



THEMES OF THE WEEK

*“Student Voice”**“Target Setting (now taking responsible risks)”*

13th November 2015

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

Although the winter months are upon us, I am delighted that we are still offering some outstanding opportunities to our young people not only in terms of curriculum but also in a myriad of extra-curricular activities. It was lovely to come in over the half term break and see lots of pupils in Year 11 enjoying revision sessions with staff who have given their time freely to help pupils prepare for the upcoming PPE exams (Week beginning 30/11). There were also opportunities for Year 7 pupils to enjoy a rugby and basketball camp which shows our commitment to helping young people find something they enjoy and allowing them to be successful.

The selection process for Year 6 pupils is now closed and I am delighted to say that we anticipate being nearly completely full with pupils who have selected Woodlands as their first choice. This is testament to your children and their performance both in lessons and on their journey to and from school. We place great emphasis on our pupils travelling to school safely and maintain the high expectations that we have for them during this journey. The feedback from our local community has been incredibly positive and with over 500 guests joining us on learning walks, they were able to see for themselves that our pupils are working hard and pursuing excellence in their lessons. We are proud of our school and want to ensure that we continue to attract all of our local community to our school. Mr Jenkins will be producing consultation documents for an amendment to our admissions policy in September 2017. This will involve an aptitude test in Creative Arts and PE. Your feedback would be appreciated as we look to challenge all of our pupils to be excellent in all aspects of their life.

Woodlands staff are always trying to find ways to inspire and engage our pupils in activities and show that them they can achieve whatever they want as long as they set their mind to it. We were joined by Andy McNab who is an experienced author and had a very interesting story to tell! A raffle was held to present pupils with a copy of his latest book after the Q and A session. He shared his thoughts on life and literature and these proved very thought provoking.

As we strive to raise aspirations, (please visit our home page and go on the University link) the Lads' and Dads' reading morning was really enjoyable for all involved. Encouraging young people to read and access literature is really important and we have a fully staffed and wonderful learning resource centre which is available from 7.45am every morning, break, lunch and after school until 4pm. Please spend time with your children reading together and talking about books you've read, sparking conversations about literature and the importance of being a lifelong learner.

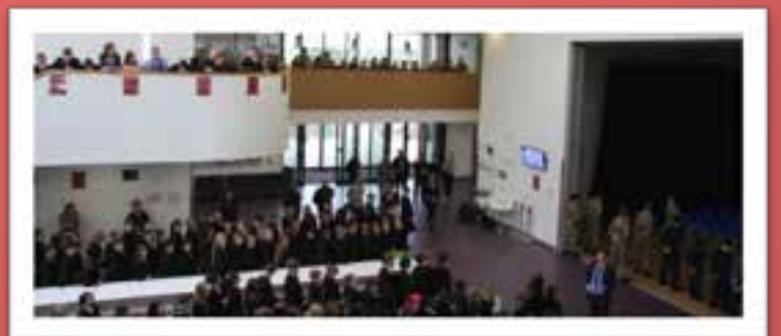
Thank you for your continued support and commitment to providing our young people with the best opportunities we can. Don't forget to follow us on SCHOOP, Twitter and Instagram for the latest news.

Kind regards

Simon Cox, Head Teacher



"We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away. They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them."



Dads' and Lads' Reading Morning



On Friday 23rd October 2015, Woodlands School held its inaugural 'Dads' and Lads' Reading Morning. The morning, hosted by Mr Kerin, was a great opportunity for male role-models to share and promote the love of reading with their boys.

Nationally, and within Woodlands, girls out-perform boys when it comes to reading. Indeed, reading is sometimes seen, falsely, as a mainly feminine occupation. What that morning proved, in fact, is that reading is a 'manly' thing to do. Many staff who attended the event were visibly moved by seeing young men engaging in reading with their dads, granddads, uncles, older siblings, and family friends; a nice cup of coffee, and a delicious bacon roll certainly aided the already wonderful atmosphere in the library.



There are number of people who need thanking for this event. Firstly, the morning wouldn't have been possible without the catering and admin staff, and the active promoting of it by form tutors. Secondly, in addition to the staff who made the effort to participate, a special thanks go to: Mr Bedford for his front-of-house skills, and to Mr Cox and Mr Reed their excellent waiting on skills. At the time of going to press, the amount of money they made in tips hasn't been published...

