



## THEMES OF THE WEEK

*“University Challenge”*  
*“Whole School Numeracy”*

11th September 2015

## PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

It is six weeks since I last wrote my piece for the Community newsletter but so much has happened since July 17th 2015.

Welcome back to all our pupils and I know that they will be keen to congratulate our outgoing Year 11s on their brilliant performance in the summer exams.

47% of pupils achieved 5 A\*-C including English and Maths

61% of pupils achieved 5 A\*-C

97% of pupils achieved 5 A\*-G including English and Maths

38% of pupils achieved 1 A\*/A

7% of pupils achieved 5 A\*/A

Highest every individual performance – Stephen A – 10A\*s

These were the highest the school has ever achieved in every category and as a learning community, we should be very proud of our young people. A bar has been set for this year's Year 11s!!

It was lovely to be able to welcome a range of staff who have joined us on our rapid journey forward and they have been recruited specifically to keep improving pupil outcomes and I know that they will settle quickly into helping us break the records again next year. All of SLT, HOF, HOY email addresses can be found on the website under 'information' and then 'staff'.

As always it has been a very busy summer for Woodlands School! I had the privilege of observing first-hand the summer school at the end of July, which saw 198 Year 6 pupils enjoying a range of lessons as well as a trip to the Science Museum.

At the end of August, the Athletic Performance Faculty led a five days sports camp involving our new Year 7 pupils.

This was an excellent way to involve pupils in making the transition to Woodlands in a friendly environment and it was great to see them looking so smart in their new PE kit and rugby training on Saturday morning.

I would like to thank our families for your support over the summer with our transition to blazers and our new PE kit. It is a passion of mine to keep the school shop on site so that we can reduce the cost of our uniform and make it affordable for all families. Our pupils arrived at school looking incredibly smart and this will prepare them for the world of employment.

I read an article recently suggesting that the average secondary school uniform costs £227. Our compulsory uniform costs under £90 and that is a figure that I am extremely proud of. We were pleasantly surprised by the number of families wishing to purchase the new uniform and have recently appointed Jackie Dinsdale to lead the school shop and lettings for the school. She can be contacted on [jdi@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:jdi@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk).

As you will be aware our four Golden Rules are embedded in Woodlands School life and are at the centre of everything we do on a daily basis:

- ARRIVE AT SCHOOL ON TIME EVERY DAY
- WEAR THE UNIFORM WITH PRIDE
- BE RESPECTFUL TO STAFF AND PEERS
- WORK HARD!

We have an extensive range of support to offer pupils as well as outstanding teachers and leaders who will ensure that your child is challenged and engaged in their lessons. You can keep up to date with your child's progress through GO4Schools, school updates on SCHOOP, Twitter, Instagram and via school emails. Our website

*Continued overleaf...*

contains all of the most important information for you regarding Woodlands School and I would recommend saving this on your favourites page!

Could I also remind families that the 6 marked disabled bays at the front of the school should be for 'blue badge' holders only and I would ask that they are only used by families meeting this criteria.

With the weather closing in soon, please remind your child to take extra care on the way home and follow all of the road safety and keeping safe when travelling guidance.

I have seen that our Open Evening is on Thursday 24th

September 5pm-9pm this year. On that day school will finish at 12.20pm to allow pupils to go home and have a hot meal before selected pupils will be asked to return to support during the evening. In recognition of the anticipated late finish, Friday 25th September will be staff development day 2/5 and will be a non-pupil day.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and I look forward to seeing you at a school event soon.

