



# WOODRUSH STAR

Issue 29  
Easter 2016

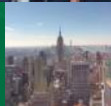


@WoodrushHigh



woodrushstar@  
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New York City 2016



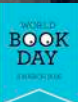
Falcade Ski Trip



The Lion King



World Book Day







## Contents

- 3 - Awards Evening
- 4-5 - ASPIRE
- 6 - Easter School
- 7 - Engineering Club
- 8 - Business Studies
- 9 - Creative Arts
- 10-11 - The Lion King
- 12-13 - Woodrush Teaching School
- 14-15 - English
- 16-17 - World Book Day
- 18 - Maths
- 19 - Science
- 20-21 - Falcade Ski Trip
- 22-24 - PE
- 26-28 - New York City
- 29 - Youth, Sport & Community
- 30-31 - RUSH Active Gym

Dear Parents and Carers,

This last term has, as usual, gone really quickly. It doesn't seem long since we returned from the Christmas break, but our students have made great progress towards their targets and have continued to have much success in their extra-curricular experiences. As the summer exams approach our KS4 and KS5 students are getting more focussed for their preparations, with mocks completed in January and March. They will also be attending our Easter school in the second week of the holidays to help them prepare further.

Well done to all our students, especially those who have taken part in extra-curricular activities this term such as world book day, number day, inter-house activities and sports relief. On that note I must say a huge well done to all our students who have raised so much for good causes over this term and, in particular, our Year 7 who have raised to date, a phenomenal £3000 through their '£1 Pound Charity Challenge'.

As usual there have been various trips over the term giving pupils a wide range of experiences with New York and the ski trip particularly notable.

This term we also received a thematic survey visit from a HMI OFSTED inspector, looking at our development of students' enterprise and employability skills. Over the course of the day she met with staff and students and observed our year 10 Enterprise day. She was thoroughly impressed with our bespoke, high impact Aspire programme and the enrichment opportunities provided for our students to prepare them for their next stages.

We wish all our students, parents, carers and staff a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing all our students back in school on Monday 11th April. From us all at Woodrush, thank you for your continued support of what we do.

Ms N Rancins





# Woodrush Awards Evening

## Celebrating Success

In December Woodrush celebrated the achievements of our Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 students at an 'Oscars' inspired Awards evening. Parents and carers of our 'Form Progress', 'Subject' and 'Whole School' Award winners were invited to join staff and governors on an evening that celebrated achievement. There were many stand-out moments from a very special night and these included a tremendous show of musical talent from Daniel T, our Key Stage 4 Music Award winner, as well as returns to the Woodrush stage for some students who had left Woodrush at the end of Year 11 or Year 13. One returner was Toni K, who received lots of applause for his worthy nomination for 'Overcoming Adversity.'



Other Award winners included Megan B who was awarded the 'Wythall Parish Council Shield for Community and Citizenship', Gemma H who was given the award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Creative Arts' and Chloe W who was named the 'Woodrush Outstanding Student' for 2014-15. Congratulations go to all our award winners from last year. At the end of the celebrations we were inspired by the story and words of our Guest Speaker for the evening, a former Woodrush student Parry Glasspool, who having pursued the rigours of a career in acting is now established as a regular cast member of the Channel 4 show, Hollyoaks.



Daniel T, who received the Key Stage 4 Award for Music, demonstrates why he was a unanimous choice for the Subject Award



### Eggstraordinary Happenings at The Coppice!

Woodrush is hatching a plan to teach our younger members of the community the birds and the bees of how we raise chickens.

We were approached by Jo Tomkinson from The Coppice who wanted the children to learn about chick development to run alongside a new science club they are introducing. As we already have all the equipment needed and the knowhow, of course we said we would be delighted to help.

3 lucky classes will have an incubator and fertile eggs to set and hatch over the next 21 days, they will learn how the mother hen tends to her eggs; turns them to prevent the embryo settling in one place; keeps them warm; and hatches out her chicks.

The chicks will stay in the classroom until ready to go off to Woodrush Community Farm to be part of the flock along with many other chickens and ducks. Not to mention Blackberry and Conker the Schools lovable pygmy goats.





## Year 8 Innovation Day

What will the world be like in 25 years time? That was the question that Year 8 were asking themselves during their ASPIRE Day in December.

The day started with inspiration from the film Back to the Future 2 where they got to see what people 25 years ago thought the world would be like today. They may not have got the flying cars right but there were plenty of other things that were spot on! In teams within their forms, students then looked at different aspects of life in the future such as transport, housing, entertainment and fashion. They had the day to develop their own ideas and the direction that these areas would take in the future before presenting to their form as well as a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who competed a score sheet. The creativity and teamwork was excellent throughout the day and we were amazed at the variety of ideas that they came up with. In the end 8L1 were triumphant winning chocolates for the form as well as valuable house points for Lanchester.



## ASPIRE Mornings - Year 10 CPR



As well as our full ASPIRE Days all students take part in ASPIRE Mornings once a half term. These sessions cover everything from Enterprise, Careers, Citizenship, Health and Well-being and Relationship Education. During our January ASPIRE Morning all of year 10 had the opportunity to learn CPR . The British Heart Foundation had given the school 35 complete training kits (including CPR mannequins) so everyone was able to practice chest compressions and mouth to mouth resuscitation. Everyone was surprised at the amount of force to have to use during chest compressions but was really pleased that they had had the opportunity to have a go. Of course we hope that no-one ever needs to use the first aid skills they learnt in this session but at least we know what to do if we find ourselves in an emergency!

If you would like to know more about the work of the British Heart Foundation and their CPR training kits please visit [www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk)

## An Inspector Calls...

This term we were visited by an Ofsted inspector who was carrying out a survey visit looking specifically at Enterprise Education and Employability Skills. Whilst this does not grade the school the information she gathered will become part of a report by the Department for Education. The Inspector looked at the work we do in ASPIRE, the way we work with local businesses and universities as well as talking to a number of staff and students. She was really impressed with the quality of work we do as well as the students that she met and described our work as embedded, innovative and alive. We were delighted with her comments and will continue to make sure that we fully equip all students for life beyond Woodrush.



## ASPIRE Mornings - Year 10 CPR

In February, the year 10 ASPIRE Day focused on Enterprise. In business teams they chose a new product to the market and developed a marketing strategy to go with it. Products included GPS collars for dogs, virtual reality roller-coasters and teeth cleaning lollies! During the day they were fortunate to hear from successful local businessman Simon Beckett about how he uses marketing and people management within his business and they were also able to get feedback from Volunteers from the company Phoenix on their plans.



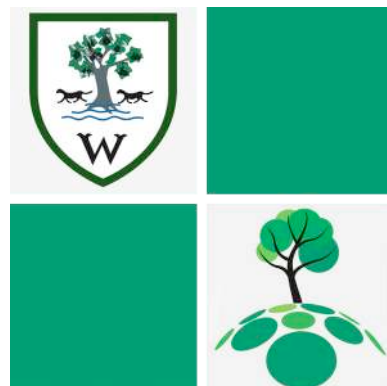
At the end of the day all teams presented their marketing plan to a member of the Senior Leadership Team and were judged on the quality of their presentation and how comprehensive and innovative their marketing plan was. There were lots of truly excellent ideas and some of the teams would not have looked out of place on Dragons' Den! In the end the winning team were very grateful to Mr Beckett, as well as Nandos for generously contributing prizes for the winning teams

## Year 11 Revision Skills and Stress Buster Day


With the summer exams fast approaching Year 11 ASPIRE time has been focused on perfect preparation for the weeks ahead. During their ASPIRE Day they heard from an expert on revision techniques and exam preparation and learnt the most effective ways to revise for their exams. They also spent time looking at the marginal gains they can make between now and their exams that might make the difference; for example: eating a healthy diet, getting enough sleep, using a variety of revision strategies and managing distractions were just some of the things they looked at to try and fine tune their performance and reduce stress levels. As we come into the home straight it is clear that year 11 have their eyes on the prize and we look forward to celebrating with them in the summer

## Year 7 £1 Charity Challenge

If you were given a pound coin to raise money for charity what would you do? That was the question put to year 7 during an ASPIRE morning. In the following weeks they took their pounds and tried to find innovative ways to raise money for the charity chosen by the school council – Cancer Research. At time of writing the money is still coming in but it's fair to say there has been some phenomenal achievements! For example; Tilly and Leah (pictured) did a sponsored walk and raised around £300, whilst Ben, Kian, Charlie and Dylan raised over £500 with a similar venture. I look forward to letting you know the final total in the summer edition of the Woodrush Star and letting you hear from the students themselves about their incredible achievement. Well done Year 7, you've done us proud!







