



## THEMES OF THE WEEK

*"Pupil Voice"**"Why think?"*

27th January 2017

## PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

Where have those two weeks gone! Working in such a large school on a rapid journey forward often means that we rarely get a chance to take stock of all the brilliant work that our pupils and staff do on a daily basis. I am so proud to be able to work with such a committed group of people and I know that all of our pupils are given so many opportunities to pursue excellence and aspire to be great!

With the economic climate changing rapidly, I am pleased that the latest national funding formula consultation has Woodlands down as one of six schools in Essex who will see a proposed 2.9% increase. Most schools will be seeing a dramatic reduction but that figure (if it is the final figure) will see the school operating on an extremely solid financial platform. The increase is due to location and the need of our pupils. This additional funding is always spent on helping our young people pursue excellence and seize opportunities.

In this edition of our community newsletter is the feedback from the Year 7 Consultation evening. There are so many positives to take from this feedback, especially the number of families that would recommend our school to others (it must be working as we have 355 1st choices for next year!). Thank you to our families for your ongoing support and we will look to act upon the feedback offered.

Thank you to Mrs Arthurton for organising the Essex Fire and rescue talks with our Year 7 and 8 pupils on Wednesday. I am sure the message will get through to our pupils about being sensible when they are unsupervised in the evenings and at weekends. They should also be able to provide some tips for improving fire safety around your own home.

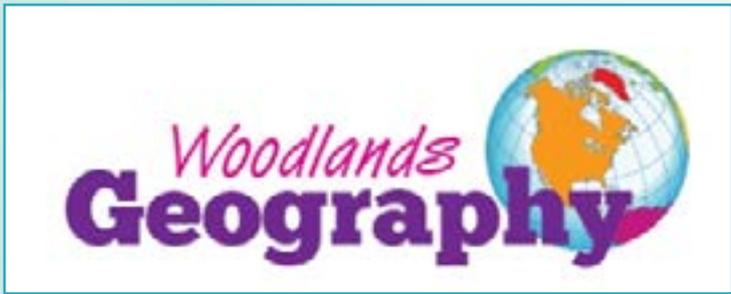
As always there have been so many clubs and activities taking place and I always enjoy watching our young people perform. Recently I had the pleasure of having training as a mentor for the Higher Project Qualification. This is an exciting opportunity for some of our pupils who are working at a high academic level to challenge themselves and gain a qualification that carries currency at University level.

Thank you for your continued support, Friday 10th February will be the last day of half term, with full uniform and finishing at 3pm. Keep up the great work!!

***'Sometimes you don't realise your greatest strength until you come face to face with your greatest weakness.'***

Kind regards,

Simon Cox



# Global Thinking in Geography

*Kath Merchant reporting.....*



**Woodlands Geography**  
**Tutor Time Activities**

- ✓ Year of the Rooster paper cutting
- ✓ Design a porcelain plate with Chinese New Year 'Rooster' patterns
- ✓ Map the regional cuisines of China
- ✓ Use Chinese language to link to types of food

Pursue EXCELLENCE & Seize OPPORTUNITIES



This week the Geography Department has been represented in assemblies to celebrate Chinese New Year. According to the Chinese Lunar Calendar, we enter the Year of the Rooster on the 28th January 2017. New Year is also celebrated as the Spring Festival and is regarded as the most important festival of the year in Chinese culture. During the festival, people hold family reunions and honour their ancestors. The lion dance is performed in public and red envelopes of money are placed in the lion's mouth for good luck. It is traditional also for grandparents to give their grandchildren red envelopes with money inside. These days the envelopes are just as likely to have cartoon characters on them as traditional symbols.

Pupils are invited to participate in a competition run by Mrs Merchant, tutor groups have information about activities and how to enter. There are various activities that pupils can participate in, all entries to Mrs Merchant in G4 by 31st January.

Last term Year 10 pupils participated in their first fieldwork activity whereby they collected primary data based on how coastal management impacts coastal processes at Southend-on-Sea. Fieldwork is an important element of GCSE Geography, pupils must understand the importance and value of different fieldwork techniques and be able to present their data collection, analyse their findings and make conclusions.

