

WOODLANDS

COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

THEMES OF THE WEEK

*"Prejudice"**"Chinese New Year"*

29th January 2016

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

You may well have seen the performance tables recently released by the Department for Education. They show that we have made significant strides recently in improving pupil outcomes and achieved record results this year. As the Head Teacher, I am fully aware, along with our governors, of the areas that we must continue to improve. These development points are an integral part of our School Development Plan which is on our website and outlines how we will continue to drive pupil outcomes higher. High standards and high expectations for all!

It was very pleasing to see so many families at the Year 11 consultation evening last night. Your support is priceless and together we can help our Year 11s achieve record breaking results again this year (sorry Mr Lee and Class of 2015!). The family survey will be included in the next edition of our newsletter. Please keep encouraging the Year 11s to attend Period 6, morning enhancement and our holiday programme which allows us to make the most of the 42 days we have left with our Year 11s! Well done to those pupils who completed ECDL this week: A*s all round!

Family engagement is something that we welcome and it has been lovely to see so many families at recent events, including Saturday sports fixtures. Thank you, it means an awful lot to staff and pupils.

We have recently completed an external Safeguarding Audit and the awarding body have commended the school on ensuring that we comply with the highest standards and that our pupils are safe in school. Thank you to Mr Wright for leading this area and to all of the staff involved in supporting our pupils and their pastoral needs.

We are constantly looking to develop and improve the service we provide for our young people, and our targets for 2016 are reflected in our Vision statement which is:

- To allow every pupil to pursue academic excellence

- To create an environment which is stimulating, secure and provides opportunities for all
- To develop an empathy and understanding for our local community

We demand the highest standards from our pupils and expect them to work very hard to achieve these standards in every aspect of their education.

We need your child in school every day and on time. The rewards for your child will not only be seen in their academic performance, but also in the rewards that full attendance at school offers! Having more access to them will help us work to drive them forward and support their learning so they can achieve the best outcomes possible. Please continue to encourage them to arrive on time and be here every day.

There are periods of the year when there are some viruses about and contrary to popular belief, teachers are only human! We have had some staff off school for short periods due to being unwell, but we have an excellent team of staff that supervise the lesson in the timetabled teachers' absence and ensure lessons are challenging and engaging. Whilst this is not ideal, we have a very low staff absence record (98.3% attendance last year) and I can confirm that we have a full range of qualified teachers and more joining us in September. The media has recently reported that 40% of teaching jobs nationally remained unfilled, however, I am delighted to say that we do not have any unfilled jobs because staff are very keen to join Woodlands and your children on this rapid journey forward.

Thank you all for your continued support in driving standards forward rapidly at Woodlands.

'Do it now. Sometimes 'later' becomes 'never'.'

Kind regards

Simon Cox, Head Teacher



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Miss Malnati...

Welcome back to Woodlands 2016! Happy New Year to everyone from the English Department. Pupils have returned to lessons well rested and engaged once again in their studies. This term promises to be just as successful as the previous autumn term for all year groups, in particular Year 11.

RECENT EVENTS

Woodlands English Department had the pleasure of welcoming Quantum Theatre for a performance of '*A Christmas Carol*' which Year 10 studied this past term. Year 10 enjoyed a fantastic performance that was engaging, full of songs, quick costume changes and enthusiastic portrayals of all characters. Although the Christmas season is over, the performance reminded all in attendance that we need to be kind and generous all year round and not just at Christmas time. This is one of Charles Dickens' messages in his book, making the performance both entertaining and educational for all.



YEAR 7

Pupils will take a trip around the world this term as they study poetry and short stories from other cultures and traditions. In addition to studying these poems and short stories, pupils will have the opportunity to write their own poems or short stories.

YEAR 8

Pupils have completed their study of '*Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*'. After enjoying an emotional and educational experience, pupils begin the study of non-fiction, focusing on both reading and writing. Topics include documentaries, newspapers, letters, reports and autobiographies.

YEAR 9

After completing *Animal Farm*, pupils have begun to study transactional writing in preparation for their language GCSE. Pupils will explore a range of non-fiction sources from 19th and 20th Century as well as different forms of non-fiction writing.

YEAR 10

Pupils have completed the first text for their GCSE exams (*A Christmas Carol* or *Frankenstein* depending on set). For this term, pupils will begin their second literature text: either *Macbeth* or *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare depending on their set.

