



THEMES OF THE WEEK

*"Needs of Others"**"Chinese New Year"*

13th January 2017

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

I hope that you all managed to enjoy a restful and safe festive break. Welcoming in the New Year is always a great opportunity to set new goals and targets for yourself and those around you. Personally, I have set myself the target to ensure that your child is taught by the best teachers possible, providing them with a first class education. Whatever your personal target, I hope that you can maintain your motivation well into 2017!

With only seven school days since our return, there has already been a significant amount of activities this term and although this is a much shorter period of time, the calendar is action packed providing opportunities for your child to experience new things. I do hope that your child takes the opportunity to join a club and enjoy the wonderful extra-curricular provision that our staff provide, including Period 6 for pupils in Years 10/11.

Staff and EPD performers were welcomed back to school on Wednesday by Kriss Akabussi. He shared his personal story and provided both staff and pupils with an inspirational start to 2017. Just to confirm, he is as funny in person as he is on tv!!

As you will be aware, the responsibility of overseeing the quality of our work on a daily basis falls to our governing body.

These volunteers hold me to account to the performance of the school and challenge me on my decisions and the direction of the school. We are so fortunate to have an incredibly supportive governing body with a wealth of experience in both education and in the world of commerce. On Saturday 7th January, we held our governor training. It was an enjoyable session, where the governors were able to support SLT by developing our school development plan, which is for 2017-2020. I would like to thank the governors for their support at all times, including school events:

Mr Terry Reynolds - Chair, Mr Jim Fuller - Vice Chair, Mrs Karen Kerridge – Executive Head Teacher, Mrs Jan Fennelly – Associate staff, Mr Terry Curtis – Teaching staff, Mrs Karen Lay – Community, Mr David Fisher – Community, Mr Peter King – Parent, Mr Steven Flack – Parent. This group are ably supported by Mrs Anne Wright for Finance and Mr Peter Hillman, who is the Chair of the Benfleet Schools' Trust.

I do hope that our Year 7 families enjoyed their first consultation evening last night and I am delighted by the positive responses to our internal survey. Your comments and feedback allow us to constantly ensure that we can provide the best possible education for your child.

Continued.....

Thank you for your continued support and commitment and I look forward to seeing you at a school event soon.

‘The secret of change is to focus all your energy not on fighting the old but on building the new.’

Kind regards,

Simon Cox



MFL

Terry Curtis reporting.....



Welcome to Miss Castle who joins us from Appleton School for a few weeks to work with the MFL team.

Attainment, Achievement and Progress

What a pleasure it was to meet so many Year 7 families at Consultation Evening. It is always wonderful to keep the link between home and school going from KS2 into Woodlands; your child may be growing up but they need to know we are there to help. Years 7 and 8 pupils continue to impress me with their focus in lessons and their use of the homework booklets that many parents have welcomed...the pupils seem to quite like them too!

Year 9 pupils have settled in brilliantly to their GCSE languages course and are proving that languages can be fun even if the academic challenge is high!

Year 10 Speaking Exams

All GCSE language pupils will be preparing the individual components for their GCSE towards the end of January. The 2018 GCSE speaking exam consists of:

- Role play
- Picture description and discussion
- Topic questions and extended answers.

After February half term, pupils will then be assessed in lesson time on each of these components in readiness for PPEs and the final exam, whose time is given to us by the exam board and non-negotiable.

Continued.....

Year 11 are moving in to the final phase of ensuring their own speaking and writing assessments are up to target grade; most are there already but trust me, we will push each pupil to get there and exceed wherever possible. Thank you for your continued support on this.

Ways to help

- 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 child say what they are trying to learn while you follow their answers (it really doesn't matter if you don't speak French or German!)
- 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 child 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 them "Good luck!" on the day of their exam...even a cheeky text on the way to school can make the difference!



Annette Davey reporting.....

Year 7 – continue with the topic of 'Familie und Tiere' (family and pets).

Year 8 – continue with the topic of 'Ich liebe Ferien' (I love holidays).

Year 9 and 10 start the topic of 'Freizeit' (freetime).

Year 11 preparation for the GCSE exams in the summer.

Karnival in Deutschland - The Carnival Season.



Many different areas of Germany celebrate the carnival season in February. On what is called Rosenmontag, people get dressed up and celebrate in the streets with music and the traditional food, doughnuts. Kids line the streets to catch some of the goodies that are thrown during the parades.

Interesting facts:

Carnival dates back to the Middle Ages.

Some people in Germany call carnival 'Fasching'.

The carnival season starts officially on 11th November at 11 minutes past 11.



Continued.....