## Comparing the quality of life in Canary Wharf and Cubitt Town (East London).

They are also taught how to be critical of the fieldwork techniques. At the end of the spring term, Year 10 pupils will undertake their second fieldwork in East London, where they will examine the quality of life in the Canary Wharf area and Cubitt Town. The fieldtrip is compulsory and will take place on the 24th March 2017. More details about this trip to follow from the Geography Department over the forthcoming weeks.



# Preparing for Geography Examinations in Year 11

Further to the exam revision materials given to Year 11 pupils, support materials are also available for them.

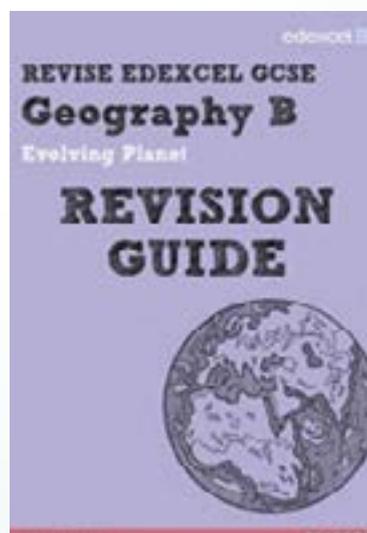
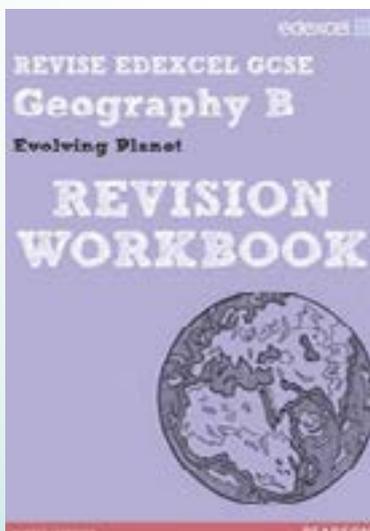
Families that attended Year 11 parents evening received a crib sheet containing advice and guidance to support their son/daughter in his/her examinations.

This year, the Geography Department have organised a virtual learning space, a little like a virtual wall, containing revision materials for examinations in geography. To access this learning space. Please follow the web link:

***<https://padlet.com/ftu/GCSEGeographyWoodlands>***



More revision materials will be added for pupils in the near future.



Continued.....



## Other News in Geography

Good luck to all Year 11 Geographers undertaking their PPE examinations at the end of February. All Geography pupils are completing a 'Dynamic Planet' PPE, based on their Year 10 learning journey in Geography.

A reminder of the topics to revise:

- Restless earth
- Waterworld
- Battle for the biosphere
- Extreme environments
- Coastal change and conflict
- Climate change

All pupils have access to revision resources in their shared ICT area in school and on Show My Homework.

All pupils should now be in possession of the GCSE revision guides and workbooks (with practice exam questions and mark schemes). Please see Mrs Merchant in G4 if you need one.

GeoVision, a morning enhancement session will be commencing after half term whereby pupils will be able to access Geographical revision and develop their skills focus in preparation for their exams.

Year 7 and 8 pupils are experiencing a dynamic and rigorous curriculum, enabling them to develop a good understanding of our human, physical and environmental worlds.

As half term approaches, pupils will be assessed on their current topics of work:

Year 7 - The UK's Changing Physical Landscape. The river landscape.

Year 8 - Extreme Weather/Extreme Climate. The World's Climate, changes past and present.



Year 7 Geography lesson examining river meanders and ox-box lake formation.

**And finally, #peso in P6/P7 in Geography:-**

**Congratulations** to all those Year 11 pupils attending their P6/7 sessions on Thursday with the Geography Department. Families have been notified if your child is expected to attend these sessions, as well as reminders being set. Please see Mrs Merchant for further details.



**BENFLEET TEACHING  
SCHOOL ALLIANCE**



**National College for  
Teaching & Leadership**

## **Do you want to train to be a Teacher?**

Learn more about Primary and Secondary teacher training opportunities available through the Benfleet Teaching School Alliance.

We still have vacancies to train with us in September 2017 for Primary and various Secondary subjects.