YEAR 11

First, the Holiday Programme in half-term for Year 11 will take place on **Monday, 15th February 2016**. Pupils will receive letters home with details for the programme.

Walking Talking Mocks will take place the week beginning the 29th February for both Language and Literature for all Year 11s.

Pre Public Exams begin the week commencing the 7th March. Pupils will sit both language and literature. Please note: that the literature paper will be poetry for this PPE. Pupils can begin revising the relationship section of the anthology that was studied in lessons last year. Language will be Edexcel for set 1 on both sides of the year and iGCSE Cambridge for Sets 2-7 (Extended or Core). Any questions please speak to your teacher.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CLUBS

SWAP SHOP and **HOMEWORK HELP CLUB** available in M9 every Wednesday at 1:30pm.

All pupils are welcome. Please see Miss Hickey if you have any questions.

YEAR 11 REVISION CLUB in M2 Monday – Thursday at 1:30pm.

A quiet place for Year 11 to revise during lunch.

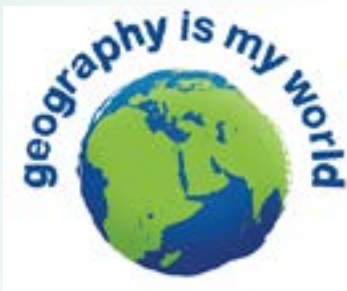
A Journey Through Geography at Woodlands



“Without geography you're nowhere.”

Mrs Merchant reporting...

My Geography teacher at school inspired me to a lifelong interest in Geography and a profound curiosity about our human and physical world. From the age of 14 my interest in all things Geography was reflected in my dedication and commitment at GCSE, A-Level and within higher education at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. There was never any doubt that I wanted to impart my passion and enthusiasm for Geography to others, so teaching was my destiny.



Geography at Woodlands allows pupils to explore their human, physical and environmental worlds at local, international and global levels. The curriculum is rich, broad, dynamic and contemporary. Woodlands Geographers study the Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. Studying and learning Geography at Woodlands allows for the bridging of social sciences (human geography) with the natural sciences (physical geography). Human geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of cultures, societies and economies, and physical geography concerns the understanding of the dynamics of

physical landscapes and the environment.

“Geography puts this understanding of social and physical processes within the context of places and regions - recognising the great differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments across the world, and the links between them. Understanding the causes of differences and inequalities between places and social groups underlie much of the newer developments in human geography” (Royal Geographical Society).

Geography at Woodlands enables pupils to learn about:

- The places and communities in which people live and work
- Natural environments and the pressures they face
- The interconnectedness of the world and communities within it
- How and why the world is changing, globally and locally
- How our individual and societal actions contribute to those changes
- The choices that exist in managing our world for the future
- The importance of location in business and decision-making.



Living Graph activity; Year 7 explore how and why employment has changed in the UK over the last 300 years

A Journey Through Geography at Woodlands *continued...*



Year 9 pupils exploring the nature of a transform plate boundary using play dough.



Year 11 Geographers using ICT in order to investigate top-down development in India.



Geography teaching at Woodlands is innovative and engaging.

Topics studied by Woodlands Geographers:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Local Geography	Global Geography	NEW Geography Edexcel B Specification Teaching from September 2015 (three year GCSE course)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is Geography Settlement Employment Changing Landscapes Water World Ferocious Flooding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population and Resources Our Uneven World Ecosystems Brazil Natural Hazards Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazardous Earth Development Dilemmas Challenges of an Urbanising World UK Geographical Issues People and Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions 	Geography Edexcel B Specification Teaching from September 2012	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restless Earth Changing Climate Battle for the Biosphere Water World Extreme Environments Coastal Change and Conflict 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population Dynamics Consuming Resources Globalisation Development Dilemmas Changing Economy of the UK Challenges of an Urban World

A Journey Through Geography at Woodlands *continued...*

Controlled Assessment in Year 10

Congratulations and well done to the following pupils who worked exceptionally well last term with their Geography Controlled Assessment. With current Year 10 and 11 pupils, Controlled Assessment is worth 25% of pupils' final GCSE grades. Pupils completed fieldwork in Southend and focused on the costs and benefits of coastal management.

Fieldwork

The Geography Department at Woodlands are currently developing new Fieldwork opportunities for pupils studying Geography at GCSE. Pupils will be investigating different fieldwork locations in the local areas, focusing on the human and physical world.

