



THEMES OF THE WEEK

*“Stand Up To Bullying”**“Easter - Christian”*

17th March 2017

PURSUE EXCELLENCE AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

I have been on several school tours this week and it has been lovely to see so many pupils focused in lessons and engaged with high quality teachers.

On Wednesday, Southend High School for Boys SLT visited our school to look at teaching and learning. It is a testament to all the excellent work that both staff and pupils do in the classroom, including the preparation of lessons and marking, that a school graded as Outstanding in all 4 categories felt that they could learn off of the wonderful teaching and learning team that we have here at Woodlands.

You will read an article in the newsletter which is about our pupils gaining entry to MENSA. I am so proud to be able to work with our pupils and this group of twenty have shown that we have awesome pupils, who are destined to achieve great things in life. Congratulations to the MENSA crew!

It has been a very busy three weeks in the Athletic Performance Faculty, with so many semi-finals and finals. I would like to thank the staff for giving their time freely, both after school and at the weekend, offering opportunities that pupils might not be able to access. With a number of Essex cup finals over the next two weeks, I look forward to updating you on our pupil successes.

There have been some other activities taking place in the last two weeks and I hope that your child was able to benefit from the experience:

- Pupils in MFL working with our German partner school (exchange to follow).

- Pupils attending the PIXL conference on ‘Getting into Top Universities’.
- Smashed Up project with Year 7 and 8 pupils, learning about how to keep themselves safe in social situations.

At this time of year, teaching staff are able to explore further opportunities. I would like to congratulate Mr Jenkins, Mrs Dominey and Miss Flaherty for all securing promotions over the last few weeks. Whilst we will be sad to lose colleagues who have been an integral part of our recent success, we are keen to congratulate them and wish them all the very best for the future. Their roles will be filled internally until September, when we will have two permanent replacements.

As it stands at the moment, we are fully staffed and indeed over staffed in key subjects to support pupils by keeping the class sizes as low as possible.

It has been another positive half term and I look forward to brighter evenings and some warm weather!

Thank you for your continued support.

‘Failure is a detour. Not a dead end street.’

Kind regards,

Simon Cox



On Monday 20th February, seventy six of our Most Able pupils, from Years 7 to 10, spent ninety minutes completing a MENSA IQ test. This involved six different assessments, varying from six minutes to eighteen minutes in length. The assessments tested anything from pattern spotting and completing complex sentences to finding the word that did not fit in a list. The pupils all rose to the challenge brilliantly and worked fantastically hard, despite the extremely difficult content.

As a result of these assessments, pupils were given an IQ score along with a percentile rank (where their assessment places them in the population of the UK). Pupils with an IQ of 148 or more are placed within the top 2% of the population, and are then invited to join MENSA. There are only 20,000 people nationally currently awarded this offer.

Terri Gray reporting.....

On this occasion, we have had twenty pupils rewarded with this prestigious invitation. We are incredibly proud of these pupils and have listed their names below:

Bonita N	George S	Charlotte H	Krisdeana R	Owen B
Jessica F	Daniel C	Daniel M	Liam B	Sid A
Joseph C	Elise W	Emily R	Lily C	Tillie H
Katie D	Millie A	Morgan J	Nia L	Tommi H

If you would like to know more about MENSA and the work they do please visit their website:

www.mensa.org.uk.



Kath Merchant reporting.....



On Wednesday 8th March, geomorphology in action was reported across the world as Malta's famous Azure Window collapsed into the Mediterranean Sea. The arch and surrounding stacks have succumbed to the erosive power of the sea.

Ironically, on the same day, Year 7 pupils in Mrs Merchant class were showing off their amazing home learning, whereby they had created amazing models of coastal landforms. Here is a selection of their work. Well done to all pupils in 7S1 for their superb efforts. Special recognition for excellent creativity and geographical understanding to Charlotte H, Ben B, Luke S, George S, Dalton F, Shanice Q, Joseph C to name a few!



Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork
Friday 24th March 2017
 Consent and medical questionnaires will be emailed home. Return completed to Mrs Merchant in G4

Investigating how and why quality of life varies within the urban areas of Canary Wharf and Cubitt Town (London)

WOODLANDS SCHOOL
 Edexcel GCSE (9-1)
 Geography B syllabus at
 Woodlands School 2016-17



Other news in Geography.....