Kind regards

Simon Cox, Head Teacher

# English Department

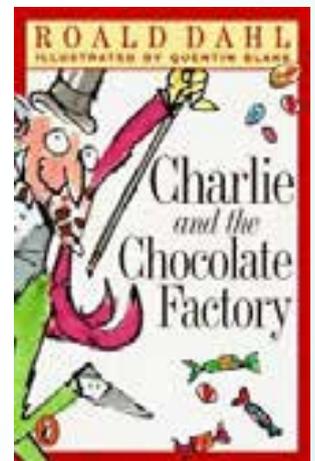
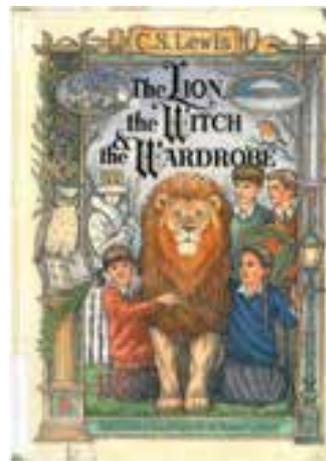
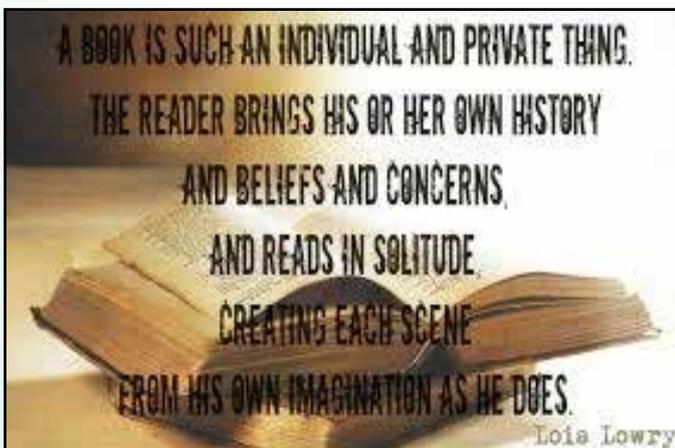
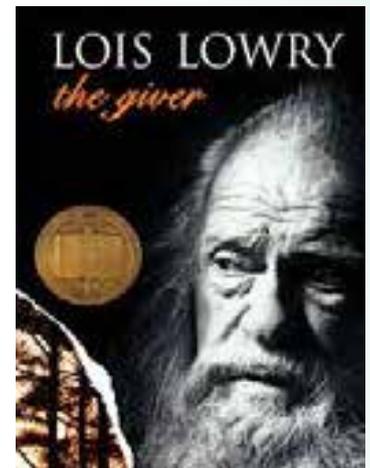
## Recommended Reading:

There are many benefits to reading and pupils should try to read as much as possible. The following are recommendations from the English department:

The Giver – *Lois Lowry*

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe – *C.S. Lewis*

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – *Roald Dahl*



## Year 7 Spelling Competition

Congratulations to the Winners of the spelling competition!

Thank you for taking the time to test your spelling skills with Miss Malnati and Miss Begom.



## COMING SOON

YEAR 7 – Frankenstein the Play

YEAR 8 – Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

YEAR 9 – Animal Farm

YEAR 10 – Frankenstein

YEAR 11 – Set 2-7 Speaking and Listening Preparations

YEAR 11– Set 1 Animal Farm

# WHO'S WHO

## Hugh Anderson

My name is Hugh Anderson and I am the new ICT and Computer Science teacher, based in Te9. My background in education revolves around computer design, including 2D and 3D art creation that I studied at University. I have worked for several games and design companies over the years. I have since developed my abilities to include knowledge in programming and computer hardware. Another large part of my life is wheelchair basketball, which I have played for the past 17 years. I have played professionally in Europe, spending several years travelling around Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Luxembourg, Switzerland and Belgium as well as playing for Great Britain in tournaments in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and the UK. I am now playing for London Wheelchair Basketball Club. I became a teacher as I enjoy working with young people and I always strive towards helping students develop their abilities and personalities in a positive way. I am looking forward to furthering my career here at Woodlands and developing into a stronger practitioner while helping advance the department.



## Jane Fletcher

I joined Woodlands as a Geography teacher, a subject that I have thoroughly enjoyed throughout my life. I have been a Geography teacher for about 14 years. I trained as a Physical Education Teacher and taught Geography, for all but three years of my teaching career.

I have taught in different types of school; Grammar, all girls 14-16, Sixth Form College and co-education secondary school in Rainham in Kent, Croydon, Orpington and Castle Point, and enjoyed every experience.