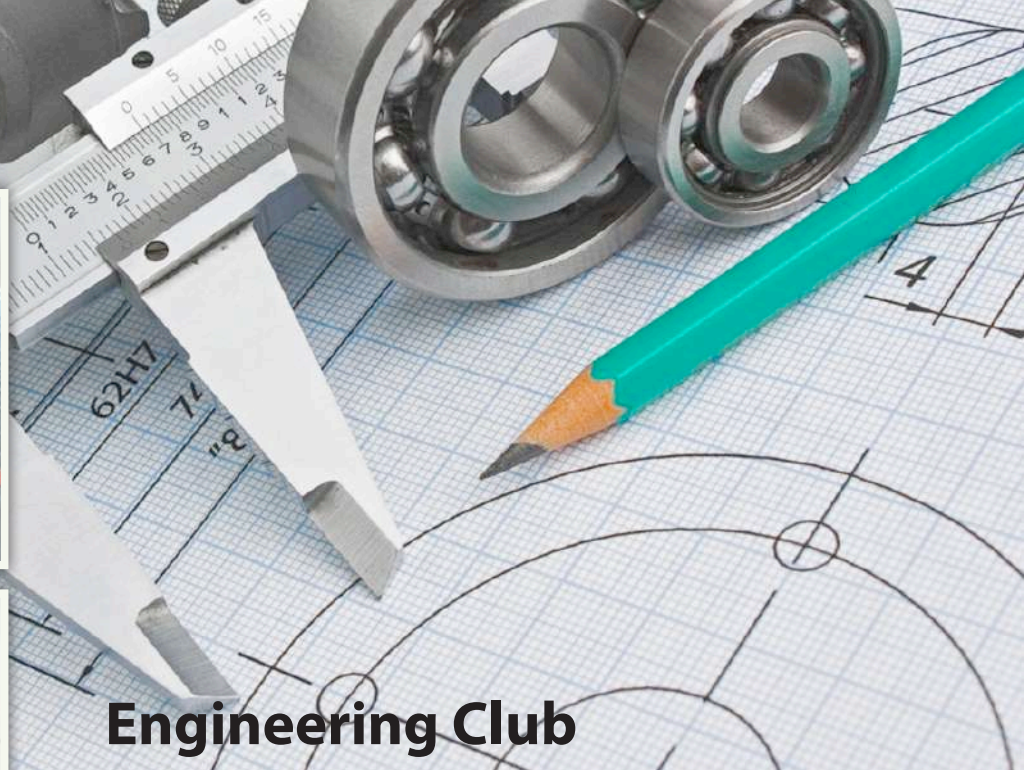
# EASTERSCHOOL 2016

6TH—8TH APRIL

SIGN UP TO REVISION SESSIONS  
THROUGH FROG

SEE LEARNING HOUSE LEADER  
FOR QUESTIONS





## Engineering Club

The engineering club after school on Wednesday afternoons is slowly but surely getting under way with Mr.Hodgetts and there are some budding mechanical engineers.

After a few sessions learning how to dismantle engines and use the appropriate tooling we progressed to learn some basics of internal combustion engines and their operation.

We are now trying our new equipment which involves a 12 ton press used to shape and deform our metal to the required shape and size.

Our other, very important, piece of equipment is the M.I.G. Welder which is necessary for the main construction of the framework. Initially the students will be practicing their welding skills so that they can start with designing a kart and hopefully build a safe running vehicle. Who knows what else we can do in the time permitted?

If anyone knows someone who would like to donate a motorcycle engine, between 100 and 200cc, we would be very grateful.

Mr Hodgetts,D & T



## *Business Studies Budding Entrepreneurs* *Keep calm and start a business*

This term our year nine business studies students have successfully pitched 'Dragons' Den' style for their share of money to take part in this year's Young Enterprise Tenner Challenge.

The challenge took place between 22nd February and 18th March 2016. Along with setting up and running their business the students had the opportunity to take part in weekly national competitions. The aim of this initiative is to enable students to develop additional skills and personal qualities to enhance their academic achievement and prepare them for further education or the world of work.

The students have thought of some impressive ideas including: selling sweets, toys, beauty products, phone cases and car washing. A major incentive for students is that they will be allowed to keep the profits they make after returning the original loan amount.

We are hoping that some students will use this opportunity to continue their business even after the challenge has ended.



Rainbow makers presenting their pitch



Louis D presenting his pitch

### **Holocaust Educational Trust Trip**

The students from our sixth form have had the opportunity this month to visit the notorious Auschwitz-Birkenau as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' experience. The first part of the trip was an orientation seminar in Birmingham where pupils had the fantastic opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor, Susan Pollock, and listen to her experiences from that terrible time. This was especially relevant as she has had recent experience of taking part in a court case against a Nazi official who worked at Auschwitz during the Second World War. The students then visited the camp on Wednesday 9th March where they saw the excellent, but tragic, exhibits at Auschwitz I before visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau where they gained an insight into the true scale of the genocide. The students were deeply moved by what they had seen and experienced on the day, and are now working towards ways of spreading the lessons they took from Auschwitz to their peers. The students have shown great maturity during what can only be described as an incredibly moving experience. They are a credit to the school.





## BTEC Ensemble Performances

Students in our BTEC Music group took to the stage at the start of term to perform to a variety of year groups in our house assemblies. Our 4 musicians played a variety of pieces including 'Rolling in the Deep' by Adele and 'Sweet Disposition' by The Temper Trap. The BTEC musicians gave a great performance despite being nervous about performing in front of so many students. Hollie S, Will S, Casie R and Sophie S worked well as an ensemble to give a series of entertaining and enjoyable performances, well done! The same students will be performing in a solo performance concert later this year and we look forward to seeing them perform again then!

CREATIVE

ARTS



## Drama Trip to see 'The 39 Steps' at Birmingham REP

On Thursday 3rd March, the year 9 GCSE Drama class, and a select number of year 11 Drama students, made their way into the city centre to experience 'The 39 Steps' at the Birmingham REP. Based on John Buchan's 1915 novel and Alfred Hitchcock's 1935 film version, this brilliantly adapted stage version did not disappoint.

The GCSE Drama course requires students to have a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of how live theatre is created and performed as well as how meaning is conveyed through characterisation, lighting, props, set design and staging. 'The 39 Steps' enables students to study this in depth. With a total of 139 character roles played by just 4 actors (3 men and a woman) in 100 minutes; 'The 39 Steps' is a melodramatic satire which requires quick changes and often has actors playing more than one character at a time.

The plot follows the adventures of the plays hero 'Richard Hannay', complete with a stiff upper lip, eccentric British personality

and pencil moustache as he flees persecution for a crime he did not commit. Along the way he encounters double-crossing agents, train crashes, a mix of weird and wonderful characters and the opportunity for a love story. The show was funny, extremely accessible, highly entertaining and left pupils leaving the theatre full of new ideas, inspiration and eager to discuss what they had experienced.

Following this trip, year 11 pupils will draw inspiration on the expert 'multi-role' techniques that were exhibited in the performance for the upcoming final assessments based on a different script 'Oh! What a Lovely War'. Year 9 pupils are now studying this play through a series of practical workshops, this will culminate in a performance by pupils in the summer term. We will revisit the topic again in year 10 and year 11 and the learning from this will eventually support part of their final written exam responses based on 'live theatre'. All of the pupils who took part in this trip were professional, enthusiastic and helped to contribute to a really successful trip. Their practical work in response to this is looking promising and I can't wait to see the results in their upcoming performances.





**Disney's The Lion King JR®** . is being performed at Woodrush High School between 28th & 30th June 2016. The musical is based on the Broadway production directed by Julie Taymor and the 1994 Disney film. Tickets will be on sale in May.

**The Lion King JR.** tells the story of the epic adventures of a curious cub named Simba as he struggles to accept the responsibilities of adulthood and his destiny as king. Along the way, the young lion encounters a colorful cast of characters including spunky lioness Nala, charismatic meerkat Timon, and loveable warthog Pumbaa. To claim his rightful place on the throne and save his beloved Pridelands, Simba must find his inner strength and confront his wicked uncle, Scar. The Lion King JR. features classic songs from the 1994 film such as "Hakuna Matata" and the Academy Award®-winning "Can You Feel the Love Tonight" as well as additional songs penned for the Broadway production.

