

WOODRUSH STAR

NEWS & VIEWS FROM WOODRUSH



Merry Christmas!

Pudsey Day

Adventure of a Lifetime

Brindley Reward Day

Interfaith, Philosophy and Ethics trip

An Interview with Mr Cannon

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McNab Star

Finding your vocation



WOODRUSH STAR



Dear Parents and Carers...

I am delighted to say that we have had another excellent term here at Woodrush, our students have worked extremely hard since their return in September and we are really pleased with the progress they have made.

Those students in upper school and the sixth form are particularly busy in preparation for examinations, some of which have and are taking place either side of the Christmas holidays and we wish them all the best with their studies and preparation. With over 80% of last year's students gaining top A*-C grades in English and Maths and with 100% gaining 5 or more A*-C grades our current students are working hard to ensure that they too work towards gaining more record breaking results in the summers examinations. Equally our 6th formers are again looking forward to applications to top universities across the country to further continue their studies.

Students have been involved in a huge number of trips and visits this term and have contributed fantastically well to fund raising events for a number of good causes including the Poppy Appeal and Children In Need. The main school supported and led by the 6th form has made a huge contribution to good causes this term something for which our students should be very proud off.

Our students have worked hard right up to the end of term and again we thank you as parents and carers for your support in what we do and our staff for their work in ensuring our students make the progress they do.

From us all at Woodrush, we wish you a great Christmas holiday, enjoy reading our latest 'Star' and finding out more about what our students have been up to this term, and we look forward to seeing all our students back on the first day of the spring term on Tuesday 8th January 2013.

Happy Christmas & New Year
Mr C King

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Woodrush App now available!

If you have a smartphone you can now download the Woodrush App. It has the latest news as well as important dates for your diary. Search the App stores for 'Woodrush' now!

Pay online... for peace of mind



A convenient way to pay

Parents can now book and pay securely online for a range of items using a debit/credit card. Paying online gives you the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your money has reached the school safely and is used for its intended purpose.

Making payments is easy

- Log on to the school website and follow the link.
- You should already have your user name and password but if not contact the school at parentpay@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk
- Full instructions on how to pay for school meals and school trips are available on the website
- No need to worry about your child losing money at school
- See a record of what your child is purchasing for lunch
- Log on as see what school trips are available to your child

**"No more having to look for change or writing cheques."
It's so easy now**



ParentPay



My name is Miss Price and I am the new Learning Co-ordinator and Head of House for Brindley! I have come to Woodrush after working in a school in Solihull.

What you will find most interesting about me is that I was once a Woodrush pupil myself. I loved every minute of it (when I wasn't busy revising and doing coursework of course!). So I have lots of funny stories and memories I can share with you all! After leaving Woodrush I studied at Solihull College and after at Newman University. During this time I spent some time at Woodrush, volunteering in the Learning Support Centre and the Youth Centre.

Currently, I am enjoying spending most of my spare time planning my wedding (exciting!) and I also enjoy going to the gym and spending time with my friends.

I know I've got some very special boots to fill, with Miss Ashman now Sixth Form Head of House and Mrs Reeves living the dream in New Zealand! (Jealous) Although I'll never replace them, I'll try my very best to be just as good!

I look forward to getting to know you all and helping to keep Brindley at the top!!

Movember

The 'Mo', slang for moustache, and November come together each year for Movember. Each Movember, the organisation challenges men, including some of Woodrush's male staff, to change their appearance and the face of men's health by growing a moustache.

The moustache is their ribbon; much like the pink ribbon which represents breast cancer support. The 'tashes are the men's more personal way in which they raise awareness and funds for prostate cancer. Mr T. tells The Woodrush Star, "Much like the commitment to run or walk for charity, our commitment is to grow a moustache for 30 days."

The idea for Movember was sparked in 2003 in Melbourne, Australia. The plan was simple – to bring the moustache back as a bit of a joke (no offense intended if you wear a moustache with pride throughout the year, as I'm sure it suits you), and support men's health. Inspired by the women around them and all they had done for breast cancer, the Mo Bros set themselves on a course to create a global men's health movement. The Movember moustache has grown year on year since then, expanding to the US, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, Spain, South Africa, The Netherlands, Finland and the UK. In 2009, global participation

of Movember grew to over one million donors, raising £26 Million!

The funds raised through Movember's UK campaign benefit the The Prostate Cancer Charity (TPCC), the UK's leading prostate cancer charity. The fantastically stubbly effort by participants Mr T Baker, our science technician, Mr Thewlis and Mr Mitchell will surely raise a substantial amount to add to the overall funds.

Guess the Mo? COMPETITION

Find out the answers on page 8!



We say our fond farewells to:

Mr Bennett has been with us for just over 12 months and will be greatly missed, but is off on his travels to Australia where he will continue teaching PE whilst travelling and enjoying the great weather! Mr Bennett said "I have had a great time here at Woodrush and wish all pupils and staff the very best for the future."

Mrs Parmar has gained a promotion and secured a position with Groby Community College in Leicester as their new Curriculum Leader of Mathematics. We wish her a fond farewell and all the best for the future.

Miss Shirley is to be cover supervisor at a local school, Dame Elizabeth Cadbury College. "I'm both excited and sad. Over the

last five years I have had the opportunity to work with some great students and very talented members of staff. I'd like this chance to say thank you to you all and wish you the best for the future."

Ms Dommart has been covering maternity leave for Mrs Stafford and is now off to Arden School in Knowle where she will teach Spanish and French. Mrs Dommart said she will be very sad to leave us. "I have had a great time at Woodrush. I will miss all my sets as there are some great little linguists in there!"

We wish you all the very best for your future. Woodrush also welcome the new staff joining us in January.

Gorgeous Baby Girls

Ava Jude Dawson was born on 11th October (her due date) weighing a healthy 6lb 12oz and is already supporting Mrs Dawson's Brindley house colours!



Mrs Holtam-Brown gave birth to Betsy-Belle on 17th October weighing a very healthy 8lb 5oz.

Congratulations to both families from us all at Woodrush. Enjoy your time off as new Mums.



Very sad news

On Friday the 16th of November Woodrush received the sad news that Mark Cox a former teacher and youth worker had passed away. This was very shocking news. Mark had worked at Woodrush academy and at the youth centre, being an important part of the Woodrush community for many years.

The Youth centre youth committee are now taking the lead in the organisation of tributes to Mark and will be consulting with students, teachers and youth workers to decide how the school would like to remember him.

If you would like more information you can contact members of the youth committee through Scott Paxton at the youth centre on: **01564 820098** Scott Paxton, Work skills tutor and Youth worker, Woodrush Academy





FROG IS COMING SOON!

After Christmas you will be introduced to Frog, our new Virtual Learning Environment. Frog will contain information and resources to support you outside of school hours including help with revising for assessments and exams. But Frog is much more than a resource bank! You will be able to;

- Create your own profile page
- Connect with your friends
- Update your status
- Vote in polls and enter competitions
- Join groups for trip and clubs to keep up to date with the latest news

Frog is going to be an exciting step forward for our school using the very latest learning technology so watch out for the information and Frogs appearing around school after Christmas!

Text Messaging Service

Now available at Woodrush High School

A text message was sent to all parents/carers on Friday 23rd November welcoming you to the text messaging service. If you didn't get a text it will mean that we do not have the correct mobile number for your child. Please contact the school so we can get the information updated.

Imagine being able to keep parents fully up to date with everything relating to their child's school life, from notifying them of Open Evening dates to unexpected school closures.

Text messaging will enable us to update parents/carers on matters relating to relevant school information.

Key benefits

- Keep parents in the loop in an instant
- Send SMS and email messages relating to a student's behaviour, awards for achievement, parents evening reminders, late school trip returns – the list is endless.
- Unauthorised absences - Alert parents when students do not have a present mark and we have not received a call.
- Snow Days - Alerting parents when the school is closed due to inclement weather.

Woodrush Students Trade Places with Fire Fighters & Police

On Thursday 25th October and Friday 26th October a few Birmingham students, including three from Woodrush, took part in Trading Places with Safer Travel Police Team and West Midlands Fire Service

The young people who attend six Birmingham Youth Service projects in the south of the city got a once-in-a-lifetime chance to trade places with members of the emergency services, thanks to a unique initiative set up by the Safer Travel Police Team.

A total of 45 young people aged between 13 and 16, spent two days with officers from the Safer Travel Police Team and West Midlands Fire Service staff. Day one took place at the West Midlands Fire Academy where those involved received education about arson and how the fire service deals with people trapped in road traffic accidents.

On day two, the group were given a briefing about Public Order policing by retired Sgt John Caisley before putting on the riot gear and trading places with the officers to play out a number of different scenarios officers might face when policing events involving large crowds. The police and fire officers traded places with the youngsters and played the part of youths during these staged events.

Liz Wood, outreach youth worker, said 'Birmingham Youth Service is thrilled to be involved in this project. It's a positive and innovative way to educate young people about the roles of the emergency services. This is an excellent piece of partnership work between Birmingham Youth Service, the Safer Travel Police Team and West Midlands Fire Service'.



Trading Places Experience

I have recently taken part in an activity called Trading Places with my youth club. Trading Places is an experience of working with the police and fire-fighters over two days.

I would recommend you to do this if you ever get the chance; taking part in the fire-fighting part of the two days was amazing it takes your breath a way it was so good!

The other activity was spent with the police. I would not think I would ever say this but their jobs are amazing. Kids our age would not think the police are really needed, and I did used to think that too, however now I have seen how they have to deal with rioters they do their job for a very good reason.

Any way when we were in the hospital we had 5 scenarios; there was violent suspect, trapped officer, where's the fire, find the bombs in the top of the building and the troublesome family. It was great as they acted like real rioters and were a really strong force to be dealing with. The police had flash bangs that would explode and they were so loud it was deafening. If you had been given this chance to experience all of this then you would not change what the emergency services do for the world, it was truly amazing!

By Nathan C 9C1

Brindley Reward Day

For those of you who don't know, Brindley is the best house; don't try and argue with me because I didn't see any Lanchester or Cadbury students at Drayton Manor on 26th October. Need any more proof that Brindley are the best house? Thought not!

Well, I can tell you everyone who was going to Drayton Manor was buzzing with excitement the week leading up to it - I know my form was (8B1-The Best House). It seemed like we had been waiting for hours for the coach to arrive- we knew that when we were on the coach we were one step closer to... DRAYTON MANOR!!

When we got off the coach, we ran to get our tickets- it was like Mr T was handing out bars of gold! Bars of gold, or no bars of gold we still treated our tickets like the most valuable things on Earth!

The first ride I went on was the Pirate Ship and I have never been so high in all my life!! Why? Because I like my feet to stay firmly on the ground! On the Pirate Ship I sat next to my friend Lewis and I think we were both as equally frightened as each other! Up, down, up a bit higher, down, up higher, down, up even more higher until...I couldn't cope and closed my eyes! And every time I did open my eyes, I was looking straight down at the water! Bad timing or what?!

Once the ride was over, both me and Lewis looked at each other and had tears in our eyes- tears of laughter because throughout the entire ride a kid kept turning around and saying "Are you ok?" At least someone cared!

But what was the most

"scary" was the 'Haunted House'! However the tensest part of the 'Haunted House' experience was... queuing and waiting to go in! One sign said "20 minutes waiting from this point" but we had been waiting for 20 minutes before we'd reached that point! Anyway we- Me, Sophie, Charlie, Ryan, Taylor, Elouise, Carla, Bethany and Stephanie- made our own entertainment (taking silly pictures, climbing on the wall and general messing about!). When we got into the "Haunted House" I was a nervous wreck because knowing my luck something would've jumped out at me! Instead, lights went out in corridors, there was a freaky looking man behind a painting, floors were moving and to top it all off the room was "spinning" at the end.

After recovering from a traumatic trip into a haunted house, getting soaking wet (4 times!) and nearly dying on the Pirate Ship, it was time to call it a day. But it's not a school trip without someone being sick on the way home! I won't mention any names but I'm glad they eventually felt better. But without everyone in Brindley this day wouldn't have even happened so WELL DONE EVERYONE IN BRINDLEY!!!! And thanks to all the staff that helped us win - and for taking us to Drayton Manor!