To emphasise the importance of reading, and, in particular, boys reading, here is a quote which is proudly displayed in the English corridor: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."



WHO DARES WINS...



Mrs Stanley reporting...

On Thursday 2nd November, two hundred and fifty lucky Woodlands' pupils were invited to listen to internationally best-selling author, Andy McNab who visited the school.

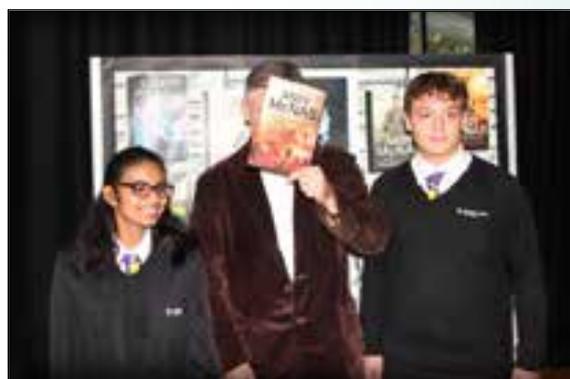
The author, who is an ex-SAS soldier, told pupils about his early days. He had an unfortunate start in life, being left on the steps outside a hospital, fostered and eventually adopted. He didn't do well in school and ended up in borstal after he was arrested for stealing. Andy McNab was recruited by the Army, and it must have been very difficult for him to admit to our pupils that, "I was 17 years old and had the reading age of a 9 year old".

Through hard work, and by embracing the opportunities of education and the learning resources that the Army offered him, Mr McNab went on to become a decorated soldier, and after he left the Army, a publisher offered to buy his story. Bravo-two-zero became a best-seller and it's still the number 1 best-selling war book in the world. He writes screenplays for movies, story-lines for role play video games, and has written many best-selling adult and young adult books.

The pupils, from Years 9 and 10 and the book club, listened avidly to his tales of being held hostage, and were enthralled by his real life adventures. The pupils were given a chance to ask Andy questions. At the end, Mr Cox raffled off 15 of the author's young adult books, and pupils queued up to buy books at a discount, that the author happily signed.

It was a wonderful afternoon that pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed, and Woodlands would like to thank Andy McNab and PR Manager Laura for taking time out of their busy schedule to visit us.

There are still some books left if you'd like to take advantage of a great discount. Details can be found on your ParentPay account.



MFL at Woodlands



Mr Curtis reporting...

Another half-term begins with fresh challenges for us all, especially as Year 10 embark on their first piece of written exam work.

Attainment, Achievement and Progress

Obviously, these are key items that we in MFL want to secure for every pupil at Woodlands and we rely on parent carer support and no little 'buy in' from the children themselves but how can we best do this?

- Working together
- Excellent resourcing
- Planning for success

Year 10 Writing Exams

All GCSE language pupils will be taking the first 15% of their GCSE during the week of 16th November.

Pupils will receive an individual date for their exam from their teacher which will be recorded on their revision booklet.

Pupils will have access to in class support up until the day of their exam but really need to invest time in learning example answers and or presentations in readiness for this very real exam.

Current Topics

	French	German
Year 7	At school	Animals/Family
Year 8	Paris, I love you!	Media
Year 9	My future	My future
Year 10	Leisure (c/wk)	Media (c/wk)
Year 11	Tourism	Media/Citizenship

Ways to help depending on how much time you might have:

- Pushed for time: get them to write Post-it notes with their answers on near the fridge/cookie jar/make-up drawer: every time they go there, they see the answers!
- 5 minutes a day: Listen to your son or daughter say what they are trying to learn while you follow their answers (it really doesn't matter if you don't speak French, German or Spanish!)
- 10 minutes a day: 5 minutes plus get them to do look, cover, write and you double check 2 answers on day 1, 3 answers on day 2, 4 answers on day 3, etc.
- 15 minutes: 10 minutes plus give your daughter or son a sentence starter from each of their questions and see if they can finish it i.e. Ma passion, ... c'est le rugby or Mein Lieblingssport...ist Rugby, etc.
- Don't forget to wish him or her, "Good luck!" on the day of their exam...even a cheeky text on the way to school can make the difference!

Helpful MFL websites:

www.hellomylo.com

www.linguascope.com (username, etc. available from your MFL teacher)

www.bbc.co.uk/languages (archived but free!)

www.duolingo.com (app based video and sound files to immerse the learner)

www.lingolia.com

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS...

