

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

10th May 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

I do hope you all managed to enjoy the extra day with friends and family. This week has absolutely flown by, and we have had a lot of guests with us wanting to have a look at all the good we are trying to do here. I have spent a great deal of time visiting classrooms and letting our youngsters do the talking.

With the GCSE exams now in full swing it is imperative that the hard-work and dedication continues right to the very end. As the courses are completed and exams taken it is key that use of time is maximised both in and out of class. The work is by no means over and what happens now really does have an impact.

I have been reminding staff and our youngsters of the basics of the Woodlands Way:

- All are to be met at the door, uniform checked and welcomed to the lesson.
- RAW (Retrieval At Woodlands) knowledge starter every lesson to be done straight away. This checks last week, last month and last year.
- Our Epraise rewards system to be used focusing on AROE as our key values.
- Staff to maximise learning time by using our behaviour steps if necessary to ensure learning is focused and purposeful.
- All are to have passes when not in class during lesson time, kept to a minimum to not disrupt learning.
- No pupil is allowed out in first or last 10 minutes so learning recalled and set up and reviewed at the end.
- All to have blazers on when out of class in lesson time. (*non-blazer days are only for extreme weather and not just because the sun decides to make an appearance*).
- Phones – Not seen, Not heard, Not taken.
- No coats on inside the building or hoods up, we need to know who goes to our school.
- All are dismissed class by class, row by row to ease congestion.

"If you get the basics right everything else falls into place."

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.

Tuesday 21st May – Year 10 geography field trip to Stratford.

Thursday 23rd May – Year 10 geography field trip to Stratford.

Monday 27th May – Half term and Year 11 holiday programme.

Monday 3rd June – Start of last half term.

Monday 3rd June – Friday 14th June – Year 9 assessments.

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Miss White – Deputy Head Teacher – Development

As of September 2024, we are intending to improve our Home Learning provision to complement our Tassomai programme and ensure there is a more formalised approach to setting tasks requiring pupils to not only recall knowledge, but also use it in increasingly complex ways.

We will be sharing more details with all parents after May half term, but we intend to trial this with Year 7 and 8 starting on Monday 10th June. Consequently, Year 7 and 8 parents will be receiving a letter home next week detailing the changes and this will be shared with pupils in assemblies w/b 20th May. **We will be holding a live YouTube Q&A session for Year 7 and 8 parents on Wednesday 5th June at 6.00pm** prior to the trial and will then share details on how parents can offer feedback on the proposed changes.

We look forward to working with pupils and parents to continue to improve our curriculum offering ensuring our pupils have the necessary knowledge and skills to prepare them for success at Woodlands, but also in later life.

Mrs Handford – Literacy

DEAR time will take place on Monday, period 1 for Years 7, 8 and 9. Please encourage your child to bring their own reading book with them as this is the best way for them to engage in the joy of reading.

When does your child read at home? Apparently, the best time of day to read is just before bed. I'm sure we're all aware that research has shown that using an electronic screen before bedtime makes it harder for us to wind down and sleep well. Reading does the opposite! Reading a book is a calming activity, so reading before going to sleep is helpful as it encourages us to relax better. Make it a routine for your child and ask them to read for 20 minutes before bed; before you know it, it will be a habit!

Cultural Capital:

Mrs Heseltine – Assistant Head Teacher - Cultural Capital

Post 16 – Mrs Robertson

From next week Directions will start careers meeting with Year 10 pupils now the work with Year 11 has been completed. This will give pupils the opportunity to start thinking about what options there are for them Post-16 and what grade requirements they will need to get to apply for chosen courses.