Bruno Michelin reporting.....

Upcoming assessments:-

Year 11 will be producing their piece of written controlled assessments on the topic of holidays. In my last newsletter, I shared some techniques, such as mind mapping and Memrise Inc. that pupils could use to help them when revising. Please ensure that your son/daughter has thoroughly prepared.

Year 10 will be preparing for their new GCSE speaking (role play, picture based conversation and conversation on the topic of local area).

Year 9 will be also preparing for their new GCSE speaking.

Year 8 will be doing a listening and reading assessment.

Year 7 will be doing a reading and writing assessment on the topic of school, food and drink.

Upcoming topics for this spring term are as follows:-

Year	French - Theme/Topic	Spanish - Theme/Topic
7	Miam - Miam & Mes passetemps	
8	Paris je t'adore	
9	Identity and culture	Local area, holiday and travel
10	Identity and culture Local area	School
11	Healthy Lifestyle	Healthy Lifestyle



Please be aware that if your son/daughter is in Year 7 or 8, they have now been issued their pink homework for this spring term 1 along with a homework booklet for the entire term. This is designed to help both parents and pupils organise themselves well in advance.

In order for your son/daughter to continue making the progress expected, please ensure that they deliver their homework on time. Please contact Monsieur Michelin if you have any concerns MFL@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Finally, there is a special tradition in France that is celebrated the 1st Sunday of each New Year. The celebration is "La Fête des Rois" (Three Kings Day) and includes a king, a queen and a special cake. For more information you can go to the following website:

<http://www.frenchdesire.com.au/facts/fete-des-rois/>



Continued.....

Years 8 and 9 trip to France – July 2017

All Year 8 and 9 pupils who study French have been given information regarding a trip I am running to the Opal Coast, France in July. This trip is an excellent opportunity to see the French language in its own context and to experience French culture first hand. We will be staying in the Stella Maris – Village de Vacances on the Opal Coast. It's the perfect location to see the most of the area and is in a lovely town on the French coast. The benefits of such a trip from an educational point of view are many: linguistically it is an opportunity for our pupils to practise the language learned in the classroom, which will help with fluency and confidence.



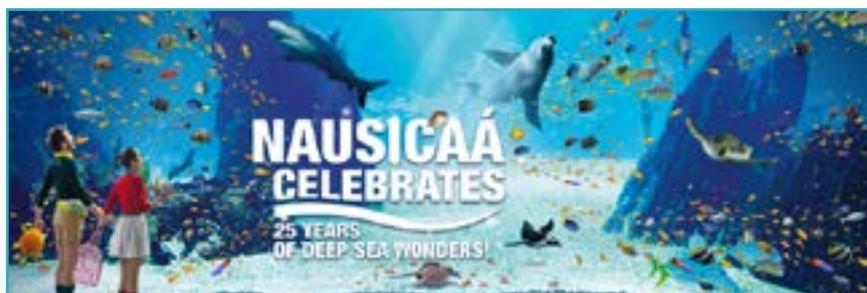
There is a comprehensive programme of activities designed to enhance cultural awareness and familiarity with France and the French way of life. We intend to visit several of the area's main attractions, as well as spend time completing language activities to enhance confidence and the language learning experience.

There will be lots of well planned activities, including sightseeing, a visit to a theme park, a market trip, a snail farm, Étapes military cemetery and a sea life centre.



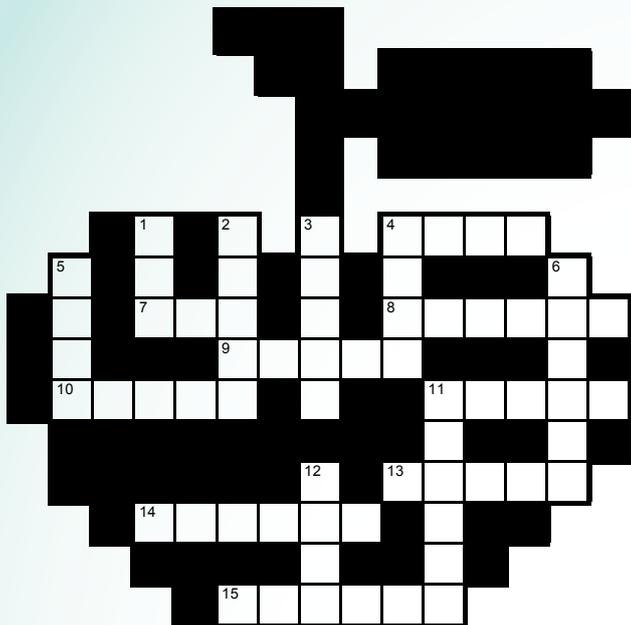
LAST FEW PLACES AVAILABLE

please contact Mrs Ballard for more information



Brain Teasers for Year 7 French.

One brain teaser is on numbers and the other brain teaser is on food. Vivo's awarded to pupils who complete either teaser and give to Mr Shanahan in MFL.

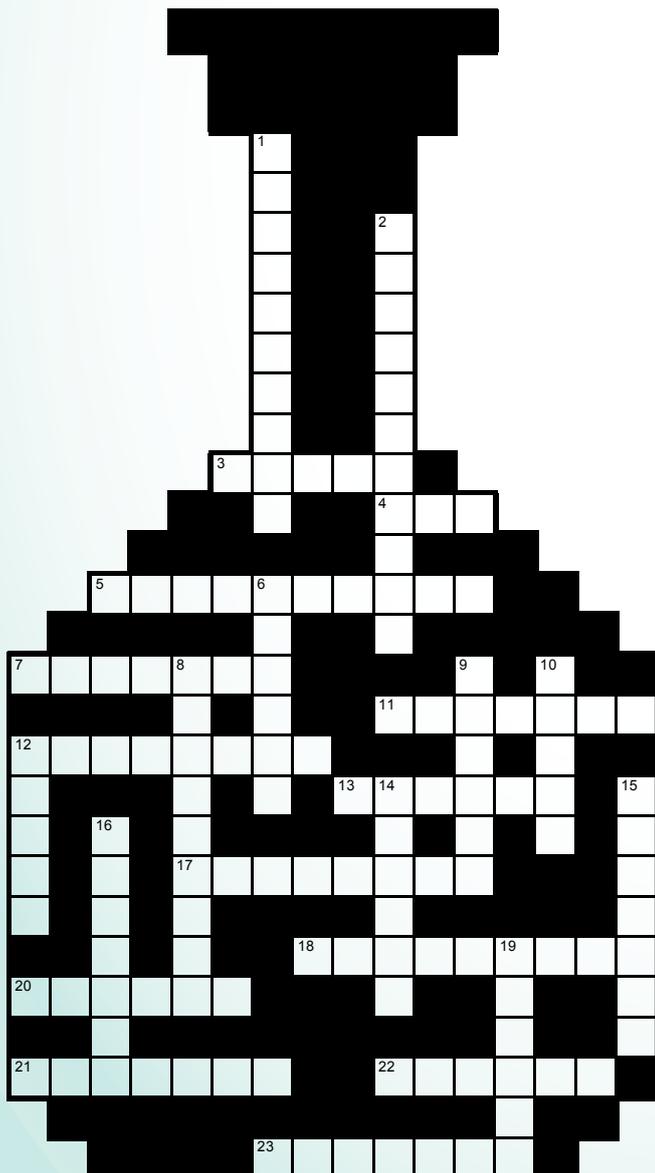


Across

- 4 cabbage
- 7 water
- 8 chips
- 9 pear
- 10 tart
- 11 sugar
- 13 ice-cream
- 14 ham
- 15 strawberry

Down

- 1 tea
- 2 soup
- 3 radish
- 4 coffee
- 5 milk
- 6 butter
- 11 lettuce
- 12 coke

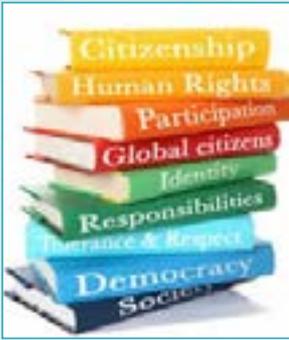


Across

- 3 apple
- 4 rice
- 5 toast
- 7 bean
- 11 cheese
- 12 chocolate
- 13 banana
- 17 lemonade
- 18 raspberry
- 20 yoghurt
- 21 dessert
- 22 meat
- 23 fish

Down

- 1 mushroom
- 2 mineral water
- 6 cake
- 8 cauliflower
- 9 tomato
- 10 pasta
- 12 crisps
- 14 pineapple
- 15 steak
- 16 sweets
- 19 onion



Lyndsey Sturgeon reporting.....

Sex & Relationships Education

Before Christmas, I wrote to parents and carers detailing the Sex and Relationships provision within PSHRE. Please can I remind parents and carers that if you do wish to withdraw your child from these lessons within PSHRE, then I need to be notified in writing with a detail as to the reason why. (Years 9 and 10 are currently studying this module and Year 7 and 8 will begin later in the year.)

