

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

5th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

"There are decades where nothing happens; and there are weeks where decades happen" – Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.

A truly historical night and early morning, one which has never been seen before. We in education are not allowed to be political and rightly so. What I will say though is that I hope education will be properly funded going forward, for without education, you don't get progress. Without progress you can only go backwards, I am not prepared to go backwards.

At Woodlands our youngsters have chosen the Labour Party as part of our own Mock General Election. It's almost like they predicted what was going to happen in the real thing! The complete run down of results are as follows:

The Labour Party – 30%
Reform UK – 27%
Green Party – 22%
Conservative Party – 11%
Liberal Democrats – 10%.

Well done to our Artistic Performance Team who performed in Horndon last Saturday. Yet another great experience. We welcome back our Year 10 youngsters on Monday who I hope have learned huge amounts about the world of work.

Please find accompanying this letter a presentation about expectations that has gone out to all our Year 6 parents and carers who I know have been receiving our weekly update letter for a while now. Never hurts to make all nice and clear for all as we hurtle towards another new academic year in September.

Dates for your diary:

A reminder that as well as below the school calendar is on our website and you can follow us on X, Facebook and Instagram:

Monday 8th July – Friday 12th July – Year 10 Hospitality and catering mock exam.

Monday 8th July – 6.00pm – 7.00pm. Preparation for Year 11. Year 10 meeting – *'Year 11 and beyond!'*

Wednesday 10th July – 9.00am-2.00pm. 30 selected Year 9s attending maths event in Colchester.

Wednesday 10th July – 12.00pm-7.00pm. 57 selected Year 7-10 pupils to watch Sister Act at the Dominion Theatre in London.

Thursday 11th July – 8.30am-12.45pm. Sports Day at Basildon Sporting Village. (More detail in this letter).

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Thursday 18th July – Rewards trips (various).

Friday 19th July – 12.30pm. End of academic year. Full uniform expected.

Thursday 22nd August – 8.00am-9.30am. Year 11 GCSE Results Day

Tuesday 3rd September – 8.35am. Year 7 and Year 11 Prefects start back the new academic year.

Wednesday 4th September – 8.35am. All Year groups start the new academic year.

Sports Day – Miss Jones

A reminder that all pupils need to be at Basildon Sporting Village by **8.40am on Thursday 11th July**. All pupils need to arrive in full Woodlands School PE kit (including Woodlands PE shorts) but are allowed to wear an accessory that represents their House. Please ensure that they bring any medication needed i.e., asthma pumps and hay fever medication as well as water, lunch, suncream and warm layers. **The day will finish between 12.30pm-12.45pm**. A reminder that due to safeguarding, spectators are not permitted.

Literacy – Mrs Handford

Well done to all pupils who have participated in our sponsored read with Bookworm's Boutique. I will let you know the final amount raised next week as well as names of pupils to celebrate for their commitment to the read.

DEAR time is on Tuesday, period 3 next week. Please can we encourage pupils to remember their reading books; they should have one with them at all times as it is part of their essential equipment.

Years 7 to 9 have been completing their reading age tests this week. Any pupils who were absent for their tests will complete them next week.

Cultural Capital – Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher (Cultural Capital)

Post-16 – Mrs Robertson

Well done to pupils who took part in the Mock Interviews on Wednesday with HSBC, Morgan Sindall and Griffin Estate Agents. The feedback from the employers was extremely positive and pupils very much enjoyed the experience.

Should you require any help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

Well done to all Year 10 pupils who have taken part in Work Experience this week. We have had a great many positive responses from employers about our pupils' engagement and from pupils that they have enjoyed the experiences.

Enrichment Opportunities: Extra-Curricular Activities and Pupil Leadership Roles – Mrs Heseltine

To echo Mrs Robertson, I have been really impressed with how our Year 10 pupils have engaged in all aspects of the Work Experience program. We have received some wonderful feedback from employers and industry experts who have worked with our pupils this week.