**A note from the Woodrush production team ...**

As auditions to find the Woodrush Lion King cast took place, we were bowled over with the array of talent and enthusiasm on display. There was the usual excitement as the cast were announced. Roles cast were ...

- Rafiki – Carmen J

Mufasa – Mark B

Sarabi – Charlotte R-F

Zazu – Rosie B

Scar – Joshua T

Young Simba – Scarlett T

Simba – Aanya R

Lionesses – Carys C, Rachel P, Grace W,  
Sophie B

Young Nala – Freya T-S

Nala – Alexa K
- Sarafina – Mia B

Banzai – Pete W

Shenzi – Shanice G

Ed – Jacob T

Hyenas – James B, Keru G, Eleanor H, Molly B,  
Shola L, Eliza W

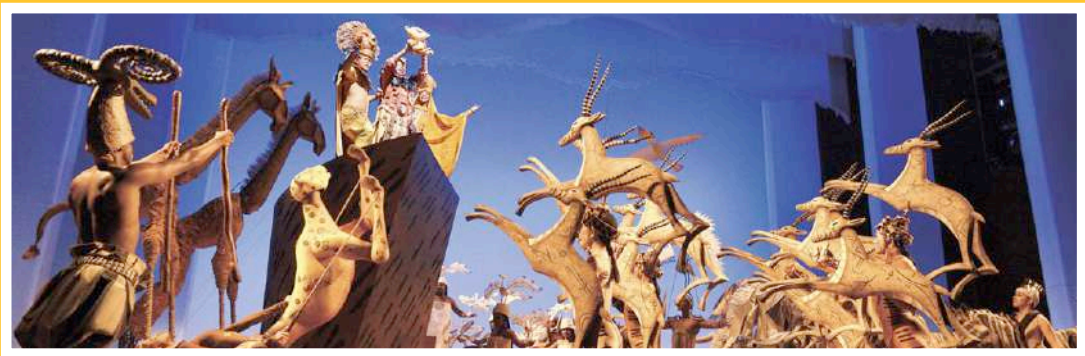
Timon – Joe R

Pumbaa – Keyra W
- Prideland Animals

Evie W, Elle H, Santina L, Lily T, Ellie H, Holly D, Courtney H, Leah H-M, Samantha R, Giulia C, Mollie L, Abbie-Lou C,  
Chloe H, Eden W, Nithusia S.

- Dancers

Sarah P, Emma S, Ellie R, Sian O, Leah T



Our first meeting as a whole cast was a script 'read-through' and a characterisation workshop. The Lion King throws up lots of exciting challenges in terms of representing the character of the animals both through dialogue and movement.

Rehearsals started in earnest in January and take place from 3 – 5 pm every Tuesday and Thursday. Rehearsals are really hard work – everyone has to be committed to attending every week, fully focused, and willing to spend time extra time learning lines and practicing the songs and movement. However the rewards are huge – it's always good fun, everyone is learning new skills, and it's great to see students making new friends and working as a team to achieve something that we can be proud of and will remember for years to come.

Rehearsals usually take the format of a vocal warm up followed by a singing workshop to learn the songs. This is followed by a physical warm up and dance workshop where we work on movement and choreography. Meanwhile, the acting is blocked scene by scene on stage.

While the cast are busy working on the performance side of things, there is a huge amount of work going on behind the scenes to ensure the show looks and sounds as professional as we can make it. We are hoping to work with UK Events Ltd, the company who provided all the amazing sound and lighting for our 2 most recent shows, Hairspray and Wizard of Oz. Costumes are being researched and designed and props starting to be sought. The BTEC art group and Arts Award group are currently very busy designing the set, along with the masks that will be worn by the actors.

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THE CREATIVE

WOODRUSH I

JUNE 28



# THE KING



DESIGNED BY  
ARTS FACULTY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
-30, 2016

As always, it'll be a huge team effort to ensure the production is of the highest quality. However, our funding is limited and this is where **we are hoping you can help us!**

## Can you support us in any of the following areas?

- Do you have or work for a company that could assist us in our production, or do you have a skill that could be of help?
- Do you feel you would like to support the production through donating a discretionary amount of money in return for advertising your company within our programmes?
- Would you be willing to donate a prize/s towards our raffle? – e.g. a meal, haircut, limo hire. In fact anything that would be a great prize!!

All money raised will go towards giving our young people the experience and skills required to create a professional production.

If you or your company can support us in anyway please contact the school directly.  
01564 823777

## The Lion King West End Trip

On the 24th February the Creative Arts faculty took 47 of our Lion King cast to watch the West End musical in anticipation of our own version of the show, which will be performed in June. Students had the opportunity to watch the show on a large scale and it truly was inspirational. From the impressive sets to the detailed masks created for each character the show was breath-taking. The acting and music in the show was superb, and the performance had everything you could hope for from a top West End show, a must see! Students were able to take away ideas for the set and costume designs along with how to play their character and move like one of the animals. Students had a great time in London and even enjoyed a pizza on the coach ride home! A fantastic day out and we cannot wait to put the show on ourselves in the summer term!



## Visit to Akamba African Heritage Centre in Solihull

Year 12 and 13 BTEC Extended Diploma in Art and Design and Arts Award students went to Akamba African Heritage Centre in Solihull to support their project work as part of the forthcoming school production of The Lion King – students were able to observe first hand an array of traditional and contemporary African artworks, photographing masks, carvings and statues. Students were also able to view the vast collection of African palms and the amazing 'Metal Zoo' – a collection of animal sculptures including giraffes, elephants, hyenas and lions. The visit will provide the BTEC Diploma students with inspiration for their set designs and prop making – giving them a real flavour of the African Savannah. The Arts Award students are planning their African Mask workshop for later in the year where they will be teaching year 6 pupils how to work with clay and other materials to create their own African inspired Art.



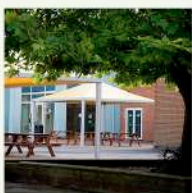
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placements in Maths,  
English, Physics,  
Chemistry, Geography  
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- What we offer:**
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  - School Experience Programme
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## Woodrush Teaching School Alliance

Visit our website for more information or contact us at:  
Woodrush High School, Shawhurst Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire, B47 5JW

[www.woodrushtsa.co.uk](http://www.woodrushtsa.co.uk)      01564 823777  
[teachingschool@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:teachingschool@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk)



# Get into Teaching

with

## Woodrush Teaching School Alliance

School experience is essential if you're interested in becoming a teacher. Before you apply for your training, you'll need to gain as much experience in the classroom as possible in order to strengthen your application and prepare you for potential interviews.

**The School Experience Programme (SEP) at Woodrush TSA has been set up to facilitate this school experience in a constructive way.**

You will need to register on the DFE Get into Teaching website  
<https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/getting-school-experience>



**Woodrush TSA will be offering a one week experience commencing Monday 20th June 2016**

However we can also offer bespoke days to suit you. Please contact us for further details



## The Great English Bake Off

This term, a group of year 7 bakers learnt how to follow a recipe to make and decorate their own cupcakes. Once their cupcakes were completed, they got to taste and review each other's scrumptious treats! This was part of a joint English and Technology project aimed at promoting literacy across the curriculum. Here is a review by one of the students, Reece S:

Woodrush baker, Josh, invited me to sample his freshly baked fairy cake, and I just couldn't say no!

My first thought when I laid eyes on the cake was that it looked like a cupcake exploding with lemon juice. It smelt a bit lemony and sweet. I didn't expect that! I thought it was just yellow food colouring that splatted on the icing. Also, it was decorated with sweet yellow liquid icing that was neat, simplified and elegant.

Eventually, I got to taste the cake. The texture was sweet, gooey, sticky and light ... but delicious and delectable. The flavour hit me like a truck. It was strong, sweet and tangy.

Overall, I would say that it was delicious and I would eat it again but I wouldn't say that it was perfect enough for a cake shop.

My score: 4/5

## Independent-Study Superstars!

Students in Miss Merry's Year 7 and 8 English classes have recently completed a six-week independent homework project designed to support their in-class learning and develop their creativity and independence outside of school. Students in Year 7 have been studying 'Crime Fiction' and were set 6 challenging tasks: ranging from researching true crime mysteries to writing their own newspaper reports. Both 7B1 and 7A3 produced some detailed and interesting projects and the quality of work overall was excellent. In Year 8 students have completed a module from the acclaimed 'Skills for Writing' course and 8AB7 focused on writing non-fiction about the natural world.