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

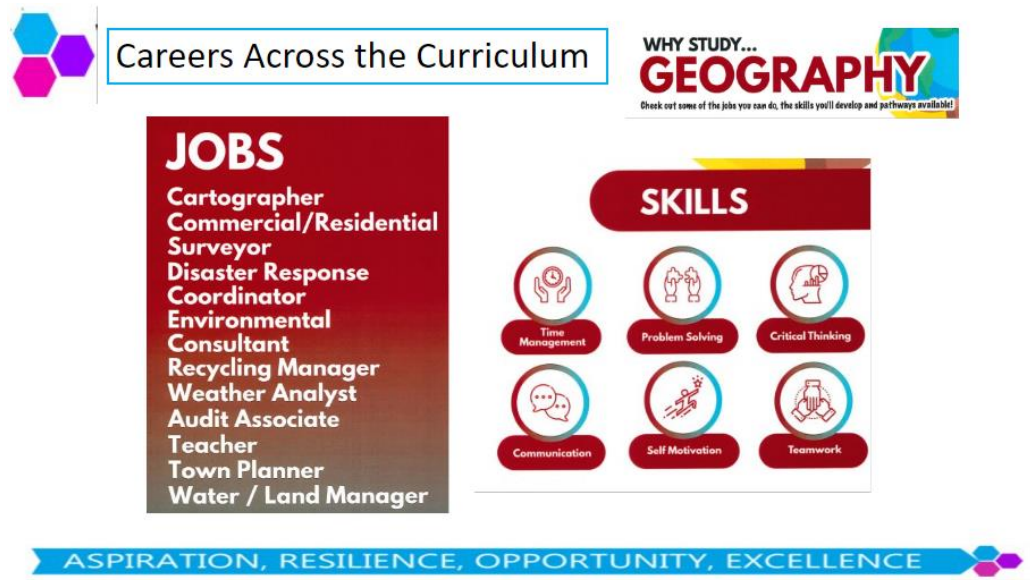
Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

There are a few pupils still to find placements for July. I must stress that the final deadline is **Wednesday 22nd May** and after this date no further forms will be accepted. This is to allow us to ensure enough time for checking placements prior to commencement in July.

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

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Careers across the Curriculum – Mrs Robertson



Careers Across the Curriculum

WHY STUDY... GEOGRAPHY
Check out some of the jobs you can do, the skills you'll develop and pathways available!

JOBS

- Cartographer
- Commercial/Residential Surveyor
- Disaster Response Coordinator
- Environmental Consultant
- Recycling Manager
- Weather Analyst
- Audit Associate
- Teacher
- Town Planner
- Water / Land Manager

SKILLS

- Time Management
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Self Motivation
- Teamwork

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

Further information about Careers can be found in the Careers Hub in the Opportunities Hub

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

It is pleasing to see that so many pupils are joining clubs and applying for Pupil Leadership Roles throughout the year! Next half term we have two new clubs that will be running; Mr O'Connor and the Aspirations Team will be running a Board Games club, and Mr Woodhead in MFL starts a Duolingo club, more information on these including days and timings to follow.

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

ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson

The pupils receiving the most AROE ePraise points this last week are:

Aspiration

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Yusra | Year 7 |
| Shannon | Year 7 |
| Lily | Year 7 |
| Atlanta | Year 7 |

Resilience

| | |
|----------|--------|
| Blake | Year 9 |
| Kaiden | Year 8 |
| Harvey | Year 7 |
| Stefania | Year 7 |
| Scarlett | Year 7 |

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Darshatha Sree Year 9

Opportunity

Joshua Year 7

Kevin Year 7

Samuel Year 11

Jenna Year 11

Mason Year 11

Oliver Year 11

Rochelle Year 11

Excellence

Aleksandra Year 7

Amelia-Rose Year 7

Sebastian Year 7

Samuel Year 11

Caleb Year 11

Archie Year 7

Oliver Year 7

Well done all and keep it up!

AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash

Please ensure that you have checked the AROE Parental Communication Calendar for this half term. We ask parents to familiarise themselves with the topics due to be covered:

Year 7 - Health and Puberty (Health and Wellbeing)

This unit will cover healthy routines, influences on health, puberty, unwanted contact, and FGM.

Year 8 - Emotional Wellbeing (Health and Wellbeing)

This unit will cover mental health and emotional wellbeing, including body image and coping strategies.

Year 9 - Intimate Relationships (Relationships)

This unit will cover relationships and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks if STIs and attitudes to pornography.

Year 10 - Exploring Influences (Health and Wellbeing)

This unit will cover the influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media.