P.S Better luck next year Cadbury and Lanchester!
By Jamie 8B1



Whats new in PSHE?

Your personal health, social life & Economic Wellbeing column

Woodrush High School have been getting really stuck into PSHE this year, recently we have had awards handed out in assemblies to the some students. Bronze award went to Holly Maurbery with her fantastic article about internet safety whilst talking to strangers. One of her quotes were "its good not to reply to strangers at all, but if you do without thinking leave it at that or things could get dangerous ...just walk away" excellent advice there. Now moving onto out silver award winner, Laura Calvert from 7C2, also some excellent work off of her. Finally our Gold winners Abby Young and also Alex Rasianos from 7L2.

Well done to Noemi Takebayashi in 8L2 for her amazing Drugs awareness poster- GOLD AWARD

By Charley E



Economic Education & Financial Advice Club

Every Wednesday Lunchtimes and 3.00pm - 3.40pm

"Have you ever had a bit of money that you want to save, then maybe buy them shoes you've been wanting? Well why you don't open a bank account! It's simple and easy to do! Here's how..."

Woodrush High School & PSHE are offering you financial Tips and advice on opening accounts. The club will take place on Wednesday lunch time, but also after school

3:00pm-3:40pm

By Ellie B

Woodrush High School ICT 2

Personal Finance Tips

HSBC bank will be available to support you once a month in:

- Financial management
- Savings
- Opening accounts
- Economic education

Please See Mr Kay for further details



Finding your vocation

As some of you may be aware Mr Mitchell now oversees our students that follow an alternative curriculum.

10 students have made great progress on their courses towards their respective qualifications and most of all, they are really enjoying their practical studies.

For all those on vocational courses - keep up the good work!"



During a recent interview, Mr Mitchell said, "At first I was a little daunted taking over from Mr Nelson who had always done such a wonderful job. With his guidance I soon found my feet and this September was my first crop of year 10 students that I was sending to their placements. The process starts well before September as we start identifying students that would be suitable for college courses in the first term of Year 9 and through the options process. Once we have an idea of how many students want to go and what courses they want we begin the process of matching students to placements. In the current economic climate there has been a reduction in placements available as other schools have made cut backs so certain courses have been stopped. Here at Woodrush we see real value in making sure that students that would benefit from and enjoy a vocational course are found a place.

Currently in Year 10 we have 12 students on vocational courses in motor vehicle maintenance, construction and hair & beauty studies. Despite our regular animal care course being stopped by the provider we have managed to place a student at a local animal rescue trust. So far all of our year



HART

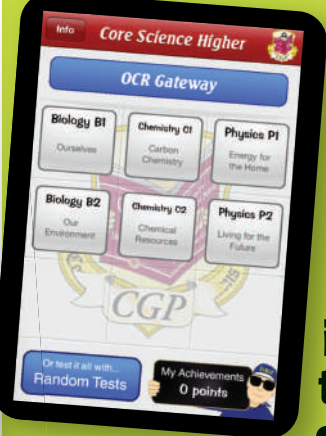
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Got an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad?

You can now do Science revision on the go!

CGP (the company we order our revision guides from) have created an app for iPhones that covers all of GCSE Core Science. It costs £1.49 from the App Store. Just search for OCR Gateway Science.

If you are doing Core Science in Year 10, this is perfect for you. Additional Science and Triple Science Apps for Years 10 and 11 are going to be made available very soon.

Let your Science teacher know what you think!



Science Revision

Here is some useful information about how you can revise for your up and coming Science examinations.

If you are in Year 10 or 11 studying GCSE Science you will be following one of the following courses. Check with your Science teacher if you are unsure.

Year 10: Core Science -
24th January

Year 11: Additional Science
Higher Tier – 22nd January

Year 11: Additional Science
Foundation Tier – 22nd January

Year 10 Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
– no exams in January

Year 11: Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
– no exams in January unless you are resitting one from last year.

All students have been given the opportunity to purchase a revision guide through school but here are the details if you have missed out.

OCR Gateway Additional Science Foundation Revision Guide
ISBN Number: 978-1847627537

OCR Gateway Additional Science

Higher Revision Guide

ISBN Number: 978-1847627568

OCR Gateway Core Science Higher Revision Guide

ISBN Number 978-1841467139

The BBC Bitesize website also has useful revision activities on it. But do make sure you are looking at the correct course! **Only ever look at OCR Gateway revision pages.**

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/science

Using Apps on an iPhone, iPod touch or iPad

An exciting development in learning technology this year has meant specific revision Apps are available on the App store.

See below how to download. They cost £1.49 each!

- 1: Search for the course (Additional Science, Core Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics) in the App store and download the CGP App
- 2: Select the OCR Gateway Course
- 3: Revise the units you want!



Don't wait until it's too late!

With regular sittings of exams in November, January, March, May and June not to mention controlled assessments, progress tests and speaking & listening assessments it's never too early to start your SAMlearning journey.

SAMlearning is an online revision and exam preparation service that is proven to raise student attainment but it's so much more than that. SAMlearning helps students consolidate their learning in class and gives clear step by step guidance across a wide range of topics. Subjects from Art to Technology are covered as well as the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. All levels are catered for in KS2, KS3 and GCSE's.

SAM stands for Self Assessment Method, meaning students work and efforts are marked for them whether it is drag and drop exercises or typed work.

Each student has an individual logon so they can track their progress and improvement regularly. You can see what you have done, what you need to do and the topics that need recapping.

Woodrush are launching a SAMlearning competition across the three houses. At the end of every half term we will award house points for the House with the most hours completed and the most people who logged in. There will also be merits for students that excel on SAMlearning.

So don't delay, log in today.

SAM Learning | Online study with proven results.

Parents/carers: For more details on how to monitor students' progress on SAMlearning or any other help please contact your Learning Co-ordinator.

To login to SAMlearning:

- Centre ID based on start of school postcode & initials – B47WH
- User ID and Password are initially the same and based on students' date of birth and initials.. for example a student born on the 30th November 1996 called John Evans, their User ID and Password would be 301196JE

Poppy Appeal 2012

At the beginning of November Woodrush was asked to help sell poppies for the Royal British Legion.

This is an annual event which the school has always supported and the money we raise is vital in helping with the welfare of our armed forces. In 2011 we raised the sum of £140 through our sales of poppies and this was a record amount for our school. This year the British Legion also included in our poppy boxes, bags of wristbands for students to purchase and our collection boxes were quite heavy by the

time we got to Remembrance Sunday. At the time of going to print we hadn't been informed of the amount we had raised but we hope to have equalled last year's effort. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event.



Other Charity News...

With some of the money we raise from the big Charity days we have in school we are able to put money aside to help other charitable causes during the School year. The following are some of the recent events we have been able to help:



Woodrush was asked to help the Acorn's Hospice again this year by sponsoring space in a programme for a special Male Voice Choir Concert. Our sponsored space sent a message of support for all the hard work that the Acorn Hospice does in its work with children. We donated £180 towards the Charity.



Woodrush High School

Shawhurst Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire B47 5JW
01564 823777 • www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

An Academy for 11-18 year olds

Many thanks for all the work done at Acorns Children's Hospice from all the students and staff

Guess the Mo? Answers!



A



B



C



Pudsey Day



On the 16th of November 2012 everyone was so excited because it was Pudsey day. There were lots of funny and amazing Activates to play like where are the Wally's and sponge a 6th former. Along with this everyone joined in and wore funny outfits like, the Grinch, Minnie

On Friday 16th November the students of Woodrush had a non-uniform day in order to collect money for Children in Need appeal. In the week leading up to the day the Charity Committee sold Pudsey Bear Key rings and also Children in Need wrist bands and collected £140.

Some of the Year 8 and Year 11 girls on the Committee also made a selection of cakes to sell on Children in Need day, and Emily and Hollie made Pudsey Bear cakes which were raffled off. The Cake sale was very successful and £156 was made on the day.

Students in 7L2 really wanted to raise money for Children In Need. They had many ideas but they decided to run 'How many sweets in the Jar' and 'where's Pudsey'. In Form there was a 'pin the tail on Pudsey' and total the Form managed to raise just over £10. Well Done to Zoe B, Jaime, Jess and Carmen.

The Sixth Form also got into the spirit of the day and came in fancy dress as part of the "Where's Wally" theme. They also raised money by doing a "Soak a Sixth Former" event. Students paid for wet sponges to throw at the Sixth Formers.

The Humanities Department also got into the Children In Need spirit and decided that they would come dressed as people that were related to their subject. Mr Moss was Sigmund Freud, Ms Graham and Mrs Hatton were 1920's flappers, Mr Cooper was a gangster, Miss Kaur and Miss Williams were medieval ladies.

A great time was had by all and as a result Woodrush students raised £1400 in total. A big thank you to everyone who made a contribution to Children in Need.



Mouse, a Whoopi cushion and much much more. Along with Pudsey day there was a cross-country run 4th period and I think they all did amazingly. So thank you to the P.E. department, who made it possible and well done to the people who joined in.

In addition to this the history teachers looked amazing so thank you to Ms Graham, Mrs Hatton, Miss Williams and Mrs Michelle for being so enthusiastic and raising money for Pudsey day. We all had an amazing time and thank you to all the people who contributed to such an amazing charity.

Reported by Rosella 8B1



The Sixth Form get ready to take a big bite out of the big apple!

Woodrush Sixth Form is excited to announce the launch of its new annual trip. In just a few weeks a number of Sixth Formers will be heading to New York.

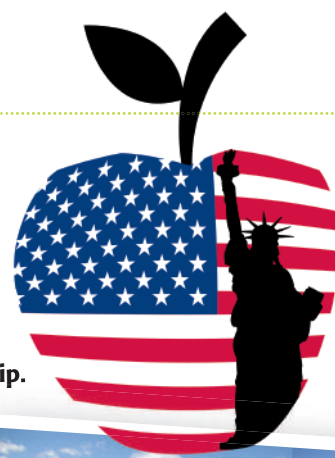
On February 6th the students will arrive at JFK airport and be transported to their hotel in the heart of Manhattan.

Over the next few days the students will follow a jam packed schedule that includes all of the following:

- Eating out at the legendary Hard Rock Café in Times Square.
- Taking in the sights of New York from the top of the Rockefeller Centre
- Going on a sightseeing tour of famous TV and Film locations around the city
- Taking a leisurely stroll around Central Park
- Cruising around New York harbour and visiting the Statue of Liberty

- Watching a musical on Broadway
- A shopping trip to Macy's and Bloomingdales
- Visiting other famous sites like Battersea Park, New York Public Library and Grand Central Station

We will be running this exciting Sixth Form trip every year. Look out for news on this year's trip in the next edition of the 'Woodrush Star'.



The UK's Skills Show gives Sixth Formers the chance to shine!

On Friday 16th November a group of our Sixth Formers visited the UK's biggest Skills Show at the NEC, near Solihull.

With an opportunity to be part of Britain's largest skills and careers event, The Skills Show was a unique celebration that, hopefully, will have inspired our students to look at potential careers for the future that so far they might not have considered - such as being fashion designers, web developers or engineers. The Skills Show highlighted all sorts of exciting opportunities in further education, skills and Apprenticeships. There was lots going on at the show and plenty for all of us to get involved with – for example a visit to the

interactive 'Have a Go's' section, which offered visitors the chance to try a 'bite-size' taster of a new skill, trade or profession. The Sixthformers could also speak to colleges, universities and learning providers from across the UK, about the different entry routes into a host of career sectors!

Our Sixthformers came away brimming with ideas about different possibilities for their future careers, training and apprenticeships and also thoughts about the routes that they might want to consider after their A levels or BTEC courses. Plenty of opportunities to think about in the months ahead!

Mr. Cooper



Woodrush Sixth Form Apply Now!