They also completed a set of 6 activities including endangered animal research and designing their own animal charity campaign posters – students were motivated and enthusiastic and produced some really creative and informative work. Students who submitted particularly outstanding projects, and who were awarded prizes for their efforts, included: Abbie F (7B1) and Soraya H (7E1) in Year 7; Bradley C (8L1), Daniel B (8E1) and Joe D (8E2) in Year 8. Well done everyone, keep up the hard work!

Miss Merry





## Meet our new Literacy Leaders!

This term, our new Literacy Leaders will start working to promote literacy around the school, as well as working hard to complete their Literacy Leader qualification. They are:

<b>Mia W</b>	<b>Simone Y</b>
<b>Sarah P</b>	<b>Faye T</b>
<b>Jake B</b>	<b>Leah H</b>
<b>Alex C</b>	<b>Joseph R</b>
<b>Abigail S</b>	<b>Heather B</b>
<b>Anastasia K</b>	<b>Esther J</b>
<b>Jacob T</b>	

They will be completing activities around the school such as teaching literacy lessons, running events and competitions, and helping to introduce everyone to the new library. Keep your eyes peeled for lots of competitions and events around school!

## Add up Book Titles

For Numbers Day, teachers in the English department wore sandwich boards with book covers showing titles with numbers in them. As a competition, students added up the numbers to get a total. Well done to the winner: Jacob

See if you can get the correct answer: simply add the numbers in these book titles (to two decimal places). The answer is at the back of The Star.

- 12 Years a Slave by Solomon Northup
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13  $\frac{3}{4}$  by Sue Townsend
- A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini
- Billionaire Boy by David Williams
- Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince by JK Rowling
- Nineteen Eighty-four by George Orwell
- Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
- Life of Pi by Yann Martel
- 12 Angry Men by Reginald Rose
- 101 Dalmatians by Dodie Smith
- Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare

## Literacy Leaders

Hello, we are the Literacy Leaders! Our job is to encourage students to think more positively about literacy and why it is important in different contexts. In the contemporary world, literacy is not only about books, it is also about newspapers, reading, and about skills needed to work with different sources of information.

At the end of February we had a competition to design the best literacy mascot to be used around school. We also planned a number of games and activities to introduce year 7 students to the new library. Look out for us around school!

Anastacia K, Year 8



As your literacy leaders, it was our job to choose a winner for the literacy mascot competition. It was a very hard decision as there were a lot phenomenal entries, but we all came together and made our choice. Because there were so many great mascots we have two runners up alongside our winner. It was a really close call between so many fantastic entries.

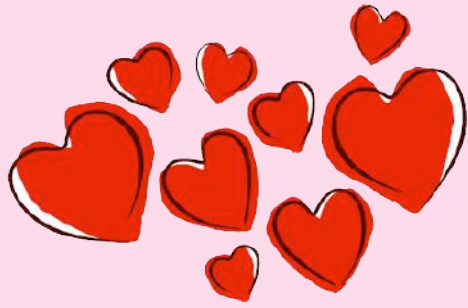
Here are the three winning mascots we chose  
In 1st place is: James W

And the two runners up are: Charlie R and Harriet M

By Isabella J







## Valentine Poem competition

Well done to the following winners:

First: Adam T - 8L1

Second: Etta T - 8B1

Third: Olivia W - 8E2

Fourth: Matthew W - 7C1

Winning poem:

Love is like a book

You look at the cover, unsure.

Then you start, quick or slow.

As time passes you start to bond,

And you become inseparable,

Then comes drama, an  
unexpected turn.

You rapidly keep continuing,

Trying to stay together.

You then try and solve the  
problem,

But it's not always easy.

You try everything in your power,

To be in love for as long as  
forever.

But in the end,

Everything, happy or sad,

Ends in love.

# WORLD BOOK DAY

3 MARCH 2016

## World Book Day

### Teachers as Characters

What do Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Dickens, Harry Potter, Where's Wally?, Alice in Wonderland, Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and Roald Dahl have in common? These were just some of the books or authors whose characters Woodrush staff dressed up as on the 3rd March to celebrate World Book Day. The best dressed character was Mr Reece who scared us all by dressing up as Marley's ghost (complete with rattling chains) from the Dickens novel 'A Christmas Carol'.

Well done to Cadbury for submitting the most entries for the house competition to guess what characters teachers were dressed up as.





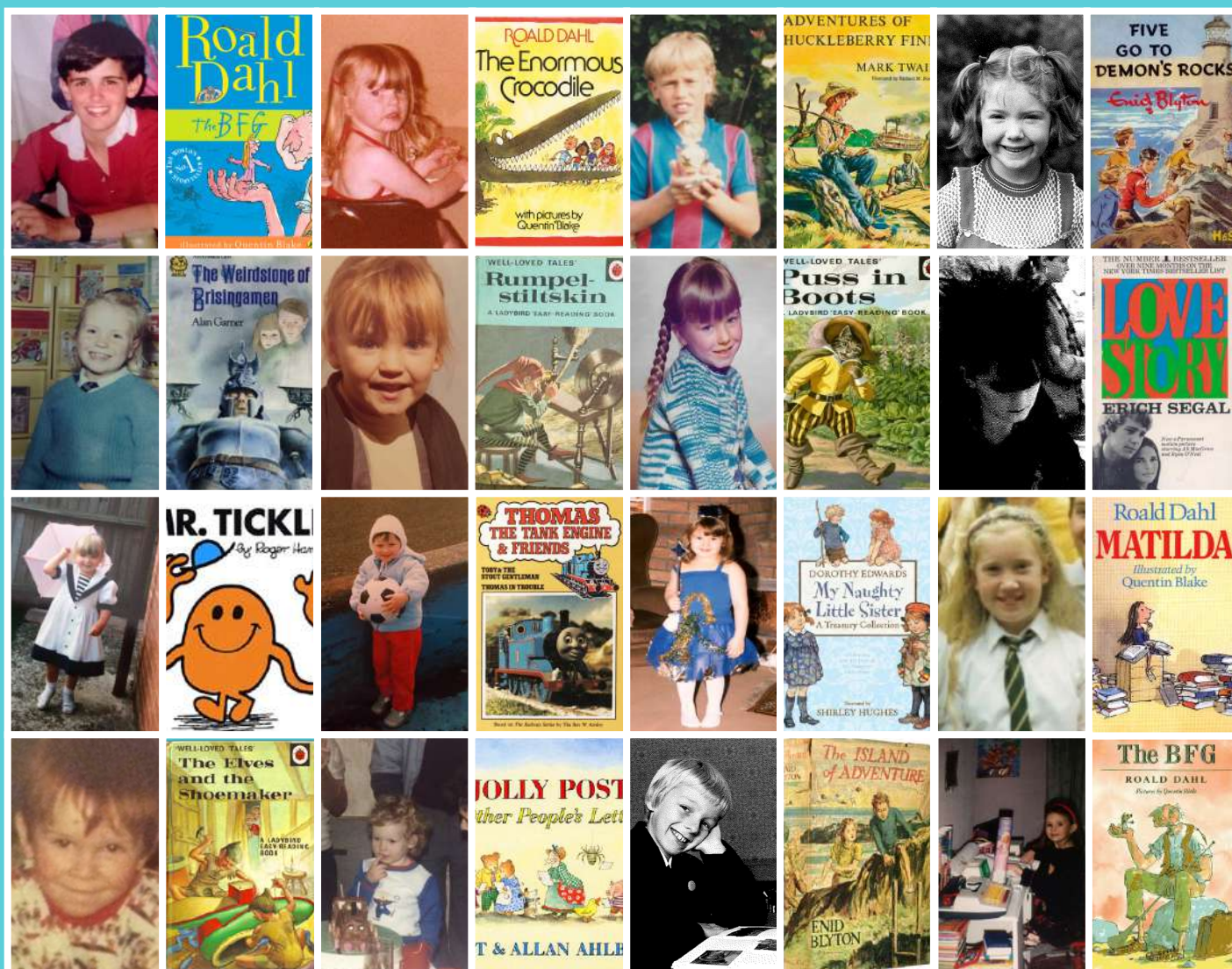
## World Book Day Quiz

House teams battled it out, answering a range of questions relating to Childhood Favourites, Books and Authors, Poetry and Poets, Myths and Legends and Books into Films. Even the audience participated in answering questions with some singing along when asked to complete a line of the lyrics to 'Hello' by Adele: Hello from the other side/ I must've called a thousand times /To tell you I'm sorry, for everything that I've done.... Know the answer? See the bottom of this article.