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When our Year 10's go out on placements they are not just representing themselves as individuals, but Woodlands as a school, our ethos and values. Although we ran a much shorter program than in previous years, it should not be underestimated how resilient our pupils have had to be through this process which started back in October, and for most it has shown a real strength of character and a testament to their own values and ethos.

[Enrichment Opportunities Page \(Clubs, Pupil Leadership Roles, Trips/Visits links\)](#)

ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson:

Aspiration

Sarah Year 10
Louie Year 10
Quinn Year 9

Resilience

George Year 10
Harry Year 10
Ryan Year 7
Shan Year 7
Eva Year 7
Pippa Year 7
Samuel Year 8

Opportunity

Matthew Year 10
Jordan Year 10
Reece Year 7
Nathan Year 7
Lilah Year 9
Ellie-May Year 7
Mantas Year 7

Excellence

Stefania Year 7
Lorenzo Year 7
Jessica Year 8
Isabella Year 8
Ellie-May Year 7
Millie Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash

The current government have released a report on potential changes to the current RSHE statutory framework (What must be covered in schools). It is out for review until Thursday 11th July and they are encouraging feedback from parents/carers by completing a survey. Please follow the link below if you wish to have your views heard.

[The RSHE Review explained](#)

[Link to Survey](#)

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE lesson Parental Communication Calendar for current half term to familiarise yourselves with the topics due to be covered:

[\(SUM 3B\) AROE PARENT COMMS CALENDAR 2023.24.pdf](#)

Year 7 -Developing Skills and Aspirations (Living in the Wider World)

This unit will cover careers, teamwork and enterprise skills, and raising aspirations.

Year 8 - Digital Literacy (Living in the Wider World)

This unit will cover online safety, digital literacy, media reliability and gambling hooks.

Year 9 - Setting Goals (Living in the Wider World)

This unit will cover learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the Post-16 process.

Year 10 - Addressing Extremism and Radicalisation (Relationships)

This unit will cover communities, cohesion and challenging extremism.

[RSE Parental Right to withdraw form](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email on has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk should you have any queries/concerns.

Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine

Thank you to Mrs Robertson for leading on assemblies this week on important theme of ‘World Youth Skills Day’ which is celebrated annually on Monday 15th July.

World Youth Skills Day was established by the United Nations to recognise the significance of equipping young people with skills for employment, entrepreneurship, and personal development. Celebrating World Youth Skills Day 2024 is not just an annual event, but a call to action, urging us to invest in our youth, ensure access to quality education, and provide them with opportunities to develop their full potential.

Did you know that young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, and greater labour market inequalities? In addition, women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid, and to undertake parttime jobs or work under temporary contracts. WYSD aims to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills for the world of work not just today, but for tomorrow.

<https://unevoc.unesco.org/wysd/World+Youth+Skills+Day>

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There are quite a few changes to the assembly schedule over the coming weeks:

- **Monday 8th:** Year 10 Expectations and Home Learning assembly led by Ms Jordan and Miss White.
- **Tuesday 9th:** Year 7 Celebration assembly led by Mrs Wykes.
- **Wednesday 10th:** Year 10 Celebration assembly led by Mr Barley.
- **Thursday 11th:** No assembly – Sports Day.
- **Friday 12th:** Year 8 Celebration assembly led by Miss Brown.
- **Monday 15th:** Year 9 Celebration assembly led by Mrs Turner and me.
- **Tuesday 16th:** No assembly.
- **Wednesday 17th:** Year 10 Careers assembly led by Mrs Robertson.
- **Thursday and Friday:** No assembly due to trips day and the last day of term.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Moving forward

I often get asked ‘*What do you teachers actually do on an INSET Day?*’ Well, no big secret as they are all on our calendar. Today will be all about the curriculum. A day like today is all about looking back and looking forward with regards to the curriculum. Quite simply, without a clear, forward thinking, challenging yet supportive curriculum, that is underpinned by the latest educational research, then you don't get excellent teaching and learning. A strong curriculum leads to fantastic schemes of learning, both of which underpin high quality learning. Today is a day to ensure all these things are put in place for the start of the next academic year.

So, no parties or fun, although we do all have pizza for lunch together.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher