

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

28th June 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Absolutely wonderful to have our Year 6 youngsters with us on Tuesday and Wednesday this week and great to meet so many parents and carers on Tuesday evening. Thank you for bringing the sunshine with you. They were fantastically well supported by our new Year 10 Prefects who did a really good job. Always great to set off on the right foot and make our expectations clear whilst ensuring we begin to get to know all our new young people. Roll on September.

We have more guests in today, thirty Deputy Head and Head Teachers from China. We have been selected as one of the schools in Essex to share what we are doing due to our reputation and unique approach to many things. I feel honoured to have been asked so we will be showing off a little today. We won't do anything different as I am a huge believer in any guests seeing us on any normal day. We are proud of who we are and what we do. No one gets the red-carpet treatment.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who came in to work with Aspirations yesterday after school on One Plans. Grateful for your time and key in us getting the support right to help remove any barriers to learning.

A reminder that a text will go out early in the morning if it is a non-blazer day that day due to the heat. A non-blazer day also means a non-jumper day, it may sound like common-sense but there has been some confusion here. It doesn't appear in a policy as it is just common-sense. As you know we say no blazers when it is hot so all can feel cooler, more comfortable so in a better place to learn. Jumpers make you hotter than the blazers so are not to be worn on non-blazer days. I didn't add non-blazer and non-jumper because it is obvious, and our Woodlands School jumpers are an optional and a non-compulsory part of our uniform. Just to clear up any confusion here. **If you do not receive a text, then all normal school uniform rules apply which includes wearing a Woodlands School blazer. Usual uniform rules today and most likely next week, but if any change a text will go out. We will not text you to say it is a day to wear your blazers, again for obvious reasons.**

Thank you for all the feedback I have had on the consultation about skirt length and trousers. It is important that the reasons are clear namely, that uniform promotes our ethos, provides a sense of belonging and identity, and sets an appropriate tone for education. Also, that all workplaces have a dress code and we need to be preparing all for that. The fact that our trousers will continue to be unbranded can only be a positive in today's environment.

To confirm and as a result of the consultation, which closed yesterday as per last week's letter, and with full agreement from the board of governors, **from September 2024 our Woodlands skirt length will be on the knee. From September 2025 there will just be unbranded trousers and no skirts. Trousers would also need to be appropriate, plain black, tailored, no cords, no skinny trousers, no leggings, no studied or zipped pockets or jeans, no shorts.** We only had eight people raise any issues, out of almost three thousand parents and carers, that is pretty conclusive.

Our core purpose is education. That is why you send your youngsters to school and as ever I am grateful for your support.

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 1st July – Friday 5th July – Year 10 Work Experience.

Friday 5th July – School closed to pupils as staff training.

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

Monday 8th July – 6.00pm to 7.00pm. Preparation for Year 11. Year 10 meeting – ‘Year 11 and beyond!’

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

Thursday 11th July – 8.30am to 12.45pm. Sports Day at Basildon Sporting Village.

Thursday 18th July – Rewards trips (various).

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

Thursday 22nd August – 8.00am to 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.

Sir Jack Petchey CBE

Yesterday early evening I received the following sad message from the Jack Petchey Foundation:

‘It is with great sadness that we inform you of the recent death of Sir Jack Petchey CBE, founder of the Jack Petchey Foundation. Sir Jack passed away peacefully in the early hours of this morning, Thursday 27th June. He will be greatly missed by friends, family and the many young people, teachers and leaders whose lives have been impacted by Sir Jack’s vision and the work of his Foundation.’

Sir Jack did a great deal of good for many young people and we have his award which many have received here at Woodlands. He will not be forgotten, and his legacy will live on.

<https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/>

Home Learning – Miss White

As you will be aware, we have been trialling our RAPID Home Learning programme with Year 7-8 since the start of half term. Again, **RAPID** stands for **Revise or Rehearse, Apply, Prepare, Improve and Design**. We have been impressed with how effortlessly pupils have embraced the new Home Learning provision which compliments their Tassomai offering. The period of consultation concludes on Friday 5th July, so please email me at nwh@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk if you have any feedback.

General Election Thursday 4th July 2024

In honour of this great and wondrous event and to raise greater awareness of politics which effects all of us every single day, we will be holding our own election here at Woodlands during the same

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week with all being able to vote for the same parties.

During election week, pupils will have the opportunity to listen to each of the main parties' manifestos and have a chance to vote in a mock election. Details have been shared with Year 7, 8 and 9 tutors with instructions and a presentation to show to their tutees at the beginning of next week.

Miss Hope's GCSE Citizenship pupils have created short videos for each of the main parties' key policies which will help pupils to understand what each party stands for. Pupils will then vote for the party they most like the policies of and we will reveal the results to the school, ahead of the real election, on Thursday morning.

Literacy – Mrs Handford

Well done to all pupils involved in DEAR time this week. Our next DEAR time is next Tuesday, period 2. I know some pupils wonder why we do DEAR time. So, why do we? The importance of reading, not only for academic success, but also for enjoyment and emotional wellbeing, should never be underestimated. Children who read will become adults who read, and reading is key to future success. An interesting fact for you: 57% of people entering the UK prison system have a reading age of lower than an 11-year-old.