Employability Skills

With many Year 11 pupils currently preparing for College and Sixth Form interviews, I thought it would be a good opportunity to remind pupils of some top interview tips.

1. Arrive in good time. The interview panel may be interviewing a lot of candidates so do not keep them waiting.
2. Dress appropriately.
3. Act appropriately, which usually means following the interviewer's lead; consider body language, posture etc.
4. Engage with the interviewers. Don't be afraid to show them your achievements from your Record of Achievement!
5. Answer the questions that are asked, using relevant examples where at all possible. (You have examples of these types of question in your interview booklets*).
6. Make sure you ask questions. (If you are stuck for ideas then there are also examples of these in your interview booklets).

*Copies of Interview Booklets can be gained from the **PSHRE** folder within the shared area.

Something to think about - Google is one of the most competitive companies in the world to try to get a job in, some of their interview questions are below:

- How many times a day does a clock's hands overlap?
- Why are manhole covers round?
- You're the captain of a pirate ship, and your crew gets to vote on how the gold is divided up. If fewer than half of the pirates agree with you, you die. How do you recommend apportioning the gold in such a way that you get a good share of the booty, but still survive?

School Shop

The school shop opening days and times are as follows:-

Monday 8:30am – 12:30pm

Tuesday 8:30am – 12:30pm

Please adhere to these times, unless otherwise stated.

Alternatively, please visit the school web shop either via the school website (found under Information, school shop) or using the link below:-

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

All purchases will become available for collection on the stated school shop open days above.

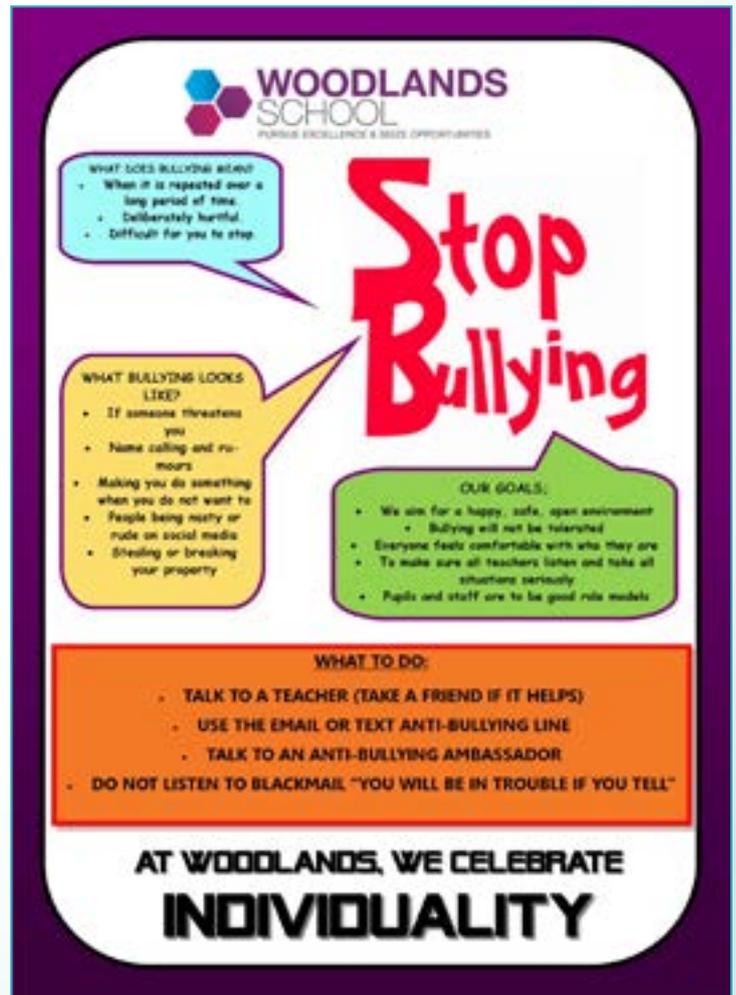


ANTI-BULLYING
TEXTLINE

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.



WOODLANDS
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WHAT DOES BULLYING MEAN?

- When it is repeated over a long period of time.
- Deliberately harmful.
- Difficult for you to stop.

WHAT BULLYING LOOKS LIKE?