My interests outside of work are varied, the main one however is sailing. I sail mostly around the East coast, but have ventured across the Channel and visited France, Belgium and Holland, all areas I hope to explore further in the future. I enjoy cruising, not competitive sailing; and we work towards the boat being anchored or moored, at no later than 6.30 pm. This enables us to enjoy the glorious sunsets that the coasts of Essex, Kent and Suffolk afford.



## Anna Kean

My Name is Anna Kean and I am the new Head of Dance and based in AS2. I have been very fortunate in my career at the age of 16 I gained a place at Mountview Theatre Arts in London on a full scholarship. After completing my training and gaining a 1st in my degree, I went on to work professionally in the industry working with some amazing people. I started working for a TV and Film agent and some local mainstream schools. I decided that teaching was my passion and that this was the career path I wanted to go down. I taught Dance for five years at a mainstream school in Southend and Drama for two years at the PRU in Basildon. I am very excited to be at Woodlands and looking forward to developing Dance.



## James Gardner

My name is James Gardner and I am the schools new basketball coach. I will be working closely with the Athletic Performance department by taking basketball PE lessons and coaching the basketball team of each year group. For the past two years I have worked as a basketball coach in primary and junior schools whilst coaching Brentwood Fire teams in the National League. I graduated from Loughborough University two years ago with a degree in Maths, Accounting & Financial Management. During my three years at Loughborough I represented the university at basketball and football whilst managing my own Saturday league football team. I have a real passion for sport as you can see and I want to show all students how fun and exciting the game of basketball can be.



# WHO'S WHO CONTINUED...

## Andy Jenkins

My name is Andy Jenkins and I have joined Woodlands as an Assistant Head Teacher with specific responsibilities for assessment and attendance. I previously worked at The Sweyne Park School in Rayleigh, where I trained as a Physical Education teacher in 2005. During my time at Sweyne Park I spent 5 years as a Head of Year before joining the leadership team as an Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for cohort intervention (with a particular focus on the achievement of disadvantaged pupils), allocation of the Pupil Premium Grant and Year 6 - 7 transition. My interests outside of work are sports orientated. I have a passion for rugby and play my club rugby for South Woodham Ferrers, having also represented Essex in the past few seasons. I have already been made to feel extremely welcome by the Woodlands School community and look forward to the challenges presented during the forthcoming academic year!



## Jennifer Brown

My name is Jennifer Brown and I am the new Music teacher here at Woodlands School. I have been teaching for 3 years so I am still quite new to the profession.

Before becoming a teacher in secondary schools, I worked as a vocal coach for an Essex rock school, giving children of all ages the chance to learn guitar, drums and singing.

I studied Musical Theatre at university so I don't only love music, I also love to dance and act. I have performed in many musicals and plays in my time, but sadly never got to the West End.

In my spare time I like to go to the cinema and theatre and also like to think of myself as an amateur astronomer, regularly using my telescope to stare at the skies.

I feel very happy at Woodlands and I am looking forward to the rest of my career here, working with students to further their musical abilities and knowledge.



## Hayley Clarke

My name is Hayley Clarke and I am one of the new members of the Athletic Performance Department here at Woodlands School, as well as an ex-pupil. I trained as a Physical Education teacher and graduated from Brighton University three years ago. I have experienced working in physical education in a number of different schools which has allowed me to develop and progress my skills as a teacher. I am extremely passionate about my subject and love to inspire young people about physical education. It is great to see the fulfilment pupils get when taking part in sport. Sport is a fantastic way of teaching pupils discipline and allowing them to grow in confidence. During my spare time, I have always been a very dedicated Netball player and am currently playing for Star Netball club in the regional leagues which I thoroughly enjoy. I am excited to join the team here at Woodlands and look forward to the challenges this academic year.



