



26th September 2014

THEMES OF THE WEEK

"The Arts (29th September)"

"What's in a Word" (6th October)"

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

It has been another fantastic two weeks since I last wrote to all our community members. I'm sure you will have read about our positive OFSTED report in the local press, which is a recognition of our pupils and staff endeavours. Mr Stephen Metcalfe MP joined us on Thursday 11th September to meet our pupils and tour around the stunning building that we have definitely made our own. He was very impressed with every aspect of our school and was delighted to be able to join a Year 11 Geography lesson where he was challenged by pupils about the economy!

I would like to thank all families for your ongoing support in driving standards forward for our pupils. Our job is to prepare the young people for employment by giving them access to a full range of qualifications and also the skills needed to be successful in employment. That is why we are relentless in our pursuit of all pupils being in the correct uniform every day. It is also imperative that they understand the need to attend school every day and on time. Punctuality and personal resilience are vital traits that we must instil in our young people who are the next generation of economic workers.

To ensure that staff are performing at their optimum level, all Senior Leaders each conduct a minimum of one learning walk per week, where there is a particular focus ie: behaviour for learning, challenge in lesson and differentiation. These are an integral part of our teachers developing themselves as practitioners and being able to share outstanding practice. We have recruited some of the very best teachers and leaders who have enhanced the excellent teachers who remained with us in September. All teachers will have a lesson observed over the next month which will feed into their appraisal and allow us to set the next set of teaching and learning targets.

You will read in this newsletter about the Year 11 trip to meet Russell Group Universities, various sporting success and the full range of extra-curricular clubs. I would like to thank all staff for giving their time freely to make sure our pupils can access opportunities that will specifically

raise their aspirations and enhance their performance. Congratulations to our Year 11 pupils who have embraced period 6; it is very pleasing to see the positive impact that this is having upon their performance, especially with their upcoming Pre Public Exams (Start that revision!). Please visit our website to see what opportunities are available to our pupils before school, at lunch and after school.

Finally, we are busily preparing for our Open Evening on Tuesday October 7th 5pm-9pm. This provides us with an excellent opportunity to show our school off to the community and prospective pupils. We will be closing at 12.20pm on the Tuesday to allow pupils to go home and have a meal before returning to take part in the evening (school will be open until 3pm if this is an issue). Wednesday 8th October is allocated as one of our statutory training days (non-pupil day) and school will resume as normal on Thursday 9th October.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming school event.

'The only limits in life are the ones we set'.

Simon Cox, Headteacher

CAR PARKING ISSUE

We ask that all families collecting their children by car at the end of school respect our neighbours. Please do not block driveways when waiting.

We apologise for the delays in building our car park but there are spaces in the old East car park if needed.

PIXL Club

For the PiXL Club, twelve pupils and two teachers (acting chauffeurs) were asked to attend a conference about tips on getting into the top universities in Britain.



Having to wake up at the break of dawn isn't ideal but it was undoubtedly worth it. After roll-calling at Trafford House, we briskly walked to the train platform and it was a short wait before the train came. Rush hour was inevitable and the en masse sigh of relief from the entire group, after stepping out onto Fenchurch Street train station after standing in the train aisle for a tedious amount of time, was hardly surprising. The smell of freshly brewed coffee lingered in the air as we made a subsequent trip to the nearest Tube station, which was Tower Hill.

London is one of those places that makes your stomach feel strange and you can't help but like it: whether it was the city fumes, or excitement, or both, my stomach was definitely tingling. Our destination was Central Hall, Westminster and with the aid of our two lovely teachers, we got there safe and sound and with a lot of time to spare. The PiXL company was incredibly generous, giving us free refreshments and allowing an entire hall for the pupils.

In time, the multitude of schools who were also asked to be at the conference were ushered upstairs into the main hall where the main speaker, Peter Rawling, gave an enticing presentation on the facts and figures of universities. We learnt that it's a tough playing field and that competition is necessary if we wanted to get to the university and the course that we wanted. He also gave us reading lists, websites and information about some courses, including recommended A-Levels for each course. In addition, he had some anecdotal quips up his sleeve.