- If someone threatens you
- Name calling and rumours
- Making you do something when you do not want to
- People being nasty or rude on social media
- Stealing or breaking your property

OUR GOALS:

- We aim for a happy, safe, open environment
- Bullying will not be tolerated
- Everyone feels comfortable with who they are
- To make sure all teachers listen and take all situations seriously
- Pupils and staff are to be good role models

WHAT TO DO:

- TALK TO A TEACHER (TAKE A FRIEND IF IT HELPS)
- USE THE EMAIL OR TEXT ANTI-BULLYING LINE
- TALK TO AN ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR
- DO NOT LISTEN TO BLACKMAIL "YOU WILL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU TELL"

AT WOODLANDS, WE CELEBRATE
INDIVIDUALITY

Locker Hire 2016/17

If you wish to purchase a locker for this academic year details can be found on ParentPay under "Locker Fee 2016/17" or alternatively, please request a unique PayPoint Locker letter from Finance.

Please remind children, padlocks should be kept on their lockers at all times to help ensure their personal possessions and belongings are kept safe.

If you have not purchased a locker then please refrain from using one.

Should you require any further information - please contact the Finance Office.

ParentPay

Our aim is to become a cashless contact school and in order to achieve this we are requesting all parent/carers to activate their ParentPay accounts.

Going forward we will require all trips, music lessons and any other payments to be made on ParentPay to alleviate cash being brought into school. ParentPay offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available. Thank you to all parents who have already activated their ParentPay accounts and have fully embraced the cashless concept.

We also offer the facility of a PayPoint letter, which is unique to each trip, music lesson etc... and a request for the relevant letter will need to be made to Finance for each individual service.

Finance Office Request

Please note we no longer keep cash in the finance office, you will need to ensure you send your child(ren) in with the correct money.

Free School Meals

Are you currently receiving or could you be eligible for Free School Meals?

The school is now checking the eligibility of Free School Meals instead of Essex County Council, you can check your eligibility online at www.myfreeschoolmeals.firmstep.com and if you are eligible you will be given an immediate response.

Free School Meal allowance of £2.20 is only active during our lunch period and cannot be used throughout the day or carried over.



DIARY

Monday 23rd January 2017
Year 11 Reports go live for families

Thursday 26th January 2017
GCSE Mountain Biking
Year 11 Consultation Evening 3.30pm - 7.00pm

Saturday 28th January 2017
2017/18 West Ham United Academy Programme EPD+ 9.00am

IMMUNISATIONS



Tuesday 7th February 2017

Year 9 - Double jabs: Booster of Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio and the Meningitis ACWY injection.

These will take place in the Performance Hall.
from 9.00am.

DUTY PUPILS

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

John D	Daniel E	Chanel H
Joshua J	Jasmine L	Blake L
Belle L	Lois M	Kane M
Chloe M	Alfie P	Alex P
Zak P	Conner S	Bailey S
Chay S	Jack S	Kai S
Ben S	Rachel T	Rebecca T
Thomas V		

FIXTURES

Monday 16th January 2017

Year 9 Rugby v Brentwood School (a)
Year 10 Essex Cup Netball v West Hatch High School (h)

Tuesday 17th January 2017

Year 9 Girls Basketball v Greenwood School (a)
Year 7 Essex Cup Netball v Barking Abbey School (a)

Wednesday 18th January 2017

Year 8 Boys Basketball v Mayflower High School (h)
Year 9 Girls Basketball v Mayflower High School (a)
Year 7 Girls Basketball v Shoeburyness High School (a)

Thursday 19th January 2017

Year 7 Girls Basketball v Mayflower High School (h)
Year 7 Boys Basketball v Mayflower High School (a)

Friday 20th January 2017

Year 9 Boys Basketball v Mayflower High School (h)
Year 10/11 Boys Basketball v Mayflower High School (a)
Year 8 Football v Billericay School (a)

Saturday 21st January 2017

County Cross Country @ Hilly Fields, Colchester 10.00am start

Tuesday 24th January 2017

Year 7 Boys Basketball v James Hornsby High School (h)
Year 9 Boys Basketball v James Hornsby High School (a)

Wednesday 25th January 2017

Year 9 Essex Cup Rugby v New Hall School (h)
Year 9 Girls Essex Cup Basketball v St Martins (a)

Thursday 26th January 2017

Year 8 Boys Basketball Essex Cup Quarter Final
v St John Payne Catholic Comprehensive School (h)
Year 7 Rugby Waterfall Tournament at Thurrock Rugby Club (a)

Friday 27th January 2017

Year 10/11 Boys Basketball v James Hornsby High School (h)
Year 8 Boys Basketball v James Hornsby High School (a)

Saturday 28th January 2017

Years 7 - 11 Rugby Union v Westcliff High School for Boys (tbc)

Our new Woodlands School Sports Website:
<http://www.woodlandsschoolsport.co.uk/>



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For up-to-date information please visit our website: www.woodlandsschool.org and Schoop ID: 22047
or follow us on Twitter: @Woodlands_sch

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