## Tara Britton

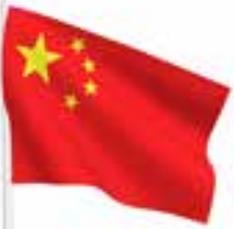
My name is Tara Britton and I am the new Resistant Material and Product Design teacher, normally based in TE1. My experience in teaching consists of all aspects of technology; Product Design, Food Technology, Electronics and Textiles, with Product Design being my strongest area after studying at University. Outside of school I play football for a local ladies' club; I enjoy going rock climbing/bouldering and surfing (when I get the chance). I became a teacher as I enjoy working with young people passing on my knowledge and helping pupils to achieve their best.



## Louise Peeling

Hi, my name is Mrs Peeling and I'm the new science teacher at Woodlands School. I am really looking forward to teaching you this year. After graduating with a degree in Biology, I started my career as a research scientist and even managed to publish some of my work in scientific journals. I then went on to achieve a PhD in environmental microbiology and I have worked as a scientist for two water companies, so I have a vast amount of experience working in this field. Following a career break, I worked at Woodlands (in the old school) and started teacher training. I have taught at two other schools in the area but am hoping to achieve great things working with the pupils here at Woodlands.





# Zhua zhù jīyù (Seize Opportunities)

Mr Davies reporting...

Miss Rourke and I were lucky enough to take 4 pupils (Alana A, Liberty B, Logan C, Kyla L) to Jiangsu Province in China on a cultural and sport orientated exchange it was a great opportunity to see the previous number one and continued top scoring country in the world at reading, mathematics and science. We would be in Wuxi (3 hours from Shanghai) for 7 days with the last 3 days in Beijing.

Wuxi has such a rich culture, of which all ages are very proud. We were first shown the school's museum which contained certificates the school had received; biographies of past teachers; a history of the school; and accomplishments of past pupils which contained astronauts, space and submarine engineers, and famous Chinese playwrights.

The equipment Donglin Middle School had, especially in the technology departments, was incredible: 3D Printers with designing software, PV solar panel kits and a range of driving simulators for the students to learn to drive different vehicles. The school doesn't experience any behaviour issues to a point the teachers do not even know of a procedure if there was an incident. This could be down to the regimented mornings most schools have in place where pupils through Years 7 and 8 undergo army cadet training which is compulsory every morning. This determination to always better themselves transfers to their studies, where pupils are given workbook upon workbook to complete over the summer before school restarts in September.

The school's regimented framework is not where it ends. These determined and strict values exist outside of school and run into their family lives. Parents place high hopes for their children, much like our own but in a more "dictatorship" fashion where individual and critical thinking is not encouraged. This was something Donglin Middle School

Head Teacher, Mr Wu, wants for his pupils. It was noted that during their time here at Woodlands School the main thing they want us to aid them in developing, was critical thinking which they noticed was prominent across all our pupils.

One thing that was mutual across the language barrier was sport. Host families and visitors would get together and play table tennis, badminton, and basketball. We also learnt how to play what could only be translated as "footminton". It was a large shuttlecock made of 4 coloured feathers, but had a flat base which you played on a badminton sized court but with volleyball rules. All the pupils and teachers got involved in all the sports and it became quite competitive over the days. During this time we were all able to laugh, applaud and appreciate each other on the same level without the need of Google Translate at our fingertips.

We were also lucky enough to go to the Beijing World Athletics Championships. Seeing Usain Bolt win the 200m final was a personal highlight, but also seeing some of our up-and-coming talents in Team GB athletics and being part of their support in China was incredible. Our last day was spent at the vast spectacular site that is The Great Wall of China which was totally breathtaking and is beyond what you expect. The trip was a total success and really showed both the strengths of Chinese culture and how they achieve some of the best education results in the world, but also brought to light the strengths England, Essex and Woodlands have and instill within our pupils here. I hope that over the coming weeks we will be in talks with the Donglin Middle School and hopefully see how both schools can aid each other in the next few years and establish a strong direct connection between both schools. I'll leave you now with some of the pupils thoughts:

*"The friendships and bonds we made whilst in china will last a very long time and this experience has made us realise that you don't have to live right next door to people to be best friends, the memories will stick with us until we die and I can't wait till we see each other again!" Liberty B*