After Peter was a King's College London representative, Jack Haynes, who gave us an insight of the university at the heart of London. It convinced many of us to take the (#16 ranked in the world as of September 2014) university

into our consideration and Jack was thoroughly applauded for it. Our final speaker was an Oxford and Cambridge representative, Joe Organ, and he broke down the basics of the two universities. He even broke the typical illusion of Oxford and Cambridge as being highly exclusive and we found out that they are actually incredibly modern and have thriving opportunities in store for many students.

After a quick break, Peter, Jack and Joe answered questions in the room and they enlightened us further on many aspects of university life. We left at approximately 12 noon and made our way back to Westminster station before deciding to take a relaxing walk to Embankment station instead, just to soak in the beautiful city just a little longer. We left London and arrived back at Trafford House at 2pm where we were dismissed.

On behalf of all the pupils that participated on this trip, I would like to thank Mrs Watt and Miss Williams for taking us around London safely, and also I'd like to thank PiXL Club for the opportunity, as well as Peter Rawling, Jack Haynes and Joe Organ for their wonderful presentations.

reported by Stephen A.

Raising Standards Initiative ~ Parent Consultation Evening

The Raising Standards Initiative Parent Consultation Evening was held on Wednesday 10th September. It was fantastic to see so many parents, carers and pupils attending the event. Many parents and carers were very supportive after the presentation about the various programmes that will be introduced this year and impact that they will have on the results of all our Year 11 pupils.

The Period 6 (3pm-4pm) official launch was on 15th September. It has been pleasing to see such good attendance by Year 11 pupils; here the majority have demonstrated a real commitment to ensuring that they leave school with the very best grades in a range of qualifications.

Mrs Lane-Craig

VETERANS AID

HELPING VETERANS OF THE BRITISH ARMED FORCES



A lot of people in the UK say they support our troops, and we wear our poppies with pride, and remember those that lost their lives fighting for us through two world wars and numerous other conflicts. We donate huge amounts of money to worthwhile causes such as Help for Heroes. What we forget is that some service personnel leave the army for various reasons, and aren't equipped to face life in 'Civvy Street'. They need our help, and Veterans Aid is a charity I readily support as they have such low running costs and most of the money raised goes straight to the people that so badly need it. Their ethos is ***"Hand up, not hand out"***. Colonel Geoffrey Cardozo, MBE from VA told me this:

"Veterans Aid is a charity that operates by addressing an individual's most immediate needs as rapidly as possible. It has been set up to help ex-service men and women who have fallen on hard times. VA understands that 'big picture' problems like homelessness or addiction don't happen overnight or as a result of military service; they are the consequence of incremental misfortunes that chip away at confidence, self-esteem and ability to cope with life's everyday pressures.

Often when people come to VA they are frightened, traumatised or embarrassed. Sometimes



they are cold, hungry, tired or unwell. Occasionally they are violent or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

'What we do' is different in every case, but all at VA adhere to some simple rules:

- extend a friendly welcome
- treat everyone with politeness and dignity
- address basic needs like hunger, thirst, warmth and safety immediately
- provided a dedicated caseworker to explore basic details of the problem
- confirm military service and veteran status
- consider how best we can help the individual in distress.

Sometimes the first intervention is provision of a cup of tea.

Our primary role is dealing with life's crises: providing shelter, addressing the consequences

of social isolation and, wherever possible, helping people back to the point where they can sustain independent lifestyles. These 'big aims' are achieved by a bewildering variety of obvious and oblique actions because the VA team knows that one size does not fit all. There are around 5 million veterans in the UK – as diverse as the population that they are part of. VA's process of meeting, listening, exploring and 'unpacking' is tried and tested – the specifics of how it is addressed are infinitely flexible."

More information about Veterans Aid is available on their website: <http://www.veterans-aid.net/> and you can follow them on Twitter and Facebook.

*by Sarah Stanley
Head Teacher's PA*

Accepting only your best!

At woodlands school we are striving to ensure that every child is living our school motto by pursuing excellence and seizing opportunities. This means all pupils must ensure they get the basics right. This term the Pastoral Team have been driving our high expectation on the basics: being punctual, looking smart and trying your best!

Being Punctual...