Our next Information and Recruitment Event is on:

**Monday 20th February 2017**

**11.15am until 1.30pm.**

**at**

**The King John School**

**Shipwrights Drive**

**Benfleet**

**Essex**

**SS7 1RQ**

This event will include a short presentation about the various routes into teaching and how the teacher training programme works at BTSA, a chance to hear from trainees in this year's cohort and to ask any questions you may have. There will also be a tour of the school and opportunity to observe lessons. The ITT Coordinator will be available to discuss the questions you may have regarding the application process, funding and bursaries.

To request a place at this event please email:

***mhoward@theappletonschool.org***

(Please state your subject specialism for secondary teaching)

Or

If you are unable to make this event or wish to discuss further contact:

**Maxine Howard ITT Administrator on 01268 794215 extn 210  
or email: *mhoward@theappletonschool.org***

Year 7 Consultation Evening family survey responses:



**WOODLANDS SCHOOL VIEW - SPRING TERM 2017**

RESULTS FROM YEAR 7 (156 responses) **2017/ 2016 / 2015**

**1. My child is happy at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
68% 70% 42%	31% 29% 52%	1% 0% 5%	0% 0% 0	0% 1% 1%

**2. My child feels safe at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
68% 56% 30%	32% 42% 64%	0% 1% 3%	0% 1% 2%	0% 0% 1%

**3. My child makes good progress at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
55% 55% 45%	44% 44% 47%	0% 0 4%	0% 0 0	1% 2% 4%

**4. My child is well looked after at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
60%66% 48%	40% 33% 50%	0% 1% 0	0% 0 0	0% 0 2%

**5. My child is taught well at this school**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
60% 64% 40%	40% 35% 56%	0% 0 0	0% 0 0	0% 1% 4%

**6. My child receives appropriate home learning for their age**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
48% 54% 34%	50% 43% 56%	1% 2% 8%	0% 0 2%	1% 1% 0



PURSUE EXCELLENCE & SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

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

Email: woodlands@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

**7. This school makes sure its students are well behaved**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
47% 59% 25%	51% 38% 57%	1% 1% 4%	0% 0 0	1% 2% 4%

**8. This school deals effectively with bullying**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
51% 54% 26%	41% 39% 44%	1% 1% 5%	0% 1% 3%	7% 5% 22%

**9. This school is well led and managed**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
58% 60% 38%	41% 36% 52%	0% 1% 1%	0% 1% 1%	1% 2% 8%

**10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
46% 51% 30%	50% 41% 50%	2% 1% 5%	0% 1% 0	2% 6% 15%

**11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
50% 42% 33%	47% 52% 52%	2% 3% 6%	0% 1% 0	1% 2% 9%

**12. Would you recommend this school to another parent?**

Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
73% 67% 32%	26% 30% 48%	0% 0% 4%	0% 1% 0	1% 2% 16%



# FOUNDATION

Luke Hirst reporting.....

West Ham United Foundation are holding a Player Progression Soccer Schools for players aged between 11 and 15 years old, whose fitness is at a higher level as they train and play on a regular basis. These courses are more intense and stretch the individual using challenging technical and training drills whilst incorporating individual and team roles and responsibilities. Player Progression courses are available for boys and girls aged 11-15 years old. The course will be focused around SAQ activities (Speed, Agility & Quickness), individual technical activities and attacking and defending workshops

All participants will receive a West Ham United certificate of attendance and a medal, while Academy scouts and coaches are to attend each and every venue. Recent holiday programmes have seen several youngsters referred to the Club's famed Academy!

These courses on Monday 13th - Friday 17th February 2017 run between 12.00pm – 3.00pm with suggested arrival time of 11.45am. Please bring plenty of fluids and wet weather clothing in case of rain. This course is delivered at Woodlands School on the 3G surface, so trainers, moulded boots are the most appropriate footwear.

Due to the partnership between Woodlands School and West Ham United Foundation we are able to offer all Woodlands School pupils a discount of 30% off all West Ham Foundation United Soccer Schools – Discount code = **WHUHUB**

If interested please visit:

[https://soccerschools.whufc.com/courses/courses.  
tm?country=GB&ageFrom=&typeld=&coursesSearch=search&ageTo=&startDate=&page=2](https://soccerschools.whufc.com/courses/courses.tm?country=GB&ageFrom=&typeld=&coursesSearch=search&ageTo=&startDate=&page=2)

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on:  
[Lhirst@westhamunited.co.uk](mailto:Lhirst@westhamunited.co.uk)

On Monday 23rd January Mrs Fennelly (staff governor), Ms Gower (parent), Ms Chapman (parent), Miss Coates (progress mentor in behaviour), Mr Cox and myself met up for a 'Steer Group Meeting' regarding Cyber Bullying and how this can be improved in school. I found this meeting really helpful, as some of the attendee's are parents, so finding out how this is dealt with at home, what they do and do not know was very interesting.



Kim Downton reporting.....

Cyber bullying for me, is such a difficult trend to tackle, as I feel we only know what the pupils tell us, and there is so much more we are unaware of, which they can hide. Please be vigilant and aware of what your son/daughter are doing online, as these are boundries that we, as a school, are unable to control. My request for 'Stop CyberBullying Day' on the 16th June has been granted, and from the meeting yesterday, we have discussed what events could take part during this week.

Hopefully, as a school we can pull out all the stops to create awareness during the week for 'Stop CyberBullying Day' by working together. If anyone would like to get involved or has any ideas please contact me: [kdo@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kdo@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

Information sheets about 'bestrongonline' from The Diana Award website:-

[http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/161104-My-Digital-Life\\_Parent-Info-Sheets\\_Revamp.pdf](http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/161104-My-Digital-Life_Parent-Info-Sheets_Revamp.pdf)

[http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/161107\\_Cyberbullying-Parents-Info-Sheets\\_Revamp.pdf](http://bestrongonline.antibullyingpro.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/161107_Cyberbullying-Parents-Info-Sheets_Revamp.pdf)

**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 SCHOOL**  
WHERE EXCELLENCE & ASPIRE MEET

**Stop Bullying**

**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**

## 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.



Please can we have any unwanted uniform; trousers, blazers etc to Pupil Services - thank you.

## IMMUNISATIONS

**Tuesday 7th February 2017**

PLEASE  
NOTE

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.

## 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](http://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 30th January 2017**

Year 7 DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)

**Thursday 2nd February 2017**

Twelve Year 9 pupils visiting Fords Dunton  
Parent Rugby Tour to Italy information evening 6.00pm

**Friday 3rd February 2017**

Year 9 and 10 Visiting Houses of Parliament

**Monday 6th February 2017**

Year 10 Reports Go Live to families  
Year 7 DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)

**Tuesday 7th February 2017**

Year 9 Immunisations - Diphtheria, tetanus and polio, and meningitis ACWY

**Thursday 9th February 2017**

GCSE Mountain Biking  
Year 10 Speak Out Challenge Workshop  
Literacy Workshop with Author Emma McNally  
Head Teachers Commendations 11.00am  
Year 10 Parent Evening

**Friday 10th February 2017**

Years 8 - 10 Ski Trip  
Years 9 and 10 Visiting House of Parliament  
Twenty two Year 9 and 10 pupils visiting GCSE Science Live, London  
Dads and Lads Reading Workshop 8.00am

## DUTY PUPILS

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

Jessica A	Sharn B	Teighan B
Sophie B	Leo B	Bailey E
Gokteke K	Brady G	Georgia-Mae G
Tillie H	Aiden H	Maliha H
Faith J	Tyler L	Connor P
Lauren R	Molly R	Michaela R
Hayden S	James S	

# FIXTURES

## **Monday 30th January 2017**

Year 7 Boys Basketball v Billericay High School (a)  
Year 8 Girls Basketball v St John Payne School Essex Cup Quarter Final (h)

## **Tuesday 31st January 2017**

Year 8 Girls Basketball Final v St Martins School Essex Cup Final (a)

## **Wednesday 1st February 2017**

Year 7 Girls Netball v Emerson Park School (a)  
Year 9 boys Basketball v Billericay High School (h)  
Year 7 Boys Basketball v Basildon Academy (a)

## **Thursday 2nd February 2017**

District Swimming Gala at Basildon Sporting Village Final  
(12.00pm - 3.00pm)  
Year 7 Boys Basketball v Fitzwimarc School Essex Cup Quarter Final (h)

## **Friday 3rd February 2017**

Year 7 Girls Basketball v Mayflower School Essex Cup Quarter Final (h)

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



**WOODLANDS**  
SCHOOL  
PURSUE EXCELLENCE & SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

# 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

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