Well done to Brindley for winning the team rounds; each team member received a well-deserved book token. The house with the most enthusiastic audience participation and overall winner was Eliot.

## Book club Childhood Reading

Book club created a display of photographs of staff when they were younger with books that they remember reading at that stage in their life. Can you guess who's who in this selection?



Answer to the last line of Adele's song: But when I call you never seem to be at home.



On Friday 5th February Woodrush took part in Number Day. NSPCC Number Day is a fun, nationwide maths fundraising event for children and young people of all ages that helps to raise money to support the NSPCC.

In the run up to the event we held a number week. During the week emphasis was placed on the numeracy skills required in different subject areas. This really helped highlight to students the importance of numeracy not only in the curriculum but in their everyday lives. This may have been for example using scale drawing in technology or using formulae in physics.



On the day itself everybody got into the spirit by having a "Dress As Numbers" non uniform day. Students needed to come in wearing a number in some way, shape or form. The Humanities and English departments both ran quizzes based on numeracy in their subject areas. The Mathematics

department also had a competition to guess the connection between all the maths teachers. We turned out to be the triangular numbers!



At lunchtime students, from different year groups, came together to run stalls with a number theme to raise money. There was a fantastic array of ideas from the students and a real energy about the place! We saw stalls ranging from "Guess the number of sweets in the jar" to "How many times tables can you do in a minute". A special thanks needs to be extended to Mr. Thewlis who volunteered to see how many wet sponges could be thrown at him, while in the docks!

Overall the day was a huge success and really helped promote awareness about numeracy with the students at Woodrush. In addition, we raised £709.90 for the NSPCC. In the maths department we are already planning for next year!

## MathsFest 2016

In February four of our gifted year 10 mathematicians attended an event called Mathsfeast at Birmingham University. This is an exciting competition testing mathematical, communication and teamwork skills. We competed against 14 other schools from across Birmingham including grammar schools.

When we first arrived we were taken in by the splendour of The Great Hall where the event was being held. Our 4 representatives, Cameron G, Stephen B, Ben F and Will B were all geared up and feeling competitive. There were 6 different rounds involving mathematical relays, learning A level topics such as imaginary numbers and even a 'Countdown' round.

At the end of the event a certificate was awarded for a winner of each round. As the results were read out the boys felt disappointed but not surprised to hear the King Edwards schools winning every round until the results for round 6.... Woodrush was the only non-grammar school to receive a certificate and I embarrassed our team by doing a little 'woop' from my seat. The maths department are extremely proud of our team and want to say a huge well done!

Mrs Bullivant





This term the science department have started to use part of a lesson once a month to look at science in the news with year 7s. We started with looking at the very sad story of the drug trials in France that led to the death of one man and with several others left with brain damage. Pupils looked at the stages of drugs trials and some of the safety procedures that are followed and discussed comparing them to the benefits that drugs trials have on medical advancement.



This month some year 9 pupils from triple science took on the task of delivering science in the news to the year 7s and they did a fabulous job with all of the class teachers of the group they delivered to singing their praises. The year 9s took on the task of researching something that had happened in science that had made the news one lesson and then the following lesson they prepared their lesson. One group with Joe R, Shae C, Nathan M and Sam C researched the possibility of genetically engineering embryos and taught this to the year 7s in a very creative 'build a baby' lesson where the pupils could physically build a (paper) baby and choose its particular characteristics. The other group Fran W and Holly D researched the xenoturbella story about the 'sea sock' and used cards which the pupils had to sort to teach them about the story. Both groups did tremendously well and should be really proud of themselves.

Miss Hempson

### Dr Rhian Griffiths

On 7th December Dr Rhian Griffiths, a research scientist from Birmingham University visited Woodrush to talk about research and careers in science. Dr Rhian Griffiths is an ex-Woodrush student and spoke to triple scientists in year 9, 10 and 11 as well as sixth form science students.

She spoke to the students about her school career and even mentioned several past Woodrush teachers and spoke about her inspiration and motivation was following a career in science research. She explained qualifications she needed to complete and what her job involves, including how working in biochemical research has enabled her to travel to many different places, something that definitely appealed to our students.



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

### Colourful Chemistry at Aston University

On December 9th 30 year 8 pupils went to a lecture at Aston University in Birmingham titled Colourful Chemistry and it didn't disappoint in being

colourful. When we arrived we walked through the university grounds and pupils were amazed at the size of the place and the number of students walking about. We arrived at the building where the lecture was hosted and pupils were filed into a large lecture theatre with the other visiting schools, giving them a real experience of what being in a student at university is like.

The lecture was brilliantly delivered and had the pupils engaged throughout. Pupils were shown how the liquid in glowsticks is created and were amazed that 2 clear colourless solutions could make something so bright by just being mixed together. They really enjoyed seeing how different metals had different coloured flames and how reactions can be reversible showing this with colour with the solution alternating between red and colourless.

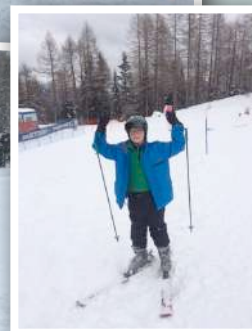
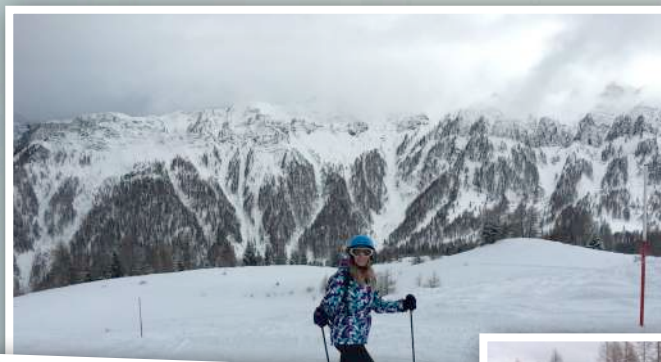
It was a great experience for the pupils and speaking to them afterwards they all enjoyed the lecture, the experience of being at a university and attending a lecture really inspired the pupils with many coming away with aspirations of going to university that they hadn't thought about before.



# Falcade Ski Trip

32 pupils and 5 staff travelled to Falcade for 6 days of skiing. Pupils made excellent progress with the majority of pupils starting the trip as beginners and ending the trip competing in a slalom race! Some advanced skiers have also been assessed as part of their PE GCSE grade. Pupils demonstrated resilience, determination, positivity and enthusiasm throughout the whole week despite the odd fall and a short bout of sickness for some! The week was thoroughly enjoyed by all (including the teachers), overleaf is a student account of the week.

Miss Ford





## Ski holiday 13/2/16 – 21/2/16

Delicious food, snow and spectacular views, what more could you ask for in your half term break? Holiday paid, hotel confirmed and spending money in our pockets, the pre-holiday banter began a week before leaving.



### Day 1: Saturday 13/2/16

We arrived at 4pm and embarked on the coach for a quick 26 hour journey to the snowy alps. The journey ran smoothly with jokes and lots of food. A quick ferry ride to Calais and we were on the road for the rest of the day, with a couple of food and toilet breaks for the driver

### Day 2: Sunday 14/2/16

After another 19 hours on the coach, travelling through Germany, Austria, Belgium and Italy and we were finally at our destination. It was about 7pm when we were all off the coach and we had enough time to unpack our bags and check no one was left behind to prepare for our first day skiing.

### Day 3: Monday 15/2/16

Whoop whoop, first day on the slopes with lots of snow to be seen. 2 hours of ski assessment with the ski politcia, where most of us discovered we were a lot worse at skiing than we anticipated. After that we were split into our groups for the week and off we went down the beginner slopes for the rest of the session. After an exhausting first day, we were treated to a night on the ice, at a local ice rink.

### Day 4: Tuesday 16/2/16

Oh my word, over 700 miles and I have come down with a nasty bug that 7 other skiers have come down with. :-(

### Day 5: Wednesday 17/2/16

Up early and feeling better after a good night's sleep and to make up for my day of sickness, this was the day that we went down some bigger steeper slopes in my group. In addition we even used a 4km ski lift to take us up an enormous mountain. Overall a great day of skiing!

### Day 6: Thursday 18/2/16

Again up early and keen to conquer the reds slopes, but to my surprise our ski instructor pointed us down to the black slopes. Down we went, swerving from side to side and next thing we knew we were in the next village, San Pellegrino. Beautiful pizzas and chips were on the menu for both lunch and dinner, what more can you ask for out of a day. By far the best day of the holiday!