Pupil punctuality is always set as a priority for the staff at Woodland School. Our punctuality procedures have been reviewed and developed this year. All pupils have been made aware of this through their year team assemblies and form tutors. The school realises that it's very important to share this information with our pupils' parents and carers. The key points of these procedures are listed below:



- Pupils are to be on school site by 8.40am each morning and lined up waiting in an orderly manner outside their tutor room / assembly hall by 8.45am.
- Attendance Officers are to supervise the school entrances from 8.40am to 9.00am, welcoming pupils who are on time and questioning pupils who are late. The names and tutor groups of all late pupils are recorded and 15 minute form tutor detention slips are issued.
- Pupils who arrive after 9.00am can only enter using the school entrance via reception. On their arrival, reception staff are to contact the attendance officers who will meet and question the pupils about their poor punctuality.
- The Attendance Officers are to record the name and tutor group of the late pupils and a 15 minute form tutor detention slip is issued. Their form tutor is informed of the poor punctuality and 15 minute tutor detention.
- If a pupil is issued with 2 form tutor late detentions in a week then they will be issued a HOY 1 hour after school detention.
- If a pupil is issued with 3 or more form tutor late detentions in a week then they will be issued a Senior Teacher 2 hour after school detention on a Friday.

These procedures have already proven to have had a significant impact on pupil punctuality, which has improved by 20% this term already. I am sure this improvement will continue.

Looking Smart...

I've been very proud of the personal presentation of the majority of our pupils and it's clear to see that pupils are wearing their school uniform with pride. I would like to thank parents and carers for supporting the school on this matter and responding so well to the school uniform dress code that has been shared by post and email over recent weeks and months.

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the school's expectations on specific aspects of our school uniform:

Earrings – Both boys and girls have the same earring / jewellery policy. Both boys and girls are permitted to wear one plain gold / silver stud in the lower lobe of each ear. No other items of jewellery are to be worn except an inexpensive wrist watch.

Girls' skirts – these are to be tailored box or pleated mid-thigh length skirts (no pencil skirts, shorts or culottes). Over this last week girls have tried variations to the requested style, as well as skirts of a various textured and stretchy / clinging materials. Could parent carers please be aware that these are not permitted.

Uniform loaning policy – to support our families who may have financial difficulties as well as helping to swiftly address pupils who have chosen to wear inappropriate uniform, we have a compulsory uniform loan policy. Pupils can borrow ties, jumpers, trousers (both girls' and boys' styles) and black leather school shoes. These are now located within student services.

Extreme hair colour/styles, nail varnish and excessive makeup – these are not permitted. Pupils' hair cannot be shaved closer than a grade 3 and unnatural hair colouring are not permitted. Pupils will be requested to remove nail varnish and false nails/eyelashes. HOY and Student Services have nail varnish remover and make up wipes ensuring that these can be promptly removed causing minimal distraction from learning in lessons.

Trying Your Best...

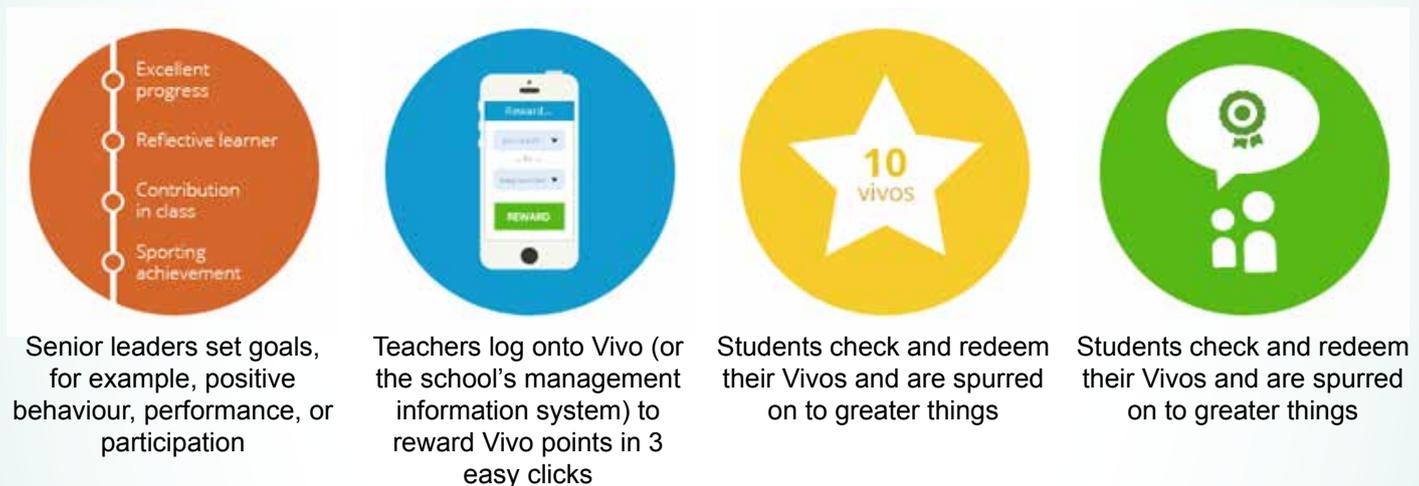
Every child likes to know they are doing well and every child likes to be congratulated. Here at Woodlands School we believe that positively reinforcing good behaviour or high achievement can be more effective than punishing bad behaviour or low achievement.