This year's Sixth Form prospectus is now available to download from the school website www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Alternatively, you can grab a copy from Student Services or Mr Sullivan (Head of Sixth Form). The prospectus will give you information about everything the Sixth Form has to offer in terms of subjects you can study, enrichment opportunities and extra-curricular activities. You will also find detailed information of the wide range of subjects we have to offer, which will include the specific entry requirements needed for each of our A-level and BTEC subjects.

On the school website you can also download this year's application form for the Sixth form or you can get a paper copy from Student Services. Please return this form to Student Services or directly to Mr Sullivan.

If you are planning to join Woodrush Sixth form next year then please submit your application as soon as possible.





Jay and Amy reading the first edition of 'The Sixth' newsletter

Woodrush Sixth Form's newsletter 'The Sixth' is launched

This year the Sixth form have launched their own newsletter called 'The Sixth'. 'The Sixth' keeps staff and students up to date with news and views from across the Sixth Form. An editorial team made up of several Sixth formers successfully released their first edition a number of weeks ago. The second edition is set for publication just before Christmas and is full of interesting stories about the Sixth Form.

The editorial team is made up of editors, photographers, reporters and illustrators. Working on the newsletter is giving all of these students invaluable experience in terms of teamwork and journalistic skills. Look out for the next edition of 'The Sixth' newsletter!

Student Voice in Woodrush Sixth Form

The Sixth Form Council has met frequently over the course of this academic year to discuss and arrange initiatives and events for the Sixth Form.



Dan and Hayley – Charity/Fund Raising Directors on the Sixth Form Council

This has included planning and organising fund raising for several charity events; presenting improvements they would like to see made to the Sixth Form; suggesting trips for the Sixth Form and devising ideas for assemblies. The Council is a very important part of Woodrush Sixth Form as it ensures that student voice is heard. We want to make sure that Woodrush Sixth Form is everything the students want it to be. The Council is integral to the growth, development and improvement of the Sixth Form. Because of their hard work and ideas, Woodrush Sixth Form is now a vibrant and bustling community of students who have outstanding support in the classroom and many other exciting opportunities outside of it.

The Council will continue to meet on a regular basis throughout the academic year and make sure that student concerns and ideas are fully represented.



Fancy Dress fundraising for 'Children in Need'

For this year's 'Children in Need' the Sixth Form busied themselves with a range of fundraising activities.

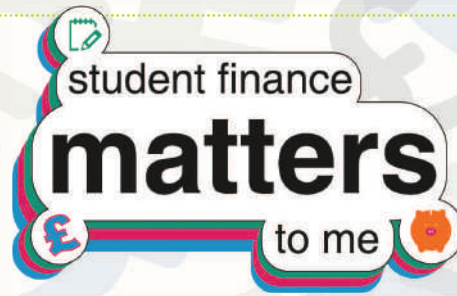
Many Sixth Formers got into the spirit of the day by wearing fancy dress. From Cruella de Vil to the Green Lantern, the students adopted the guises of many different fun characters. Hidden amongst all of these fancy dress costumes were three Wallys of 'Where's Wally?' fame. Students from the lower school had to try and locate these three Wallys over the duration of the day.

In addition to this fund raising activity, students also had a chance to 'Soak a Sixth Former'. Many lower school students happily donated money for a chance to throw a wet sponge at a Sixth Former. Jack and Laura, this year's Sixth Form Head Boy and Head Girl, were popular targets and were soaked through by the end of the day. Well done to all the other Sixth Formers who sportingly offered themselves up as targets.

Another unforgettable moment in the day was the lunchtime showdown between Bane (Tom) and Batman (James). With dozens of students onlooking, these two foes fought for ultimate supremacy. After a titanic struggle, good conquered over evil and Batman reigned supreme.

Thank you again to the Sixth Form for their fundraising efforts for this year's 'Children in Need'. Not only did you bring an element of fun to the day, but you also raised a significant sum of money towards this year's total.





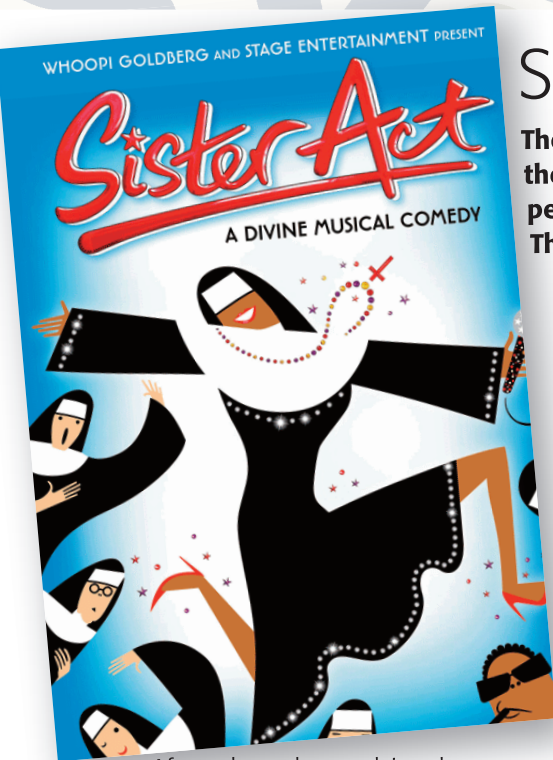
The Student Finance Roadshow returns

On Monday, 8th October, the Student Finance Roadshow paid a return visit to Woodrush Sixth Form! Previously here last year to inform sixthformers about the availability of finance to help support their time at university, the Roadshow returned principally to talk to Year 12 students about the new finance arrangements for university tuition and living costs and to encourage them not to view the tuition fees as a barrier to their aspirations.

With universities charging between £6,000 and £9,000 per

year for an undergraduate degree course it was important for our sixthformers to be able to hear the realities of the financial support available and to dispel some of the myths. Recent graduate Babatunde Sobitan (an engaging young speaker who had himself completed a Psychology degree at the University of Northampton) told Year 12, for example, that no fees are payable up-front for a university course and that the loan paid by the Government to the universities on behalf of a student - to cover tuition costs - is only due

for repayment by the student once he or she is earning in excess of £21,000 per annum. Typically, a student earning the average adult salary of £25,000 per year will only be required to pay back £30 per month over the 30 year repayment period. His message was clear – financial circumstances or fear of financial circumstances should not stand in the way of young people following their study and career dreams! It was a message that our Year 12 students were grateful to receive and it left them with plenty to reflect on.



Sister Act swings in to town!

The first organised social event for this year's Sixth Form took place on the 17th October when 13 students and 5 staff went to see a performance of the acclaimed musical 'Sister Act' at the Hippodrome Theatre, Birmingham.

convent of nuns! At first the two worlds of dedicated prayer and stage entertainment don't seem to mix, providing for plenty of laughs, but by the end of the show all the 'Sisters' are there for each other, helping to catch a serial gangster in the process as well as put on a choir performance for the Pope!

Before the theatre students and staff had time to relax with a meal and all agreed that not only was the musical excellent entertainment but the whole evening was thoroughly enjoyable. Sixthformers can look forward to enjoying other organised opportunities for an evening out together later in the year!

Mr. Cooper



After a long day studying the group felt ready to relax and have some fun and that's exactly what this feel-good musical provided.

Based on the film of the same name the setting for this production is the US city of Philadelphia where an aspiring nightclub singer witnesses a murder and then has to enter the witness protection programme in a

Twelve months is a long time in football

Twelve months is a long time in football, ask Roberto Di Matteo. In this calendar year the pride and status of the Woodrush Staff has been bruised but not broken.



With this in mind and the annual sixth form football match against the past and present legends of the beautiful game looming on the 30th November (Movember); the pressure was on bar none!!

Tactics were discussed in great detail – should it be 3-5-2, or 4-5-1 (attack or defend), play to our strengths, play to the sixth forms weaknesses, or just wait and see what develops on the field.

The sixth formers surprised the staff team by having a 'no shots on goal' policy. After this initial conundrum, the Cannon-iser felt the need to find the ball. Shane-less and Mar-Baker dutifully helped at the back. Moustachio Maestro Makélelé'd the holding midfield role to great effect. Antartics finest pondered the left channel, Luke-warm forayed the left in his last season at Woodrush. Mary's Joseph attacked at will through the centre. Dante's inferno blazed the sixth formers back four, with Suazie partnering him now and again! Waynetta bobbed and weaved, sometimes with the ball.

The manager gave Grant Mitchell the license to roam and flaunt the hidden skills that had been heard of but rarely seen.

A big thank you to the referee Loz, who managed the attacking geriatrics and the bus camping sixth formers, with ease and panache.

A red hot thank you to our owner, Roman Moss-is-awesome-Ovitch, for the new Woodrush Green kit. A guest appearance from Head of Sixth form Sully sealed the day, and a 3-0 win for experience over youth.

Merry Christmas, Mike Bassett.

Woodrush Film Club

Film Club is an independent educational charity that gives students the opportunity to watch and discuss a number of thought provoking and challenging films that they might not otherwise have access to.

We are excited to announce that now Film Club has found its way to Woodrush with Woodrush Film premiering this November.



The club has got off to a great start with the new schedule enabling both year 7s and year 11s to watch films on a weekly basis. We have recently had our first student reviews published online and look forward to

participating in some of the fantastic opportunities Film Club offers to meet people from the industry and attend some incredible events. Students have already had their eyes opened by the diversity of films offered and the future looks very exciting for everyone involved.

Film Club runs for year 7s on Monday and Year 11s on Wednesday.



Remember Remember...

Huge congratulations go to Charley, Jesan-Jude and Lydia from Cadbury in Year 8 who won the Bonfire Night Descriptive Writing Competition. On Monday 5th November Year 8 took part in a writing competition in their English lessons. They had to right a unique description of Bonfire Night in less than 100 words. They all did really well, using lots of imagination in their piece.

Winning Entry

*It was the 5th of November... and a black cloud of smoke filled the air from the red roaring fire spitting the yellow and orange flames. People gathered in excitement waiting for the fun filled surprise. Children running round and round laughing and giggling. Gloves and scarves all around keeping warmth in as they walked around. Suddenly... **BANG!** An explosion of colour invaded the sky. Bright sparks flying all around. Everyone staring in silence. Their eyes filled with wonder. No-one will ever forget the 5th of November.*

An Interview with Mr Cannon

by Ellie B and Charly B 8C1

- Q. What did you want to be when you were younger?
- A. I always wanted to be a footballer, but unfortunately I wasn't good enough.
- Q. Who inspires you most?
- A. My Mother as she has always been there for me
- Q. What is your most favourite food you enjoy eating?
- A. Italian and Chinese but obviously not at the same time
- Q. Describe your most embarrassing moment?
- A. That was probably when I tried to jump onto a table in history but I missed and fell straight onto my face – the whole class laughed!
- Q. Name three things you can't possibly live without?
- A. Gosh that is so easy - my iPhone definitely, my shoe collection and of course my cat
- Q. Which song are you likely to belt out at a karaoke bar?
- A. 'Half the World Away' by Oasis and even if I do say myself it's a pretty good version
- Q. What book are you reading at the moment?
- A. One of my history text books (geek alert!)
- Q. Do you have any pets and what are they called?
- A. I own a cat called Marley who is the best cat ever. He is a rescue cat I had from Mrs Hill (Teaching assistant) who fosters kittens for the Cats Protection League
- Q. What is your favourite TV programme that you are watching at the moment?
- A. I'm really enjoying Super Sunday and you can't beat a bit of 'Made in Chelsea' or maybe a bit of 'Towie'
- Q. If you could pick any three people to go to dinner with whom would it be? (Alive, dead, real or fictitious)
- A. My ultimate guests would be David Beckham, Henry VIII and James Bond but they would have to like Italian or Chinese food of course
- Q. If you were not a teacher now what would be your ultimate job?
- A. A barrister as I would be able to earn a lot more money than I do

now and I could buy lots of new shoes to add to my already large collection of 50 pairs!

- Q. If you were allowed to skip a day off work how would you spend that time?
- A. I would have a lie in first then go and train with West Bromwich Albion maybe do a bit of shopping after and finally have a meal at Wagamommas! (Phew Mr Cannon, we are exhausted just thinking about it!)



- Q. Are you a morning or a night person?
- A. I am definitely a morning person, night times for sleeping! #sleepytimes.
- Q. Where did you have the best holiday ever?
- A. I recently visited Cancun in Mexico – it was awesome!
- Q. If a member of staff was to use three words to describe you, what would they say?
- A. I would like to think they would say I am happy, enthusiastic and I will leave the rest to your imagination...
- Q. Has anyone ever played a prank on you and if so, what was it?
- A. Oh actually, Saturday night, I brought a new pair of jeans and took the label off but without realising the lads put it back on the trouser leg! I walked around all night with a label still on my leg!
- Q. Do you like buying clothes if so; do you have any specific designers?
- A. I love buying clothes! My favourite designers are Jack Wills, Zara, All Saints, Asos.com, and Ralph Lauren... #SHOESARETHEBEST!



- Q. What sort of bands do you listen to and what type of music do you hate?
- A. Anything with a guitar! Foo Fighters and Oasis are at the top of my playlist at the moment. I don't hate any type of music; I just wouldn't buy R'n'B...but Rihanna's just class!
- Q. Do you have any hidden talents that students would not know about?
- A. I play guitar and enjoy cooking!

Year 13 History trip to the Hive

On Thursday 15th November our Year 13 History group visited the Hive in Worcester to research information for our coursework. The library and resource centre is both for Worcester University students and the general public, so anyone can visit and use the excellent resources.

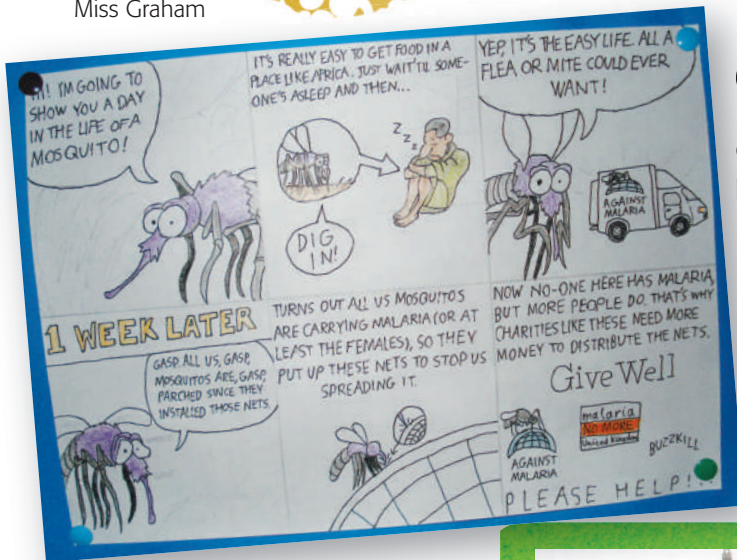
First we had a chat with some of Worcester Uni students about university life and gave us advice on our essays. They answered any questions we had before taking us on a tour and showing us how to use the library.

The Hive is a good place to study – there was a book or journal for everything – I found 5 books for my essay on the economic impact of the Washington Conference! All the people we met were so helpful and we had a nice cup of coffee from the café!

Jack M, SF4.

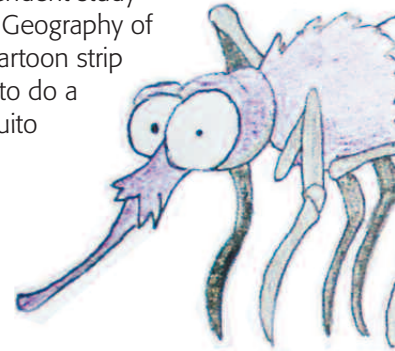
Wow! What a term we have had in Humanities. There have been trips out and in-house events across the faculty. A particular thank you goes to Miss Kaur and her excellent efforts with Inter-faith Week. The new KS3 Independent Study has been a huge success; with students across the 3 subjects fully engaging with their homework and creating some outstanding pieces of work. There are still Humanities trips to look forward to this year, so look out for them. Year 11 students have been hard at work completing controlled assessments and preparing for their forthcoming mocks, whilst Year 12 and 13 are working hard towards their January exams. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings for Humanities.

Miss Graham



Geography

Geography – some brilliant Independent study produced by 8L1 and 8C1 on the Geography of Disease topic. The picture of the cartoon strip belongs to James 8C1 - they had to do a cartoon strip of the life of a mosquito before and after mosquito nets



Year 12 Geography Conference

"On the 14th of November the Year 12 Geography group took part in international GIS day at King Edward Five Ways School in Bartley Green. What is GIS? Well, it stands for Geographical Information Systems and

GIS day

is where data is plotted on to maps to show where different things are happening. The sixth

formers from various schools were given lectures by the Ordnance Survey and also West Midlands Police who showed how they use data and maps to pinpoint crime hotspots and hopefully catch a few more of those pesky criminals! The year 12s then had a go at using the GIS software and looked at hurricane data for the past 50 years to track the most common paths of hurricanes. They then turned their attention to volcanoes and plotted information to simulate an eruption of Mount Rainier in Washington State. Lava flows and ash clouds were plotted to see which towns would be affected and would need evacuating. After lunch, Doctor Miller from the University of Chester gave a talk on his work on trying to manage natural hazards. In particular, he talked about his work in Jamaica where he had been mapping the potential effects of a tsunami. An interesting day that gave our brains a good workout!"



Sixth Form Trip to the Houses of Parliament

On Monday 26th November I awoke at some god-uneearthly hour to make my way to school to meet 23 sixthformers, Miss Williams and Mr Moss. As I drove along the (quiet) M40 I wondered if I was mad! The coach journey there was brilliant and we arrived in London early. After a shameless tourist trek to Buckingham Palace and numerous photos, we arrived at Nandos for our lunch (my favourite eating establishment!). We then continued on our tourist trail to Westminster palace, via the London Eye along the Embankment (many more photos!!).

At the Houses of Parliament we were subjected to rigorous security checks – Miss Williams was disappointed to learn that she could not take either their phones or Starbucks in with them, so we put her in charge of the camera to make her feel better!

Once inside we were gobsmacked by the architecture and grandeur of the

buildings. Our tour guides took us to see the Speakers Procession and then BOTH the House of Commons and the House of Lords. We were amazed to see our Defence Secretary making important spending cuts and Baroness Warsi actually proposing a new law about the EU! We then went to the oldest part of Parliament (1000 years old), where Charles I was put on trial and countless Kings, Queens and Heads of State (like Barack Obama) have passed through and made speeches – it was incredible! A short interactive workshop followed which saw Oliver M, Nicola P and Leanne C donning silly hats as they pretended to be the leaders of fictitious political parties!!

It was by far the best school trip I have ever been on and the students were suitably impressed too – asking if we could go again next year – to which I replied yes!!

Miss Graham.

InterfaithWeek

Welcome to Interfaith week 2012



The aim of the week is to increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to the wider society. This week also increases the understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.



During the week we had interfaith assemblies which were hosted by The Feast. The Feast is a Christian charity based organisation in Birmingham which helps to promote community cohesion amongst young people. It was a very interesting assembly that got a lot of pupils thinking and feedback from the Cadbury students certainly echoed just that.

As part of the week pupils had the chance to take part in the guess the quote quiz, having found the different words around the school, they were to put the words together to figure out the quotes, which were;

"When you judge others, you do not define them, you define yourself".
Dalai Lama.

"Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks about changing themselves". John Randolph.

The winner of the competition was – James H and Chris M from 7L1. Well done and congratulations to them both.



Lesson work

In lessons pupils did different work based on interfaith from Year 7 exploring different religious beliefs and teachings and reflected on their own beliefs. This was not only interfaith work but also inter-form work, whereby different forms were working for and with one another to produce some beautiful display work.

Year 8 explored how people from different religious traditions come together to help others in need, and the different charity work done by people. Year 9 explored young people and faith. Pupils explored the views of different young people and what made them who they are. Pupils then reflected on who they are and what makes them the individuals they are today.

Year 10 filled two blank canvases with their own experience of philosophical and religious thoughts alongside the thoughts of different religious people.

Interfaith, Philosophy and Ethics trip

On Tuesday 20th November, Year 10 students went to visit Nishkam High School, with Miss Kaur and Mr Thewlis. When we arrived in the morning we took part in a multi-faith assembly and part of it included meditation and prayer.

We then had a short Philosophy and Ethics lesson, looking at different moral disposition and what we could expect in Year 12 Philosophy and Ethics. After this we had break which was very interesting as we saw the ethos of the school shine through. The students were allowed to help themselves to different things from a tuck shop, which was not supervised by anyone, and then put their name into a computer and tick of what they had taken.

This was based on 100% trust which we thought was very impressive. We then had a Philosophy and Ethics debate with Year 12 students in the Sixth Form, being 3 years younger than them, we all held our own and debated with ease. We ended our day with a quick observation of a PE lesson in a futsal arena and finally had lunch with trip to McDonalds to eat and play on Ronald McDonalds interactive games.



By Miss Kaur's Year 10 Philosophy and Ethics group.

Year 7 Bookmark Competition

The Humanities department recently judged the entries from the Religious Education Bookmark Competition. The students had to complete a two sided book mark with one side with information about one of the world faiths and the other with information about themselves and who they are. Miss Kaur commented on how hard it was to choose from all the amazing entries from so many pupils and thought all year 7 should and would be congratulated with their efforts. All entries received a postcard home, merits and a prize of chocolate was awarded to overall winner Grace W.



The 'granthi' reading from the Holy Scriptures

Sikh & we shall find!

On the 22nd of November some of the year 8's went to visit a synagogue and a Gurdwara. This was a great experience.

First of all we visited the Sikh Gurdwara, in which we had the full experience of being in a Sikh prayer room, where we showed our respects and had a chance to taste some Pashad (a sweet offering from the Guru). We then made our way up to the roof of the building where we went inside a smaller prayer room where we saw some magnificent work of a Muslim man who came and decorated the room, asking for nothing in return, and it took him 9 months to complete. The ceiling of the room was covered in thousands of reflective glass which gave the image of huge mirror. It was quite stunning. We then walked around on the roof and saw the Nishan Sahib (a Sikh flag), and finally not to mention the beautiful views of Birmingham. At the end of our time at the Gurdwara we were given a free meal of different curries, yoghurt, chapatti and a sweet rice pudding. We had a little break and went to Cannon Hill

Park for some lunch and then we left for the Synagogue. At the Synagogue we learnt loads of things, such as how much the Torah costs which was £70,000, the symbol that represents Judaism is the Star of David and the Menorah (a 7 branched lampstand made of gold). We finally tried on the different religious clothing that Jews wear, which included the Tallit and the skull cap. We also were allowed to explore and go onto the balcony. It was brilliant trying on the different Jewish clothing and listening to all the facts and stories that our guide told us. Finally at the end of the day we were all given a free badge, everyone loves badges!!!

Thank you to Ms Peters, Mr Cannon, Ms Bromwich-Lee and Miss Kaur for taking us.

Reported by Megan H and Abigail C from 8L2



The winners overall were:

- 1st - Grace W 7L1**
- 2nd - Olivia R 7L2**
- 3rd - Teddy HJ - 7B1**

Form winners were all the above and the following:

- 7C2 - Lucy H**
- 7C1 - Ella S and Keisha M**
- 7B2 - Lucy B**

Well done to everyone that took part!



Charlotte, Sasha, Reece and Thomas at the Synagogue



Mr Cannon and his Minnie me (Ryan C 8B1) getting the full experience of interfaith

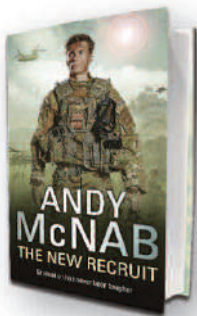
McNab Star



A select band of boys ventured out to locate ex-SAS soldier, turned author, Andy McNab and to capture signed copies of **The New Recruit**, his latest book for young adults. The boys, who have been meeting weekly in the library to explore different genres of fiction, were keen to hear stories about his time in the army and discover how he came to be a bestselling author.