Speaking of reading ages, all of Years 7, 8 and 9 will be doing reading age tests next week in their English lessons. It is essential that pupils take these tests seriously, so their results are as accurate as possible. We will use their results to provide support where necessary.

Our sponsored read comes to an end this Sunday and there have been some real champions for this, thank you. I will praise the pupils involved next week, once I have all of the paperwork in.

I am also delighted to share that we have received two donations from local businesses to our Community Book Pledge with Bookworm's Boutique; we are so very grateful. Should any parents or local businesses wish to support our fundraising, this is the link: [Crowdfunding to Woodlands Secondary School on JustGiving](#) All donations are gratefully received and every penny will make a difference to children's literacy here at Woodlands. Thank you for your support.

Mr Manners and Mr Heavey – Sport update

Woodlands competitive sporting season is officially over with the conclusion of Athletics last week. Many of our pupils competed against the other schools in the district competition, with lots of success. Every individual team won their district convincingly, with Woodlands coming out overall winners. In total, Woodlands scored 1142 points across all the events, across all ages, with the 2nd placed school in the district scoring 450. Well done to all involved.

Many of our Year 7 pupils, after placing in the top 2 of the district, earned the opportunity to compete for Basildon at Chelmsford Athletics club on Wednesday 26th June, against the other best athletes in their event across the county. We are very happy to announce that Natalia K came 2nd in Essex with her discus throw of 18m and Alex B is County Champion after jumping a huge 1.55m, 9cm more than the second placed athlete.

Lastly, congratulations to Oscar C (Y9) who represented Essex in the Pentathlon against the best athletes in East Anglia.

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

Post-16 – Mrs Robertson

Directions have continued to work with Year 10 pupils in group sessions this week. From September they will begin the 1-1 appointments offering the essential impartial careers advice to pupils.

A reminder for Year 10 parent/carer diaries – the Post-16 Event takes place from 4.00pm to 6.00pm on **Thursday 19th September**. An amazing opportunity to visit stands from local businesses, apprenticeship providers, careers advisors, local Colleges and local 6th Forms. Please put this date in your diary.

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

Work Experience – Mrs Robertson

Good luck to all pupils taking part in Work Experience next week. A reminder to parents that should there be any absence of your child during their placements you must inform the employer and the school.

Pupils will receive a welfare check from their tutor or another member of staff during the week. They will ask to speak to the employer and the pupil.

Any issues at all during the week please contact either me via email on kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk or Miss Lovell, work experience admin assistant, clo@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk

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

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who have shared their thoughts on our clubs provision so far, it's not too late to have your voice heard:

[Review of Clubs Provision 2023-24](#)

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

ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson:

Aspiration

Salet	Year 8
Jessica	Year 9
Kacie-Lea	Year 8
Lilah	Year 9
Lara	Year 9



WOODLANDS SCHOOL

ASPIRATION, RESILIENCE, OPPORTUNITY, EXCELLENCE

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Aswath Year 8

Izzy Year 8

Sebastian Year 8

Aashka Year 9

Isla Year 9

Resilience

Lorenzo Year 7

Phenix Year 8

Lucie Year 9

Charlie Year 7

Fahim Year 7

Gracie Year 9

Karl Year 10

Julia Year 7

Essence Year 10

Harvey Year 7

Riley Year 8

Opportunity

Jayden Year 9

Fawwaz Year 9

Liam Year 9

Harvey Year 7

Harrison Year 7

Sophie Year 7

Athena Year 7

Tyler Year 9

Chloe Year 9

Excellence

Satvik Year 9

Ema Year 9

Archie Year 10

Connor Year 10

Kayden Year 10

George Year 10

Beau Year 10

Lorenzo Year 7

Adam 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 Miss Fryer who led on assemblies around the theme of Eid this week. Next week the Mrs Robertson leads on the theme of Careers; to accommodate our INSET day, Year 9's assembly will move to Monday.

Mrs Robertson will also be joined by Miss Jones to remind our pupils of the expectations around behaviour, conduct and kit for Sports Day on Thursday 11th July.

[Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

Moving forward

All the very best to those in Year 10 heading off on Work Experience. **When all in Year 10 return on Monday 8th July** we will be using the remaining lessons to help them prepare for Year 11 and a reminder that on the same day, **Monday 8th July 8th – 6.00pm-7.00pm** we have our Year 10 meeting

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which we have entitled – ‘*Year 11 and beyond!*’ Not Toy Story related. This will set all up nicely for the final year with us and look at what happens next after GCSEs. Clear and practical and key that all begin to think about this now.

Richard Riley, former US Secretary of Education:

‘We are currently preparing students for jobs that don’t yet exist, using technologies that haven’t been invented, in order to solve problems, we don’t even know are problems yet.’

Make the very most of every opportunity because you just never know.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright
Head Teacher