Year 11 - Families (Relationships)

This unit will cover the different types of families and parental responsibilities, pregnancy, marriage and forced marriage and changing relationships.

All information regarding AROE is available on the school website:

[Woodlands School - AROE curriculum](#)

[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.

Mr Manners and Mr Heavy – Sports update

Team sport season concluded last week with our Year 8 Boys narrowly losing their final 2-0. We would like this opportunity to focus on the successes of our Team Sport season. The pupils at the school have achieved this since September!

Netball

National Shield (4th Place in the Country) - Under 14 Girls
Essex Plate Final - Under 14 Girls
Regional Round Representatives - Under 14 Girls
Regional Round Representatives - Under 16 Girls
Year 7 Girls District Finalist
Year 8 Girls District Winners
Year 9 Girls District Winners
Senior District Finalists
Netball Tour to Disney World (April 2024)
Tournament winners at Disneyland at U15's
Under 14 Essex Plate winners

Football

National Cup Last 16 Representatives - Year 7 Boys
National Cup Last 16 Representatives - Year 9 Boys
Essex Cup Runners Up - Year 8 Boys
Essex Cup Semi-Finalists - Year 9 Boys
Essex Cup ¼ Finalists - Year 10
Year 7 Boys District Champions
Year 8 Boys District Champions
Year 9 Boys District Champions
Senior Boys District Champions

Basketball

Under 13 Girls County Cup semi-finalists
Under 14 Girls County Cup semi-finalists

Rugby

Year 7 Boys Rugby - County Group Winners
Year 7 Boys Rugby - Eltham College Sevens Group Winners
Year 8 Boys Sevens - County semi-finalists
Year 8 Boys Sevens - Rosslyn Park Group Winners
Year 9 Boys Sevens - County Semi-finalists
Year 10 Rugby - Essex Cup Finalists
Year 10 Rugby Sevens - Essex Winners
Year 7 Boys - District Winners
Year 8 Boys - District Winners
Year 11 Girls Essex runners up

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Athletics

Junior Boy X-Country Team - Regional Round Representatives
Lee Valley X-Country - Year 7 Boys Medalled
Year 7 Girls Athletics – 'A' Finalists
Year 8/9 Boys - Lee Valley Indoor Athletics (3rd place overall)

Moving forward

As per Miss White's piece on the second page of this letter in the last few weeks, we have been consulting our youngsters and staff about how we can make our learning experience here at Woodlands even better. As you know our values are Aspiration, Resilience, Opportunity and Excellence and are in that order for a reason.

Without us being aspirational for our youngsters, they will not be aspirational for themselves, so will not achieve the dizzy heights we know they can. Without looking at setbacks as a chance to grow, they will not be resilient. Mistakes will happen, it is just our reaction to that bump in the road that will say a lot about our character. Without grasping opportunities and taking ourselves out of our comfort zone then we impose limits on what we can achieve. This is not what we do here. Without having huge aspirations, becoming resilient, making the most of all opportunities, then excellence does not happen.

We are first and foremost a place of learning, that is what schools are and that is what we do. It is our job to prepare our youngsters for an ever-changing world and make them competitive and maximise their chances of being hugely successful in whatever they choose to do. A large part of that is helping them to become independent and us not spoon-feeding them.

As we move into the next academic year, we will be putting more onus on our youngsters to work harder at home, with their home learning. Yes, balance is important, but so is making the most of their learning. We are competing against all other young people across the country when it comes to exams, and we need to ensure all are in the right place when that time comes. It is not all about exams, but they are the pieces of paper that open the next stage of the learning journey. They do matter.

Tassomai will continue daily for memory retrieval, it takes on average 25 minutes to complete. We have been basing our research on the findings of the EEF – the Education Endowment Foundation whose purpose is to conduct education research into what makes education even better. Their research shows that when done effectively home learning can make up to five months of progress especially in secondary schools.

We will be hosting a live You Tube question and answer session on our new approach to and expectations of home learning for Year 7 and 8 parents and carers on Wednesday 5th June at 6.00pm.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher