrives alone.

Because our humanity is bound together. And because when every voice is heard, the whole community becomes stronger.

We may not share the same experiences, but we all share the same need to be seen and to belong. And perhaps that is where change begins; not in grand gestures, but in slowing down enough to recognise the humanity in the person beside us.

Stay curious, stay open



WHS students present at the conference

STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

by **Kerry-Ann McNamee-Obi**
Diversity, Equality & Inclusion Coordinator

You would have been nothing but proud.

I beamed with such pride and joy watching our Woodbridge students showcase all the amazing opportunities they've had at the Student Leadership Conference held at Woodford County High School.

Students shared some of the initiatives taking place in our school, from our EDGE

programme, debating programme and academic studies to the work we are doing to build a stronger sense of community and belonging through our DEI initiatives.

It was a fantastic opportunity, and just as valuable was the chance to hear about the exciting work taking place in other schools.

Geography Department

By Ms K Gray, Head Of Geography

This term, Geography students at Woodbridge have taken part in a range of exciting opportunities beyond the classroom.

Year 10 students visited King's Cross to collect fieldwork data for their study of urban regeneration, investigating how the area has been transformed and assessing its social, economic and environmental impacts.

Meanwhile, Year 12 students attended a research workshop at University College London (UCL) focused on environmental justice. They explored how young people experience issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, gaining valuable insight into real-world geographical research and university-style learning. Year 12 students also enjoyed a four-day residential trip to the Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, where they developed their fieldwork skills.

In collaboration with University College London (UCL), Year 8 and Year 10 students explored flood risk in Hackney, using digital mapping and augmented reality technology to investigate urban flooding and examine how cities can become more resilient to future environmental challenges.

These experiences have helped students develop their geographical understanding while applying their learning in real-world contexts.



Year 10 on the King's Cross field trip



Year 12 on Flatford Mill trip outside the famous Willy Lotts cottage



Year 12 attend a workshop at UCL



UK Maths Trust

Mr H Miller, Numeracy Lead

The UK Maths Trust is the leading British charity that advances the education of young people in mathematics.

This term, we have enjoyed record success in the UK Mathematics Trust competitions. Over 250 students from Years 7–11 represented the school in the annual Junior and Intermediate Mathematical Challenges, with a record 19 students qualifying for the follow-on rounds, known as the Kangaroos and Olympiads.

Congratulations to all those who qualified, and a special mention to Rishi E for achieving a Gold Kangaroo Award and to Atticus W for qualifying for the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Impressive work all round!



*Students getting awarded
UKMT Certificates*

CARE 4 CALAIS

Fundraiser

Mr S Shaw, Head of Sociology

Year 12 Care4Calais volunteers raised over £240 for asylum seekers in northern France, many of whom are the same age as them. These young people from Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Syria and Kurdistan have been forced to leave their families and homes and are given a little hope through donations of clothing, hygiene packs, and services such as hot drinks and English lessons.

I will be using some of the money raised by our sixth form students to purchase resources for the bicycles that we help service in Calais.



Care4Calais Fundraiser Team



Year 8 Finalists



Winner, Leila M

THE 28TH ANNUAL YEAR 8 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

**Nine strong speeches
from Year 8 students!**

*By Ms Rée and Ms Barnes
English department.*

The English Department was very proud to present the 28th Annual Year 8 Public Speaking Competition, with nine finalists taking part:

Leila M – Why I am anti-war

Mikaeel S – PE Kit

Lucien C – Procrastination

Gabby S – Gender equality in sport

Saara I – Women's rights in Afghanistan

Roman L – Choosing subjects in Year 8

Luke T – Deforestation

Juliette C – Dyslexia

Chloe J – Strict parents

The judges faced a tough challenge in trying to choose between the speeches. All were strong, well argued and engagingly presented. The variety of topics was wide and covered many relevant themes for us today. As someone commented, many speeches started with: "Imagine a world where..."

The event was hosted by last year's winner, Frederick Walker, who made a smooth and impressive job of being the compère.

In the end, it was Leila Manito, using the real-life story of her cousin, Mona Khalil, the turtle conservationist who was tragically killed in Lebanon, as the reason and explanation in her speech, Why I am anti-war, who was the outright winner.

In second place came Gabby Sales with her powerful speech on gender equality in sport, very well argued and very professionally presented. There was excellent engagement with the audience: "Name me a footballer; name me another", with all the examples being male.

During the deliberations, the audience was treated to a musical interlude by Dylan Walsh, extemporising on a theme from A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square. The whole event showed an excellent standard of argument and debate. A credit to Year 8, a very strong year group!

Congratulations to all the finalists!



Success at Buckingham Palace

**By Mr A Allen
DofE Lead**

Student Betty B was honoured with an invitation to Buckingham Palace to receive her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the glorious sunshine of the Palace gardens.

The Gold Award is the highest level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and represents an outstanding achievement. Students who complete the gold award are truly special. It can strengthen university and job applications as proof of their ability to go the extra mile.

Looking ahead, we hope to have an even larger group of students ready to visit Buckingham Palace next May to receive their Gold Awards. Achieving the Gold Award requires at least two years of hard work with volunteering, self-development, getting out into the world and working as a team.

The same week as Betty's award presentation, I had the pleasure of joining the Duke of Edinburgh's Award team at Buckingham Palace for the organisation's 70th anniversary celebrations. It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the positive impact the award continues to have on young people.

Congratulations to Betty on this remarkable achievement, and we look forward to celebrating the success of future Gold Award recipients in the years ahead.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**



National Thank a Teacher Day is a special event that celebrates teachers, teaching assistants, and school support staff. There were plenty of smiles across the school as staff received thank you notes from students.

The BET Team and students also organised some thoughtful treats, providing a lovely surprise and a wonderful way to recognise the dedication and hard work of our staff.



Your support, patience, and encouragement help us overcome challenges and achieve more than we thought we could. We truly appreciate you.

Thank you for always believing in us and pushing us to do our best. You make learning fun and inspiring, and we appreciate everything you do.

One of your wonderful WHS Students

One of your wonderful students at WHS

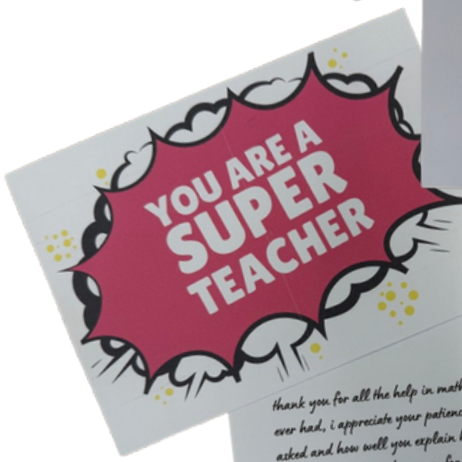


Hello Miss! Thank you for always being kind and helpful and for making Food Tech exciting!

She is very kind and hardworking she has a lot of work to do as the head of DT but she is still happy

Thank you for always helping us.

A few of your wonderful students at WHS



Thank you for all the help in maths. best maths teacher i have ever had, i appreciate your patience you have for any questions asked and how well you explain harder questions and i really hope i have you for year 13 as well

One of your wonderful students at WHS

SIXTH FORM NEWS

By Ms E Canessa Davies, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

The final weeks of the academic year have been busy in the Sixth Form, with several events providing opportunities to celebrate achievement, recognise hard work and look ahead to an exciting future.

We were delighted to host the Year 13 Prom, our final celebration for our Year 13 cohort before they receive their results in August. It was a brilliant evening to mark the end of their Sixth Form journey. For all our Year 13 students, it represented the culmination of two years of hard work and dedication, while for many it marked the end of a seven-year journey at Woodbridge. A good time was had by all, and we would like to extend our thanks to the staff who attended and helped make the evening such a special occasion. We wish our Year 13 students every success as they move on to the next stage of their education, training and careers.

We also held our Year 12 Celebration Event, recognising the outstanding commitment, effort and achievements of students throughout the year. Congratulations to all those who received subject awards in recognition of their hard work and progress. The event also provided an opportunity to present the Debating Final Trophy, celebrating the excellent communication and critical-thinking skills demonstrated by our EDGE Debating students. In addition, we were proud to present cheques to a number of charities that have benefited from fundraising activities led by students throughout the year.

Finally, we welcomed a large number of prospective students to our Sixth Form Applicant Day. Students enjoyed taster sessions in their chosen subjects, explored enrichment opportunities at the EDGE Fair and met their new form tutors. There was also plenty of enthusiasm for experiencing a taste of Sixth Form life, including free periods and access to the Sixth Form Common Room. It was fantastic to see so many engaged and enthusiastic young people considering Woodbridge Sixth Form as the next step in their journey.