Year 10 Geographers are soon out on their next fieldtrip as part of their GCSE examinations. Please can all families ensure their consent forms are returned to Mrs Merchant in G4 by the 17th March.

MATHS

Stuart Reed reporting.....



UNITED KINGDOM MATHEMATICS TRUST (UKMT) INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE – RESULTS

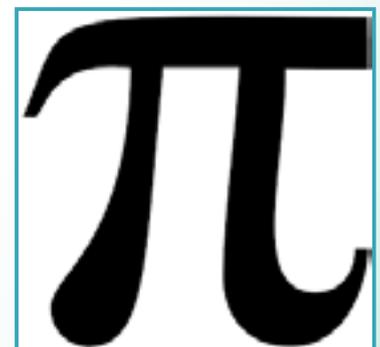
On Thursday 2nd February, one hundred and eleven pupils from Years 9 and 10 took part in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge. This is a national problem solving challenge, aimed at stretching our most able pupils in Mathematics. The following pupils did exceptionally well and will receive certificates in their forthcoming respective assemblies. Congratulations to the following:-

Year 9		
Name	Score	Award
Hannah K	63	Silver Certificate
Eira E	56	Bronze Certificate
Liam S	55	Bronze Certificate
Liam C	51	Bronze Certificate
Chloe C	47	Bronze Certificate

Year 10		
Name	Score	Award
Joseph T	57	Bronze Certificate
Kai F	56	Bronze Certificate
Louise C	55	Bronze Certificate
Annie M	51	Bronze Certificate
Alyce P	47	Bronze Certificate

Pi Day

On Tuesday the 14th March the school celebrated Pi Day by taking part in various Pi related activities. Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th (3/14) around the world.



Pi (Greek letter “ π ”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant – the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter – which is approximately 3.14159. Activities included word searches, crosswords, circle calculations, circle art etc.

Thanks to Mrs Becken for preparing resources.

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Mathematics Masterclass

Veronica Becken reporting.....



On Saturday 11th March, Aditya A and Rodney DJ, both Year 9 pupils, and myself were invited to King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, to take part in one of five Mathematics Masterclasses.

It was a great experience. The level of Maths that was being discussed there was beyond GCSE level. Aditya and Rodney represented Woodlands School beautifully. They were active participants in the lesson and they really enjoyed the whole experience.



History

Nicola White reporting.....

Having been thinking about careers during National Careers Week; I thought that it might be useful for pupils to be aware of where a GCSE in History can actually lead to. There are many sources out there which give careers guidance and I would like to direct pupils to the website: www.successatschool.org Here pupils can find advice on careers, apprenticeships and also subject specific advice. For History it advises as follows:-

By analysing past events we learn about the consequences of people's actions, from kings and queens to the London baker, who forgot to put his fire out on 2nd September 1666. History tells us about the future. If we apply this knowledge to the present, governments, businesses and individuals can learn lessons from past mistakes or successes and make informed choices about their futures.

For example, economists might look at the causes of the recent recession and past economic problems and work with politicians to avoid them happening again.

History gives us a more balanced outlook on the world.



Could our knowledge of the Wall Street Crash prevent future economic crises?

In History, we study lots of different sources and learn that events are often the result of complex and multiple factors. It's never as simple as person A whacking person B over the head and starting a war. Politics, communication, beliefs, misunderstandings and even the environment can shape the way things turn out.

Look at all the different parts that came together to make things spiral out of control in Game of Thrones (OK we know this isn't real History but an understanding of medieval European politics helped to write it!) Essentially,

History helps us see the bigger picture in 3D. Studying History can also be inspiring. When we discover what people have achieved against the odds and how things can change over time, it can give us the motivation we need to succeed.

What skills will I get from studying history?

History teaches us to ask two very important questions: why and how. This is key to sharpening your critical thinking abilities, which combine the following skills:

- Analysis
- Research
- Essay writing
- Argumentation
- Problem solving
- Communication

Historians look at all the available evidence and come to conclusions, a lot like a good detective, which helps them learn to be organised and manage information. If you're working with ancient History, you may not have a lot of source material to go on and it will be up to you to bring together all your knowledge and to try and solve the mysteries of the past.

What careers in History can I do?

These guys might look like relics of the past - but they can teach us about people ancient and modern.



continued.....