A packed audience listened as Andy explained how being recruited into the army, when serving time in a young offenders prison, turned his life around. From being barely able to read and write, he was educated, learned to take control of his life and in 1984 became a member of the prestigious 22 SAS Regiment. In his book **Bravo Two Zero** he gives an account of the Special Forces mission infiltrating behind enemy lines during the Gulf War in 1991.

For **The New Recruit**, in order to make the characters and dialogue as realistic as possible, he spoke to many 'boy soldiers'. It tells the story of a young boy who, living with the guilt of having prank-killed his best friend, joins the army to make something of his life. Serving in Afghanistan, he comes across his friend's brother and learns that he has more to fear than enemy fire. A copy of **The New Recruit** is available to loan from the school library, alternatively episodes can be download from www.andymcnab.co.uk. For security reasons we were not able to photograph the face of the man himself; he is the one hiding behind a copy of his book!



Book Buzz Star

An early visit from Santa and one of his Elves brought the pleasure of reading to all Year 7 students.

The aim of Book Buzz, the scheme which provides all our Year 7 students with a free book, is to inspire excitement about reading and discovering new books and authors. Having chosen from a selection of twelve titles and eagerly awaiting their arrival, English lessons were re-grouped by books selected; allowing students to take part in book-themed activities until their special delivery arrived.

To find out more about this year's titles, and other books, you can visit the website where you will also find useful links about reading and fun writing activities:

www.bookbuzz.org.uk

Here's what some of our Year 7s think...

"Funny, awesome and hilarious."

Joe – **World of Norm: May Contain Nuts** by Jonathan Meres

"It has loads of weird advice which although it will never happen to you in life it is so true." Samantha – **Don't Wipe Your Bum with a Hedgehog** by Mitchel Symons.

"Cool, imaginative and amazing." Tom – **Lifters** by Joe Craig

"Has lots of poems to cheer you up." Wiktorina – **Journey to the Centre of My Brain** by James Carter

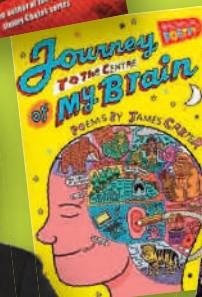
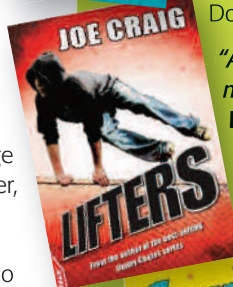
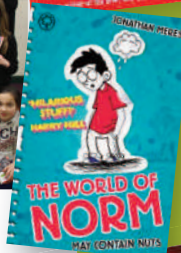
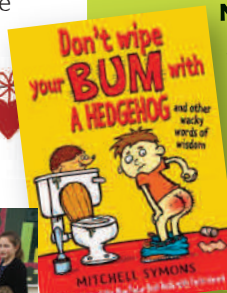
"It's exciting and thrilling but sad at time." Brant – **Heroes** by Paul Dowswell

"Awesome, serious and mysterious." Alex – **Twelve Minutes to Midnight** by Christopher Edge



Lucky Book Buzz Winner!

Book worm, Esther answered a question about the plot of one of this year's Book Buzz titles, **Messenger Bird** by Ruth Eastham, on a national website and won herself a copy of **The Memory Cage** by the same author. An avid reader, Esther is a member of the year 7 Book Club which meets on Wednesday lunchtimes. She is also the proud owner of a golden library ticket; nine of these cards, allowing privileged access to the school library, were presented to students who completed a summer reading challenge at their local public library.



Advent Activities Star

Having worked hard to transform the library's mystery cupboard into a large Advent calendar, Emily, Holly and Charlotte invited Year 5 Coppice pupils to view their work and take part in a range of Christmas-based literacy, numeracy and arts games and activities. This was a fantastic opportunity for primary school students to visit a high school whilst enjoying some festive fun.

Throughout December, in lessons across the whole curriculum, all Key Stage 3 students also had the opportunity to visit the library to participate in Christmas-themed information literacy tasks. Good work was rewarded with treats from our giant Advent calendar! Activities ranged from writing the Queen's script for this year's Christmas Message to calculating the number of calories Santa consumes on Christmas Eve.





Christmas in France

Christmas in France is similar to England in the sense that both cultures celebrate the importance of family and, many celebrate the religious traditions at this time of year. There are however some differences and, France has many unusual and original customs at Christmas time ...

In France, it is normal for young children to leave their shoes in front of the fireplace so that "Père Noël" would fill them with treats on his visit to the households. On Christmas Eve, sweets, treats and nuts are hung on the Christmas tree ready for the morning celebrations. Many French children also write letters to "Père Noël" as in 1962, a law was passed that stated any child to write would be sent a postcard back. This still happens if school classes send a letter. In certain areas of France however, "Père Fouettard" (which roughly translates to the "Bogeyman") would punish those children who had been naughty in the year. Adults in France do not give presents until the 1st of December. In certain regions, French families bake a cake and put a bean in the middle of it and, whoever has the slice with the bean in is called the Queen or King for the whole day.

The majority of French citizens put up a tree which is decorated with ribbons, apples and paper flowers and, many make Yule-log shaped cakes.

Most French also have a nativity scene that they put up around the house. The figures are traditionally made by craftsmen in the southern regions of France and, as well as having religious figures, regional people are often included. The decoration colours are normally red and green and, the French also hand mistletoe above every doorway which is thought to bring good luck throughout the next year. The French also have different days of celebration. Whilst naturally, Christmas Day is on the 25th of December, some regions begin celebrating Christmas on the 6th of December with "La fête des Rois". Lyon starts celebrations on the 8th when the "La Fête de Lumières" honours the Virgin Mary by putting up candles.

Some French people still go to "Midnight Mass" which they follow by having a feast called "Le Réveillon" (to revive). The meal is meant to symbolise Christ's birth and, can be eaten in restaurants or enjoyed at home. The food varies in different regions. Parisians eat oysters and foie gras, in Burgundy, they normally eat turkey and, in Alsace people eat goose. On Christmas day, most French people have turkey roasted in chestnuts and ham with wine and "Buche de Nol" (Christmas Log).

Joyeux Noël et une Bonne Année
By Megan

Buon Natale! - Christmas in Italy

In Italy, Christmas is less commercialised than in England and America. For example, instead of sending letters to Father Christmas asking for gifts, they send letters to their parents telling them how much they love them, and is read out by the father after Christmas Eve dinner. However, they have adopted some non-Italian traditions, like decorating a wintergreen tree, and Father Christmas is become a more common figure in Italy.

A lot of attention is given to the meal on Christmas Eve, but the most significant meal is the lunch of Christmas Day is. Popular dishes include: lo zampone - the skin of the lower pig leg, including the toe little bones, filled with minced meat and sausages and il cotechino - pig's foot stuffed with spiced minced meat. Afterward they enjoy a range of traditional Italian desserts, for example, tiramisu, pictured to the side.

As there is a strong Catholic influence in Italy, many people are involved with the retelling of the Nativity story and attending Midnight Mass. Pictured is a traditional Midnight Mass, with modern decorations, showing how Italy have the best of both in the festive season.

A French Carol - Un Chant de Noël Français Vive le Vent - Jingle Bells

Vive le vent, vive le vent, vive le vent d'hiver
Qui s'en va, sifflant, soufflant
Dans les grands sapins verts, Oh !
Vive le temps, vive le temps,
vive le temps d'hiver
Qui rappelle aux vieux enfants
Leurs souvenirs d'hier !
Sur le long chemin
Tout blanc de neige blanche
Un vieux monsieur s'avance
Avec sa canne dans la main
Et tout là-haut le vent
Qui siffle dans les branches
Lui souffle la romance qu'il chantait
petit enfant

A German Carol - Ein Deutsches Weihnachtslied Stille Nacht, Silent Night

Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht,
nur das traute heilige Paar.
Holder Knab' im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!
Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht
Lieb' aus deinem göttlichem Mund,
da schlägt uns die rettende Stund.
Jesus in deiner Geburt!
Jesus in deiner Geburt!

An Italian Carol - Un Canto di Natale Astro del Ciel - Silent Night

Astro del ciel, Pargol divin, mite Agnello
Redentor!
Tu che i Vati da lungi sognar, tu che angeliche
voci nunziar,
luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!
luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!
Astro del ciel, Pargol divin, mite Agnello
Redentor!
Tu di stirpe regale decar, Tu virgineo, mistico fior,
luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!
Luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!
Astro del ciel, Pargol divin, mite Agnello
Redentor!
Tu disceso a scontare l'error, Tu sol nato a
parlare d'amor,
luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!
Luce dona alle genti, pace infondi nei cuor!

Adventure of a Lifetime

This summer I was lucky enough to take part in a charity climb of Mt Kilimanjaro to raise money for meningitis research. It was the most physically and one of the most mentally challenging things I have ever done but I managed to raise a total of £2695 (also thanks to a very kind donation from Woodrush as well).

The climb began on 9th September where the twenty-one of us in our team nervously gathered at the Machame gate at 1,800m above sea level; already taller than the highest mountain in the UK but fortunately feeling no effects from altitude at this stage. We were all kitted out with walking poles, backpacks, a huge variety of medical supplies and a massive team of porters, cooks and guides. The first day was a climb of 1,200m through the rainforest, (incidentally the only time it did rain), to the first camp. It was hot, humid and the summit at this stage was still covered in cloud but we were rewarded with a fantastic view of the rainforest and plains of Africa spreading beneath us. We had our first meal here after a day of walking, and the cooks certainly didn't disappoint. Throughout the whole trip we ate a mountain of food to compensate for the 7000 calories we burned each day walking.

Despite being in the rainforest the next morning was still freezing and we were told that it was going to get even colder. At this stage spirits were high and there was lots of chatting and singing as we tackled the 800m ascent but some people soon began to experience the first effects of altitude sickness, headaches. When we reached the camp late afternoon we were rewarded with our first glimpse of the snow-capped peaks in the one direction and a sea of cloud with Mt Meru peeking through in the other. At

dinner that night everyone was extremely excited and looking forward to tackling, what we were told, was one of the most challenge days ahead of us.

The third day was an acclimatisation day where we would trek up to Lava tower before descending back down to our third camp. The day was indeed a very challenging one and many people resorted to iPod's to cope with the growing blisters, altitude sickness and tiredness that many of us were facing. By this point many people were losing their appetite and this evening was much more sober than the others.

Another early rise of 6:30am started the fourth day where we would

Throughout the whole trip we ate a mountain of food to compensate for the 7000 calories we burned each day walking

climb up to Barafu Camp – the base camp of Mt Kilimanjaro. This day was incredibly tiring and by the time we arrived at base camp at 5:00pm everyone was exhausted. However, we had time only for a quick evening meal because after a couple hours of sleep we would be woken at 11:30pm to begin the climb for the summit. At this point many people were extremely ill and suffering with the altitude badly. Despite this we all set off with head torches to follow the snakes of distant lights as other teams climbed for the peak. It was well below freezing with temperatures nearing -15°C and despite wearing 7 layers it was still freezing.



Throughout the climb so far we had all stuck together but as we neared Stella Point after a gruelling 8 hour climb people were forced to go at their own pace and some did have to return to base camp before reaching the summit. We did eventually reach Stella point and it was now only a one hour walk to reach the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro. At about 9:00am in the morning we were greeted with the sign we had all been anticipating and the most spectacular view of the crater, glaciers and a cloud covered Africa below.