*"Whilst in Wuxi, we were able to experience how much the pupils prided themselves in their education. We were able to look through the school's museums that told its history, previous head teachers, code of conducts and even the school's anthem, which the pupils sung to us. They had brilliant technology in their schools in order to give their pupils the best possible educational experience." Kyla L*

**"My exchange family gave me a warm welcome and made me feel at home. My experience in China was amazing and unforgettable. I made so many new friends from China that I am still in contact with now. The whole cultural experience was a real eye opener as to how life is different in England. I really hope that I will go back to China in the future, so I can see my friends again and experience more in China."** Alana A

*"The Great Wall of China was personally one of the most amazing things I've ever seen: the amount of land that it stretched over was extraordinary. The world championships at the Birds Nest Stadium was spectacular, and being able to come home and tell everybody that we were there was an amazing feeling. It is extremely exhilarating feeling the tension building up in the entire stadium as we saw some of the world's greatest athletes compete against each other. China has been an unforgettable experience for us all." Logan C*



# ACTIVITIES WEEK

## LANGUAGES

### Macro Teamwork, Micro Bridges with Year 8

Intrepid Year 8 pupils had a variety of resources (10 straws, paper, glue and scissors) to build the strongest bridge they could.

Much of the activity involved thinking about bridge design and what would form the best structure.

Once the initial planning of individual bridges had been shared, pupils discussed the merits of each and selected what they thought would be the best design to build ...in 15 minutes!

Some were spectacular, others spectacular but unstable and others simply did not stand up to the job.

We did have a winner that supported 13+ MFL dictionaries (photo attached) quite comfortably.

It may not have been the tallest bridge but it did carry the biggest load.

***Well do to all Year 8s and indeed to the MFL team who all worked together to produce an interesting day with a variety of team-focussed activities.***

During Activity Day Year 8 had fun trying out traditional German foods – and for once, we did not include Sauerkraut and sausages. The favourites of the day definitely were the ‘Bretzeln’ (smoked Bavarian cheese), and the various types of salami and sliced meats. It was lovely to see nearly everybody trying something during the day. Just do not ask us about the tradition of drinking and kissing! - *Mrs Davy reporting*

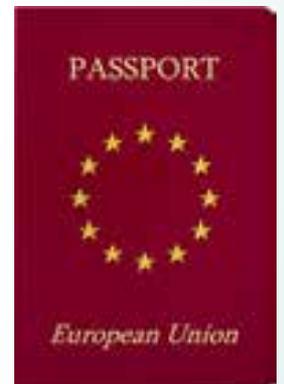


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### European Passports:

Pupils attended a session that looked at the differences between the European Passports and then created a learning passport based on what they had learnt throughout the school year in languages. They based the design of their learning passport on a European passport. Pupils were asked to include pictures as a stamp to show topics learnt, their grades at the beginning of the year and at the end and they had to answer questions about the topics learnt to review their understanding. The passports were completed in French and in German and the pupils enjoyed their opportunity to reflect on their learning.

- *Miss Lostau and Miss Bethell*



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### European Cultural Awareness

In this session we focussed on the different aspects of European culture from pop music and Eurovision to historical monuments and food. We were amazed by the range of knowledge our pupils had. If you have ever wondered how to say ‘I love you, please or thank you’ in another language then please ask our current Year 9s, who researched and produced some fabulous displays on phrases in different European languages.

Danke, merci and gracias! - *Miss Lehnardt and Mrs Coyle*

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### Chinese Links

We did a lesson of Chinese, where pupils worked on a carousel basis, with 3 different activities, we learnt how to draw the numbers 1-10, completed the pea and chopstick competition, and did Chinese New Year research and what animal are you? Pupils really enjoyed the chopstick challenge, having to get as many dried peas from one bowl to another with chopsticks in a minute. This was a big challenge for some, who had never used chopsticks before, pupils also enjoyed researching about the various traditions of Chinese New Year, as there are lots of them!





## 8 Steps towards sure success in your French, German and Spanish Reading Exams...

### Step 1:

Read the title and set the context.

### Step 2:

Read the questions and understand which information you are seeking.