It has certainly been a busy end to the year for the Sixth Form, with countless individual achievements and successes to celebrate. We now look forward to celebrating our students' results in August and welcoming our new Year 12 cohort to Woodbridge Sixth Form in September. We wish all students and their families a restful and enjoyable summer break.

WellbeingTeam

By Ms J North, Clinical and Counselling Lead

At Woodbridge, we are committed to ensuring that every young person has access to a range of tailored wellbeing support. Throughout this year, we have continued to provide one-to-one mentoring and counselling sessions, using a variety of approaches including talking therapies, creative interventions and outdoor activities. All wellbeing support is student-led, helping us to create a safe, welcoming and supportive environment.

In addition to our in-house provision, students have benefited from support provided by the Redbridge Mental Health Support Team (MHST), enabling early intervention for a range of wellbeing needs. The positive engagement of our students has been key to the success of this valuable partnership.

We are incredibly proud of the young people who take ownership of their wellbeing by developing their resilience, self-awareness and coping strategies, helping them to thrive both in school and at home.

Chillout Lunch Time Club

A huge thank you to the staff and students who continue to support our Chill Out sessions. Chill Out provides a calm and welcoming space where students can relax, socialise, enjoy lunch and take a break from the demands of the school day, helping them to feel refreshed and ready for afternoon lessons.

This term, we introduced a no-computer rule to encourage conversation, connection and



Wellbeing Team

positive engagement with peers and staff. While some students initially found this challenging, it has helped create the supportive and inclusive environment we aim to provide.

Chill Out runs every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during both lunch periods and is open to all students. It is a great opportunity to get to know the Wellbeing Team in an informal setting.

CHILL OUT

Peer Mentoring

Congratulations to our Sixth Form Peer Mentors, who have been an invaluable part of the wellbeing support offered to students this year.

Earlier in the academic year, a number of Year 12 students successfully completed an interview and training programme focused on empathy, active listening, safeguarding and providing a non-judgemental space for younger students.

Following their training, each mentor supported a group of younger students through regular one-to-one sessions. Their commitment has had a positive impact, helping students to build

confidence, develop self-awareness, strengthen friendships and manage school life more effectively. This week, we celebrated the achievements of our Peer Mentors, who each received a certificate in recognition of their dedication and contribution to student wellbeing.

A new cohort of Year 12 Peer Mentors will be recruited from September 2026. Details will be released in September.

Mental Health Awareness Week

MHAW provided an opportunity to reaffirm our whole-school commitment to wellbeing and the importance of supporting both ourselves and one another. The week focused on ensuring that everyone feels valued, connected and able to reach out, recognising that even small acts of kindness can have a powerful impact.

Many students and staff pledged one action to support their own mental health and one action to support the wellbeing of others. This simple act of reflection helped strengthen our sense of connection and community.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our Great Woodbridge Bake Off in support of MHAW.

The event provided an opportunity for the school community to come together in a relaxed and friendly environment while enjoying some delicious homemade treats.



ATTEND TODAY ACHIEVE TOMORROW

By Mrs W Smith

Lead for Family Support and Education Welfare

Attendance really does Matter!

As the summer term draws to a close, it's important to highlight the vital role that attendance and communication play in every student's success. Research consistently shows a strong link between high attendance and academic success.

Every Day Counts

Missing just a few days can quickly add up and impact learning, confidence, and progress. Important content is covered daily. Attending school every day gives all students the best chance to achieve their full potential.

As a reminder, please make sure you:

- Report your child's absence on the first day and every day thereafter
- Provide a detailed reason for the absence - this information helps us to safeguard students

The Impact of "Odd Day" Absences

We continue to see patterns of absence or **odd days**—for example, missing a day here and there on the same days each week/fortnight. This can have a serious cumulative impact because Learning is disrupted. Students may miss assessments, feedback, or important instructions. Catching up becomes more difficult and can increase stress for our students.

Please contact us to discuss your child ahead of absence, and we can make decisions in partnership.

Absence only when necessary - Minor illnesses often improve as we move and distract our minds.

Improving Attendance - means reducing absence

We want to support all students to attend every day. Here are some practical and traditional ways that can really help:

Establish a clear routine - Encourage consistent bedtime and morning routines. Please make a rule of no technology in bedrooms overnight. It is disruptive to sleep and tempting for young people.

Be prepared the night before - Pack bags, check timetables, lay out uniform and reduce morning stress.