We feel that rewards act as motivators for pupils when they believe that they have a chance to earn the reward. They only become effective when pupils truly value them. With this in mind, good work, effort and behaviour are commended by Woodlands staff whenever possible. From the 9th October we will be launching 'VIVO Miles' recognition tool to reward both individuals and groups of pupils. We plan for VIVO Miles to have a positive effect on pupils' motivation, attitude and performance. VIVO Miles creates a powerful learning loop which empowers teachers, encourages pupils, and involves parents/careers in their child's progress.

It has been proven that pupils of all years find this electronic rewards system exciting, engaging and easy to use. Pupils enjoy the instant access to their individual VIVO accounts via the internet and their smart phones, and value opportunities to share their achievements with their parents/carers.

Here at Woodlands School we work hard to ensure that we have a rewards system that has relevance to all pupils, ensuring every pupil is getting the recognition for their personal achievements and group contributions, no matter how large or small. VIVO reward credits are issued at every opportunity to positively reinforce the values and attributes we wish our pupils to demonstrate.

So how does it work?



So what are the next steps?

All pupils have received a VIVO Miles presentation in their year team assemblies this week. There have been VIVO Miles banners and ICT presentations on the presenter screens around the school building encouraging pupils to download the VIVO Miles app to their SMART phones and other mobile devices.

Next week all pupils will be provided with user names and passwords to activate their personal VIVO Miles accounts. All pupils will be emailed step by step guides to explain how to navigate themselves around the VIVO Miles software. Form tutors will also be delivering training during tutor time and showing pupils how to get access and view the VIVO Miles online shop.

From the 9th October VIVO miles will go live and Woodlands staff will start to issue pupils VIVO credits when praising and celebrating your children's successes and achievements.

To learn More about VIVO Miles on line rewards credits please visit: www.vivomiles.com or visit our school website to view promotional videos.



SPORT REPORT

Football Fixture: League game vs The Billericay School

Venue: The Billericay School

Date: Monday, 15th September 2014

The Year 8 Football Team started their season with an away visit to The Billericay School.

In the first half, after only five minutes, we unfortunately went one nil down to an early goal, from an undefended header from a corner. However, the team quickly turned things around and displayed some very impressive passing and attacking play. Captain Ellis L. put us back on even terms after following up a shot to nod in a header over their goal-keeper. A few minutes later, after running onto an amazing pass, Ralphie C. held off a defender to calmly slot the ball past their goal-keeper into the back of the net. With only seconds to go in the first half, against the run of play, we unfortunately conceded to level at 2-2 at half time.

In the second half The Billericay School came out the stronger team, putting us under pressure but failing to score after several fine saves from Ben P.. With several minutes remaining Ralphie C. with a wonder strike scored an amazing long range shot bringing the score to 3-2! With only a few minutes and a lapse of concentration, they managed to equalise with an equally impressive strike.