**Step 3:** Actively read the text.

**Step 4:** Answer the questions you can.

**Step 5:** Highlight every single word you know or can guess intelligently (cognates) - including one letter and two letter words.

**Step 6:** Read the text again – try to work out the meaning like a puzzle. Keep the questions in mind, though!!

**Step 7:** Use the fact that for **some questions** the answers come in order. So, the answer for question 2 will come between the answer for questions 1 and 3.

**Step 8:** Check that you have answered **all** the questions!



## Year 11 Pupil Destinations

This year we have seen our Year 11s leave after successfully completing their GCSEs and continue their Post 16 Education at a number of Sixth Form Schools, Colleges, Apprenticeship Training and Work Related Learning Schemes.

This year we have seen pupils enrol at a number of different providers. Over 100 pupils have got onto courses at either Palmer's College or South Essex College, around 100 pupils have enrolled at Seevic College in Benfleet, a greater number than ever have enrolled at different providers, including pupils who have gone to Appleton Sixth Form, Billericay School, Southend Grammar school, Havering College, Sweyne Park Sixth Form, Westcliff High School, New Hall School and Mayflower School.

As well as pupils at colleges and schools, many of our pupils were successful in their application to take

Apprenticeship courses at ProCat College, New Holland and Ford Motor Company.

Post-16 courses are varied and include: A Levels, AS Levels, BTECS, NVQ level 1, 2 & 3, Apprenticeship qualifications and Diplomas. The post-16 level you can enter at depends on your qualifications at GCSE and the amount of points you acquire through grades.

We wish all of our Year 11 leavers every success and with their Post 16 Education and that they continue to work hard to succeed their goals.

Current Year 11s are now starting to think about where they want to apply for next year. Post 16 Information Evening is on Tuesday 15th September 7-8.30pm. All Year 11 pupils are invited to come along and see what is on offer for them when they leave Woodlands.

Prospectuses will be in the library after this event to take away and look at, at home. Pupils are encouraged to apply online as soon as possible, as courses get booked up quickly. Interviews will start shortly before Christmas and continue until Easter 2016.

***Pupils can see Mrs Compton in M14 for any course information and post 16 questions.***



# CREATIVE ARTS



## ART and PHOTOGRAPHY

### A\* Success!

What a year for our GCSE Art and Photography pupils! We had fantastic results in our exams and a record number of A\* pupils with 10% of art pupils gaining an A\* and 13% of Photography pupils. Already we are building on this success by expanding our Art department with two new members of staff, Jean Baxter and Sam Winter, as well as having exceptional facilities for painting, printmaking and photography.



*An exciting year ahead!*

## DRAMA

A busy time is ahead for the Drama department, starting with an evening of Creative Arts (Lights, Camera, Action) November 19th. The Shakespeare Schools Festival is also a fantastic platform to showcase our key stage three drama talents at the Palace Theatre.

In December auditions and casting for the school production will be taking place. This year the production will be Shrek the Musical. These auditions are open to all pupils in years 7-10. Last year we had lots of pupils auditioning and involved in the final production, which received overwhelming reports.

Well done to the Year 11 pupils on their GCSE results. The pupils in Drama and Performing Arts worked really hard over the last two years and this was evident in their results. We have another busy year ahead with our current Year 11 Drama, Performing Arts and Performance Skills pupils, who will be starting their exams this half term.



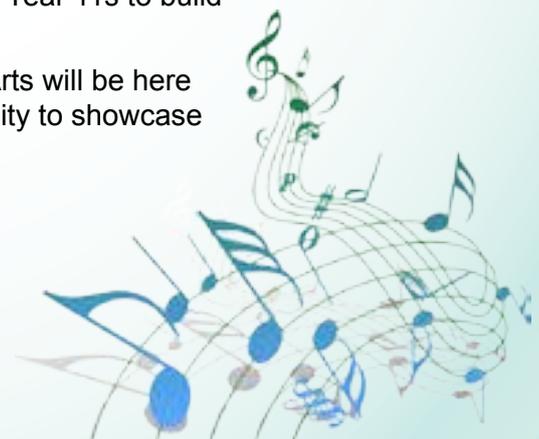
## MUSIC

Music are thrilled with this year's record GCSE results: 97% A\*-C. Pupils have worked hard over the past two years to complete two performances and two compositions. The compositions were of the highest standard we have seen and we encourage the current Year 11s to build on this platform.