Plan ahead for punctuality - Allow enough time for travel to avoid lateness and missed lessons. Transport will always be an ongoing issue, building in extra time in case of delays really helps.

Avoid at all costs term-time holidays or appointments where possible - Schedule appointments outside school hours when you can. Term time absence will incur a penalty notice.

Talk openly about any concerns - If your child is anxious or reluctant to attend, let us know early and we can help.

Set attendance goals as a family - Celebrate good attendance and improvements—it builds motivation, commitment, reliability, resilience and confidence.

Working Together as Partners

If there are challenges affecting attendance—whether health, wellbeing, or other concerns—please get in touch. We are here to support you.

Together, we can:

- Remove barriers to attendance through working together
- Provide support where required
- Most importantly - help students stay engaged and on track

Contact Us

If you have any questions or need support, please contact The Family Support Team.

I wish you all a very happy and restful summer break. Keep well, be safe.



WOODBIDGE Sports

By Mr D Mahoney, Head of PE

Orlando

The Orlando Sports Tour was an unforgettable experience for our 62 students who competed against local Orlando football teams. They demonstrated excellent determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, making WHS proud. Every team secured at least one victory, with several winning both matches.



Off the field, students enjoyed attractions such as Busch Gardens and Aquatica. Highlights included attending a Daytona Tortugas vs Tampa Tarpons baseball game, taking part in an exclusive stadium tour, and seeing one student throw the first pitch.

Football

This year, all five boys' football teams from Years 7–11 reached the Redbridge Cup Final. Every player performed superbly and represented the school exceptionally well. They should all be extremely proud of their achievements. Four of the five year groups brought home the titles, rounding off another dominant season for Woodbridge in the borough. Well done to Years 8–11 on becoming district football champions!



District Athletics

Another highly competitive season of Athletics at the annual district Athletics championships. 20 schools from Redbridge compete for individual and team success. We had multiple individual district champions and many podiums. Well done to all students on their individual success. Their individual performances contributed to Woodbridge's team score and final placements. A particular shout out to Y7 girls and Y8 boys who became District Athletics champions!



Results:

Y7 Boys	3rd	Y9 Boys	2nd
Y7 Girls	1st	Y9 Girls	4th
Y8 Boys	1st	Y10 Boys	2nd
Y8 Girls	3rd	Y10 Girls	2nd



Essex Athletics

On Saturday 13th June, Redbridge schools hosted the annual Essex Athletics Championships. The event was a great success, with Woodbridge athletes competing against the county's best, achieving several PBs and podium finishes.

Panathlon Leaders

Our Year 10 Sports Leaders had the opportunity to deliver two Panathlon events this summer term. Panathlon provides inclusive sporting opportunities for students with disabilities and special educational needs, and our students represented the school exceptionally well throughout.

They first supported the Primary xTend event for deaf children, earning high praise from staff for their enthusiasm, professionalism, and maturity. A week later, they led a second event for Woodbridge students, creating an engaging and inclusive experience for all participants. Staff and organisers commended their outstanding leadership, with Panathlon coordinator Lisa describing them as among the best Sports Leaders she has worked with.

Panathlon Challenge

Students took part in a Panathlon Sports Day, demonstrating great teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship. External providers praised their engagement and behaviour, making it a highly successful event for all involved.

Sports Awards

Congratulations to all students recognised at this year's Sports Awards Evening. The awards celebrated the dedication, commitment, and achievements of our students across a wide range of sports throughout the year.



Huge thanks to the PE department whose dedication, organisation, and support make our trips, clubs and fixtures a success!

Extra-Curricular Clubs

Check the school website in September for a list of the latest clubs!

We are immensely proud of our wide range of extra-curricular activities. From Sports to Superstudy, from Bee Club to Dungeons and Dragons, all clubs are free and provide enriching activities for students. To help us to continue running these clubs we ask each year for a small donation of £10. More information will be shared in September. Thank you for your support.



TEAM WOODBRIDGE

Have a wonderful Summer break!

Start of Term Dates for your Diary:

The Autumn Term starts in September on different days and times for different year groups, as follows:

Year 7 - Friday 4th September at 08:35

Years 8 & 9 - Monday 7th September at 08:35

Years 10 & 11 - Monday 7th September at 09:35

Year 12 - Tuesday 8th September at either 09:15 (Group A) or 11:45 (Group B)

Year 13 - Monday 7th September at either:

- Form groups B, E, G, N, R and D – 11:30
- Form groups Y, W, P, L, Z and A – 13:45



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