

Our Ref: DWt/LPu

12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to all who joined us on Monday evening for our Year 10 parent and carer evening on 'Year 11 and beyond!' Year 11 really does absolutely fly by and the better we can all help prepare for that the more fears will be eased and the chances of success greater. Those bits of paper which will hopefully have the highest grades that can be achieved by everyone that are collected in August are the tickets to the next step of the educational journey. The better you do, the more options you have.

Well done to all who took part in our Sports Day yesterday and thank you to Miss Jones for organising all, ably supported by so many staff. A superb atmosphere and such an inclusive experience, as sport should be. We even had the sun, a rare thing.

So much going on this week, from our Year 10s taking their Hospitality and Catering PPEs, architects in to share with our youngsters what a career is like in this field, some Year 6 parents and carers in with Aspirations having a coffee and discussing more about what September will look like, as well as an additional transition day for those who need a little extra time, the English Speaking Union in to put our Debate Club through their paces, to a trip to the Dominion Theatre in London to see Sister Act. The opportunities just go on and on.

### 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:

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July** – Rewards trips (various).

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July** – 12.30pm. End of academic year. Full uniform expected.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August** – 8.00am-9.30am. Year 11 GCSE Results Day

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – 8.35am. Year 7 and Year 11 Prefects start back the new academic year.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September** – 8.35am. All Year groups start the new academic year.

### Timings of the school day on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Last day of the academic year

8.40am-9.00am -Tutor

9.00am-10.00am - Period 1

10.00am-11.00am - Period 2

11.00am-11.30am - Break/Lunch

11.30am-12.30pm - Period 3

12.30pm end of school day

### Literacy – Mrs Handford

Our final DEAR time for this academic year will take place on Tuesday, period 4 for Years 7, 8 and 9. If any pupils have borrowed books from the Opportunities Hub, we would be grateful if they could ensure they are returned by Wednesday next week. I am still awaiting some further sponsorship for

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our sponsored read, so more information on that will be next week.

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

#### **Post-16 – Mrs Robertson**

It was great to see so many families discussing Post-16 options with Directions and myself on Monday at the 'Year 11 and beyond!' information evening.

I encourage all Year 10 pupils to spend some time over the summer doing some early research into the local colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> Form providers and the courses they offer.

Don't forget to view predicted grades through Progress Teaching as these will be needed when applying for courses in the new academic year.

A reminder to current Year 10 parents to save the date – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024 4.00pm – 6.00pm to attend our annual Post-16 information evening.

Should you require any further help please do not hesitate to contact me via email on [kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk](mailto:kro@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk)

#### **Work Experience – Mrs Robertson**

Congratulations to all pupils in Year 10 who completed their work experience last week. We have had some very encouraging feedback from employers. I have spoken to many pupils this week who shared positive experiences, some being offered apprenticeships or weekend employment.

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

As our academic year draws to a close it's clear to see how many more pupils' year on year are taking full advantage of the clubs, Pupil Leadership Roles and trips on offer at the school; this is a testament to their strength of character and a desire to push themselves out of their comfort zone and reach for success. The additional skills and qualities that these opportunities provide our youngsters with are what will set them apart from the rest when it comes to applying for not only their Post-16 placements, but any jobs in the future.

A huge well done to all those who have taken part this year, ePraise salaries will be awarded next week.

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

#### **ePraise Top Achievers Shout Out – Mrs Robertson:**

A reminder to all parents that we use ePraise to reward pupils for successes in the classroom and for the extracurricular activities they take part in. We do not use Satchel to reward pupils.

For parents to view ePraise please ensure you have downloaded the APP and have your notifications on.

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

### Aspiration

Darcy Year 8  
Archie Year 9  
Florence Year 9  
Oscar Year 9  
Heléna Year 8  
Millie Year 7

### Resilience

Harvey Year 7  
Yusra Year 7  
Sophie Year 7  
Megan Year 8  
Lilly-Anne Year 7  
Archie Year 9  
Scarlett Year 7  
Athena Year 7

### Opportunity

Lara Year 9  
Amber Year 8  
Chrissette Year 9  
Joniah Year 9  
Delsa Year 7  
Frankie Year 8

### Excellence

Gracie-Leigh Year 8  
Samuel Year 8  
Neka Year 9  
Alfie Year 8  
Valona Year 7  
Jake Year 8  
George Year 10  
Emilia Year 7  
Jack Year 8  
Ayomide Year 9

Well done all and keep it up!

### EPraise and the House System

As we reach the end of the school year, I would like to congratulate the following pupils for gaining the highest number of ePraise points in their year group this term.

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In End of Year celebration assemblies this week we have announced the winning houses for the term who have received their reward break.

Congratulations to all.