Overall, a fair result and considering my first time in charge of the Year 8 squad, I was impressed with the whole team. Their behaviour, attitude and work rate was outstanding. If they play to their full potential they should do well this season.

I would also like to thank parents/carers for their positive support too.

reported by Mr. S Reed

SQUAD:

- Ellis L. (Captain)
- Ben P. (goal keeper)
- Alfie F. (goal keeper)
- Jordan B.
- Jake W.
- Clement W.
- Louis Y.
- Ralphie C.
- Max B.
- Ayo O.
- Kieran D.
- Mitchell M.
- Kuhle N.
- Mason K.



PE CLUBS Timetable

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before School 7.45 – 8:15am	Staff Briefing PE Department meeting	EPD Rugby (RBo)- FITNESS ROOM X-Country (DSu)- OUTSIDE	Fitness (ALe)-FIT- NESS ROOM	EPD Rugby (RBo)- FITNESS ROOM X-Country (ABa)- OUTSIDE	Fitness (ALe)- FITNESS ROOM
Lunchtime 1:25 – 1:55pm	Year 7 Boys Basketball (ABa)-SPORTSHALL Touch Rugby (ALe)-OUTSIDE Fitness (LCh)- FITNESS ROOM Table Tennis (DSu)- AS1	Year 7 Girls Basketball (CSe)-SPORTSHALL Fitness (ABa)- FITNESS ROOM Table Tennis (LCh)- AS1 Girls Football (NWr) - OUTSIDE	Senior Boys Rugby (RBo)-OUTSIDE Badminton (CSe)-SPORT- SHALL Table Tennis (ABa)- AS1	Girls Rugby (RBo)-OUTSIDE Year 9 Boys Rugby (ABa)-OUTSIDE Fitness (NWr)- FITNESS ROOM Table Tennis (CSe)- AS1	Senior Boys Rugby (RBo)-OUTSIDE Basketball Shoot Around (NWr)-SPORT- SHALL Fitness (DSu)- FITNESS ROOM
After School 3:00 – 4:15pm	Year 7 Boys Football (DRu)-OUTSIDE Year 8 Boys Football (SRe)-OUTSIDE Year 9 Boys Football (RHe)-OUTSIDE Year 7 Girls Netball (CSe)-SPORTSHALL	U14 Girls Netball (DSu & LCh)-SPORTSHALL Year 7 Boys Rugby (ABa)-OUTSIDE Girls Rugby (RBo)-OUTSIDE	Year 9 Boys Rugby (ABa)-OUTSIDE Year 8 Girls Netball (LCh)-SPORT- SHALL Year 8 Boys Rugby (ALe)-OUTSIDE	U16 Girls Netball (NWr)-SPORTSHALL EPD Rugby (RBo)- OUTSIDE	Year 7 Boys Rugby (ABa)-OUTSIDE Sports Scholars Fitness (CSe)- FITNESS ROOM/AS1 Badminton (DSu)-SPORTSHALL

September - October 2014

“Pursue Excellence & Seize Opportunities”

Open Evening

7th October 2014 (5pm until 9pm)

At Woodlands School, every pupil has access to a fully inclusive and appropriately challenging curriculum, which is taught by highly qualified and outstanding teachers. We expect all pupils to strive for excellence in their academic studies and that they will always challenge themselves to extend their knowledge and understanding. High aspirations for all pupils will allow them to flourish as life-long learners.

There is an extensive range of extra-curricular opportunities for all pupils to experience. Our programme provides an outstanding opportunity for each young person to enrich and extend their learning, whilst developing key social skills that will allow them to access Higher/Further Education and a suitably challenging career. We are incredibly proud of our school and as a learning community we work with all stakeholders to allow our pupils to pursue excellence and seize opportunities.

This is a very exciting time to be a young person at Woodlands School, with our wonderful new building which provides specialist accommodation for Science, Art, Music, Drama, Dance, ICT and Physical Education; a spacious central atrium; large classrooms; wide corridors and a fully furnished Library and Resource Centre.