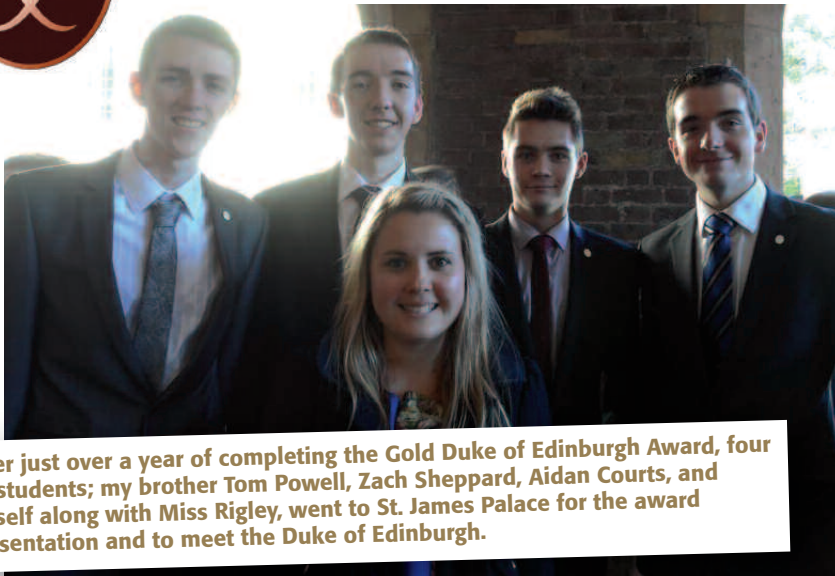
After 30 minutes of pictures and resting, we then began the descent back down the scree covered slopes to base camp. Our final night's sleep on the mountain saw a mix of emotions with everyone being so pleased and relieved we had reached the summit, but also being so exhausted after such a challenging day of walking.

The next day saw our descent back down through the rainforest to the gate and the end of a fantastic experience!

Tom Powell (Ex Sixth Form Student – Now Studying at Cambridge University)



Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Presentation



After just over a year of completing the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, four ex-students; my brother Tom Powell, Zach Sheppard, Aidan Courts, and myself along with Miss Rigley, went to St. James Palace for the award presentation and to meet the Duke of Edinburgh.

(Back Left to right: Aidan Courts, Ben Powell, Zach Sheppard, Tom Powell. Front: Miss Rigley)



WOODRUSH

Getting to the palace in the morning, participants were allocated a room of the palace regarding the area of the country the school was from. Woodrush shared their room with South Bromsgrove and Kings, amongst others. After an introduction talk and a run through of the schedule, the

room was told that the Duke of Edinburgh was going to enter in a few minutes and so the award participants gather together in small groups and waited for the Duke.

When he did arrive he spoke to each group for a few minutes, asking about the tasks undertaken to achieve the award and responding with a quick wit. Once the Duke had moved on into the next room, the participants returned to their seats and the individual certificates were then given out by ex-Olympian Phil Brown, and a group photo was taken.

It was a fantastic day to not only meet up with friends but also for our relatives and family who joined us in celebrating the occasion.

To gain the Duke of Edinburgh award it took a lot of commitment and effort but was worth every minute. Each participant is required to undertake a skill, a sport and volunteering; one for six months and the other two for a whole year. On top of this, the award involves a five day residential either at home or abroad, and a four day, three night expedition. As you can see, the award isn't something that is entered into lightly. It takes dedication, commitment, and a lot of hard work, so a big congratulations should go to all of five for completing the award.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an achievement that is held in high regard by all companies and organisations. It will look good on college applications, university applications, and a CV, which will be with you for life. Not everyone has the opportunity to undertake the award and when you do, it should not be ignored. The award scheme allows you to gain skills, meet new people, makes you a better-rounded person and gives you an achievement that most people don't have. So if I was you; begin your award as soon as you can, and good luck!

Ben Powell (Former Sixth Form Student – Currently studying History at Royal Holloway University)

A Royal Appointment for Woodrush's first ever Gold's In November four ex-students Ben, Tom, Zach and Aidan all got an invite to spend the day at St. James' Palace to meet the Duke of Edinburgh himself and collect the Gold awards they completed while in the sixth form. Massive congratulations for such a superb achievement!

Further Gold success was enjoyed at the palace by Miss Rigley who also picked up her Gold badge (and she even got the chance to talk to the Duke of Edinburgh himself!).

DofE News

- Volunteering
- Physical
- Skills
- Expedition
- Residential

DofE participants are now all enrolled with the Award and have all made a start on completing their Volunteering, Skills and Physical activities in addition to starting their expedition training in preparation for the summer. Woodrush has all three levels of the award (Bronze, Silver, Gold) running at the same time for the first year this year.

Bronze:

This year Woodrush currently has 32 pupils working towards the Bronze award.

They have started their expedition training, looking at the importance of the Country Code and various safety aspects required for them to be able to go out on expedition later in the year. Most of the

Bronze's are now starting their other sections after researching what is required for each activity and finding suitable places to accommodate them.

Silver:

The 20 Silver's have all made a fantastic start to this award, making the step up from the Bronze award that they all successfully completed last year. The Silver's have been improving their map work in preparation for the more challenging expeditions they face this year. They have also made a great start with their Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections with many of them continuing with and developing activities they started at Bronze and some even seeking out slightly more unusual challenges like learning bee keeping!

Gold:

Woodrush now has only its second group ever to take on the ultimate challenge of the Gold award. Seven pupils have decided to take on the challenge after successfully completing what was a very tough Silver award last year. In preparation for their expeditions they have been evaluating their food and kit from Silver and have been looking at slightly more technical map reading skills. At Gold they also have to complete a week long residential project which they are all looking at sorting out hopefully for in the summer hols – what a great commitment they are making!



Much Ado About Nothing

On Wednesday 7th November 2012 at 6pm two coaches set off to see an amazing production of Much Ado About Nothing.



As much of you probably know our own drama teacher (Mr Hall) played Dogberry (a messenger) and also the head of a team of Scouts, which helped uncover the truth in the end of this great play. Overall this romantic comedy was a hit and everyone put 110% effort in this production to really engage us into this hysterical masterpiece. In addition to this the costumes and lights were amazing and the setting seemed so real. Something you might not know is that our own Miss Thomas played a part in this theatre production by holding a very cold glass of water for Mr Hall and another one

of the actors, who was playing a scout. Miss Thomas exclaimed "My fingers felt like they were going to fall off." "...The water was very cold..." We all had the best of times and finally got back around 10:30pm. I would like to say well done to Mr Hall and thank you for everyone who took us there.

Thank you

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"DOGBERRY: Is our whole dissembly appeared?"

Indeed they were as Woodrush set off to the Crescent Theatre to see a production of Much Ado About Nothing.

The company were impressed by the support and well behaved manner of the students and enjoyed reading feedback in the dressing room that was kindly written by a number of students

The evening ended with the yr10 cast meeting the Crescent cast and a few of the staff meeting their Prince!

Thanks to all the staff that made the night possible.

'BARD Custard'

The yr10 GCSE group have had their scripts prior to half term and have been devising and rehearsing in lesson and after school with line learning as homework tasks in preparation to perform an edited version of Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing. By the time we go to print the group will have presented their work to the general public at a city centre venue along with the newly formed Drama Club.

The project to date has involved seeing a production of the play at the Crescent Theatre; a workshop with one of the cast in school and will culminate in a day at the Custard Factory, working with Fourth Wall Theatre Company

More to come in the next edition!

Mr Hall (Head of Drama)

An 'eggsellent' performance

Last year The current year 11 finished their studies performing an anti bullying play in the studio.

The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty follows the story of a school boy victimised by a gang; a dare goes terribly wrong and the community are left to deal with the consequences.

The GCSE group delivered the piece with flair and integrity in an intimate studio setting.

Mr Hall (Head of Drama)



Dying to Drive

The facts and figures linked to teenage drivers and road traffic accidents mean that it is always going to be a relevant and vital topic to be explored with our upper school students.

A small group of our Sixth formers and Year 11 students are currently working on a social based project entitled 'Dying to Drive'. Focused around all the issues linked with teenage drivers, this project brings together all the emergency services from our local community, Theatre company 'Gazebo', theatre make-up artists, and Media group 'Catcher'.

The young people involved have been jointly devising a drama script with professional actors from 'Gazebo' and rehearsals are now well underway. In the New Year, all our Year 11's and Sixth formers will experience a day of workshops and

performances based around the theme of young drivers.

The performers recently got to work with a professional stage make-up artist who has worked on a range of films and on Broadway, and is an expert in puppetry as well as make-up.



We suggest you look away now if you're of a nervous disposition!

F. Parker & C. Sheppard



Museum is the Pitts

BTEC Art students visited the Pitt River museum, in the beautiful and culturally rich city of Oxford, on Tuesday 27th November. The Pitt Rivers Museum cares for the University of Oxford's collection of anthropology and world archaeology. Students had the opportunity to take photos and sketch objects, from a wide range of cultures, ages and contexts. They will now create and market a product for the museums gift shop, based on their explorations and inspirations in the museum. Watch this space for more details on our trip to the London galleries in January!



School of Rock & Pop



Tutors from the 'School of Rock and Pop' recently came into Music lessons and delivered workshops to all Year 7 classes, demonstrating just how easy it is to play in a band. Students got to try out drumkit, electric guitar, bass guitar, and keyboard and worked on some simple songs. From complete beginner to competent players; everyone is welcome and catered for at the School of Rock and Pop. Following these workshops, the guys are running free taster sessions and from then on, there is a weekly evening band workshop at Lighthall for people who want to play in a band and develop their skills on a particular instrument. Students from all over the local area are able to attend the evening sessions so it's also a chance to meet other people and other musicians. So whether you're a complete beginner, or already play an instrument or are in a band.... If you like the sound of this, see Mrs Sheppard for more details.





The power to do more



IT is not just for geeks!

We were really fortunate that Lee Williams from Dell came along on the 10th October to run a workshop.

60 students from years 9, 10 and 11 were assembled in the hall to learn about careers in ICT. The students were really impressed with the different jobs available and more importantly the salaries and the cars that they could get. The workshop looked at the different jobs that the students were interested in, and the different traits that they would need. The students then realised the different attributes that they would need to become successful not just in ICT jobs but in all jobs.

At the end of the workshop, Mr Williams said that he was 'really impressed with the students' behaviour, the quality of ideas that they produced, and that all the students took part in it.'

Well done to all students who took part, you are a credit to this school.

Mrs Sedgwick



Flooded with information!

Year 13 coursework trip to Wythall Park
On the 21st of November torrential downpours did not deter the year 13 biology group for combating our ecology coursework. As quoted by Mr Raistrick we practiced some "real biology". Calf deep in overflowing, freezing stream water full of the typical Wythall park mud; we measured the heights of stinging nettles close to and far away from the water source, well in the water source. We had great fun and acquired the results we needed. It certainly wasn't a typical A level Biology lesson.

Easy Christmas Cake

1. Grease the loaf tin with a little margarine. Put the Margarine, egg and pear and apple spread (or honey) in a bowl and mix them together until they're light and creamy.
2. Sift the flour into the bowl, and mix it in gently. Add the mincemeat and mix well. Then add enough orange juice to make a soft mixture.
3. Put the mixture into the tin, smoothing the top with the spoon. Bake for 40 minutes, until it is golden brown.
4. Leave the cake in the tin for five minutes, and then turn it out onto a wire rack to cool.
5. Sieve the icing sugar into a bowl, and mix in enough orange juice to make a thick paste. Spoon the mixture over the cake, letting it run down the sides.

Top Tip

Tie a wide ribbon around your cake and decorate it with sprigs of holly

You will need:

Extra equipment:
A loaf tin 20x13cm (8x5in)
Sieve

Ingredients:

100g (4oz) margarine
1 tablespoon pear and apple spread or thick honey
1 large egg
150g (6oz) self-raising wholemeal flour
225g (8oz) mincemeat
Orange juice

To decorate:

100g (4oz) icing sugar
1-2 tablespoons orange juice

Preheat the oven to 160 degrees C



Food for thought!

Year 8 Students experience Chemistry@Work



In November a selection of year 8 students met with a wide range of companies to see how the science they are currently learning in the classroom is actually used in a variety of different careers. Hosted by the Three Counties Agricultural Society, Malvern, in their Discovery Zone, the day involved fun, interactive sessions with local and international companies.

High-lights of the day probably involved eating and drinking the produce of their experiments. Duncan Bennett from local Bennett's Dairies helped students make delicious ice-cream in 10 minutes whilst Pershore College in conjunction with Avon Bank Fruit Farm encouraged the use of some elbow grease to press apples to make apple juice. We learnt how to stop apples going brown by adding ascorbic acid (vitamin C) and the natural reaction of fermentation and pasteurization.



An Environmental health Officer was on hand to show us all how clean (or otherwise) our hands and food preparation surfaces were using ATP swabs and Mr Edmunds, a local Beekeeper and member of Worcestershire Beekeepers showed us the importance of pollination in food production, inside a bee hive and the chemistry behind good honey. This obviously had to be demonstrated through another taste testing!



The huge multi-billion pound chemical company BASF educated us all in the vast role that chemistry plays in producing food crops and getting them from the field to the plate. We learnt about the array of products they are involved in manufacturing; from the wheat in cookies (again a taste test!), their packaging, the clothes we were wearing and cleaning products we use everyday to vehicle coatings and plastics. We will never look at a packet of biscuits in the same way again. Last but not least NMR, National Milk Records, took us on a virtual tour of the dairy world to see how our milk gets from cow to kitchen. We followed the journey of milk through testing for various diseases and bacteria as well as looking out for the health of the milk herd.

Everyone had a very enjoyable day. Companies were never short of willing volunteers from Woodrush, especially where food was involved and students are now much more aware of how useful

chemistry can be as well as what careers it could be used in, with and without a degree. Many thanks to Mr Baker, one of our lab technicians, who helped out on the day.

Mrs Bush



Senior Maths Challenge

This year for the first time Woodrush entered pupils for the UK Senior Maths Challenge. The Senior Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying mathematics in the UK. It involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in 90 minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. This is a definite step up from the Junior and Intermediate Challenges that we offer to years 7 – 10, in that the questions are much more taxing and take longer to complete. The Challenge successfully went ahead on



Thursday 6th November, 28 pupils from years 11, 12 and 13 were entered and 9 pupils achieved high enough results to receive Bronze certificates from the University of Leeds. Of

those, Hayley missed receiving a Silver Certificate by just one mark.

Those receiving Bronze certificates were Hayley in year 13, James, Leanne, Amy, Tom, Luke, Josh and Wai Lim in year 12 and Sean in year 11.

How would you have fared with the questions – try the 2 questions below, the first and last on the paper!

1) Which of the following cannot be written as the sum of two prime numbers?
 A 5 B 7 C 9
 D 10 E 11

25) How many distinct pairs (x, y) of real numbers satisfy the equation $(x + y)^2 = (x + 4)(y - 4)$?
 A 0 B 1 C 2
 D 3 E 4

Well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs Courts

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Anglo Italian Tiles & Tesco Express Open for Business

On Friday the 18th October at 10.30 in the morning Sajid Javid MP officially opened our newly refurbished designer tile and bathroom showroom in Hollywood Birmingham. This event stands out for us for a number of reasons but mainly because Tesco Express also opened their rented half of our building on the same day.



We built a two storey 5000 square foot showroom four years ago and sold quality European tiles and bathrooms from both

floors. We had previously traded from rented premises across the road in Hollywood and formerly Houndsfield Lane in Wythall since 1949. Italian prisoners of war started Anglo Italian with an Englishman Dennis Armstrong-Sly from the local area with an eye for manufacturing and design.

One of the company directors, Phil Elwell, worked in the late 50's as an apprentice for Anglo Italian and 45 years later purchased the company with his two sons Matthew and Marcus. The focus was on retail supply and fix of high quality European tiles and bathrooms, using highly skilled craftsman, trained by the Italians over the years, with an emphasis on doing the job once and properly to a high quality finish. Our services are still the same but like most companies we have diversified and now

also offer, design and build, domestic and commercial supply and fixing and design and installation of bathrooms and wet rooms whilst specialising in all aspects of specialist natural stone, porcelain and ceramic tiling.

After acquiring the land in Hollywood in 2005 at auction in London and then developing the new site, we finally secured a long term rental agreement in our new premises with Tesco express occupying the downstairs part of the showroom and our new refurbished tile and bathroom showroom upstairs. The move has created 25 local jobs, many with flexible working hours and has given local job opportunities to the people in the surrounding areas and those leaving college and schools. It also gives Anglo Italian a long term boost in rental income, enabling us to really focus on price flexibility and raising our company profile

to offer more people our services.

Our local MP Sajid Javid and his team have been a constant source of help and support during the process of developing the site, acquiring planning permission and trading during difficult times for all businesses and we felt it fitting that he should cut the ribbon. He was joined by local councillor Jill Dyer MBE and the day was a great success with over 250 guests and clients coming through the doors. Our short and long term motto is to - 'design, supply and fix quality products by professionals at competitive prices'. As a family business with 63 years history we can offer a personal service whilst being big enough to deliver our services throughout the UK.

Matthew Elwell
Director

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Family Business of the Year

Becketts Farm, which is located on the Alcester Road, was crowned "Midlands Family Business of the Year 2012" on November the 8th in Leicester.

The award, run by the Wilson Organisation, is for family businesses in the Midlands that have been established for over ten years and applies across all sectors of industry. At the same time they were also runners-up for the Business Innovation trophy. The judges recognised the challenges Becketts face while farming on the edge of a large conurbation and the measures they have taken to optimise these. They commented on the "sound financial measures ... service excellence ... commitment to the local community, along with exemplary family values and a clear vision for the future". Mr Simon Beckett said 'We are extremely proud and honoured to win this award not just as a family but as a company that has a great team of employees on board and who have all contributed to this achievement. We also thank all our customers who continue to support us and who allow us to be able to support the community in return'.

Becketts Farm has been farming in Wythall for 74 years and their mission was to bring both fresh food and farming closer to the community. Their humble beginning's started with Simon's grandfather, Albert, who moved to the small farm at Forhill from Shropshire in 1937. They began by selling just eggs from the farm back door direct to the local community. Simon's father, Alan, expanded the family's farm with Beckett's Farm Shop and Restaurant which is situated on what was originally Heath Farm. The company, which is currently, run by a third generation family member Simon Beckett, boasts as well as the family restaurant a diverse farm shop and a cookery school. The Farm Shop now employs four highly skilled butchers, six bakers and confectioners plus numerous trained assistants to supply the highest quality fresh meat, baked goods, greengrocery, preserves, eggs, deli produce and much more.

Beckett's Farm is proud to be one of the largest employers in the district and to contribute in many other ways to the local amenity. For example facilities have been developed for the growing local community such as a day care centre,



football pitches and, more recently, a golf driving range.

Beckett's feel they would never have a business in the first place were it not

for their loyal customers. So they would like to thank you all and consider the honour is shared with all who work and trade with them.

C E L E B R A T E

CHRISTMAS

TOGETHER

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year when people come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We would love to extend this celebration to everyone within our community to join any of the local churches at their services in the build up to Christmas Day

Happy Christmas
We look forward to seeing you!

St Mary's
Wythall

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CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTRE

WYTHALL
BAPTIST
CHURCH

Hollywood Christian Life Centre
Simms Lane
Carols by Candlelight Service
Sunday 23rd December at 6.30pm
Christmas Day Service - Tuesday 25th
December at 11.00am

St Mary's Parish Church, Coppice School
Carol Service
(Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols featuring
Wythall Community Choir),
Saturday 22nd, 6pm

Christingle Service
Christmas Eve, 3pm

Midnight Mass
Christmas Eve, 11.30pm
(at Hollywood Christian Life Centre)
Family Service, Christmas Day, 10am

Wythall Baptist Church, Alcester Road
Sunday Dec 23rd at 11.00am



Worcester Rugby Football Club

Mini and Youth Section
2012/13

The 2012/13 Season is now well under way at Woodrush RFC, and with the weather starting to get colder and much wetter, it is proper rugby weather too!

This season our Sunday mornings are busier than ever, with over 100 players now registered across all our teams, including the micros (under 6's), U7's, U8's, U9's, U10's, U12's, U14's and U16's.



Our players come from local schools and some schools further away, but we would be delighted to have more players from Woodrush High School at the club. After all,

Woodrush Rugby Football Club was formed by ex pupils from Woodrush School in 1966!

Since the season started, it has been a busy time for all our teams, playing and competing well against some of our local rivals like Kings Norton Rhinos, Bournville, Old Edwardians and Camp Hill, as well as teams from further afield like Alcester,



Stourbridge and Bromsgrove.

Although we have good numbers across our age groups, we could always do with more players, particularly in the 12 – 16 age groups.

Please feel welcome and come to the rugby club on Fridays from 5.30pm for training or Sunday mornings for training from 10.30am and matches kick off at 11.00am. Come and support your school friends and your local rugby club play against other rival clubs - or come and try it for yourself – you never know you might enjoy it! You could always come down for a cup of tea and breakfast instead!

Woodrush RFC has recently been awarded the RFU Seal of Approval, an important step for the club and one of only a handful of clubs in the Midlands

to gain this prestigious award.

This is just reward for all the progress made by the club in recent years and recognises the effort and commitment of all our volunteers, coaches, players, parents, sponsors and supporters.

If you would like any further information about Woodrush Rugby Club, check out our new web site - www.pitchero.com/clubs/woodrush or contact Bob Boden, Mini and Junior Chairman, on 07966 310923. Everybody is welcome!

On behalf of everyone at Woodrush Rugby Club, may we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bob Boden
Chairman – Mini and Juniors
Woodrush RFC



Sporting Opportunities at Woodrush

Would you like to be part of a winning team? Do you fancy representing Woodrush in a sports team? Do you fancy having fun and keeping fit at the same time?

The PE department have a fantastic selection of clubs which give you the opportunities to develop your sporting skills and keep fit and healthy. Woodrush had several sporting successes during last year and we are really keen to continue this during 2012-2013. The PE department are always looking for fresh faces to join

the already fantastic sports teams that are available and to help keep Woodrush at the top of the game!

You have the opportunities to join the more traditional sports such as netball, football, rugby and hockey teams. However, if these sports are not for you then why not try out handball, dance, trampoline, badminton, aerobics, or many more of the wide range of activities PE have to offer throughout the year.

All clubs will take place from 3pm till 4pm. Please see the PE sports programme to see what clubs are running this half term. Remember there are new sports clubs to try every half term throughout the year!! This info will also be available in form

rooms and on the plasma screen by student services so keep a look out for anything new!!!!

Leadership Academy Conference

On a rather dull but dry day at the beginning of October four students from year 10 attended a leadership academy conference at Worcester Race course where they met leaders from all over Worcester. The day aimed at giving the leaders the tools to organise and promote festivals and competitions in their own schools. Workshops through the day gave the leaders valuable in-forma-tion practically and theoretically. They have already started to use the skills they acquired by helping to run the inter house cross country.



Y10 District Hockey Tournament

This tournament was played at Woodrush on a very wet evening. It was a seven aside tournament and we stood a good chance of winning. Our first match was against Arrow Vale who only had 5 players and no goal keeper. The team were able to move the ball around and build up the attack on numerous occasions and at the end of time Woodrush had a resounding victory winning 6 – 1.

Our next game against Saints was very different and much more even. We let in a run- away goal early on and although we had most of the play for the remainder of the match we were unable to get the ball past their goal keeper who kept Saints in the game. Saints were the eventual winners with Woodrush runners up. Some excellent play from all involved.



Woodrush remain badminton district champions

Boys and girls teams in KS4 as well as a boys' team in KS3 have all competed in the district badminton tournaments with great success.

Success on the badminton court

On the 19th October the KS4 boys and girls badminton teams took part in the district tournament held at Arrow Vale School. The teams played in a group round with the winners and runners up going through to a semi-final and final.

The boys' team of Alex, Ben, Sean and Charlie dominated their section finishing in top position without dropping a game. The semi-final against Saints pushed the team a little harder but again no games were lost. They met Arrow Vale in the final but again the team were dominant and kept a clean sheet.