Extra-Curricular

The Geography Department allow pupils to develop their enthusiasm for Geography and the media through the extra-curricular club 'Geography in the News'. For further details of this exciting and innovative club, see Miss Tugwell in G6.

Tolu O
Daniel E
James G
Megan T
Abbie S
Emma P
Ashish H
Molly H
Rachel S
Iezer V
Tia H
Lyanda W
Anthony W
Emma G
Jordan B
Katie C
Krishan P
Matthew F
Daniel C
Bryony C
Brooke B
Kel'c C
Kelsey D
Thomas R
Tatiana T

For further details of options available to pupils studying Geography at Woodlands, do not hesitate to contact any member of the Geography Team in Humanities.

Geography in the News presents....

With Miss Tugwell

Thursday lunchtime G6

All pupils welcome

Geography Club 2015-16

Geography in Action

Investigate current news stories that have a geographical focus

'Be the change you want to see in the world' Gandhi.
Film, edit and star in your own news vlog.

Explore the *MeForShe* campaign

Experience the world

Learn new skills

Details of this extra-curricular club and its launch will be in a forthcoming issue of the Woodlands Community Newsletter

PURSUE EXCELLENCE & SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES



MATHS FACULTY

Period 6 Maths - Year 10

Mr S Reed reporting...

This half term the Mathematics Department has introduced period 6 learning for Year 10 pupils on a Wednesday afternoon. Year 11 pupils have been attending since September 2015 (Tuesdays 3.00-4.00pm) and due to the positive effect this has had, the Mathematics department now also deliver classes to Year 10 pupils.

The purpose of these extra classes is to provide support and improve grades. Pupils work on exam style questions and often in groups to improve exam technique. So far there has been a very positive response from our pupils.



UNITED KINGDOM MATHEMATICS TRUST (UKMT)

INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2016

This is a national problem solving challenge, aimed at stretching pupils in Mathematics. It is an individual challenge which takes one hour to complete, in examination conditions.

Pupils are given a question paper on the day from a sealed envelope (similar to an official exam) they then have a number of multiple choice questions to answer. As the challenge progresses, so too does the difficulty of the questions. If answers are incorrect, pupils are penalised with a deduction of points from their final score.

The school receives certificates to award our best performers and the top 40% of pupils nationwide receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate. High-scoring participants are invited to challenging follow-on competitions, which could lead to an invitation to attend a UKMT Summer School.

I would like to wish all of our pupils from Years 9 & 10 who are involved the best of luck!

The Junior Challenge for Years 7 & 8 will be in April.



Woodlands Library Book Club

We would like to welcome new members to our Book Club.

We meet every Wednesday at 3pm in the school library. All years welcome.

If you are interested in joining please see Mrs Knight in the library for more details.

**“Reading a book is just the beginning.
Talking about it.....that’s the very best part”**



Safer Essex Roads Partnership issues child casualty warning!

Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) has issued a plea for drivers, parents and children to be especially vigilant following a recent spike in the number of children being seriously injured while crossing the road.

Provisional data from Essex Police shows that between 17 August and 15 September, nine children aged 5-16 years were seriously injured on roads across Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock.

Six of the nine injuries have taken place since 3 September, the earliest date at which schools in Essex resumed after the summer holiday period, and five happened during typical school travel times (weekdays 8am-9am and 3.20pm-4.50pm).

These nine child casualties equate to 19% of all killed and seriously injured (KSI) casualties in the SERP area, and 63% of pedestrian KSIs, during this period.

Please remind children to take extra care when traveling to and from school!

Will Cubbin, SERP's data analyst, said: *"In a typical September, based on average figures for the last three years, we would expect 10% of all KSI casualties, and 35% of pedestrian KSIs, to be aged 16 years and under."*

Across the UK there has been an increased focus on pedestrians following a 12% year-on-year increase in pedestrian fatalities - from 398 in 2013, to 446 in 2014.

In fact, pedestrians accounted for three quarters of the overall 4% increase in fatalities between 2013 and 2014, and made up 25% of all fatalities in 2014. At 446, the 2014 figure was the highest number of pedestrian deaths since 2011.

The Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) recently called for more to be done to protect pedestrians, including making pedestrian safety a bigger factor in vehicle design, and a long-term engineering programme to deliver safer roads in the UK.