With your ace analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you'll be primed for a huge range of careers in History and beyond. Areas you could go into include:-

- Law
- Politics
- Public sector
- Business
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Academia
- Insurance
- Social research
- Teaching
- Economics
- Archaeology and curation

What subjects does history go with?

Studying History at GCSE will help you with other GCSE and A-level essay subjects like:-

- English Literature
- Psychology
- Economics
- Sociology
- Politics
- Philosophy
- Languages
- Media studies
- Law

Because it helps you develop both writing and analysis skills, it can be really useful alongside a Science subject or Maths to broaden your knowledge and abilities.

What degrees and other qualifications do I need history for?

If you want to study History at university or, in some cases, American studies at university, you'll need to take it at A-level. You won't need it for other specific courses but the Russell Group recommends History as an excellent subject for keeping your options open when choosing a degree. It can be especially useful for courses that include elements of history and essay writing like:

- Archaeology
- Economics
- Classical studies
- Modern languages
- English
- Religious Studies
- Teaching
- Politics
- Law
- History of Art

History GCSE or A-level can also be useful for vocational courses or school leaver jobs in journalism, administration, marketing or law. Top five famous people who studied History:

1. Louis Theroux
2. Prince Charles
3. Jonathan Ross
4. George W Bush
5. Sacha Baron Cohen

Did you know that within our library we have a careers section? Why not have a look through a prospectus to see what a History course might look like at A-Level.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History helps us tell the future - teaching us about the past. That makes it a great way into a whole host of careers.

Skills

- Analysis
- Research
- Essay writing
- Communication
- Problem-solving
- Arguing

Careers

- Law
- Politics
- Public sector
- Business
- Marketing
- Economics
- Teaching
- Academia
- Insurance
- Archaeology



**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 24th April 2017

9.30am until 12.30pm

at

St Bernard's High School

Milton Road

Westcliff on Sea

SS0 7JS

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 ext 210

or email mhoward@theappletonschool.org



Andy Jenkins reporting.....

In recent changes released by the Department of Education, schools nationally including Woodlands School have been reviewing and changing current pupil targets. This has introduced more aspirational targets to ensure pupils are making the correct progress through Key Stage 3 and 4, in line with the GCSE reformation.

Please do not be alarmed by the colour coding used in Go4Schools, we are in the process of updating current school systems and making relevant changes to work within these guidelines. It may at present appear as though your child is underachieving, however this may not be the case and grades will be updated once the new system has been fully implemented. Should you have any queries then please contact us.

Anti-Bullying Update

Kim Downton reporting.....

To make all parents aware of the new Snapchat Craze that creates hype to target and bully victims:-

<http://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/letter-x-snapchat-bullying-craze-12696416>

Please also be aware of social media websites like 4chan, Reddit, Digg and 9GAG. These websites allow people to use a photo they have taken and put a caption to it to create a 'meme', which can also be seen to be targeting pupils online. Children have been known to take a photo of another child, without their consent, and post this online along with a nasty caption.

Please make yourself aware of the Internet Matters link below, as it has many resources for your children about being safe and kind online:-

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/14plus/resources/>



We will be celebrating Kindness Day on the Friday 31st March; this is a day for all pupils to be recognised for their kind efforts. It could be offering another pupil a pen, helping in class or even holding the door open for their peers. This will be a day where the pupils will be recognised for doing something nice and being kind to one another.

All teachers will be given stickers, to give out to the pupils when they feel they have seen an act of kindness. My Anti-bullying Ambassadors will also be handing out stickers for any acts of kindness they see.



Please note the AntiBullying Policy has now been updated on the schools website:-
www.woodlandsschool.org

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NEW NEW NEW NEW NEW.....



Childline has launched a new iPhone app 'ForMe' designed to provide counselling for young people through their mobile phones. The new app was created by four teenagers who realised there was an urgent need for young people to have easy access to confidential advice and support.

The new app 'ForMe' is a way to get advice and support on loads of topics that play a big part in all young peoples lives, for example:-

- Exam stress.
- School stress such as bullying.
- Extremely personal issues such as self-harm and mental health.

The young person will be in control, allowing users to chat one-on-one with a counsellor, access the "Ask Sam" problem pages, and use a personal area called Private locker to track their moods and write down their thoughts. For those who want to interact with other users of the service, the young people are able to access Childline's message boards.

It is only available on iPhones at present, but will be on all other devices from next month.