### Day 7: Friday 19/2/16

Today was race day and all of the groups prepared themselves for a slalom race down one of the slopes we went down on the first day. With my best attempt I finished 6th out of my group, but no need for jealousy because another couple of hours skiing was still awaiting us.

### Day 8: Saturday 20/2/16

After all the constant skiing, my body began to scream with agony as the last day of skiing began. We headed to the highest point of the mountain and skiing right from the top to the bottom, enabling me to reach my PB of 74.3 km/h. However it was the last day of our skiing and came to an end very quickly.

Overall an absolutely amazing time on the holiday and I have already told my family that we must go sometime in the future! Even with the 26 hour coach journey and illness I still enjoyed my time on the slopes that week. But it's still safe to say I was more than happy to sleep in my own bed and have fish and chips the night I came back home.





## Achievement Awards

This year the PE department have introduced achievement awards. They will be awarded to different pupils each term. The awards are for performance, coaching and leadership, character, and knowledge.

The recipient of the performance award not only performs well in lessons. They compete in inter-house competitions and various fixtures.

The recipient of the coaching and leadership award demonstrates a passion for teaching, coaching and leading. They demonstrate skill and confidence in their knowledge of a particular sport.

The recipient of the character award demonstrates excellent character traits such as motivation and determination and they have a passion for PE and sport. They are a role model to their peers.

The recipient of the knowledge award will be a GCSE or A level pupil. They are able to adapt their theoretical knowledge in a practical sense to a good standard and they demonstrate outstanding effort.



**Performance**  
Sam F



**Coaching & Leadership**  
Vlada H



**Character**  
Hannah C



**Knowledge**  
Ross N

A huge well done to all recipients of the awards, you should be very proud of yourselves!

The recipients were awarded with certificates during the Christmas house assemblies. Could you win an award this term?!

PE Department

## SPORTS STARS

Pupils nominated for excellent sports performance this half term

KS3 Netball - Katie A  
KS4 Netball - Hannah G  
KS3 Girls' Football - Morgan B  
KS4 Girls' Football - Morgan C  
KS3 Dance - Elise G-S  
KS4 Dance - Emma S  
KS3 Football - Jacob S  
KS4 Football - Liam S  
KS3 Rugby - Ethan P  
KS4 Basketball - Will B



Each half-term, pupils can be nominated as sport stars for each extra-curricular club.

How can I become a sports star?

- Show commitment to the club-do you train hard?  
Do you train every week?
- Show that you have developed your skills within that club
- Be seen as a role model-are you a good leader?  
Do you work well in a team?

Pupils will be nominated by their PE teachers in next term's edition of the star. Good luck!

## Where are they now?! Alumnus Zoe Clarke



### Achievements;

Captained the u17s Villa team in the FA cup final vs Arsenal

Now representing Villa ladies

Will be taking a coaching qualification this year

**Do you want to be like Zoe? Keep working hard to achieve your goals!**



## Swimming

Congratulations to Alisha G who competed exceptionally well in the Sheffield swimming gala and is now ranked 1st in Scotland and 4th in Great Britain over 100m freestyle!



## Worcester Warriors come to Woodrush High School

This half term Woodrush students welcomed Matthew Jones Community/Academy Coach at the Worcester Warriors who delivered free coaching sessions to y7, 8 and 9 students.



## Leicester Tigers Trip

Despite a grim and rainy day on Saturday February 6th, a group of Year 7 and 8 students had the privilege of a day out at the Aviva Premiership game between Leicester Tigers and Sale Sharks.

In the morning students took part in a 3 hour coaching clinic whereby they got coached by several of the first team and academy coaches, focusing on handling and attacking skills. This resulted in all of our boys soaked from head to toe and coated in mud.

After the coaching sessions the Woodrush boys then got the chance to interview two first team players and asked them numerous questions, ranging from questions about being a professional sports star all the way through to diet and nutrition. The boys even managed to get a sneak peek at an England International in action in the shape of Manu Tualangi, who was at the training facility carrying out a late fitness test. This was something the boys were rightly thrilled about with many of them getting the chance to talk to the star and get items signed.



Having managed to grab a shower and some food it was then time for the group to head to Welford Road where they watched a fiercely competitive first half between Sale Sharks and the Tigers. The final icing on the cake was the opportunity for the students to have their photo taken on the pitch at half time, along with several first team players, before returning to their seats to watch the second half battle finish with the Tigers narrowly missing out on victory.

In all a fantastic day was had by all students and staff and the Woodrush students did themselves proud, not only in the coaching session in the morning but throughout the whole day.

Well done boys.





## GCSE PE - Circulatory and Respiratory systems

Year 10 GCSE pupils were asked to create 3D models of the circulatory system and the respiratory system

This is a selection of some of the finest projects.

Well done year 10!

Miss Ford and Miss James



## Gymnastics Success

**The Woodrush gymnastics team competed in the following competitions last week;**

### 1. The WMSGA Floor & Vault competition

Woodrush A Team took Silver in Under 19 category;  
Jazz, Alice, Chloe & Laura

Woodrush B Team took Silver in the Under 14 category; Amber, Poppy, Holly, Carol-Marie & Sophie C

Alice Howarth also took Silver in the Under 19 individual girls category

### 2. Milano Under 16 Trio

Woodrush A Team took Gold in Under 16 girls category  
Jazz, Alice & Chloe

Woodrush Mixed Team took Gold in Under 16 mixed category  
Amber, Holly & Ben

**Both teams have now qualified for the Milano National Championships, well done!**

### 2016 Inter-house Boys Badminton Results

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1st</b>	Eliot	Lanchester	Brindley	1st = Brindley & Lanchester	Lanchester
<b>2nd</b>	Lanchester	Eliot	Lanchester		Brindley
<b>3rd</b>	Cadbury	Brindley	Cadbury	Cadbury	Cadbury
<b>4th</b>	Brindley	Cadbury	Eliot		

### 2016 Inter-house Netball results

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1st</b>	Eliot	Brindley	Brindley	Lanchester	Lanchester
<b>2nd</b>	Cadbury	Lanchester	Cadbury	Brindley	Cadbury
<b>3rd</b>	Brindley	Eliot	Lanchester	Cadbury	Brindley
<b>4th</b>	Lanchester	Cadbury	Eliot		

### 2016 Inter-house Girls Football

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1st</b>	Cadbury	Lanchester	Brindley	Lanchester	Lanchester
<b>2nd</b>	2nd = Eliot & Lanchester	Eliot	Cadbury	Cadbury	Brindley
<b>3rd</b>	Lanchester	Brindley	Lanchester	Brindley	Cadbury
<b>4th</b>	Brindley	Cadbury	Eliot		

### 2016 Inter-house Rugby Results

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
<b>1st</b>	Lanchester	Eliot	Brindley	Cadbury	Brindley
<b>2nd</b>	Cadbury	Lanchester	Lanchester	Lanchester	
<b>3rd</b>	Eliot	3rd = Cadbury & Brindley	Eliot	Brindley	2nd = Cadbury & Lanchester
<b>4th</b>	Brindley		Cadbury		



## KS3 Football

### SHREWSBURY TOWN FC U13 TOURNAMENT

Woodrush girls played in a pool with Shrewsbury town, Crewe Alexandra and Port Vale Fc.

The tournament was of a very high standard and the girls found the football fast, tough and technical but the Woodrush spirit shone through.

The match proved to be a tough learning curve that will only benefit their development for the future.

A big thank you for Birmingham City (Guy) for inviting us to the tournament, driving us there and providing the kit for the day (They could have asked a host of schools).

A big thank you to all the girls for their impeccable behaviour and smiling faces.

**A proud Manager**  
**Mr T**



## Match report for year 7 County Cup sem- final

Year 7 boys suffered a 3-0 defeat to a very strong Walkwood team in the semi-final of the county cup on a cold winter's day at Ridgeway Academy; however the score line does not reflect how competitive this game was.

The boys battled well in the first half, going in at half time 1-0 down. Sam F had a great chance to level things in the first half only to see his shot go inches wide of the post.

Sam P controlled and organised his defence well. Cameron C put his mark on the game with several impressive attacking drives but unfortunately the Walkwood defence were impermeable. George H was a physical presence in midfield throughout the game and he often dictated the play for Woodrush. Walkwood were awarded a penalty late in the second half which Woodrush keeper Christian H saved with outstanding athleticism, unfortunately the rebound fell to feet of the Walkwood striker who slotted it into the net. Then in the last play of the game when Woodrush were on the all out attack, Walkwood caught us on the counter attack, rounding the keeper and neatly finishing the final goal of the game.