### Year 7:

Top 3 earners for this term:

1. Harvey – 717 points
2. Yusra – 413 points
3. Ishan – 320 points

### Winning House – Oxford 5980

### Year 8:

Top 3 earners for this term:

1. Sara – 402
2. Frankie – 359
3. Freddie – 340

### Winning House – Durham 3608

### Year 9:

Top 3 earners for this term:

1. Darshatha Sree – 304
2. Chrissette – 252
3. Lilly-May – 246

### Winning House – St Andrews 3079

### Year 10:

Top 3 earners for this term:

4. George – 283
5. Praise – 234
6. Luther – 219

### Winning House – Cambridge 2575

### AROE Curriculum Lessons – Miss Ash

[\(SUM 3B\) 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 & 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](mailto:has@woodlandsschool.essex.sch.uk) should you have any queries/concerns.

### **Assemblies – Mrs Heseltine**

A range of assemblies has taken place this week, celebrations and preparations for Year 11. Thank you to all staff and pupils involved in these.

Next week Year 9 will have a slightly extended Rewards assembly where we will be recognising our Duke of Edinburgh pupils on Monday, and Year 10 will have an assembly On Wednesday to prepare them for their 1:1 Directions Careers interviews which start in September.

Assemblies for all other year groups will re-commence in September.

### [Assembly Themes 2023.24](#)

### **Moving forward**

Some advanced notice of who will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. We wish all the best in their new ventures and know that they are better practitioners and dare I say people, for having worked at Woodlands, a special place.

Farewell to Miss Sexton who joined us in Maths in July 2019 after completing her training with us. She has spent the last few years as our Key Stage Four Maths lead. She now leaves us for a promotion to be Head of Maths at a school in London. Mr Alexander also leaves us after a short stay in Maths to continue his career at another local school. Miss Christmas leaves us in Science as she has relocated to the other side of the Dartford Bridge and travel is proving difficult, another who undertook her training with us and our Key Stage Three science lead. Mrs Hawkins leaves from Science and English to undertake a role teaching English at another school, the price of having two degrees. Mr Ncube leaves us from Science, again, he was on short-term loan.

Miss Stalker in English leaves us to explore opportunities beyond teaching, another who trained with us. Mr Fitzpatrick, our Key Stage Four English lead also leaves us to return to his old school to pick up from where he left off.

Mr Woodhead leaves our MFL Faculty to return home to the north of the country, Miss Head leaves Hair and Beauty to return to her old school for a promotion to Head of Year and Mr Brackett leaves us to teach A-Level at a relatively local grammar school.

Finally, Mr Roberts, he leaves his role as Deputy Head Teacher having joined us five years ago. Pretty much as soon as he arrived Covid struck, I can't really hold him responsible for that though. Mr Roberts leaves to become Head Teacher of a school in Kent, another for promotion, and I know that



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he will be successful. He has helped the school make huge strides in our direction of travel and we are grateful for the impact he has had.

It is never nice to say goodbye, but people do move on. What we can now do is look to the future and in September we welcome Mrs Lee-Sang who will be our new Assistant Head Teacher – Curriculum. Mr Matthews joins us as Head of Faculty for English and Associate SLT member. Mrs Pullen returns to us to pick up where she left off in the English Faculty. Mrs Thornton, who left the school some years ago, also returns to the English Faculty. Mr Willis joins us in our Humanities Faculty, Mr Galvez in Modern Foreign Languages and Mr Iqbal in Science. All bring with them a huge amount of experience to help us push even further on. All other key roles in the school that have been vacated have been filled internally.

At a time where there just aren't teachers out there, we have made some very impressive appointments and I feel sure all will be grateful, and embrace every opportunity they will provide in the classroom to ensure all our youngsters fulfil their potential.

We also have a number of trainee teachers with us from September in English, Science, Geography, IT and P.E. We hope all will enjoy their time with us and I am looking forward to seeing who we can appoint full time with us come next September. Securing trainees is also no mean feat and we know they will work hard and grow with us in a profession that is hard but does make a huge difference.

One week to go, and still business as usual. Nothing changes, standards remain high uniform should be reflecting our ethos and worn with pride, attendance should be 100% and attitude to learning should still be second to none. We keep going right until the very end. Lesson observations are still taking place, as is the Continuous Professional Development for staff. The attitude of *'It's OK, there's only a week left'* or *'You won't be doing much in those last few days'* just isn't true and a really poor message. That does a disservice to what we are trying to do here, educate all. And that continues right to the very end. Sunshine or no sunshine, we will still be educating until we bid all farewell on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Thank you for your continued support here and for not taking your youngsters out for a cheaper holiday. Education comes first.

Best wishes,



Mr David Wright  
**Head Teacher**