WOODLANDS SCHOOL
WOODLANDS PRIMARY & NURSERY

Stop Bullying

WHAT DOES BULLYING LOOK LIKE?

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

WHAT BULLYING LOOKS LIKE?

- If someone threatens you
- Name calling and no-nonsense
- Bullying 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

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

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.



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.

Please note this is an annual entitlement, you must apply each academic year for your child to qualify.



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.

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.



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

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.

Payment needs to be made on ParentPay before 12.00pm to ensure sufficient funds are available.



Sainsbury's
Active Kids
Eat well • Move well • Live well

WE ARE COLLECTING SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS

We are collecting Active Kids Vouchers to enable us to obtain PE equipment for our school.

A collection box is situated in Pupil Services.

Your support is very much appreciated.

Catering Account – Daily Limit and Biometric Finger Image

A daily limit is available on the pupil's catering account, in order to set this up or amend the limit, please contact the Finance Office. ParentPay is always a good way of checking balances, food purchased and menu's available.



Also, in order to scan a pupil's biometric image we need to have parental permission. By using a biometric finger image, this allows the pupil to top up their account manually at the revaluation machines and allows the canteen staff to quickly identify the pupils at the till, reducing the time spent in the queue.

Should you wish your child to use the biometric recognition system, which is the quickest and most secure method, please sign and return the slip below to the Finance Office and we will carry out this service on a Tuesday morning between 8:15am - 8:45am in the canteen. However, should you choose not to give permission your child is still able to use the canteen using their unique PIN.

PUPIL NAME:

FORM:

Biometric Information: By signing below I agree to Woodlands School using biometric recognition systems (finger imaging). I understand that I can withdraw my consent at any time in writing.

SIGNED Parent/Carer

DATE

PLEASE RETURN SLIP TO FINANCE OFFICE

DIARY

Monday 20th March 2017

Year 8 Reports go live on Go4Schools

Thursday 23rd March 2017

Various Year 7 - 10 pupils participating in Dove Workshop
King John visiting for Art & Photography Standardisation
Year 8 Consultation and Options Evening 3.30pm

Friday 24th March 2017

8 pupils from Years 7-11 Essex Panathlon Swim Day
Year 10 Geography Field Trip 'Quality of Life in East London'

Saturday 25th March 2017

Product Design Intervention

Sunday 26th March 2017

Daylight saving time starts

Monday 27th March 2017

Year 11 GSCE PE Moderation
PPE Results

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Regional Finals 7.00pm
PPE Results Event

Thursday 30th March 2017

Various Year 7-10 pupils participating in Dove Workshop

Friday 31st March 2017

Kindness Day

School closes at 12.20pm for Easter Holidays

Saturday 1st April 2017

Product Design Intervention

Sunday 2nd April 2017

Twelve pupils watching the Oxford v Cambridge Boat Race

FIXTURES

Monday 20th March 2017

Year 8 Football v Mayflower High School (a)

Tuesday 21st March 2017

Year 7 Boys Rugby v Billericay School (h)
Year 9 Boys Rugby v Mayflower High School (h)
Year 7 & 9 Netball v Bromfields School (a)

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

Year 7 Boys Rugby @ Essex Festival Final (a)
Year 7 Netball v Billericay School (a)
Lee Valley Indoor Athletics Semi Final

Thursday 23rd March 2017

Year 11 Football District Cup Final
Year 8 Girls Essex Cup Basketball Final

Friday 24th March 2017

Year 10/11 Rugby v Mayflower High School (h)

Sunday 26th March 2017

Year 9 Essex Cup Rugby Final v Robert Clack School at
May & Baker Rugby Club

Monday 27th March 2017

Year 9 & Senior District Rugby 7's

Tuesday 28th March 2017

Year 7 & 8 Boys Rugby District 7's

Wednesday 29th March 2017

Athletics Track Meeting @ Basildon Sporting Village

Our new Woodlands School Sports Website:

<http://www.woodlandsschoolsport.co.uk/>

DUTY PUPILS

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

Millie E	Abigail F	Anthony G
Daniel I	Danny L	Finlay ML
John M	Jess M	Ethan OS
Nelly P	Ruby P	Nathan P
Libby P	Jonny R	Shannon T
Ellie T	Jack W	Daniel W
Gabriele Z	Joshua A	

Pursue EXCELLENCE & Seize OPPORTUNITIES



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