The boys fought passionately and should be proud to have progressed so far in the county cup competition in their first year at Woodrush. Well done lads.

### U13 Redditch United Schools Cup Champions

Connor D  
Jacob A  
Daniel M-W  
James C  
George C  
Jacob S  
Ben L

Gabriel H-B  
Hayden P  
Ricardo D  
Mark J  
Joel F  
Ben O  
James





# New York City 2016

During February half-term, 24 Woodrush Sixth Form students and 3 members of staff embarked upon an unforgettable trip to New York. The students were brilliant as they spent 5 days experiencing all that this incredible city has to offer. The next few pages detail everything that was covered on this once in a lifetime trip. We hope you enjoy reading about their experiences.



No trip to New York is complete without taking in the dazzling wonderment of Times Square. Times Square can best be described as an explosion of neon that lights up the New York skyline. The students spent some of their time in Times Square shopping in the famous Hershey and M&M world stores. The Disney Store also proved a hit, especially with Mr Sullivan, who spent a small fortune on Star Wars toys. During our 5 day stay we managed to visit Times Square on a number of occasions as it was the location of three of our evening meals at Hard Rock Café, Bubba Gumps and Planet Hollywood. It was also the location of our Broadway show, Jersey Boys. Our experience in Times Square is one we will never forget. If any place encapsulates how alive the city of New York is, it's Times Square.



The elevator ride to the top of the Rockefeller Center was one of a kind, with a digitalized screen on the ceiling providing a quick historical account of this iconic New York building. The journey was nothing short of amazing. During the visit, we were engaged in learning about the powerful past of the Rockefeller Center. From it being built during a time of hardship, depression and woe (which could be clearly seen in the incredible photographs hanging in the entrance to the observation deck), to the present day, where millions gather to witness the spectacular viewpoint, making you feel like you are on top of the world. Whilst at the top, we had the opportunity to capture the indescribable view and look down onto the entire, spectacular city and the Hudson River.



On our second day in the city a coach picked us up for a two hour TV and Movie tour of the city. Our guide showed us clips on the coach from famous TV and movie scenes shot in New York. After each clip was shown we stepped off the coach to see the actual locations of where these scenes were filmed. The coach dropped us off in Washington Square to take pictures of where scenes from 'I am Legend', 'Barefoot in the Park' and 'Sesame Street' were shot. We also visited the Friends apartment building and the Ghostbusters fire house. We also saw locations that were used in films such as 'The Adjustment Bureau', 'Spiderman', 'The Switch' and 'Friends with Benefits'. New York is officially the most filmed city in the world and our two hour tour showed us some of its most famously filmed locations.





## New York Food

New York. Big on buildings, bigger on food. During our stay, we dined at four of its highly popular restaurants, the first being the legendary Hard Rock Cafe. Upon entering, you get transported into the world of rock, with classic rock hits being played and an entire wall filled with famous guitars and outfits of famous musicians displayed on walls: David Bowie and Elton John being just two of many. The food was exactly what we all needed after a long days travelling. Cheeseburgers + bacon = a match made in heaven.

The second restaurant was Bubba Gump Shrimp Co, taking its name from the film 'Forrest Gump'. Being in a place renowned for its shrimp, our whole table went for just that. Salted to perfection with a dip that only made the shrimp taste even better, this seemed to be a firm favourite with everyone. Drinks like Root Beer weren't to everyone's taste, however the waiters were constantly asking if we wanted refills so they were quickly swapped for something else. With the chocolate chip cookies for dessert being devoured in a blink of an eye, we were all satiated.

Stop number three was the Stage Door Diner. A nice little place tucked away by Madison Square Garden. Italian cuisine, American cuisine, even British cuisine, they had everything; from fish and chips to burgers to spaghetti bolognese. Hanging upon the walls were pictures of celebrities that had graced the restaurant with their presence, famous faces such as film director Spike Lee and less famous faces from closer to home like X-Factor contestant Cher Lloyd adorned their walls.

Our final evening meal was at Planet Hollywood, before our Broadway show. Huge, filled with outfits of superheroes and figurines hanging from the ceiling, this was definitely the place to eat. Macaroni and cheese, penne pasta al pomodoro, burgers, again, everyone's appetite was satisfied. The place was alive with music and the atmosphere of Hollywood. A perfect end to our New York food experience.

Before we left for New York we were advised to leave plenty of room in our suitcases for all the things we were likely to buy. Gladly, we all took this advice on board. Our trip provided endless opportunities for shopping. Our first shopping experience was on Fifth Avenue and a number of purchases were made in Hollister, Abercrombie and Fitch and the Nike store. Following this, we visited the largest department store in the western hemisphere, Macy's. Covering a whole city block, the seven floors of Macy's was probably the most costly of our shopping experiences on the trip. We also visited the world renowned Bloomingdales store on Lexington Avenue. Added to this we also found time to make a few purchases on Times Square. During the trip we managed to add new meaning to the phrase 'shop till you drop'.

Broadway: the lights, the music, the glamour, the sound of 24 over-excited students getting ready to see Jersey Boys! On the Saturday night of the New York trip, it was time to visit the most famous set of theatres in the world, and to see one of the most critically acclaimed musicals of our generation. Theatres, both small and large, dotted the street as we waited in line to get inside, but it was obvious that Jersey Boys was not only one of the biggest shows on Broadway, but it was also the most popular—and once inside we could see why. The story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons was absolutely captivating, fast-paced, and exhilarating. The songs were all well-known classics, and the lead's beautiful voice had us all joining in from our seats. It was a truly magical experience, and one that I'm sure everyone will bring up on various occasions to say, "I've seen a Broadway show!"





# New York City 2016



Taking a step away from the fun elements of the trip, we had a morning to reflect upon the awful events which occurred on September 11th 2001 by visiting the 9/11 memorial site. We saw the waterfalls which now occupy the ground where the towers once stood. Surrounding the waterfalls were all the names of innocent civilians who tragically lost their lives in the travesty. Going into the museum, there were many exhibits portraying not only the frightening events, but also the determination of human spirit. It was an experience which really hit home, and touched our hearts, as numerous people wept seeing the devastation caused by these events, and the people which it had affected. An incredibly moving experience, the 9/11 memorial site and museum will long live in our memories.

By James S, Ben and Jake E

Having discovered the amazing view from the top of the Rockefeller, a view which we all thought couldn't be beaten, on the Friday night we went up the Empire State Building, which provided a breath taking and awe-inspiring view of the New York skyline. We were happy that we went at night as the lights of the city gave a different view of the city from that we had previously seen. A definite highlight of the trip and a memory we'll never get!

By Amy and Jodie



Our preferred mode of transport during our time in New York was the metro. However, on the Saturday Mr Sullivan, Mrs De-Swardt and Miss Robbins took us on a walking tour of the city. For a February in New York the weather was surprisingly mild and provided the perfect conditions for taking in some of the city's sights by foot. During our five mile walk we visited New York Public library, Grand Central Terminal, the Chrysler Building, Bryant Park, Columbus Circle, the John Lennon memorial garden in Central Park and Lexington Avenue. After this five hour expedition we returned to our hotel exhausted, but soon we were off out again into the hustle and bustle of the city to ready ourselves for the Broadway show. By boat, by metro, by coach and by foot, we managed to see all that this incredible city has to offer during our 5 day stay.

Clear skies, Central Park and a giant ice skating rink, what more could you want from a day in New York? After getting our blades on, everyone hit the ice. A train of sixth form students, and even some teachers, formed as they hung on to the sides for dear life, whilst some braved it alone and either resembled Bambi (Ben F) or Torvill and Dean! As time went on, everyone's confidence grew with some people showing their need for speed, however some really just couldn't get to grips with the concept of skating, and spent a majority of their time on the floor of the rink. However, they were quickly comforted by the New York skyline that provided a stunning backdrop to the morning's skating. Overall, everybody thoroughly enjoyed this amazing experience, something we will never forget and now we can all tick it off our bucket lists.

By Lauren, Rachel and Emily



On our final day, we went on the Circle Line Cruise around Manhattan. The two hour boat trip consisted of sights such as the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island, New Jersey, Brooklyn and much more. This allowed us to experience New York from a different perspective. We were surrounded by utter tranquillity, which was a noticeable difference from being on the busy streets of New York for the previous four days. Being on the boat enabled us to see a great view of Manhattan, we were even able to see buildings such as the Freedom Tower, Empire State and Chrysler building from a distance. This also allowed us to have the opportunity to take lots of photos and will definitely be an experience I'm sure we will never forget.