TOURS WITH SIMON COX HEADTEACHER

Fridays 9.30am & 2.15pm from September 2014

(Contact reception for an appointment)

OPEN DAYS

9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th October 2014 at 9.30am and 2.15pm

(Contact reception for an appointment)

www.woodlandsschool.org

T: 01268 282146

Woodlands School, Woodlands Approach, Basildon, Essex, SS16 5BA

‘SHAKE IT’ Dance Show Auditions



ANY DANCE, ANY STYLE, ANY MUSIC

**TUES 30TH SEPTEMBER, WEDS 1ST OCTOBER,
THURS 2ND OCTOBER AT 1.20PM IN AS2**

(SHOW DATES 10TH/11TH DECEMBER)



STREET DANCE CLUB



Years 7-11

WHEN - Thursday 3-4pm

Starts 25th September

WHERE - AS2

WITH - Guest Street Dance Teacher

Only 25 places available...

see LSm or KMc for an invite letter



DIARY

Saturday 27th September 2014

Year 6 Taster Morning Activities (9am - 12 noon)

Monday 29th September 2014

Year 10 Dance Southend Beach trip (12.30pm)

Dance exam - site specific coursework

Tuesday 30th September 2014

Jack Petchey Achievement Presentation Evening at the Towngate Theatre at 7.30pm

Thursday 2nd October 2014

Theatre Trip to see 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time', London (5-11pm)

Saturday 4th October 2014

Year 6 Taster Morning Activities (9am - 12 noon)

Tuesday 7th October 2014

SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.20pm

Open Evening - 7pm

Wednesday 8th October 2014

INSET DAY - non pupil day

Thursday 9th October 2014

Open Day

Taster Day lessons for Primary Schools

Shakespeare Festival Class Workshop

- Palace Theatre Year 9

Friday 10th October 2014

Open Day

Taster Day lessons for Primary Schools

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

TOP ATTENDANCE:



Year 7	IMa	99.2%
Year 8	SBr	98.8%
Year 9	LCh	99.2%
Year 10	JDa	98.6%
Year 11	DSu	99.6%

BREAKFAST CLUB

We are running a Breakfast Club in the Library. This will be a good opportunity to catchup with any homework you may have and you can also collect VIVO points.

The club will be open
from
7.30 - 8.40am
Monday to Friday



Toast and a juice will be provided
(free of charge).

All welcome - please come along!

Woodlands' PE FIXTURES

Monday 29th September 2014

Year 7 and 9 Football v Beauchamps (h)

Wednesday 1st October 2014

Year 8 Football v Academy (a)

Year 10 Essex Cup Rugby v Champion (a)

Year 10 District Netball Rally at De La Salle

Thursday 2nd October 2014

Year 9 Rugby v Billericay (h)

Year 10/11 Rugby v De La Salle (h)

U16 Essex Cup Netball v William Edwards (h)

Friday 3rd October 2014

Year 10/11 Football v Beauchamps (a)

Monday 6th October 2014

Year 7 and 9 Football v Bromfords (h)

Thursday 9th October 2014

Year 9 and 10/11 Rugby v Bromfords (h)

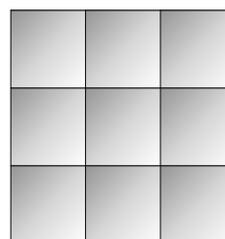
Year 10 & 11 Netball v De La Salle (a)

Friday 10th October 2014

Year 10/11 Football v Academy (a)

MR MEEKELALL'S MATHEMATICAL MYSTERY

Prime Square



Place the numbers 1 - 9 in the grid so that all the rows and columns add up to a prime number

DUTY PUPILS

To the following Year 8 pupils who have acted as Duty Pupils, thank you very much for all your hard work.

Brandon F.	Paige G.	Ben P.
Kieran H.	Mia H.	Krisdeana R.
Brooke M.	Daniel M.	Tiegan S.
Sarah-Jayne M.	Jeramiah O.	Joseph T.
Shannan P.	Christopher P.	Taylor W.
Stephani A.	Kamila B.	



@woodlands_sch

For fixtures, results and the latest news

Pursue EXCELLENCE & Seize OPPORTUNITIES

For up-to-date information please visit our website: www.woodlandsschool.org
or follow us on Twitter: [@woodlands_sch](https://twitter.com/woodlands_sch)



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