Continuing the theme of success, the Evening of Performing Arts will be here before we know it (November 19th). We will take this opportunity to showcase our fantastic Extra-curricular clubs including:

- Ukulele Orchestra
- Woodlands School Orchestra
- Shout Out Loud Choir
- The full School Choir
- Key Stage Three Band

***We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to share our success at the event.***



# DIARY



**Monday 14th - Friday 18th September 2015**  
Reading Assessments

**Tuesday 15th September 2015**  
7-8pm: Post/16 Information Evening

**Wednesday 16th September 2015**  
5-6pm: Kingswood Maths Boost Trip Briefing

**Friday 18th September 2015**  
9.15am: Head Teacher's Tour of the School  
11-11.20am: Brilliant Club Celebration Break Time

**Monday 21st - Friday 25th September 2015**  
Work Sampling Week

**Monday 21st September 2015**  
Primary School Taster Sessions  
8.45am: Tour Guides and Prefects Assembly  
3.30pm: Year 7 Academic Induction Evening

**Tuesday 22nd September 2015**  
Primary School Taster Sessions  
3.30pm: Year 7 Academic Induction Evening

**Wednesday 23rd September 2015**  
3.30pm: Year 7 Academic Induction Evening

**Thursday 24th September 2015**  
12.20pm: School Closes for Open Evening Preparation  
5-9pm: Open Evening

**Friday 25th September 2015**  
Non Pupil Day

## DUTY PUPILS

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

Kiera C	Jaianna E	Eira E
Kane F	George F	Dylan G
Katie G	Sonny H	Mitchell H

## SCHOOL UNIFORM INFORMATION

Pupils need new PE kit when their old kit no longer fits. Year 7 only buy the new kit. This includes shin pads for all pupils due to football and hockey being played by both genders.

The recommended football boots for both genders are blades (plastic studs) as they can be worn for cross country and on the AWP. Elite performers will normally have studs and moulds but less experienced pupils can just buy one pair of blades (from about £12).

All pupils in Year 7/8/9 need a blazer. Jumpers are optional.

Pupils in Year 10/11 must have a jumper but can buy a blazer as optional.

Hope this is clear.

Many thanks,  
Simon Cox, Head Teacher

## Woodlands' FIXTURES

**Wednesday 16th September 2015**  
Years 7 & 8 Rugby v Albany (a)  
Year 9 Rugby Tournament at New Hall

**Thursday 17th September 2015**  
Year 9 & U16 Netball v Mayflower (h)

**Friday 18th September 2015**  
Year 7 (h) and Senior (a) Football v De La Salle

**Saturday 19th September 2015**  
Year 7 A+B and Year 8 Rugby v Robert Clack (h)

**Tuesday 22nd September 2015**  
Year 8 Football v De La Salle (h)  
Year 10 Rugby v St Clere's (h)

**Friday 25th September 2015**  
Years 7 & 8 Rugby v Great Baddow (h)  
Lee Valley Schools' Cross Country Relay  
Champions at Lee Valley (Years 7,8 & 9)



@woodlands\_sch

For fixtures, results and the latest news



**07519 361717**

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF, OR  
A WITNESS TO BULLYING IN  
WOODLANDS, TEXT US NOW FOR  
HELP & SUPPORT**

**Woodlands operates a ZERO  
TOLERANCE policy on bullying.**

Please see below some useful links to websites concerning safeguarding children online:

<http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/>

<http://www.ashe-essex.org/>

# Pursue EXCELLENCE & Seize OPPORTUNITIES



For up-to-date information please visit our website: [www.woodlandsschool.org](http://www.woodlandsschool.org) and Schoop ID: 22047  
or follow us on Twitter: @Woodlands\_sch