Mrs Davy reporting...

In the summer I competed in my first Iron Distance Triathlon – that is a 3.8 km swim, 180 km bike ride and a marathon run. People asked why I would want to do that? My response was – to see whether I can.

Two years ago a friend of mine suggested doing an Olympic triathlon (1.5 km swim, 40 km bike ride and 10 km run) and I was excited about the idea but could not swim front crawl and I had never been on a racing bike. So, I learnt to swim, bought a second hand bike and increased my exercise routine to practice all three. A few months later I completed my first triathlon and was hooked (literally, as I stepped on a piece of fibre glass and needed an operation). Then I started to wonder.... What could I achieve? Could I do a full Iron Distance? 226 km in total? The training was hard and at times I felt like giving up. Some morning I got up at 4 to fit my exercise in around school life and my family but in July it was time to test it. To cut a long story short (and it was a long day) – I did it. 11 hours and 24 minutes after the start I finished my event. I was the first woman back and although that was a nice feeling, it was even better that I achieved my dream, did not give up and made my children proud of me.



HALLOWEEN IN FRANCE

France prepares for the haunting hour by lining local confectionaries, narrow streets and alleys with cobwebs, dim lighting, and jack-o-lanterns. Pastry chefs and chocolatiers ice their treats and chocolate masks with a spooky things and retailers design their windows with ghoulish décor.

Children prefer dressing up as American animated characters. Although trick-o-treating is becoming a popular tradition, most French children visit stores rather than going from house-to-house. The pumpkin also comes into play as the French now enjoy carving and even baking specialty cakes and tarts. Also, because November 1 is a national holiday in France, All Saint's Day or La Toussaint, you'll never be expected to work or go to school the day after your Halloween festivities.



- La Toussaint – All Saint Day
- Le trente et un octobre – 31st of October
- Halloween – halloween (say it the French way “a lo ween”)
- Friandises ou bêtises/ Des bonbons ou un sort – treat or trick
- Un déguisement – a costume

- Un fantôme – a ghost
- Un vampire – a vampire
- Une sorcière – a witch
- Une princesse – a princess
- Un squelette – skeleton
- Un diable – a devil
- Une momie – a mummy
- Un monstre – a monster
- Une chauve-souris – a bat
- Une araignée – a spider
- Un chat noir – a black cat
- Un potiron, une citrouille – a pumpkin
- Une bougie – a candle
- Des bonbons – candies
- Une maison hantée – a haunted house
- Un cimetière – a cemetery
- une fée – a fairy
- un pirate – a pirate
- un démon – a demon
- une goule – a goul
- un zombie – a zombie
- le sang – the blood
- se maquiller – to wear makeup
- le maquillage– the makeup
- une perruque – a wig
- un masque – a mask



Remets les lettres dans l'ordre.
Put the letters in order.

eun lcloutrie une citrouille
 nu tseteluqe
 sde bsbobnon
 nu htca irno
 nu ipvmeair
 eun èicreros

Qu'est-ce que c'est?
What is it?

__ / f __ _ ô __ un fantôme
 __ e / __ _ c __ e
 __ / __ _ t / _ o _ _
 u _ / a _ _ g _ _
 _ n / c _ _ _

Relie les mots et les images.
Match the words and pictures.

A B C

un fantôme
 une sorcière
 une citrouille

Devine qui?
Guess who?

I ride on my broomstick. une sorcière
 I am a black animal.
 I am orange.
 I have some big teeth.
 I live in a web.

Relie les images et les mots :

A. un fantôme
 B. un crâne
 C. un déguisement
 D. un vampire
 E. une maison hantée

F. une sorcière
 G. des bonbons
 H. un squelette
 I. une araignée
 J. un mort vivant

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

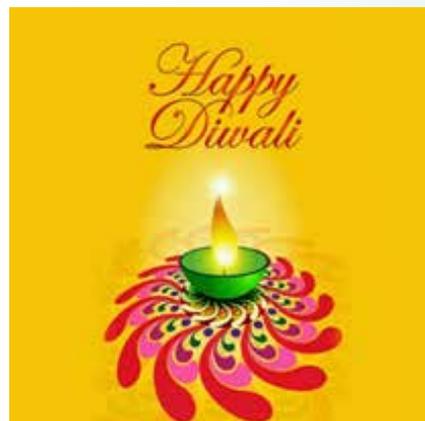
The light to the world

Mr Maher reporting...