<http://www.roadsafetygb.org.uk/news/4565>

Sarah Sillars, IAM Chief Executive Officer, said: "Pedestrian fatalities are rising faster than any other group right now, so it is vital that drivers are more sympathetic and aware of pedestrians when they make their journeys".

"There is no need to blame any party when it comes to how to reduce the numbers of people killed and injured on our roads – all road users need to look out for each other and ensure we minimise the impact of our own and others unpredictable behaviour."

Treating head lice

Head lice can be difficult to treat due to the time-consuming and precise nature of treatment and high re-infestation rate.

In the past, traditional insecticides were used to treat head lice infestations but head lice would often develop resistance to them.

Therefore, these types of treatments have virtually been replaced with silicone and oil-based preparations which have a physical rather than a chemical action on lice.

After a head lice infestation has been confirmed you can treat the lice at home by wet combing the hair with a head lice comb or by using a lotion or spray that's designed to kill head lice (see below).

However, neither will protect against re-infestation if head-to-head contact is made with someone with head lice during the treatment period.

WET COMBING

The wet combing method involves removing the head lice by systematically combing the hair using a special fine-toothed comb.

The comb's teeth should be spaced 0.2-0.3mm apart. Lice can be crushed or trapped between the teeth of nit combs with a tooth spacing of less than 0.19mm and remain unseen.

You can buy a fine-toothed comb from your local pharmacy or you can order one online.

Lotions or sprays don't need to be used for wet combing. However, to be effective, wet combing needs to be carried out regularly and thoroughly. The method you should use is described below.

- **Wash the hair using ordinary shampoo and apply plenty of conditioner, before using a wide-toothed comb to straighten and untangle the hair.**
- **Once the comb moves freely through the hair without dragging, switch to the louse detection comb. Make sure the teeth of the comb slot into the hair at the roots, with the bevel-edge of the teeth lightly touching the scalp.**
- **Draw the comb down to the ends of the hair with every stroke, and check the comb for lice.**
- **Remove lice by wiping or rinsing the comb.**
- **Work methodically through the hair, section by section, so that the whole head is combed through.**
- **Rinse out conditioner and repeat the combing procedure.**
- **Repeat the procedure on days three, six, nine, 12 and 15, so that you clear young lice as they hatch, before they have time to reach maturity.**

How long it will take to comb your child's hair will depend on the type of hair they have and its length. For example, short, straight hair can be quickly prepared and can be fine-toothed combed in a few minutes. Longer, curlier hair will take longer to comb.

LOTION OR SPRAYS

Using a lotion or spray is an alternative method of treating head lice. However, to be effective they need to be used correctly. Your pharmacist will be able to recommend an over-the-counter lotion or spray and advise you about how to use it correctly.

A lotion or spray should only be used if a living (moving) head louse is found. Crème rinses and shampoos aren't thought to be effective and therefore aren't recommended.

Ensure you have enough lotion or spray to treat everyone in your family who's affected. Use enough to coat the scalp and the length of the hair during each application.

Treating head lice *continued...*

LOTION OR SPRAYS *continued...*

Follow the instructions that come with the lotion or spray when applying it. Depending on the product you're using, the length of time it will need to be left on the head may vary from 10 minutes to eight hours.

The normal advice is to treat the hair and repeat the treatment after seven days. Some products also supply a comb for removing dead lice and eggs.

Some products may be capable of killing eggs as well as lice, although there's no certainty of this. Check for baby lice hatching from eggs three to five days after using a product and again 10-12 days afterwards.

At least two applications of lotion are needed to kill lice over the hatching period because the lotions don't always kill louse eggs.

If the lice appear unaffected by the product, or if the problem persists, seek advice from your school nurse, health visitor, pharmacist or GP.

CAUTIONS

Always read the instructions on the pack or leaflet that comes with a head lice treatment, particularly in relation to the following groups:

- young babies (under six months old)
- pregnant women
- people with asthma or allergies

If you're still unsure, seek advice from a healthcare professional before using the product.

It's recommended that pregnant women use either wet combing or 4% dimeticone lotion, which is licensed for use during pregnancy and breastfeeding.

AFRO HAIR

Afro hair or hair that's tightly curled can make treating a head lice infestation particularly difficult.

There's no evidence that keeping your child's hair short, or plaiting or braiding it, will make it easier to treat.