By Emma and Alicia



## Sensory Garden

Over the next few months we will begin to develop the sensory garden, which will be located at the rear of the Hub. During the spring the ground will be levelled and seeded. We will use the money we have raised to put in paths, benches, aviaries and other features. The bench designed and developed through the book bench project will also be located in the garden for all students and the local community to enjoy.

What is our youth leader like? A trip to Wythall Park and she secures wooden animals and a children roundabout (which she says we can paint and use as seating). So with the help of Miss Hill and others they have landed in the garden ready for us to paint and secure into the ground. Thank you Wythall Park!

Miss Hill has also been busy hatching birds ready to put in the new aviaries on order (watch this space)! The Work skills young people will be undertaking on the building of the aviaries and new shed as part of their work experience project.

Anyone wishing to help with this project should contact Kay Parker (01564820098) or a member of the Youth Management Team.



## Youth, Sport & Community

### Moving to the new Youth and Community Centre

Over the past three years we have been fundraising, and with Faye's help, securing bids to furnish our new youth centre.

It was sad when we started to move to the new centre because we had so many lovely memories of the years we spent at the old centre.

On the 29th February 2016 we opened for the first time at the Hub! We wondered if the young people would like the new centre. We needn't have worried, they not only liked it, they loved it. The atmosphere is fantastic with lots of smiley faces and positive comments.

Now we look forward to new projects in our new centre so in years to come we can look back on memories we have made in our new home.

We thought it would be nice to take one of the sofas from the old centre. So along with the old sofa we decided that we better take these two as they have been part of the fixture and fittings for over thirty years!!!

### Film Night Disco

Our last disco in the old youth centre had a fancy dress theme "film night". All the staff and some of the management/youth committee dressed up. Kay dressed up as Mary Poppins but looked more like Nanny McFee (only joking she didn't have the warts!!!). It was a great night, enjoyed by all and a lovely memory to take with us to the new centre.



### School Library Moves to the Hub

The school library has now settled into its new location in the Hub and is open to students at break, lunchtime and after school. Accelerated Reading classes are taking advantage of the light, open space; this is a great place for reading in a relaxed environment and our young people are looking forward to having a greater number of books available to them when the public library joins us in the near future.



### Lending an Ear: a Sound Map for Worcestershire Libraries

In anticipation of the integrated school/public library partnership, a small group of our students were chosen to work with a theatre, audio and TV drama production company, on an exciting project to create sound bites for each library in the county of Worcestershire. We were delighted to have ex-Woodrush student and former Young Worcestershire Poet Laureate, Laura Dedicoat, to lead a poetry work shop based the group's experiences of living in Wythall.

It was an extremely enjoyable afternoon, involving random written and verbal exercises to get the creative juices flowing. Everyone took the opportunity to contribute their ideas for the final poem. We are excited to hear the end result, which will be an amalgamation of the whole group's work, created and performed by Laura and including sound clips recorded on the day. When the workshop was over the group persuaded Laura to perform some of her poems. Ben spoke for all of us when he made a spontaneous and touching speech thanking Laura for the inspiration she had given us.



Care  
for the  
Family

### Positive Parenting Courses – now taking bookings.

This term two of our youth workers have successfully completed training to become positive parenting facilitators.

This now means the school is now in a position to offer workshops to parents using Positive Parenting material. We hope to do this in a welcoming environment, where parents can share experiences of good practice and perhaps where things can go wrong be given encouragement to try new things.

If any parent is interested in attending any of these sessions or if you wish to find out more you can contact Kay Parker and Sue Bromwich-lee on 01564820098 or at [kparker@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:kparker@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk)

The workshops available are:

- Time out for parents, the teenage years
- Handling anger in the home

Also in September we will be delivering

Parenting for children with special educational needs.





Join now  
or book  
a visit!

New space.  
New gym.  
New you.

Monthly  
membership  
starts from just

**£18.50\***



Gym • Studio • Cafe • Library • Conferencing

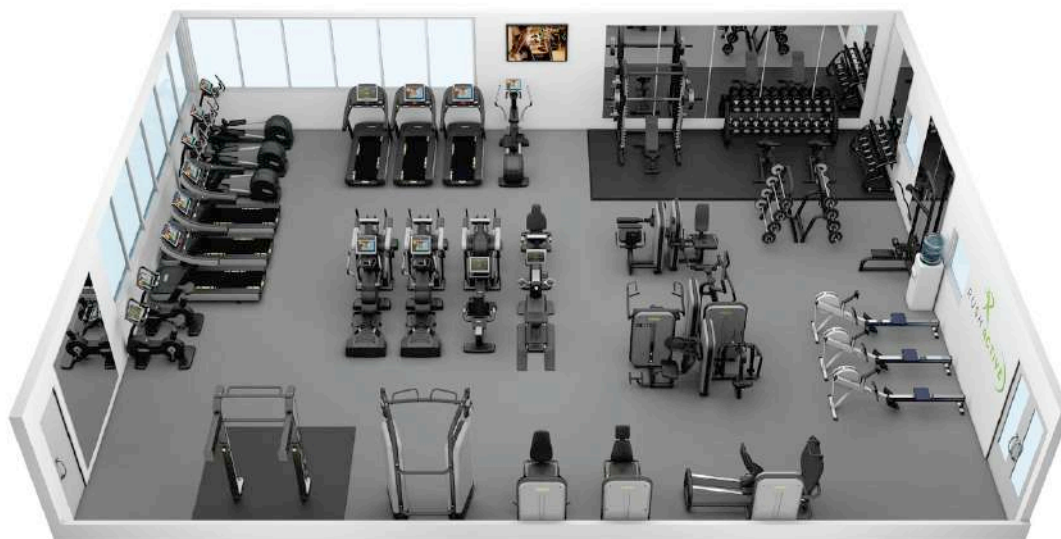


# Take the first step to a fitter you at RUSH Active

Woodrush Community Hub, Sport & Leisure Centre is the perfect place to meet up, have fun, spend time with family, challenge your friends, get fit and hit your health goals – all within our stunning new building opening in **April** 2016.

**\*Monthly membership starts from just £18.50** and includes; **Les Mills** classes in the studio, and full use of the stunning new **Technogym** kit – each member gets a personal 6 week programme, and our Personal Trainers can take you to the next level with training packages designed just for you.

Afterwards, unwind and relax in our onsite Hub Café and Library – also perfect for spending time with family and friends!



The cardio equipment features UNITY touch screens so you can swipe and tap through workout programmes, video guides and apps to help you meet your goals.

Call us now for membership options.

**Telephone: 01564 820099**

## Gym Opening Times:

Monday – Friday 6:30am - 10:00pm

Saturday – 8:30am - 5:30pm

Sunday - 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

[woodrushcommunityhub.co.uk](http://woodrushcommunityhub.co.uk)

Woodrush Sports Centre  
Shawhurst Lane, Hollywood B47 5JW



**LES MILLS**



In partnership  
**Bromsgrove**  
District Council  
[www.bromsgrove.gov.uk](http://www.bromsgrove.gov.uk)





## Gym Memberships

All Gym Memberships include Les Mills Fitness Classes

OPTIONS	PRICE
<b>Day Pass</b>	<b>£7.50</b>
<b>12 Month</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>Joining Fee</b>	
<b>Standard Full (Peak Anytime)</b>	<b>£21.00</b>
<b>Off Peak (Mon-Fri 10:00am-3:00pm)</b>	<b>£18.50</b>
<b>Monthly</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>Joining Fee</b>	
<b>Standard Full (Peak Anytime)</b>	<b>£26.00</b>
<b>Annual Pay Upfront</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>Joining Fee</b>	
<b>Standard Full (Peak Anytime)</b>	<b>£250.00</b>
<b>Off Peak (Mon-Fri 10:00am-3:00pm)</b>	<b>£220.00</b>
<b>Woodrush Staff and Sixth Form Discount</b>	<b>£15.00</b>
<b>Joining Fee</b>	
<b>12 Month</b>	<b>£16.50</b>
<b>Annual Pay Upfront</b>	<b>£198.00</b>

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We often use pictures, names and videos of students for publicity purposes in our weekly Friday newsletter 'The Woodrush Branch', and our magazine the Woodrush Star, we like to acknowledge and celebrate our students' achievements, resulting in photos and names of students being printed. If you would prefer your child's name/image not to be used for such purposes, please contact the school and the necessary arrangements will be made.

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