Next month the Christians around of the world will be celebrating Christmas. It's important to remember that Christmas is not only a time of year we spend time together with our family, but for Christians it is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus. For over 2 Billion people around the world he is seen as the light to the world. But Christianity is not the only religion who celebrates light at this time of the year.

For Jewish people they will be celebrating the Festival of Hanukkah, in 165bc there was a great battle between the Maccabees and the Syrians. The Jews won the battle and found that the Syrian had allowed the sacred light to go out. They only had oil for 1 day but in the end it burnt for 8 while they waited for the messenger to return with more.

Already the Hindu festival of Diwali is underway, it literally means array of lights. It is the festival where they celebrate the triumph of light over darkness. It is one of the most important celebrations in India. Although it was originally a Hindu Celebration, Diwali is now enjoyed by people of every religion in India, much like how Christmas is now celebrated by most people in England.



Why do people of all religions celebrate light? Light is the absence of darkness. And it is true to say that sometimes life can be a struggle, the nights draw in, the cold sets in, it feels harder and harder to get out of bed in the morning. All these feelings you may be aware of. In all of this and in every day there is light. This could be in the form of a religious festival, nature, friendship, family, and hope. Hence why billions of Christians, Hindus and Jews all celebrate light around the world each winter. How are you going to celebrate light this winter?

SUBJECT NEWS...

On another note, pupils have just started their first unit of religious studies for the year and are really enjoying it. The Year 7s are tackling the ultimate questions of life and really enjoying learning the basic skills that they are going to need over the next few years in RE. Our Year 8 groups are kicking off their quest into the world of religious expression, and the different ways that people practice their religion, focusing in particular, on the major world religions. Year 9 pupils are entering the moral maze, looking at the ways in which they make moral decisions and what influences them, and studying numerous moral philosophers in the process.

As for the exam classes, all of our groups are working hard towards the respective upcoming exams. For the Year 11s, this will be their PPE and in Year 10 we are looking at the first set of exams before their Christmas break.

Borough Market visit

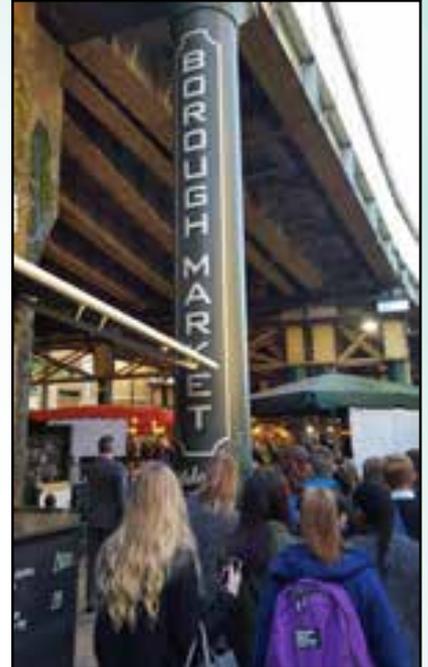
Mrs Vanstone reporting...

On Friday, 9th October, thirty seven Year 10 GCSE Catering pupils visited Borough market as part of their GCSE course.

Pupils researched bakery products and foods of the world. They spent some time walking around the food stalls; purchasing and tasting food as they went.

Pupils also had the opportunity to take in some London tourist sites; The Shard, The Cutty Sark and the London Eye on the South Bank.

Everyone had a fabulous day out, the weather was great and the pupils were a credit to the school.



PSHE NOTICE

After Christmas pupils from Years 7-9 are scheduled to learn about Sex & Relationships in their PSHE lessons. Please ensure that you look out for a letter which will be emailed home to all parents and carers which will provide further details of our programme.

Our Sex & Relationships policy is also available from our school website.

If you would like any further information please email
1st@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Lynsey Sturgeon, Head of PSHE



KS3 Challenge - Crossing Paths



Abigail and Agnes have both confused their diaries. Abigail thinks she is visiting Agnes today, while Agnes thinks she is visiting Abigail. They both set off on foot for each other's house at 11am. Abigail walks at 3km/h. Agnes ambles along at 2km/h.



Which of the two is closer to Abigail's house when they meet each other on the road?