Afro hair should be treated in a similar way to straight hair. Methodically combing small sections of hair at a time with a lice comb, and/or using a lotion or spray, will usually prove effective.

HEAD LINE AND CLOTHING

Healthy head lice don't deliberately transfer on to clothing, bedding or soft toys.

Their life span is about three weeks and when they fall from the head they're dying and unable to breed.

Hot washing or fumigation isn't necessary to control head lice.

Promptly dispose of any lice that fall from the head on to clothing or bedding.

Head lice on combs

Inspect brushes and combs that are used during treatment and remove any lice before the next stroke.

Head lice will die after a day or two if they're unable to feed on human blood.

Be aware that head lice can be flicked from dry hair during vigorous combing. If they land on someone they'll try to climb up to their head.

DUTY PUPILS

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

Jamie A	Alfie A	Luke D
Aimee D	Leoni D	Ryley E
Charlie G	Callum G	Cameron H
Adam H	Alfie J	Tom J
Megan M	Zack M	Ella P
Annie-May P	Haydn Q	Liam S
Ellie-Louise S		

IMMUNISATIONS change to arrangements

Monday 1st February

Year 9 - Meningitis ACWY and tetanus/olio/diphtheria injections.

Tuesday 23rd February

Year 10 - Meningitis ACWY injection

These will take place in the Performance Hall from 9am on the days stated.



UNIFORM SHOP

The school uniform shop is now on ParentPay. Uniform and P.E. kit can be purchased through ParentPay using the following link:

<https://www.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=320>

schoopetition

WINNER - 27th January 2016

Louis M (7CGr)

The question was: Who wrote 'Matilda', 'The Witches', and 'The BFG'?

The answer: Roald Dahl

Well done Louis who received £5 ParentPay credit and 50 VIVOS.

WINNER - 20th January 2016

Declan W (9ATo)

The question was: What is the opening line of Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone?

The answer: "Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four, Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

Well done Declan who received £5 ParentPay credit, 50 VIVOS and Declan chose a prize from the prize box.

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

Competitions run Wednesday to Wednesday during term time

schoop ID: 22047

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

DIARY



Monday 1st February 2016

Year 9: Meningitis ACWY and tetanus/olio/diphtheria injections (all day)

Thursday 4th February 2016

Year 10 Speak Out Challenge
Years 9-10 Intermediate Maths Challenge
11-11.20am: Head Teacher's Commendations in the Atrium
Year 10: Woman in Black, Fortune Theatre, London (4.30pm)

Friday 5th February 2016

Year 11 Visit to the Tate Modern Gallery Trip, London

Friday 5th - Sunday 7th February 2016

Year 8 Battlefields Trip, Belgium

Saturday 6th February 2016

Year 11: Art/Photography Trip to Southend/Leigh-on-Sea

Friday 12th February 2016

8-8.30am: Dads' and Lads' Reading Morning
11.20am: Making the Right Choices
LAST DAY OF TERM

Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2016

SPRING HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Year 11 Holiday Study Programme

Monday 22nd February 2016

BACK TO SCHOOL

FIXTURES

Monday 1st February 2016

Year 7 Girls' Essex Cup Netball v Southend (a) 3pm

Tuesday 2nd February 2016

Year 9 Basketball v Basildon Academy (a) 3pm
Year 7 Basketball v KEEGS (a) 3pm
Years 8 & 9 U14 Essex Cup Netball v Brentwood Ursuline (h) 3pm
Years 10 & 11 U16 Basketball v Bromfords (a) 3pm

Wednesday 3rd February 2016

Year 8 Basketball v Basildon Academy (h) 3pm

Thursday 4th February 2016

Years 10 & 11 U16 Girls' Basketball v De La Salle (h) 3pm

Friday 5th February 2016

Year 7 Girls' Essex Cup Basketball v St.Martin's (a) 9am-1pm

Saturday 6th February 2016

All years Indoor Athletics Championships at Lee Valley (11am-7pm)

Sunday 7th February 2016

All years Indoor Athletics Championships at Lee Valley (9am-4pm)

Monday 8th February 2016

Year 7 Girls' Essex Cup Basketball v Shenfield (h) 3pm

Wednesday 10th February 2016

Year 8 Basketball v Billericay (h) 3pm

Thursday 11th February 2016

All years District Swimming at Basildon Sporting Village (3pm)



@woodlands_sch

For fixtures, results and the latest news



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