The girls' team of Jess, Kyla, Amy and Leigh cruised through their section of the competition setting up a semi-final against Kingsley who couldn't match the consistency of the Woodrush team. The final against Saints was a little tougher but against Woodrush prevailed and like the boys team didn't drop a game throughout the tournament.

Both teams now represent the district in the county round of the tournament to be held in February. A great performance by all players - awesome!!



The KS4 competitions took place just before October half term with some excellent play resulting in both teams finishing without dropping a match. The KS3 boys' team therefore had a lot to live up to. They took it all in their stride and although the odd one or two matches went to the wire the team again won through without losing a match. All three teams are through to the Worcester games in February where they represent Redditch. The KS3 girls' competition takes place in January so let's hope we can do a clean sweep.

Netball news so far...

Y8

Over the last few weeks the year 8 netball team have played 3 fantastic games. On the 3rd October they won both their games against Woodfield (15-3) and Birchensale (9-11), in the heavy rain! On the 10th October woodrush played against Churchill and won

25-3. Hannah M played excellent as her first time as GA and scored many goals. Woodrush year 8's are currently top of the leader board with only one more game to go.

Well played girls!

Abi C, 8L2,



Y10 and 11

The combined Year 10 and 11 netball team has been playing in both the Year 11 and the 6th form Redditch netball leagues. Results have been very mixed but the team seems has really gelled in the past few weeks with good wins against Waseley and Kingsley.

COME AND PLAY

HOCKEY

KINGS HEATH HOCKEY CLUB

Junior Training for all ages from 5-17
 on the Astro Pitch here every Sunday 10.00-12.00
 no experience necessary we have fully qualified coaches to help you learn how to play

www.kingsheathhockey.org.uk kingsheathhockey@hotmail.co.uk



Y8 Sports Hall Athletics

Athletics continues through the winter with the indoor competitions where a team of 5 – 8 athletes take part in a variety of events. Woodrush sent a team of boys and girls to Arrow Vale School at the beginning of November. It was a fiercely fought competition where all points counted. The boys finished seventh and the girls were third with only 20 points separating the top three teams. The athletes worked well together, motivating each other to go that extra mile and were a real credit to themselves and the school.

District Cross Country

A team of runners from years 7 – 11 braved the weather and took part in the district cross country held in Redditch at the beginning of November. The course was longer than the one run at school in the inter-house competition so it pushed a number of athletes to their limit.

Lucy and Emma in Year 7 finished just outside the medals but Ross was a medal winner. A very mixed set of placings from other Woodrush runners but all contributed to the overall team position; the Year 9 girls team finishing third, the top placed Woodrush team. An excellent team effort from all runners.



Woodrush play host

On a cold windy but dry afternoon at the end of October Woodrush played host to Coppice's inter-house football competition. Teams from the owls, hawks, falcons and eagles descended on to the astro-turf. Matches were fast and furious with lots of goals being scored. The tournament was ably run by members of the Year 11 GCSE group who kept the games in order, motivated and commiserated with all the players. An excellent team spirit prevailed with a team from the owls being the eventual winners.

U16 Boys Football

Monday 8th October 2012
Worcestershire County Cup u16
Football Fixture Versus Waseley
Hills HS (Away)

The U16 boys' football team started the season with a winning start. Despite playing on a pitch that soon cut up due to rain the team raced to a 4-0 start playing some good football considering the difficult playing conditions. Jordon N made sure the score remained 4-0 at half time with some excellent goalkeeping. The second half of the game was always going to be difficult for the defenders who were struggling to stay on their feet. Woodrush and Waseley both scored three goals each in the second half. Final result was 7-3 to Woodrush with both Cameron B and Kyle B scoring hat-tricks and Ben J scoring the other.



Festive Football



FOOTBALL FUN @ WOODRUSH SPORTS CENTRE

Christmas eve 24th DECEMBER 10:00AM – 12:00PM

£4 PER CHILD (please book in advance)

GET YOUR LAST BITS OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE!!!

WOODRUSH SPORTS CENTRE

SHAWHURST LANE

HOLLYWOOD B47 5JW

Tel No: 01564 820099

Email : lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



Wednesday 10th October 2012

Redditch and Bromsgrove District U16 Football Match versus North Bromsgrove (Home)

North Bromsgrove took an early lead in the match, but despite this Woodrush played some good football. Luke O passing was creating chances for the three pronged attack of Kyle B, Luke S and Cameron B. Wood-rush started to dominate the midfield thanks to hard work of Ben J and Lewis J. After some near misses and hitting the woodwork Woodrush eventually took the lead with two well taken goals by Kyle B.

In the second half Kyle B struck again with his second hat trick in two games. Unfortunately, Woodrush let North Bromsgrove back into the game scoring 2 goals in a poor 10 minutes which could have been worse if it hadn't been for the excellent defending of Jake S. Woodrush dominated the final 20 minutes of the game but frustratingly couldn't score a winning goal and the game finished 3 apiece.



Y7 Indoor Football Competition

On Thursday 8th November Becky, Ellie, Mia, Lucy, Mya and Alissa (the Year 7 girls' football team) went to Arrow Vale High School and competed against three other schools: Ridgeway, Walkwood and Ipsley. First of all, we are all very proud to represent Woodrush at a competition. The first match didn't go as well as planned; it was 1-0 to Ridgeway. The next opponents, Walkwood, gave us an encouraging boost as it was 3-0 to the Green Army (Woodrush). Then the Green Army kept their stand against Ipsley as it was 1-0 to us. The top two from each group go through to a final pool on Thursday 15th November. Ridgeway came 1st, the school that came 2nd was... Woodrush!!! We all jumped for joy when Mr Thewlis and Scott said we were 2nd. Overall we played our hearts out and we deserved 2nd place. Well done ladies – keep it up for the 15th November!
Reported by Emma (7L1)

U14 Boys Football Reports: Worcestershire County Cup U14 Football Fixture versus Bewdley High School

On Monday 8th October Woodrush had a football match against Bewdley in which we won 3-2. Bewdley scored within the first 10 minutes putting us 1-0 down. However, soon after a great goal by Adam brought us back to 1-1. Then a goal each for Donovan and Ashley put us 3-1 up. Unfortunately Bewdley got a goal back and it was looking close. They almost drew it back to 3-3 but a good save by James kept us ahead. The full time result was 3-2, a deserved win for us.

Redditch and Bromsgrove District U14 Football Match versus Trinity High School

On Monday 15th October Woodrush had a football game against Trinity in which we won 7-1. Donovan scored 3 great goals and Adam, Ashley, Scott and Xavier each scored 1. We dominated the other team

from start to finish. Unfortunately in the last few minutes of the match Trinity got a consolation goal. Overall every-one played well. By James A

Redditch and Bromsgrove District u14 League Football Match versus North Bromsgrove (Away)

On Monday 22nd October year 9 had a football match against North Bromsgrove High School. Two great goals each for Kieren and Donovan, and one goal each for Captain Ashley and Xavier gave Woodrush a 6-0 lead. Centre halves Lucas and Luke defended well and played out from the back which enabled full backs Jack and Scott to support the attacks. Overall, a good team performance. Final score 6-0. By James A

Wednesday 24th October 2012 Redditch and Bromsgrove District u16 Football Match versus Arrow Vale (Home)

Woodrush started the game well and deservedly took the lead when Kyle was the first to react to a loose ball in the penalty area netting his seventh goal in three games. Unfortunately, Woodrush were unable to hold on to the lead and Arrow Vale equalised with a goal that wouldn't look out of place on "TV bloopers". The Arrow Vale goalkeeper's hopeful punt down field first bounced over both centre halves and then on the second bounce looped over the out rushing goal keeper. Half time score 1-1. Arrow Vale started the second half much stronger than Woodrush and dominated the first ten minutes of the second half playing some good football and hurrying Woodrush into mistakes. Arrow Vale could have scored a number of times before eventually scoring. Cameron dropped back into midfield and Woodrush started to regain some control of midfield without really threatening the Arrow Vale goal. Final Score Woodrush 1 Arrow Vale 2.

Y7 Boys Football Woodrush Semi Finalists

Woodrush took part in a 7 aside football tournament on 16th October 2012. The boys started well drawing the first game 1-1. They then played excellently and beat St Bede's 3-0 and in the final game we won 3-1 against Church Hill. Woodrush finished top of their group and played Walkwood in the semi-final. In a tight game Woodrush were trailing 1-0 going into the last 30 second until Ben F scored directly from a corner! Unfortunately Woodrush lost 2-1 after extra time. A special mention has to go to goalkeeper Will for some outstanding saves throughout the competition. Well Done.



Arrow Vale five a side girls football 2012

The girls visited Arrow Vale School full of anticipation and confidence after their qualification the week before. Two wins and a draw were enough to win the competition outright. The football was sublime, clinical and a joy to watch and admire. Lauren refereed the games with a measured understanding of the rules that many premiership players only dream off. Mr Paxton, Laura and Mr Thewlis are a very lucky group of people to have such a great football team. Merry Christmas



Worcestershire County Cup U14 Football Fixture versus Bewdley High School

XtendedWoodrush



	ACTIVITY	WHEN	WHERE	FOR
MONDAY	Quizzes, Puzzles, Games Manga Club Maths Shop Art GCSE Coursework Arts Award Boys Street Dance Woodrush Force Film Club Netball Sports Leadership PSHE Questions-help & advice Animal Club Youth Centre Senior Night	1:20 – 1:45 2:50 – 3:50 1:15 – 1:30 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 3:50 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 3:40 2:50 – 4:00 7:00 – 9:00	Library Library M4 Art MU2 Drama Studio Gym/Hall E3 Courts Gym/Hall ICT2 S8 Youth Centre	All All All GCSE KS3 All boys G&T YR 7 All Girls YR10 boys/girls ALL All Years 9,10,11
TUESDAY	Quiet Study + Reading Maths Shop Photography Coursework Drama Club Dance Club Art Club Orchestra Trampolineing Rugby Hockey Multimedia Advanced Skills Geography Club Youth Centre Junior Night	1:20 – 1:45 1:15 – 1:30 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:15 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 3:40 2:50 – 4:00 6:30 – 8:30	Library M4 Art Drama Studio Gym/Hall Art MU1 Gym Field Astro ICT H6 Youth Centre	All All GCSE All Years 7,8,9 Years 7,8,9 All All Year 7 boys All G&T All Year 7 & 8
WEDNESDAY	Book Club (Every other Wed) Manga Club (Every other Weds) Maths Shop Art Textiles Club GCSE Dance Intervention Woodrush Voices Badminton Handball Football Finance Club ICT Club	1:20 – 1:45 1:20 – 1:45 1:15 – 1:30 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 3:40 1:20 – 1:45	Library Library M4 Art Gym/Hall MU1 Sports Hall Gym ASTRO ICT ICT 2	All All All Years 7,8,9 GCSE All All Years 7,8,9 YR 10,11 boys All All
THURSDAY	Quiet Study and Reading Maths Shop Rugby Football Football Cookery Club	1:20 – 1:45 1:15 – 1:30 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00	Library M4 Field ASTRO ASTRO/Field T6	All All Year 11 boys All girls Year 9 boys All
FRIDAY	Fun with Fiction Maths Shop Christian Union GCSE Drama Coursework Guitar Group GCSE Music Intervention Aerobics	1:20 – 1:45 1:15 – 1:30 1:20 – 1:45 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00 2:50 – 4:00	Library M4 H2 Drama Studio MU1 MU2 Hall	All All All GCSE All GCSE All

Remember activities and clubs change throughout the year so keep a look out. Dates and times will be advertised around school also. If you are interested in any of the clubs and want to know how you can get involved or if you have any ideas of clubs you would like to see at School then speak to Faye Parker or send an email to the address below:

Call 01564 823777 or email fparker@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Editors: Mrs J Peters & Mrs C Bishop

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Shawhurst Lane Wythall
Worcestershire B47 5JW

T: 01564 823777

F: 01564 820092

E: woodrushstar@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

W: www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr C King