Answer: They are both the same distance from Abigail's house when they meet!

KS4 Challenge - Different Rooms

Sylvester walks into a room. He then turns 180 degrees around. He stands there for a while thinking about this and that. Sylvester then walks out of the room using the same door he came in through, but this time walking into a different room from the one he had started off in.

How?

Answer: The room Sylvester walked into was a lift.



DUTY PUPILS

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

Cassie B	Billy B	Tommy B
Tara C	Michael D	Cameran E
Luke E	Bailey F	Jamie G
Alex L	Crystal L	Tharunan S
Louis W	Deiby A-S	Millie B
Sophie C-C	Louie C	Kie C

CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts faculty have many upcoming performance events including:

Creative Arts Cabaret Evening, "Lights, Camera, Action" on 19th November at 7pm.

Aladdin auditions in December

Tickets for the Cabaret Evening are on sale now.



schoopetition

WINNER - 4th November 2015

Sian V - Year 10PHi

The question was: Which is the only vowel not on the top row of a computer keyboard?

The answer: A

Well done Sian who received 50 VIVO's, 5 break or lunch vouchers, and Sian chose a Woodlands mouse mat and pencil set.

WINNER - 11th November 2015

Mille E - Year 7SCy

The question was: How many spots on a pair of dice?

The answer: 42

Well done Mille who received 50 VIVO's, 5 break or lunch vouchers, and Mille will choose a prize from the prize box.

Extra prizes sponsored by Beeline Promotional Products, www.beeline-promo.co.uk

All winners received 50 VIVO's and five vouchers to be used at either break or lunch.

Thank you to everyone who took part: don't forget to enter again this week. Entry is free, and it only takes a couple of minutes. Parents and carers can enter too on their child's behalf, giving everyone more chances to win.

Competitions run Wednesday to Wednesday during term time

schoop ID: 22047

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

DIARY



Monday 16th November 2015

Visit to Bromfords School (Years 8 & 9)

Monday 16th - Tuesday 17th November 2015

Annual Shakespeare Festival, Queens Theatre (Year 9)

Wednesday 18th November 2015

GCSE Presentation Evening (Ex Year 11)

Thursday 19th November 2015

An Evening of Creative Arts "Lights, Camera, Action"

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th November 2015

9-11am: Walking Talking Mocks

Thursday 26th November 2015

1.20-1.55pm: Faculty Celebration - Maths

THANKSGIVING MEAL...

There will be a Thanksgiving meal served in the Woodlands' cafe on the 24th November.

roast turkey
stuffing
potatoes
carrots
cranberry sauce

~~~~~  
traditional apple pie



## FIXTURES

### Tuesday 17th November 2015

Year 7 Basketball v Beauchamps (h) - 3pm

Year 8 Basketball v Bromfords (a) - 3pm

Years 7, 8 & 9 U14 Football v Emerson Park (a) - 3pm

### Wednesday 18th November 2015

Year 7 Girls Basketball v Bromfords (a) - 3pm

District Cross Country - 12.30pm - 3pm:

### Thursday 19th November 2015

Year 7 Essex Cup Basketball v Belfairs (h) - 3pm

### Friday 20th November 2015

Year 9 Basketball v Bromfords (h) - 3pm

Years 10/11 Basketball v Bromfords (a) - 3pm

### Saturday 21st November 2015

Year 7 Rugby A and B v King John (a) - 9am

Year 8 Rugby v King John (h) - 9am

Year 9 Football v King John (h) - 9am

### Monday 23rd November 2015

Year 8 Rugby v St. Edwards (h) - 2.30pm

### Tuesday 24th November 2015

Year 8 Basketball v Beauchamps (h) - 3pm

Year 7 Girls Basketball v Billericay (a) - 3pm

Years 8/9 Girls Basketball v Billericay (a) - 3pm

### Wednesday 25th November 2015

Year 8 Basketball v Boswell (a) - 3pm

### Friday 27th November 2015

Years 10/11 Basketball v Basildon Academy (a) - 3pm

Year 9 Basketball v Bromfords (h) - 3pm



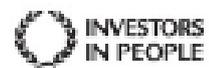
@woodlands\_sch

For fixtures, results and the latest news



**WOODLANDS**  
SCHOOL  
PURSUE EXCELLENCE & SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

# Pursue EXCELLENCE & Seize OPPORTUNITIES



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